



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Birthdays are family occasions and times of celebration, remembrance and opportunities which serve to strengthen the bonds which hold families together. Founder's Day is our ACS family birthday celebration and last Friday we celebrated 129 years since Bishop Oldham established the first ACS school and 10 years since Bishop Solomon dedicated ACS (International). Our Guest of Honour, Lieutenant General Winston Choo (retired) is an ACS Old Boy whose service culminated in his appointment as Singapore's Chief of Defence Force from 1974 to 1992. After a military career spanning 33 years, he held diplomatic appointments as Singapore's envoy to Australia, Fiji, South Africa, Papua New Guinea and Israel. He is also a former chairman of the Singapore Red Cross Society. Lt General Choo spoke about cherishing the time we have at school, making and keeping good school friends, and doing our very best both in and out of the classroom. He stated that his ACS education prepared him well for a life time of service, helping develop his character and his integrity, and enabling him to endure on the battlefield. He remembered that he was one of the first ACSians to make the military a career at a time when most of his contemporaries were entering business or the professions via university.

At Founder's Day we also launched SG50 ACTs – a joint initiative from the six ACS schools to celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday. The six schools will undertake a total of over 50 Acts of Service during 2015, both in Singapore and abroad. ACS (International) is contributing 10 Acts and supporting two combined ACS projects. The first combined project was completed last week and featured ACS (International), ACS Barker and ACS Primary working together to produce a 30m long mural in the upgraded Amoy Street Hawker Centre. Amoy Street was the site of the first ACS school. See elsewhere for photos.

Our Founder's Day celebration was also attended by Board chairman Mr Tan Wah Thong and members of the Board of Management; and the ceremony featured musical and dance performances by our students ranging from classical music to modern dance.

On Sunday a number of Board, staff and students attended the annual ACS Sunday church service at our Holland Village Methodist Church and later that evening the Founder's Day dinner hosted by the ACSOBA.

Next week is the last week of term and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable week's break from lessons.

Best wishes

**Rob Burrough**



ACS (International)

March 2015

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## NOTICES

### Staff News

This week we welcomed Ms Mae-lee Gibson from Australia to the Art Department. Her classes had been taken by Mrs Christine Ang until her arrival. We thank Mrs Ang for her hard work over the past two months.

Mrs Alice Wong and Ms Cynthia Navamani have both started maternity leave and we wish them well for the impending births. Their classes have been taken by Miss Elfin Koo and Mrs Diana See respectively.

We also welcome Miss May Yu Zaw who has joined the Biology Department as a result of roll growth.

The Staff played the Students at netball recently. The final score was 8-4 to the girls. We will have our revenge...

### Reports and Parent Teacher Meeting Change of Date

Due to the clash with Easter and Religious Emphasis Week we have had to change the date of the first PTM from 31 March to Tuesday 7 April. Our apologies for any inconvenience. A reminder that Term 1 reports will be available on ISAMS from 5.00pm today Friday 6 March.

### CPD Days

On the following dates and times students are not required at school unless advised as the staff will be undertaking professional development activities:

- *Friday 13 March* – classes finish at 11.30am.
- *Monday 6 July (formerly declared as Youth Day)* – no classes.
- *Tuesday 7 July* – only Year 4 and 6 students writing Prelim Examinations are required at school.

Note: Youth Day has been shifted to Monday 27 July. We will be holding classes as normal that day.

### 10th Anniversary

To help capture photographic memories of the past 10 years of ACS (International) a special website has been set up by Campaign.com (operated by ACS International alumni) and is now open to anyone from the ACS family to upload photos etc. The link is [www.campaign.com/ACSinTerNational/](http://www.campaign.com/ACSinTerNational/)

Click "Join Campaign" to upload your photo entries or

1. Whatsapp your photo entries to +65 8100 0190 with your full name, email, photo caption, and the hashtag #ACSinTerNational or
2. Email your photo entries to [join@campaign.com](mailto:join@campaign.com).

The PSP is running a photo competition with prizes for the top photos.

### Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day

Due to the heavy congestion at the school gate by both vehicles and foot traffic we are restricting vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7.30 and 8.10am. This took effect from Monday 12 January.

