



Happy New Year
2017

Inside this week's Newsletter

- **Message from Head of School** **2**
Mrs. Anne Fowles,
Head of School
- **News from Elementary School** **2**
Mrs. Claire McLeod,
Elementary School Principal
- **News from Secondary School** **4**
Mr. Michael Arcidiacono
Secondary School Principal

- Quick Parenting Tips **3**
- Grade 10 to 11 transition evening **4**
- Reflection and Goal Setting **5**
- IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy **5**
- DeZine magazine launch **5**



Message from Head of School

Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

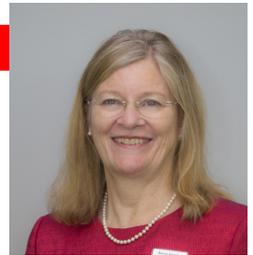
Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday break with your families over the festive season.

We commence 2017 with two sets of good news. The first being that we have heard today that IGB International School has been accepted as a candidate for accreditation with the New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC). As one of the oldest accrediting bodies in the USA and the agency that accredits Harvard University, to be accepted for candidacy with this prestigious organisation is quite an accolade for IGBIS. The accompanying report from the NEASC visitors who came to visit IGBIS in early November, will provide guidance to the school and it begins the official NEASC self-reflection process over the coming year.

The second announcement is that following a presentation by the IGBIS Secondary Principal, the IB Diploma Coordinator and representatives of the International Baccalaureate, the school Board has agreed to IGBIS offering the IB Career Related

Programme (IBCP). The IBCP is the fourth and newest IB programme. Currently only available for schools that are authorised for the IB Diploma, the IBCP will be a stand-alone IB programme in the near future. The IBCP has seen rapid growth already in the USA and UK as an alternative programme to the IB Diploma. Students enrolled in the IBCP are still required to undertake some IB Diploma subjects, while others are more career-related to the area that students wish to embark on in their tertiary or career studies. Information about the IBCP will be shared with Grade 10 students at the upcoming career evening on January 12.

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School



News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod

Elementary School Principal

I hope everyone has had a lovely time over the recent holidays and enjoyed time with family and friends. I had a lovely time in Melbourne, although as expected we had a range of temperatures from 38 degrees down to 19! Our students arrived back at school excited and happy to be with their friends and our teachers were keen to share their holiday adventures.

Currently teachers are finalising reports ahead of sharing these with parents on 20th January, and students in Chinese classes are preparing for the Chinese New Year assembly on 26th January starting at 10.30am.

As the next two months will be quite busy, I have listed dates for parents to be aware of below. Information about the end of January Parent-Teacher Conferences will be sent out shortly.

What's Coming Up?

Thursday 19th January - EYs-KG Splashdown

Friday 20th January - Grade 1-12 Splashdown

Friday 20th January - Semester 1 reports will be distributed

Thursday 26th January - Chinese New Year assembly and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday 27th January - Professional development day for teachers

Monday 30th January - Friday 3rd February - Chinese New Year holidays for students and teachers

Thursday 9th February - Thaipusan Holiday

Thursday 15th - Friday 17th February - Grade 4 and 5 camps

Until next time,



Quick Parenting Tips



Chris Klesch

Early Years to Grade 8 Counsellor:
PYP & MYP

Parenting can be one of the most difficult endeavors a person can participate in. There are so many experts giving advice that much of the advice seems contradictory. I will be offering some parenting workshops in the near future where I will provide some parenting tips and strategies. In the meantime, I will give offer simple suggestions that parents can do that might improve some of the more tense family situations. Over the holidays, I read a great article from The Atlantic.

In “No Spanking, No Time-Out, No Problems,” Olga Khazan spoke to Alan Kazdin, director of the Yale Parenting Center, about what makes a good parent (I have posted the article below). Kazdin stated that there are three types of parents. The first is the perfect parent who does everything right, the second is the parent that resorts to physical and/or verbal abuse, and the third are the rest of the parents who struggle to remain consistent and up-to-date with the latest research. He states that most parents fall into the third category, but with a few strategies they can tackle even the most persistent problem behaviours.



No Spanking, No Time-Out, No Problems
A child psychologist argues punishment is a waste of time when trying to eliminate problem behavior. Try this instead.
OLGA KHAZAN | MAR 26, 2016 | HEALTH

First, he discusses the importance of modeling the types of behaviour you would like to see as a parent. Many parents expect their child to just know how to behave, but if you want to see good behaviour, it takes a lot of time to set up these types of desired behaviours. For instance, if you want your child to greet people with a handshake, it is best to do the handshake yourself, explain that it is important to shake someone’s hand when we meet them, and then ask your child to shake that person’s hand.

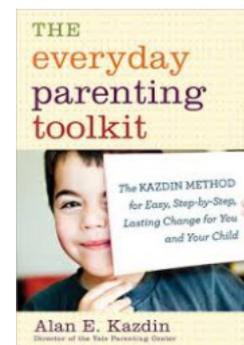
Another strategy that Kazdin touches upon is giving a choice to your child. Research shows that even adults are more likely to complete a task when they are given a choice. If you want your child to put on a pair of shorts, instead of forcing your child to wear a single pair of shorts, you may get better results if you say, “Now we are going out, you can wear your blue shorts or your brown cargo shorts.” This technique is not foolproof but it is more likely to work than providing no choice at all.

The third strategy that I will mention here but that the article will go into more in depth with is reinforcing the behaviours that you would like to see more of. When your child brings their plate to the sink, takes out the garbage, or speaks politely to a neighbour it is best to congratulate them on their effort and remind them that this is the type of behaviour that makes you proud.

I do not want to give away too many spoilers to the article, but it’s a good read and I will be touching upon some of these strategies in my upcoming workshops.

