



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.

20th January 2017

From Mrs Renshaw, Assistant Principal

Chinese New Year Celebrations - Wednesday 25th January

Excitement is mounting across the school with the Chinese New Year celebrations rapidly approaching. Every year the traditional Lion Dance is watched by students of all ages from the very youngest to those in Years 13; it doesn't matter what age you are, everybody is always amazed by the vibrant pageant of expertise and colour. It's a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together to enjoy this special day, and we look forward to seeing many of you in school next Wednesday morning. Many thanks to the PTASC for all the work that they have put into making this event the very special occasion that it will be.

Teaching and Learning Events

In the Secondary staff meeting this week we spent some time looking at an outline of all of the 'extra' events that are coming up for the rest of this term, from the Fitness Festival that has been arranged by Mr. Watson for this coming Saturday to the FOBISIA Drama trip which is happening in March, organised by Mr. Bryant and Miss Cole. It is going to be a very busy term in both Secondary and Primary and I am struck again by how fortunate we are at KIS to have the support of the whole community, staff, parents and students, that allow us to do these extra events for the children. I know as a fact that the children remember the wonderful times they had through their participation for years to come.

Secondary Peer Counselling

A brand new initiative got off the ground on Monday of this week when we opened our Drop-in Centre at lunchtimes in the Secondary Meeting Room. Eight Year 12 and 13 students are now trained Peer Counsellors and they opened the doors for any student to come along if they would like to share a problem that's troubling them, whether that be a friendship issue, a school work issue [anything really!]. Members of the peer counselling team will be available between 12.30 and 1pm, and students can just turn up. Sometimes it is hard for teenagers to talk to adults about what might be troubling them; they find it easier to talk to somebody closer to their own age. I would like to thank Mrs. Crewdson who used her considerable expertise in this field to train our students over six weeks last term, and the students themselves for volunteering to undertake this.

Year 13 University Applications

This is an exciting time also for our students in Year 13 who are busily applying to overseas universities. It can be rather stressful for them although we do all we can to mitigate that here in school, giving them as much support and assistance as possible. I am pleased to note that some are already receiving offers and know that when this happens the students can relax a little and focus on their studies. They have their goals in sight!

Board of Management Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October and December Board of Management meetings are now available to download here: [BOM Minutes 26.10.16](#) and [BOM Minutes 07.12.16](#)

February Catered Lunch Menu from D'One

The February catered lunch menu is now available to download [here](#), or printed copies can be found on the Parent Information Board. Please note the last day for ordering is 27th January 2017.

With warm regards,

Margaret Renshaw

Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary and Sixth Form

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 21st Jan:	KIS Fitness Festival
Tues 24th Jan:	Story Sacks Knitting Session (8am- 10.15am)
Weds 25th Jan:	Chinese New Year Celebrations
Thurs 26th Jan:	Year 11 Parents Afternoon
Mon 30th Jan - Fri 3rd Feb:	Half Term Holiday

PRIMARY NEWS

Year 2 Visit City Mall

To support their Science and Ancient Egypt topics, Year 2 visited City Mall on Wednesday 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 ready for the Year 2 classes to mummify as part of our Ancient Egypt project. Prior to this trip the children had to undertake research projects to discover what spices and oils will be needed to help with the process of mummification



Year 5 in Kuching

Tuesday morning saw Year 5 eagerly meeting at the airport ready to travel to Kuching for the week, in support of their topic Ancient China. While in Kuching the children have been treated to visits to numerous museums where the children were fascinated to find out about the history of the Chinese communities in Sarawak and why so many people migrated there in the past. When at the Tua Pek Kong Temple a very kind man was able to explain the significance of the murals on the wall to the students. While undertaking the heritage walks, the children were enthralled to hear about the indigenous tribes of Sarawak and the state's history. After such an exciting trip the students and staff are travelling back to KK later on today. I am very pleased to report that the airline staff and other passengers on the flight to Kuching complemented our staff on the children's outstanding behaviour. Well done Year 5!

Chinese New Year Celebrations

It is with great pleasure that I would like to invite all parents to join the Primary Department on Wednesday from 12.30pm for our Chinese New Year Celebrations and Assembly. The Mandarin department have been working very hard to prepare their celebration assembly and would like to invite all parents to join us from 1.00pm. Prior to this there will be calligraphers in the hall who will be writing characters in the traditional way.

Nicky Russell
Head of Primary



SECONDARY NEWS

Whole School Photography Competition - Mathematics in Nature

Following the success of last year's "World of Mathematics" photography competition, this term KIS will be running a photography competition entitled "Mathematics in Nature". Mathematics is all around us - consider the symmetry of reflections in a lake or petals on a flower.



