



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.

10th February 2017

From the Principal

A very warm welcome back to everyone. I do hope you all enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing Chinese New Year Holiday. This week's Book Week activities have resulted in a very busy first week back for students and teachers. It has been wonderful to see everyone getting actively involved and enjoying their reading. I would like to thank parents and teachers for their support of this important event on our calendar and our Librarians, Mrs. Colbeck and Ms. Bagiu, for all their hard work in organising all the Book Week activities.

Teacher Recruitment

One of the most important jobs I do each year is to ensure that we as a school have the very best teachers teaching our children. Since last November I have been actively recruiting teachers for this coming August. With the huge growth in the international school sector over recent years, teacher recruitment has become a significant challenge for School Principals around the world. In fact, it would be fair to say that there is a worldwide shortage of good teachers and there is fierce competition between schools to attract the very best.

According to the International School Consultancy, in the year 2000 there were 2,584 English-Medium International Schools globally, with just under 1 million students and around 90,000 teachers. By September last year (2016) this had grown to 8,506 schools, with 4.54 million students and 420,000 teachers. Current predictions are that this growth trend will continue, with the expectation that by 2021 there will be 11,900 schools, with 6.5 million students and 613,000 teachers.

Apart from advertising globally for teachers, this year we have been actively recruiting in both Australia and the United Kingdom. This has involved me visiting both countries to interview local candidates. At the same time, we have spent a great many hours interviewing candidates from around the world using Skype. While our recruitment efforts are not yet complete, I am delighted to report that we have managed to hire some excellent teachers to join us next August. Please rest assured that despite the challenges involved, I am absolutely committed to recruit the very best qualified teachers that I can for our school. I will provide you with a further update on teacher recruitment later this term.

New Arrivals!

We have been really pleased to hear this week of the safe arrival of Mrs Lim's son, Elijah on 3rd February and Ms Helvie's daughter, Haylie on 6th February. We all pass our congratulations to them at this time.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Alan Connah
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 10th Feb:	Secondary Character Parade
Fri 10th Feb:	Primary Prize Giving Assembly for Book Week
Fri 10th Feb:	PTASC Meeting, 8.30am
Mon 13th Feb:	F1, Y4 and Y11 Field Trips
Tues 14th Feb:	Y7 Field Trip
Weds 15th Feb:	Y9 Parents Afternoon
Fri 17th Feb:	World Pangolin Day

PRIMARY NEWS

Book Week

The Primary Department has been a buzz of excitement this week while the students have been celebrating our annual Book Week. The week started with the Big Swap where all the students eagerly sought out a new book to bring home to read and share with parents and family. During the week I was really pleased to see so many children enjoying a wide variety of cross curricular activities all based around the different books they are studying from Year 6 making 3D nets of different Liquorice All Sorts Candy to F1 creating different animals they see at the farm.

The highlight for me this week has to be the new inclusion of Book Doors. Each class across the whole school has been tasked with the job of changing their door into scenes from their favourite book. Later this morning I will have the unenviable task of judging the doors across Primary. Watch this space next week for photographs of the finished doors and winners.

Visit from Tan Sri Luping

Year 4 are learning how to write newspaper reports in Literacy this term, and were extremely fortunate this week to receive a visit from Tan Sri Luping, former Editor in Chief of the Sabah Times.

Ahead of the visit, Year 4 discussed and created open questions to ask during the interview. We were very impressed with the ideas the students came up with, such as, 'How did you master writing?' and 'How do you find out about news stories and find your facts?'. Students asked a variety of questions and gained a wonderful insight into the real world of writing for newspapers. The best advice that Tan Sri Luping shared about becoming a good writer and finding out information, was to read extensively - perfect advice for our young journalists, especially during Book Week!



The Term Ahead

The rest of this term is promising to be exciting. There will be visits from different speakers, Creative and Performing Arts Week, Class Assemblies, Class Trips, Bomba Day for our younger students, Topic Days for Year 2 and Year 5, not to mention the Key Stage Two Production and Whole School Swimming Gala. If your child is going to be absent from school for an extended period of time, please can you complete the Student Leave Request Form available from the school office or downloadable from the website.

Mid Year Reports are also in the process of being compiled and will be sent home in March. Following on from this there will be an opportunity for you to meet formally with your child's class teacher to discuss any questions you may have about the reports. As always, if you need to speak with me please either email me directly to make an appointment (nickyrussell@kis.edu.my) or contact the school office to have an appointment made.

School Shoes

Just a polite reminder that shoes should be predominantly white or black with white socks being worn. We appreciate parent support to ensure that students adhere to the school uniform expectations. Many thanks.

Nicky Russell
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

A Levels Options Afternoon, Tuesday 7th February

Attendees at the A Levels Options Afternoon on Tuesday heard all about the Cambridge International A Levels that we offer at KIS in our Sixth Form, and took the opportunity to go and talk to the A Level subject specialists to ask important questions. There was a lot of interest from our current Year 11 students and their parents and we also had some guest families who may be interested in sending their child to our Year 12 in September.

