



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back for Term 4 - the business end of the year where successfully sitting external and internal examinations for all students is our main priority. At a recent assembly students were challenged to identify and remove 'excess baggage' from their lives so that they fully focus on preparing for the coming examinations. Excess baggage costs us in both time and energy – time wasted in processing the extra weight, time wasted through the slowed pace caused by the extra weight; and extra energy expended to process the extra weight.

The excess baggage analogy given in assembly related to the 17th century when the Swedish warship *Vasa* sunk in 1628 just minutes into its maiden voyage. The *Vasa* was 69m long, lavishly built by 400 craftsmen at the royal shipyard at Stockholm, richly decorated and fitted with 64 cannons, and upon completion, it was one of the most powerfully armed vessels in the world of that time. Unfortunately, the *Vasa* was too top heavy and dangerously unstable. After sailing just 1,300 meters, at the first strong breeze, the ship foundered, leaned over and sank. Around 30 people lost their lives.

The ship carried too much weight in relation to her size. She looked good on the outside but inside she carried excess baggage. Like the *Vasa* we all carry excess baggage. Excess baggage weighs us down, causes us to fall over, and not achieve our potential. Similarly, like the *Vasa* we may look good on the outside but inside we may be weighed down by busy-ness, worry, panic, emotional issues, relationship problems, on-line social media, gaming, etc etc...

The challenge for all of us to identify and remove our 'excess baggage', particularly in this exam season. As Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 says 'Let us lay aside every *weight*, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with perseverance the race set before us...'

Our best wishes to all students for their coming examinations.

Rob Burrough



ACS (International)

October 2016

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STAFF NEWS

Long Service Award

ACS (International) is proud to announce that the following full-time staff were awarded with the 10 Year Long Service award in recognition of their hard work and dedication at this week's school assembly.

In alphabetical order:

- Mdm Susan Ong – Head of Faculty of Science
- Mdm Seet Eng Neo – Secretary for the Chairman and the ACS Foundation
- Mdm Koh Leng Khim – Head of Faculty of Languages
- Mr Praeman Balasundram – Housemaster of Oldham House
- Mr Karuna Pakirisamy – Teacher of ESOL

We thank them for their 10 years of faithful service.

This month we wish Ms Jelin Tan, one of the Holland Village Methodist Church Christian Ministry staff working in the school well as she leaves for a time of reflection and new adventures.

Jelin has looked after the Christian Fellowship CCA, helped organise chapel services and worked to support new international students adjust to life at school and in Singapore.

We thank her for her hard work and we wish her well.

Introducing our New Chaplain

Rev Loretta Lim was appointed to be a Chaplain to ACS (International) on 1 August 2016. She is a welcome addition who will be serving alongside our Chaplain-in-Charge Rev Joel Yong, and Chaplain Rev Clarence Lee. Rev Noel Goh who was one of our Chaplains, retired on 31 July 2016.

Rev Loretta Lim comes to us with 9 years of Chaplaincy experience at ACS Independent and was a pastor with Living Waters Methodist Church, in all those years. She was previously on the Trinity Annual Conference Board of Youth Ministry and currently serves on the General Conference Discipline Revision Commission. She has 2 elderly parents (who are both 86 years old) and an older brother who is an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore.

Rev Lim finds inspiration in how God can use each and every single one of us, no matter how unlikely we might see ourselves as His vessels for His good work! In her own words, she says this: "... constantly amazed in how God has changed and equipped me for what He has called me to do. As an introvert and one who shies away from public, I would never have thought that God could use someone like me for His Kingdom work."

She is passionate about the preaching of the Word as well as conducting spiritual retreats for the tired Christian soul. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to Christian music (her favourite singers include Father Paul Gurr, Keith & Kristyn Getty, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Sheila Walsh and George Beverly Sheas) and she also is a fan of Korean dramas!

Please warmly welcome her to our ACS (International) community and say hi to her when you see her around our premises!

