



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Last weekend I had the privilege of visiting Seoul and Tokyo to interview prospective ACS (International) students and to promote the school to potential students, parents and educational institutions. Once again I was struck by how valued an ACS Singapore education is by families, not just in Singapore but in the region generally. Parents are looking for the best educational opportunities for their children and are prepared to make significant sacrifices in order to provide for their future. We are honoured to be trusted with this responsibility. We would also like to think that in providing a high quality education we also provide a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment for our students.

Tomorrow, Saturday 4 October, we hold our annual Open House and prospective students, parents, grandparents, guardians and friends are invited to sample our learning environment, hear about the school from the senior staff, view and interact with the school subject displays and talk to a wide range of staff and students. All interested members of the community are invited to attend. We especially welcome the 25 families from overseas who have travelled to Singapore this coming weekend to attend the Open House. Our thanks to the PSP, staff and students for their hard work during the long weekend in order to make this event a success.

Next Tuesday is the last school day for our Year 4 students before they go on study leave to sit their IGCSE examinations. Our Year 6 students also leave the following Friday. We held a Graduating Students Dedication Service today for these Year 4 and Year 6 students, wishing them the very best for the coming examinations and praying God's blessing on their endeavours. We look forward to seeing them back at the end of term at the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Years 1 – 5 Speech Day Prize Giving on Friday 21 November, and again at their respective Prom celebrations on Sunday 23 November.

With very best wishes for the month ahead.

Rob Burrough



ACS (International)

October 2014

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DID YOU KNOW ?

Scorpions glow under ultra violet light

NOTICES

HAZE and Possible School Closure

As first printed in the April newsletter, if Haze levels rise ACS (International) will follow the protocol approved by the MoE and other International Schools of Singapore when deciding whether to close the school or not. The National Environment Agency publishes the official PSI readings twice a day at 7 am and at 5 pm on their official site www.nea.gov.sg/psi/.

We follow the standard guidelines which include:

- Above 100: No outdoor activities
- Higher than 300: Closure of school

Depending on the Haze reading taken at 5 pm the school will make the decision on the possible closure of the school on the following day. Families will be informed by SMS if the school is to be closed. The school will also contact families by SMS to advise of the reopening of the school.

Study Techniques

With examinations starting shortly it is timely to remind students of the UCanDo seminar on study techniques run by Mr Stu Wright earlier in the year. Please refer back to his hand-out. He talked about **SCAR** ing the information into the brain:

- **Senses** – using several senses to aid memory retention (ie don't just read the notes!)
- **Connections** – making associations
- **Absurdity** – the unusual helps embed retention
- **Recall** regularly

He also talked about eating the right foods; doing exercises to connect the left and right side of the brain; making a study plan – 40 minute blocks with 10 minute breaks; and using mindmaps (**THinK**maps) as study notes: Title, Heading, Keywords. See also the UCanDo website www.ucando.co.nz.

Extended Library Hours

The school Library will be open for extended hours from 6 pm to 9 pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 14 October for Year 4 and Year 6 students. It will be supervised by senior staff and will run until the end of the examinations, subject to ongoing demand.

ACS (International) Parents Prayer Group Meetings

All parents are welcome to attend the monthly prayer group meetings held in the John Wesley Hall on the 6th floor of the Sports Block beginning at 8.15am. The meetings are held on the first Friday of each month, the final one for 2014 being on Friday 7 November. The next combined ACS prayer meeting will be held at ACS (International) on 17 October. All are welcome.

Newsletter Readership

Thank you to our readers for taking the time to read about the successes of our students in the monthly newsletter.

To help us ascertain how many people actually read the newsletter we ask you to reply to this email or email secretary@acsinternational.com.sg stating whether you are a parent, student, teacher or other community member and include any suggestions on possible improvements.

IBDP Year 5 - Extended Essay

Please take note that a special support session on researching and writing the Extended Essay will take place after the end of year examinations.

Date - 5 and 6 November 2014

Time - 8.30 am to 12.30 pm

Further details will be communicated to students in due time. Kindly note that attendance at these sessions is compulsory.

Boarding and Guardianship

As part of our practice of continual improvement the following policies will be adopted for international students attending ACS (International) from 2015. The aim of these policies is to improve the standard of care to our students and ensure that they achieve to their potential.

- **Boarding:** Admitted students are permitted to either board at either ACS (Independent) or ACS (Oldham Hall), with approved home-stay families, or with local extended families. Students are not permitted to stay on their own or under the care of home help.
- **Guardians:** All international students must have a guardian appointed by the parents if the parents do not reside in Singapore.

