



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

It was pleasing to see the high number of parents and students at this week's Year 4 and Year 6 Parent Teacher Meeting which followed the recent Prelim Examinations. The Prelims are an important guide for students, parents and teachers to ascertain progress towards the all-important external examinations in October and November. They are also good training and practice under examination conditions using examination-standard questions. With eight and nine school weeks left this year respectively we expect the Prelim results to improve in the actual examinations as students reflect on teachers' feedback and continue to study and revise with increasing diligence.

Students are reminded to review the UCanDo study skills notes delivered by Stu Wright last term – particularly his techniques for remembering facts, and his research evidence which suggests that 'chunks' of 40 minutes active revision time interspersed with 10 minute break times are the best combination for effective study. Parents are asked to check with their students that they have a planned study schedule which builds over the coming weeks. (See notices below for study leave times).

In Chapel last week students were encouraged to take action and 'step out of the boat' as Peter did when he walked on water (Matthew 14:22–33). Students were also told about the 70 : 20 : 10 Rule which suggests that 10% of our learning comes from lessons, chapel messages, listening to a speaker etc; 20% comes from mentoring or coaching; and 70% of our learning comes from doing. The disciples had been listening to Jesus (10%); they were mentored by Him (20%); but the best learning was through direct action or doing (70%). Transferring this rule to schooling our encouragement to students therefore is to embed learning from classroom lessons through the 'doing' of active study revision.

Best wishes to all for the month ahead.

**Rob Burrough**



August 2014

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**DID YOU KNOW ?**

Frogs cannot swallow with their eyes open

## STAFF NEWS

This week we farewell Ms Lily Chan and Pastor Bernard Chao. We thank them both for their sterling service at school.

Ms Lily has been a valued and effective teacher of English, ToK and History, plus PSHE Coordinator and Debating CCA supervisor. She moves to UWC and will be replaced by Mr Peter Thompson, an experienced IB teacher from the UK with recent teaching experience in Thailand and Vietnam.

Pastor Bernard leaves next month for PhD study at Fuller University in California. On his return he will take up a teaching post at Singapore's Trinity Theological College. Pastor Bernard has been an outstanding school chaplain (and Priest in Charge at Holland Village Methodist Church). His challenging and interesting sermons, his strong pastoral heart and his keen sense of humour will be missed. He is replaced by the Rev. Joel Yong from Wesley Methodist Church.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

**National Day Celebrations** – On Friday 8 August ACS (International) will hold its National Day celebrations as follows: Normal classes Periods 1 and 2; National Day Assembly Periods 3 and 4. School finishes after the end of Assembly part way through Period 4.

**Saturday 9 August** is a public holiday and ACS (International) also has a school holiday on Monday 11 August.

**Deepavali** - The Hindu Advisory Board (HAB) has confirmed that Deepavali will fall on 22 October 2014 (Wednesday) instead of 23 October 2014 (Thursday). Hence, 22 October 2014 (Wednesday) is gazetted as a public holiday. - See more at: <http://www.mom.gov.sg/employment-practices/leave-and-holidays/Pages/public-holidays-2014.aspx#sthash.1LglZJoc.dpuf>

**Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday** is Monday 6 October.

Please note that the year calendars for 2014 and 2015 are located on the school website at <http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/en/section/1974>

## Study Leave for Year 4 and Year 6 Students

The last school day for Year 4 students is Tuesday 7 October, and Friday 17 October for Year 6. The IB and IGCSE external examination schedules can be found on the school web site at <https://intranet.acsinternational.com.sg/api/subwebs/?id=37>

*Note:* For IGCSE there are some clashes with O-Level Language examinations so the uploaded examination timetable is currently provisional until we resolve the clashes – most of which occur on 4 and 12 November.

## NOTICES

## Semester 2 School Fees Reminder

Thanks to all those families who have paid the school fees for this semester. The final date for outstanding fees is next Friday 8 August.

## Careers and Higher Education

The ONE ACS Career Forum takes place this Saturday 2 August from 8.30 am – 12.30 pm at ACS (Independent). See separate notice for more details.