This means that parents will not be able to enter the school grounds to drop off their children. All drop offs must be outside the main gate at the drop off zone. On wet days however, parents will still be able to access the covered drop off zone outside the Administration Block. With an increased roll there is increased congestion at the school entrance and students on foot are contributing to that. Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off their children.



### ICAS Science 2015: 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. All Year 3 students will enter the Science competition. The cost fee of \$9 per student will be covered by the school and results will be available to parents and students online.

The Science test involves being given an hour to attempt 45 multiple choice questions. It will take place on Tuesday 21 April from 3.30 to 4.30pm 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online).

### School Service Trips

The following service trips are offered in 2015 and still have spaces available. Some trips are for Year 5 only and others are mixed groups.

Trips 2015	Teachers
<b>East Africa</b> Kenya - May 31 <sup>st</sup> -11 June (Target group: Years 3,4,5) Max 35 Cost: 5480 SGD <b>Deadline for deposit of \$1000: Friday 13 March</b> <b>Status: Vacancies available</b>	Ms Stacey I/C Mr Rob Burrough I/C Mrs Viv Burrough Mr Hong Ching Chong
<b>Western Australia</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> -15/16 <sup>th</sup> Sept ( Target group: Year 2+3) Max 35 Cost: Approximately 4500 SGD Itinerary will be available in the school's intranet over the next two weeks. <b>Status: Vacancies Available</b>	Ms Anna Hammonds Ms Rachel Mc Callum I/C Mr Jonathan Remington I/C
<b>Cambodia</b> June 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> (Target group: Year ) Max 20 Cost: 1280 SGD <b>Status: Available</b>	Mr Richard MacLean (Vice Principal) Mrs Marguerite MacLean
<b>India, Kochi</b> (Target group: Year ) 6 <sup>st</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Sept Max: 30 students Cost: 1850 SGD <b>Status: Vacancies Available</b>	Mrs Susan George I/C Mr Choong Kiat I/C Mrs Victoria Sargent

Please note that all detailed itineraries are available on the school's intranet under Co-curricular/ Service trips.

#### Service trip to KOCHI (6-11/Sept/2015) - Why Kochi?

- Historic, Scenic, Vivid Cultures
- Direct access to Singapore – Singapore airlines flies everyday (4 hour flight)
- Combined aspects of CAS components – Service, Learning new ideas, practical aspects of eco-conservation, community interaction, Learning new skills
- Action – Canoeing, Beach games, working at house construction
- Service - Teaching SOS Children a game, clearing litter from beach
- New learning – Traditional fishing, brick laying
- Planning and initiation – Community cooking, coordination and arrangement of building materials at site
- Engagement with issues of global importance – economically and ecologically sustainable development of a community.

Video clip of the previous trip:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O96NWHrT\\_R0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O96NWHrT_R0)

### USA Trip 2015

The Higher Education Department and Business/Economics Department is organising a trip to USA (New York and Boston) from 29 May to 8 June 2015. This is the 5th year in which the two departments are collaborating and organising the trip. The objectives are to visit several US renowned universities and business/economics establishments. The universities include:

- 1) Harvard
- 2) Boston University
- 3) New York University
- 4) MIT
- 5) Northeastern University
- 6) Pace University
- 7) Fordham University
- 8) Tufts University

These visits also include catching up with some of ACS International ex-students who are studying in some the universities there. There will be a campus tour and a chance for the students to learn the specific requirements of the different universities. Business/Economic establishments to visit include visits to the UN headquarters, MIT Museum, Federal Reserve Bank and a presentation/visit to Au Bon Pain/New Balance to understand their success in their business strategies.

There are a limited number of spaces left. Interested students/parents please email:

[Pamela.ng@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:Pamela.ng@acsinternational.com.sg) by 9 March.

### Thinkers' Day

The inaugural Thinkers' Day will be held at ACS (International) on 14 March 2015. Theme: *Singapore and Her Foreign Workforce: Crossing Borders and Cultures.*

Three of our student leaders who are Youth Ambassadors of REACH (Singapore) initiated and directed this project to facilitate understanding and reflection of an issue that concerns Singapore and many countries with a large foreign workforce. Participants get to actively engage in learning and discussing issues relating to intercultural relations and cross border challenges. The guest of Honour is Ms Grace Fu, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

Programme:

- Talks by leaders from NGOs, including Debbie Fordyce, Executive Committee Member of Transient Workers Count Too, 2011 International Woman of the Year (awarded by AWA Singapore)
- Dialogue sessions with members of the foreign workforce
- Presentations of ideas by small groups
- Dialogue session with Ms Grace Fu, where participants are encouraged to post their questions for discussion
- Tea with Ms Grace Fu, for students to relate with the Minister informally

This is a great platform for development of global citizenship.

## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### Founder's Day Award Winners

The following premier awards were presented by Guest of Honour Lt General Winston Choo at last Friday's Founder's Day celebration.

#### Han Pok Fong Award – for Top Academic Student

Year 6 – Shasta Kaul

Year 4 – Nikkei Martono

#### OBA Award for Top All-Round Student

Year 6 (Gold)

– Tiara Joy Foo and Aimee Griffiths

OBA Year 4 (Gold)

– Charles Fuad

OBA Year 4 (Silver)

– Sandhya Selvakumar

### Debating



In the Singapore Secondary Schools Debate Championships 2015, our debate team proved their mettle, winning both the first and second compulsory preliminary rounds. In round 1, the team of Dhruv Uppal (GHK), Naveen Venkat (THO), Jeriel Lim Jie Rui (OLD) and Leo Koo Ja Hyun Koo (TCT) opposed the motion 'This house would require companies to pay their interns'. In round 2, they proposed the motion 'This house believes that voluntary euthanasia should be legal'. Dhruv was named Best Speaker for both debates. With two wins behind them the team look forward to the compulsory third preliminary round.

### Amoy Street Mural



The above photos show progress towards completing the 30m mural painted by ACS (International) students and staff assisted by ACS Barker and ACS Primary.

### Fencing



Aloysius Low has been selected in the Singapore Men's Team to represent Singapore in this year's SEA Games in June. Aloysius is in the red helmet on right.

### Tennis

Over the past two months our Under 19 tennis boys competed in the season 2 ACSIS U19 tournament coming third despite entering the tournament the first time. They played against UWC Dover, UWC East, Canadian International School and Stamford American International School.

### Football CCA

We've had a very busy football schedule since the second week of school. The junior boys competed in the ACSIS Under-14 Division 3 tournament. Many of our players were new Year 1s, but they gave their best in every game. After 6 matches, they won 3, drew 1 & lost 2 to finish 4th. The intermediate boys took part in the Singapore Schools Sports Council's 'B' Division South Zone competition. This has always been a difficult competition for our boys, largely due to the lack of training opportunities prior to the first match. After 5 first round matches, they won 1, drew 1 & lost 3 to finish 4th, ahead of ACS (Independent).

The senior boys are the midst of the AIS Cup, organised by the Australian International School. There are 8 schools competing - AIS, OFS, LFS (2 teams), GESS, SACAC, SJII & us. To date, they have played 3 matches, winning against SJII (3-2), drawing with LFS2 (2-2) & narrowly losing to SACAC (0-1). For now they are in 3rd place but there are still 4 matches to play. The initial target is a top 4 finish, so as to qualify for the Playoffs in May. Towards the end of March, 20 of these boys will be selected to represent the school in the President's Challenge Cup. This is the premier Singapore schools' football tournament for boys under-20.

On Saturday 28/2, as part of the Founder's Day celebrations, a team of senior & intermediate boys took part in the ACS Past vs Present 9-a-side tournament organised by the ACSOBA. The team played very well through the group stage but were unfortunate to lose 1-0 in the semi-finals to ACS (Independent). They finished 3rd after beating ACS 1985 in the 3rd/4th place playoff. Congratulations to ACS (Independent) for winning the day and being an extremely good host.

### Volleyball CCA



The school Volleyball teams have been heavily involved in competition since the New Year with both boys and girls Under 19's teams having made a great start to the season competing in an open-aged tournament held at UWC Dover on Sunday evenings. The competition standard is very high with both university and adults clubs competing alongside high school teams. So far the ACS (International) Girls teams have recorded victories over the Overseas Family School and the Singapore American School. The Boys team has managed to overcome the 'International Kakis' and UWC Dover to maintain their 100% winning record in the competition.



In another competition the ACS (International) Girls team won silver medal in a 1-day tournament held at ACS (International). Playing 4 games back to back, our girls showed great determination and stamina only to be beaten in a close final against the American Volleyball Academy.

