



*Tribute to*  
*Ms Kathleen Manley*  
**1960 ~ 2016**

**Vice Principal**  
**ACS (International)**  
**2008 – 2016**



ACS (International)  
Newsletter

July 2016

Ms Kathleen Manley passed away on Monday 11 July 2016 after a four-year battle with cancer. Her initial prognosis was that she would have one year to live once the cancer was diagnosed, but through determination, perseverance, strong medical support and her unwavering faith she continued to work full time in her demanding role as Vice Principal Academic for four years until just before she died.

Ms Manley devoted her whole life to education. She readily explained to people that she had had a dysfunctional family upbringing but was saved by three factors – a loving grandmother who ultimately brought her up, a strong Christian faith, and the advantage of a good education which gave her purpose and direction in her adult life. Her mission became to convey to others the power of education.

Kathleen Manley gained a double honours degree in French Language and English Literature from Leeds University followed by a 32 year career in teaching. She taught English and French in England, France and Switzerland rising to Head of Department before a four-year career as Head of Languages at Bangkok, Patana. This enriching experience stimulated a love of Thai food and the Thai language – of which she became very proficient. Following her time at Patana she spent a year working for the church in Thailand before time back in the UK as an Advanced Skills Teacher. She was appointed to ACS (International) as Vice Principal in 2008, and eight years later still marvelled at being selected and appointed by the highly regarded principal, Rev Dr John Barrett.

Ms Manley quickly made her mark at school with her high energy levels, clear educational philosophy and strong, forthright manner. She raised standards and led the improvement in examination results. A prodigious writer of emails, staff would often receive emails well into the early hours of the morning. She devoted every hour she could to the school. She enjoyed music, service and other co-curricular activities, supporting school events as often as she could. She was also asked by the Board to be Acting Principal for a term after the departure of Mr Kerr Fulton-Pebbles and before the arrival of Mr Rob Burrough. No doubt she would have gone on to be a principal in her own right had she not developed ovarian cancer.

Ms Manley's strong personal faith despite her upbringing and her cancer was an inspiration to many. She had full assurance that her heavenly Father was looking after her. It is little wonder that she chose the passage from Proverbs 3: 5 as a theme verse to be read at her funeral - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding".

Ms Kathleen Manley has impacted the lives of many students during her 32 years in education, none more so than those at ACS (International). The school has received many tributes from former and current students, each stating how Ms Manley has influenced their lives through her words, her actions and her role modelling of courage and perseverance in the face of adversity. She has certainly left her mark and is worthy of the epithet 'well done good and faithful servant'. Rest in peace.

## Kathleen Manley - Eulogy from Former Principals

Kathleen Manley took up the post of Vice Principal of ACS International in January, 2008. When a second Deputy was appointed she became Vice-Principal (Academic). The school was at a crucial stage in its growth and development, and Kathleen brought just the mix of skills and experience that we needed. A very able linguist, with a good understanding of how any language should be taught including English, she had wide experience of education, having taught in an international school in Thailand, and headed a specialised language department in a grammar school in the UK. She had recently completed the NPQH for senior school administrators, and was looking for a senior position. And most important, she shared the Christian values of the school. Kathleen took over responsibility for the administration of the curriculum. She made the timetable; she developed procedures for reviewing teaching and appraising teachers; she established routines for monitoring students learning and reporting on their progress.

She was extremely hard working, putting in long hours at school in the holidays as well as in term time. She had very high standards, and expected them of others. If she could be sometimes unreasonably demanding, it was because she always wanted the very best for her pupils. While she appeared sometimes formal and forbidding, she had a soft centre, and could be extraordinarily thoughtful, generous and kind.

She had a number of adopted families, communities on which she depended in the way in which others do their natural families - friends from her time in Chiangmai with whom she kept in touch, the community associated with Rochester Cathedral, the sisters in the Anglican convent in Kent, of which she became a lay member, and her friends on the staff at ACS International - and I have been enormously impressed by the support, and help and encouragement she has had from my former colleagues at ACS.

Kathleen was extremely brave in the face of news that she had cancer. She knew how serious it was. But she was determined to continue working as long as possible. She was very fortunate in having an oncologist from the ACS community, Dr Ang Peng Tiam, who is a world leader in cancer treatment. Through his generous support, she has lived on for longer than was expected.

She loved Singapore - its high level of planning and organisation and precise procedures, which were in sharp contrast to other places in which she had lived and worked, made her smile. She enjoyed the independence her car gave her, but she was never to be relied upon to navigate accurately around Singapore. She often got hopelessly lost, sometimes with a car full of colleagues. And she often couldn't remember where she had parked it.

She loved her apartment in Signature Park. She loved its peace. She declined offers to organise hospice care for her. She wanted to die at home.

And she loved this school. I think pupils would be surprised how well she knew them and cared for them and how much she was prepared to put herself out for them.

And she loved her Lord. Kathleen had a robust Christian faith, which she witnessed to in the way she lived her life and the way she faced her illness. Students and colleagues will remember some of her school assemblies, which demonstrated a simple, childlike trust in God. Her faith gave her confidence that death would not be the end and she spoke about looking forward to the life of heaven.

So now she is at peace. I thank God for her, for her friendship, her commitment and her kindness, and we can have confidence that she is held in God's eternal and loving care.

