



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for Term 3. A special warm welcome to the 45 new students who have joined us from Singapore, China, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. We welcome you and your parents to the ACS family and wish you every success for your time with us.

A number of physical changes have taken place over the holidays. The exterior of the school has been painted in ACS colours; hoardings are up around the Darren Loh Library Block to enable work on building the final three stories to commence; and the Astro Turf surface on the sports field has been completed.

Six very successful overseas trips were completed over the holidays. They were the Southern Africa Year 5 CAS trip; the Kenya Service trip (Years 3 – 5); the Year 4 – 6 University / Business Studies trip to the United Kingdom; the Photography trip to New Zealand; the Model United Nations trip to Korea; and the String Orchestra trip to the United States. A Gold Award at the Los Angeles International Music Festival was a highlight and affirmation of the skill level and performance displayed by our musicians.

I was privileged to be part of the Kenya Service trip. We adjusted our itinerary to avoid any potential areas of civil unrest, and we all really enjoyed a wonderfully enriching experience - plus felt very safe. Highlights included the five days service work in a poor government primary school, seeing the start of the wildebeest migration in the Maasai Mara (and three pride of lions) and two days in Dubai. Summaries of each of the above trips will be featured in this and next month's newsletters.

In Chapel on Monday Pastor Bernard spoke about overcoming the 'giants' in our lives with reference to the David and Goliath story. Two key messages for each of us included relying on God's help, especially in times of difficulty, and having the courage to act - ie do something - to either help ourselves or to help others. May this be a mantra for the term ahead - Act! or Be Active! - and not just when in difficulties but in every aspect of school life. Students are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities that are on offer here at ACS (International); opportunities in the classroom, on the sports field and on stage. Act to help yourself, and to help others!

Best wishes for the term ahead.

**Rob Burrough**



July 2014

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**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**

Lemons contain more sugar  
than strawberries



## STAFF NEWS

We welcome Mrs Joanne Ford to the ESOL and Economics departments to assist with the teaching of the extra Bridging classes created due to the increased roll. Mrs Ford comes to us with teaching experience in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

This month we farewell Mr David Lee, our Head of Information Systems. Mr Lee has been instrumental in establishing a strong IT network, and has also given valuable service as cricket coach and staff football player. We thank him for his strong service and we wish him well in his new role as Director of IT Infrastructure & Development at Nexus.

## NOTICES

## University Application

The annual Information Session for all Year 6 Students will take place on Saturday, 19 July in Oldham Chapel from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm.

This is a compulsory event for all Year 6 students planning to apply to universities. Parents are also invited to attend.

## Careers and Higher Education

The ONE ACS Career Forum takes place on Saturday 2 August from 8.30 am – 12.30 pm at ACS (Independent).

## String Orchestra USA Tour

The ACS (International) String Orchestra participated in a 10 day long trip to San Francisco and Los Angeles from 11 to 22 June 2014. The main purpose of the trip was to expose members of the orchestra to other musicians around the world and to improve their musicianship skills. They did this by taking part in the Los Angeles International Music Festival. They also had an informal school exchange programme with San Ramon High School, combining both schools' orchestras and getting to know each other. Furthermore, the orchestra also performed at Disney Park, featuring soloists Abner Wong on trumpet and Neo Wei Lin, soprano.

The highlight of the trip was the Adjudicated Performance at the Walt Disney Concert Hall which was the culmination of the Music Festival. The orchestra performed extremely well and obtained a Gold award for the first time ever. Besides this, the orchestra also visited other famous tourist hotspots such as Alcatraz, San Diego, Santa Monica Pier, Fisherman's Wharf as well as several amusement parks like Universal Studios, Disneyland and California Adventure Park.

In winning the Gold Award the following were some of the remarks given by the adjudicators: "Bravo Tutti! Terrific!" by Dr Lawrence Sutherland; "Wonderful variety of music. Great conducting... the ensemble reacts well..." by Mr Joshua Roach; "Enjoyed hearing you! Very musical....a lovely performance." by Dr Frank Ticheli.

The Gold Award built on the Silver Award presented to the String Orchestra last year at an international festival in Boston, USA.



## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### IBDP Year 6 Performance Workshop

A half-day workshop was conducted towards the end of Term 2 with the aim of enhancing our graduating Year 6 students' performance for their final year in IBDP. This workshop has three components: self-motivation, mind-set of a champion and creating a personal roadmap.