Students, parents and staff from both Primary and Secondary are invited to enter the competition by submitting a photograph they have taken which depicts Mathematics in Nature in some way. They will need to give it a title which explains the mathematical content of their photograph. This **must** include a mathematical word (eg mountain reflections, flower symmetry ...).

With half term coming up, this would be the ideal opportunity to explore the nature around us and take some photos!

Entries will need to be submitted by the 13th March – further details about this will follow after half term. The winning entries, as well as a selection of the rest, will be put on display at the end of Term 2.

We hope that as many students (and parents and staff) will take part in this competition. Happy snapping!

Mrs. Taylor
Head of Secondary Mathematics

SPORTS NEWS

Success at Sabah Age Group Swimming Competition

Last week saw a number of students swim for their respective clubs at the Sabah Age Group Swimming Competition. Celebrating its 50th year, this annual competition sees the best swimmers from the state compete to represent Sabah in the national games. Congratulations to the following swimmers: Etienne, Dean, Justin, Ayden, James, Nicholas, Thor, Brandon, Imogen, Jun Hao, Zenia, Sophie and Leo for their fantastic achievements. A number of personal best times were earned, Dean claimed Gold in the 200m Backstroke and Bronze in the 100m Backstroke in the 15-17 year old category, and various medals were achieved in the 8 and under and 9-10 Medley and Freestyle Relays. Congratulations to you all and keep up the good work!

Miss Sascha Slaats
Head of Aquatics

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

After the success of the Christmas Angels and with so many KIS families asking about other ways to donate to the local Kota Kinabalu communities, the Student Council have decided to collect gifts for Chinese New Year.

This time we would like to collect toiletries for the residents of the Care Haven Day Care Centre in KPKS Sukan and the Persatian Rumah Amal Sabah (Sabah Cheshire Home) on Jalan Tuaran. For those of you that are new to the KIS community, the Care Haven Day Care Centre has 16 children under their care, 9 girls and 7 boys who are mainly orphans, or children that have been abandoned or abused. The Sabah Cheshire Home provides residential care to people with disabilities, with an age range from birth up to 32 years old.

The names and ages of the Care Home residents will be written on Ang Pow (small red envelopes) and will be available for collection from the Student Council from Monday, 23rd of January, near the main entrance to the school. Please purchase toiletries that are age appropriate to a maximum cost of RM30, wrap them and return them to the school by Wednesday, 8th of February.

Let's help the local Kota Kinabalu community celebrate this very important holiday in Sabah!

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

The KIS Student Council
Ms Laura Davies, Student Council Mentor



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As part of my remit on the BOM in community liaison I will be profiling each member of the BOM team every week to try and get to know them slightly better and hopefully provide a little light reading to parents who have not yet got that Friday feeling.

Esther Lau - Secretary

This lady grew up in Kuantan, Pahang on the peninsula, hates lizards and absolutely adores rambutan and "Bananarama". She considers herself a "Tiger Mum" but hated school as a child due to the constant pressure to do well and succeed. However, Esther, or Mimi as she was fondly called by her grandfather; does have happy memories of her English teacher who was always very encouraging and supportive.

As a teenager, Esther could be found on the netball court, or poolside and loved to be involved in lots of clubs and after school activities. Her random piece of advice would be to always listen, never judge and remember that there are many sides to the same story so don't base an opinion on just one perspective.

Though Esther studied as a chartered secretary she would relish the opportunity to study law and would love to learn to fly a plane, though her greatest desire is to be a superhero who can fly and avoid KK traffic. (Keep your eye out during Book week for a superhero with wings and a cape!)



The hardest job she has ever done was waitressing and her best and most fulfilling role is the one she does currently as full time Mum to Max (Year 4) and Emma (Year 6).

Though Esther has no regrets about moving to Kota Kinabalu, one of her best decisions was to live and work in Cambodia which was truly remarkable. Esther adores Paris and her most favoured and lucky numbers are 7888 which represent members of her family and can be found on her car registration plate, so take care not to bump into her in the car park as it will be extremely unlucky! (Unless you are in the insurance business of course.)

For further information or for any questions that you as a parent may have about the Board then please feel free to contact the Board through our email address bom@kis.edu.my.

Cindy Reynolds
KIS Board of Management

PTA NEWS

Chinese New Year Celebrations

It is the time of the year again to celebrate one of the biggest festive celebrations in Malaysia: Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year or Spring Festival.

