



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER



November 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

This week students in Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 4 FIB and Pre-IB have returned to classes following the completion of their end-of-year examinations. Many of our students have performed very well and they can feel very pleased with their overall academic performance in 2016. The final school report which includes both a summary of the examination results and an overall assessment of the year will be issued on the last day of term following the Speech Day ceremony.

Next week our Year 1, 2, 3 and Year 4 FIB and Pre-IB students are on camp. We believe that education outside the classroom is a valuable part of a strong holistic education and the camps are structured with development over three years in mind. Year 1 students are based at Sembawang, Year 2 at Sentosa, and Year 3 at either Bali or Bintan. We wish both staff and students an enjoyable and enriching experience.

At yesterday's PSP Coffee Morning we outlined to parents some changes that are occurring at school next year. We are restructuring the Vice Principal, House Master and Tutor roles in order to stream line processes, improve communication, and help further improve student achievement. We are also starting a parents support group, plus changing the Shape of the Week Timetable in order to create time for extra academic support, time for ad hoc meetings, and time for students to eat their lunch. See elsewhere in this newsletter for further details.

This is the second-to-last newsletter of the year. The last will be published after the end of term in two weeks and amongst other items will contain prize winners' names, important dates for next year, an acknowledgement of leaving staff and other general information.

We look forward to celebrating the 2016 school year and acknowledging some of the many student successes this year. The final Speech Day Prize Giving and Year 6 Graduation ceremony to be held on Friday 18 November and Tuesday 22 November respectively. Parents are warmly invited to both ceremonies. Please see the Coming Events section below for further details of end of year events.

Rob Burrough

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- Upcoming Events

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

*A Hummingbird's heart
beats at over a 1,000 times a minute*

NOTICES

New Staffing / Communication / Structural Arrangements 2017

From the start of the new year the following will operate:

The Vice Principal roles are restructured with each of the 3 VPs in charge of both academic and holistic care of a 'Division'

- Mrs Tan Siew Hoon: VP Senior Division (Years 5 & 6)
- Mr Gavin Kinch: VP Middle Division (Years 3 & 4)
- Mr Richard MacLean: VP Junior Division (Years 1 & 2)

The VPs will be supported by three Division Coordinators (DCs)

- Mrs Alka Hingle (Senior Division)
- Mrs Pam Ng (Middle Division)
- Mrs Lim Lay Pian (Junior Division)

House Masters will have oversight of both academic and holistic care of students in their House (the Curriculum Coordinator roles have been changed to Division Coordinator positions)

Form Tutors will have oversight of both academic and holistic care of students in their tutor group. Their role will be enhanced to include active mentoring and support.

All communication about students should be addressed to the Tutor in the first instance. The only exception is when parents wish to communicate directly with their child's subject teacher.

Years 1, 2 and 3: Camps

9-11 November 2016

All Year 1, 2 and 3 students will be attending camp next week. An exciting programme has been put together for the students.

The vast majority of students are looking forward to the experience. Historically, however, we have a small minority who do not want to attend the camps and who turn up with Medical Certificates to support their absence. The school advises that we reserve the right to have our own medical doctor review the MC and the student's illness if we have doubts about the genuineness of the illness.

Reminder: As stated in the enrolment form, the end of year camp fees are deducted from the Deposit in order to save extra handling by parents and school. We are looking at changing this procedure next year.

First Week Arrangements 2017

Monday 2 January		• Public Holiday
Tuesday 3 January	9.00 – 4.00pm	1. Staff Conference 2. New Students – informal Admin Day – complete registration if needed, pay fees, buy uniform and books
Wednesday 4 January	8.30am	• New Student Registration
	9.00am	• New Student Whole Day Orientation begins with Welcome by Principal
	9.00am – 12pm	• Faculty Meetings
	1.30 – 3.30pm	• New Staff Induction
Thursday 5 January	1.30 – 4.00pm	• Current students with subject changes may see DCs / VPs
	8.30am	• New Student Orientation continues
	9.00 – 11.00am	• House Meetings
	1.00 – 2.30pm	• Firefly Training (New Staff and Current Staff who need a refresher course)
Friday 6 January	1.30 – 4.00pm	• Current students with subject changes may see DCs / VPs
	6.00pm	• New Students and Parents Bonfire
	9.00am	1. All Students in Years 1 – 4 + Year 6 report in uniform for Division Assemblies run by VPs with subsequent meetings with tutors (to collect timetables and Shape of the Week, and sign off on personal details. Those with TT / subject issues to see DCs / HoFs / IBC / VPs then go back to Tutors for sign off). Tutors to confirm that all students know where to go for Monday's timetable - Year 1 Tutors especially... Students free to leave once sign off gained. 2. Division Assemblies: Senior (Student Centre); Middle (Sports Hall); Junior (Chapel).
Monday 9 January	8.00am (P1 at 8.45am)	• Tutor Group Registration • Full School Assembly in Sports Hall followed by normal timetable

