



# 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.

15th September 2017

## From the Principal

### Standardised Test Results

From time to time parents approach the school to ask how KIS students compare to other students in the UK and around the world, who are studying the English National Curriculum. In the past we have been able to provide very clear evidence, at both IGCSE and A Level, that our students perform at a standard well above the world average. Indeed, KIS students have achieved awards for High Achievement, Top in Malaysia and Top in the World, in different subjects. This is no small achievement for a small school like ours.

Until recently we have not been able to make such comparisons for other year groups but following the implementation of a programme of standardised tests across the school last year, we are now able to do so. At the end of last academic year students currently in Year 3 to 10 sat externally set standardised tests in English and Mathematics. At the same time, students currently in Year 6 to 10 sat similar standardised tests in Science. The individual student results of these tests were sent home to parents with the End of Year Reports.

Recent analysis of these results indicates that our students are performing very favourably against their peers in the UK and around the world. In English, our students on the whole (many of whom have English as a Second or Additional Language) achieved above the international average. In Mathematics, our results can only be described as excellent, with almost all year groups scoring well above the international average. In Science, the picture is a very similar one.

While these results are gratifying, indicating that our students are achieving well in their academic studies and that our teachers are doing an excellent job, we cannot be complacent. With the data provided by the testing we are able to better inform the teaching and learning process and target the individual needs of specific students. In line with our School's Mission, our aim is to challenge and support every student individually to achieve their potential.

### Extra-Curricular Activities & Clubs

It has been fantastic to see the majority of KIS families activating their ECA Account and making their child's / children's ECA selections online. While there have been a few initial teething problems, we really appreciate everyone's understanding as we get the new system fully operational.

Activity selections are now complete. Parents with online access will receive an email and/or notification on their phone today, of the confirmed activities for their child(ren). For those families who are still to set up their online access, club lists will be posted on the ECA Noticeboard at school today. Any requests for ECA changes or withdrawals should be sent to: [eca@kis.edu.my](mailto:eca@kis.edu.my)

Over the coming weeks we will work with those parents who are not yet online to connect them to the system. There will also be the opportunity for online parents to change their email contact to their preferred email address. Our ECA Coordinator will be in touch once ECAs are underway next week.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Alan Connah  
Principal

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 18th Sept:	Term 1 ECAs Commence
Tues 19th Sept:	Welcome to Secondary Talk for New Parents
Weds 20th Sept:	Year 2 Trip
Fri 22nd Sept:	Public Holiday – School Closed

## PRIMARY NEWS

### Road Dahl Day

It was a wonderful start to the day on Wednesday seeing so many excited faces as the children came in to school wearing a wonderful variety of costumes from the BFG to Charlie Bucket and Matilda to Mr & Mrs Twit. All the Primary Department embraced the day with gusto! Teachers were able to plan a wide variety of events around the different Road Dahl books they were focusing on, from making crocodiles in Art, to reinventing the potions from George's Marvellous Medicine in Science, as well as listening to stories including The Enormous Crocodile, The Magic Finger, James and the Giant Peach and Esio Trot. Year 6 had great fun comparing the film to the book that they were reading as well as rewriting the story with a different twist. A special mention needs to go to Oscar in Year 3 as he made his own Wonka Bar at home and shared it with his friends during the day.



Nicky Russell

Head of Primary



# SECONDARY NEWS

Last week we heard from John Anning, a recent Year 13 Graduate, as he embarked upon his Gap Year in New Zealand before taking up further studies. Today we hear from another student, who is taking a very different path!

Our July 2017 Year 13 Graduates have accepted places around the world, from Universities as far afield as the University of Winchester UK, Cardiff University UK and the University of Western Australia, Perth.

Sam Sathyamurthi, who graduated with top A Level grades in Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, has taken up a place to study Medicine at the University of Shanghai, Fudan, and he recently sent us some photographs, taken during his induction week. This is a very exciting time for Sam and KIS wishes him all the best!



## What's Happening in Science?

IGCSE Chemistry students have been enjoying hands-on practical experience at the start of the year.

Year 10 have started their course by studying particles with Mr Gorman and Mr Davies. This week they have been investigating changes of state using Stearic Acid, to extract data and draw heating and cooling curves. This is a fundamental aspect of Chemistry which has implications in many fields, from weather to refrigeration.

In Year 11, students have been looking at the Oil Industry, including the refinement of crude oil. They have been using molecular models to explore the reactions that take place in a Catalytic Converter. These are widely used to convert the heavy hydrocarbons in crude oil to more valuable products including petrol and plastics.

As you can see from the photographs, students are enjoying their hands-on experience in the labs!

## Welcome to Secondary Talk for New Parents

On Tuesday 19th September we will be holding our annual 'Welcome to Secondary Talk' for the parents of new students to Secondary. We would also welcome any interested parents of our Year 7 group who have come up through the Primary School. A letter about the event has gone out to all relevant parents. The talk will start at 3.20pm in the multi-purpose room and we hope to see you there!