## ACStraordinaire 2014

This month on 7 August, the Tenth Student CounXil will be holding the school's annual talent show, ACStraordinaire 2014. With a line-up of performances by our very own talented students, come join us for an evening of good music and dance in search of this year's ACStraordinaire! Tickets are available from the Prom Booth in the canteen at \$2 each.

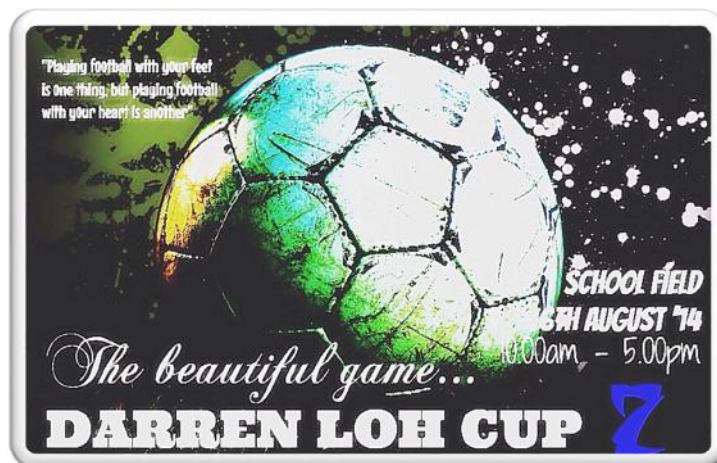
Thank you so much for all your support!

*Love, The CounXil*

## Darren Loh Cup 16 August

Entries are currently open for this annual football fundraiser. This year there are 3 categories – U16, U19 & Open. The entry fee is \$20 per player with teams of up to 10 players.

All proceeds will be donated to the Singapore Heart Foundation. Entry forms are available from the front office.





## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### Kenya Service Trip - Student Reflections

From humble beginnings at Irura Primary to picturesque sunsets at the Maji Moto Eco Camp, Kenya 2014 is one trip we will never forget any time soon.

We started the trip with a week's service work at Irura Primary School in the Rift Valley. In the mornings we would undertake physical work. Some of us dug a foundation for their new computer lab (one of the few buildings with a concrete floor!) while others worked on improving other facilities such as the building of shelves and painting of the school walls. In the afternoons, one could hear lively discussions and raucous laughter as we conducted lessons for the students.

We sang a few songs while they taught us their African songs. At the end of our service at the school, we were given a grand send-off complete with traditional song and dance, while we also performed some of our favourite songs for them. The service work was very meaningful for us and for the teachers and students in the school. We were sorry to say goodbye.



when we saw a cheetah up close! Some of us tried gorge jumping, flinging ourselves off rocky outcrops into freezing waters below. Some of us learnt quickly and slipped easily into the water while others crashed in haphazardly. Nonetheless, everyone emerged unharmed, already eager for the next activity.



We next experienced some outdoor adventures. We all participated in a bike safari through the game conservancy seeing wild animals in their native habitat. Thankfully we were all in the safety of the bus

We visited a Chimpanzee sanctuary where we met some of their hardworking keepers and learnt of the dire situation they were in before being brought to the sanctuary. We were also honoured by having one of them throw an avocado at our bus as a farewell gift.

The next stop was the Maji Moto Eco Camp near the world famous Maasai Mara Game Park. We were hosted by the Maasai tribe's people. They taught us about the Maasai lifestyle, the highlights of which were warrior training with African leeks and a traditional war dance. We also went on a safari in the Mara reserve, where we were fortunate enough to catch the start of the annual wildebeest migration.

We snapped plenty of pictures of four of the Big Five - lion, elephant, buffalo, and rhino - and many other animals.

We then took a step back into civilization in Dubai. It felt strange having running hot water, reliable wifi, air conditioners and a proper flushing toilet after all that we had been through in Africa. We concluded the trip by enjoying the view atop the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, and exploring the enormous shopping malls of Dubai.

