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Upcoming Events

**Monday, 8th & Tuesday, 9th February**
- School closed

**Monday, 15th February**
- Classes start

**Wednesday, February 17 - U9 Boys Football**
- Starting at 4:00pm (IGBIS)

**Wednesday, February 24 - U11 Boys Football**
- Starting at 4:00pm (IGBIS)

**Thursday, February 25 - U15 Boys Basketball**
- At 4:00pm (IGBIS)
Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School

Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

The Chinese New Year assembly held this week was a wonderful display of our students’ ability in Chinese language as well as an excellent means of sharing Chinese history and culture with all of our school community. Thanks are extended to our Chinese teachers and others who spent many weeks in preparation.

We couldn’t have asked for better weather for our first house event with the Sports Day on Friday. Everyone had lots of fun and developed skills they didn’t know they had in a wide range of activities! It was particularly good to see our older students helping the younger ones and everyone cheering and encouraging each other. Our PE department are to be congratulated for the organisation of the event.

We are excited to see some of the university places that have already been offered to our Grade 12 students. More places are yet to be offered, but the universities and colleges to date include:

- University of British Columbia
- Columbia College Chicago
- Minerva Schools at KGI
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- Pennsylvania State University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah College of Art and Design- Atlanta
- University of Birmingham
- University of London, Goldsmiths College
- Newcastle University
- University of Calgary (Schulich School of Engineering)
- Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Queen Mary, University of London

Congratulations to our Grade 12 class!
News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod
Elementary School Principal

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, four of our Grade 4 students and two teachers attended the AIMS Maths Competition at The International School at Park City. The competition was for students in Grade 4, which is the same as Year 5 in UK curriculum schools.

There were 19 teams (one was from Penang and another from Kota Kinabalu) and 76 students competing over two days. The activities were based around logical problem solving. Here are two examples of these activities:

- Engineering activity - to make a car that can travel the longest distance AND stay afloat AND survive a drop test.
- Making symmetrical patterns with nature and using trundle wheels to measure the height of trees.

Thank you to Ms Blakeway, our Elementary School Mathematics Coordinator and our Grade 4 teacher, Mr Harvey, for organising our participation and supporting our students.

Our Chinese New Year assembly on Thursday afternoon was a wonderful celebration of Chinese culture. Students from across the school entertained us and it was clear that we have talented speakers of Chinese and enthusiastic students in our Chinese classes. Such large assemblies succeed due to the detailed planning and preparation by our teachers of Chinese as well as our IT and Facilities support staff; thank you.

I hope everyone has a relaxing time over their Chinese New Year holidays.
Language Learning in the MYP

All IB Middle Years Programme teachers at IGBIS:
- are responsible for the language development of their students,
- address the diversity of student language needs, including those for students learning in a language(s) other than mother tongue, and
- differentiate instruction to meet students' learning needs and styles.

Students in the MYP are required to study two languages. Language learning in the MYP is organised into two subject groups: i) Language and Literature; and ii) Language Acquisition.

Language and Literature
MYP Language and Literature is the study of literary and non-literary texts in a mother tongue, or at a very high level of proficiency in an additional language. Students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and presenting as they analyse texts and generate insight into moral, social, economic, political, cultural and environmental domains. Students are encouraged to form opinions, make decisions, and reason ethically.

Language Acquisition
MYP Language Acquisition is the study of additional languages and provides students with the opportunity to develop insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture. Language Acquisition classes are organized into six phases, which are based on the student's ability to communicate in the language of the course rather than the age or grade level of the students.

English
English is the common language of learning and is taught through units of inquiry and as Language Acquisition and Language and Literature courses. Teachers of English Language Acquisition and English Language and Literature teach and assess English language skills. Teachers in other subject areas also share responsibility for English language development. English language and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers collaborate with teachers in other subject areas to share effective language teaching strategies. Teachers collaborate to plan units, develop differentiated learning experiences and assessment tasks that take into account the diverse language backgrounds of students.

English for Speakers of Other Languages Support
The school identifies students who require additional English language support and provides specialized ESOL instruction, which may incur additional fees.