**Rev. Dr. John Barrett**  
Principal, 2005-2009





I worked alongside Kathleen Manley during my time as Principal of ACS International, and appreciated her support in the pivotal role she had as Vice Principal (Academic). For her the School was her life and work, and she gave her heart and soul to it, working prodigiously for the benefit of its students and staff. Her wide experience in education across the world gave her a sensitivity to, and awareness of, the impact of different cultures on the whole process of education, so important in the multi-national environment of ACS International. Yet this did not sway her from pursuing, in a measured way, her goals to allow the whole community to be the best of which it was capable, and she applied herself completely to this task. Although always busy she never lost sight of the key people in all of this, namely the students: I know how much she loved working and being involved with them, whenever possible. In this we shared common ground, as we also did on recognising the importance of a broad, balanced education which looked at the whole person; her passion for the International Baccalaureate also mirrored my own.

Ultimately it was her stubborn determination that really marked her out as she fought, so bravely, the cancer which took her life; yet even this could not hide completely the deep sensitivity which few of us were privileged to see.

We will all miss the unique qualities exhibited by Kathleen but she has left her imprint on the lives of so many of the community that makes up ACS International, surely the most fitting tribute that can be paid to her.

**P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles**  
Principal, 2010-2013



## Dear Parents, Students and Friends

The very sad passing of our Vice Principal Ms Kathleen Manley has affected us all at school this past week. Words cannot completely describe the impact that she has had on the school, and this is a very sad time for all of us as Ms Manley has been a senior and key member of the school for the past 8 ½ years. She had great influence with both staff and students, she was the instigator of many school initiatives, she was a very effective VP and Acting Principal, and she will be greatly missed.

As we mourn the passing of Ms Manley we should also recognise that she said that she was at peace regarding her condition and that she was in God's hands. Ms Manley had a strong Christian faith and she believed in the promises of the Bible about life after death – that the dead will be taken into Paradise with Jesus, that there is resurrection of the dead with a new body, and that all Christians will spend eternity in heaven with God our Father.

Our huge thanks to the Board, PSP, staff, students and wider community members who have supported and encouraged Ms Manley in so many ways during her battle with cancer. We also thank everyone who attended Ms Manley's funeral at St George's yesterday. A fitting and dignified send off. Adverse circumstances have certainly brought out the best in people and have drawn our extended family closer together. We thank you all.

In other news we welcome everyone back to school for Term 3. The beginning of the term has started with our annual Year 4 and Year 6 Prelim Examinations, the usual two-day staff training days, and the orientation of new students. A special welcome to our 60 new students, and the short stay students on exchange from Taiwan and Japan. We wish them all a successful and rewarding time with us.

We look forward to showcasing our school at the annual Open House on 30 July, and ask the school community to let all prospective families know of this important date.

Best wishes for the term ahead.

**Rob Burrough**  
Principal

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Staff News
- Professional Development for Staff
- Semester 2 School Fees Reminder
- Open House Saturday 30 July
- Direct School Admission
- Year 6 Application Information Seminar
- Morning Registration Notification
- iSAMS – iParent Application
- Singapore Golf Representative
- Science Buskers Festival
- Singapore National Swimming Championships
- Lance King on Courage, Resilience & Failing Well
- Orientation III
- CAS Trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Vietnam Service Trip
- UK / Switzerland Business Trip
- ACS (International) in Zimbabwe
- Kota Kinabalu Review
- Service Trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Upcoming Events

## STAFF NEWS

A warm welcome to the two new staff members who joined us this term – Miss Julie Whittaker in English who joins us with 'teaching experience in Australia, UK, and Europe; and Miss Talo Rooke in ESOL with teaching experience in New Zealand and China.

Congratulations to Mr Zhang You You on the birth of his son over the June holidays.

## Professional Development for Staff

PEAKS Level 2 certification training was conducted for all HsMs, CCOs and student support staff on 4 and 5 July. During the 2 day training, staff learnt to understand the personality profile and how to meaningfully engage students at their innate personality-driven strengths in order to direct them to optimise those strengths in their learning, their relationships with others and handling challenges.

As an IB school, we are strongly promoting Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATL) in our classroom teaching across to all levels. On 4 July, 60 teachers attended Lance King's seminar on Teaching with ATL in Mind. On 5 July, teachers joined small groups (PLCs) to process and draw up specific action plans for implementation in their subject area/class.

ICT sessions were also held over the 2 days for teachers who opted to hone their IT skills for teaching and learning. A suite of sessions were offered. Teachers explored the use of Managebac functions like CAS, EE Messages, Calendar and Files; Firefly as a platform to set up a topic for blended learning and self-paced revision; google utility like documents and slides for both student-student collaboration as well as teacher feedback; ipad apps for classroom, as well as Mac Edu Apps.

## NOTICES

## Semester 2 School Fees Reminder

Thanks to all those families who have paid the school fees for this semester. The final date for payment has now passed and those who have yet to pay are asked to make payment by the end of next week in order to avoid disruption to student learning.

## Open House Saturday 30 July

As usual staff and many students will be assisting to promote the school on Saturday 30 July. The day starts at 9.00am with the Principal's address followed by tours of interactive displays around the school. In a change to tradition, this year we will offering prospective families the opportunity to visit the various displays in their own time, giving them flexibility of choice.

