



# 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 October 2017

## From the Principal

### U15 FOBISIA Games

This Sunday 11 students from Year 9 and 10 will depart KK for Phuket to compete at the U15 FOBISIA Games being hosted by Sports Camp Australia at Thanyapura.

The students will have a strenuous and challenging week competing in 4 sports (swimming, athletics, football and basketball) over 3 days against 5 other schools from across Asia.

The team is comprised of the following students: Bobby, Kelvin, Aru, Koenraad, James, Hippolyte, Mathis, Rose, Nikita, Jolin and Celeste. They will be accompanied by Miss Watt and Mr Walker. We wish the team safe travels and all the very best for the



### Secondary Sports Day

The Secondary School Sports Day is scheduled for today and should be an exciting day filled with sport, team spirit and some new school records! We hope to see many Secondary Parents at **Penampang Stadium** in support of their children. The Day will start at 7.45am and will finish by 1pm. May the best House win!

### Healthy Heart Canteen

The November Menu and Order Form for the Healthy Heart Canteen are now available and may be downloaded here or from the Catered Lunches page of the KIS website. Printed copies are also available from the Parent Information Board.

> [November Menu](#)

> [November Order Form](#)

### New Drop Off Zone

We have received a great deal of positive feedback from school parents regarding the new morning drop off zone established outside the school. The success of the new system has largely been due to the incredible support of parents and drivers. I want to thank everyone for their support of this initiative. The safety of our students is paramount. To further improve the new drop off system and student safety, parents and drivers are asked to drive **very slowly and to only drop students in the designated drop off area**, not at the main gate to the school (accept in the case of heavy rain). Parents and drivers are also asked to then drive to the top of the road to turn around, rather than trying to turn using one of our neighbours' driveways, as this blocks the flow of traffic and inconveniences our neighbours and other parents.

### Parking Outside the School

Our neighbours from the Ministry of Education facility next door have again asked that KIS parents and drivers refrain from parking in their driveway. This has become a major problem over recent weeks and is very disrespectful. Parents and drivers are asked to ensure that they park in the marked spaces along the road and in the off-road car park next to the Mosque.

If using the Mosque car park please understand that permission has been granted to use the area subject to the following conditions:

- The area is used only by KIS parents for parking during the day and for drop off and pick up purposes
- On Friday's the carpark is only to be used before 10am and after 2pm. The carpark is not available for KIS parents or drivers to use between 10am and 2pm on a Friday (this is very important so please respect this condition)

The BoM and myself ask that in the interests of the whole KIS community, all parents and drivers abide by and respect these conditions. If you are a family that employs a driver, please ensure that they are made aware of these conditions. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Alan Connah  
Principal

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Fri 27th Oct:</b>	Secondary Sports Day
<b>Sun 29th Oct - Thurs 2nd Nov:</b>	U15 FOBISIA Games
<b>Tues 7th Nov:</b>	Year 9 Options Talk

## PRIMARY NEWS

### Year 5 Trip

On Thursday 12th October Year 5 went on a trip to the Sabah Museum and D'Place. The students were very excited to visit these places to learn lots about different tribes from Sabah, as well as experience traditional food and dances.

The trip began with a visit to the 'Our Culture' gallery at the Sabah Museum. Year 5 thoroughly explored the gallery and learnt about the musical instruments, farming techniques, rituals and traditional costumes of a range of tribes.

After a short break, Year 5 then wandered through the Heritage Village visiting a number of different tribal houses. As they explored they began to get a feel for what it is like to live as a member of a tribe.

The final part of our trip was a visit to D'Place, where Year 5 were able to sample some traditional tribal foods such as Pinasakan Bosongan, Linopot and Kampung Vegetables. Afterwards, the children were able to watch and even get involved in a number of traditional dances including the Sumazau Dance, Joget Sabah and Magunatip.

Year 5 had a wonderful day and they are looking forward to using all they have learnt, to write a non-chronological report on a tribe this half term.

### Year 6 Living Museum

I really enjoyed looking at the Year 6 Living Museum on Wednesday afternoon. This event was the culmination of last half term's work on leadership. It was lovely to see the different influential people from around the world that students have spent time researching. I especially enjoyed learning more about Kim Ji Soo from Kon Han and have promised that I will listen to one of her songs. It was obvious that the children have spent many hours researching and preparing their displays for the living museum. All of the projects were very impressive, however, I particularly enjoyed finding out more about some of the lesser known leaders, for example, Jack Ba from China and how he set up Alibaba, Lee Kun Hee and his rise to success with his company Samsung, Peter Lalor and how he helped to form a democracy in Australia and the more recent political leadership of Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore. A huge congratulations needs to be given to all the students in Year 6 for the hard work they put in to the projects and their costumes, as well as thanking the Year 6 teaching team for their time and direction helping the children prepare for the Living Museum this week.

### Primary Parent-Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all parents who came in to school earlier this week for the Parent - Teacher Meetings. If you were unable to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to email them to find out how your child is progressing at school.

### EYFS Morning Drop Off

It has been brought to my attention that some of our younger students are coming to school very early in the mornings. If your EYFS child is in school before 7.30am, please ensure that an adult is looking after them in the main playground before the EYFS area opens at 7.30am. Thank you for your understanding.

### Christmas Carols 2017

We need more singers to represent KIS!

The Christmas Carol Club is busy practising for their annual performance at hotels around KK and I would like to extend an invitation for more Primary students to join this club. In previous years we have had 20 to 30 children singing at Le Meridien and the Shangri-La - a lovely event that the young carollers [and their audience] enjoy very much. Please feel free to approach Ms Ku if there are more singers who would like to be involved in this event. We will be having some lunch time rehearsals for those who are not able to make it to the Thursday ECA session.

