



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.

27th January 2017

From Mrs Renshaw, Assistant Principal

Chinese New Year Celebrations - Wednesday 25th January

There was a palpable air of excitement on Wednesday morning as we awaited the arrival of the Lion Dancers. This is an annual event at KIS and is looked forward to immensely by students, parents and staff. The performance was dramatic, skillful and breathtaking. Many of the students had heeded the call and come to school attired in Chinese style dress and traditional colours, and the whole event was a colourful extravaganza. As the school increases in size, it is important to treasure those occasions when we are able come together in celebration.

Thank you to all of you who came along and supported this event, and a special vote of gratitude to the PTASC, who worked tirelessly to provide us with a wonderfully happy and special occasion. I spoke to the Lion Dancers before they departed and they were extremely complimentary about our school. They felt that we really appreciated them, and that was very important to them.

Many of you will be heading off to visit friends and relatives in the coming week, and I wish you safe travels and a happy and relaxing time.

Year 11 Parents Afternoon

Year 11 parents, students and teachers met yesterday afternoon to discuss the results of the mock examinations and what students needed to do to ensure that they are fully prepared for the final examinations in May and June. While they may seem to be in the far future, the students effectively have only 10 weeks of school time before the exam period starts, and they go on study leave. Of course, they will be invited to study sessions by their teachers during study leave and I am sure they will take advantage of those opportunities. On Wednesday I spoke to the year group and emphasized the importance of taking responsibility for their studies, about the quite limited time remaining and of the effort that they needed to put in so that they would not be disappointed when their IGCSE results come out in August.

Sixth Form Information Afternoon - 7th February

Looking ahead to after half term, I have sent a letter home this week inviting the parents of all of our Year 11 students to attend the Sixth Form Options Afternoon on Tuesday 7th February. This is a very important event in the KIS calendar as it enables Year 11 students and parents to talk to teachers about the subjects that we offer at A Level in Years 12 and 13. I look forward to welcoming many parents at this event.

If you know of family or friends who are not currently attending KIS but who may be interested in joining our A Level programme we would welcome their attendance on the 7th February too. Please contact Tina Koroh in Admissions (admissions@kis.edu.my) to confirm their attendance.

Book Week, 6 - 10th February

We are all very excited about the upcoming 2017 Book Week, which will be taking place from the 6 to 10th, immediately after the holiday. You have already received information about what will be happening during the week, but I'm delighted to announce now that in addition we will be receiving a visit from with Jainal Amambing - Award winning Local Author & Illustrator, whose books are in the KIS library. He will visit the school on Friday 10th and although his time with us is in the planning stage, the students can look forward to presentations and exciting workshops. There will also be a selection of his books available for purchase.

With warm regards,

Margaret Renshaw

Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary and Sixth Form



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 30th Jan - Fri 3rd Feb:	Half Term Holiday
Mon 6th - Fri 10th Feb:	Book Week
Mon 6th Feb:	Big Book Swap
Tues 7th Feb:	Sixth Form Options Afternoon
Thurs 9th Feb:	Primary Character Parade
Thurs 9th Feb:	Primary Bedtime Stories
Fri 10th Feb:	Secondary Character Parade
Fri 10th Feb:	Primary Prize Giving Assembly for Book Week
Fri 10th Feb:	PTASC Meeting, 8.30am

PRIMARY NEWS

Mandarin Celebrations in Primary

The Primary School has been very excited this week with the arrival of Chinese New Year. All the classrooms have had banners welcoming in the new year and, as part of the PTA Chinese New Year celebrations, the Early Years and Primary classes had the Gods of Wealth and Fortune visit to deliver Ang Pows. On Wednesday afternoon we had some traditional calligraphers at school before the Mandarin Department treated us to a Chinese New Year Assembly. To all our families who will be celebrating this weekend I would like to say Gong Xi Fa Chai!



