



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.

3rd November 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Go Vipers! An incredible week of sport (with some ups and downs) from our U15 FOBISIA Team. Well done, welcome back to school and thank you to Ms Watt, Mr Walker and Mr Kelly for their support over the past week. Further details to follow.

Welcome back to everyone, students, staff and parents. I trust you all had quality time with family and friends and have returned to school refreshed and ready for the build up to Christmas.

For the past couple of days and the rest of this weekend I am in Bangkok at the FOBISIA Heads Conference. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with other Heads of Schools that are similar to KIS and share teaching and learning strategies, as well as development tools and ideas for the betterment of our schools and communities. I look forward to sharing with you all on my return.

Thank you to all parents who were able to join us on Wednesday for our A Levels Fair. This was a great opportunity to learn more about our A Level programme and what you can expect for your children in Years 12 & 13. Thank you to Mr Barker and all of the teachers for supporting the programme and helping our students get the most out of their choices.

To support understanding and communication for school issues KIS will be starting monthly Coffee Mornings. The purpose is to present different aspects of education, learning and assessment to interested parents. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions of the Leadership Team and so gain a better understanding of what is happening in and around school and, of course, there will be the chance of a coffee and to socialise a little. **The first Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 14th November**, straight after drop off at 8am in the MPR and all parents are welcome.



Drop off and drop in!



Just over a week after the coffee morning on **Thursday, November 22nd** we are holding the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** at 8am in the MPR, please come along and have a say in the future running of our school.

Have a great weekend and remember that next Tuesday 6th is a public holiday and school will be closed.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Gross
Principal

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 5th November:	F2 Trip
Tuesday 6th November:	Public Holiday - School closed
Wednesday 7th November:	Year 9 Options Talk
Thursday 8th November:	Senior Maths Challenge
Friday 9th November:	Year 1 Trip

FOBISIA Online Maths Challenge

In the two-week period before the half-term break students from Years 5 to 9 were invited to complete an online Maths challenge hosted by the Seoul Foreign School. Challenges were set at three different levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold, and at the lower levels multiple attempts were allowed.

As you would expect, the questions were ... challenging! They took some figuring out and, as so often happens, multiple lines of attack may have been needed before the “A-ha!” moment of recognition.

Here’s a nice little example of one such question:

Justin Bieber has just revealed that his real name isn’t Justin! However, it is known that he always tells the truth on Wednesdays and Thursdays, he always tells lies on Mondays and on all other days he tells the truth or lies on a random basis. For seven consecutive days he was asked what his name was, and the first six answers he gave were: “John”, “Brandon”, “John”, “Brandon”, “Sam”, “Brandon”. What is his real name?

It wasn’t easy to find time in an ICT lab for all students to try the challenge, so it was gratifying to see just how many of them tackled the challenges from home.

The following students successfully completed the Bronze Challenge:

Alson (5K) and Pik Yen (6K)
Jatin, Yvonne, Amos, Debbie, Calista and Zack (all 7K)
Toby and Diego (7S)
Ryan (9S)

The following students successfully completed the Silver Challenge:

Amos and Debbie
Ryan

And Ryan successfully completed the Gold Challenge as well!

In addition to the individual challenges, there was also a group challenge for which students had to produce a mathematical video. Our Year 9 students produced a very nice short movie showing simple statistical measures, and this may well form the basis of a video challenge of our own later in the year. Year 5 and 6 also worked on this group challenge. Four groups submitted excellent videos but only one could be chosen, and this was the one made by Pik Yen, Anny and Sunny from Year 6. They did an excellent job of showing Maths in everyday life.

Well done to these students, and well done to all the students who took part.

Mr Frank Davis (Head of Secondary Maths) and **Mrs Karen Wallace** (Head of Primary Maths)



Primary News

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces come back to school this week after a much deserved break over half term.

This week I have had the very difficult task of judging the KIS Christmas Card Competition with Mrs Renshaw and Mr Gross. We were so pleased to see the large number of entries from across the school and it made the choosing of just 10 cards (one from each Primary class and two in total from Secondary) very difficult. After lots of deliberation and discussion, we finally came up with the judging criteria of making sure that the entry that we chose from each year group was obviously child made with as little adult help as possible, and that the design could be easily reproduced by the printer into Christmas cards.

