



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER



March 2014

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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 128 years since Bishop Oldham established the first ACS school. We shared this milestone with the rest of the wider ACS family and invited prominent Singaporean Mr Chelva Retnam Rajah SC to be our Guest of Honour. Mr Rajah attended ACS, gained his law degree from Oxford and joined Tan Rajah and Cheah where he is now managing director. He was invited to be a Judicial Commissioner (equivalent to a High Court Judge) for several years and he has served the wider community on a number of boards including being president of the ACS Old Boys Association. Mr Rajah also represented Singapore at cricket for over 10 years. Mr Rajah spoke about cherishing the time we have at school, making and keeping good school friends, and doing our very best, showing no fear in the process. He encouraged the gathering to not worry if we make a mistake, for as long as we have tried our best we have not failed anyone.

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 Saturday a number of Board and staff attended the annual ACS Founder's Day dinner hosted by the ACSOBA, and on Sunday the school helped lead the service at Holland Village Methodist Church.

Next year we celebrate our own 10th birthday. We show the same Christian and ACS values and ideals as the other members of the ACS family, and we are entrenching our own traditions, spirit and pride as we mature and continually improve as an educational institution. And as always – The Best Is Yet To Be!

Best wishes
Rob Burrough

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**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

The \$ sign
was introduced in 1788



STAFF NEWS

Staff Professional Development

On Monday the whole staff undertook training in classroom management and restorative practices, with the HSMs and other pastoral staff participating in a further two day workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The three days were facilitated by Mrs Marg Thorsborne, an internationally renowned leader in restorative practices. Mrs Thorsborne is pictured below with the pastoral staff.



NOTICES

High Achievers Programme – Request to Employers for Job Shadowing

The school is introducing a mentoring programme this year for high achievers. Part of the programme for Year 6 students involves job shadowing. We are asking parents who own or manage companies, institutions or organizations in any discipline or field if they are willing and able to provide job shadowing opportunities for our Year 6 students this year between June 16th and 20th inclusive. The purpose of the job shadowing is to allow our students to have a first-hand experience of being in a working environment with working professionals. Our students would not be paid. Please contact damien.chiang@acsinternational.com.sg if you are able to assist.

Talent Search 2014 by NTU IEEE

The Physics Department under the Faculty of Science invites Year 5 and 6 IB Physics students to participate in the exciting and prestigious TALENT search at NTU under the auspices of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), which has its headquarters in USA. You can get more information at <http://clubs.ntu.edu.sg/ieee/>.

Students interested in the above competition, please inform Mr Amos Owiti and undertake the following arrangements:

- Register in teams of 2 at <http://clubs.ntu.edu.sg/ieee/?p=42>
- Teams can be cross-institutional
- You are welcome to pair up with students from different institutions (JC/polytechnics/IB schools) in Singapore
- Complete the Preliminary Quiz between 20th February - 10th March

(The quiz comprises only of 15 questions that will only take up 15 minutes and only the best will move on to the competition at the NTU campus).

A*STAR Scholarship Seminar for Undergraduate Studies

Simon-Kyle Rocknathan, our Year 6 Oldham student, has completed the A*STAR attachment programme. He was awarded the JC Science Award after his 5 weeks industrial programme in December 2013. His research work is displayed on the Science Faculty notice board (outside Biology lab 2-2).

Students who wish to consider A*STAR scholarships for undergraduate studies please see below for the seminar arranged to introduce A*STAR, the research work carried out at the various research institutes in Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and the A*STAR scholarships.

Date: Friday 14 March 2014

Time: 3.00 pm to 5.00pm

Venue: 1 Fusionopolis Way Connexis North Tower, Potential 1 and 2 (Registration will start at 2.30pm.)

Optional Fusionworld Tour at 2pm or 4.30pm, limited places only!

To register for tour, please email Ms Maz, mazuin_mohd@a-star.edu.sg with name, contact, NRIC, email, school and choice of timing (2pm or 4.30pm).