The self-motivation component touches on the importance, definitions and ways to bring about self-motivation. Role models such as Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan and Sir Winston Churchill were raised as they epitomise the results of self-motivation through motivating tools such as personal affirmation, positive internal dialogue and positive visualization.

Mind-set of a Champion touches on the inner workings of the mind in a champion. Muhammad Ali and Pete Sampras are fine examples of winners who drew deep within themselves for strength, motivation and perseverance. The winners who draw strength from past victories and maintain good processes which work for them allow them to continue to prevail.



As well, the participants spent some quiet moments penning down their aspirations beyond IBDP; their perceived requirements for success; timeline and concrete plans for excelling in the course; good studying processes which have worked for them in the past; and how to put in place a habit of using positive self-affirmations.

### GAIC MUN 2014

Our first MUN in Korea with the Gyeonggi Academy, Seoul, consisted of a small team of three delegates.

It was only the second MUN conference for our three students, but their hard work and perseverance was well rewarded. It was heartening to see them debate and lobby with seasoned MUNers in the Councils.



Alicia Anabelle (Y4) represented Russia in the Ecosoc Council and presented resolutions on 'measures to cope with aging global population' and 'equal distribution of wealth'. Lu Mei Lin (Y5) represented France in the Security Council and presented resolutions on the situation in Crimea and the question of the North Korean nuclear possession. There were several 'vetos' to deal with and the deadlock in the Security Council was often hard to break. For her consistent effort in trying to resolve issues, Lu Mei Lin received an 'Honourable Mention'.



Ni Jing (Y3) represented the UK in the General Assembly and debated the returning of artefacts to the country of origin' and 'preventing international terrorism against civilians'. The clarity he had on the UK's position and his proactive approach in resolutions, won him the 'Best Delegate' award for the General Assembly.



### ACS (International) Job Shadowing Programme

We are very fortunate to have job shadowing placements for Year 6 students with Mount Alvernia Hospital, Lee and Lee Dental Surgeons, Tow Yung Clinic, Allen and Gledhill LLP, The American Club, Chua Tju Siang Gastrointestinal and Liver Clinic and Xerox Asia Services during the June holiday this year. With these placement opportunities, our Year 6 students had a chance to experience real-life working environments and situations in the field which they aspire to beyond IBDP.

Jan Chang who is doing Biology and Chemistry Higher Level subjects and aspires to be a doctor did an attachment with Mount Alvernia Hospital. Her reflections after a 5-day attachment stint included:

*Overall, attaching to Mount Alvernia Hospital has really helped me get a much clearer understanding of what the department does, and it has given me a clearer idea on what areas I would like to consider specializing in in the future. The second day was the most inspirational, and my time in the wards, particularly the pediatric wards, really helped me see the various roles played by the staff and how it all comes together to communicate with other departments to function as a hospital. Perhaps I could follow up this visit by trying to attach to a public hospital next time to see the difference in the way things are run. I also heard from staff that public hospitals tend to have busier Accident & Emergency department, which is the area that I am very interested in finding out more.*

Dharshana Panchatsharam who is also doing Biology and Chemistry Higher Level subjects and aspires to be a dentist did an attachment with Lee and Lee Dental Surgeons. An excerpt of her reflections after the attachment:

*There was a major surgery on the last day and the patient is a really nervous person. I was surprised that she (dentist) allowed us to observe her. A nurse was holding her hand throughout the surgery and the doctor was really helpful in keeping her calm. I learnt about her case and it was astonishing to know many parts of the mouth can affect the teeth and a dental surgeon has the knowledge of so many reactions and symptoms that happen in the human body. Initially I thought operating on a person's mouth for every single patient would lead to boredom. It was actually really fascinating because there is a large variety of cases. I really enjoyed the experience I got for the four days and an insight of how it is like being a dental surgeon.*



Giovanni with one of the managers of The American Club during her job shadowing stint with the Club.

The school will continue to organize job shadowing attachments so that our students may get a taster of their dream job. For further information see Mr Damien Chiang, Job Shadowing Coordinator.

### Students Compete in Future Thinking Challenge

On Friday 6 July 2014, Year 5 students participated in the Future Thinking Challenge at ACS Independent. Supported by the Prime Minister's Office, this workshop was designed to provide students with the tools to analyse the present and try to predict the future through scenario-based analyses of economic, social and technological issues.