Rev Joel Yong



NOTICES

Examination Timetables

All examination schedules may be found at the following link: <https://intranet.acsinternational.com.sg/api/subwebs/?id=37>.

Users will require iSAMS details to log into the intranet website.

Year 4 and 6 Study Leave

Year 4 study leave begins after the final assembly and farewell lunch on Wednesday 5 October.

Year 6 study leave begins after the final assembly and farewell on Wednesday 19 October.

Students coming in to school for any reason must wear their full school uniform. Students who are not wearing the appropriate attire will be sent home to change.

End of Year Reports

End of Year reports will be issued on the last day of school prior to study leave. Uncollected reports may be collected from the Academic Secretary Ms Manwant Kaur in the General Office.

- The EOY report will only be issued to the student whose name it bears. If students are unable to collect their report, a proxy may be appointed, and the Academic Secretary **must** be informed at manwant.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg.
- Please include the proxy's full name and IC number. They must also bring this ID card for verification purposes.

Annual Study Nights and Library Extended Hours

Scheduled dates for annual study nights are held from 6 – 8pm on every Tuesday and Thursday starting from (and including) 6 October to 10 November on level 2 of the library.

- Extended hours are intended solely for Year 4 and Year 6 students. No other students will be admitted so as to provide a conducive environment for the Year 4s and 6s.
- Students must be appropriately attired prior to entering the library, and are expected to sign in upon entry.

Last Day of CCAs

Please note that Performing Arts and Interest Group CCAs have ended their year on Friday 7 October.

Sporting CCAs end their year on Friday 14 October. Certain ACSIS competitions will however carry on after this.

Restricted Car Access to School Grounds

Due to traffic and pedestrian congestion, parents are requested to park on the road instead of dropping off and collecting students within the school grounds. Please do not be offended if the guards decline access. The above restrictions do not apply during wet weather or if parents have meetings at school.

(For parking in school, car decals are available at the General Office reception)



Camp News

Students from Year 1-3 are preparing themselves for fun times ahead!

Camp details and itineraries: These will be emailed to parents of students in the respective year groups.

Traveling to camp from school: Students must take the responsibility of checking on Firefly in advance for their seat and bus numbers.

Camp safety: Students will not be allowed to leave the camp under any circumstances.

Should a student become unwell, a doctor will be called to the camp. An MC will be produced for the student. For each camp, only the listed teacher-in-charge can authorise any unwell student to leave the camp, and is the person whom parents and guardians must meet before bringing students home.

Year 1 camp: Mr Damien Chiang

Year 2 camp: Ms Sia Ee Mien

Year 3 Bali camp: Ms. Vicki McGregor

Year 3 Bintan Camp: Mr Praeman Balasundram

Year 1 : Sembawang Camp 9th-11th November, 2016

Year 1 students have been preparing for their End of Year camp under the auspices of the Year 1 Student Camp Committee. The results of a survey determined that the Year 1s will be participating in: kayaking, high elements, trekking, archery, amazing race, problem solving activities, and team games. The camp will be held in Sembawang. Students will leave from ACS International on the day of the camp at 8am on their designated bus.

Year 2 Students including Bridging Students and Pre IG: Camping on Sentosa 9th-11th November, 2016

Year 2 students will be camping in tents on Sentosa. The students will be involved in: basic camp craft, rafting, team work, night walk on Sentosa, low elements course, amazing race, problem solving activities, and a treasure hunt around Sentosa (plus other games). Students who want to do archery please note: it is an optional extra and will cost an additional \$20 per head.

Year 3 students Option 1: NYAA Expedition (Bronze Award): Adventurous Journey to Bali

Students will be camping, cycling, rafting, trekking, and river tubing.

Year 3 Students/Foundation IB and Pre IB Option 2 Bintan Camp: Bintan Lagoon Resort

Students will be involved in: low elements course, a team challenge, "The climbing Pyramid", flying fox, (zip lining), and other team building activities.



