



• Music Ensemble with special guests practicing for the Chinese New Year assembly on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

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Mrs. Claire McLeod  
Elementary School Principal

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**Happening.**

- + Monday 16th January  
Mask Workshop (8:00am - 3:00pm)
- + Friday 20th January  
Grades 1-12 Splashdown
- + Thursday 26th January  
Chinese New Year Assembly



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Assembly this morning was a lovely opportunity for whole school singing as a group and in parts. Ms Hadewych led the singing, accompanied by Ms Demnar on piano.

**After School Activities**

With the start of after school activities, parents are asked to remind their children of the days they have their activities and update them on any changes to pick up that may occur due to activities. We also ask that parents notify class teachers when their child will miss an afternoon activity so the activity teacher can be informed.

**Parent Teacher Conferences**

By now parents should have received information about the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences on the 23rd and 26th January. Please use the link in the email to select times to meet class teachers and single subject teachers. Students will be dismissed at 12 o'clock and interviews will start at 12.30pm and run through to 7pm.

**Chinese New Year**

On Thursday 26th January our school will celebrate Chinese New Year and

all students and teachers are asked to wear something that reflects the Chinese culture. Our Chinese New Year Assembly is scheduled on that day from 10.30-11.45am in the Theatre.

**Holidays**

Friday 27th January is a professional development day for teachers and therefore there is no school for students. School will be closed for the Chinese New Year holidays from 30th January to 3rd February; school will resume for all students on Monday 6th February.

Until next time,

*Mrs. Claire McLeod*  
Elementary School Principal



## PYP Students Learn Cooperatively and Talk Knowledgeably About Their Learning

**Simon Millward**  
*IB PYP Coordinator*

Walking around the school I am often struck by the way that we see various examples of cooperative learning taking place. On my travels this week I have seen students working together in Early Years as they explore water, Grade 1 students listening to each other read- unprompted, and in PE students solving a physical challenge together.

As part of the PYP we have attitudes for learning that help students show the traits of the IB Learner Profile. The attitude of cooperation is clearly evident at IGBIS and this demonstrates that our students are 'caring'.

In my job I am extremely fortunate that I can get into a variety of classes and I always ask the students what they are doing. Invariably they talk knowledgeably about what they

are engaged in. This week I dropped into a Grade 1 visual arts lesson. The students had constructed lanterns and they were painting them to demonstrate their understanding of value. The students told me that this was the lightness and darkness of colours. They even showed me the visual prompt in the classroom where it reminds them about what value is. When I visited another Early Years classroom some boys were very excited about the potatoes they had planted in the soil. They took me outside to the container of soil and told me that potatoes are living and if we plant them and feed them they will grow. The student's unit of inquiry has been focused on how 'Our lives are interconnected with living things'.

The students were demonstrating the trait of 'knowledgeable' from the IB Learner Profile.



## Reporting Student Achievement

### Phil Clark

*MYP Coordinator*

In my newsletter article on Friday 20th October, I described the approach to assessment in the IB Middle Years Programme, which recognises the importance of assessing both the process and the products of learning.

As we move through the school year, students in grades 6-10 complete a series of summative assessment tasks which are evaluated against four criteria in each subject. The four criteria are broadly similar across all subjects, although they vary slightly according to the specific requirements of individual subjects. In general terms, the criteria are used to assess the following areas:

- **Criterion A:** a student's knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse ideas in a subject.
- **Criterion B:** a student's ability to investigate, organise and develop ideas in a subject.
- **Criterion C:** a student's ability to effectively communicate ideas in a subject.
- **Criterion D:** a student's ability to use, apply, evaluate and reflect upon ideas in a subject.

After each summative assessment task has been evaluated by teachers, students and parents can login to ManageBac to access personalised feedback from the teachers, including levels of achievement for each of the four criteria.

In addition to providing ongoing feedback to students and parents after each summative assessment task, the school also issues semester achievement reports. The school year is divided into two semesters. A full written achievement

report is issued to parents and students at the end of each semester. The report is distributed in digital pdf format through ManageBac.

Teachers review evidence from a range of assessment tasks to determine final achievement levels in each of the criteria for semester reports. They analyse student levels of achievement during the semester, paying particular attention to patterns in the data (such as an increasing level of performance), consistency and any mitigating circumstances. Teachers do not calculate an average result for the semester. The judgments reflect the teacher's professional opinion on each student's levels of achievement at the end of the semester. Semester reports include:

- student levels of achievement for each MYP assessment criterion in every subject;
- written descriptions of student achievement for each MYP assessment criterion in every subject;
- evaluation of student Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills in every subject;
- student self-reflection and goal-setting in terms of Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills and IB Learner Profile;
- homeroom teacher comment in terms of Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills and IB Learner Profile; and
- record of attendance.

Semester 1 Achievement Reports will be issued on ManageBac on Friday 20th January. They provide parents and students with an indication of academic progress and achievement during the first half of the school year. The semester reports also provide a focus for the 3-Way Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences on 23rd and 26th January when parents can schedule meetings with teachers to discuss their child's progress.