## Direct School Admission

We now offer Direct School Admission to Year 1 (Secondary 1) students, offering a confirmed place on the basis of our own admissions tests, rather than waiting until PSLE results. Year 6 pupils are able to sit our own entrance tests and successful applicants will be offered a guaranteed place in 2017 regardless of their PSLE scores – as long as their PSLE score grants them secondary school entry. Entry tests are held every Monday. Please contact Admissions for further details.

## Year 6 University Application Information Seminar

The annual University Application Information Session for all Year 6 Students will take place this Saturday 16 July in Oldham Chapel from 8.15am. This is a compulsory event for all Year 6 students planning to apply to universities. Parents are also invited to attend. See also the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Morning Registration Notification

The school will notify parents when a child fails to register for school by 9am if prior notice is not given. To receive the notification, parents are required to log in to the parent portal and go to Communication to activate the notification option.

Parent Portal: Communication: My Notifications (Welcome [192.168.8.102] (Local Network))

You are currently viewing as suryati.abdullahi@gmail.com - use the box on the right to return to your original session.

**My Notifications**

Use the form below to register and manage notifications you will receive about pupils associated to you from iSAMS. Where available email notifications will be sent to suryati.abdullahi@gmail.com [click here to change your email address](#). To receive SMS notifications please enter a mobile number [click here to add your mobile number](#).

**Registration**

Receive notification of pupils associated to you are marked absent during a school registration period:

Receive Email: ☐ Tick this box if you would like to receive an email when pupils associated to you are absent from registration

Receive SMS: ☒ Tick this box if you would like to receive an SMS when pupils associated to you are absent from registration

[Save Settings](#) [Reload](#)

## iSAMS – iParent App is available for both Android and Apple



The official iSAMS Parent app links directly with the iSAMS Parent Portal. It has been designed to offer parents a quick and easy channel for keeping up-to-date with their son or daughter's performance and any relevant school information, including last minute calendar notifications or event invites. The pass code is **ACS**. Parents will need to have active iSAMS account in order to log in. The userID and password is the same as that of the Parent portal.



## STUDENT SUCCESSES

**Singapore Golf Representative**

Congratulations to Ryan Wong Wey Ren 5OLD. Ryan has been selected by the Ministry of Education to represent Singapore as a golfer in the ASEAN School Games (ASG). The games will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 21 – 29 July. We wish him all the best.

**Science Buskers Festival**

The Science Buskers Festival 2016 Audition round was held on 25 – 27 May at the Science Centre. A team of our students, the “Buskerteers”, were one of the 34 nominated teams (out of 138) by a panel of judges to continue on to the final round.

Secondary Category (no particular order of merit):

**Stage Name**

Buskerteers  
Avengirls  
IA2  
Destalow  
Team YJ  
Magic Drinking Cup  
Light Bulb  
Water Challenge  
Alpha Blockheads  
Water benders  
Dream in a Bottle  
Sonic Suspension

**School Name**

Anglo - Chinese School (International)  
Beatty Secondary School  
Beatty Secondary School  
Bowen Secondary School  
Canberra Secondary School  
CHIJ Secondary  
Hua Yi Secondary School  
Madrasah Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah  
North Vista Secondary School  
Punggol Secondary School  
St. Joseph's Institution  
St. Joseph's Institution

The final round will be held at Vivo City on 16 – 17 July.

Details of the winning teams will be published at the following page: <http://www.science.edu.sg/events/Pages/ScienceBuskersFestival.aspx>.

**Singapore National Swimming Championships June 2016**

Charity Lien, 1LSG (second from left) was awarded the silver medal for the 200m Breaststroke event at the Singapore National Swimming Championships 2016. The event was open to all age groups. Congratulations to Charity for her hard work and outstanding achievement.



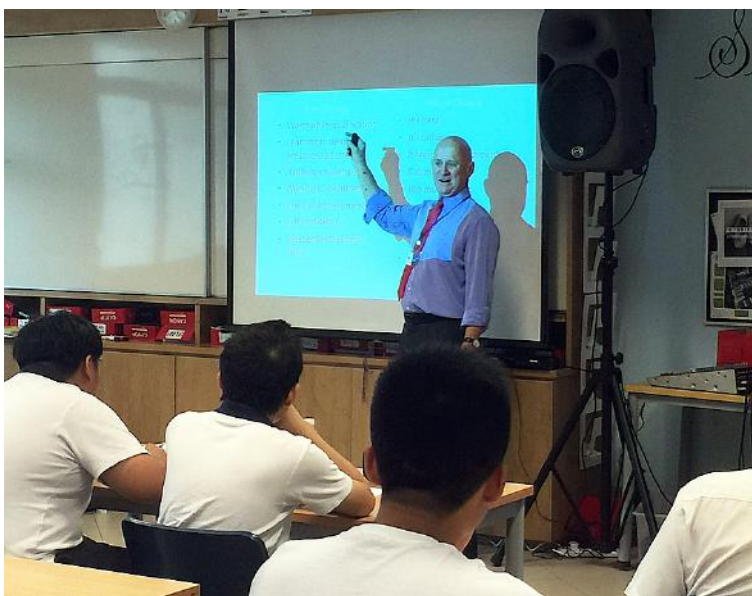
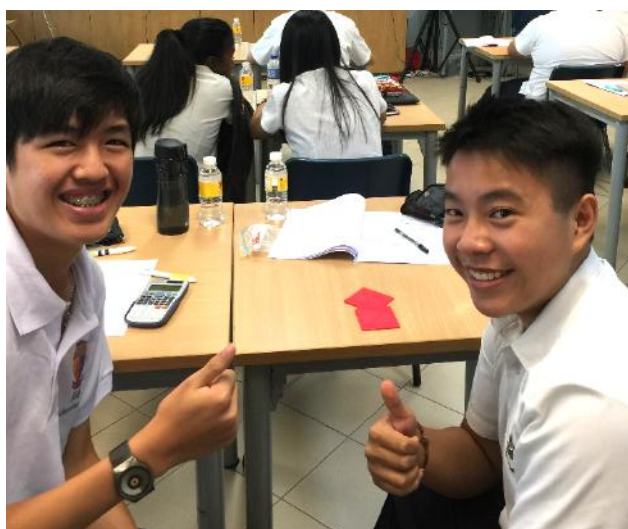
### Lance King on Courage, Resilience and Failing Well