Host Nation
The school recognises the importance of all students having access to Malay language and the cultures of the host country. The Host Nation course in Grades 6-10 is taught in Malay for students fluent in this language, while for other students, this Host Nation course is taught in English and serves as an introduction to Malay language.

World Languages
The school recognises the importance of multilingualism and requires students to learn a language other than English. Students in Grades 6-10 are placed in Language and Literature and/or Language Acquisition classes based on their language proficiency according to IB MYP subject guides. Placement in the World Language classes listed in the table below is based on availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYP Language and Literature 2015-2016</th>
<th>MYP Language Acquisition 2015-2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean (Grade 10 only)</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malay</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French (Grades 9-10 only)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

It is recommended that students continue to study the same language throughout the MYP in order to develop proficiency. Requests for a change of language must be submitted by parent(s) to the Languages Coordinator for consideration, as changes may impact subject choices in the IB Diploma Programme.

Support for Mother Tongue Development
Students are encouraged to study an MYP Language and Literature course in their mother tongue when it is offered in the curriculum. Where mother tongue languages are not available, the school works with families to encourage and support mother tongue development. Based on student numbers and availability of a tutor, it may be possible to arrange mother tongue language classes as part of the activities programme. These classes will incur additional fees.

Maintaining a high level of mother tongue proficiency will facilitate access to a Studies in Language and Literature course in that mother tongue in the IB Diploma Programme.

At IGB International School we believe in the importance of developing internationally-minded students who are reflective, open-minded, multilingual communicators.

Phil Clark
Middle Years Programme Coordinator
Chinese New Year

As the Chinese New Year is coming, we have focused on Chinese New Year celebrations and legends. The lines of inquiry are different to reflect the different levels of ability and grade

- Why do Chinese people celebrate Lunar New Year?
- What does the Lunar Calendar mean?
- What do you know about the Chinese Zodiac story?
- How do people celebrate Chinese New Year, including activities, food and decorations?

Learning about our Chinese New Year is mainly through different interactive activities like singing songs, making crafts or posters, writing stories, exploring the Chinese culture and role playing stories.

At the end of the unit, students are expected to be able to sing the songs they have learned, retell the zodiac story in simple Chinese sentences, and say or write some Chinese New Year greetings.

At the same time, our students are also preparing for the Chinese New Year assembly performances. During this process, they have shown their spirit as communicators, collaborators, as well as being risk-takers.

Xiaoping Li
Chinese Language Teacher
News from Secondary School

Mr. Lennox Meldrum
Secondary School Principal

It seems like every week I am writing about something amazing our students have done or an event in which our school has participated, but I make no excuses for being so proud of our active community! One very high note over the past few weeks has been the offers of university and college placements to our first graduating class, including a few that come with partial or full scholarship opportunities. It is a very exciting time for our students and their families, and a fantastic reflection on the hard work and dedication over the past 18 months from them and their teachers. A special thanks from all involved must go to Mrs Pauline Davidson, our College Counsellor, who has been working beside each student from even before our school started. Well done everyone! We look forward to providing more information on where our students are going when offers have been analysed and accepted.

This week our MYP students took part in the International Schools’ Assessment (ISA) trial testing. The ISA is an assessment program that has been specifically developed to measure the skills of international students in Mathematical Literacy, Reading and Writing. For our entry testing to IGBIS we use an Online Placement Instrument pair of tests in Mathematics and English that are designed and developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), and the ISA comes from the same organisation. Since 2001, the number of schools using the ISA has continued to grow with over 340 schools - including IGBIS - taking part in the test in 2014-15. The ISA is based on the internationally endorsed Mathematical Literacy and Reading Frameworks of OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which is often reported on by the global media when comparing students from different countries. Following the trial testing this week, schools will provide feedback on how user-friendly and reliable the software and testing environment was for students and we will take part in full testing on February 22 and 23.

We celebrated the upcoming Chinese New Year this week with a fantastic assembly on Thursday afternoon. It was wonderful to see performances from students of all age groups and a highlight for me were our teachers - some with very little Chinese language background - showing themselves to be risk-takers by performing a song on stage in Chinese. Well done to everyone involved and especially our outstanding Chinese language teachers for their preparation and dedication.

