



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for Term 2, and a warm welcome to new students and parents. Already students and teachers are well settled into the rhythm and routine of school life, with a number of co-curricular activities also occurring. Our congratulations to the following groups: the Cheerleaders CCA on their top Singapore team placing at the recent regional championships; the school Debating team on their continued success; the Ambassadors for their promotion of EmancipAsia's work on Human Trafficking at Holland Village last weekend; the students who participated in a service trip to Cambodia and a Drama trip to Taiwan over the break; the Year 1 students on successfully completing their week at Camp Challenge; and the other individuals and groups highlighted in other parts of this newsletter.

Many thanks to the parents who attended last week's interactive strategic planning meeting which will help shape the new strategic plan. Overall the parents who were present reported a high level of satisfaction with the education their students are receiving at ACS (International), particularly the international curriculum and holistic focus, the strong pastoral care and strong relationships between students and teachers, the value-added academic achievement and the supportive teaching and learning environment. Areas for improvement included more specific feedback to students on how to improve their grades; continuity of tutor from year to year; the development of an interactive parent portal on the school website; and an enhanced focus on career education for students. All school community members are welcome to give further feedback via the Principal's Secretary which will be considered as we draft the new plan this term.

We trust that the Parent Teacher Meeting on Wednesday was useful and effective for all who participated, and that specific feedback on student progress and how to improve their grades was helpful. We were very pleased with the high turnout and the overall interaction between parents, students and teachers.

This term in Chapel and assemblies the themes have related to the life and ministry of Jesus, and coping with adversity. As we approach Easter we are again reminded of the supreme sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross and of his resurrection three days later. The death and resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is a foundation of the Christian faith and it has given Christians "a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". 1 Peter 1:3. In other words, the resurrection of Christ is the cause and source of our new birth into God's family and the hope we have of our full inheritance as family members when Jesus comes again.

With best wishes for the term ahead and for the celebration of Easter.

Rob Burrough



April 2014

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DID YOU KNOW ?

A group of Rhinos is called a crash

NOTICES**HAZE and Possible School Closure**

If Haze levels rise ACS (International) will follow the protocol approved by the MoE and other International Schools of Singapore when deciding whether to close the school or not. The National Environment Agency publishes the official PSI readings twice a day at 7 am and at 5 pm on their official site www.nea.gov.sg/psi/

We follow the standard guidelines which include:

- Above 100: No outdoor activities
- Higher than 300: Closure of school

Depending on the Haze reading taken at 5 pm the school will make the decision on the possible closure of the school on the following day. Families will be informed by SMS if the school is to be closed. The school will also contact families by SMS to advise of the reopening of the school.

It is therefore vital that we have up-to-date contact details for phone, email and address.

Please communicate all new details to our Data Management Assistant at: Rosdiawati@acsinternational.com.sg. Thank you for your support to ensure the safety of our students.

STAFF NEWS

We welcome Mr Philip Tan to the Music Department to replace external tutors. Mr Tan has extensive experience in both secondary and tertiary institutions including Lasalle College of the Arts, NAFA, and the Republic and Ngee Ann Polytechnics.

Our thanks to Mr Ho Wee Kwang for returning to the Physics Department this past term until the arrival of Mrs Manjari Sreedharan next week. Mrs Sreedharan joins us from the National Public School International Singapore where she has been HoD Physics teaching both IBDP & IGCSE.

**What Type of School Are We?**

Parents were thoughtful and engaged as they worked in groups at last week's Strategic Planning meeting

**Founder's Day, UK**

Ex-student Joshua Wong and former students from all ACS schools studying in the UK celebrated Founder's Day with Guest of Honour Rev. Dr John Barrett at a hotel in London on the same day as their Singapore counterparts.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Chinese Drama CCA Trip to Taiwan

During the March holiday, members of the Chinese Drama CCA group went on a 10-day theatre learning and experiential journey in Taiwan.

They travelled to three cities: Taipei, Yilan and Miaoli, attended workshops by established theatre director, and watched performances at the famous 牯岭街小剧场 (Gulingjie Black Box Theatre).



Students also enjoyed the rare opportunity to go behind scenes and to watch how a company brings a piece of performance from Miaoli to Taipei (from full dress rehearsal to technical bump-in to actual performance).



