



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.

16th March 2018

From the Principal

Parking Outside the School

On Friday last week there was another incident where a student was almost knocked down by a car whilst walking along the side of the road with a parent. A car that was parked in our neighbour's driveway (a place where we have signs asking people not to park) reversed without looking at their surroundings carefully enough.

The safety of our students and community is of paramount importance. **I must again ask that all parents and drivers take extreme care when driving outside the school. Please drive very slowly, abide by the road signs and park in marked zones or in the carpark near the Mosque.** Thank you for your attention to this very important safety matter.

Swimming Gala - Thursday 22nd March

This year the school will host two separate Swimming Galas. The first one for students in Year 3 to Year 13 on the 22nd March at Likas Pool and the second one for students in EYFS and KS1 towards the end of Term 3.

Due to the timings for the day, students in Year 3 to Year 13 will not need lunch. We therefore kindly ask that parents cancel the pre-ordered lunch through the School Canteen (a credit will be given for the day) and instead provide their child(ren) with a healthy snack and a bottle of water. The school will provide plenty of drinking stations where students can fill up their water bottles during the morning.

I look forward to seeing parents, during what I am sure will be a great day of competition. I want to thank Mrs Beltran, the PE Department and the Teachers / Teaching Assistants in advance for all their efforts in organising and running the day.

Please note that due to the Swimming Gala no ECAs or Clubs will run on Thursday 22nd March.

Extra Curricular Activities

Planning for Term 3 ECAs is now underway. The student sign-up is planned for next week. All ECA sign-ups will be done online, using the ECA Schools Buddy system. So that the process runs smoothly, we ask that all families ensure that they have an active Schools Buddy account for ECAs. Any families that are not online, are asked to contact our ECA Coordinator at the ECA email address (provided below), so that we can make sure that all students can sign up easily. In addition, if you are already online but would like to change the email address for your account, please contact us via the same email address.

The ECA email address is: eca@kis.edu.my

Please include your name, and child(ren)'s name and class(es). This will speed up the process. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Whole School Photo - Wednesday 21st March, 8am

A reminder that the Whole School photo will be taken on Wednesday morning. Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform. Many thanks.

Future Plans - August 2018

Thank you to all families who have confirmed their education plans for August 2018. This information is extremely valuable to us as we plan for the next academic year. We request that all families please complete the short questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kisugust2018> by Thursday 29th March. Thank you.

City Mall Roadshow and KIS Open Day

We will once again be exhibiting at City Mall on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th March, from 10am to 4pm, meeting families with an interest in applying to join us for the next academic year. This will be followed by an Open Day for prospective families on Tuesday 20th March, from 9am to 12:30pm. Please do share this information with anyone you may know who is considering joining the school. Further information is available on our website at: <http://www.kis.edu.my/open-day/>

Yearbook Advertising

Thank you to those families who have already confirmed that they wish to advertise in this year's Yearbook. The deadline for the submission of artwork and payment is Thursday 29th March. Should you be interested in advertising please download and complete the following: [Yearbook Advertising Form](#)

Invoices

Invoices for Term 3 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.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Mr Alan Connah
Principal

SPECIAL FOCUS

Special Focus: Outside Tuition

From time to time parents ask us if we would recommend that their child get extra help in the form of tuition – either through a private arrangement with an individual tutor, or by attending one of the many tuition centres here in Kota Kinabalu. The response we give is usually a qualified “no”.

Let us say from the outset that tuition can work very well. In our experience we have seen a number of positive outcomes when children have sought assistance outside the school. Here are some examples:

- A student needs to prepare for another school’s specific admissions test
- A student needs to keep contact with a mother tongue language that the host school doesn’t offer
- A student needs to catch up on a particular topic that she/he missed (through a long-term absence, perhaps, or because of joining the school from one which had a very different curriculum).

These examples have one thing in common – there is a very well-defined purpose for the tuition. There is also, by implication, a very well-defined time limit for the tuition. The maxim for the tutor should be “Get in, fix what needs fixing, get out.” It should be stressed that these instances also work particularly well when there is an element of cooperation between the school and the tutor, meaning that the school is talking to the tutor about the child’s learning needs.