Term Dates 2017 Update

Please take note that a slight amendment has been made to the Term Dates of 2017.

You may refer to the following link for a copy of the updated calendar:

<http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/acs-calendars/term-dates/>.



Shape of the Week Timetable 2017

Following staff and senior student consultation we have decided to change the Shape of the Week Timetable in 2017. Rationale for doing so includes the following: to provide formal 'Support' time for students (to aid improvement in academic achievement); to create some 'white space' for adhoc meetings; to provide an opportunity for every student and teacher to have time to eat lunch; and to allow set up time for Chapel, school, house and division assemblies.

Main features of the new Timetable

- Tutor time at the start of every day
- Extended Tutor Time every week for all students during which time Tutors will hold one-on-one mentoring conferences with students
- House, Assembly and Chapel at the start of the day after Tutor Time

- 'White space' for adhoc meetings on Tuesday from 8.00 – 8.35am (Students not required for 8.00am rehearsals, practices, meetings etc may study in Library, congregate at Canteen or arrive later at school, and report to Tutor Time at 8.35am.)
- Whole school assemblies to pair with Division Assemblies (ie no school assembly on weeks when Division assemblies occur)
- House assemblies to pair with IB Core time and other Tutor related times
- Split lunch times every day with half the school either in Period 3 or having lunch
- 50 minutes for lunch for students
- Earlier lesson finish at 3.00pm each day
- Compulsory Support time for 30 minutes after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Consistent timing of periods all week

2017 Timetable

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meeting Time	8.00 – 8.40	Tutor	Staff Collaboration/ Student Activities	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor
		House / IB Core	Tutor (8.35)	Assembly Division		Chapel
1	8.45 – 9.45					
2	9.55 – 10.55					
3a	11.00 – 12.45	Junior School Lunch (10.55 - 11.45) / Senior School Period 3 (11.00 - 12.00)				
3b		Senior School Lunch (12.00 – 12.50) / Junior School Period 3 (11.45 - 12.45)				
4	12.50 – 1.50					
5	2.00 – 3.00					
	3.05 – 3.35	Staff Briefing	Student Consultation / Support			
CCA1	3.40 – 4.40	Staff Collaboration				
CCA2	4.40 – 6.00					



Extended Library Hours (Year 4 & 6 Study)

The school Library is still open for extended hours from 6.00 – 8.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for Year 4 and Year 6 students. It is supervised by senior staff and runs until 10 November, subject to ongoing demand. **There will be light refreshments provided by the PSP.**

Sitorus Library Returns

All Year 1, 2, 3, 5 and Bridging Students:

Please return all books by or before the DUE date stamped on the slip of paper issued with the Library book. You can borrow books for the holidays after settling your outstanding fines.

All Year 4 and 6 Students:

Please note that the last day to return any borrowed item(s) and pay outstanding fines is **11 November 2016**.

All Students:

Unpaid fines/cost of lost item(s) will be deducted from the Deposit.

Students who are leaving:

Any credit on EZ link / MRT / Passion cards must be claimed before 23 November by bringing the card to the Library Counter.

Extended Library Hours for Year 4 and 6 Study

The school Library is now open for extended hours from 6.00 – 8.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for Year 4 and Year 6 students. It is supervised by senior staff and runs until the end of the examinations, subject to ongoing demand. There will be light refreshments provided by the PSP.

P.A.L.S (Parents are Life Savers)

The school Counsellor will be starting a parent support group in January 2017. This is a place where anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children. The aim is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where parents can develop the skills they need to raise, protect and prepare their children. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us for a coffee and the exchange of ideas, support, information and resources. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Chantal Roux (Counsellor) at chantal.roux@acsinternational.com.sg.