Lance King came to ACS (International) on 5 July to present a seminar on "Courage, Resilience, and Failing Well" to our students.

The seminar was aimed at developing the effective skills of resilience, self-motivation, emotional management and perseverance to enable students to manage time, pressure and stress, study effectively and create the mindset necessary for high achievement in external examinations.

On this course students learned how to:

- Reflect on and learn from past mistakes – 'fail well'
- Manage internal attributions for success and failure self-motivate
- Overcome challenges, cope with difficulties
- Focus, concentrate and deal with distractions
- Manage time effectively and work to deadlines
- Develop all aspects of their own thinking, turn information into understanding
- Use good quality internet based resources in all subjects
- Deal with stress, overcome exam nerves
- Recognise the characteristics of resilience
- Develop an internal Locus of Control and use positive psychology to their advantage
- Use practical strategies for becoming a self-regulated, resilient learner



Student feedback on Lance King's seminar:

*"I learned how to be positive when it comes to accepting my failures."*

*"I learned how to fail well, how to eat an elephant (managing my time better), and positive thinking [which leads to] better quality at work"*

*"I thought the presenter was very funny and engaging, yet strict in making sure that we hold steadfast to the things the he is teaching. He is a good example and portrays and exemplifies the things he teaches well"*

*"The best things I learned were focusing on the good things of IBDP, and to do what I'm not good at doing"*

*"It was good to learn how to manage my time properly and understand how to not take failure as a discouragement but better yet: as motivation."*

### Lance G King Seminar for Parents

For any parents who missed the recent Parents' seminar conducted by Lance King on 5 July, a video recording can be found at the following link: <https://youtu.be/0wXq7LSEmk0>.



### Orientation III

Orientation III took place on Tuesday 5 July. 56 new students participated in a programme organized by the student leaders, which ranged from an informative campus tour to a variety of exciting games. This served to be a memorable induction into the ACS (International) community.



Creatively themed - "Conquest" - the orienteers found themselves in groups named after fictional countries that were engaged in battle. Throughout the day, the groups competed with one another in games like charades, capture the flag, falling asteroids and many more.



Everyone participated with enthusiasm to create an incredible bonding experience among the new students who have come from different countries. By the end of the day, though everyone was exhausted, dripping wet, and covered in flour from the wet games, it was clear that they had had an exhilarating and fun day.

Orientation III was a beautiful start in their time at ACS (International).

*Purinat Atipas 50LD*





### CAS Trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia, June 2016

After weeks of hard work and fundraising, a group of 32 students and 3 teachers gathered at Changi Airport Terminal 2 for our flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. We brought with us clothes, toys and stationery to be donated to the Kuk Pnov Primary School and its neighbouring community, which we were to serve for the next nine days. Upon arrival, we visited a school at the Cham Moslem village and had dinner there before checking into a lovely hotel.

Despite our late night, we set out early next morning at 8 o'clock for Kuk Pnov Primary School and Kindergarten armed with materials for our classes. We were completely unaware of how tiring the next few days were going to be. Not only did we have classes to plan, but the school also needed a new fence; the old one was practically disintegrating and featured barbed wire. The funds we raised had gone towards purchasing materials needed for the fence, and now we had to put in a little elbow grease to build it. For many of us it was our first time handling bricks and mortar.

That was how we spent our days at the school; teaching and building, and also interacting with the children outside classes. They loved just kicking a ball around or playing a game of catch. Their ability to find joy and happiness in the simplest things despite their circumstances - compared to how privileged we are - touched many of us. Having said that, these children were certainly not simple-minded. When given a task, they caught on quickly and often came up with their own variations of it, demonstrating their ideas and creativity across the linguistic and cultural divide. We also carried out programs such as Eggs for Trash with the villagers, an outreach program to educate the community on keeping the environment clean. They were rewarded with eggs in exchange for plastic litter.

Service aside, we also enjoyed many other fun, tourist activities. A trip to Siem Reap would be incomplete without a visit to Angkor Wat. The weather was blisteringly hot, prompting many of us to purchase baggy pants and handheld fans. The heat did not deter us from enjoying the amazing architectural wonders of Cambodia. We also took part in a fifteen kilometer bicycle trek, a traditional cooking class, a buffalo cart ride, a boat tour of Tonle Sap, a visit to a silk farm, and a stroll through the local night markets.