Applicants are asked to choose 3 or 4 subjects from a list of 12 that includes Mathematics and the Sciences as well as Humanities subjects and the Arts. We pride ourselves in offering breadth and depth in our A Level curriculum, as well as ample opportunities for growth and development through the provision of, for example, our Careers and University Applications Guidance Programme and Leadership opportunities for our Sixth Form students. This is an important time for these students as they consider their futures and we wish them all the best in the upcoming IGCSE examinations.

Other Secondary Events

As we are all aware, we have had Book Week this week in school and elsewhere in this newsletter you can see the evidence that the students have had an absolutely brilliant time. I would like to thank all the parents, teachers and students who got involved and contributed, and in particular a big 'Thank You' to Mrs. Colbeck, our Teacher Librarian, who spearheaded and was the inspiration behind many of the new initiatives this year. She was ably assisted by our Librarian, Ms. Bagiu, who worked tirelessly to plan and co-ordinate the events.

No sooner is Book Week over we have our Creative and Performing Arts Week, which is taking place from the 20th to 25th of this month. This beautiful poster [designed by our Art teacher Ms. Yuen, Head of Department]. We await further details to come soon.

There are several important events that are happening next week. We have a Social Media Workshop for parents of Year 7 students on Tuesday [registration for that event is now closed] and the Year 7 students have their Languages Trip on the same day. On Wednesday we have the Year 9 Parents Afternoon starting at 3.20pm in the Hall. We look forward to seeing many parents then as they discuss their child's progress with the teachers. The Duke of Edinburgh students are out on an expedition on Friday and Saturday. We look forward to hearing about all of these in future newsletters!

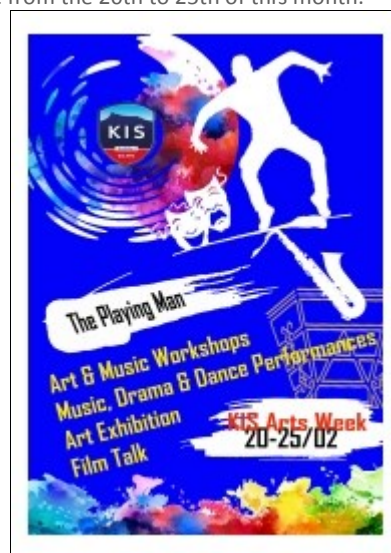
A Glance Backwards: Restaurant Trip, Year 10

"On the 24th and 26th of January 2017, 28 Year 10 students were treated to an evening out together and a delicious meal at the Little Italy restaurant, with Ms. Colley and Ms. Tully accompanying them.

Located in the centre of town, this restaurant is not a place to miss. With a warm, comforting atmosphere, Little Italy evokes a casual, bistro-style mood. The service is impeccable, enhanced by the bubbly and energetic attitudes portrayed by the waiting staff. The whole experience will help us to write an authentic 'live' restaurant review, which is needed for our iGCSE English Language coursework."

By: Maziar Mazaheri Year 10

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



UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS OF OUR SIXTH FORM GRADUATES

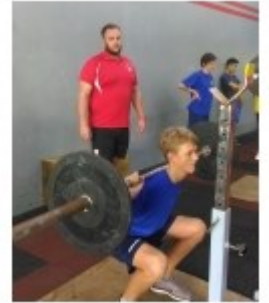
Just some of the universities our graduates are attending:

University College London: Medicine	Edinburgh University: Law
Imperial London: Biology and Biomedical Engineering	Durham University: Combined Hons in Art, Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Biological Sciences
King's College London: Geography	University of Western Australia: Commerce and Science
University of Aberdeen: Petrochemical Engineering	London Film School: Film Production
Les Roches Switzerland: Hotel Management	University of Essex: Genetics
University of Southampton: Biomedical Engineering	Charles University Prague: Medicine

SPORTS NEWS

IGCSE Weight Training

As part of their practical assessment the IGCSE PE students in Year 10 and 11 have been travelling to X45 gym to complete a Weight Training for Fitness course. This involves the students using a range of weights to perform skills such as front squat, power clean and bench press. The students also have to learn about muscles in the body and must demonstrate correct form for each skill. The Year 10s made an excellent start this week learning the front squat and back squat.



Book Week in PE

To celebrate the Book Week theme of Heroes, the PE Department have been doing work in lessons on Sporting Heroes. In IGCSE PE the students discussed what qualifies someone to be a sporting hero and then they researched and created a poster about their chosen hero. In Primary PE lessons the children have learnt about Paralympic heroes and had the opportunity to play Goal Ball and Sitting Volleyball, which are two sports played in the Paralympic Games.

