



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.

24th November 2017

From the Principal

KIS AGM

On behalf of the KIS Board of Management I would like to thank all those parents who attended the AGM last Tuesday morning. For the first time in many years we achieved a quorum and the meeting was able to proceed as planned. During the meeting we heard from serving Board Members as they reported on the past year's achievements, several motions with notice were passed and elections were held to fill four vacant positions on the Board of Management. Seven excellent candidates stood for election. The following candidates were successfully elected: Aaron Cowan; Lee Hyerang; Shirley Lee Siaw Ling (Yu); and Gina Pang Su Ken. Congratulations to those elected and a big thank you to all those who stood for election.

I would like to echo the comments of our Board Chairperson, Aaron Cowan, in thanking all those parents who served on the Board during 2016-17 academic year. In particular, I would like to recognize the incredible efforts of past and outgoing members, Cindy Reynolds, Esther Lau, Janet Lo and Selva Nagalinham. Their contributions will benefit the school for many years to come.

Secondary Arts Week Celebrations, 25th - 30th November

Next week the Secondary School is hosting its Annual Arts Week Celebrations. The week will start with a Student Showcase from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday 25th November, at the Black Box Theatre in Suria Sabah. As you can imagine, our student performers are very excited to have the opportunity to perform at Sabah's first private community theatre for the Performing Arts. They have all been working very hard for this special occasion. KIS parents and friends are very warmly invited to attend the Student Showcase. A few tickets are still available from the School Office today, so be quick.

Our Arts Week celebrations will also feature a range of workshops conducted by invited local artists, designers, and musicians. They will share their passion for the arts with our students in school from Monday 27th to Thursday 30th of November.

Parents are very welcome to attend an Art Talk on Tuesday, 28th November at 2pm in the school hall. Tressie Yap (Architect), Christianne Grooting (Artist) and Japson Wong (up-cycled Designer) will be discussing "Nurturing Global Citizens: Trash to Treasure". In particular, our guests will be talking about what roles Artists, Designers and Architects can play as Global Citizens.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Yuen, Miss Ku and Mr Bryant for all their efforts in organising Arts Week.

Open Day - Tuesday 28th November

We will be hosting an Open Day for families interested in joining KIS this coming Tuesday, 28th November. Should you know of a family interested in visiting the school please do encourage them to attend. More information about the day, as well as a registration form can be found on our website at: <http://www.kis.edu.my/open-day/>

Invoices

Invoices for Term 2 will be sent home with students before the end of this month. Please contact finance@kis.edu.my if you have not received your invoice by the end of term.

Healthy Heart December Menu

The menu and order form for catered lunches from the Healthy Heart Canteen are now available to download here:

> [December Menu](#)

> [December Order Form](#)

Alternatively, hard copies can be collected from the Parent Information Board or from inside the canteen.

Public Holiday - Friday 1st December

Parents are gently reminded that KIS will be closed next Friday 1st December.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Alan Connah
Principal



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 25th November:	Creative & Performing Arts Showcase at Suria Sabah Black Box Theatre, 2pm - 5pm
Sat 25th & Sun 26th November:	KIS Roadshow at City Mall
Mon 27th - Thurs 30th November:	KIS Secondary Arts Week
Tues 28th November:	KIS Open Day
Tues 28th November:	Art Talk for Secondary students and parents, 2pm
Fri 1st December:	Public Holiday, School Closed

PRIMARY NEWS

Year 2 Field Trip

Year 2 enjoyed their second field trip of the term on Thursday 16th November. First, the excited students went to see a water village in Tanjung Aru. They looked around and talked about a number of aspects including how the local people live, and possible reasons why there was lots of litter in the area, then they categorised these materials and discussed ways to recycle them.

The group then went to Grace Point and first looked at the 6/6 monument in the middle of the park. They learnt about the history of this event, where the plane crashed, how many people were on board and how the landscape had changed since the event. Then they went into the museum, where they learnt about important people in the history of Kota Kinabalu. There were lots of interesting facts in the museum and a model of what KK looked like in the past.

After the museum visit, they went for a yummy meal and played on the playground. The trip was enjoyed by all!

Year 3 Sabah Pottery Studio Trip

Last week Year 3 were very lucky to have a visit to the Sabah Pottery Studio. Their topic is Ancient Greece and this was an excellent opportunity to extend their learning and use their creativity by making Ancient Greek theatre masks.

The wonderful staff at the studio welcomed the students into the venue and showed them the different techniques that were used for manipulating clay in days gone by, as well as demonstrating how to make different shaped pots using the pottery wheel. Eline and Caleb were able to have a turn and show everyone how it's done!

