



# KIS NEWS

At Kinabalu International School we are dedicated to providing an excellent education in a caring, respectful environment, challenging students to achieve their full potential as successful world citizens.

13th January 2017

## From the Principal

### CIS Five Year Review

Last November we hosted two representatives from the Council of International Schools, Dr Graham Ranger and Mr Richard Bennetts. They visited the school to conduct the CIS 5 Year Review. Dr Ranger and Mr Bennetts spent three days meeting with students, staff, parents and BoM members, observing lessons and inspecting the school generally. They were particularly interested in looking at how we had grown and developed since the last CIS team visit in 2011. At the end of their visit they were very complimentary about the school.



The culmination of such a visit is a Five-Year Report which details the team's findings. This report has now been received by the school and I am very pleased to report to the KIS Community that the school's CIS accreditation has been continued. The team commended the school on many aspects of its operations and, as one would expect, made some recommendations for further improvement.

The following are a few comments from the Visiting Team's report:

"KIS has been both diligent and thoughtful in its reactions to the full list of Recommendations made in the report prepared by the Visiting Team in February 2011... The school is to be commended on the development of a set of comprehensive and appropriate action plans to guide future developments at KIS."

"The school has a family atmosphere and knows each student individually...Students value their education highly and enjoy school. Primary and secondary school [student] leaders are proud of their school, [and] find teachers and support staff approachable and supportive..."

"KIS is very much an international community that promotes intercultural learning and appreciation, through special events and through the curriculum. The students and parents believe that all cultural perspectives are appreciated..."

The Five-Year Report will be reviewed carefully by the Senior Management Team and the Board of Management, and will feed into the School's Strategic and Development Plans. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community who contributed to the CIS Five Year Review process over the last 12 months. This is an excellent outcome for our school.

### Chinese New Year Celebrations

Chinese New Year is fast approaching and preparations are already well in hand to celebrate this important festival. The PTA will shortly be decorating the school with the help of students and staff, and plans are in place to host our annual Lion Dance performance. This year the school will celebrate Chinese New Year on Wednesday 25th January. Students, staff and parents are all invited to come to school in traditional Chinese dress. The Lion Dance celebrations are expected to start at 8.30am and parents are warmly invited to attend. Later in the day Primary students will also enjoy a range of special Chinese New Year activities provided by our Mandarin teachers.

### Term 2 ECAs

This term's ECAs started successfully this week, with students enjoying a wide range of activities from Gardening and Debating, to Harmony Singing and Dodgeball. Please can I remind all parents that if your child is attending an ECA which incurs a fee, payment should be made to the School Office immediately in order to secure their place. If a student has not paid for the ECA it will not be possible for them to join.

### Sabah Age Group Swimming Competition

We have a number of students from Primary and Secondary competing in the Sabah Age Group Swimming Competition today and tomorrow at Likas Pool. We wish all competitors the very best of luck at this annual event.

With warm regards,

Alan Connah  
Principal

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 13th Jan:</b>	PTASC Meeting, 8.30am
<b>Tues 17th - Fri 20th Jan:</b>	Year 5 Blossom Residential
<b>Saturday 21st Jan:</b>	KIS Fitness Festival
<b>Tues 24th Jan:</b>	Story Sacks Knitting Session (8am- 10.15am)

## PRIMARY NEWS

The first full week back at school has been a busy one! Primary has been buzzing with excitement as the students have all eagerly started their new topics for this term. Curriculum Statements and new timetables were sent out this week. Please [contact me](#) if you didn't receive yours.

### Curriculum Meetings

Rather than the traditional Topic Talks, we trialled a new style of meeting this term. Parents were invited to attend Curriculum Information Sessions on how to support their child with Reading and Calculations. After an initial introduction from the Primary Subject Leaders, parents broke off into small workshop groups focusing on specific age phases where teachers were able to give ideas, tips and pointers as to how KIS encourages our children to achieve their full potential and how best you can support this at home.