NYAA Year 1 Camp

This year's Year 1 Camp will be held at Sembawang from 24 to 28 March. Through the camp activities the students will discover their own strengths and discover their true potential. They will be given opportunities to see and learn their own personal values, and get to align their actions to achieve a common goal. In a team, they will learn to cooperate and foster collaboration by promoting cooperative goals and building trust.

The objectives of the camp are

- Develop positive leadership skills
- Commitment to one another
- Responsibility
- Respect for one another & the environment
- Develop the right attitude towards problems, stress & changes
- Develop creative thinking

The students will be housed in air-conditioned dormitories. All meals are included (halal / vegetarian can be arranged) and all students will be covered for Personal Accident Insurance.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Orientation 2014

Laura Ingalls Wilder, with great insight, once said “Home is the nicest word there is.”

To feel at home in a new school, albeit difficult, is perhaps the most important thing for any new student. The Student Council at ACS (International) works to design the annual Orientation programmes keeping this very idea in mind.



This year, the theme for Orientation was “Pixar this Dream”, which catered to new students from Years 1 to 4. What followed was a three day extravaganza that included water games, amazing races, scavenger hunts, night games, bonding times and a campfire. The Orientation Group Leaders and the Orientation Assistants – who had volunteered for and were extremely dedicated to the event – enabled the efficient organisation and execution of the various aspects of programme.



Orientation Two was held on 25 January, in order to cater to the incoming Year 5 students. Although the scale this time round was much smaller, the efforts to connect with the students had

to be doubled in order to synthesise a school spirit amongst the next group of potential leaders of the school. Again, fun ensued with lots of activities, not dissimilar to those conducted during the first Orientation. To welcome a stranger into school and create a family member in such a short period of time is perhaps the biggest challenge – one that is worth working towards through the means of orientation because as Wilder said, home is really the nicest word there is. Welcome HOME to ACS, Orientees!

EmansipAsia

The Ambassadors leadership group this year is working in partnership with EmansipAsia, an anti-human trafficking group to raise awareness about modern day slavery.

An assembly talk given by the representative from EmansipAsia began the awareness exercise in school to educate us on the issues surrounding human trafficking and this was followed by a series of fund raising activities. Among them, the most notable one was that of a ‘black dress day’ where students and staff were encouraged to come attired in all black as a symbolic fight against this grave issue.



The associated photo shows some members of the school putting up their hands up to indicate a ‘stop’ to human trafficking. Interestingly, that photo turned out to depict the staff and students as forming the shape of Singapore, a fitting reminder of the role our city-state plays in this social issue.

A photography exhibition was also set up at the Science terrace where students were educated on more information regarding the subject.



Debating

Our school debating team participated in the opening round of the Singapore Secondary Schools' Debating Championship on 07 February against Nan Hua High School winning the debate opposing the motion 'This House believes that it should be a criminal offence for individuals who work in public services to go on strike'. The team consisted of Dhruv Uppal (3GHK), Naveen Venkat (3THO), Charles Fuad (4CKS) and Lim Mun Yiang (3SVM).



The debate team with their coach, Mr George Goh

Inter-House Music Competition



Students and staff were entertained by a very high standard of performance at this week's inter-house competition. Congratulations to Oldham House who took first place and are pictured above. Results are as follows:

- 1st - OLD
- 2nd - SVM
- 3rd - CKS
- 4th - GHK
- 5th - TCT
- 6th - THO
- 7th - TTK
- 8th - LSG

Mathematics

ACS (International) sent two teams to the South East Asian Mathematics Competition held at the British Vietnamese International School in Ho Chi Minh City last week. 46 schools, 92 teams and 276 students competed. Our top student was Wu Jia Qi from 2THO. Next year, the event will be held in Vietnam.

Netball

The Netball players have had a busy start to the year. The U14's and U16's recently played in a Triangular Tournament with ANZA Netball Club and Marlborough College; and the U16 and U19 teams competed in the South East Asia Netball Tournament held at Tanglin School at the beginning of the month. All teams were up against tough competition with the U19's securing 3rd place overall and the U16's finished 4th in the SEANT. Most Valuable Player awards were given to Aishah Angell (U19) and Lim Jia Jing (U16).