Holland Village Methodist Church Appreciation Tea

On 4 October, Holland Village Methodist Church (HVMC) organised their Annual Appreciation High Tea for Christian Ministry volunteers. These volunteers served in events such as Religious Emphasis Week and Youth Alpha, and in groups such as the Chapel Band, Christian Fellowship and PA. We are grateful to these volunteers for their services to the school and HVMC.

Staff Team Building

During the September holidays, our Support Staff participated in a half-day team-building and learning session as part of the school's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme.

The workshop focused on Effective Communication at the Workplace, and the objectives of the session were to identify key factors of effective communication with a productive outcome in mind. There were activities that helped staff identify potential barriers, causes of conflict, and how to avoid them, so as to develop a positive and collaborative environment. The team-building activity brought out the team work (and competitiveness) in our staff. All told, they had a fruitful morning and ended the session with a lunch together in the Conference Room.



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Cookery Club 2016

Every week during term time, the Cookery Club meets together for the one thing they are passionate about: food. This year, students of the Cookery Club learned a wide range of skills, including the basics of cutting and preparing food for cooking, making one-pan dishes, baking both sweet and savoury foods, and the more difficult handwork – wrapping siewmai, wonton and Chinese dumplings. The dishes they made came from different parts of the world; Kung Bo Chicken from China, Bibimpab from Korea, and Bolognese and Aglio Olio from Italy. Many thanks to the mothers and guardians who contributed their time to teach and share their recipes – the students had a blast!

The Cookery Club ended the year with a field trip and a baking competition. They went to Guan Hin Coffee (a coffee powder manufacturer) to learn more about how coffee was made, and got to try some samples at the end. At the baking competition, students worked really hard to complete their entries within the 1-hour time limit, using 250g of flour as the main ingredient. They were judged based on: team work, clarity of recipe, hygiene, taste, creativity/originality, and cleaning up. It was hard to choose a winner, but the judges eventually picked Group C: Chisa Kamei (1 LSG), Nunthanut Kittirattanaviwat (1 TKK), Luo Peibin (5 SVM), and Riho Takaki (1 TCT), with their cupcake entry.

All in all, the hot hours spent in the kitchen have really paid off – these skills will serve the students well, and they have learned the joy of preparing delicious and (sometimes) healthy meals for themselves.



Formal Farewell to our Year 4s and 6s

On 5 October and 19 October respectively, the school held a farewell assembly and lunch for our Year 4 and Year 6 students. This farewell is a yearly tradition for staff and students to wish each other well before the students depart for study leave and the examinations begin. It has been a privilege and pleasure to see our students grow in maturity and knowledge, and we are sad to say goodbye. We look forward to receiving most of our Year 4s back next year to begin the IB Diploma Programme, and wish all our students the very best in their examinations!

Year 4 Farewell

The Year 4 Graduation Tea was organised by the 12th Student Council (the Tidal Twelve). Planning for this event began in June by Project Managers Ewan Mok and Ho Khai Lie, both from 5-SVM. This year, the event was a combined celebration which involved the whole school, including a special musical performance to the Year 4 students by Mr Robb Ross. The Council also put up videos evoking nostalgia, sentiment and amusement - giving rise to resoundingly positive reactions throughout the school. Afterwards, Year 4 tutors distributed reports to their students along with a customised school gift from the Council. Year 4 students and their teachers were then invited to a specially decorated Student Centre where a delectable buffet and customised photo-booth awaited them. There was a wonderful atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving, which brought joy to not only the Year 4 students but also the 12th Student Council and teachers who planned the event.