Within this short trip, students are introduced to a wide range of work, from man-size puppetry, mask and Greek work, to contemporary works. Besides learning the art of performing, students took time to visit museums, bookstores, cafes, night markets etc, all of which exhibits a strong part of the Taiwanese culture. All in all, students found the trip a valuable learning experience.

Debating

In the compulsory Preliminary Round 3 of the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships 2014 held on 14 March, our debate team consisting of Charles Fuad (4CKS), Lim Mun Yiang (3SVM) and Naveen Venkat (3THO), opposed the motion 'This House Believes that the Costs of Space Exploration Outweigh the Benefits'. Our debaters won this round against Jurong Secondary School with a unanimous verdict, with Charles Fuad named Best Speaker. Congratulations debaters!

Cheerleading Success

Last weekend our cheerleader girls, the AC Pistols, took part in the Asian Cheerleading Invitational Championships (ACIC) held at the D'Marquee in Downtown East. The competition involved many elite teams from the region including those from Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia as well as Singapore. Assessed according to their skill level as well as stunt routine the girls were placed in the Senior All-girls Level 4 Category, together with 7-time local National Champions, the MG Sizzlers.

As it was the first time many of our girls had participated in such a competition, they spent much of the morning taking in the atmosphere, feeling both excited and extremely nervous. After a wonderful performance against some very tough competition, the girls achieved a fantastic 4th placing in their category, overcoming the local frontrunners MG Sizzlers along the way. They had just become the highest ranked local school team in their sport! Well done girls!

"All the tears, sweat and effort spent training for our routine had finally paid off! This experience has made us grow much closer as a team and also much more confident in ourselves. This achievement would not be possible if not for our coaches, and also our teachers who guided, encouraged and never stopped believing in us. It was wonderful to see so many of our friends and family at the competition cheering for us. This has truly been an amazing experience and we will definitely aim to excel not only locally but also regionally next year!"

Kezia Tan
Captain (Cheerleading CCA)

NTU IEEE Talent Search

A team of six students, namely Xu Hao Nan (Y5LSG), Fan Fan (Y6LSG), Lin Chen Yu (Y6TCT), Zulkamain Ghaza (Y6CKS), Lim Yu Kai (Y6GHK), Fernando Edbert (Y6GHK), accompanied by two teachers took part in the annual NTU Talent search under the auspices of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers on Saturday 22 March. This search encompassed an online preliminary quiz which was designed to test the mettle of the students in terms of thinking on their feet and answering unfamiliar questions drawn from History, Music, Geography, Literature, Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. The team emerged second best overall with Lin Chen Yu and Lim Yu Kai scoring most points for the team and consequently they were presented with a Capital Mall Voucher worth SGD 80.00 each. All students were presented with certificates of participation at the end of the event and had an enriching experience.

Netball



The U19 Netball teams are half way through their ACSIS League and have achieved some excellent results:

U19 A's:

vs TTS C	L 15-18
vs UWC Dover B	W 14-11
vs SJII B	W 31-5
vs OFS A	W 31-7

U19 B's:

vs AIS Orange	L 8-9
vs SJII C	W 13-12
vs TTS D	L 15-28
vs UWC Dover C	W 13-7

U19 C's:

vs UWC Dover C	D 7-7
vs SJII D	W 20-1

Matches are played on Tuesday afternoons at Tanglin Trust School or Kallang Netball Centre (15 and 22 April only). All support welcome.

A date for the diary: Saturday 3 May will be the second year of the annual ACS (International) Sports Tournament where teams and clubs from Singapore as well as overseas teams will compete to be U14 and U16 Netball champions – please come along and support our teams.

UNLOCK - Ambassadors Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking



"Truth sets people free". This is the slogan that the Ambassadors used for UNLOCK – an outdoor, experiential learning activity about human trafficking and modern-day slavery. This was an event where ACS (International) joined forces with EmancipAsia on 29 March at Holland Village Park to help raise awareness about human trafficking. The Ambassadors took on various

identities as slaves and 'locked' their hands with plastic chains, symbolizing bondage then along with their student partners they approached members of the public to raise awareness of the issue via an online survey about human trafficking. Overall a tally of 530 interviewees was achieved!



It was not only the numerical value that stunned us but more so, the fact that only a small percentage

of the public was aware about this tragic and cruel practice and were aware about the severity of modern day slavery. All in all, we were glad that we were able to lift the awareness levels of the public we interacted with. We were satisfied with the hard work put in throughout the whole process of preparing as well as executing this event. Great Work, Ambassadors!