Competitive Sport

In the coming weeks we have some exciting events coming up with regards to sport. Our U15 boys and girls basketball teams have a match against Maktab Nasional on 24th February. We have also just confirmed teams to attend the 3v3 Basketball tournament in Phuket in May with one girls' and two boys teams attending. And coming up in March our FOBISIA Golf team will travel with Fraser Pook to Phuket for their competition. Good luck to all our KIS athletes.

Miss Natasha Hale
Head of PE and Sport



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

David Powell

David grew up in a small village in West Wales until he was 18 years old when he decided to go to university in as different a living environment as was available - inner city Liverpool, England.

His first job was picking and selling strawberries around the local housing estates – a budding entrepreneur at 12 years old!

From his early years he has always loved outdoor activities and the opportunity to work in a ski resort in Australia was not to be turned down. David was proud to be the person who lived closest to the ski lifts - because he was living in the car park in the back of his 1969 Volkswagen Kombi van!!

While being tone deaf and what could be called musically illiterate gives him very limited capacity for remembering songs, once the snow melted he drove 20,000 km around Australia in that same old van with only one cassette tape that worked, by Tracey Chapman, so her songs are deeply embedded!

He first came to Borneo some 24 years ago to complete a 6 week river and jungle expedition across Kalimantan following the equator – certainly the experience of a lifetime! He then came to Sabah, climbed Mt Kinabalu - the first of more than 60 ascents - and ended up staying! A few years later he was heavily involved in the search and eventual rescue of 10 British Army soldiers who disappeared into Low's Gully on Mt Kinabalu.

Sabah remains his home and the base for his regional corporate training and Teambuilding business - although he seems to spend more time on planes than actually at home!

Two of his favourite foods are Roti Canai and Ngau Chap (Beef Noodle Soup) and to drink - Kopi Ping.

David would love to visit Bhutan and learn more about how they measure the happiness impact of every policy and action.

He loves to facilitate peoples' development – himself, his own staff team, the corporate executives he trains and most certainly now through his involvement in KIS.

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. The next Board of Management meeting is to be held on the evening of the 21st of February.

Cindy Reynolds
KIS Board of Management

PTA NEWS

PTASC Meeting Today - 8.30am

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this morning's PTASC meeting. A copy of the agenda is available to download [here](#).

Chinese New Year Festivities Draw to a Close

Welcome back everybody! We hope all of you have had a wonderful holiday. Even though we are physically back in routine, many of us are still feeling the holiday or festive mood as Chinese New Year is not over yet. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, it lasts for 15 days and therefore tomorrow (11th February 2017) will be the last day. Do expect another great celebration to mark the end of the Chinese New Year festivities.

In this week's, PTA newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to share some culture associated with the festivities that mark the end of Chinese New Year. The fifteenth day, also known as the lantern festival, marks the first full moon after the Spring festival. On this special day there will be dragon and lion dancing parades which will last nearly the whole morning and afternoon. Dragon and lion dancing is a symbol of bravery, strength and it is also believed that it can ward off evil and provide good fortune, as well as safety for family members.

In the evening, people will light many colorful lanterns and families will go out together to enjoy the glorious full moon. We call this lighting / watching lanterns and moon watching. It is common to see lanterns being displayed and children carrying lanterns to temples. Some cities will also have lanterns fairs, which are associated with guiding lost and ill-bred evil spirits home while celebrating and cultivating positive relationships between people, families, nature and the higher beings. Lighting lanterns is also a way for people to pray that they will have smooth futures and express their best wishes for their families. Some people will even fly 'kongming lantern' on which they will write their wishes believing that if it flies high, your wishes will come true.



Another traditional custom which will be held simultaneously with the lantern lighting, is the guessing of lantern riddles. Lantern owners will write their riddles on paper notes and paste them upon the colorful lanterns. People will then crowd around to guess the riddles. If someone has the right answer, they will take the riddles to the lantern owner and will be given a small prize.

A reunion dinner will follow with lantern and oranges will be a large part of the celebrations. It is customary and essential to eat special sweet dumplings (tangyuan) resembling the shape of the full moon. These are ball-shaped dumplings made of glutinous rice flour, with different fillings stuffed inside, usually sweet, such as white sugar, brown sugar, sesame seeds, peanuts, walnuts, rose petals, bean paste, and jujube paste, or any combination of two or three ingredients. Also, known as “Yuanxiao”, they can be boiled, fried, or steamed, and are customarily served in fermented rice soup, called tianjiu 'sweet liquor'.



Tangyuan is pronounced similarly to tuanyuan, which means the whole family gathering together happily, Chinese people believe that the round shape of the balls and their bowls symbolize wholeness and togetherness. Therefore, eating tangyuan at the Lantern Festival is a way for Chinese people to express their best wishes for their family and their future lives.

This is one of the dishes served during our last coffee morning (25th January 2017). It is relatively easy to make and cook. Now it's even available for purchase ready made in any supermarket in the frozen department. For those of you who would like to try making it yourself at home, you can download a simple recipe [here](#).

We wish you all a pleasant weekend and have a great reunion dinner while enjoying the lanterns!

KIS PTASC