## G11 and G12 Academic Pathways Information Evening



### Mary Boyd

*DP Coordinator*

It was wonderful to meet the Grade 10 students and parents on Thursday evening at the G11 and G12 Academic Pathways information evening. We were able to share information about the transition process, the Scholarship Programme, the High School Diploma, the Diploma Programme and the Careers Programme. We very much look forward to meeting again on 22 February, Period 2, for the Options Fair.

Grade 11 students are now back to normal lessons after exam week, and Grade 12 students are working as industriously as ever. Both year group's reports will be issued next Friday on Managebac, followed by the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences on Thursday 26 January.





## IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy

### Jon Suffolk

*MYP Performing Arts / DP Theatre Teacher*

The End of Semester 1 Concerts are on this coming week. Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th January. All parents are welcome to attend. The concerts are always a great way to celebrate the learning and see the development of the students under the care of our dedicated team of tutors. The concerts commence at 2pm each day.

### Semester 2 Registrations

Many of you will have received an email from me this week to request that you indicate if your child is continuing or not into

Semester 2. Thank you to those who have responded. There is still plenty of time to do so over the coming week.

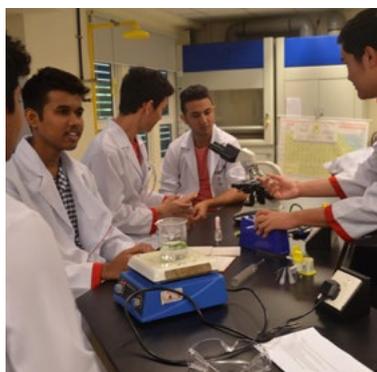
### NEW REGISTRATIONS VERY WELCOME

If you would like your child or children to be involved in the Music Academy programme and have not registered before please go to the Music Academy Splash page and complete an online registration form. I will then send you a confirmation email and over the coming weeks you will receive an invoice from the Finance Department.

### ALL LESSONS FOR SEMESTER 2 COMMENCE THE WEEK BEGINNING 6th FEBRUARY.

## Achievers Academy

IGBIS has been working with Achievers Academy (AA), a school for refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan in Kuala Lumpur. So far for this academic year, Achievers Academy have visited our school twice. With the group of senior students (aged 13 - 18), in collaboration with AA's science teacher, we did a biology experiment on photosynthesis where we tested the presence of starch in leaves. This was a good opportunity to allow students from Achievers Academy to actively learn the topic. The junior students (aged 7-12) also had a chance to visit our school. We did some fun educational activities such as building a straw tower competition and quiz games on the topics in Mathematics and English. Everyone had a really fun time. There are a lot of exciting activities planned for the upcoming sessions (January 21st, February 25th, April 22nd) and we would like students from grades 9-12 to join us.



## Phoenix Splashdown 2017

### PE Team

**EY/KG: Thursday 19th Jan - Learner Pool**

**G1 - G12: Friday 20th Jan - Main Pool**

The next house team event will be held on Friday 20th January between 8am and 11:15am. The house system has been well received by the students at the school and has added an element of friendly competition and comradery amongst the student body.

While mass participation is the goal for the event, with all students in Grade 1-12 involved in at least two races, there

will also be finals for the fastest swimmer in each house for freestyle and breaststroke - boys and girls finals for G7-12. The students will first compete in their houses to find the fastest swimmer for each house, with that swimmer competing in the final against the other fastest swimmers.

We will finish the day with relays. The relays will be organised by our Senior Student Council and they promise to be a good way for the students to end a fun day at the pool.

**Early Years and Kindergarten** will be swimming on Thursday 19th January in the Learner Pool, showcasing their swimming

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skills to their parents. All EY classes will be in the pool from 8:40 - 9:10am and both KG classes will be in the pool from 9:30 - 10am. The students will have a chance to show their parents and family what they have been doing in class while rotating around three different stations.

We hope to see as many parents as possible at the pool watching the races from the Level 3 mezzanine or around the outside of the learner pool.

Thanks in advance for your support of these fun and important events at IGBIS.

## PVO News

**Julie Arcidiacono**  
*Community & Events Coordinator*

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We have had the pleasure of welcoming a few new families this year. Thank you to parent class representatives who have extended offers to assist in their transition to a new school and for some, a new country. Gentle reminder to all parents to use your school-provided parent IGBIS email account for IGBIS-related communications.

Please join us next Thursday 19th January for our monthly PVO meeting, from 8:00 to 8:40am, in the Level 2 PVO Room. The agenda will include upcoming events (International Day and golf tournament), a new parent calendar, and other PVO housekeeping items (including message boards for parent-to-parent communication). The Early Years and Kindergarten Splashdown will follow the PVO meeting, so it will be a shorter one than usual. If you cannot attend, as always, meeting minutes will be uploaded onto the PVO website.

