



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.

12th January 2018

From the Principal

Welcome to Term 2

Welcome to Term 2! It has been wonderful to see everyone return this week, with bright smiling faces and full of energy for the new term ahead.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to those families who are new to KIS. Please do make yourself known to your son/daughter's teachers and to other parents. We do hope that you will settle into the KIS family very quickly. If there is anything we can do assist you please do not hesitate to ask. We have an active PTA at the school, who are very happy to help. Once again, welcome!

Welcome back to all our returning families. I do hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing Christmas holiday with family and friends. The term ahead promises to be a very busy one, with lots of different learning activities taking place. Please do check the school calendar online for further information.

Morning Drop Off

As parents will be aware the traffic in the morning is currently very busy. To help make your morning drop off a little easier, the school has decided that students may be dropped off from 7am onwards (rather than 7.15am which has been the policy). Staff will now be on duty from 7am to supervise students. Parents are asked not to drop off students any earlier than 7am, as students will not be allowed to enter the school campus until 7am when supervision is available. We hope this change will make things easier in the morning.

Afternoon Pick Up

Parents are kindly reminded to ensure that their children are collected as soon as possible after school / ECAs finish in the afternoon and that no student supervision is provided after 4.30pm (unless arranged for a specific activity).

Parking in the Mosque Car Park

Over the holiday period the school has invested in extending the gravelled area in the Mosque Car Park to provide more space for parents to park. Parents are respectfully requested to park with consideration of others, in order to maximise the space available. We are hoping this will allow more families to park off the road safely.

ECAs / Clubs

Wow, what a great response to Term 2 ECAs. Many of the Primary clubs are full, with a waiting list! The ECA lists have been posted on the ECA Noticeboard and will be there for all of next week.

ECAs begin next Monday, 15th January, and will run until Friday 23rd March. Payment for all ECA fees is now due at the school office. We appreciate your prompt assistance with this.

Parents wishing to request changes to their child(ren)'s ECAs, are kindly asked to contact the ECA Coordinator at: eca@kis.edu.my. Please note that refunds for 'Paid ECAs' can only be given for withdrawals notified before Friday 19th January, as we then have to pay the activity providers for the children who have registered for each club.

One late change – Warrior Junior Bootcamp has now been opened to students in Year 3, as well as Year 4 to 6. Please email eca@kis.edu.my if you would like your child to join.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Mr Alan Connah
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon 15th January | Term 1 ECAs Start |
| Mon 15th - Fri 19th January | Year 11 Mock Exams |
| Fri 19th - Mon 22nd January: | FOBISIA Swimming Competition, Bangkok |

PRIMARY NEWS

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school after the holiday. I hope that you all had a good break and were able to make some good family memories together. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to KIS.

Before the holiday all students were invited to submit photographs of themselves reading in extreme places, I have had some wonderful entries so far. If your child would still like to submit either a digital or hard copy photograph to me, the closing date will be Monday 22nd January.

Topic Talk Term 2

Due to a change in date for the Year Six residential trip to Penang, the Primary Science Day and Parent Curriculum Topic Talks have now changed to Friday 16th March. The talk and Science Day Assembly will be in the School Hall from 8.00am.

PASS Club

All ECA's were confirmed earlier this week. Please can you ensure that you book a place for your child in PASS Club for any days necessary. Forms can be downloaded from the [website](#) or alternatively they are available from the school office.

Term 2 Curriculum Statements

Curriculum Statements will be sent home next week, if you have any questions about these please contact your child's class teacher directly.

Mrs Nicky Russell
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

Welcome to Term 2

We have a very busy time coming up with many trips, activities, and of course, lessons! Curriculum statements will be sent out next week and parents will be able to see exactly what their children will be doing in their classrooms. I never fail to be struck by the wide range of what is on offer and I know that our students really enjoy and appreciate all of the exciting learning that they are exposed to in and outside of the classroom. We have more trips than ever on offer, from Duke of Edinburgh to Drama to Sports to Science to Geography to Art, and more. Students remember these events years into the future and they gain so much from them. Thanks must go to parents for their support, and to teachers and school staff who put a lot of time into the organisation of school events and trips.

Next week is particularly important for Year 11 as they take their Mock IGCSE examinations. On Tuesday afternoon Mr Barker spoke to them all and outlined the importance of the exams, the organisational details and the implications for the remaining time before the actual exams in May and June. We are aiming to send a Mock Report home by the 26th of January and that is followed by Parents Afternoon on the 29th of January. More information about that event will be sent out in the near future. We wish Year 11 the best of luck in the exams!

In this newsletter, Mr Withers looks back and into the future. Read what he says about the 2017 Spellathon Final and the Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey preparation!

Mrs Renshaw
Assistant Principal/Head of Secondary

Key Stage 3 Spellathon

During the final half term before Christmas, along with working hard on their set texts and topics, Key Stage 3 English classes also used some of their time in lessons to compete in several preliminary rounds of a Spellathon competition, all in preparation for the Spellathon Final, which took place as part of the Celebration Assembly on the last day of term.

A winning entrant was decided on from each tutor group, and a nervous sense of excitement and anticipation filled the hall as the finalists took their seats ready to tackle those hard-to-remember and tricky words chosen for the big occasion.

After several tense elimination rounds, it eventually came down to two final competitors; both of whom did particularly well considering they are in Year 7!

A close fought final round of brain-teasing spellings followed before a winner was crowned and a trophy presented to the 2017 KIS Spellathon Champion – Jed from 7K!

Then followed an annual tradition at KIS – the Staff Spellathon! After a couple of rounds of fierce competition, it all came down to Mrs Davis and Mr Davis! It seemed like nothing would separate these two master-spellers, until finally Mrs Davis defeated Mr Davis and our Staff Spellathon Champion was crowned amid supportive cheers from the crowd!

Congratulations to Jed and Mrs Davis, along with all the other finalists for showing outstanding spelling ability! Also thanks must go to all sixth formers who helped to mark the student answers, Mrs Renshaw, Mr Bryant and Mr Withers for hosting the event, and the English Department for all the time spent in lessons covering spelling. I wonder who'll win next year...?

Mr Withers
Teacher of English

Duke of Edinburgh - Tenting!

Tuesday's latest Duke of Edinburgh session after school saw our entrants tackling the tricky task of putting up (and then taking down) the tents they will be using on both their Practice and Assessed Adventurous Journeys later this academic year.

After Ms McNutt's thorough explanation, our teams were left to attempt to recreate her perfectly constructed sleeping quarters on their own – initially with mixed results. Poles, guylines and plenty of head-scratching all around but as happens with the Duke of Edinburgh, our groups pulled together, worked as teams, and before too long the school field was filled with stable, solid tents any adventurer would be proud to call home after a long day on the road [or in the jungle!]. Then came the even more fun part...taking them down again...

Next week – cooking with Trangias! Yum!

Mr Withers

PTA NEWS

New Friends Coffee Morning

Welcome to all our new families this term. We are very lucky at KIS to have a group of parents who run the New Friends Team, which aims to support new families as they join the KIS community.

This morning the New Friends Team are hosting a Coffee Morning at Haru Cafe, from 8am - 10am for new families. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

The PTASC would like to thank the New Friends Team for all the hard work they have put into welcoming all the new families to KIS.

PTASC