At KIS we believe that education is a partnership between home and school. The best way that we can all help your children to progress is by working collaboratively to support the development of essential skills.

I would value feedback from any of the parents who attended the meetings this week so that we can continue to provide informative and worthwhile information to our parent body.



### Pass Club

The new and improved PASS Club began this week. The students have all had lots of fun engaging in the various activities that have been on offer, in a safe and secure environment, or have spent quiet time in the Library reading a book or completing homework. Please see their timetable for more information of the activities planned: [Pass Club Timetable](#).

There are still limited spaces available if you need to apply for a place for your child, while they are waiting for the school bus or siblings. Please complete the application form which can be found on the Parent Information Board or [download it here](#). All completed forms and payments should be handed in to the School Office.

### Primary Library

The Primary Library has been developing over the past term and we have new books by a wide variety of children's authors that appeal to students from Foundation 1 to Year 6. All students have a weekly Library lesson, where they are taught the skills necessary to use a Library, as well as having time to browse the shelves and read stories. If your child would like to change their book more regularly than these sessions they are more than welcome to. Please take your child to the Library before school, from 7.30-7.50am, or after school between the times of 2.00-2.15pm or 3.00-4.00pm, when our Librarian, Ms Kerry Bagiou, will be there to assist you. We respectfully ask parents not to use lesson times to change books as this can be disruptive for the teachers and children who are working there.



Nicky Russell  
Head of Primary

# SECONDARY NEWS

## Late News!

Just before the Christmas break, we had our traditional Celebration Assembly, which was combined for the second year running with the annual Spellathon Final. The Spellathon is organised as a weekly activity in each Year 7, 8 and 9 English class and it culminates with the highest achieving spellers from each group competing against each other in front of the whole of Secondary. This year the worthy champion was Eric Tan in Year 9. Congratulations to all the finalists who put up a great fight!

There was an added twist to the Spellathon this year, with a rather exciting teachers' competition. There were 3 teams: Team Phantasmagorical, Team Unparalleled and Team Phenomenal, the eventual winners. Well done to Mr Crewdson, Ms De Sa, Ms Davies, Mr Barker and Ms Yuen!



## Year 11 Mock Examinations

This week Year 11 students have been completing their Year 11 Mock Examinations. This is an important time for them as they attempt to do as well as they can in the run up to the actual exams in May and June. The mock exams will reveal the students' strengths and weaknesses and these will be taken into consideration in this, the final full term of IGCSE study. Reports will be sent home on the 23rd of January and this will be followed by a Parents Afternoon on Thursday 26th. Another important date for Year 11 is the Options Afternoon, which will take place on Tuesday 7th February. At this event students and parents will have the opportunity to find out more about the A Level subjects that we offer in Years 12 and 13. I will send out more information about this event closer to the time.

## Book Week 2017

Book Week 2017 is fast approaching (6-10 Feb), and with it a host of activities and competitions. Our theme this year is 'Heroes', so you might need to start thinking about costumes for the character parade now! Book Week is a celebration of reading, and with that in mind, our timetable of events is designed around encouraging good reading habits.

We start the week with 'The Big Swap', and we ask that all students bring a book that they love and would like to donate, so that others can share it. Please have a rummage on your book shelves for these pre-loved books!

There will also be the Book Master Quiz at lunchtimes, and the Story Tent, as well as a welcome return of Book at Bedtime, where our Primary students will be invited to hear their favourite stories after school, in their pajamas.

Other activities will include treasure hunts, quizzes, researching our real life heroes, and of course, reading sessions: Older students in Secondary will buddy up with their Primary colleagues to share their favourite books, as well as quiet times set aside for simply getting stuck in a good book. Hopefully, we will all find new favourites as well as rediscovering the old, but one thing is certain: we will have a wonderful time doing it!