PASS Club

Thank you for your support this half term for our new style PASS Club. The children have been enjoying the activities that have been on offer and the opportunity to complete homework in school. After half term the opportunity to be in the Library from 3-4pm for KS2 will not run due to lack of numbers. Instead students will be given the opportunity to work quietly or read in the PASS Club environment. We would be grateful if parents could collect their children promptly from PASS Club.

Good Luck!

The Primary department said a fond farewell to Mrs Lim this week as she will begin her maternity leave over the Chinese New Year holiday. We are all now very excitedly waiting for the news of the safe arrival of baby Lim. Mrs Lim will rejoin us during Term 3 of this year.

Nicky Russell
Head of Primary



SECONDARY NEWS

Whole School Photography Competition - Mathematics in Nature

As detailed in last week's newsletter, KIS is launching a "Mathematics in Nature" photography competition.

Pupils, parents and staff from both Primary and Secondary are invited to enter the competition by submitting a photograph they have taken which depicts the Mathematics in Nature in some way. The photograph should be given a title which explains the mathematical content of the image and this title 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!

Entry forms will be available from the School Office after half term. Entries will need to be submitted by the 13th March.

KIS hopes that as many pupils (and parents and staff) will take part in this competition. Happy snapping!

Mrs. Taylor

Head of Secondary Mathematics

SPORTS NEWS

Gold for Julia!

A big congratulations to Julia in Year 4 who claimed two gold medals for her karate skills at the start of this week, when competing in the Individual Girls 8-9 and 10-11 Years categories at the Milo Cup Championship for Karate in Manila. Julia is no stranger to competing overseas, having previously entered competitions in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, as well as here in KK. Well done Julia for your wonderful success!

KIS Fitness Festival

Last Saturday students, parents and teachers came together for the first KIS Fitness Festival, hosted by Mr. Watson. The event was supported and led by local fitness businesses: Warrior Fitness, X45 and Valor Martial Arts. Students and parents were able to sign up to this free event in advance, and there was a great response. Over 70 students and 30 parents came along, as well as 15 teachers. The morning began with a buzz of enthusiasm as everyone gathered for a warm-up on the school playground. Students and parents then split into mixed year group teams, and followed a program of sessions that included: a nutritional seminar, Warrior Fitness, X45 cross-fit and Martial Arts. In each session, there were age-appropriate, fitness activities for all to take part in. After the sessions were completed, everyone gathered in the school hall for a question and answer session with the coaches from the 3 companies involved, and then were shown a demonstration from the professionals. To close the event, a Primary and Secondary obstacle course had been thoughtfully planned, but due to a change in weather, this was unfortunately cancelled. However, students were able to take part in a WOD (Workout of the Day) instead, which included competing for a final prize for each age group.



Throughout the morning, there was a tremendous atmosphere of teamwork, hard work and fun! Parents and teachers participated alongside students, which made it a wonderful community event. Well done to all involved, and special thanks to Mr. Watson for organizing and providing this great opportunity for KIS students to get involved in.

Miss Natasha Hale

Head of PE and Sport



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

It's Friday and the last day before the half term holiday which means 9 glorious days off with our children, so make the most of the last day of school folks.

Aaron Cowan - Chairperson

This young man is a born and bred Kiwi, which is an affectionate term that the British coin people from New Zealand as a Kiwi is the national emblem of the country and refers to the native bird only found there. Aaron grew up in the South Island where the scariest thing was his Mother apparently and where, when not in school being smart and cool, he could be found playing hockey and doing drama.

His passion for Duran Duran and The Cure led him naturally into the study of economics at college initially, then into the film industry subsequently. Aaron enjoyed taking on a role as a Visual Effects Producer as part of his career, which was a far cry from his first job as a paper boy. His career progression has also included being a high school cleaner, though he assures me that he never solved any tricky quadratic equations on the blackboard.

