# 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.

**22nd January 2016**

## From the Principal

This week it has been wonderful to observe the KIS community actively enjoying our Book Week Celebrations. From the launch on Monday with the Big Book Swap, the Storytelling Tent, the Book Week Café, the Parent Storytelling and Drop Everything & Read Sessions, the Dress Up Day and Character Parade, and the Primary Bedtime Stories, there has been so much excitement and interest created in reading. Indeed, I think our imaginations have been working overtime!! The conversations between students, and students and staff about different books, topics and imaginary worlds have been fantastic. As a school we want to thank everyone for their involvement. In particular, we need to thank the organising committee: Mrs Aryal, Ms Niven, Ms Cole, Mr Bryant, Mrs Colbeck and Mrs Berry. Well done everyone. May we all continue to enjoy reading throughout the year to come.

**Annual School Photographs**

Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we have arranged to take our Annual School Photographs for 2015-16. As these photographs will be made available to parents to purchase and will be used for the School Yearbook, it is very important that the students are dressed appropriately in full school uniform (not their PE Kit). Parents are asked to ensure that their children are in the correct uniform for the whole school photograph at 8am on Monday morning, and also for their class and individual photographs. A separate letter, with more information about the arrangements, was emailed to parents yesterday.

**Board of Management Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held in January can be downloaded from the link below:

> BOM Meeting Minutes 12.01.16

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

With warm regards,

**Alan Connah, Principal**

# Dates for your Diary

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| **Mon 25th - Weds 27th January:** | School Photographs |
| **Thurs 28th January:** | Year 11 Parent / Teacher Meetings |
| **Fri 29th January:** | PTA Coffee Morning & Lion Dance |
| **Weds 3rd February:** | Sixth Form Options Afternoon |

Download the 2016/17 Academic Calendar

For more dates see the KIS Google Calendar

# Book Week at KIS

**Book Week**

Book Week 2016 opened with a highly entertaining performance of The Gruffalo in the inaugural Story Tent! With Mr Connah as the Narrator, Ms Blake as the Fox, Owl and Snake, and Mr Fenn as the Gruffalo, a delighted audience of students and parents enjoyed Julia Donaldson's classic tale of the clever mouse outsmarting all her would-be predators. The star of the show was undoubtedly 6 year old Adrianna, from Y1, who took on the role of The Little Mouse at the very last minute, when the original Mouse, who fell sick. How she managed to learn all her lines in a single weekend is a miracle and, as a result of this achievement, she was awarded the very first KIS Postcard Home – an award for students who demonstrate an extraordinary level of achievement in upholding the ideals of KIS. Congratulations, Adrianna! You were a perfect Little Mouse! We look forward to sending many more Postcards Home in the coming weeks and months with students from both Primary and Secondary.

Events moved swiftly on and included a very busy Book Swap, which saw Primary and Secondary students delighted to walk away with a lovely new book. Multi-lingual storytelling sessions have been enjoyed across the Primary school, with parents sharing books in Korean, French, Dutch, Maori and Welsh, as well as reading stories from around the world in English. Primary students also came back to school with their pyjamas and cuddly toys for their Bedtime Stories – while their parents enjoyed a PTA potluck dinner on the lunch benches! The Story Tent has hosted some brilliant storytellers – including teachers and Sixth Form students – and, on Wednesday, the BFG himself appeared to tell his tale!

The much loved Book Café – this year known as The Café at the End of The Universe - was a great success, with students exploring all the wonderful new books that have arrived in the Library and enjoying lots of literature related games and quizzes before settling down to share the Café snacks and drinks.

Some of the most wonderful Book Week events are the Paired Reading sessions, which see a Secondary class visit a Primary class to share favourite books and stories. And of course, it wouldn't be Book Week without The Costume Parade and this year's was the biggest and brightest in KIS history!

Thank you to all of you who have been so active in your support of all our Book Week activities but the biggest thank you must go to the Book Week Team – Kerry Aryal, Laura Cole, Iona Niven, Simon Bryant, Annie Berry and Frances Colbeck - who have been planning this week since October last year. They'll all be sleeping well this weekend!

You'll find many more photos of Book Week on the website next week and in displays around the school.

**Maria Blake** Assistant Principal / Head of Primary

# Secondary News

**KIS Music**

The final week of Term 1 was a very busy week for the KS2 Primary Choir. The Choir Club members practised extra hard for their Christmas Carols at Le Meridien Hotel and the Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort. I must say that it was a great pleasure working with them! These are enthusiastic little ones who love singing and who are passionate about performing. They readily volunteer to contribute by playing the recorder, violin, saxophone, and the keyboard for the Christmas Carols. Both evenings went really well and the hotel lobbies were crowded with family, friends and teachers showing their continuous support, which I am very much thankful for.

KIS is working to further expand the Music opportunities available to students. This term we have started the Strings Club, focussing on building up more string players, including violins, violas, and cellos. As a result we would also like to welcome Mr Christopher Oh to KIS; he coaches our Strings Club every Monday. Also in Term 3, we are hoping to start the Woodwind Club, which will be concentrating on developing flute and clarinet players. By opening up more opportunities to our students, we will definitely be looking at more performance opportunities in the future!

Ms Ku / Teacher of Music

**Book Week**

Many thanks must go to the English teachers: Mr Bryant, Mrs Berry and Mrs Colbeck, who have worked so hard to make the Secondary part of Book Week 2016 a success. One highlight of the week for Years 7, 8 and 9 is the Book Week café, which has run with great success for the last five years. This year we had the added bonus of our new librarian, Ms Chum, who has been invaluable in managing the café this year. As well as light snacks, students have had the opportunity to browse new books and have a go at the 'Guess the Reader' Competition. It was also great to see more Secondary students taking part in the Character Parade!