Margaret Renshaw

**Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary**

# SPORTS NEWS

## This week in the PE Department...

Has been a week full of activity with the PE Department busy teaching a variety of fun and active lessons for Foundation 1 all the way up to Year 11. Even with poor weather, Primary students managed to enjoy a fun gymnastics lesson that incorporated group balances, encouraging leadership skills in our students. Students in Secondary have been focusing on Athletics this week, practicing different field events in preparation for Sports Day later this term. Most Secondary year groups have also been going off-site to practice their badminton skills.



Despite the weather, we have been able to take all the Foundation 2 and Key Stage 1 students for their Swimming lessons. We are starting a new lesson called 'Water Fun' for Foundation 1 students on Friday, 15th September, which will aim to get them familiar with water through different fun water activities in the Outdoors Learning Area. Please keep reading the newsletter for more information about the PE Department and our future events.

Catriona Watt

**Head of PE and Sport**

## Primary Lunchtime Clubs

Primary Lunch Time clubs started this week with a bang! Each day there has been a variety of different sports for KS2 children to take part in, ranging from dance to football. The children and I have braved different weathers; tried fun new sports (my favourite crab football due to a very wet Tuesday!) and enjoyed being physically active during a lunch time. Each club has been full and we even have a waiting list for next week's activities; so I would conclude that it has been a successful start and hope it continues to be as popular throughout the term.

Miss Woodland

**PE Teacher**



# STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

## Secondary Student Council

We have our new Student Council for this year!

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	
President	Isabella
Vice President	Desmond
Secretary	Dabin
Treasurer	Ivan
Events Organiser	Ivan
Publicity Manager	Dania

<b>CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:</b>	
7K	Annabella
7S	Kaiyisah
8K	Saranyaa
8S	Zen
9K	Chittu
9S	Jasmine
10K	Jonathan
10S	Desmond
11K	Ivan
11S	Dania
12	Ella / Maisie
13	Dabin

The purpose of the Student Council is to ensure that the students are fully represented as members of our community. Students who sit on the Council are responsible for communication with Heads of School to promote the physical, social and emotional needs of every single student at KIS.

Students are encouraged to talk to their class reps and tell them what they would like to see happen for KIS students this year.

Laura Davies

**Secondary Student Council Coordinator**

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The KIS Board of Management met on Tuesday for the first time in this new school year. We hope that all students, parents and teachers returning from last year had a wonderful break – we look forward to an exciting year ahead and wish you a warm welcome back. For all those who are new to the school, we also welcome you and look forward to meeting as many of you as we can across this first term. We hope you enjoy your time here as part of our community as much as we do. KIS is a wonderful environment for our children to grow and learn and we couldn't be prouder of it.

At Tuesday's meeting, we sadly accepted the resignation of Cindy Reynolds. Since joining the school a few years ago Cindy has been a constant and welcome presence, from being a Class Ambassador to chipping in with Story Sacks and helping at many of the school events. She has spearheaded the installation of the new Canteen and been instrumental in several other projects throughout the school. With her family moving from Borneo due to work commitments we must sadly say goodbye to her and wish her, Jonathan and the boys all the best in Surabaya. She will be greatly missed at Board meetings and in the wider community.

Sadly also our Treasurer, Ms Janet Lo, is stepping down from her position due to a heavy workload at home and office. Janet's work as Treasurer has been exemplary and during her tenure she has given excellent advice and offered wonderful guidance. The Board thanks her for her hard work.

Janet's position as Treasurer has been filled by Mr Jackson Kon. Jackson is a Chartered Accountant and Financial Controller of a Property Development Company with 20 years of experience in accounting and finance He is married to Christine Chin, with two wonderful children - Kon Yi (Year 8) and Kon Han (Year 6). His experience will greatly enhance the work that the Board does.

Janet has agreed to stay on with the Board in an advisory capacity until we have found someone to step into the slot that has been left open by Cindy's departure. If anyone is interested in joining the Board to become the Community Liaison person please contact Aaron Cowan through the school office or at [bom@kis.edu.my](mailto:bom@kis.edu.my). The Community Liaison person is a point of intersection between parent groups such as the PTA and the Board, and as such is very important in ensuring that the Board has it's finger on the pulse of the school. It is an important job and we are looking for someone to step forward and help us with it until the AGM at the end of this calendar year.

Lastly, the Board would like to thank Elis Ho and her team for the remarkable work done over the Summer Break. She and the ground staff moved heaven and earth to get all the various maintenance and repair work completed in time for the start of the school year and we greatly appreciate all their hard work.

For further information or for any questions that you as a parent may have about the Board, please feel free to contact the Board through our email address at [bom@kis.edu.my](mailto:bom@kis.edu.my).

**Board of Management**