Please keep checking the display boards at the bottom of the stairs by the Foundation 2 classroom for all winning and highly commended entries. These will be on display soon!

Year 3 at the Pottery Studio

Tuesday this week saw our Year 3 students and teachers go to Sabah Pottery Studio in Luyang. This trip marked the beginning of their new unit of work on the Greeks. While at the studio the students were given the opportunity to design and make their own Greek masks. Once the students left the studio, the staff there put their masks in the kiln to fire and they will be ready for collection soon.

Primary Takes Part in Word Mania!

On Friday 12th October, all of the Primary children were sent home with log-in details for the 2018 Word Mania competition. Word Mania is an online competition aimed to improve a child's love of English, their spelling and vocabulary. It is played by hundreds of schools from all around the world.

Every week, Mrs Walker receives an update on KIS's achievements and how we compare to other schools. She is proud to announce that last week, the children at KIS made 9251 words and played the game 650 times! WOW! Even more impressively, out of all of the schools that are registered (remember there are hundreds) our Year 2 cohort has placed in the top 50 schools coming 41st so far.



Due to such a high demand this year, the competition has been postponed. Therefore, Round One does not start until the 4th of November so you still have time to log-on and practice how to play until then.

Competition Round 1 - Sunday, November 4 to Friday, November 9.

Competition Round 2 - Sunday, November 11 to Friday, November 16.

Final Round - Sunday, November 18 to Friday, November 23.

Tapashya in 2K, Yi Han in 3K and Celine in 6S have currently gained the most points for KIS during the practice round- well done!

If your child has lost their log in details please let Mrs Walker know at bwalker@kis.edu.my.

Good luck players- let's hope we can make enough words to get into Round 2.

Mrs Nicky Russell

Head of Primary



House Totals

After our half term break, the Primary classes are already back and working hard to earn housepoints for their House! At the end of Week 1, House Captains found the overall total was 850 points which gave the following breakdown:

In 3rd place: 265 for Sapi	In 2nd place: 292 for Gaya	In 1st place: 293 for Sulug
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This has been the closest result so far this year. Just 1 point separated our top 2 teams! Who will be top House next week? Can Gaya manage to hit that top spot...we're all rooting for you Gaya! Come on Primary Houses...Go Gaya! Go Sapi! Go Sulug!

Bronze Awards

This week's honour roll of Bronze Awards is:

Foundation 2: Henderson & Ryan	Year 2S: Madison	Year 3K: Ashley
Year 4S: Si Hau	Year 5K: Sharan, Rain, Alson, Nixon and Ting Xiang	Year 5S: Chesapeake, Lizzie, Jayden, Jacob & Keira
Year 6S: Hope, Javy, Juah & Vayne		

Well done to these students who have earned 40 housepoints so far. Keep up the hard work and I look forward to presenting more awards soon!

Mrs Sarah Fletcher

Primary House System Coordinator and Year 5 Class Teacher

Secondary News

Secondary Snapshot

There are no slow starts in any school post-holidays and Secondary at KIS is no exception!

Last Sunday morning bright and early we waved off our U15 FOBISIA Team, 25 students in all, our biggest group ever! Accompanied by Ms Watt, Mr Walker and Mr Kelly I know that, win or lose, the students will have created life-long memories during this week. They have shown immense levels of commitment, team work and endurance and we congratulate them on their achievements on and off the sports field.

None of these events happen in isolation and we have to thank our PE staff in particular for their dynamic and dedicated approach. They give huge amounts of time to train and prepare the students weeks in advance in addition to guiding, organising and mentoring them throughout the week. Many thanks also to parents, many of whom were at the airport on Sunday to see their children off. KIS is a community based school and we are grateful for all of the support we receive from our families.