## Student Absences

Can I remind parents that if your child is unavoidably absent from school [through sickness, for example] it is essential that a note is sent in to the form tutor explaining the reasons for the absence. If it is a planned absence, please complete a 'Request for Absence' form at least 2 weeks in advance. Please note that absences disrupt learning and put pressure on the child to catch up when they return to school, so should be kept to a minimum. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mrs Margaret Renshaw  
Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary & Sixth Form

# SPORTS NEWS

## KIS Fitness Festival

It gives me great pleasure to announce the date for our first ever KIS Fitness Festival. This event will be led by Mr. Watson and takes place on **Saturday 21st January from 8.30am – 1pm.**

The day will involve a range of fitness activities for all students in Years 3 – 13 to take part in, and parents are invited to join in the fun too. We have coaches from various fitness clubs around KK coming in to lead sessions and there will be demonstrations from athletes from various sports. In addition there will be an obstacle course race and prizes to be won throughout the morning.

Letters have been sent out to students this week and the deadline to return the slip is **Monday 16th January.** WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ENTRIES AFTER THIS DATE.

If you have any questions, please see Mr. Watson or any member of the PE Department.

## Are You a Talented Tennis Player?

I have received information about a Junior Tennis Training programme for advanced level tennis players which will be held at the British International School, Phuket from 18th – 21st February. We will not be attending this event as a school; however, students can attend independently with their parents.

If you are aged 7 – 10 years and are an advanced level tennis player, who competes regularly and are looking to/already compete at national level, then you are eligible for this event.

The event will be run by Juan Esparcia who is a world renowned tennis coach and has worked with some of the best players in the world.

Please see Miss Hale if you would like more information about the event and how to apply.

Miss Natasha Hale  
Head of PE and Sport

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As part of my remit on the BOM as community liaison I will be initially profiling each member of the BOM team every week to try and get to know them slightly better and hopefully provide a little light reading to parents who may be stuck in traffic flicking between Facebook, their WhatsApp groups and "HITZ FM".

## Joanna Tighe - Treasurer

This lady hates snakes, but knows how to treat a snake bite; loves reading and swimming, but not necessarily at the same time, and was born in Brunei but moved to Labuan where as a teenager she enjoyed all beach activities including surfing, jet skiing and water skiing.

Joanna's favourite teacher was a Mrs Green and she studied hard at school but valued friendship above all else, that and a love of Madonna and Wham! kept her busy until she moved to the UK to study nursing.

Joanne's first job was as a dental nurse but her worst job was a stint as an au pair/ nanny. Cleaning other people's teeth was better than cleaning other people's bathrooms! Her best job is her current one, Chief Operating Officer at Gleneagles Hospital, though her ideal job would be one that balances that all too difficult work-life equilibrium.

Joanna would love to meet Michelle Obama if given the chance and if not born in the present would like to live in the Victorian era. Jo's most memorable travel experience was a trip to Jordan in the Middle East, most notably a visit to Petra. If Joanne could possess one super human power, it would undoubtedly be the ability to hold time.

For further information or for any questions that you as a parent may have about the Board then please feel free to contact the Board through our email address [bom@kis.edu.my](mailto:bom@kis.edu.my).

Cindy Reynolds  
KIS Board of Management





# PTA NEWS

Happy New Year to all of you and we hope you have had a lovely break.

The Parents Teacher Association (PTA) has had a very busy start to the year. Following the AGM, the newly elected Steering Committee (PTASC) members met to discuss the planning and execution of their activities. Thereafter, the team has enthusiastically supported the students, parents and teachers through a few events.

## Term 1 Activities

Summary of activities that have taken place over the past 3 months:

### a) Class Ambassadors (CA's)

All classes for Primary & Secondary have appointed their CA's and maintained a WhatsApp group. The PTASC has efficiently and immediately updated the list of CA for all classes and posted it on the PTA noticeboard to ensure all parents know who are their CAs.

### b) Secondary Sports Day

Food donated by parents was given to students at the event. The PTA also took the initiative to sell ice creams and drinks.

### c) Santa Cookies Delivery

The PTA arranged our very own Santa Claus to distribute Christmas cookies to all students, which had been donated and home baked by our parents. The PTASC, with the help of parents, then packed them into very nice Christmas packaging.