After a morning break, it was time to get to work. The students used their hands and a variety of tools to shape features onto their masks. Ancient Greek theatre masks would have had very exaggerated expressions so that audience members seated at a distance could tell the emotions of the character. There were a lot of interesting masks made, with students using their own imagination and initiative to make theirs stand out. The masks were put out in the sun to dry during their lunch break and after lunch it was time to paint the masks. The final step was for the masks to be placed in the kiln for a whopping 12 hours at an extremely high heat, before being glazed.

It was a great trip out. The masks look fantastic and Year 3 can't wait to show them off at The Ancient Greek museum today.

Scratch Programming in Year 2

As we are all aware, ICT skills and programming are an invaluable skill to possess in the work place. Students in our Year 2 classes have been working really hard in their ICT lessons this term learning how to programme and code to create their own simple computer game using the software Scratch Junior on the iPads. Rightly so, the students are very proud of their accomplishments and have been able to develop their skills in reasoning, problem solving and creativity. The students have continually worked with persistence and enthusiasm to develop their games. I am looking forward to going and trying them later today.

The 12 days of K.I.S-mas

The rehearsals for the Primary Production this year are well underway. I have been very impressed by the dedication and commitment shown by all involved in the preparation for this Production. Tickets are now ready and available from the main School Office. Due to this production including all students from First Steps through to Year 6 there will be three performance times:

Tuesday 5th December at 9.00am

Wednesday 6th December at 9.00am

Thursday 7th December at 1.00pm

Tickets are limited to 190 per performance. Initially we will only release two tickets per family to ensure everybody has the chance to reserve their seats. On Monday 4th December, all remaining tickets will be released. Priority for seating will be given to ticket holders for each performance.

Ancient Greek Day

Today is set to be another great experience for our students at KIS. We are all looking forward to being transported back in time to Ancient Greece and learn all about life during those times. The day will begin with an assembly from the Year 3 students in the Hall at 8.00am, followed by their Greek Museum in the MPR and ICT Lab 1 showcasing the work they have been undertaking this term, along with the pottery they made during their trip last week to Sabah Pottery.

Nicky Russell

Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

It is always wonderful to see staff, parents and students coming together to plan and execute both routine and non-routine school events. At the moment there is a buzz of activity and excitement around: the Christmas Fair, 4Fest, Arts Week, School Trips, the Trainer Appeal, [over 100 pairs collected!], Open Day and much more. At the same time students are busily going about their academic work and teachers, as well as carrying out their core business in the classrooms, are writing their end of Term 1 reports, due to go out before the term break.

Year 12 and 13 Parents should note that their opportunity to meet the teachers to talk about their child's progress is on Monday 11th December, starting at 3pm in the school hall.

In the meantime I look forward to seeing many of you at the Black Box Theatre at Suria Sabah tomorrow, the 25th, between 2pm and 5pm for the Secondary Arts Showcase. This is a first for our school in a specially designed theatre venue and it promises to be a really wonderful event!

Margaret Renshaw

Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary

What's Happening in Secondary?

In praise of the humble fraction ...

As I write, our Year 7 students have just finished their topic of Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. This is usually a topic that students feel relieved to put behind them. One of the things we have tried to impress upon our Y7 students is just how important fractions are – that they will meet fractions again and again in their mathematical lives. Indeed, they won't have to wait too long! Next up for the Year 7s is a topic in statistics and probability – they'll be using fractions when calculating probabilities.

Our Year 8 students will happily give the Year 7s some advice on statistics – just a few weeks ago they were constructing, among other things, pie charts. Of all the ways to understand how to do this, the most powerful way uses fractions (if $\frac{1}{4}$, say, of your data is a particular thing, that thing takes up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the available angle in the pie-chart!).

Our Year 9 students have just finished a unit on solving equations – linear equations, simultaneous equations and even higher order polynomials (via use of a cunning trial and improvement method). Ask any Y9 student which equations they found hardest to deal with and guess what they'll say – it was the equations containing fractions that they found toughest to deal with.

Year 10 students finished their unit on quadratic equations a short while ago. Pure algebra it may be, but fractions appear in a number of places; the general quadratic $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ has a solution formula which is a fraction ($x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$, as I'm sure all parents remember) and our Y10 Additional Maths students are right now using the fact that it also has a line of symmetry ($x = -\frac{b}{2a}$... another fraction!) to locate turning points of the associated parabola.

Year 11 students are investigating matrices – what they are, and how they can prove themselves useful (the matrices, not the Y11 students!). To their delight (or consternation, depending on their outlook) fractions appear at a key moment – when finding the inverse of a matrix.

There's no escape for A-Level students either. Year 12 students constantly meet algebraic fractions and, as I type, they are also meeting fractions in Geometric Progressions. Put simply, a Geometric Progression will converge if the common ratio between terms (a fraction!) is between certain limits; otherwise it will diverge. Ask a Year 13 student about partial fractions, and watch their eyes light up! This is where, algebraically, they do the reverse of what our Year 7s were doing when adding fractions. It's like coming full-circle.