This trip was definitely an unforgettable one. The smiles of the joyful Irura students as they thanked us for helping their school and their joyful laughter as they sang and danced for us is something we will never forget. We believe these children have transformed our lives as much as we have changed theirs.



Jeron Yow and Andre Jek

### Hong Kong Methodist College Students' Reflections



Our trip to Singapore was certainly a fruitful one, adding colour to our summer holiday and learning much about Singapore culture. We were met at the airport by our enthusiastic Ambassador and our caring and generous Vice Principal Mr Maclean and also Ms Stacey Low, the teacher in charge of this programme. After the weekend at Oldham Hall we started our study life in ACS (International) School. The students here were so nice and helpful. When we were confused with the homework, they were eager to help us and they introduced us to their friends. We think it was really a valuable opportunity to expand our social network and we made many new friends over the two weeks. It was an enjoyable experience.

Moreover, through this trip our knowledge about Singapore culture was deepened. The teachers and the Ambassadors were so active to share the traditional culture of Singapore to us. There are some differences between the culture of Hong Kong and Singapore. For example, seafood is added in Singapore style carrot cake but Hong Kong style doesn't. It seems Singaporeans love adding seafood into different kinds of food. We think that it is quite interesting to know the culture of Singapore.

Furthermore, we became more independent. We had to do many things by ourselves that we seldom do at home such as using the washing machine, going home in a strange place by ourselves etc. These surely can prove that we are growing and become more and more mature and not relying so much on our parents and teachers.

We would like to say thanks to both the ACS and Methodist College Principals, Ms Stacey Low for preparing a rich itinerary for us to make our vacation more fun, all the buddies and Ambassadors especially Ted and Lincoln for accompanying us when we were lonely and holding our arms when we nearly fell over. This might be the last time to study here for the four of us, but as the school hymn mentioned "forever ACS" we are a part of ACS forever.

*HK Methodist College Exchange Students (12/7/2014 - 29/7/2014)  
Wong Tak Ching, Tang Yee Ting, Jodie Wong and Zoe Chan.*

### 1TKK Charity Project

On 4 July, 13 students from 1TKK, together with 4 teachers, visited the AWWA Elderly Service Centre. It was an eye-opening experience for most of the students as we visited one of the oldest housing estates in Singapore. Interactions began as students came out to introduce themselves, conduct Korean and Dutch Language Lessons, and serve cakes and milo to the elderly. When it was finally time for the Quiz, both young and old were equally enthusiastic to answer the questions.

The event ended as each elderly person received a goodie bag, while we boarded our bus feeling happy that we had shared an afternoon with the old folks, making new friends. This is made possible by the generous donation from TKK House, and by the effort of each and every student in 1TKK.



### Distinction Awards in Science

Last term 147 Year 3 students took the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) – Science. ICAS is a highly regarded assessment programme for schools which enables schools to identify students' levels of academic performance. ICAS is organised by the University of New South Wales.

Congratulations to Yin Ruo Xiang of 3 GHK, and Wang Tianwen of 3-THO who gained Distinction awards (top 11% of the cohort), and the 20 students who achieved Credit and Merit awards.



### ACS (International) Alumni Reunion Lunch



On 19 July 2014 ACS (International) alumni committee hosted its annual reunion event at the Hard Rock Cafe. It was well attended with 75 alumni from almost every graduating cohort from the preceding years taking the time to attend. The strong attendance just goes to show that not only has our school grown over the years but the bonds and friendships forged there are as strong as ever.



We had home grown bands consisting of both current and former ACS students including Pipe Dream, EMMA music and some new bands consisting of alumni who formed up just to perform at this event. There were some great performances and some games hosted by our emcees Nahin and Stella. The day's events were followed by a closing address by the current principal Mr Rob Burroughs.



Another highlight of the event was the stepping down of the 2013/14 reunion committee and the election of the 2014/15 committee. Lenord Quah, Nahin Mustafiz and Cephas Tan were elected by their fellow alumni to lead the committee for the next year. We wish them every success in the future and are confident that they will do an amazing job.



