



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.

14th October 2016

From the Principal

Happy International Day!

The response to International Day has been wonderful. The excitement amongst the students has been building all week and I know that parents and teachers have also been looking forward to sampling culinary delights from around the world.

The day will start at 8.15am with an international student parade followed by a presentation of each national group. Then, at 11.20am, the food stalls will open for Primary students followed by Secondary students at 12.20pm. Parents are invited to attend the parade first thing in the morning and / or the food stalls and activities from lunchtime onwards. Please understand that students will be given first priority at the food stalls and that we are unable to keep food aside for parents. A voucher payment system will operate at all food and activity stalls. Vouchers will be available for purchase from the PTA throughout the day.

On behalf of the school I would like to thank the PTA for all their hard work in organising this fantastic event. I would also like to thank everyone in the KIS Community who has volunteered to help in some way. I look forward to seeing everyone wearing their national dress or colours. Happy International Day!

ECAs Friday 14th October

Due to our International Day celebrations there will be no ECAs running today.

Early Years Open Morning - 1st November

On Tuesday 1st November the school will be hosting an Open Morning for families who are interested in joining First Steps or the Early Years Foundation Stage. We will be welcoming prospective families into the school from 8.00am until 10.30am so they can experience how our students in Early Years learn through playing and exploring. As well as enjoying tours of the school, families will listen to two informative talks from our Primary Senior Management Team and have the opportunity to ask questions of our Teaching and Admissions staff. If you know of a family with a child aged between 18 months and 5 years old who would be interested in attending please ask them to sign up on the school's website at: [KIS Open Morning](#), or contact the School Office to register.



D'One November Catering Menu

The November menu for catered lunches from D'One is now available to download [here](#), or printed copies are available on the Parent Information board. Please note that the last day for orders is Friday 28th October.

Wishing you a pleasant half term holiday.

Alan Connah

Principal

Dates for your Diary

Fri 14th Oct:	International Day
Fri 14th Oct:	No ECA's
Monday 17th - Friday 21st October:	Half Term Holiday - School Closed
Monday 24th - Thursday 27th October:	Primary Parent Teaching Meetings
Friday 28th October:	Secondary Sports Day

Primary News

Tapestry

All EYFS and Key Stage One parents should have received their parental login emails for their child's Tapestry account. (The email is sent from Tapestry so it may be in your Junk folder). If you have not received this yet please contact me by lunch time today and I will re-issue your password link.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Primary Parent Teacher meetings will be held during week beginning Monday 24th October. These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to inform you about your child's first few weeks, how they have settled into their new classes and to share with you your child's next learning steps for the year. Equally, it is your opportunity to discuss any observations or concerns you may have at this early stage. Please note, however, that these informal meetings are scheduled to last 10 minutes. Out of respect for all parents, please arrange a separate appointment should you require more time.

We have placed sign-up sheets on dedicated boards at the school entrance. We hope this offers you the flexibility to schedule your meetings with teachers, whether you have more than one child or work and family commitments to manage. Please do sign up if you have not already done so. The sign-up sheets will be taken down at 2.30pm today.

First Steps at KIS

Over the last few weeks the Play Facilitators in First Steps have been working hard to develop their outdoor area to encourage our youngest children's curiosity in the wider world around them. The children can regularly be found exploring in the sand and water trays, learning how to navigate safely around the climbing equipment and beginning to plant simple gardens. Sadly this week



First Steps has said goodbye to one of its volunteers. We would all like to thank Mieke for the time that she has been able to give to First Steps over recent years.

There are currently spaces available in our First Steps groups. Please contact Tina Koroh, our Admissions Officer for further information.



Nicky Russell

Acting Head of Primary

Secondary News

4FEST 25/26th November

The students in Year 12 are very busy with the arrangements for 4FEST which is taking place towards the end of November. You may see posters around the school advertising this event to the Year 10/11 students. It promises to be great fun and it will be well supported by teachers, who will be present throughout. If you are a parent of a student in Years 10 or 11 you will have received a letter about this. Only the first 50 students who return the consent slip will be able to attend, so please encourage your child to act quickly.