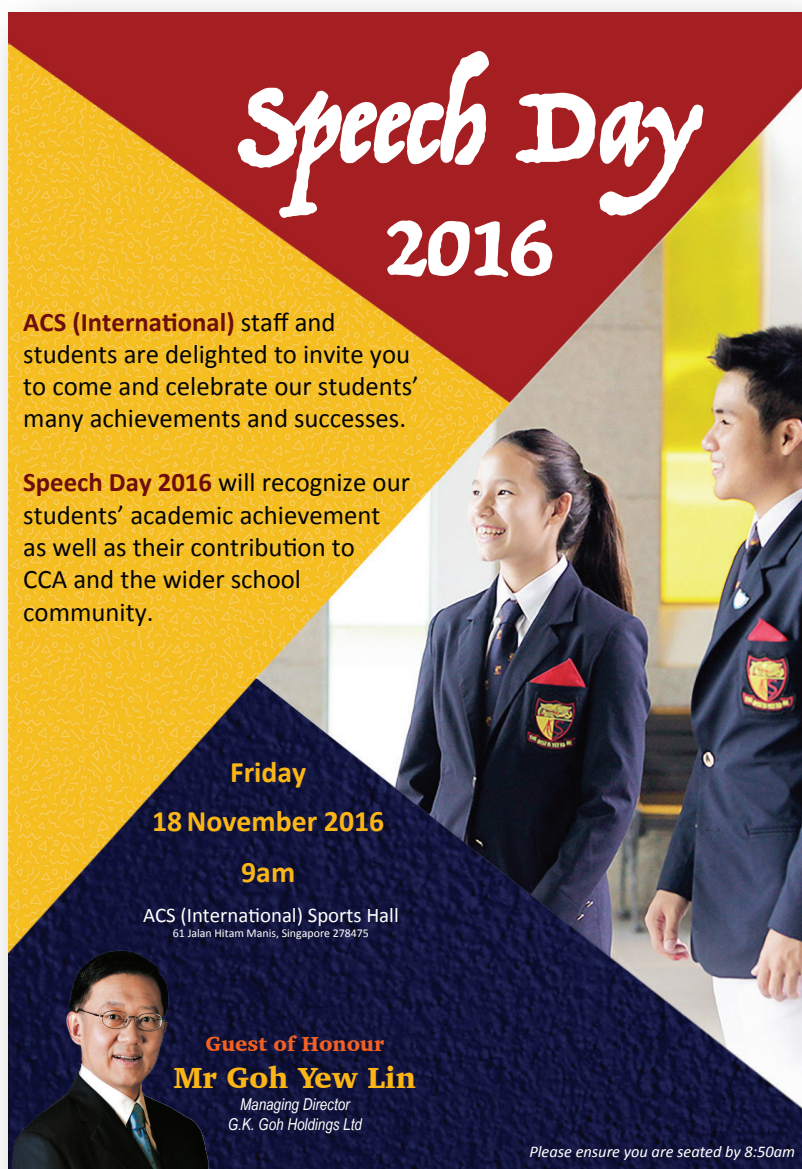
Year 6 Farewell

Each year, our Year 6s carry out the traditional Leavers' prank as part of their farewell to the school. This time they "decorated" the Principal's car, which they eventually restored to normality by the end of the day. Later that week on their last day of classes, the Year 6s initiated an energetic flash mob during the Assembly period, and presented the school with the wonderful videos they had made reflecting on their time at ACS. It was a very emotional time for all. The Year 6s then attended a delicious tea that had been set up for them in the Oldham Chapel foyer. The photo-booth at the Student Centre was also pressed into service, and Year 6s took photos dressed up as the jobs they aspired to have in the future. Some took this less seriously than most, resulting in an afternoon of joy and hilarity.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER	EVENT
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB examinations begin
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSP Coffee Morning 08:15am
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 Bali NYAA Camp departs
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Year Camps Y1,2,3, PG,PB +FIB (Sembawang, Sentosa and Bintan) Group 4 Science Project
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camps return
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100th PSP Exco Meeting
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 08:00 Tutor Time 08:30 Speech Day (Parents are welcome and are asked to be seated in the Sports Hall by 8.20am) End of Year Reports distributed after Speech Day School Holidays begin at 12:30
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole Staff Seminar
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Examinations end Teacher preparation day for 2017 Graduation 17:30
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Ball (Prom)



Speech Day 2016

ACS (International) staff and students are delighted to invite you to come and celebrate our students' many achievements and successes.

Speech Day 2016 will recognize our students' academic achievement as well as their contribution to CCA and the wider school community.

Friday
18 November 2016
9am

ACS (International) Sports Hall
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

Guest of Honour
Mr Goh Yew Lin
Managing Director
G.K. Goh Holdings Ltd

Please ensure you are seated by 8:50am

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