



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.

17th November 2018

AGM Thursday 22nd November, 8am

The Annual General Meeting of the Kinabalu International School Association will be held at 8am next Thursday, 22nd November 2018, in the Multi-Purpose Room. As a parent owned not for profit association, it is essential that parents attend this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is twofold: firstly, to hear from serving Board Members as they report on the past year and secondly, to elect new Board Members for the coming year. **For the meeting to proceed we need a quorum of 123 parents, so it is vital as many people as possible attend this important event.**

Request for Board of Management Nominations

As a not-for-profit school the Board of Management plays a crucial role in working closely with myself and the School Leadership Team in guiding the school's ongoing development. We have positions on the Board to be filled at the AGM next Thursday and we encourage any parents interested to put their name forward for nomination. Please contact Elis Ho by email officemanager@kis.edu.my for further information on the process.

David Powell

Chairperson of the Board of Management

From the Principal

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As you can see from the above, our AGM is fast approaching, please take the time to come and be a part of the future of our school. Your input is very much welcome (and wanted).

At the time of writing we have had no further cases of HFMD in the Primary School and as indicated in yesterday's letter we will be open as usual on Monday. We will continue to monitor the health of all children as they enter school each day. We need your support by asking you to also monitor your children and taking them to the Doctor if they show any of the signs for HFMD (red spots in the throat, on the hands or feet or have a temperature).

I know it has been difficult having your children at home and I do need to thank you for your support and understanding at this time. I would also like to thank our Primary staff for making sure work has been accessible, as well as making themselves available online to support you and your children. I know the staff are keen to see your children back in school and will be giving them the support and encouragement needed to get back on track this term.

Well done to our students who took part in the AIMS Maths Competition over the past few days, this has been an excellent opportunity for them to collaborate and compete with other students from across Malaysia.

We also wish Mr Walker good luck as he presents at the Asia Pacific Education Conference. Mr Walker is delivering his findings from the educational research he carried out over the past year with PE students and their motivation with studies during their IGCSE course. If you are interested, I am sure he will share his research paper if you ask him. It does make very good reading.

On a final note, a huge well done to all the students who took part in the student led basketball matches this week and to our Year 8 Blues musicians for wonderful performances. Great effort from all.

I wish you a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you at the AGM this coming Thursday.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Gross

Principal

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 19th November:	Year 8S Geography Trip
Tuesday 20th November:	Public Holiday - School closed
Wednesday 21st November:	Year 8K Geography Trip
Thursday 22nd November:	Board of Management AGM, 8am
Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th November:	KIS Roadshow at City Mall

Primary News

Primary AIMS Conference

On Tuesday this week I had the opportunity to spend the day in KL at the Association of International Malaysian Schools, Heads of Primary Conference. Sixteen Heads of Primary from all over Malaysia met at Tenby (Setia Eco Park) School, KL to discuss topics of relevance to all schools.

We began the day with an informative presentation from the newly appointed Head of Primary, from the Prince of Wales International School, Penang about the safe guarding initiatives that they will be implementing when the new campus opens in September 2019. We had interesting discussions about the need to have all adults who come into contact with children in our schools safe guarding trained and police checked for any criminal background. We were then introduced to a new tool for students' Emotional Well-being that Tenby School uses called the Fast Track Technique for Kidz. The staff from Tenby explained how they use this resource to work with children who are unhappy, have had issues on the playground or in class and how this helps children to resolve their feelings about the situation.

After lunch we had round table discussions about various topics, but the most interesting of all was about how different schools integrate the use of technology into the classroom. I was able to pick up many different tips and ideas from the other Heads there that I will discuss with our class teachers and see how we can implement them at KIS.

It was also very good to hear, when talking to the others Primary Heads, that we are already leading the path forward with assessment. Many of the schools were looking to change their assessment systems and were wanting opinions about GL Education's Progress Tests, which we use from Year 2 upwards, and wanted to know what schools are doing for termly assessment tracking. I was extremely pleased to discover that we can benchmark ourselves alongside schools like Alice Smith and BIS KL for our assessments policy.

The day ended with a tour of their Early Years and Primary facilities. While the school is a much bigger school than us and has more sporting provisions than we do, it was again very good to see that the classes there held similar resources to our own with similar class sizes too.

Year 6 Primary Maths AIMS Competition

It has been a busy week for the AIMS community this week. On Wednesday, after being cleared by their doctors for HFMD, eight of our Year 6 students travelled with Mrs Wallace and Mr Elver to KL to participate in the AIMS Primary Maths Competition. At the time of writing, we still do not have any results from the competition, but I can tell you that all the students have been working very hard and have been wonderful representatives for our school. Watch this space for more information next week!

Mrs Nicky Russell
Head of Primary



Secondary News

What is Vertical Articulation and its impact on Teaching and Learning

The KIS whole school goal for 2017 to 2018 was **Vertical Articulation** of the timetable. This means that all subject areas across Primary and Secondary have been working together to ensure that there is continuity between year group levels with the aim of ensuring that there is logical progression in students' learning from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5 and through the transition phases, for example, between Year 6 and Year 7. The first task was to audit what was happening in this area and to that end Heads of Departments and teachers met regularly with their opposite number in Primary/Secondary. Teachers in some Departments, such as MFL and PE, teach in all stages and their curriculum is automatically planned to ensure progression. Other Departments, such as English/Literacy embarked upon a fact-finding mission to discover what was happening across the year groups. This involved regular meetings, scrutiny of planning documents, and lesson observations with the goal of identifying gaps in learning that needed to be filled to ensure smooth transitions.