By the end of the trip we were reluctant to return to Singapore. We were eager to go back, but saying goodbye to the children and the community was difficult. This trip has taught us what no classroom can teach, and brought us closer as a group. Hopefully, what we did on this trip will have a lasting positive impact not only on the lives of the Cambodian community, but on ours as well.

Wong Yu Wen  
SLSG

**FENCE-BUILDING PROJECT:** The students dug holes to plant concrete poles, laid bricks to build a low wall between the pillars and topped it with chain link mesh.



**THE LESSONS:** The students had worked in teams to prepare lessons and teaching materials to teach English, Maths, Music, singing, Art and Drawing. Although there was the language barrier, they enjoyed getting the children to do the activities they had prepared and learn from them.





### Vietnam Service Trip

The Vietnam trip took place in the June holidays between 30 May - 8 June with a group of 32 students and 3 teachers.

Students visited the Thien Phouc Center, a home to more than 120 orphaned children, some of whom had disabilities (such as cerebral palsy). Our students did the best they could with the orphaned children who had severe disabilities. They engaged them by singing to them, massaging them and carrying them. There was one boy in this centre who just had his eyes removed because of cancer and was in great pain. Our students immediately took turns to carry him and soothe him to sleep - it was indeed a very precious moment.



In Hao Binh village, which was part of Tu Du Obstetric and Gynaecological hospital, we were able to help the nurses feed and massage the children. Some of the children in the hospital have severe disabilities such as Macrocephaly (a medical condition where a child is born with an unusually large head) and other disabilities such as cerebral palsy. Our students already had an idea of what to expect, but upon seeing these children, some were initially hesitant to step forward. Through some encouragement from their peers and teachers, all our students were eventually able to offer one-to-one attention to the children in the ward.



Students also had the privilege of visiting the Chu Chi tunnels, where they learnt about the Vietnam War and how the residents of Chu Chi village constructed the most intricate tunnelling system which kept many of the villages alive by impeding many of the American soldiers during the war. It had many of our IB students questioning what they knew of the Vietnam War from a Western perspective. We ended off the last night with a cosy campfire where students bonded through laughing at each other's performances. Through our students' reflections, they came to recognise the importance of family. Some of them shared how they sometimes take their parents for granted when these orphaned children did not even have parents they could turn to. The trip was indeed a learning journey for both students and teachers alike.

Michelle Liew  
(Vietnam Trip Teacher in Charge)



### UK / Switzerland Business Trip

It was the time of the year that ACS (International) students look forward to as a chance to relieve the stress and anxiety of the first semester. Every year, the school organises a business and university trip where students have the opportunity to understand the corporate nature of the establishments that surround us and university culture. This year's trip included visits to universities in the UK and Switzerland.



We visited King's College London, Queen Mary College, the London School of Economics, University College London, Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, École hôtelière de Lausanne and St Gallen; all of which are renowned and highly acclaimed institutions. Several ACS (International) alumni who were studying there dropped by to provide us with valuable insights on how universities worked and what to look for when choosing one. At Les Roches, we were given accommodation for one night, and got a taste of dorm life in a university.



*Zeppelin Hangar Tour*



*Wine Opening workshop at  
Les Roches International school of Hotel Management*

Of course, we should not exclude the fact that we engaged in some sight-seeing and explored London and the cities of Switzerland. We got to see behind the scenes of establishments such as the Museum of Brands, the Bank of England Museum, Forman Fish Island, the Salt Mine of the Sel Des Alpes and the Electrobroc hydroelectric power station, which allowed us to gain unique knowledge about the corporate world.

All in all, the UK/Switzerland Business and University trip was a huge success. It provided us with loads of insight and fun, and made us excited at the prospect of what the future holds for us.

*Sarah Selena 5SVM*



### ACS International in Zimbabwe

Do you know what you have done?

Only the unusual, crazy, special and unique things are allowed on this trip. Walking with lions, tracking rhino on foot, tractor rides, bungee jumping, eating worms and showering outdoors were truly unique experiences for us. For some of us, bargaining at the market, cooking, and washing dishes was equally adventurous.

This year, 35 students and four teachers took a two week long road trip through Zimbabwe. We learned to appreciate the comfort of electricity and indoor plumbing, and realised the value of budgeting our money, managing our time and team work.

Our students presented a Biology lesson to high school students, and some others shared tips on how to work with Word documents and Excel files. As a team, we were also happy to pitch in to transport gravel and bricks to the construction site at Bunina High School, who were eager to complete the construction of two new classrooms by September and organise their first Speech day. We are grateful to all those who gave generously towards this project. The proceeds of sales from the basketball tournament, car washes, as well as generous gifts from parents and well-wishers, have been invested in young impressionable lives. The Principal of Bunina High School thanked ACS (International) for bringing 'hope' to Bunina.



When all the stories were told and the photographs uploaded, we sat back to think about this amazing two week journey. We smiled as we revisited the sights, sounds, and sentiments in our minds. We are humbled by the thought of how the little we did brought 'hope' to another. Surely, we think to ourselves, 'We can do more'.

Simply the best - 2016!





### Kota Kinabalu Review

On 22 June an excited party of 15 students and 4 teachers set out for Kota Kinabalu (KK) in Malaysia. Students would be building houses with Happy Family Homes Malaysia (formerly Habitat for Humanity KK). They would also be returning to climb Mount Kinabalu, which had to be cancelled last year due to the earthquake. A group of teachers had completed a recce of the mountain trail to Low's Peak (4095.2m) during the March holidays.