STUDENT SUCCESSES

South East Asia Amateur Golf Championship

Congratulations to Ryan Wong (5 OLD) on finishing in a credible 6th position (overall standing) at the highly competitive SEA Amateur Golf Championship. He was the best finisher for the Singapore contingent.

Incoming and Outgoing Alumni Reunion Committee

The school would like to extend its sincere thanks to the outgoing Alumni Reunion Committee (ARC), consisting of Cephas Tan (Year of 2011), Nicole Chua (2011), Keiren Goh (2011), and Nahin Mustafiz (2011). We are grateful to them for their dedicated service to the alumni.

As such, we are pleased to announce the members of the ARC who will be serving from 2016 – 2018: Natasha Ten (Year of 2012), Nicolette Ten (2012), Rafael Muliawan (2012), Tim Supramaniam (2011), and Jonathan Eng (2011).

We look forward to partnering with them in supporting our alumni.

Elevate Education at ACS (International)

Elevate Education came to our school on 30 September for the last IB Core Time of the year. The speaker, Mr Kirun Goy, gave an interesting and engaging talk on how to finish the year well. His talk included tips on how to keep stamina up before the exams, how to make the most of the time left during the study break, and how to manage stress and practice mindfulness.



As Mr Goy had gone through the IB Diploma programme in his student days, he understood what our students were currently experiencing. His talk led to a fruitful question and answer session afterwards. The students in attendance really enjoyed the session as they found new ideas and encouragement in how they could make it to the finish line without burning out, and also how best to get the marks they deserve.



8th Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series

On 29 August, 36 of our staff and students had the privilege to attend the 8th iteration of the Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia public lecture series hosted by the Singapore Management University (SMU). This year, SMU had invited the Secretary General (SG) of the United Nations (UN), his Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon to give the lecture. Mr Ban gave the lecture as a part of his 2-day visit to Singapore, his second since his tenure as Secretary General of the UN. That evening, the SG addressed over 3500 guests, a number almost twice the size of the UN General Assembly. In attendance were Members of Parliament, Singaporean and foreign ambassadors, SMU staff and students, as well as staff and students of various junior colleges, international schools, and polytechnics, including many of us from the ACS family.

After a brief introduction by Mr Ho Kwon Peng, the son of late Mr Ho Rih Hwa, and chairman of the SMU Board of Trustees, Mr Ban stepped onto the stage and began his speech. He thanked Singapore for its active supporting role in backing the agenda of the United Nations. Throughout his speech, he praised Singapore as a model country to others in the world, describing it as “a small country ... with a big heart, and a big impact” in its global citizenship, with its commitment to climate change and peace. He spoke about the current and future goals of the UN; citing its 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals, and interspersed his speech with how Singapore can contribute even further to global sustainable development. The 2030 agenda included very strong emphases on commitment to climate change, greater investment in youth and women and the urgency of tackling global extremism and violence, with the aim of “leaving no one behind”. Many of us were inspired to think about how we could be involved in contributing in our own way.

Mr Ban then addressed the students directly, strongly encouraging them to step up and be the agents of future change. This was followed by a question and answer session, where a record number of over 50 students and guests stepped up to ask questions that varied from asking about his Excellency’s ideas of how the youth today can be more active contributors to society, to questions about his personal experience in the UN. Due to the sheer number and variety of questions, Mr Ban was unable to answer all the individual questions. However, he said that it had been a good opportunity for him to hear about the concerns of youths today. He finished the session on an optimistic note, where he hoped that the world would be a more prosperous and peaceful place. He exhorted everyone to put pressure on their current leaders and speak up for the completion of this agenda. This experience was a rare and meaningful opportunity in which the leaders of tomorrow had the opportunity to hear from a leader of today. Many of us went away inspired; thinking about how we could play an active role in our societies today.