Something we love doing in Maths is to trace the origins of the words we use. This can be so revealing and can help in understanding a concept. The word fraction has a Latin origin – the verb “frangere” which means to break (hence associated words like “fragment”, “fracture” and “fragile”). When our Year 7 students involved themselves with their latest topic (which they did very well, by the way) we made sure they weren't broken by the experience – instead, they laid the foundation for a long and productive association ... with the humble fraction.

KIS Senior Maths Challenge

“Problems worthy of attack ...prove their worth by fighting back!”

The above quotation, widely attributed to the Danish mathematician (and inventor, designer, scientist, poet, author) Piet Hein, nicely sums up the notion that there is great satisfaction to be had in tackling and solving problems that don't easily surrender. It feels very rewarding to get to the end of a mathematical problem, knowing that you used a variety of skills and knowledge in order to make it yield.

Our weekly Maths Challenge allows all students to experience this sense of satisfaction. That said, our Year 12 and Year 13 Maths A-level students were recently given the opportunity to have a much more intense experience, by taking on a 90-minute Olympiad-style examination – the KIS Senior Maths Challenge. The underlying philosophy of this type of examination is not necessarily to urge students to build more mathematical knowledge; rather such tests encourage students to do more with the knowledge they have. The exam consisted of 25 multiple-choice questions, drawn from recent UKMT tests. No calculators were allowed, and no manipulatives (not even squared paper!) were allowed. And, just to spice things up a little, wrong answers received negative marks.

Here are a three of the more straightforward questions on the paper that should give you a flavour of the challenge:

Question 1: The teenagers Sam and Jo notice the following facts about their ages:

- the difference between the squares of their ages is four times the sum of their ages
- the sum of their ages is eight times the difference between their ages.

What is the age of the older of the two?

Question 2: Isobel – “Josh is innocent” Genotan – “Tegan is guilty” Josh – “Genotan is guilty” Tegal – “Isobel is innocent”. Only the guilty person is lying, all the others are telling the truth. Who is guilty?

- a) Isobel b) Josh c) Genotan d) Tegan e) More information is required.

Question 3: How many pairs (x,y) of positive integers satisfy the equation $4^x = y^2 + 15$?

Our students coped very well indeed with the challenge and we will award participation and achievement certificates to them at the upcoming end of term assembly.

Mr Davis

Head of Secondary Maths

SPORTS NEWS

Year 5 and 6 Inter-House Tournament

During PE lessons this week Year 5 and 6 have been learning how to play Ultimate Frisbee. This is a new sport for them to learn; with lots of rules and different skills involved. The PE Department will be holding an Inter-house competition on Wednesday 13th December to showcase their understanding of a new sport and for the students to win points for their House.

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

KIS Christmas Angels

The Student Council will be collecting Christmas gifts again this year for local Care centres in Kota Kinabalu. The two centres we support are the Care Haven Day Care Centre, in KPKS Sukan and the Persatian Rumah Amal Sabah (Sabah Cheshire Home) on Jalan Tuaran.

The Care Haven Day Care Centre has 17 children under their care; 9 girls and 8 boys. These children are mainly orphans, or children that have been abandoned or abused.

The Sabah Cheshire Home is a centre that provides residential care to individuals with disabilities, with the aim of promoting independence for the individuals with disabilities irrespective of race, religion or culture. The ages in the centre range from birth up to 65 years old.

We have collected a special Christmas wish from each individual in both these centres, which has been written on an angel hanging on our Christmas tree. We would like the families in KIS to open their hearts and fulfil the wishes of these people by collecting one angel or more from our tree. In doing so, you (parents, staff or students) will commit to purchasing and fulfilling the need of the specific child or person with disabilities. The age and gender of the individual will be written on the angel to provide guidance for choosing the gift. Our request is that you wrap your gift, either in a shoe box or any appropriate opaque wrapping, and return the gift with the angel attached to the Student Council no later than Friday, 8th of December.

The Student Council Christmas tree complete with angels will be on display near the KIS front gate from Monday 27th of November. Please join us in celebrating Christmas and this special time of giving by supporting this worthy cause. A simple act of kindness will make a less privileged person's wish come true.

Merry Christmas!

The Student Council



PTA NEWS

Christmas Cookies

Christmas is fast approaching and the PTA are being elves once again this year and handing out cookies to the students and staff at school. We are requesting parent assistance for both decorating the school and the bagging and distribution of the cookies:

Decorating School

When : Monday 4th December

Time : 8:00am onwards

Where : Ice Cream freezer area

Cookie Packing & Distribution

When : Friday 8th December

Time : 8:00am onwards

Location : MPR (Multi Purpose Room)

The PTA hopes to see as many parent elves as possible to help on the day.

Thank you,
PTASC