University Admissions Day: 7th October

Students in Year 13 participated in 'University Admissions Day' on 7th October and this was successful in giving them time to move ahead with their tertiary applications. The majority of the students will be applying to the UK and are interested in a range of courses, from Early Years Education to Civil Engineering. Some students are also applying to other countries, including Malaysia, Australia, South Africa, the Czech Republic and the States. A major part of the application process is the personal statement; most students agonise over this document and need a lot of help and advice in putting it together. They are fortunate that we can provide that assistance at school. On Tuesday 11th we had a pre-arranged visit from an admissions tutor from the University of Winchester in the UK and he spoke to the students about life in the UK as well as life at Winchester and the courses that they offer. After half term the students will press ahead with their applications, with the expectation that all UK applications are completed by the end of December, and those to other countries in a timely manner.



Year 11 Presentation: An Introduction to the Sixth Form

On Wednesday Year 11 students and parents attended a presentation about the Sixth Form at KIS. From now on these students will be considering their academic futures and making decisions about what they want to do. The presentation included useful information about the type and structure of the Cambridge International A Levels, and advice about how to choose subjects. One aspect that all recognised was that students must enjoy and value their subjects and that it is essential to think carefully before choices are made, as it is difficult to change later on. KIS offers the advantage of a wide range of subjects, small class sizes and well qualified and experienced teachers. In February, after the students have taken their Mock Examinations, we will be holding our Options Afternoon. At this event students and parents will have a chance to speak to subject specialist teachers and find out specific details about the courses.

Lockers and Locker Keys

Can I appeal to all parents to make sure that their child has a lock for their school locker. A survey carried out this week indicated that up to 80% of lockers in some year groups [Years 10 and 11] are left unlocked all day. Students in Years 7 to 9 are much better at keeping their lockers locked but we need to make this universal. This week I discovered four open lockers at 3.30pm when their owners were at an extra-curricular activity. In these 4 lockers mobile phones were casually placed on top of bags etc., in full view of any passer-by. It goes without saying that this is irresponsible and could result in possessions being stolen, something that could be avoided with the simple addition of a lock and key. I will be following up on this issue after the half term break and may contact parent for assistance in getting 100% of the lockers with locks on them. I thank you in advance for your support in this important matter.

Margaret Renshaw

Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary

Board of Management Update

In the last of our Meet-the-Board articles, please meet the Vice Chairperson of your KIS Board of Management, Aaron Cowan

Aaron is from New Zealand and moved to Sabah in 2014 with his wife Jo Luping and their two girls Bella and Madison. Jo is a Sabahan and she and Aaron want their girls to have more of a connection with their heritage here in Borneo. Madi is now in F2 and Bella is in Year 4. The girls love the school and are growing in leaps and bounds here in the KIS Community – not just academically but also socially.

Aaron has worked for the last 23 years in the international film industry in various roles, principally Visual Effects for the last 16. He has worked on many large Hollywood productions in that time, from the Lord of the Rings trilogy to Avatar, Man of Steel, the Narnia films and the Dawn of the Planet of the Apes. He is currently directing pre-production on a film about the life of Huminodun – a legendary Kadazan figure many centuries ago who saved her people from catastrophe.



These mammoth productions have given Aaron insight into how to manage people and projects and he has been enjoying his work in the Community Liaison role with the PTA and other projects around the school.

Board of Management AGM

The next school AGM will be held at the end of November where a new Board will be elected. If you, or any other school parent you know, is interested in putting forward your skills and experience please contact us through our email address bom@kis.edu.my or arrange a meeting with Mr Connah. Having a hand in guiding the school forwards is a very rewarding experience.

KIS Board of Management

Sports News

Secondary Sports Day

The Secondary Sports Day is taking place on **Friday 28th October from 7.45am to 1pm**. A letter will go out today with details of the event so please read this carefully. If children are injured and cannot participate, they are still expected to attend the event and support their House. If your child is not going to be in school on that date for other reasons, please inform the school as soon as possible.

Ms Natasha Hale

Head of PE



PTA News

PTA Dates for your Calendar:

Today - International Day

Wednesday 2nd November 2016 - PTA Annual General Meeting

Friday 4th November 2016 - PTA Meeting

