Inside this week's Newsletter

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  Head of School

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  Secondary School Principal

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, February 27
  Ultimate Frisbee Tournament at 09:00am (IGBIS)

- Wednesday, March 02
  U9 Football leaving school at 3:10pm (TENBY)

- Thursday, March 03
  U13 Girls/Boys Basketball
  Wednesday, March 09
  Secondary Swim Meet with Fairview at 3:00pm (IGBIS)

- Monday, March 14
  U9/U11 Swim Meet with HELP and NEXUS leaving school at 3:10pm (HELP)

- Saturday, March 19
  Primary Athletics at 09:00am (IGBIS)
Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School

Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

**Education is GREAT launch**
Following on from an invitation for me to attend the UK launch of ‘Education is GREAT’ at Imperial College London in January while I was recruiting teachers in the UK, this week our College Counselor (Mrs Davidson) and I took a group of Grade 11 students to the Malaysian launch of ‘Education is Great’. The event was organized by the British High Commission, and took place at the Herriot Watt university campus at Putrajaya. Our students met the British High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and Herriot Watt students and heard various speeches about British universities in Malaysia and Great Britain and new scholarships being sponsored. They were given the opportunity to attend a function at the residence of the Higher Commissioner, then on February 27, a university information fair that will have presentations on preparing applications for British universities. A week earlier, another large fair took place with representatives of universities from the USA. These are just some of the recent activities for IGBIS to build relationships and widen choices for our students.

**Evacuation Drill**
In keeping with our health and safety procedures an unannounced evacuation drill took place this week. The safety sweep took a little longer than usual as we hid a visitor in one of the rooms to check on the effectiveness of our procedures and our personnel. Nevertheless the building was completely evacuated with everyone found and checked off in a timely manner.

**Scholarships**
We are delighted to announce that the IGBIS Board has approved another tranche of IB Diploma Programme Scholarships for 2016-2018. These scholarships are for high ability Grade 10 students with a proven record of contributions to their school and community, to enter into Grade 11 at IGBIS and study in the IB Diploma Programme for two years. The financial situation of applicant's parents may be taken into consideration in making final decisions about the amount of scholarship given. Applications will close on March 25. Please check the school website for further details and share this with your friends.
Mrs. Claire McLeod  
Elementary School Principal

On Monday and Tuesday mornings this week students from Grades 3-10 participated in the International Schools’ Assessment (ISA). The ISA is an assessment program that has been specifically developed to measure the skills of international students in Mathematical Literacy, Reading and Writing. It has been designed and developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and administered since 2001, with over three hundred and forty schools and 73,000 students around the world using the ISA’s during the 2014-15 year.

ISA is based on the internationally endorsed Mathematical Literacy and Reading Frameworks of OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time, at individual and school level. The ISA also indicates differences in achievement between individuals and between groups that can be used to help review curriculum and instructional strategies.

Last year our students sat the ISA tests using pen and paper. This year we were able to select online tests, which means we will receive the results earlier than normal. We hope to share student reports in early April.

Professional Development
On going Professional Development for teachers is an essential part of being an IB school. Over the last few weeks our teachers have attended IBPYP workshops in Hong Kong, Singapore, India and here in Kuala Lumpur. This weekend our Counselors and Learning Support teachers are attending SENIA (Special Education Network in Asia) here in town. Key note speakers and numerous workshops will be offered as well as opportunities for our staff to network with other professionals with the aim of gaining better ways to support student learning.
Mr. Lennox Meldrum
Secondary School Principal

The past few weeks have been busy in the school with many events taking place so our teachers have had to be flexible with organising their curriculum delivery, timing their assessment items appropriately, and ensuring continuity of teaching and learning. Schools are rarely free of additional activities - from university visits to performing arts productions to service opportunities to sporting trips - so our experienced teachers are very well prepared in the multi-tasking required to operate within a busy international school setting. These are part of the Approaches to Teaching skills encouraged by the IB in all of the programmes. While students and families often hear about our Approaches to Learning in the context of thinking, communicating, social, research, and self-management skills, the training our IB teachers attend centre around the age-appropriate pedagogical approach needed for effective teaching to take place in a variety of contexts. Linking back through the IB Learner Profile attributes, this helps ensure our students and teachers have a balanced view on the learning experiences in which they participate.

Our ISA testing this week took students from some of their classes, but also will provide valuable data and feedback that will help our teachers incorporate into their planning to ensure our practices at IGBIS continue to improve. We look forward to sharing the results with our community in a few months.

News from Secondary School

Mr. Simon Millward
PYP Coordinator

One of the important aspects of being an IB world school is that the International Baccaleaurate has a system of quality control for schools who are interested (applying to be a candidate school), beginning to implement (candidate school) or recognised as implementing (authorised) IB schools. For those schools who have been authorised for 5 years there are evaluation visits as well.