Historically, Chinese New Year celebrations were born out of fear and myth. Legend spoke of the wild beast "Nien" that appeared at the end of each year, attacking and killing villagers. Loud noises and bright lights were used to scare the beast away and the Chinese New Year Celebration was born. Today, the 15-day New Year festivities are celebrated with holidays, food, family reunions, fire crackers, lion dances and many more activities.

Much like the western New Year, the biggest celebration is on the eve of the holiday. Aside from that, there are other important days, symbols and traditional food involved.

This year, we will be welcoming in the Year of the Fire Rooster from the 28th January. The KIS PTASC have arranged some activities to celebrate Chinese New Year on Wednesday, 25th January. All parents are welcome to attend this celebration. To follow are some details of the things that will take place on that morning:

a) PTA Coffee Morning



All parents are welcome to attend the coffee morning at the Multi Purpose Room starting from 7.30am-8.30am. For those of you who are unsure of the location, kindly follow the signage that will be prepared. During the Coffee Morning, as well as the traditional serving of coffee, tea, cookies, cakes and an opportunity to chat with other parents, we will also be providing parents with the opportunity to experience some of the traditional food associated with the Chinese New Year celebrations, such as the "Nian Gao" (Year Cake / Sticky Rice Cake) and participating in our very own prosperity toss with the "Yee Sang" (Teochew-style raw fish salad). To meet the taste bud and preference of all parents, we will substitute the raw fish with vegetarian fish instead.

Niangao, also known as the year cake or the sticky rice cake, is a popular dessert eaten during Chinese New Year. It was originally used as an offering in the ritual ceremonies before it gradually became a Spring Festive food. The pronunciation of “Nian Gao” sounds like “Year High” which symbolises a higher income, a higher position, the growth of children, and generally the promise of a better year. It is considered good luck to eat it during the Chinese New Year Period.

Yee Sang is one of the traditional dishes savoured during Chinese New Year. It is symbolic of good luck, prosperity, health and all things auspicious. Yee Sang comprises thin slices of pickled vegetables and other ingredients, which are mixed together thoroughly when the dish is eaten. The taste of the dish is enhanced by its special sauce which imparts a distinctive flavour. The popular custom is for all round the dining table to toss the ingredients high in the air with the joyful exclamation of “Loh Hey” (toss high). The significance of the tossing is to wish for abundant luck and happiness for all.



b) Traditional / Red Outfit

All students, teachers and parents are encouraged to wear traditional Chinese outfits or red clothes on the day to help create a festive atmosphere.



c) Lion Dance

This year we are happy to announce that there will be two groups of Lion Dances performing, which is due to start at 8.30am. Again, all parents, teachers and students are welcome to attend. Don't miss this opportunity to witness a great show!

d) Chinese New Year Mascot

In addition to the Lion Dance, we will also be joined by three Chinese New Year mascots, which consist of Cai-Shen, Buddha Head and, since it's the year of the rooster, our very own rooster. Cai-Shen also known as Chinese Wealth God is the Heavenly Treasurer in Chief, having been elevated to Godly status after a spot of mountain meditation. Fat and cheerful, Cai-Shen rides his black tiger and wields a rod of iron. His Godly accountant is a dab hand with diamonds and pearls.



e) Angpau and Mandarin Oranges

Our mascot will be distributing angpau and mandarin oranges to all the students in the school. Let's get blessed even more with wealth, happiness and soaring high rooster blessings for the coming year.



f) Festive Corner

In addition to all these exciting activities, the PTA will also prepare an informative yet attractive corner displaying relating to the Chinese New Year celebrations and traditions and the meaning behind them. For those who would like to learn more don't forget to visit this informative area! (These items will be for viewing only and not to be taken home or eaten).

g) Guests of Honour

We are delighted to be able to share our celebrations with others and, therefore the school will be inviting students from the Deaf Society to join us in celebrating and enjoying the Lion Dance Performance. Do give them a warm welcome and make them feel at home.

Drinks will also be available for students and parents at the drinks corner, while they are waiting for the Lion Dance. Don't be shy to walk over and have a taste of our local coco drink!

In addition, to create a more festive environment, the PTASC has decorated the school and we will be playing some Chinese New Year music as well in the morning, before class starts.

We would like to thank all the parents who volunteered to come and help out in decorating the school.

We hope to see all of you on this coming Wednesday, the 25th January from 7.30am. Don't miss this exciting event!

Last but not least, from the PTA: **Gong Xi Fa Cai!!!!**

KIS Parent Teacher Association