Leow Yeong Tee (5 TCT)



Ban Ki Moon photo with Dhruv



Ignite 2016

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

On Wednesday 31 August 2016, staff, students, parents and Holland Village Methodist Church members came together to dedicate the school in a night full of prayer and praise. This was the first time that ACS (International) had organised a full school Christian worship session open to all staff, students, and alumni of the school. It was indeed heartening to see that many had come with open hearts and minds to glorify God as one ACS family.

The event that was scheduled to be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm eventually came to an end at 9:00pm, as staff and students continued to fill John Wesley hall with songs of praise. The event concluded with a time of food, fellowship and sharing, as we listened to stories of how God had touched and transformed each of our lives.

On that evening, our passion for God's love was truly **reignited** as His presence touched many of our hearts and drew us closer to Him. The small-scale event turned out to be a large success, and we praise God for His guidance, providence and abundance in making this event possible.

May God continue to ignite in your heart a passion and desire to know Him more, and to be the light of the world.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14)

It only takes a spark to keep the fire going.

To God be the Glory, the Best is Yet to Be

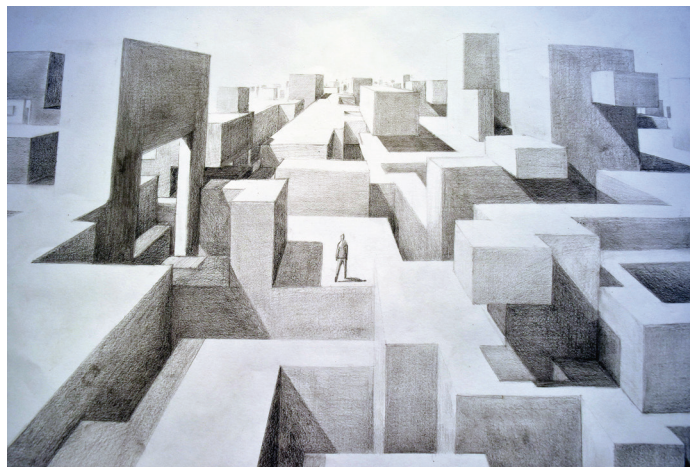
Alicia Chong 6SVM
Kan Wei Mun 6SVM



IB Visual Arts Exhibition 2016

The 2016 IB Visual Arts Graduates' exhibition, "Perspectives" saw 7 artists under the tutelage of Mr Peter Talbot put up a dazzling showcase of art works that they had curated themselves.

The event was opened by Mrs Tan Siew Hoon (Vice-Principal for Staff and Student Development), and was attended by parents, teachers, and fellow-students who came to celebrate the artists' successful completion of the Visual Arts course. Attendees were treated to a feast for the eyes as they travelled on artistic exploration journeys alongside our IB Visual Arts students, ranging from expressions of inner self to looking at the mundane from unique angles. The exhibition ran from 30 September to 7 October.



Humanities at ACS (International)

Field trips are part and parcel of the Integrated Humanities curriculum. In the last week of August, two of our Year 1 classes went on field trips to see the remains of an old British fort at Labrador Park.



*Clockwise:
At the entrance to Labrador Park, group photo by the replica of the Dragon's Teeth Gate of 14th Century Temasek, and walking through Labrador Park.*



*Left to right:
Standing by a 15-inch cannon at the top of the British fort, and learning about a relic of a British machine gun post along the coast.*

This fort protected Singapore from piracy and saw some action during the Japanese invasion of 1942.



Brand Management Workshop

17 students from the Year 4 Business Studies class (4BS1) were awarded Certificate of Participation by Tilburg University. These students participated in a workshop on Brand Management conducted by Dr. Vincent Wiegerinck of Tilburg University and successfully completed the assignment given. The workshop took place on 12 April 2016 at ACS (International), and was co-organized by the Faculty of Humanities and the Higher Education department.