Unlike the DP at PYP and MYP levels the school has to be teaching the programmes in order to be authorised.

Last year IGB International School applied and was accepted to become a candidate school. In this phase of the PYP journey, as a candidate school, there is a minimum of 1 year that the school has to be implementing the PYP. The PYP coordinator works with a consultant who guides the school through the IB standards and practices. An important document that acts as a road map for the school is the school's action plan. This is a reflective document prepared by the PYP coordinator in collaboration with the Elementary School team that identifies where the school believes it is meeting the IB standards and practices and which areas the school still needs to work on. The documents that show evidence of this are sent to the consultant for feedback and by mutual agreement a consultancy visit is arranged.

Last week our PYP consultant Farhana Bari (an Elementary School Principal at an International school in Dhaka) visited the school. She met with students, teachers, parents, the board, Mrs. Fowles (Head of school), Mrs. McLeod (Elementary School Principal) and Mr. Millward (PYP coordinator). She also spent a significant amount of time in classes seeing the PYP curriculum being delivered in action. At the end of her two day visit she gave some feedback as to what she saw. Her comments were positive and her findings matched with the school's assessment of it's strengths and weaknesses (the action plan).

Our consultant will prepare a report and send to the IB. The next step is to wait for official written confirmation from the IB that we can proceed with the next phase of the authorisation process. That phase will entail preparing updated documentation and showing development in our practices. A two person team from the IB will then visit the school (verification visit) to verify that our documents and our practices are developing and matching.

As a school we welcomed this visit and feel that we are continually improving and moving in the right direction. Ms. Bari's comment that there was a strong sense of community at the school and she felt we have come along way in a short space of time, is testament to everyone working to make IGB International School a positive learning environment for all.
Mr. Peter Fowles
Head of Student Services

The inappropriate use of technological devices in schools. Unfortunately the phenomenon of bullying in Malaysian schools is on the increase. UNICEF communications in Malaysia conducted research with a group of schools in Kuala Lumpur. The subsequent report concluded that one in four children had suffered from cyber bullying. (Anita Anandarajah 30th September 2004, New Straits Times).

As explained in a publication by the New South Wales educational authority in Australia, these negative behaviours (bullying) takes different forms. Bullying has been defined as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies. In the cyber world, bullies can invade the privacy of our homes and have a twenty four hour window of opportunity to torment their victims.

The years at school can be filled with the best memories of learning, friendships and positive experiences. However for those who are bullied, loneliness, depression exclusion and a sense of helplessness can prevail and under the worst circumstances self harm.

At IGB International School (IGBIS) there is the belief that the teaching of cybersafe and responsible online behaviour is essential. All the schools behavioural expectations including the use of electronic devices are based on the learner profile attributes. However, success in students being principled, caring, communicators is only achieved through a shared partnership between parents, students and the school. This process begins at admissions where students and parents are asked to sign the ‘Parent/Student Contract of Expectations for Digital Device Use and Care’. This is a yearly contract sent to students via managebac. It is their responsibility to bring it to the attention of parents and caregivers for resigning and submission. The school promotes good practises in subject areas and teachers are conscious of being role models. In Secondary, the Welfare programme has regular allocated times when guidance is given on digital citizenship and the responsibilities that go with it. Consequences can be applied to students who do not meet the behavioural expectations for the use of electronic devices. These can include immediate confiscation of the item, an in school detention, the loss of activity privileges, a period of suspension, applying restorative practices with the victim and their family and in cases of gross misconduct, a review of their right to be enrolled at IGBIS. The school's stance on the inappropriate use of electronic devices is a reflection of a commitment to the IB learner profiles. It is also necessary to note that our host nation of Malaysia has declared that Cyber bullying is illegal. Bullies can be convicted under the Computer Crimes Act, the Penal Code or the Juvenile Act, depending on the nature or severity of the case.

Parents can support the school by monitoring the use of laptops and phones and insisting that homework is completed in communal areas. Electronic devices can be kept out of bedrooms and servers switched off. When necessary, the school can be notified if students are receiving inappropriate messages. We all embrace the concept of student wellbeing. For us to achieve a supportive safe environment for learning, parents, students and the school need to work together to stop bullying in all its forms.

Wayne Demnar
Admissions and Marketing Director

IGBistro
We are currently reviewing the operation of the Elementary and Secondary School cafeterias, following feedback and discussion with the PVO. Mr. Gabe Evans, our Design Subject Leader, who has vast experience in the food and hospitality industry, met with the PVO last Tuesday and outlined his observations and ideas, which were warmly received by the audience. We are also looking to revitalise the physical appearance of each cafeteria to improve the ambience – watch this space for further news.

