



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.

26th January 2018

From the Principal

Model United Nations

This weekend a group of our students in Years 8, 9 & 10 are travelling to KL to participate in a Model United Nations Conference being hosted by NEXUS International School. Model United Nations, also known as MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate different UN committees. Participants research and formulate political positions based on a countries' actual opinions. They then write resolutions that are then debated at an MUN conference. MUN helps students gain an appreciation of the UN's work and expands their knowledge of the world and what is going on around them. Students learn to listen, read for detail and speak in public. MUN also allows students to develop important leadership skills.

We wish our team all the very best for the conference and hope that they are able to come to grips with some of the challenges that the world faces. I would like to thank Mrs Louise Davis for mentoring our MUN team and both Mr and Mrs Davis for accompanying the team to KL this weekend.

FOBISIA Swimming Competition

I want to congratulate our FOBISIA Swimming Team on their outstanding efforts representing the school in Bangkok last weekend. While the competition was very tough, our swimmers did extremely well both on a personal and a team level. More information about the competition is provided further on in this Newsletter. I would again like to thank Ms Beltran and Mr Morgan for accompanying the team and for all the support provided by parents, who made it possible for students to participate in this excellent competition.

KIS Book Week 2018

Next week is Book Week, during which the school will host a range of exciting events and literary sessions to encourage children to read for enjoyment. This year's theme is: 'Folklore and Fairy Tales'. The week will be launched at special assemblies for both Primary and Secondary students on Monday morning. These assemblies will be followed by the ever popular 'Big Book Swap'. Other activities during the week include 'Big Read' sessions, a Storytelling Tent, a Pyjama Day and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party (for Primary students), treasure hunts, quizzes and competitions, and much more. The week will conclude with the Character Parade for both Primary and Secondary on Friday. I want to thank Mrs Colbeck and Ms Walker for all their efforts in organising the week, and all the teachers, teaching assistants and parents who are supporting this wonderful event.

Annual KIS Community Survey

This is just a gentle reminder to those parents who have not yet had a chance to complete our Annual Community Survey. Parents are kindly asked to complete the survey by clicking on the link in the letter that was emailed out last Friday. The survey is open until 4pm next Monday, 29th January. If you did not receive the letter please contact the School Office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Healthy Heart February Menu

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

> [February Menu](#)

> [February Order Form](#)

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Mr Alan Connah
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 26th - Mon 28th January:	Model United Nations Trip
Mon 29th January - Fri 2nd February:	KIS Book Week
Mon 29th January:	Year 11 Parents Afternoon
Weds 31st January:	Year 11 Ecology Trip

PRIMARY NEWS

Book Week

The Primary Department has been eagerly awaiting the start of Book Week next week and preparations are well underway for the Book Door competition. Children have been talking about the costumes they are going to wear for the Character Parade and books have been coming in ready for the Big Swap. If your child has not brought in a book yet for the Big Book Swap, then it is not too late. Please bring in a book today!

Just a reminder of some key dates for next week:

Monday - Big Book Swap and Big Read

Thursday - Pyjama Day (Please send your child to school wearing their favourite pj's and with their cuddly friend)

Friday - Character Parade at 8.00am and Mad Hatters Tea Party at 1.00pm

If you would like to come in to school to read a favourite story to your child's class in either English or your home language, please contact their class teacher directly.

Recyclable Straws

On Tuesday afternoon, Primary were treated to a talk from Ms Jessie Bass who is at the forefront of introducing recyclable straws to Sabah. Prior to listening to her presentation, the children watched a short film clip giving them some background information as to the problem of straws (<http://www.strawfilm.com/>)

Jessie spoke to the children about the need to consider alternative ways of making straws rather than plastic. During her presentation, Jessie showed the children how she made straws the traditional way out of bamboo and let the children examine some bamboo plants as well as the finished straws. Jessie has already made relationships with two local coffee shops in Australia Place, who have committed to using Bamboo straws instead of plastic. If you would like to purchase a reusable Bamboo straw please visit her website at: www.theusukinitiative.org for information.



Year 2 Field Trip

To support our Science and Ancient Egypt topic, Year 2 visited City Mall on Monday to look at different foods that are grown locally and products that are imported from different countries and compare these to the produce grown during Ancient Egyptian times. The highlight of the trip was purchasing several fish, chicken hearts and livers, and all the ingredients ready for the Year 2 classes to mummify as part of our Ancient Egypt project. Year 2 are very much looking forward to showing all our Ancient Egypt work to parents at the end of term Museum.



Head Lice

Unfortunately we have recently had a case of Head-lice in Primary. Please can all parents check their children's heads carefully for any eggs or lice. If anything is found a course of medicated shampoo will be needed along with regular checks for the following 3 weeks. If your child is found to have head-lice while in school, you will be asked to collect them from school.

Mrs Nicky Russell
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

Secondary has been a hive of activity this week, with many exciting things happening inside and outside of classrooms. Everyone is getting very excited about Book Week, which kicks off on Monday with quizzes in tutor time and at 9 am, the launch and the Big Book Swap. All thanks to Mrs Colbeck who has been working tremendously hard to ensure that the week is as big a success as it has been in previous years.