Following a transfer to Kinabalu Park, students rose at 6am on Saturday 25 June to start preparing to climb the mountain. After a bright start, the group faced several hours of walking in non-stop heavy rain. However, this did not dampen their spirits. There was plenty of banter and students took the opportunity to get to know each other better. By late afternoon everyone had reached the Laban Rata hostel, where they were met by the hostel's usual warm hospitality and hearty food.

After a light breakfast at 2am, a group led by experienced guides embarked on their summit climb. Shortly after leaving the hostel, the weather conditions on the mountain changed and the group encountered high winds and heavy rain. Despite the poor conditions and low visibility, they continued up to the final hut at 3,668m where they were forced to take shelter. Unfortunately, due to the adverse weather, Park Rangers had closed the summit to the public. As the sun's rays were hinting on the horizon at just after 5am, the group made their way back down to Laban Rata. They were naturally disappointed to have not reached the summit, but were elated by the adventure they had just had. The tired group of students and staff made their way back down the mountain to a waiting coach and a well-earned rest day in KK.

Whilst the mountain climb is an exciting component of this trip, the students' main objective was the four days of house building for a local Kadazan family in a small village. The site was unsheltered, which made the construction work particularly gruelling; giving the group a newfound respect for anyone who had to work in such conditions. Each day, pupils worked closely alongside a skilled worker, and completed the foundations of the home before laying concrete blocks (instead of red bricks). This house was built using a new construction method - the technique was like building a gigantic Lego house. After a few initial setbacks, the group soon got the hang of the technique and made good progress. After four days, the shell of a home emerged from the ground. The building experience also enabled the formation of many new friendships.

Both these experiences took students well out of their comfort zones. It offered them fresh perspectives on the daily challenges of life in the communities they were serving. It also made them come closer together as they worked to overcome a number of challenges. Although doing service is about giving something back, through the generosity of our hosts, and the richness of our experience, it was us who gained far more than we gave.





### ACS (International) Service Trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand

As a total novice with regard to service trips of this kind and knowing very little about Thailand, I knew that the time I was about to spend in the north of the country was to be an education. What little I knew of the country consisted of beautiful beaches and buzzing Bangkok. It's safe to say that I now know a little more.

Books have been written by very clever people about the country of Thailand. Superlatives and metaphors have been thrown around to describe the lush beauty of the mountains and the compelling intricacy of those ornate temples. The sprawl of the city, the chaos of the traffic and the smell of the drains have been outlined in great detail but none of this gives you a true sense of the place. Thailand was exactly as I expected it to be and quite a lot more.

Wherever I went, people smiled. They might have been busy, they might have been fed-up, they might even have had nothing at all but they could always afford a smile. It was an almost universal constant during our stay.

The focus of our visit, the Huay Rai Primary School, was a school that would have been condemned by many for the standards of its facilities but it was, nonetheless, a hive of education and activity. If the school lacked some of the basics then the students and staff made up for such shortfalls with energy and enthusiasm.

The pupils at the school were wide-ranging in ability and age but they all seemed to share tremendous amounts of energy and enthusiasm and a great sense of fun. Many of them seemed to develop some deep attachments to members of the ACS student contingent and there would be more than a few tears at the end of the visit.



In my humble opinion, there was good reason for pupils from Huay Rai Primary School to shed a tear. The ACS students conducted themselves admirably and were a credit to their families, their school and themselves. Their efforts were broken down into several key areas. The mural painters created a number of original artworks to brighten up the pupils' day. The decorators brightened up the school. The water filtration team ensured that the pupils now have safe drinking water. The survey teams tried to gauge just how much help the local community needed. The educators strove heroically to develop the pupils' understanding of English. All of the students worked themselves to a standstill and justified our great pride in them. Thankfully, it wasn't all work, work, work for the ACS students. They did get the opportunity to meet some of Thailand's elephants as well as learning to cook a few traditional local dishes like Pad Thai. Some of them discovered an abiding connection to nature whilst others found the exact opposite.

Briefly – or not – that was my introduction to both Thailand and the realities of ACS service trips. It was certainly a whole new experience to be treasured and I believe that the students and staff felt the same.

*By Mr Neil Dickins*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY	EVENT
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singapore Orientation for new students</li> <li>University Application Information Session (Yr 6)</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSP Coffee Morning 8:15am</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choice to Run</li> </ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HVMC Carnival Day</li> </ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodist College (Hong Kong) and Yamate Gakuin School (Japan) school visits</li> </ul>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-House Girls Touch Rugby and Boys Basketball</li> </ul>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barrett Music Competition</li> </ul>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open House</li> </ul>

ACS (International) Presents

## Barrett Music Competition 2016

The competition focuses on Western art music and is open to ALL students. Registration closes on 8th July.

Participants will compete at the Preliminary and Final rounds in the following instrumental and voice solo categories below.

A) Piano  
B) Strings  
C) Winds & Vocal

Finals are on 29th July, 5pm at Oldham Chapel

For further enquiries, please contact [barrettmusic.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:barrettmusic.enquiries@gmail.com) or visit MS 2-3.