For further information on these policies please contact the Admissions Department.

Recipients of 2014 Colours Awards for Leadership Development and Practice

The following students have gained their colours award for their outstanding efforts in leadership over the past year.

GOLD	
1. Alicia Jane Harris	6CKS
2. Joshua Charles Champion	6CKS
3. Shasta Kaul	6GHK
4. Ching Po Yee	6GHK
5. Aimee Hannah Coral Griffiths	6LSG
6. Simran Jaikishin Kirpalani	6LSG
7. Li Bairun	6OLD
8. Shanice Ong Sheue Nie	6OLD
9. Justin William Jeremiah	6OLD
10. Chen Shujun	6OLD
11. Elizabeth Lim	6OLD
12. Ren Jiewen	6SVM
13. Tu Fang Ping	6SVM
14. Syed Asir Haque	6SVM
15. Nikole Tan	6SVM
16. Tan Hym Ngi Cheryl	6TCT
17. Jaswinder Singh Ahluwalia	6TCT
18. Tiara Joy Foo	6THO
19. Lam Kha Doanh	6THO
20. Nguyen Hyen My	6THO
21. Leeroy Ishak	6THO
22. Claudia Annabelle Kwan	6TKK
23. Do Minh Phuong	6TKK

SILVER	
1. Isabel Lim Zhuo Ying	6CKS
2. Nidesh Muralidharan	6GHK
3. Jonathan Jeevan Singham	6GHK
4. Lokit Bala Boobalan	6OLD
5. P Camilla Roshal	6TCT
6. Giovanni	6THO
7. Beatrice Wong Yunqin	6TKK
8. Napon Tang-Aromsuk	6TKK
9. Clarissa Low Shi Ying	6TKK
10. Low Min Yi Rachel	6LSG
11. Chen Cheng Olivia	4GHK
12. Ching Ming Yin Erin	3THO

BRONZE	
1. Lakshmi Yuvaraj	6CKS
2. Lim En Xin	6CKS
3. Priyanka Mishra	6OLD
4. Tiffany Ann Lai Ke En	6SVM
5. Gayathri Vignesh Angou	6TCT
6. Tan Shayne	6TCT
7. Lin Chenyu	6TCT
8. Diane Elizabeth Pereira	6TCT
9. He Jinjing	6THO
10. Tan Ying Shen Terril	2TKK



National Level Inter-School Malay Essay Writing Competition

371 participants from 31 schools in Singapore participated in this annual event sponsored by EDN-Media. 29 Malay Language students from our school (from Year 1 to Year 5) took part in this competition. Congratulations to Maryam Ali Reda, from 5 LSG who was highly placed in this competition with her essay entitled "Fasting And Its Benefits".

The overall achievement of our participants is as below:

- Top place getter- Maryam Ali Reda(5 LSG)
- Gold Category (85 marks and above)- 3 students
- Silver Category (65-84 marks)- 24 students
- Bronze Category (50-64 marks)- 2 students



Gold Achievers -Maryam Ali Reda & Farah Alwiya Khan

TOK Focus Day

The Year 5 Theory of Knowledge seminar held at ACS (Independent) recently was an enlightening experience. The controversial topic about the Singapore National Library banning the book 'And Tango Means Three' exposed us to different types of thinking about the gay rights issue. After the seminar while everyone was still stirred up over the controversial issues presented and the illuminating examples that were given, we were put into non-school related groups and given a ToK question to do. It was fascinating getting to know the students from other schools and realizing that they were all grappling with the same aspects of IB as my peers. This helped tremendously. The exchange of different perspectives and knowledge helped all of us to become more lateral thinkers and so we are less inclined to give 'in the box' answers.

Addiey Jones, 5-OLD

Barrett Music Competition 2014



This year's Barrett Music Competition took place in Oldham Chapel on Tuesday 18 September. The Finals Concert featured four diverse musicians playing a wide range of repertoire. Congratulations to this year's winner, pianist Gao Xu Xin Larry (top left), who played two challenging pieces, Polichinelle by Rachmaninov and Ondine by Debussy. The chief adjudicator, Mr Lim Soon Lee, noted his technical flair, excellent understanding of the contrasting styles of the two pieces, and the expressive variety he brought to his performances. At the end of the evening, Larry was presented with the John Barrett Music Prize trophy. He is the fourth recipient of the trophy which was instigated by Rev Dr John Barrett, the first principal of ACS International. Second place went to Zhao Bowen whose fluid renditions of music by Bach and Chopin were most impressive. Violinist, Lee Yi Khai, gained third place, and, in fourth place, vocalist Paulina Wijaya.