Also worth reading from Alan Kazdin is “The Everyday Parenting Toolkit”, which

can be found on iBooks or Amazon. It highlights some of the things I have mentioned here and offers even more insight.



Resources

Khazan, Olga. No Spanking, No Time-Out, No Problems. The Atlantic. Retrieved 04-01-2017

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/03/no-spanking-no-time-out-no-problems/475440/>

Kazdin, Alan. The Everyday Parenting Toolkit. 1st ed. Boston, New York: Mariner Publishing, 2017. iBooks

News from Secondary School

Mr. Michael Arcidiacono

Secondary School Principal



Welcome back! It was wonderful to see everyone back - rested and ready to go. The month of January is a very busy month, so I would like to highlight some important items and dates.

On 10th January we will host an Open Evening for prospective parents of students who wish to enter the IB Diploma. If you know of families who are considering joining IGBIS, please encourage them to attend.

On 12th January we will host an evening for Grade 10 parents and students, to discuss the pathways to higher education that are available at IGBIS. As Mrs Fowles mentioned in her newsletter, we are very pleased to apply for candidacy to offer the IB Career-Related Programme (IBCP). The IBCP has been growing very quickly in national and international schools, and we feel that this additional pathway will provide more opportunities for our students.

On 24th January, Grade 11 students and parents are invited to an evening on University Pathways, as they will soon begin the process of applying to universities.

On 26th January we will host our second round of Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. An email will come out early next week with further details of the conferences, so that you can begin to sign up. In secondary, students are expected to attend as well.

There are many other presentations, workshops and assemblies this month: please keep abreast of upcoming dates through the Secondary homeroom notices page on the Splash Page.

I will be away from school until 19th January, and look forward to seeing families at our upcoming events!

Grade 10 to 11 transition evening

Mary Boyd

Diploma Programme Coordinator

Happy New Year, 2017, to you all!

To all our Grade 10 students and parents, Mrs Davidson and I warmly welcome you to an information evening about the Academic Pathways in Grade 11 and Grade 12 and the higher education ones they create. The information evening will be held on Thursday 12th January, from 6:00 to 7:30pm, in the PVO Room.

For external candidates, we will host a similar evening on Tuesday 10th January, from 6:00 to 7:30pm, in the PVO Room.

Following these information evenings, the transition phase will have begun, with Heads of Departments discussing their subjects during the week of 16-20 January, followed by the Options Fair, to be held in school, on 22nd February, during Period 2, for Grade 10 students, their parents and teachers.

Between February and April, Grade 10 students will have individual counselling sessions with Mrs Davidson to discuss their academic ambitions, subject prerequisites and subject strengths, with a view to deciding on the best courses for them. During the last week of semester, Grade 10 will have a Bridging Week, during which they will gain experience of the reality of their choices for Grade 11.

We very much look forward to seeing you on those dates.



Reflection and Goal Setting

Phil Clark

Middle Years Programme Coordinator



At the start of a new year, people often look back over the previous months and make New Year's resolutions that they aim to achieve in the months ahead.

As an IB school, we encourage the ongoing practice of reflection and goal setting. Reflection is one of ten IB Learner Profile attributes and is also an Approaches to Learning skill that is taught and developed from PYP, through MYP and into DP. At school we provide regular opportunities for students to thoughtfully consider their world, their ideas and experiences. By developing an understanding of their individual strengths and weaknesses, students and teachers work together to support academic and personal development.

There are just a couple more weeks until the end of Semester 1, the midpoint of this academic year. At that time, Semester 1 Achievement Reports will be sent out on ManageBac and three-way conferences between student, parents and teacher will be scheduled during the following week. Students have already reflected on their achievements during Semester 1 and have identified areas for improvement in Semester 2. Their reflections will be included in their Semester 1 Achievement Reports, alongside comments and grades from teachers.

We invite parents to schedule appointments with teachers at these conferences, and to meet and reflect together with their child, celebrating successes and setting goals to support students to further improve in the months ahead.

Wishing all our IGBIS families a happy, healthy and successful 2017.

IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy

Jon Suffolk

Performing Arts Teacher



The Instrumental Music Academy will celebrate the continued development of the musical skills of students in two concerts over the coming weeks. Here are the dates and times of the concerts, to which all parents are invited to attend.

End of Semester 1 concerts. Both concerts start at 2pm in the IGB Theatre.

Tuesday 17th January - Students of Ms Iko Chia (piano), Mr Andy Chia (drums and piano) and Mr Chew Yew Chee (violin)

Thursday 19th January - Students of Ms Puisim Wong (piano), Ms Irma Lailatul, (voice) and Mr Adil Rahim (guitar).

Semester 2 registration
Registration will be open from Monday 9th January. Please go to the Music Academy link on the Splash Page to complete the registration. All existing and new students must complete an online registration form each semester.

Semester 2 lessons will commence on Monday 6th February, following the school holidays. There will be 16 lessons in Semester 2. The tutor fees will remain the

same at RM60 for individual lessons (preferred) and RM45 for group lessons. Please note that group lessons are only available for students at appropriate ages and stages.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email at jon.suffolk@igbis.edu.my

DeZine magazine launch

It is well known that the arts features strongly at IGBIS and one Grade 12 student has incorporated her love of the arts into her CAS (Community and Service) Project to share with the IGBIS community. De:zine (pronounced "design") is an arts magazine that showcases the artistic talents of IGBIS students, featuring creative writing, painting, sculpture, photography, music and more. Zoe Teh Li Leng, the magazine's creator and editor hopes that new editions of the magazine will be released annually, and that the editing role will be passed each year to other students just as passionate about the arts as Zoe.

For further information, please contact Zoe at zoe.teh017@igbis.edu.my, or take a look at the magazine here [<http://igbis.edu.my/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/DeZine-Issue-1-compressed.pdf>].