All in all it was a great evening of fun and games, where we got to enjoy good food, entertaining music and the company of old friends. The ACS (International) alumni community only grows bigger as each successive year graduates and as always the best reunion event is yet to be!





### Film Appreciation Seminar



At the last week of Term 2, the Chinese Department invited local film-maker Eva Tang 邓宝翠 to conduct a seminar on Film Appreciation for our students.

The seminar ran for 3 sessions, and over a hundred students in total attended. Besides giving a general introduction on the history of film, Eva shared her work on feature films which captures local communities who are quickly fading away in the face of modernity. Not a new topic, yet overseas students shared that it is something that everyone can relate to.



### Mathematics Olympiad

Congratulations to Zhang Ruiyang Year 1, who received a gold award in the Junior Section at the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad (SMO) 2014.

### 2014 Orientation III - UNITY

On 11 and 12 July, the EXCOS of the Prefectorial board, the Ambassadors and the Student Council collaborated to plan an orientation day camp for all the new students who joined at the end of Term 2 and beginning of Term 3.



It was a 2-day event. It started with a welcome speech by the Principal and then ice-breaking activities for the 65 orientees before the Head Boy and Head Girl shared the history of ACS and taught the ACS anthem.



The evening ended with a lavish BBQ dinner with marshmallow roasting as the highlight for many orientees. In Day 2, the morning was spent travelling to a few places in Singapore by MRT in the 'Amazing Race' before gathering for lunch at Holland Village and then to school for a series of challenging outdoor games.

### SPEED Netball Carnival

The U14 and U17 netball teams took part in the annual SPEED Netball Carnival on Saturday 12 July at St Hilda's Secondary School, Tampines. This was the first time ACS (International) had entered netball teams into an MoE school tournament therefore it was difficult to know what to expect but we knew that the standard of play would be very high. The U17 team finished 4th in their Group stage.



Results were:

ACS Int' v PLMGS 6-16 (Lost)

ACS Int' v ESSS 11-7 (Won)

ACS Int' v SHSS 4-11 (Lost)

ACS Int' v Anderson 2 3-19 (Lost)

ACS Int v Crescent B 7-4 (Won)

ACS Int' v NJC (Won)



The U14 team finished 3rd in their Group stage.

Results were:

ACS Int' v EVG 5-5 (Draw)

ACS Int' v Anderson 1-13 (Lost)

ACS Int' v TMS 5-4 (Won)

ACS Int' v JWSS 5-3 (Won)

ACS Int' v Crescent C 9-8 (Won)

ACS Int' v SHSS 3-12 (Lost)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST	EVENT
1	• Casual Dress Day – Make a Wish Foundation fund raiser
2	• The ACS OBA's One ACS Career Forum 2014 Education Fair
4	• Board of Management Meeting
6	• U16 Girls Netball vs Australian Touring team
7	• Casual Dress Day – LSG House Fund Raising Charity event • ACStraordinaire – A Special ACS event by Student Council
8	• National Day School Celebration
11	• School Holiday – National Day
15	• IGCSE and IB Information Evening
16	• Darren Loh Cup 2



## University Visit (In School)

August / September 2014

### New York Film Academy

Tuesday 12 August  
11am-12noon  
Booth in the School Canteen



### University College London

Monday 18 August  
3:15pm

Presentation in the  
Seminar Room

### Indiana University

Monday 29 August  
11am-12noon  
Booth in the School Canteen



### US Universities

Tuesday 16 September  
11am-12noon  
Booths in the School Canteen

#### Participating Universities includes:

- Academy of Art University
- Foothill & De Anza Colleges
- Pepperdine University
- University of San Francisco
- University of California, Berkeley, Davis, Irvine



### Boston University

Tuesday 16 September  
4:15pm  
Seminar Room

### Northeastern University

Thursday 18 September  
11am- 12noon  
Booth in the School Canteen



**All Year 1 to Year 6 Students are invited!**

If you are interested in attending any of these presentations,  
please email or sign up with Ms Rita Kaur.