We were invited to consider the possible use of automated driverless cars on a widespread basis in Singapore. We had to identify key economic, social, legal, technological and environmental driving factors that might lead to (or prevent) the use of driverless cars. One example of a driving factor might be the availability and cost of the technology. Another might be a labour shortage in the transport industry while yet another might be the affordability of owning a private car in Singapore.

Considering these driving factors helped us lay out a web of possible outcomes, which we were then required to develop into detailed scenarios - just as the government might do when considering how to allocate funds across a range of potential projects. After setting out our key thoughts and arguments we were invited to present to the other school teams including ACS Independent and ACJC. We also benefitted from observing the excellent presentations of the other schools and were privileged to be assisted closely by personnel from the Prime Minister's Office.

The next step will be to apply these analytical tools to the competition topic of National Service in Singapore. We will develop our thinking over the coming months and present our ideas in a formal essay which will be judged against those submitted by the other schools.

Jareth Wong, Sean See and Marcus Eng Year 5

### Tioman Islands Biology Ecology Field Trip 1 - 4 May 2014

The eco-field trip to Tioman Islands was unforgettable – it was not only the rare sight of a clear blue ocean and the beautiful sunsets, but also the shared experiences we enjoyed with our classmates. The trip put Biology into a fun, practical context, which broadened our views and image of the things we learn in class, thus making it more relevant and capturing our interest. Every day we were given a theoretical presentation to support and deepen our understanding of the investigations we were to perform.



The first morning we woke at 4 am to do an intertidal survey of the beach. It was pitch black outside and there was no water in the ocean due to the extremely low tide. We did a survey on a disturbed area of the beach where boats were coming in to drop off luggage and food and people from the resort would often go to. We also did a survey on an undisturbed area of the beach that was left rather untouched and compared the differences.

We learnt how biologists collected data by sampling small areas using quadrats within a sampling area of 50 cm x 50 cm. We saw the small fish, hermit crabs, and many other animals that live on the seashore before dawn. We collected our data from when the sky was still black with thousands of gleaming stars at 5am until after the sunrise at 7am. We then went back to sleep.

After breakfast we worked on our results, made calculations and came to conclusions about our findings.



Later that day, we were given a presentation about conservation and were to debate for in situ or ex situ conservation of the Panama Golden Frog whilst acting in different roles as an animal collector, born free campaigner, local villager, conservation scientist, a poacher and lastly the international body. It was fun to see the arguments that different roles could pose and it was interesting seeing how some people were passionately engaged in the arguments. In the late afternoon, we trekked into one of the rainforests near our resort, which gave us a scenic view over Tioman islands and where we got the opportunity to learn about the rainforest flora and fauna.



The following day was spent snorkelling. Beautiful corals of different colours lined the bottom of the oceans along with variety of fish, baby sharks, stingrays (harmless, of course) as well as turtles which we've never seen so close before. The

water was crystal clear, which we never expected it to be, hence we could literally see everything. That day, we visited 5 snorkeling sites and hence we were able to compare the marine animals living in each of the sites to the others.

On our final night, after a very instructive presentation on Population Ecology and Conservation of Biodiversity, we had a lovely bonfire where we could roast marshmallows and enjoy each other's company. We appreciated the work of the local Eco Field Trips staff who were brilliant and passionate people and who sparked our interest in ecology. We hope to see next year's group enjoying this trip as much as we did!

*Deandra Muliawan (Bio HL) and Vandita Attal (Bio SL)*



### The New Zealand Photography Trip

23 photography enthusiasts and 2 teachers embarked on a journey to New Zealand from 26 May – 2 June this year in ACS (International)'s inaugural NZ Photography Trip.

As well as gaining photographic skills and having an abundance of photographic and creative opportunities in a country with many unique natural landscapes and scenic views, our students were also involved in meaningful service learning with schools, the community and the environment.

IB students carried out service learning in Sommerville Special School interacting with children with special needs. They taught the special needs students to make kaleidoscopes, played games and helped them out with their class work. Everyone bonded during the short time spent together.