### Lunar New Year - Ambassador Event

On the 13 January, as part of our Lunar New Year celebration and partnership with Methodist Welfare Services, our school played host to ten elderly visitors from Bethany Home.



Bethany home visitors watching the celebration with SME

The wheelchair bound elderly visitors were all treated to a sumptuous meal in the school canteen and were accompanied by the student Ambassadors who had lunch with them and who conversed with them in Chinese. It was an enriching experience for both the school ambassadors and the elderly as the meeting was akin to the bridging of two generations. To celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year, the visitors also participated in the Loi Hei activity.

Following that, they were our special guests-of-honour at our school's Chinese New Year Celebration. While there, they had the opportunity to enjoy the festivities with the entertaining performances such as a gravity-defying lion dance. Many of the elderly expressed joy at the sight of the exciting performances and were all applauding each performance.

They clearly enjoyed themselves immensely and were all smiles when they departed school. The school is proud and thankful to have had the chance of to share the Lunar New Year joy with the residents of Bethany Home.

*Richard Zhao, Ambassador & 6TKK*



### Chinese Department Celebrates Lunar New Year



Before the Chinese New Year, the Chinese Department brought various groups of students learning Chinese in Year 3 and 4 to Chinatown's New Year Festive Market. Once there the students were immersed in the festive atmosphere and saw different types of New Year decorations and goodies.



During the last week of Chinese New Year, the Chinese classes also celebrated "Yuan Xiao" (元宵) in class, by learning how to make the Chinese Dumplings (汤圆). Students were introduced to the food origin and legends, followed by hands-on making Dumpling sessions.



## Founder's Day

### Student Reflection

This year marks more than just one anniversary; not only is it the 129th Founder's Day but the 130th anniversary of the Methodist Church, ACS International's 10th year as a school and part of the ACS Family and Singapore's 50 years of Independence. We have come so far as a family - the ACS Family - and as we move forward, we can only grow.

Founder's Day officially commenced with the march-in of the National Flags of numerous countries after the arrival of the Guest of Honour and our Principal, Vice-Principals and the Board of Management. The March-in was a display of ACS International's diversity with 34 flags participating followed by the singing of Singapore's National Anthem; the Pledge, honouring the country that ACS has made its home in; then the Hymn - To God Be the Glory was sung by the school to emphasise the unity between Founder's Day and the Methodist Church through music.

After our Principal gave his words of welcome and introduced the SG50ActS, we were graced with moving renditions of classical pieces by the String Orchestra. Following the performance was the Bishop's Message read by Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian which strengthened the importance of Methodist values in school and within the family. We thank Mr Oon Jin Gee for conveying the ACSOBA President's Message.

A video presentation was then shown illustrating the evolution of ACS, surviving the tests of time, tracing back to when we were a small building in Amoy Street. The video was insightful as it educates us of our rich history and that we are capable of great things. A refreshing vocal performance of "I'd Rather Be" by Shawnia Seah (3 TCT) & Arnell Nur Karina (5 THO) and a dance performance "Dancin' Happiness" by the dance crew Hype DC heightened the mood.

The highlight of the morning was the award ceremony. Our Vice Principal, Ms Kathleen Manley, read the citations for the prize recipients before our Guest of Honour presented the prizes to the students. The Han Pok Fong Awards by Mr. Han Seng Juan were given to Shasta Kaul and Nikkei Martono for their excellent achievements. We congratulate Shasta for being the first ACS (International) student to be accepted into Oxford. In addition,



ACSOBA medals were awarded to Aimee Griffiths, Tiara Joy Foo, Charles Fuad and Sandhya Selvakumar for their outstanding all round results.

The Guest of Honour, Lt. General (Ret) Winston Choo Wee Leong graciously shared his experiences in school and his eventful career in the military, being the first of his alumni to set a foothold in this profession. Being the first Chief of Defence of the Singapore Armed Forces, he emphasized discipline and teamwork, playing hard and working hard.

Founders' Day ended with a benediction by Reverend Dr. Ngoei, presentation of a memento to the Guest of Honour by Mr Burrough (an artwork of our students Kerdkaewfah Papawarin (2CKS) Ji Hyeon Jo (2SVM) and Qiu Buabucha (1THO) and a reprise of Arlington Sketches by the String Orchestra.

The day ended on an auspicious note with a reception of "Lou Hei" for the Guest of Honour and invited guests.