Heads of Department met together regularly throughout the year and presented back on their findings. On Wednesday afternoon we heard from the PE, MFL and Performing and Creative Arts Departments on vertical articulation within their areas and the associated debate led to some interesting points being discussed in terms of curriculum development. As we know, change and development in one curriculum area inevitably has an impact on other areas, due to cross-curricular links and timetabling considerations.

It is healthy for teachers to regularly review, develop and discuss curriculum and the whole exercise in the exploration of the common goal of vertical articulation has led to positive change in teaching and learning right across the school.

Vertical and horizontal articulation of the curriculum will continue to be a major aspect of what we do at KIS as we continue to build upon the excellent work that has been achieved over the last 18 months.

Mrs Margaret Renshaw

Deputy Principal and Head of Secondary

The KIS 2018 Senior Maths Challenge

"Dividing one number by another is mere computation; knowing what to divide by what is mathematics."

The above quotation, to be found in Jordan Ellenberg's excellent 2014 book "How Not to be Wrong – The Power of Mathematical Thinking", nicely summarises the principle underlying the KIS Senior Maths Challenge – a series of questions in which the actual mathematical procedures are well within the grasp of our students, but knowing exactly which techniques to apply can be far from obvious.

Last week our Y12 and Y13 students sat a 90-minute multiple-choice exam based on the annual UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. (Ordinarily we would have taken the actual UKMT 2018 Challenge, but the exam date coincided with a public holiday for us here in Sabah, so our students sat a paper containing questions from a variety of recent exams instead.)

Perhaps the "scariest" question on the paper, judging by student responses, was this one:

Let n be the smallest integer for which $7n$ has 2016 digits.

What is the units digit of n ?

A 0

B 1

C 4

D 6

E 8

Obviously, I wouldn't want to spoil the fun by revealing the answer, but I can say that the mathematics involved in successfully attacking the question is really not difficult. If you'd like a hint – it's all to do with the patterns in the digits of the decimal expansion of fractions that have 7 as a denominator.

Interestingly our Y7 students (if they didn't already know it) will very soon be learning that the decimal equivalent of the fraction $1/7$ is 0.142857 142857 142857

In addition, our Y7 students have recently completed a mathematical investigation which had, at its heart, a need to see and understand pattern.

In a very real sense, then, our Y7 students are well on their way for success in their own Senior Maths Challenge – which they'll take in 2023 (we like to be well-prepared here at KIS!).

Our Year 12 and 13 students coped very well indeed with the challenge and we will award appropriate achievement certificates to them at the end of term assembly.

Mr Frank Davis

Head of Secondary Mathematics

Popular Visitor to Year 7K History

7K was delighted to welcome Mr Lim to the class and question him about his school days recently. The students are learning about historical sources, how historians use information and the difficulties of using sources. Mr Lim was interrogated and interviewed relentlessly as 7K sought to find out the details of his uniform, lessons, teachers and discipline in his school. He was a patient, entertaining and informative subject who also gave the class excellent advice. Now 7K must report their findings and as they do so they will think about their own school days and no doubt make comparisons. Many thanks, Mr Lim

Remembrance Day

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the War came to an end. It was supposed to be the war to end all wars but we know how untrue that statement became. Two ladies, Anna Guerin in France and Moina Michael in the USA, began to use the red poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and as a way of raising funds to support those who had been affected by the 1914-18 conflict. We have continued with this and it is pleasing to report that the KIS community raised RM 620 from the sale of poppies. Thank you to the Year 11 History students for their service in selling the poppies. The funds raised will be donated to the Commonwealth Graves Commission for the continued upkeep of memorials here in Sabah and on Labuan.

Mrs Louise Davis

Teacher of History



Sixth Form

Sixth Form Video

Students from our Sixth Form spent time over the recent half term holiday planning, filming and editing a video showcasing the benefits of the A Level programme at KIS and we're delighted with the results. Thank you to all the students who were involved with this project.

Secondary Maths Challenge

The Secondary Weekly Maths Challenge can be found here:

<http://kismaths.pbworks.com/w/page/125944556/Weekly%20Maths%20Challenge>

Christmas Fair

Saturday 8th December, 10am - 12pm

The Christmas market will sell a wide range of festive fare and gifts, so if you would like to run a stall or you know of somebody who you think would be interested, please contact Sharon Rose: srose@kis.edu.my Stalls are RM 100 and all income raised by stall sales is kept as profit for the stall owner.

Christmas Tombola Prize Donation:

In order to help make this an enjoyable event for all this year we will have two tombolas - one for children and one for adults. We would be grateful for suitable donations for each tombola stall, which could include fancy foodstuffs, boxes of chocolates, toiletries, unwanted gifts etc. Donated prizes can be given to Ms Rose. Thank you for your support with this and we are grateful for all donated prizes received.

We are looking forward to another great KIS Christmas Fair and thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Sharon Rose

Year 3 Class Teacher





**KINABALU
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**
NURTURING GLOBAL CITIZENS

OPEN DAY

**TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2018
9AM - 12:30PM**



If you know of a family who would be interested in finding out more about the school, please encourage them to attend our Open Day on Tuesday 27th November. Remember there is a RM 500 fee rebate for successful referrals from existing families, simply complete the [Referral Form](#) and submit to the Admissions Officer.