Co Sponsored By  
ROBERT PIANO ACS (International) PSP

## Barrett Music Competition 2016

29 July 2016

5pm

Oldham Chapel

ACS (International)

Sponsors:

PSP & Robert Piano Company



**ACS International**  
A Methodist Institution

A Collaboration between  
Guzheng Ensemble & String Orchestra

### Strings Concert 箏琴和鸣

**Date:** Friday 19 August 2016, 7 PM  
**Venue:** Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)  
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, 278475  
**Price:** \$2 Free Seating

Tickets are on sale now. Please purchase them from the office reception or any members of the Guzheng Ensemble or String Orchestra. For further enquiries, please contact Mdm Cheng Wei at [chengwei@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:chengwei@acsinternational.com.sg) or Ms Carol Ling at [carol.ling@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:carol.ling@acsinternational.com.sg).



## University Application Information Session 16 July (8.15 am – 2.00 pm)

The Careers and Higher Education Department is holding its annual university application information session on Saturday, 16 July.

This session has proved to be immensely popular over the years and your child / ward will find it very useful to help with the application process. The session is a compulsory session for all our Year 6 students who should prioritise this important information session as part of their university planning process. Parents are also welcome to attend.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to email the Higher Education Counsellor, Ms. Rita Kaur at [rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg)



## University Visits In School Term 3

**University College Dublin**  
**Friday , 15 July**  
 11.40 am-12.15 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**Tuesday , 26 July**  
 11.40 am - 12.30 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen

**City University of Hong Kong**  
**Wednesday , 27 July**  
 11.40 am - 12.15 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



**University of British Columbia**  
**Friday , 29 July**  
 11.40 am-12.15 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen

**University College London (UCL)**  
**Thursday , 11 August**  
 11.40 am-12.30 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



## University Visits In School Term 3

**University of Notre Dame**  
**Monday, 15 August**  
 11.40 am-12.15 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



**Application to UK Medical Schools**  
**Tuesday , 16 August**  
 3.30 pm – 5.00pm  
 Seminar Room

**University of Warwick**  
**Friday , 19 August**  
 11.40 am-12.30 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



**Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne**  
**Friday , 19 August**  
 11.40 am-12.30 pm  
 Booth in the School Canteen



### Ambassadors' Charity Project

The Ambassadors' Charity Project is coming to a close soon. The teachers and students of the Ambassadors' team are deeply grateful to the parents, students, colleagues, and friends who have supported this charity project. This all started with the food sales in the canteen and the hunger pledge wall.

Then came the ABCDEFGH project, and now the final leg of this journey is "Choice to Run". Choice to Run is a charity event organized by the Ambassadors to raise funds for the children who are suffering from poverty and hunger in Tien Lu, Vietnam. The run will be held on 23 July from 4 – 7pm.

The run consists of 800m laps including three stations of simple obstacles. Participants who signed up for the event have gotten their friends and family to sponsor each lap that they run, with all proceeds going to World Vision (Tien Lu project). During the run, games, snacks, and a photo booth will be available in the Sports Hall for supporters to enjoy. There will also be a lovely dinner accompanied by live music. Coupons for these activities will be issued to participants, and will be available to purchase on the day itself. It promises to be a fun day for everyone, so please do come down to show your support!

The Ambassadors warmly invite everyone to join in this final Hunger Awareness project, as "ACS (International) fights hunger together!".

For more information, please contact Ms Koh Leng Leng ([lengleng.koh@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:lengleng.koh@acsinternational.com.sg)) and Ms Akane Yoshida ([Akane.yoshida@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:Akane.yoshida@acsinternational.com.sg)).

The event t-shirts and the dinner have been kindly sponsored by the PSP.





The Anglo-Chinese School Old Boys' Association presents

**The ONE ACS Career Forum 2016**

**Saturday, July 30th 2016**

**8:00am - 2:00pm**

**Centre of Performing Arts 2, ACS (Independent) at 121 Dover Road**

- Hear from the "C-Suite" panel on what it takes to make it and what they look out for
- Gain insight into different professions, career paths; and what they really entail
  - Engage directly and candidly with alumni speakers in an informal setting
- Ask all the burning questions you want to get a better understanding of your options
  - Learn strategies for interview and CV writing skills

**Panels**

**Accounting ~ Allied Healthcare ~ Architecture ~ Banking & Finance ~ Engineering  
Entrepreneurship ~ Journalism & Communications ~ Law ~ Media ~ Medicine  
Making an Impact ~ Presentation Skills ~ Public Service  
Technology / Internet of Things (IoT) ~ Startups**

*In addition, the following institutions will be present with personnel and information booths, ready to answer questions about admission criteria and courses offered:*

**National University of Singapore ~ Nanyang Technological University  
Singapore Institute of Technology ~ Singapore Management University  
SIM University ~ Singapore University of Technology and Design ~ Yale-NUS**