*Naveen Venkat
(3-Thoburn)*

Steps in the Park

EmancipAsia is holding a 5km run/walk tomorrow Saturday 5 April at 7.30am in the Silver Garden, Gardens by the Bay with the aim of enabling people to 'take their first step' toward understanding modern-day slavery and human trafficking. The Guest of Honour is Madam Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament. The school through the Ambassadors is strongly supporting this event.

EmancipAsia T Shirt Design

Two Year 6 students, Ramida Hanratanakool and Dong Yingxin, are two of the top three finalists for the Steps in the Park T Shirt Design Competition. The designs will be voted on site at Steps in the Park. The winner receives a \$200 Capita Voucher and the design will be made into the T-shirt for sale online as well as for future EmancipAsia events. In addition, Glynnis Goh, Daniel Liew and Clara Hong, all in Year 5, are the top-three winners for the Facebook Voting prize. They each receive a \$30 Capita Voucher.

ASXC 2014: An opportunity for Year 1 and 2 Students

The Amazing Science-X Challenge (ASXC) is back to seek more amazing X-hibits with the X-factor. Jointly organised by DSO National Laboratories (DSO), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Science Centre Singapore (SCS), the ASXC is part of DSO's Amazing Series of Competitions, and is all about letting youthful creative sparks make science come alive! Imaginative, resourceful and eager-to-surprise teams are challenged to design and build innovative exhibits that best explain their selected physical science phenomena.

Register by 11 April 2014 to qualify for the Early Bird 40% discount on the registration fee. Information and relevant details can be found in the ASXC website.

Registration is via the ASXC online portal at www.dsoamazingcompetitions.com.sg/asxc or the ASXC Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/the.asxc.

The ASXC 2014 Competition starts on 16 September (moving in and setting up) and ends on 19 September 2014 (prize-giving). For further enquiries, please call 64252370 or email asxc@science.edu.sg. Registration is now open for any Year 1 and 2 students. If you are interested, please give your name to Ms Cheryl Seah, Ms Kom Kuppusamy or Mrs Phua Mui Kiam by 4 April.

Theory of Knowledge Lectures for Year 6 Students

Year 6 students have been working on the compulsory Theory of Knowledge (ToK) essay since the six prescribed essay titles were received in early March. The time frame for the stages of essay preparation is posted on ManageBAC for the information and action of students.

Related to ToK essay preparation, we are pleased to announce that two external lecturers from the consultancy organization FINDINGS - Dr Alistair Chew and Dr Wong Heng Vee - will deliver one-hour lectures on Tuesday 8 April and Wednesday 9 April to ACS (International) students. The lectures are designed firstly to give TOK students an overview of the key features of the Areas of Knowledge. Secondly, the lecturers will look at how the TOK prescribed essays will fit into the Areas of Knowledge framework.

ICAS 2014: An opportunity for all Year 3 Students

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is a highly regarded assessment programme for schools offering examinations in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science and Writing. ICAS is organised by The University of New South Wales. The cost fee of \$9 per student will be waived by the school.

Results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. The students will receive comprehensive hard copy and online reports on their performance in each subject. This year all Year 3 students will be entered in Science which involves being given an hour to attempt 45 multiple choice questions. It will take place on Tuesday 22 April from 3.15 to 4.15pm in the Science laboratories. Students will be required to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding across five skills areas of observing / measuring, interpreting, predicting / concluding, investigating and reasoning / problem solving.

For more information you can visit the UNSW Singapore Office website at www.singapore.unsw.edu.au/ICAS/about-icas. Alternatively you can email to Mr Hong Ching Chong, the teacher in charge of this competition at chingchong.hong@acsinternational.com.sg for any clarifications.