The students who were awarded the certificate:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Claudia Novita Putri Lie Santoso | CKS |
| Morris Tan Mou Hui | CKS |
| Stella Kim Seong Eun | CKS |
| Matthew Aaron Lalamentik | GHK |
| Pattiya Rodjanaviriyaporn | GHK |
| Jason Sudianto | OLD |
| Vedina Grace | OLD |
| Huang Ruiyi | SVM |
| Justin Lim Tock Khiang | SVM |
| Ryan Lee | THO |
| Ultima Sirithanawat | THO |
| Daphne Tay Li Yuan | TKK |
| Evan Wu Jie-Lun | TKK |
| Joshua Ding Yong En | TKK |
| Terril Tan Ying Shen | TKK |



Chinese Drama Thunderstorm

On 30 August 2016, the Chinese Drama CCA performed an extract from the famous classical play “Thunderstorm”.



“Thunderstorm” was written in 1937 by renowned playwright Cao Yu. It was an exemplary representation of the influence of western dramatic theory in China and a first shift in the perception of what modern Chinese drama could be.

This is a first student-led drama experiment by the Chinese Drama CCA. The students initiated the project from choosing the play script to design of set, costume, sound and lights and rehearsals.

The Tuesday after-school performance was a success. The ACS (International) blackbox was packed with students and teachers who were interested in the play. The post show dialogue was a simple forum between the actors, directors and audience. The feedbacks were positive and favourable.

Student Director: Dorothy Xu Tian Zhe - 5SVM
Assistant Student Director: Liu Xiaohan – 4GHK
Student Production Manager: Alice Zhu Mengqi - 5GHK

Actors: Mark Zhao Qianchen, Liu Yang, Liu Xiaohan, Shen Biao, Zhang Youjia, Zheng Hongli, Sky Zhao Jiaxuan, Vivian Ye Weiying, Ge Yun, Zoe Wang Yiwen, Annie Wang Xiren.



Annual Inter-House Tug-of-War

This year's inter-house tug-of-war was extremely competitive and thrilling to watch. All of the houses had fantastic support with everyone cheering on their respective teams. Each team was made up of 8 juniors and 8 seniors. LSG emerged as this year's champions, a well-deserved prize as they remained undefeated through each rounds. THO won the silver trophy, followed by CKS with the bronze. There was great team effort demonstrated by all teams. Thank you to all the participants and supporters, we look forward to next year's competition.



Inter-House Drama Competition

The inter-house drama competition was one of the toughest, most competitive events that I've seen take place in the school in a long time. This is because of the growing talent and progressing experience that actors are gaining as the school grows in numbers, as well as a healthy inter-house spirit. TKK had the opening performance and I think it was safe to say that they set the tone for the performances to come with witty one liners and creative story lines. The other houses followed suit with their own impressive responses to the opening round and displayed inspiring synergy. The atmosphere and energy within the Chapel was overwhelming from the support that was shown by the audience and the event could not have been as successful without them. Every house pulled out all the stops, leaving no 'line' unturned making the afternoon all the more competitive. Thank you to all the performers who put in countless hours of rehearsal and preparation, as it was very evident as each house took the stage and I'm excited to see how this particular experience will grow for each individual in the coming years.

Harith Liew (5 TKK)

TKK received the first prize, followed closely by SVM (a difference of 1 point!), and TCT in second and third places respectively.



Western Australia Trip

On September 4 – 13, 14 Year 1 to 3 students, Ms. McCallum and Mr. Ross embarked on an adventure to Perth and the surrounding region of Western Australia. On our first full day we took a ferry to beautiful Rottneest Island, and went on a scenic bike ride along the coast. Other activities in Perth included surfing, golfing, fishing, and a visit to a Science Centre. On an evening trip to an observatory, students viewed the moon and Saturn through powerful telescopes.

Outside of Perth in the hills we visited an Aboriginal cultural centre, where an aboriginal elder showed us traditional ways of life including hunting kangaroo and using tree sap as toothpaste. In a walk through the forest, we were shown a variety of plants that can be used for soap and for medicinal uses. Our stay ended with us baking traditional Damper bread in the fire and eating BBQ kangaroo meat – really tasty!