*Noor Azira Ziara (4-CKS) and Lim Mun Yiang (4-SVM)*



### PSP Report: Coffee Morning and Back to School Party 2015

"When we walk into a school and see parents and teachers working together, in all sorts of roles, it's a sure sign that the school challenges the very best in students and helps all, regardless of race, class, or culture, realize their fullest potential."

- from *The Home-School Team: An Emphasis on Parent Involvement* by James P. Horner and Norris Haynes, Yale Child Study Center.

Sixty parents, more than half of whom are new to ACS (International), attended the first PSP Coffee Morning on 29 January 2015. To them, we say a heartfelt thank you for joining us and making the morning, especially the Q & A session with the Principal, so lively and informative. **We will be organising the next PSP Coffee Morning / Principal's Forum on Thursday, 23 April** so mark this date on your calendars. We will send out more details nearer the date.

The Back to School Party (B2SP) on 12 February was a fun afternoon filled with lots of delicious delicacies, laughter and music. More than twenty parents sponsored a variety of our students' all-time favourite foods and also helped with setting up the stalls and manning them throughout the event. Thank you, parents, for your generosity which contributed towards another successful B2SP organised by the School Student Council. The B2SP also provided a great opportunity for everyone to bond with one another and to learn more about school life at ACS (International).

You may view photos from both these events as well as previous PSP events on this link, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ACS-International-PSP/457464777685030>. Please feel free to email us, on [acspsp.net@gmail.com](mailto:acspsp.net@gmail.com), if you would like to find out more about PSP activities. We always look forward to hearing from you.

PSP Exco



**Back to School Party**

Back to School Party was brought to the students by the PSP and our tenth Student Council. It was a fun and engaging event filled with good food, great music played by our different student-led social bands, booth games and other game activities on stage. Special thanks go to the bands that performed, April and Simon, JINYX and the Korean Band for their wonderful performances at the event. Also thanks to our PSP, the sound equipment from the Music Department and the PA for their great support for this event. 'Minute to Win It' was something new and fresh for our students, and we would like to thank the students from the red, blue and black teams for their participation in the gameshow. We hoped you enjoyed your time as much as we did ☺ Also special congratulations go to the black (Mandy (6 LSG) , Siyue (6 LSG, Richard (6TKK) and red team (Zin (4TKK), Rupasri (4TKK) and Minh Quan (4CKS) who emerged as the victors of the competition. We hope everyone had a pleasant time at the school's party and we hope to see you guys again next year!



**Southeast Asian Mathematics Competition (SEAMC)**



SEAMC is a mathematics competition for schools located in South East Asia and this year was hosted by a group of international schools in Hong Kong. SEAMC has been running for 15 years.



This year, a total of 40 schools, 80 teams and 240 students took part in the competition.

Our two teams comprised the following students

ACS Team 1	ACS Team 2
Zhang Ruiyang 2 THO	Jade Chan 2 SVM
Zhang Wei 3 TCT	Andrea Lim 3 OLD
Christopher Yoon Jae Yon 2 CKS	Samyak Yalvigi 3 LSG

In the individual round, Zhang Ruiyang ranked 13th among the 240 students, while Team 1 ranked 35th among the 80 teams. Our students have done an excellent job and they thoroughly enjoyed the competition.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH	EVENT
9	• U19 Rugby vs SJII
10	• Inter-House Music
11	• U19 Football vs AIS
13	• Spring Dance
14 – 18	• Methodist College Hong Kong Immersion Trip
15 – 22	• Nepal CAS Trip
23	• Term 2 begins
23 – 26	• Public Examinations IGCSE June 2015 Speaking Tests
25	• Public Examinations IB May 2015 Group 1+2 IOC
27	• School Leadership Camp
28	• School Leadership Camp • South East Asia Netball Tournament • Methodist Walk • U19 Football vs LFSI
29	• South East Asia Netball Tournament
30 - 01	• Religious Emphasis Week

APRIL	EVENT
1	• Religious Emphasis Week
2	• Higher Education Fair
3	• Good Friday – No School
7	• Parent Teacher Meeting (please note new date)

## Higher Education Fair 2015

**Thursday, April 2**  
**3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

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

For more information on the Institutions taking part, please email Ms Rita Kaur – [rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg)