A Levels Fair Wednesday 31st October

On Wednesday afternoon Year 10 and 11 students and parents attended our newly designed A Level Fair. This event was led by Mr Barker, our Head of Sixth Form, and parents and students listened to an informative talk in the multi-purpose room before moving to the hall and Lab 3 to visit subject stalls run by our A Level teachers. This year we are expanding our range of subject choices and we are delighted to offer 15 subjects in total: Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Business, Psychology, Art and Design, Drama and Theatre, Music, English Language, Literature in English, Physical Education and Information Technology. Our students regularly gain prestigious academic awards including 'Top in World' and 'Top in Malaysia' in their A Level studies before proceeding to top universities worldwide.

In his presentation Mr. Barker focussed on the clear advantages of Sixth Form study at KIS. Sometimes students and parents are tempted by what seems to be on offer post-IGCSE at other institutions but what must be remembered is that A Levels at KIS prepare students for degree level study at the universities of their choice, unlike some 'foundation' level courses which are very narrow and only prepare students academically for very specific courses at named universities. It is very unusual to find a 16 year old who has anything other than a very rough idea of what they want to do in the future, but by the time they are 18, after 2 years of study in the KIS Sixth Form, and having been guided through our personalised careers and university applications programme, they can approach further study with the confidence that they have made the right choices and are thoroughly prepared for independent living and learning.

We look forward to the next stage as we go through the admissions procedure with our Year 11 students before welcoming them into Year 12 in August 2019.

Year 8 History Debates



On Friday 19th and Tuesday 30th October, the students in 8S had their first experience of a formal debate. They worked tirelessly in History class and at home to prepare speeches and counter-arguments. The six teams did lots of research on whether Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China, was a good leader or not. Teams spoke eloquently in his defence and the opposition presented evidence to destroy their arguments. The Chairs, Adjudicators and Time-Keepers endured that the Oxford University Rules were followed. All agreed it was a great experience and everyone is keen to debate again.

- Written by Dante Trozzo

Remembrance Poppies

November 11th will be the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. The Year 11 History students will be selling Remembrance Poppies at Secondary lunch at the bench beside where the PTA sells ice-lollies on a Friday. They will sell them from Thursday 1st November to Friday 9th (depending on supplies). They will also be at this location on Monday morning from 07.30 till 07.55 so that Parents also have an opportunity to buy poppies. We are suggesting a donation of RM 5 per poppy. All proceeds will go to the Commonwealth Graves Commission to help in the maintenance of the Sabah and Labuan memorials.

Mrs Margaret Renshaw

Deputy Principal and Head of Secondary



Secondary Maths Challenge

The Secondary Weekly Maths Challenge can be found here:

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

Secondary Student Council

Movie Night

Unfortunately we had to cancel the planned Movie Night of Friday the 2nd, as not enough students had returned their permission forms by the due date. We apologise to those students who had indicated that they wished to attend but would like to reassure them that we will offering more exciting events in the future!

Secondary Student Council

Eco Warriors

Snack Box Challenge

The Primary Eco Warriors are launching a Snack Box Challenge for the month of November as part of our efforts to reduce our community's use of single-use plastic, which is a big contributor to plastic pollution on our beaches and in our seas. Every Thursday in November at snack time the Primary Eco Warriors will collect and count the number of single-use plastics from each year group and the year group with the least amount will get 2 house points for each child. We hope that we will see a reduction in the amount of plastic collected as the weeks go by and that we can all help to protect our environment, one small step at a time.

Tips for how you can reduce your single-use plastic:

- buy a family size pack of biscuits/rice crackers and put them into plastic containers or ziploc bags.
- use ziploc bags and wash them out to reuse them again.
- bring fruit to school - it doesn't need plastic!

We'll post an update each week to let you know how we're doing.

Primary Eco Warriors Committee

Board of Management

BOM Minutes

The minutes from the Board of Management meeting minutes are now available to download here: [Meeting Minutes 06.09.18](#)

Board of Management

PTA News

Welcome back! We do hope you have had a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday. We are looking forward to another exciting half-term ahead.

Our Hindu and Sikh communities will be celebrating Deepavali on Tuesday, 6th November. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Deepavali is a significant celebration in the calendar; it honours the victory of good over evil and the triumph of light over darkness.