Nicky Russell  
Head of Primary

# SECONDARY NEWS

## **Mandarin: Changing Terminology**

We have recently adopted the terms 'Mandarin as Second Language' and 'Mandarin as Foreign Language', referring to the IGCSE, which the students take in Year 11. We will no longer be using the expressions 'Mandarin Advanced' or 'Mandarin Beginners'.

Some of the students have been learning Mandarin in KIS for more than a year now, and some have weekly tuition outside of school. They are simply not 'Beginners'; they can speak a little and understand common terms. On the other hand, most of the Chinese native speakers can speak fluent Mandarin, so they are focusing on reading and writing. To stay in line with the requirements for the IGCSE, this is a more effective terminology for teachers and also students. Henceforth, the terms 'Mandarin as Second Language' and 'Mandarin as Foreign Language' will be used and parents will see this on school documentation and on their child's report.

Ms Jowene Chia  
**Mandarin Teacher**

## **FOBISIA Music Report**

One of the privileges of working at KIS is the professional development opportunities offered to all teachers. We get very caught up with our own practice but it is important to refresh our knowledge and to be inspired by professionals in our own and other schools. Learning new teaching techniques and keeping up with the evolving music scene in the modern era are especially crucial. The FOBISIA Music Teachers' Conference, held annually, provides an opportunity for all music teachers at FOBISIA schools to get together to share teaching strategies. Some international schools also host and promote music events for students from other schools to get involved in. This year, I was honoured to attend the conference which was held at Harrow International School, Bangkok. There were 65 music teachers from a range of international schools who attended the conference.

KIS is currently participating in a FOBISIA music event. This is an online composition project – variations on the theme of Pokémon Go! I am excited to see that our Year 10 IGCSE students are eagerly submitting their variation ideas for this project. The Primary String Ensemble club and Woodwind Club will be working together to perform a variation for the Pokémon Go! theme as well. A number of Year 6 students will also be performing a Glockenspiel Ensemble version of this theme as their variation. By December, all of our video recordings will be sent to the British School of Guangzhou for compilation. A finalised video compilation of the Pokémon Go! Theme and Variation will be published in Term 2.

## **Music ECAs**

I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief report on what is happening in the Music Department this term. There are many more ECAs on offer this term and I would like to thank parents and students alike who have been very supportive and have signed up for these clubs.

The Violin Club is a newly introduced club. Its aim is to develop students' instrumental skills, so that they can take up the ABRSM examination in the near future. This is rather different compared to the Primary String Ensemble Club, where students are to develop their group playing skills rather than learning to play the instrument itself. I would encourage all members of the Primary String Ensemble Club to have tuition for their instrument, either by applying to join the Violin Club provided here at KIS, or to take up music lessons outside of school. It is very important for students to be able to play their instrument at the required level before they choose to join the String Ensemble Club.

We also have Ukulele clubs, now offered separately to both lower and higher Primary students, due to high demand. Woodwind Ensemble is also a club I am very keen to develop at KIS. It is exciting to see that we now have a handful of flautists in the making! We also have Glee Club for students who love singing contemporary musicals, and this is available for both Primary and Secondary students. This term, Rock Band is a very popular club with the Secondary students. This talented bunch have been busy rehearsing during lunch times as well as during their usual ECA time. We will definitely be enjoying a performance from them soon so do stay tuned!

## **KIS Global Citizen Window Design Competition**

'Art is the window to man's soul. Without it, he would never be able to see beyond his immediate world; nor could the world see the man within.' (Lady Bird Johnson)

During our recent International Day, the Art Department was a hive of activity with students from Years 7 to 13 participating in a special KIS competition. The objective was to promote global awareness among students by urging them to go beyond their nationalities, think globally and see how they could fulfill their global citizenship responsibilities. They teamed up to create a wearable "Global Citizen Window" to enable us to "see" globally. The winning teams were the Year 7 Group 'Freedom Colourists' and the A Level Group 'Looking Through the Hands of the World'.

Congratulations to both the winning teams! A special mention must go to Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 representatives for their enthusiastic participation and commendable efforts. Students from different nationalities came to agreements on their final design.

The students had fun with the generation of ideas, decision making and problem solving, approaching the task as the successful global citizens we strive to develop at KIS. Well done all!

The competition design work, with concept details, can be seen in the Art Room.

Ms. Damein Yuen  
**Head of Creative and Performing Arts**

# SPORTS NEWS

## What's Been Happening This Week?

It has been a very busy few weeks in the PE department; the FOBISIA Team have been training hard for their competition, which takes place in Phuket, Thailand, next week. We want to wish the whole team good luck and look forward to hearing about all the results.

Also this week Secondary Sports Day is taking place on Friday (weather permitting). The House Captains have been working really hard to get their teams ready. Who will take home the trophy this year? Will it be Sulug, Sapi or Gaya? Good luck to all the secondary students taking part, let's see if we can break some school records!

PE Department

## New Sport in the Curriculum

In the last week before half-term break, Year 9 were able to experience playing Floorball for the first time. They took part in a trial training session run by members of Sabah's Floorball Association. Floorball is a type of floor hockey and originated in Sweden and was one of the new sports seen at the recent SEA Games.

The students had a great time trying their hand at a new and challenging fast paced sport with many students taking to it extremely well.

As the trial session was such a resounding success, Floorball has now been added to expand and diversify the Secondary PE curriculum. For the remainder of the term, all students in Years 7-10 will be taking part in weekly sessions developing their skills and understanding of this popular and growing sport.

Ms Catriona Watt

**Head of PE and Sport**