Unfortunately, we often see very different approaches to tuition from our families, and these can come with negative consequences:

- Students may be exposed to methods that are in conflict with methods used by our teachers, leading to considerable confusion
- Students can become overloaded with work – even to the extent whereby they complete a tutor’s homework task to the exclusion of a KIS teacher’s homework task
- Students can become overloaded with work to the extent that, in order to keep up with all their work commitments, they are studying late at night, with the knock-on effect that they are seriously sleep-deprived when they arrive at school the next day
- It is often difficult for a KIS teacher to distinguish between what a student has achieved in a homework task, and what has been done for them by a tutor
- Students can develop an unhealthy dependency on their tutors, especially when there is no definite objective set at the outset of the tuition period. We have seen students switch off in class, in the belief that their tutor will somehow fix things for them at some later date
- Students who are involved in tuition often spoil the “journey of discovery” for other students in a class – we are, after all, meant to be discovering things together in a lesson, and it can be a real spoiler when a student circumvents the learning process, by announcing that they have “done this in tuition”.

The reality of teaching and learning is that not every student will understand, perfectly, every topic from the outset. Some will struggle, at least to begin with. Our teachers understand this and will offer a variety of appropriate, differentiated experiences for our students to be where they should, in terms of understanding. We encourage students to ask for help, when necessary. We go further – we believe that the ability to articulate a need for help is a life-long skill that everyone needs. Our teachers will always help students with their difficulties, and often give up free time to do so. Our teachers are happy to communicate with home regarding student progress, or any issues affecting progress. This is done formally, through regular written reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences, as well as through comments written in student diaries or notes for students to take home. We welcome feedback on the experience a child has in our classrooms. A lot of thought and hard work goes into the construction of our curricula, and we constantly refine them – in order to respond to developments in current pedagogical thinking, the changing requirements of exam boards, availability of resources and the needs of our families, as we understand them.

With the above in mind, we would suggest that if parents are considering the use of outside tuition they delay such usage, at least until an in-depth conversation has taken place with the appropriate school representative (Section Head, or Head of Department or Class Teacher). Such a conversation would explore:

- The nature of the problem, as perceived by the parents
- A teacher perspective on the problem
- Ways in which school (and home) can provide extra support
- Ways in which the student can make changes in his/her working practices to help overcome the problem.

In our experience very few students need regular outside tuition. We believe many families decide on outside tuition – an expensive, potentially negative experience – without, perhaps, realising that most issues can be resolved in-house, with KIS professionals being involved in every step of a tailor-made process which will ultimately strengthen a child’s grasp of our curricula, thus setting them up for future success.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 16th March:	Primary Topic Talk, 8am, MPR
Sat 17th and Sun 18th March:	City Mall Roadshow, 10am - 4pm
Tues 20th March:	Open Day
Tues 20th March:	Year 3 Trip
Weds 21st March:	Whole School Photo
Thurs 22nd March:	KS2 and Secondary Swimming Gala
Fri 23rd March:	Year 5 Ancient China Day

PRIMARY NEWS

Topic Talks

I am looking forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to our Primary Science and Humanities Topic Talk at 8.00am this morning in the Multipurpose Room. Mr Green, Head of Primary Science and Humanities, will be explaining more about our curriculum and showing you some ideas of experiments you can undertake at home.

Swimming Gala

Key Stage Two are looking forward to their Swimming Gala next week. Please remember that it will be a normal day in school for EYFS and KS1 on Thursday. As there will be no after school clubs next Thursday, please arrange to have your child collected promptly at 2.00pm.

Leap Education

This week, saw Primary host our second group of teachers and educational advisors from Leap Education and schools in the Papar area. The visitors were given a talk about the importance of making learning enjoyable for students and how it is important for a child to feel empowered to take control of their learning and use resources to help them when necessary.

Following on from this teachers had a tour of the Primary School, taking note of how to make a learning environment stimulating and fun as well as different ways that you could creatively display children's work. Particular attention was paid to different ways we can keep children safe when they are online using the internet.

The highlight of the visit for the teachers was observing lessons throughout Key Stage Two. The teachers were amazed to see the quality of teaching and learning compared to their schools and they could not believe the extremely high levels of concentration and student participation in the lessons and the very high levels of behaviour of all our students.

Mrs Nicky Russell
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

A Level Examinations

This week our Year 12 and 13 students have been sitting their AS and A2 Mock Examinations. These are the culmination of a year's academic study and will enable the students and teachers to consolidate taught content, review progress and facilitate clear guidelines for revision and practice. These exams are taken very seriously, and teachers will be giving careful and considered feedback to the students next week, with reports to parents to follow. These students commence study leave with the Easter break, although we will see them frequently in school next term as they participate in planned revision sessions with their teachers in the run-up to the exams, and of course attend school for their actual exam period, which finishes on the 11th June.