During the evening, Mr Tony Ryan, from our own Music Department, introduced the participants and gave a brief and informative commentary on each of the works performed. A relatively small audience demonstrated genuine appreciation of all the performances and the atmosphere of the event was one of quality music-making in an intimate and pleasant setting. We look forward to further demonstrations of the artistic expertise of our talented student musicians in next year's Barrett Music Competition.

Social Innovation Relay – An On-Line Global Competition

Four of our Year 6 students entered The Social Innovation Relay recently - a competition jointly organised by Junior Achievement Singapore and HP Singapore aimed at promoting entrepreneurship. Ramida Hanratanakool, Tay Sze Hwei, Lim Yu Kai and Jennifer Goh participated in a series of workshops under the mentorship of a HP Singapore Volunteer E-Mentor. They achieved a top 10 placing in the Singapore competition.

Year 5 Vietnam CAS Trip

On the first week of the September holidays, a group of 43 students were accompanied by four teachers to a CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

To fulfil the Action component of CAS, we travelled to Madagui, where we spent a couple of days taking part in activities such as paint ball and zip lining. In addition to the CAS fulfilled, we visited the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi tunnel so that we would be more familiar with Vietnamese history and hence also learn about the American's usage of chemical warfare during what the Vietnamese call "the American War". It was an interesting experience, because much of what we saw and heard provided a very different perspective on the Vietnam War from what we were all previously exposed to, which was the American perspective on the war.



The main orphanage we visited was the Que Huong Charity Centre. There, we painted two of their rooms, taught the children to play a couple of songs on the recorder, taught them a little bit of English and decorated their bedrooms. Leaving the children was difficult. Many could not hold back their tears, as each of us had formed a special bond with the children.

Although farewells were definitely common and almost routinized for the children, it was difficult for both sides to deal with it. Still, it comforts us to know that we have impacted them in one way or another. Be it through a painting of a giraffe on by the side of their beds or through the gift of music, our efforts have left a mark on their lives the same way the trip has left a mark on ours.

We visited a total of three orphanages, one of which was the Hao Binh Peace Village, a wing of a hospital that cared for children who suffered from the effects of Agent Orange. It was difficult for many, as we had seen read about these victims and seen pictures of people who suffered from such deformities when we visited the War Remnants Museum, but seeing them in person was an entirely different experience. This was just one of the many instances of the trip that changed our perspectives on the problems of our world. We realised that most of our problems were superficial, and that many other people were not even fortunate enough to experience such challenges. We would worry about our weight, about university and our relationships, but that day we were reminded that some people were born without the hopes of worrying, or even living long enough to think about these challenges that we call problems. These people were born into hardship and into constant struggle to be accepted by society. Yet many had thrived despite these circumstances. This proof of the unwavering conviction of the human spirit inspired us and told us all that we were capable of making leaps into success of whatever degree.



Zee Hsin Min
Leader of the Vietnam CAS Team (STKK)

TEDxYouth@HCIS

Risa Tan (5-OLD), Esther Sentoso (5-GHK), Jasmine Tan (5-GHK) and Addriey Jones (5-OLD) were nominated by their ToK tutors to attend this whole day event at Hwa Chong International last month. True to the spirit of TED the adult keynote speakers and the eight student presenters from international schools were given the platform to speak on a subject that engaged them personally.



Risa Tan delivering TED talk

Our own Risa Tan presented with conviction and enthusiasm on the topic “Singlish: The Native Language”. Taking a bold stance she argued persuasively that Singlish has its place as a language of genuineness and brutally raw honesty. For her, it is an expedient language and as most native speakers will find, there are just some sentiments (‘sian’, ‘jialat’) that cannot be expressed with the same impact in standard English. Her eloquent delivery, supported by recorded videos and graphic PowerPoint slides, had the audience affirming many of the examples she gave, leading to her conclusion that language was never meant to be simple; culture was never meant to be simple.

Singapore Archery Open 2014 –Herbert Wong

The annual national Singapore Archery Open 2014 was held on 5 - 6 September 2014 at the Delta Sport Hockey Field. A total of 138 archers participated in this event.