The non-IB students took a ferry ride to Motutapu Island and walked to Rangitoto Island via a once world's smallest causeway to appreciate the scenery and conservation efforts put in by New Zealanders to protect the environment and biodiversity. The beach cleaning and removing of parasitic plants in a special conservation plot of plantation helped the students gain a greater appreciation of the need to protect our natural environment.

The students and teachers were warmly welcomed by all the staff and students in traditional Maori customs when we visited Ruapehu College. After the school tours and lesson observations, we embarked on our second service learning helping in the College's conservation project in which we assisted in clearing weeds and parasitic plants in designated school areas. The principal of Ruapehu College was very impressed with the students' efforts and commitment.

The service learning aspect of the trip was completed with a visit to an old age home and hospital in Rotorua. The students sang and danced to the delight of the old folks. Many formed instant friendships during their interactions and were reluctant to say our goodbyes near the end of the visit.

The New Zealand Photography Trip was both a meaningful and fruitful one where students gained photographic skills, were immersed in the indigenous cultural settings of New Zealand, and where both teachers and students carried out service learning in schools, conservation areas and the community. The students and teachers certainly look forward to further strengthening the newly established friendships and networks in the years to come.



### Darren Loh Memorial Service

A memorial service was held at Darren's family home on 27 May to commemorate his passing on a school service trip one year ago. The ceremony was attended by family, staff, students and friends and was led by Pastor Bernard who shared on the topic: *Living Tomorrow with Yesterday in Hand*.

Several tributes were given and The Darren Loh Memorial Fund for Habitat for Humanity was set up.

### From the PSP...

Welcome back to Term 3, everyone! We hope you had a wonderful break and are ready to join us in one or both of the below two activities.

### Cookery Club

The Cookery Club CCA is run by the PSP with parents volunteering to be either teachers or assistants. We urgently need more volunteers! Limited experience needed. Please contact us at [acspsp.net@gmail.com](mailto:acspsp.net@gmail.com) if you can assist.

### PSP Bonding Session: Prata Journey at Kampung Café

We're going to knead it, flip it and even show off some cool dance moves with it during Prata Journey. It's going to be a fun, interactive and insightful exploration into the art, science and history of prata making. We know we're going to be hungry after that so lunch is included. The original cost of this experience is S\$40 + GST. Not only have we been given a group discount, the PSP is also subsidising a portion of the cost, so it's a deal not to be missed. We have hired a coach to take us there from school so we can start bonding even before we get there. We should be back by 1pm. The details are as follows:-

**Date:** 31st July 2014, Thursday

**Time:** 9am sharp at ACS (International)

**Cost:** S\$25 per person, payable on the day itself

Book your place by emailing us on [acspsp.net@gmail.com](mailto:acspsp.net@gmail.com) with your name and contact number, by 25th July. We need to confirm the number of participants with Kampung Cafe so please do make sure you can make it on the day if you've signed up.

We look forward to seeing you!

PSP Exco

### UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY	EVENT
30 June – 11 July	• Year 4 and 6 Prelim Examinations
7	• Youth Day (School Holiday)
7/8	• Restorative Practice Workshop
11/12	• Student Orientation 3
12	• ACS Old Boys Centenary Dinner • Habitat for Humanity 'Bare Your Sole' Fundraiser, Gardens By The Bay
19	• ACS (International) Alumni Lunch • Ambassadors Camp • Year 6 University Application workshop
21 - 25	• School Photograph Week
28	• Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)
31	• Inter House Basketball and Touch Rugby

AUGUST	EVENT
1	• Casual Dress Day – Make a Wish Foundation
2	• ACS OBA's One ACS Career Forum 2014

Let's get  
cooking





### Guys and Dolls

Rehearsals have begun for this well-known Broadway production to be showcased at school near the end of Term 3. More details in next month's newsletter.

## University/College Visit

July - September 2014

### Hong Kong Science and Technology University

Wednesday, 16 July at 4:15pm  
Presentation in the Seminar Room



### City University of Hong Kong

Tuesday, 22 July at 11am  
Booth in the Canteen



### Dundee Medical School

Tuesday, 29 July at 4:15pm  
Presentation in the Seminar Room



### University College London

Monday, 18 August at 3:15pm  
Presentation in the Seminar Room



### US Universities

(List will be available later)  
Tuesday, 16 September at  
11 am-12 noon  
Booth in the Canteen

### Boston University

Tuesday, 16 September at  
4.15 pm in the Seminar Room



### 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.