PVO Meeting
Last week’s meeting was well attended and Mr Gabe Evans and Mr Peter Fowles were the special guests with Mr Evans talking about the cafeteria and Mr Fowles talking about the appropriate use of WhatsApp. Mr Evans appreciated the feedback from the parents who in turn were grateful that someone was taking such an active role in addressing their concerns. Mr Fowles pointed out the need for careful consideration as to the use of WhatsApp when expressing personal opinions as we are all striving to create a positive climate in our school community. He encouraged everyone to consider the most appropriate avenue for following up on their concerns. Mrs McLeod was pleased to hear the positive feedback about our Sports Day and shared her pride in the staff for all they had done to make the day a success.
IGBIS International Day “Embracing our Diversity, Sharing our Humanity”
Saturday 9th April

Please make sure that this date is in your diary as we would like to have the whole school community join together to celebrate this important day in the life of an international school. The International Day committee, comprising PVO representatives and staff, have been working behind the scenes to plan the event.

We appreciate the response of parents to our survey which gave us the data to help us organise the day. We will keep you informed of our progress and hope that you will all join in the spirit of the day by representing your countries and helping with the activities.

Don’t forget to think about what you might wear for the Parade of Nations at the beginning of the programme as we want this to be one of the highlights!

Matthew Marshall
DP Coordinator

The Grade 12 students are entering the home-stretch of the DP Programme, and will be very busy over the next several weeks completing important assignments and preparing for the upcoming DP Mock Exams. The Mock Exams, which will take place from March 28 - April 1, will enable the students to experience IB exams in exam like conditions, and also serve as an indicator of student progress in the DP subjects. The students have been given the Mock Exam Schedule and should be preparing for these exams by reviewing past course content. Please note that the grades from the Mock Exams will not be used on transcripts for reports, and are only used as an indication of student progress to this point.

Upcoming academic deadlines for Grade 12 students are:

* February 29 - March 4: Visual Arts Comparative Study Final, Spanish B / Spanish ab initio / Malay ab initio / Mandarin ab initio Written Assignment Final
* March 7: TOK Essay Final
* March 7 - 11: Business Management / Psychology / Geography / History / Economics Internal Assessment Final

If there are any questions regarding the IBDP please email me at matthew.marshall@igbis.edu.my.

Geoff Derry
Technology Integration Specialist

At IGBIS we are deliberate about how we use technology to improve student learning. We don’t just use technology because it is the latest fad in education (which it is not) or it makes us look good compared to other schools. We use technology when it is appropriate and improves student learning. Sometimes the best way to use a computer, iPad, Smartboard or Mobile phone is to not use it. In any class at IGBIS you will see students brainstorming in groups on poster paper, playing with physical objects and writing by hand as well as using digital tools. It is all part of a balanced well rounded education.

With this in mind, our students still do a lot of cool stuff with technology. I am very lucky that I get to visit pretty much every classroom in the school and see some of the things that are happening. Many of these activities would not be possible without the use of technology. Recently some of the great learning projects I have seen using technology include

- Using student response systems (Plickers, Kahoots) to get instant feedback from students on what they understand / don’t understand in a lesson.
- Using iPads to record a visit from a migrant school, then collating the media into videos and blog posts.
- Creating stop motion videos on the parts of cells and atoms. Students can also record a voiceover to explain the different moving parts of a cell.
• Playing a two playing game (spaceteam) back to back, where they need to communicate and give each other instructions to progress to the next level. Lots of quality learning for a unit on communication.

• Using chatterpix (an iPad app) to create talking body parts (which the students drew by hand), as the images come to life they explain what their job is.

• Creating a class village in MineCraft, first with no rules to see what would happen and then with rules.

What I really enjoy is walking into a classroom when the digital and real world are connected. Students might use an app like Dexteria Dots to create equal size number bubbles, then use counters to do the same thing and finally record their number sentences on pencil and paper.

As with everything using technology at IGBIS it is all about balance, using the right tool for the job and providing our students with the best environment in which to learn.

Dr. Faisal Tehrani visit IGB International School’s DP Malay classes

Dianti Ranofla
PYP-MYP-DP Malay and Host Nation Teacher

IGBIS always strives to bring the best learning possibilities to our students.