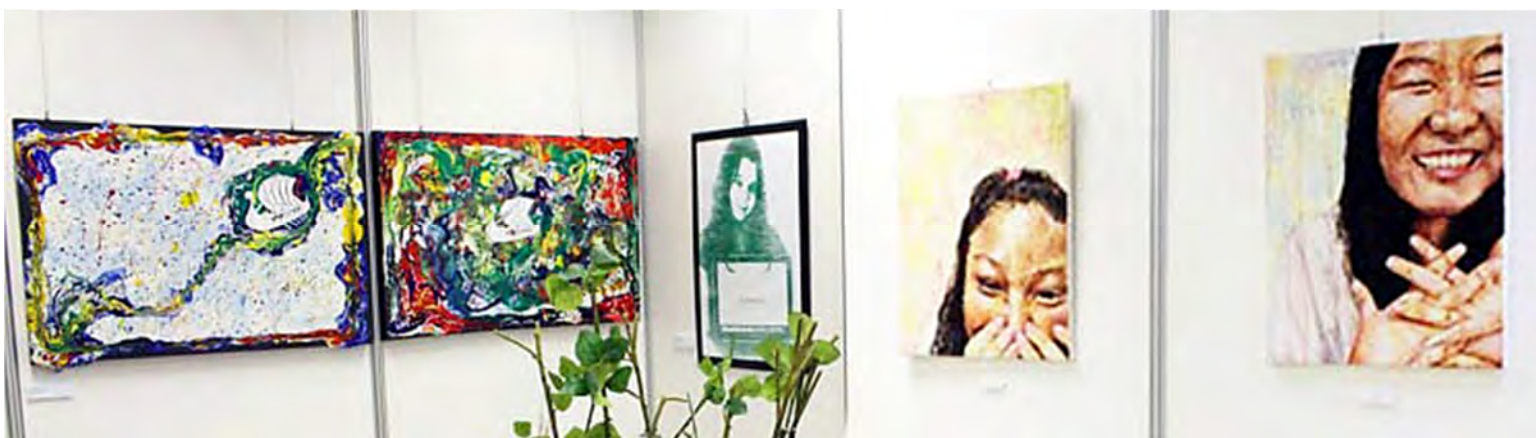
Herbert Wong participated in the 50M Recurved-Men category. He was ranked 13th after the ranking round and proceeded to the Elimination Knock-out Round for Individual. Herbert first knocked-out the competitor ranked 4th in the first round, and continued to knock-out the competitor ranked 3rd and then proceeded to the Semi-final Round. In the Semi-Final match with his competitor ranked 1st, he did not manage to continue with another victory but he won a medal for 4th placing. This is an excellent result at national level and Herbert has a very strong future in this sport.

Angie - Archery CCA Coach

Year 6 IB Visual Arts Exhibition - ELYSIAN

The Year 6's IB Visual Arts students celebrated the opening of their exhibition, "Elysian" last Friday. This cohort consists of 5 women artists, Eszter Kiss, Ramida Hanratanakool, both HL and 3 SLs: Feng Jiawen, Dong Yingxin and Michelle Yip. Their exhibition featured their journey in the Diploma course, their search of identity and their reflections on cultures, relationships and societal issues.

The event started with an opening song sang by Jilian Har, entitled Vincent by Don McLean, followed by the opening speech by Ms Kathleen Manley, Vice-Principal (Academic). Entertainment continued with music repertoire by three Year 4 Music students, Jerry Li (Guitar), Nicole Ng (Vocal) and Jung Hanbi (Electric Piano). Jilian Har continued to soothe the audience with a few more songs as she played her guitar and sang along. What a wonderful way to spend a Friday evening with good music, good food, good art and great people. The exhibition is held at NB 3-2 and will run daily from 9:30am – 5:30pm till 4 October at 12pm.



Golf

Congratulations to Timothy Ding Year 3 who joined the Singapore national competition for the Amateur World Golfer's Championship and is currently leading his division (0 - 5.4 handicap) after the 1st qualifying round last Tuesday. The top 40% will be competing at the national finals on 7 October. We wish Timothy well in the final round.



Penang Sports Tour 2014



On Friday 26 September, 51 students and 5 members of staff from the PE department flew to Penang for the annual Penang Sports Tournament. This was the third year that ACS (International) has taken part in the Penang Sports Tournament.

The teams competing included the U14 A and B netball teams, U16 A and B netball teams, U15 boys' football team and a mixed tennis team. All of the students played extremely well for their respective teams, gaining valuable match play experience and forming important team bonds. The results are below:

U14 A netball team: 1st place/Champions in U14 competition
 U14 B netball team: 3rd place in U14 competition
 U16 A netball team: 4th place in U16 competition
 U16 B netball team: 7th place in U16 competition
 U15 boys football team: 5th place in U15 competition
 Mixed tennis team: 1st place/Champions

Volleyball CCA



September saw the start of the International School's Volleyball League in Singapore. Both the ACS (International) boy's and girl's teams were entered into the top division for 2014. This is an extremely demanding time of the year for our players; often playing in two or three games a week to ensure all fixtures are completed before the start of examinations.