Sponsored by

**the ACS foundation**

81 Jalan Hutan Makar, Singapore 276672 Telephone (+65) 6472 5477 Fax (+65) 6472 0477  
www.theacsfoundation.org

## ONE ACS CAREER FORUM AGENDA

7:30am	Doors open to participants. Please note that on-site parking is unavailable on the event day.						
8:10am	Participants to be seated						
8:15am	Welcome by Lim Tat, President, ACS Old Boys' Association						
8:30am	<p>'Views from the Top'- Perspectives from the C-suite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chew Kwee San, President, YMCA Singapore</li> <li>Ng Kok Siong, Chief Corporate Development Officer, CapitaLand</li> <li>Rear-Admiral Frederick Chew, Republic of Singapore Navy</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderated by Jonathan Yuen, Partner, Rajah &amp; Tann Singapore LLP</i></p>						
9:30am	<p>Forum briefing- Introduction of speakers/ preview of panels / location assignments</p> <p>Panel and institution representative locations will be announced at the event.</p>						
	Venue 1	Venue 2	Venue 3	Venue 4	Venue 5	Venue 6	Venue 7
10:00am	Engineering	Medicine	Accounting	Entrepreneurship	Journalism & Communications	Making an Impact	Presentation Skills
11:00am	<p><b>BREAK</b></p> <p>Tertiary Institution Booths Open</p>						
11:15am	Law	Medicine	Banking & Finance	Entrepreneurship	Technology / Internet of Things (IoT)	Allied Healthcare	Presentation Skills
12:15am	<b>BREAK</b>						
12:30pm	Law	Public Service	Banking & Finance	Media	Startups	Architecture	Presentation Skills
1:30pm	<b>END</b>						
2:00pm	Tertiary Institution Booths Close						

The agenda and speakers are subject to change.  
Please visit [www.acsoba.net](http://www.acsoba.net) for the latest updates



Sponsored by

the **ACS** foundation

61 Jalan Hiam Manis, Singapore 270475. Telephone (+65) 6472 1477 Fax (+65) 6472 0477  
[www.theacsfoundation.org](http://www.theacsfoundation.org)





**ACS  
International**  
A Methodist Institution

ACS (International) Singapore is a distinctive international secondary school open to all nationalities (including Singaporeans), offering an all-round English-based education for students aged 12 - 18 years leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP).

#### ***This school of choice provides:***

- Above average examination results; very strong value added achievement; and an all-round holistic education
- 50:50 mix of local and international teachers who uphold the dual Methodist and ACS Heritage
- Small class sizes with overall student : teacher ratio of 8.7 : 1
- 40 different CCAs – 16 Sporting; 12 Visual and Performing Arts; 12 Special Interest Groups
- 25+ overseas trips per year
- Over 200 formal student leadership positions
- Scholarships for 4 Singaporeans to undertake the IB Diploma programme

#### ***Achievements include:***

- 15 Top of the World awards in IGCSE examinations over each of the past seven years
- 98.7% pass rate in 2015 IB Diploma examination and first perfect 45 point score
- O Level High Value Added: All 7 students with raw scores of 18+ passed the 2015 IB Diploma with average of 34.5 points
- Outstanding 'value added' examinations results from PSLE to IB graduates
- Four students accepted to Oxford and Cambridge universities for 2015 / 2016
- Top university admissions in the UK, US and Singapore
- Successes at national level this past year in Archery; Touch; Cycling; Swimming; Chinese Drama; Debating; Fencing; Football; Golf; String Orchestra; Taekwondo; Volleyball; Cheerleading



**Oxford Bound**  
**Risa Tan**  
2015 IB Graduate  
with 44 points



**45 Pointer**  
**Ariane Suppli**  
Top 2015  
IB Graduate



**SEA Games**  
**Silver Medalist**  
**Aloysius Low**  
Current IB Student

# OPEN HOUSE 2016

**Saturday 30 July**  
**9.00am**

Principal's Address

**9.30 - 11.30am**

School tours & presentations by staff & students

**Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)**

61 Jalan Hitam Manis.

(Opp. Holland Village Shopping Centre)

For more information, please contact Joseph Ng or Stephanie Hanrahan  
at +65 6472 1477 or [admission@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:admission@acsinternational.com.sg)

#### ***What the Parents and Students Say...***

*"First and foremost, we do value the school's deep heritage and strong values. This is a school where we, as parents, could really partner with the teachers and school leadership in developing and educating our son who, in turn, values the small class sizes and the camaraderie not just among students but also with his teachers. Their holistic approach provides an encouraging learning environment and we wanted to expose our son to an international setup in preparation for the real and increasingly globalized world."*

Winnie Cruz-Ding

*"The school has changed our daughter. She's become more confident, self-motivated, self-disciplined, resilient, driven, articulate, analytical and absolutely loves to go to school. She is now in Year 3 doing a double science combination, taking on leadership positions and in just 3 years, has become a very different person. She's become a person that we feel is ready for the world – socially, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. Of course, enjoying being in school also means that her grades have – WITHOUT TUITION, risen to the upper percentiles of performance markers."*

*We sat down to calculate what we spent for tuition during her PSLE year and were delighted to find that the fees at ACS International worked out to be about \$500 less per month! So if asked whether an education at ACS International is worth considering? We'd say a resounding YES! It's worth every penny."*

Keith and Nancy Tan

*"Having witnessed the positive transformation in our younger daughter at ACS (International), we decided to also transfer our older daughter in Sec 3 from a top class in an elite and prestigious girls' school to ACS (International). The different teaching methods, the high quality of teaching, the promotion of individual character and personality, and the obvious enjoyment of school at ACS (International) made the transfer most worthwhile. Her first equal academic placing in IGCSE last year was wonderful confirmation of the move."*

Vincent and Germaine Leong

*"We love the smaller class sizes, the wide array of CCAs and the many approachable, friendly, passionate and dedicated teachers in the school which makes the whole experience a great one for our boys."*

Cecilia Chai