To mark this festival, the PTA and parents from our Indian Community will be decorating the school on Monday, 5th November at drop-off time. If you are free that morning please do join us.

On Monday 12th November at 10am, there will be an Indian Dance performance at the school hall, followed by a Traditional Shawl Presentation Ceremony. Parents are warmly invited to attend and students (and parents) are encouraged to wear Indian inspired outfits on the day.

Shubh Diwali! Happy Deepavali!

PTASC

Secondary Student Council

Halloween Fright Night!

The Student Council is organising a Halloween themed movie night on Friday 2nd November for Secondary students from 6:30pm till 9pm. So grab a friend and support the Student Council - come watch a movie and enjoy some pizza. There will be pizza and drinks sold on the night,

The movies that we will be screening are:

- Frankenweenie (Year 7-8)
- Ghostbusters (Years 9-10)
- Coraline (Years 11, 12 &13)

Be sure to return your permission slips by Tuesday the 30th of October. We hope to see you there!

Secondary Student Council

PE & Sports News

KIS U15 Basketball Tournament

Last Saturday the 13th October, the KIS basketball courts were a hive of activity as we welcomed students from Maktab Nasional and SMK Tansau to take part in a 3 way basketball tournament with our U15 FOBISIA Games teams. Another valuable opportunity for teams to put into practice what they have been working on in training under the pressures of competition.

Maktab's boys and girls teams were comprised of highly skilled and experienced basketball players, with numerous KK and even Sabah representative players on the court. They certainly challenged the KIS Vipers and it was wonderful to see both teams compete with determination and show great resilience against very talented opposition. John put in a standout performance against Maktab. Despite being outmatched physically, John's movement around the court and his leadership was a truly motivational performance to witness.

Both teams then played their second matches against SMK Tansau and in a complete turnaround from the first game, it was KIS lighting up the scoreboard in the boys match. A convincing 30-3 victory was an impressive performance, especially as the boys were able to apply their match tactics so effectively with great results. Unfortunately, afternoon rain caused some disruption to the last 2 girls matches of the day; with matches moving from the outside court to the hall and then back out again with the changeable weather. The girls found it difficult to get into a rhythm as they came up against a very physical SMK Tansau. However, it was KIS that came out on top in a low scoring encounter winning 2-1.

A huge thanks to all the parents and staff who came down throughout the morning to support the teams. It was a wonderful atmosphere and one we hope to see repeated with similar events later in the year.

	GAME 1	GAME 2
BOYS	Maktab (38) defeated KIS (6)	KIS (30) defeated SMK Tansau (3)
GIRLS	Maktab (31) defeated KIS (9)	KIS (2) defeated SMK Tansau (1)



U15 FOBISIA Games Team head to Phuket – Let's go VIPERS!!

On Sunday 28th October, our U15 FOBISIA Games squad will travel to Phuket and the wonderful sports facilities of Thanyapura Health and Sport Resort to compete against seven other schools from around Asia.



The team have demonstrated an amazing commitment and level of dedication in their training over the past two months. They have spent many an afternoon, and even weekends, honing their football and basketball skills as well as improving their performances for athletics. During the competition, the 25 students from Year 9 and 10 will compete in three days of tough competitions for swimming, athletics, football and basketball.

With 25 students attending the competition, it is the largest FOBISIA team KIS has sent to a FOBISIA event in recent years. It is also the first team to represent KIS under our new sporting banner of the "KIS Vipers". The students are sure to make an impression on the football pitch, athletic track and basketball court, as they will be proudly wearing the brand new KIS sports kit that has been custom designed and bought from the UK.

I am sure the entire KIS community join me in wishing the squad the very best of luck for the challenge of the competition to come and we are sure they will represent KIS proudly.

The students taking part are: 9K - Ludivine, Romain, Kiran, Noah, Freya, Cheryn, Kon Yi, Hanson, Austin, 9S - Zen, Heng, Darrell, Ashton 10K - Jolin, Zachary, Celeste, Justin, John, Vadim, Mathis 10S - Nikita, Shim, Alex, Jasmine, Cherise

Miss Catriona Watt