The girls' team has found life in the top league hard so far this season. Their first games were against the top three teams in Singapore; however, our girls performed outstandingly well and got within a few points of the opposition in every set. Expecting to win their last four games, the ACS (International) girls' team could still achieve a top three finish in Division 1.

The boys' volleyball team currently has a 100% record in the top division. Victories over Singapore American School, UWC Dover and the Japanese School have resulted in ACS (International) sitting at the top of Division 1. With only one more match remaining it's going to be a nail-biting end to the season. Good luck to all the players and thank you for all your hard work this year.



Thanksgiving Dinner at ACS Oldham Hall

ACS Oldham Hall recently held its Thanksgiving Dinner on 20 September 2014. Staff from partner schools and working partners were also invited to join us in the celebration. The Principal and Vice Principals from ACS (International) were present.



In line with our theme of One OHANA (which means family in Hawaiian culture), our multi-national boarders came together and put up stunning cultural performances to make it a night to remember.



Different groups of students from Indonesia, Thailand, China and Vietnam performed various song and dance items. In particular, the Vietnamese boarders presented an interesting yet touching shadow skit depicting love in the different contexts. The portrayal was so powerful that it moved several members of the audience to tears.

Merit and Service awards were also given out to outstanding boarders who exhibited exemplary behaviour or had served the Hall in some ways during 2014. Some of the recipients from ACS International include Nguyen Huyen My, Ryonald Marcello Juan Teofilo, Tran Tien Min Duy and Than Duc Minh Quan. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Oldham Hall Staff

Our Unsung Heroes



The 10th Prefectorial Board raised funds and bought gifts for our hard working cleaners, security and canteen staff this term in order to show appreciation for all their hard work which adds to the efficient running of the school.



A formal gathering with speeches by the Principal and senior prefect Deandra Mulianwan preceded the giving of the gifts. The prefects initiative was appreciated by all the staff – both the ones receiving the gifts and the teachers – as all too often our unsung heroes work tirelessly below the radar without the same affirmation afforded to the teachers. We are, after all, all members of the one body.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER	EVENT
6	• Hari Raya Haji – Public Holiday
7	• Yr 4 Study Leave starts
8	• Group 4 Science Project – Yr 5
10	• Group 4 Science Project Evaluation – Yr 5
11	• Sport vs Marlborough College (away)
14	• IGCSE Examinations start
17	• Yr 6 Study leave starts
22	• Deepavali – Public Holiday
23 / 24	• End of Year Examinations start – Yr 2, PG, 3, 5 • Study Leave Y1, 1B, PB
27	• End of Year Examinations

NOVEMBER	EVENT
4	• Marking Day – no school for students
10 – 14	• Camp Challenge Year 2 and 3
13	• Enrichment Programme on Bioethics
14	• Service Day Year 1 + Y5
17	• IGCSE finishes
18	• Sports Presentation Dinner • Inter-House Drama
21	• IB finishes • Speech Day • Graduation • Term Ends
23	• Senior and Junior Prom

PSP End of Year 2014 Coffee Morning

Time really does fly when you're having fun! We got the ball rolling with a start of year Coffee Morning on 17 January so it seems only fitting that we see the school year out with an end of year Coffee Morning. The details are below:

Date: 30 October 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 8am - 10am

Venue: Wesley Hall, 6th Floor, Sports Block, ACS (International)

Please join us as we reminisce on the year gone by, from the Back to School Party (14 Feb), the International Day Fiesta (30 April) and our Prata Journey bonding session (31 July) to the Teachers' Day celebration lunch (29 August) and the weekly parent supported Cookery Club classes.

We'd love to share with you how enjoyable and meaningful being a part of each of these amazing school events and activities have been, and how much we're looking forward to 2015.

An RSVP, to acspsp.net@gmail.com, by Tuesday 28 October evening, would be appreciated but no worries if you aren't able to do that, just pop by for a coffee and a chat anyway.

See you on 30 October!

PSP Exco



Graduation Ceremony



for International Baccalaureate Diploma Students



The Principal Mr. Rob Burrough,
Staff and Students of ACS (International),
take pleasure in inviting you to the Graduation
of the current cohort of Year 6 students,
the Class of 2014.



7.00pm on Friday 21 November 2014
Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)

Guest of Honour - Mr Lim Biow Chuan
Member of Parliament for Mountbatten SMC



Dinner will be served at the Science Terrace
following the Ceremony.



We do hope that you will be able
to grace this very special occasion with your presence,
and ask that you take your seats promptly by 6.40pm.