Your child can also prepare for ICAS using Practice Online. Practice Online tests are available for English, Mathematics and Science. Find out more about Practice Online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL	EVENT
4 / 5	• House Leaders Leadership Camp
7	• Inter-Schools Golf Championships
10	• Inter-House Badminton
11 / 12	• School Leadership Camp
14 - 16	• Religious Emphasis Week
18	• Good Friday – No School
25 / 26	• House Leaders Leadership Camp • ACS(Barker Road) Drama Production <i>Chosen: A Musical on the Life of Paul</i>
30	• International Day + International Day Fiesta

MAY	EVENT
1	• Labour Day – No School
1 - 3	• Year 5 Ecology Field Trip – Tioman Island

A MATTER OF HEART AND LIFE
DISCIPLESHIP
 IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

ALDRSGATEsg
 2014 MAY 22-25
aldersgate.methodist.org.sg

SPECIAL SPEAKER **The Rev Dr David Lowes Watson**
 Eminent Wesleyan Scholar, Author and Methodist Minister
 Tennessee Conference, The United Methodist Church

ALDRSGATEsg
 2014
CONVENTION

7.45 pm • Toa Payoh Methodist Church

The Rev Dr David Lowes Watson
 Eminent Wesleyan Scholar, Author and Methodist Minister
 Tennessee Conference, The United Methodist Church

Thursday, May 22:
"Born of the Spirit"
 Sin is not our fault, we are born into it. But it becomes our fault when we try to deny our condition. We need to be "born of the Spirit", which in itself is a dynamic process from conception to birth to growth.

Friday, May 23:
"Salvation and Discipleship"
 There were two tracks in the ministry of Jesus – salvation, and discipleship. Each was clearly distinct. All are offered salvation in Christ, but not everyone is called to discipleship. This insight could greatly strengthen pastoral leadership, both clergy and laity.

Saturday, May 24:
"Anointed by the Spirit of the Lord"
 What do you do after your heart is warmed? On this final evening, the **Aldersgate Service** will be celebrated with Dr Watson preaching to commemorate Wesley's heart-warming experience on May 24, 1738, and how he proclaimed the gospel for the next five decades, forming the societies that would become the Methodist Church.

ALDRSGATEsg
 2014
SEMINAR

9 am to 1 pm • Aldersgate Methodist Church

The Rev Dr David Lowes Watson

Saturday, May 24:
Covenant Discipleship
 Based on the early Methodist Class Meeting, Covenant Discipleship is a practical way of mutual support and accountability in the Christian life.
 Registration required - <http://tinyurl.com/covenantdiscipleshipseminar> or contact David Chan: 6773-1964, davidchan@aldersgate.sg

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 2014
PRaise FESTIVAL
A Celebration of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs
 7.30 pm • Toa Payoh Methodist Church

Sunday, May 25
 With the Methodist Praise Festival Choir

Organized by
THE METHODIST CHURCH IN SINGAPORE
 ☎ 6478-4728
 ✉ communications@methodist.org.sg

International Day Fiesta
 Wednesday 30 April 2014

"He who is different from me does not impoverish me - he enriches me"
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

International Day has always been an integral part of the school calendar – a celebration of the cultural diversity that is one of the defining characteristics and strengths of ACS (International).

The PSP supports this exciting and fun-filled event by setting up food stalls with an international flavour.

In previous years, parents have sponsored food items or contributed delicious home-made dishes as well as helped out with the food sales.

This year, we would truly appreciate it if you could volunteer your time to help on the day itself.

Please let us know, via acspsp.net@gmail.com, if you are able to assist, and we will get back to you with more details.

We look forward to hearing from you!

PSP Exco



Higher Education Fair 2014

Friday, April 4
4.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Discuss your education plans, talk to admissions officers and get some inside tips on the university application process.

Participating Institutions:

- National University of Singapore
- Nanyang Technological University
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
- Singapore Institute of Technology
- SIM Global Education
- Yale-NUS Singapore
- LaSalle College of the Arts
- British Council Singapore (Study in the UK)
- University of Warwick
- IDP (Study in Australia)
- James Cook University (Singapore Campus)
- University of Melbourne
- USEIC (Study in the USA)
- Haverford College (US)
- George Washington University (US)
- DAAD – (Study in Germany)
- Italian Cultural Institute (Study in Italy)
- Swissnex Singapore (Study in Switzerland)
- Swiss Education Group
- Study in Canada
- Testtakers Singapore
- ICON – The Test Preparation Specialist
- Knowledge Intellegentia Enterprise Pte Lte – (Study in New Zealand)
- MDIS
- Kaplan
- SP Jain School of Global Management



University Visits (in School)



Northeastern University
Thursday, April 10 @ 11 am
Booth in the Canteen



University Of Sydney
Monday, April 21 @ 11 am
Booth in the Canteen



London School of Economics
Presentation in the Seminar Room
Friday, May 2 @ 11.30 am



Le Cordon Bleu
Monday, May 5th @ 11 am
Booth in the Canteen