Our inaugural Sports Day happened under cooler, cloudy skies on Friday, which was a blessing after the weeks of hot weather we have been experiencing. Team spirit and fun were evident in all of the events and I have included some photos of the great experiences around the school. A deep thank you for the hard work of the PE team in putting together this uplifting event.

Have a safe holiday.

Activities Highlights

Coming Up in Sport...

Wednesday, February 17th - U9 Boys Football Tournament @ IGBIS
Monday, February 22nd - Athletics Field Events @ ISP
Tuesday, February 23rd - Track Events @ IGBIS
Wednesday, February 24th - U11 Football Plate Final - TBD
Thursday, February 25th - U15 Girls Basketball @ Tenby
Thursday, February 25th - U15 Boys Basketball @ IGBIS
Saturday, February 27th - Ultimate Frisbee Tournament @ IGBIS

Activities

Activities commence February 15th, 2016.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Ms. Jasmine Brawn,
Athletics & Activities Director
MUN (Model United Nations) trip to Singapore


At 9 am on a Thursday morning, 12 of us set off for the Lion City, Singapore. The 6-hour bus ride was filled with expression of excitement and expectations of the conference. Following arrival and a half-hour rest, we set off to the Night Safari, alongside other group delegations from Myanmar. Watching animal shows and taking a trail to observe nocturnal animals in their nature was the start of the bond between the 12 of us. Whether it be faux-Australian accents, translations that just didn’t make sense, or the judgement on $10 ice cream, we all found something to bond over, and we continued bonding throughout the trip.

The first day began with a morning that was spent together heading off for coffee in the café or time at the Takashimaya Shopping Centre. We set off for the Yale-NUS campus slightly after noon and the MUN adventure began. To start the conference we sat in our respective committees and the opening ceremony touched on issues of making a change, reminding us of the primary reason we were at the conference in the first place. Following the ceremony dinner, we were sent to our respective committees, in which agendas were introduced and the path to change began. Some of us were met with the pressing issue of cyberwarfare, whilst others fought the war on narcotics.

The second day focused entirely on debate and the discussion of the first agenda that began the night before. Some of us poured our hearts out to addressing food security, whilst others were faced with the issue of missile defense. Regardless, we dedicated our time and energy to our respective topics, and had an incredibly productive day as a whole. Ending the day on a good note, we spent the evening together following the return from the conference, catching up on committee room stories and arguments between delegates that we deemed compelling; which, there was a great deal of.

The final day began with a sense of melancholy, of how the delight we started with was coming to a close. Debate sessions came to conclude on the approach of the expansion of the European Union, whilst some of us closed the book on universal adoption of immunization. No matter what committee room we were in, we were all hit with the reality of the conference closing throughout the day. We left for the closing ceremony at Gardens by the Bay. The pale blue-and-purple lighting, coupled with the flowers in the garden, left us a picture-perfect scene in our hearts. Spending the social night with newly-made friends, the ceremony was filled with laughter and far-too-late an introduction of friends from committees and friends of IGBIS.

Walking in, aiming for change, we realize that this specific YNC-AP MUN might not lead to the end of the immediate conflicts we’re faced with right now. Yet, we did influence change. We led the change in people’s lives, as they have in ours. Granted, some may have had an impact more than others, and some may be remembered more when we sit in the bus, on Monday January 25th for our trip home, but the fact still remains that everyone we’ve met in this trip changed our lives, as we have theirs. In retrospect, we may have not won awards written on paper, but we won the hearts of many, including each others.

On behalf of the YNC-AP MUN delegate team, we would like to thank Ms. Heys and Mr. Spivey-Jones for bearing with us, and contributing to the many, many puns we’ve made along the 4-day trip, as well as head-delegate Amanda Chong for making sure the rest of us were on track in terms of delegation. More importantly, we’d like to express gratitude to Mr. Hawkes and the IGB International School for making this wonderful and unforgettable experience possible for us all.

Hamizah Sukiman
IGBIS Grade 11 student