Aaron states that his children would describe his parenting style as "awful" and "fun" and I can only assume that an awfully funny parent would have a favourite food of sushi and/or sandwiches along with a favourite number of 13. If not working in the film industry Aaron would like to be in space as an astronaut and would have loved to meet Neil Armstrong. His sound piece of advice to us all is to never eat yellow snow. He would love to learn to play the guitar, would love to be a bear and tells me that it is much more fun to ride a bike through static congested traffic than to sit in a car doing the same.

Finally, (and well done if you have read this far,) the best decision he has ever made was to "chase his wife", so if you see Aaron and his wife Jo running around the playground any time soon you know why!

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. The next Board of Management meeting is to be held on the evening of the 21st of February.

Cindy Reynolds
KIS Board of Management



PTA NEWS

A Big Thank You!

IT'S TIME!!!! We are sure everyone is ready and waiting for the bell to go off today, marking the start of the holiday. In this week's Newsletter the PTASC would like to deliver our gratitude and a big thank you to all of you who helped to make the celebration on Wednesday a huge success. We were delighted to see parents having the opportunity to mingle together, taste new food and get to know some of the traditional dishes and activities related to Chinese New Year. With the privilege of having two troops of lion dancers performing instead of one this year, we enjoyed seeing not just the students being very excited but also the parents and teachers! It was a wonderful day of celebrations and photos will be on the school's website soon!

All of this would not have been possible had it not been for the kind support, donation and sponsorship we received. Let's give a big 'thank you' and round of applause to:

Sponsors for Lion Dance Performance

- a) Kelab Sukan & Rekreasi Kg Tatahan Kionsom Inanam – Sponsored by Mr. Denovan Russell: (F1H Sascha Dad)
- b) Friendship Lions Group – Sponsored by Teck Guan Sdn Bhd

Sponsors for Food & Drinks

- a) Hoko Drinks – Teck Guan Sdn Bhd
- b) Cakes (2) – Emily (Y4S Pik Yen, Y3W Pik Ern, Y1N Lung Ip's Mum)
- c) Carrot Cake – Janet (Y71 Ashton's Mum)
- d) Cookies – Christina Chin (Y7C Kon Yin's Mum)
- e) Yee Sang / Prosperity Toss – Renus Lim (Y9S Anson's Mum)
- f) Coffee (100 Sachets) – Santola Coffee (Mr Yap)
- g) Water (25 Cartons) – Teamcons Resources Sdn Bhd (Mr Ho)
- h) Gold Coin Chocolate (6 Boxes) - Mr Ting
- i) Gold Coin Chocolate (5 Boxes) – Tan Min Chu (Y3W Pui San, Y5W Pui Mun's family)
- j) Mandarin Oranges (25 boxes) – Koperasi Borneo Berhad (Adeline Lim:Y1 Alden's Mum)
- k) Mandarin Oranges (5 boxes) – TCT Trading Sdn Bhd
- l) Mandarin Oranges (5 boxes) – Mr Y C Chong
- m) Mandarin Oranges (5 boxes) – NCT Fowarding & Shipping Sdn Bhd
- n) Mandarin Oranges (3 boxes) – Laurelcap Sdn Bhd

Others

- a) Chinese New Year Decorations – Parents of KIS
- b) Angpow (800) – Anny Chong (Y5A Zack's Mum)
- c) Rm100 – Assunta (Y6S Benedict's Mum)

And, special thank you to Esther and Mary for helping to transport the children to and from the Deaf School.

We hope to get support and ideas for more events in school in the coming months. The PTASC will be having their next meeting on Friday 10th February 2017 at 8.30am. We hope more parents and teachers will be able to join us to chip in more ideas or feedback to make our school a better place for our children.

During the coffee morning on Wednesday, the Prosperity Toss was a big hit and for those who are interested to try making them at home during this holiday or who missed out on the explanations of the meanings behind them, we are attaching a simple and classic recipe which can be downloaded here: [Yee Sang Recipe](#)

To conclude, we would like to wish you GONG XI FA CAI (wishing you to be prosperous in coming year) and WAN SHI RU YI (May all your wishes be fulfilled”

KIS PTASC