### d) Christmas Cake

The PTA sponsored a Christmas cake for KIS staff to celebrate this festive time.

### e) Christmas Mufti Lunch

This year's mufti lunch was well supported by students, teachers and parents. We have slightly improved the organisation, packaging and the way the food is delivered to students and collected by parents and teachers. Many thanks to those parents who volunteered to help in the food distribution. During the lunch the PTA also sold beverages and ice creams.

In addition, the PTA helped the Charity Committee to collect fees for the optional wearing of mufti clothes by the students. The fees collected were donated in full by our Charity Committee to the societies they support.

### f) Christmas School Decorations

A festive atmosphere was created at KIS with the decorations supplied by the PTA. A group of parents volunteered to help put up decorations around the school.

### g) Key Stage 1 Production

The PTA arranged for a professional video to be made of the play, which was then sold to interested parents.

Food and beverages were available to purchase during the event. In addition to selling pizzas, the PTA also sold delicious and beautifully decorated jellies, pastries such as almond nut tart, UFO and chicken pie, as well as Christmas cookies which had been donated by Crystal Jelly and Up Cycle Café.

### h) Weekly Ice Cream Sales

The ice cream sales remain a popular Friday treat for students.

## Term 2 Activities

Several events have already been planned for Term 2. More information will be updated through the CA WhatsApp groups, the PTA noticeboard, the Newsletter and the KIS PTA website page.

For Term 2, the PTA will be organising or assisting with the following events:

- a) School Decorations for Chinese New Year - 13 January 2017 (12pm-2pm)
- b) PTASC January Meeting – 13 January 2017 (8.30am)
- c) Chinese New Year Celebration; Coffee Morning & Lion Dance Performance – 25 January 2017
- d) PTASC February Meeting – TBA
- e) PTASC March Meeting – TBA
- f) Key Stage 2 Production – 28th & 29th March 2017
- g) Swimming Gala – 31 March 2017

All parents are welcome to attend the coffee morning and at the same time enjoy the Lion Dance performance on the 25th January.

We encourage parents to join our PTASC meetings as well and anybody free to volunteer in helping with the Chinese New Year decorations. All are most welcome.

We are all members of the PTA and every parent and teacher is encouraged to attend the committee meetings, share ideas and to request funding (for school purposes only), from the PTA via the request for funding form available via the link on the PTA page of the school's website or in hard copy from the School Office.

The PTASC is a group of parents which have volunteered and been elected to take time out of their busy schedule to lead the PTA. However, we are all members of the PTA (KIS Parents and Teachers). The funds generated by the PTA and the social events arranged by the committee are to benefit the whole KIS community. Thus, we hope everybody can support the PTA. You can do this by responding to requests for donations, assisting with events, offering to loan KIS items when needed, attending meetings or by offering to organise an event. All members of the PTA can arrange a PTA event. If any PTA members are interested in helping with or leading an event, please attend the PTASC meetings. You may volunteer to take the lead of a whole event, part of an event or suggest a new event. The PTASC will support you and a member of the PTASC will collaborate with you throughout.

We look forward to a successful Term 2, meeting new "KIS Family" members and to working together with our amazingly, diverse KIS community.

## **Story Sacks**

This is a parent-led group who meet once a week to make the supporting materials for the Story Sacks.

If you like to make, craft, sew, knit, laminate, draw or just want to meet new people and share your ideas and eat cake please do join us. ALL ARE WELCOME

Every Tuesday in the Multi Purpose Room  
from 8am to 10.15am

On Tuesday 24th January during the Story Sacks session we will also be holding a knitting session.

If you would like to learn the basics of how to knit please feel free to come along. The session will take place in the Multi Purpose Room from 8am to 10.15am. Please bring a pair of knitting needles and a ball of wool. Further details will be displayed on the school notice board nearer the time or you can WhatsApp Mary on 019 808 6895 if you need any more information.

## **KIS Parent Teacher Association**