This week, IGBIS was very fortunate to have the visit of famous writer, Dr. Faisal Tehrani. Dr. Faisal has explored all genres, and he has been awarded with several literary awards, including the prestigious Sastera Utusan Malaysia as well as the Sayembara Jubli Emas, by the Department of Language and Culture of the Malaysian government. In our Malay A Diploma Programme class, we are currently reading his novel “Manikam Kalbu”, so he spoke to our students about the creative process. Students enjoyed it and took great advantage of this unique opportunity. We hope that this will be the first of many more working relationships with other personalities from the Malaysian culture.
Andy Mullin  
Head of PE and PYP PSPE Teacher

On Monday, March the 14th students in Grade 1-11 will be participating in the second house team event for the year. The PE department will be hosting a Duathlon (swim and run) where finishers will gain house points for their team. This is a chance for us to come together again as a school community and celebrate school spirit through a competitive event.

The students will be placed into A, B and C races based on ability with the start being in the pool and finish line on the track. The Elementary School students will have their races first thing in the morning between 8-10am and the Secondary School students will compete between 10:30-12:30pm. The schedule of events is expected to run as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Race</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>G1-3C</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>G4-5C</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>G1-3B</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>G4-5B</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>G1-3A</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>G6-8C</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>G9-11C</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>G6-8B</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>G9-11B</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>G6-8A</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>G9-11A</td>
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Please feel free to come along and support our students as they push themselves and compete for house points in a fun school event. To view the swim we ask that parents come to Level 3 overlooking the pool and can then go upstairs to Level 6 to view the finish on the track.

Thank you for your support in helping make this event another success for our students.
Activities

Jasmine Brawn
Athletics & Activities Director

Activities have been running for two weeks now. We will be finalising all lists. No further changes to your child’s activities schedule should be required. If you have not made payment for your activities please get to the finance counter this coming week to clear your accounts.

This Week in Sports...
We had an amazing week of activity with Secondary Track Meets on Monday and Tuesday, the KLISS U11 Cup Finals on Wednesday and the KLISS U15 Basketball Preliminary Tournaments on Thursday. All our teams made us proud this week and we are looking forward to the next set of games.

Coming Up...
- Saturday, February 27th Ultimate Frisbee Tournament @ IGBIS 9 - 1pm
- Wednesday, March 2nd KLISS U9 Boys Football @ Tenby International School
- Thursday, March 3rd KLISS U13 Girls Basketball Cup Final @ IGBIS, KLISS U13 Boys Basketball @ BSKL Plate Final
- Saturday, March 5th Secondary Athletics @ Nexus International School all day

Grade 11 Visit To Education Event

Hamizah Sukiman
Grade 11 Student

At 8:30 in the morning, 8 of the Grade 11 students set off for Heriot-Watt University, in Putrajaya. The bus trip was filled with wonder as to what awaits us in the day, and how it will unfold. Upon arrival and registration, some met with their old acquaintances, whilst others mingled with the people around us. We were taken to a photoshoot area, in which all of us were involved in, quite literally, portraying the idea of “Education is GREAT”, the whole idea of the campaign.

As the event was due to start sometime later on, we were taken on a campus tour around the newly-build Heriot-Watt University. A predominantly STEM-based school, we were taken to the lecture halls and the classrooms, in which four students explained the nature of life on campus. We were taken to their common room and spacious 2-floor library, to which questions were asked by us. We were intrigued by the space that the school had, and it amazed us that the parts that we saw were only a small segment to the actual school. As soon as we concluded the tour, the ceremony commenced. Opening with ISP’s orchestra, the ceremony called upon honorary guests to give speeches on the nature of education, its importance as well as the necessity for this campaign.

“The first milestone to a future is education,” those were the words of Vicki Treadell, the High Commissioner of the British High Commission KL. The words ring true to us, in which we realize that the opportunities given to us are priceless, and to be given such chances is a privilege. The honorary guest speakers spoke of higher education, and how important that role plays in the shaping of the future, whether it be personal or for a nation. Following signings and the ending of the ceremony, Mrs. Davidson and Hamizah continued to attend the press conference, in which questions were addressed to the guest speakers. Addressing everything from the contribution of international students, the quota of scholarships and the short-term plan for universities in East Malaysia, the press conference addressed many concerns that float around the seemingly-ideal nature of the campaign. The responses given by the honorary guests, which addressed perspectives of economy, social and political, were of comprehensive and showed how these concerns exist, and how they were to be addressed.

Following the press conference, there was a personal further discussion between Madam Treadell with Hamizah and Glenda, about the complex nature of higher education in Malaysia and the world. After some snacks, we all returned to IGBIS slightly after noon, and we left with an idea we were aware of, but not completely until today: the nature of education; its importance, its relevance and its role in a growing and developing world that we hope to shape.

On behalf of Hwei Minn, Glenda, Jacopo, Zoe, Adriana, Rene, Soeren and myself, we would like to thank Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Fowles and IGB International School for providing us with this chance to participate in this event.