Netball CCA is going from strength to strength and the numbers of players joining is continuously increasing. This year we have been able to enter three teams into the U19 ACSIS League and the girls have been making excellent progress - parents, guardians and friends are welcome to come along and support the teams. In addition to the competitive teams there is also a strong contingent of development players who are working hard under the guidance of Coach Tan Khiok Sing.

This year's Captains are as follows:

- CCA: Aishah Angell
- U19: Lauren Wong
- U16: Noorisha Gafoor
- U14: Chea Chan Nary

Congratulations to Aishah Angell and Myra Tan who have been selected to represent the Sport Ready Netball Club. Aishah is currently playing in the Singapore Ladies League which is a great achievement.

Football

Our 'A' boys will be competing in the MoE 'A' division tournament beginning this month competing against schools like St Andrew's Junior College and ACJC. As a warm-up, our boys took part in the ACS Past vs Present tournament held at ACS (Independent) on Saturday 22nd February 2014. They played against ACS (Independent), ACS (Barker Road), ACJC (2 teams) and three Old Boys' teams. They won 5 and drew 2 of their 7 matches, comfortably winning the tournament to be crowned best ACS football team. The core of this team are the current ACSIS Under-19 Division 3 champions. We wish them the best of luck in the top MoE competition.

The 'B' and 'C' teams have completed their competitions in the MoE and ACSIS leagues respectively. The teams were unplaced but gained valuable experience.

Volleyball

ACS (International) is proud to be hosting the annual 'Community Volleyball League' in 2014. The league is a major event in the volleyball calendar and attracts entries from more than 15 schools and volleyball clubs. The 7-week tournament takes place each Saturday until the end of March.

The ACS International girl's teams have recorded wins over Raffles Institute and Tanglin Tigers so far in the competition. The boy's team were narrowly beaten in their first game against 'International Kakis' who are an open-aged Volleyball Club. Both of our teams are looking to perform well throughout the competition and would appreciate any support during their games.



Physical Education

The picture below shows Year 4 and 5 students running down the green corridor during their PE lessons. This difficult physical challenge was the end result of students completing a unit of work on Health and Fitness.



Integrated Humanities Fieldtrip to Malacca

61 students from the Year 1 Integrated Humanities Programme made a short visit to Malacca City, a UNESCO Heritage Site from 28 February to 1 March. The objectives of the trip was allow the students to apply basic information gather skills learned in class, including taking photographs, making observations using inference of sources. Key themes covered in this trip include the population migration, the siting of settlements, the emergence of the Malacca Sultanate and the coming of foreigners to Malaya, including the Chinese and Europeans.

The one and a half day trip means students had little rest time, having to move from one site to another site in succession.

Besides visiting the main heritage site consisting of the Red Square and the St Paul's church, the students also visited the Cheng Ho Museum and the Peranakan Museum, as well as a number of historic religious institutions. For the post field trip project, students will be doing a write-up and poster base on the key themes associated with this trip.



In the Cheng Ho Museum



Outside St Francis Church



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH	EVENT
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSP Exco Meeting House Leaders Thank You Tea
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Term Presentation Assembly
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia CAS Trip and Chinese Drama Trip Departures
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term Ends Spring Dance
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term Begins - 8:05am Year 1 Camp Challenge – Sembawang Staff Meeting and House Staff Meetings
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 Camp Challenge Return

University Visits (in School)



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

University Of Auckland
Tue, 11 March @ 11am
Canteen Booth



University Of Exeter
"Studying Law in the UK"
Presentation in the
Seminar Room
Wed, 12 March @ 4.15pm



London School of Economics
Presentation in the
Seminar Room
Thur, 13 March @ 4.15pm

University Visits (outside school)



Swiss Education Fair
Sat, 15 March 11am – 5pm
Suntec Convention Centre
Room 324-325
Presentations from 12pm – 4pm
Room 306



Education UK Exhibition
Sat, 15 March 10.30am – 6pm
Suntec Convention Centre Level 3