Year 13 University Applications

Over the last six months our Year 13 students have been moving forward with their University applications. Most are applying to the UK, which continues to be a popular destination. This year our group have received offers from the

- University of Leeds
- Loughborough University
- Surrey University
- Swansea University
- University of Bristol
- Manchester University
- University of York
- Exeter University
- University of Nottingham
- Reading University
- University of Stirling and
- University of St. Andrews.

They are hoping to study from a range of courses including Computer Science, Medicine, Psychology, Biochemistry and Zoology. Once students have received all of their conditional offers, they need to accept one as their first choice, and another as their reserve. Once the A Level results are published in mid-August Universities confirm the offers, all being well, and the students have a couple of months to plan and prepare themselves for moving to the UK and starting the next exciting phase of their lives. Other students will be applying to universities worldwide and KIS will continue to support them in this.

We wish all of our students the very best in their examinations.



The University of Manchester

Year 11 Students Applying to Year 12

On Tuesday 27th February we held our 5th annual Options Afternoon for the A Level Programme. This was attended by the majority of our Year 11 students who were able to talk to specific subject specialists about the A Levels. They also heard about our Scholarship Programme, which is open to all applicants.

I would like to encourage all students who are interested in Year 12/13 at KIS to complete an application form and return it to the school as soon as possible. Quite soon we will be deciding which A Levels will run next year, and this will depend upon which subjects are chosen. Please understand that, unlike other transitions in the school, all students who wish to enter Year 12 have to complete an application form as the first step in the process.

Application forms can be downloaded [here](#).

Thank you for your support and attention to this matter.

Mrs Renshaw
Head of Secondary and Assistant Principal

SPORTS NEWS

Once again, students from both Primary and Secondary have been very active both in school and out of it over the past week.

Swimming Gala - Thursday 22nd March

Students from Year 3 – Year 11 have been busy in the pool practising all their events for our upcoming Swimming Gala. Final details about the day has been sent out and we would love to see as many parents as possible come down to Likas on Thursday 22nd to support all our wonderful swimmers. It is sure to be an exciting and highly competitive event between the 3 Houses.

FOBISIA Golf - Hua Hin, Thailand

At the time of writing, 4 students from Secondary are midway through the FOBISIA Golf Tournament that has been organised by Shrewsbury International School and being played at one of Thailand's most renowned Golf Courses, the Black Mountain Golf Resort in Hua Hin.

The boys had a long day of travel on the Sunday to reach Hua Hin but after a restful nights' sleep in their villas they took to the course on Monday for their practice round.

After the first 18 holes and Round 1 of the competition, KIS were positioned very well on the leaderboard: Timothy = 72 (3rd), Benedict = 84 (4th), Jonathan = 91 (13th) and David = 96 (9th) in their respective age groups.

Final results and a full report will be published in next week's Newsletter.

Borneo International Marathon

Our sign-up for the BIM on May 6th has so far been quite low. Please, if you are still interested in running as part of the KIS team, get your entries in by Wednesday March 21st. A reminder that students do need to be 13 or older to enter due to the rule changes by the organisers of the event.

Students Represent Sabah at National Badminton Titles

Kon Yi from 8K and Kon Han from 6S were away representing Sabah in the first Round of the BAM National Junior Circuit Badminton Titles last week. Kon Yi and his partner in the Under 14's reached the Quarter Finals while Kon Han was successful in winning a Bronze Medal in the Girls Under 12 Doubles. Fantastic effort!

PE Department

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Secondary School Disco

The Charity Committee has been working hard for the past month organising a Secondary school disco, which will take place on Friday 23rd March from 7-9pm. Tickets are RM 15 and include a drink and a small snack.

As with any disco there will be lots of dancing and we will even be holding a limbo competition! The theme of the disco is 'NEON'. In order to get the full NEON effect, students can wear fluorescent or white clothing. Tickets are limited and are on sale every day after school at 3pm in the Parent Waiting Area. All money raised will go to help the local Penampang school who recently lost their building due to a fire.

The disco will finish at 9pm and we respectfully ask that you collect your child by 9:05pm at the latest

Thank you for your support.

The Charity Committee and Ms Sharon Rose (Community Liaison Officer / Charity Committee Mentor)