# Sports News

**Margaret Renshaw** / Assistant Principal / Head of Secondary

This term we were hoping to attend the Tenby International School Sports Festival in Miri with a team of Y10 and Y11 students from KIS. Unfortunately, due to schools withdrawing their place, the competition has been cancelled. I am now in conversations with some schools in KL in the hope of organising a sports event for the students. Watch this space for more information.

Next week the Sports Council will be meeting with the PE department to discuss issues relating to PE and sport at KIS. They will have the chance to give their opinion on important matters and will be helping the department to gather information about student likes/dislikes.

**Natasha Hale** / Head of PE & Sport

# PTA News

**PTA Update**

The Parent Teachers Association (PTA) has had a very busy start to the year. Following the AGM, the newly elected steering committee (PTASC) members met to discuss their Vision, Mission and Aims for the 2015-2016 academic year. (For further information please the PTA Objectives document). With these in mind, the team enthusiastically supported the students, parents and teachers through a number of events.

Term 1 Activities

Summary of activities that took place over a 6-week period

2015-2016 Parent Ambassadors (CA's) The CA's for primary and secondary classes formed WhatsApp groups. These have proven to be an effective, additional form of communication within the parent body as well as for messages from KIS to parents. If your child's class does not have a CA, and you would like to volunteer, please inform their class teacher or form tutor.

**KIS Parent Field Trip Team** The CA's have helped with expanding the Parent Field Trip Teams. The Teams are a core group of volunteer parents who assist KIS teachers and staff during excursions outside of the school premises. Parents are contacted on a needs basis to join different class excursions. If you are interested in joining the Field Trip Teams, please contact your class CA.

**Secondary Sports Day** Parents donated delicious cookies and cakes to share and coffee and tea was available to purchase. Students received free water and isotonic drinks that the PTA received as donations.

**Secondary Fright Night** Parents were requested to be on the premises during this secondary event. A social BBQ was enjoyed by these parents while students were watching movies in various classrooms.

**Scholastic and Baker Books** Our incredible parent led team processed a very large book order; these sales totalled almost RM 39 000!!! We are very grateful to the mums for all their time and commitment to complete this mammoth task.

**Santa cookies** In conjunction with the Charity drive to collect Christmas parcels for the Madrasah Al Hikmah school, parents came together to bake and pack cookies. This was a great initiative, where many parents met for the first time.

**Key Stage 1 Production, Pete the Penguin** The PTA arranged for a professional video to be made of the play and food & beverages were available for purchase.

**Christmas Decorations** A festive atmosphere was created at KIS with the decorations supplied by the PTA as well as environmentally friendly Christmas trees that were decorated with the students' wonderful creations

**Christmas Mufti Lunch** The organisation and menu received positive feedback via the student council representatives who attend the PTASC meetings.

**Weekly Ice-Cream Sales** The ice-cream sales are a popular Friday treat for students.

**New teacher welcome gift pack** Our new PE teacher, Mr Dean Bryant, received his welcome gift pack containing items to help him settle into KK.

**New Initiatives**

Our school continues to expand, and with it our 'KIS family'. Focusing on our 'Aim' to welcome and support new families to KIS, a Welcome Information Booklet was produced and distributed to new parents at the New Parents Welcome Coffee Morning. This aim is integral to the Steering Committee's objectives. We encourage all new parents to approach any committee member and for current parents to share information with the Steering Committee that could be useful for new parents. New, exciting ideas are in the pipeline, watch this space!

**PTASC**

During the school AGM, Joseph Ngui (PTASC Vice-Chairperson) was elected to join the Board of Management (BoM). We'd like to thank him for his contributions to the PTASC during the first term, wish him all the best for his new position as the BoM Secretary and welcome him to continue being involved in PTA events in the future. Naree Blackie has decided to step down as Chairperson of the PTA; she no longer has time to devote to the role due to a change in her personal circumstances. We are thankful for her leadership during the first term and look forward to continue working together. Amanda Garside was co-opted onto the PTASC and was voted as Chairperson together with Caroline Montgomery as Vice-Chairperson. We are looking forward to a fruitful relationship with the Board of Management via Aaron Cowan, our BoM PTA Representative for 2015-2016.

**Term 2**

A number of events have already been diarised for Term 2. Please keep updated via the CA WhatsApp messages, the PTA Noticeboard, the Newsletter and the KIS PTA website page.

Term 2 Events

The PTA will be organising / assisting with the following events:

Friday 15 January - Book Week Story Tent Decoration
Thursday 21 January - Bedtime Stories Pot Luck Picnic
Monday 25 January – Decorating the school for Chinese New Year
Friday 29 January – Coffee Morning and Lion Dance Performance
Friday 05 February – PTASC Meeting
Friday 26 February – Day of Pink Mufti Lunch
Friday 04 March – PTASC Meeting
Tuesday 29 March and Wednesday 30 March - Key Stage 2 Production, assisting with costumes, professional videography and catering
Wednesday 30 March – PTASC Meeting
Thursday 01 April – Swimming Gala

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), 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 elected 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 benefit all our children, parents and KIS staff.

Please 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. Yes - you do not have to be a PTASC member to arrange a PTA event. If you are interested in helping with an event or to take the lead for an event, please attend the PTASC meetings. The PTASC will support you and a member of the PTASC will collaborate with you for the event.

We look forward to a successful Term 2, meeting new 'KIS family' members and to working together with our amazing, diverse KIS community. **PTASC**