A Few Reminders:

Delivered lunches: please note that students are not permitted to leave the school premises at lunchtime to collect food from a waiting car. The food must be delivered into the school so that the students can collect it from the appropriate table at 12.20pm. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Student Diaries: All students in Secondary are required to have an official school diary; its main use is so that homework can be recorded when it is given by the teacher. A Parent or Guardian should sign the diary every week and I would ask you to make sure that this happens. The Diary is also co-signed by the form tutor. It is an opportunity for parents to be aware of the homework that has been given and to offer support as needed to their child.

Students who are late for school: punctuality has improved hugely in Secondary this academic year but we still have a few students who are regularly late, with reasons given such as 'traffic' and 'I overslept'. It is not good for the students to start their day feeling rushed and stressed. Although we understand that occasionally a student's lateness may not be their fault, nearly all the time there is an easy solution [leave home earlier, set an alarm]. I ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school in plenty of time for a peaceful and calm beginning to the school day.

IGCSE and A Level Ceramic Art Excursion

Tao Art Studio (formerly known as Sabah Pottery Studio), was established in 2016 by Ceramicist Master Hu Shun Cheng. He was born in Jing De Zhen in Jiangxi province, China, an international ceramic centre with thousands of pottery workshops and the "Porcelain capital"; it has over 1,700 years of pottery production. Master Hu has immersed himself in ceramic art all his life and his work is found all over South East Asia. Tao Art Studio is the only studio of its kind in Kota Kinabalu; it fulfills a need here for people of all ages to learn, practice and enjoy ceramic art.

KIS IGCSE and A Level Art students enjoyed a half day Art excursion to the Tao Art Studio on Monday, January 22nd. The objective of the visit was to understand the pottery and ceramic making process. Ceramic Art is one of the study options in IGCSE and A Level Art..

Master Hu's apprentice teacher Ms. Joanne introduced ceramic works using a short video clip followed by demonstrations of the various methods and techniques in creating different ceramic/pottery forms such as coiling, slab build and free-hand build techniques. Of course, one of the most popular and fun techniques is wheel throwing. Teacher Henry demonstrated his good techniques on wheel throwing, to our students' amazement. Clay is a highly malleable substance; it looked easy to create different forms under Teacher Henry's guidance. Each student had fun trying out the wheel throwing technique.

After lunch, our students continued to make some design plans in their sketch books, adding decorations and additions on their 3D forms, enhancing their final work before finishing with colour slip and glazing. They will be able to get their ceramics back after the firing process at kiln temperatures of 1100-1200 degrees!

Reported by

Ms Yuen

Head of Creative and Performing Arts

Restaurant Review Outing - Year 10

On the 16th January our Year 10 class was assigned to write a Restaurant Review as part of our English coursework. Of course, it was impossible to write a whole detailed review in our heads so we went to Little Italy last week for a little help. We pretty much had everything we needed to write about, which kept us busy (most of the time). Overall the whole experience was pleasant, and delicious, if I say so myself. It was more exciting due to the fact that we got to eat as a class all together alongside the amazing food. It was a good experience seeing my classmates taking down notes and how seriously they took this coursework; it made me feel motivated to write more. It was also great having the teachers there to help with ideas and some inspiration. It felt uplifting to hear actual conversations at the table rather than teenagers just being anti-social on their phones. But aside from the pleasant time I had, I personally thought it was a great way of expanding our ideas and giving us more to think and write about in our review; it was extremely helpful.

Report by Shreya

Mrs Margaret Renshaw
Assistant Principal / Head of Secondary



SPORTS NEWS

KIS joins the Ministry of Education, District School Sports Council

We are excited to inform parents that KIS have now become a member of the Majilis Sukan Sekolah Daerah in Kota Kinabalu (District School Sports Council). This membership will allow students to participate in sports competitions against other schools in Kota Kinabalu. From these events, Malaysian Nationals will also be eligible for selection to teams to represent Kota Kinabalu in 'West Coast', 'State' and 'National' competitions.

Some of the sports we can potentially enter teams into include: golf, basketball, swimming, football, badminton, cricket and gymnastics. At this stage, the competitions will only be available to Secondary students but we will look to expand it to students in Primary next year if it is successful. The PE department will publish a list of competition events and dates in a future newsletter.

FOBISIA Swimming Competition

Last weekend (19th-22nd of January), eight KIS Stingrays participated in the 2018 FOBISIA Swimming Championships in Bangkok, Thailand. This was the first time KIS has participated in this huge competition with 20 other British International Schools and over 550 swimmers from around Asia. We were one of the smallest schools competing in the championships with the least swimmers in our team, but that didn't affect our team spirit and enthusiasm. Rather on the contrary, Stingrays improved their personal best times in almost all the events and won two bronze medals, one silver medal, four 7th places and two heats!

Congratulations to all the Stingrays for their efforts and achievements in the 2018 FOBISIA Swimming Championships! The FOBISIA Stingrays swimmers were: Justin 9K, Hitoshi 9S, Destinee 7K, Nicholas 6S, Amanda 5K, Sofia 5S, Hope 5K, and Tony 4K.