Probably the highlight of the trip was the 2-day visit to Springhills Farm, about 100km south of Perth. A working farm, Springhills boasts 6000 acres and 8000 sheep. With no cell phone or Internet reception, the students suffered at first.

But soon they revelled in the fresh (at times 7°C) air, wide open spaces, long walks, and fireside talks in the evenings. They even helped out by cleaning some chicken coops. The students were desperate for sheep selfies. Sadly, none of the 8000 sheep would co-operate, fleeing whenever a student came near.

Despite that small disappointment, it was a great trip packed with interesting, fun, and educational activities, many of them in the great outdoors.



Japan CAS Trip

From 6 – 15 September 2016, a group of 19 Year 5 students, accompanied by Miss Doreen Mak and Mr Frank Yip, embarked on a remarkable journey to Japan to learn about the Japanese way of life, share perspectives about the IB Diploma Programme, and engage in service activities.

Upon arrival at Yokohama, they were warmly received by the pupils and staff at Yamate Gakuin High School. The student volunteers, along with their families, generously hosted the representatives of the ACS family in their homes. Each student had the extraordinary opportunity to create a personal bond with their respective host families. During the school day, students accompanied their buddies to attend lessons and lunch. They also took part in co-curricular activities such as Kendo, Karate, and the Japanese Tea Ceremony.



To embrace the Japanese way of life and as a mark of respect to the hosts, the group travelled to Myoshuji Temple, to clean the premises. Despite our different religions and backgrounds, the monks accepted us onto their sacred spiritual grounds. In appreciation of the visit, a young monk spent time with the group to explain the origins of Buddha. The next day, the group visited Sheishin and Kajigaya Catholic Kindergartens. Initially, and with curious eyes, the children looked cautiously at the

strangers who had entered into their playground. The Year 5s successfully managed to breakdown all barriers due to the fun and interactive activities planned in advance. These included teaching English vocabulary through the Japanese language and music. The day after, they visited Nakano Care Plaza, which was an elderly residential home. The group created a relaxing atmosphere by playing melodious soft music on the piano,

followed by a fun session of Bingo, memory games and other engaging activities. As parting gifts for the residents, the group folded origami paper cranes, symbols of hope and healing.

Back at Yamate, the Year 5 students delivered a presentation about the IBDP to a lecture hall full of senior students. On their final day in Yokohama, they also taught the Yamate 9th

graders English by means of famous English pop songs and through Singapore's culture.

Travelling southwest to Kyoto and Osaka, the group visited some of Japan's historical and scenic sites, and the odd shopping district for retail therapy. Through this, the students were able to glean more knowledge about the different foods, religions and history of Japan from a local guide.

'With certainty, each member of the group had made an individual connection with Japan in their own unique way through this rare and enriching experience. It is trip that is highly recommended for all students.'



Tara Jane Ong (5 OLD)



UPCOMING EVENTS

| OCTOBER | EVENT |
|----------|--|
| 7 | • Interest Groups and Performing Arts CCAs close |
| 12 | • Annual Inter –JC/IP/IB Schools Staff 7s Football Tournament (at ACS International) |
| 14 | • Sports CCAs close |
| 19 | • Year 6 Final Assembly (followed by study leave) |
| 20 | • Internal School Examinations (Y2,PG,Y3,Y5) begin • Y1,1B,PB + FIB Study Leave |
| 21 | • Internal School Examinations (Y2,PG,Y3,Y5,PB,FIB) • Y1+1B Study Leave |
| 24 | • Internal School Examinations (all levels) |
| 25 | • Internal School Examinations (all levels) |
| 26 | • Internal School Examinations (all levels) |
| 27 | • Internal School Examinations (no school for Y1+1B) |
| 28 | • Internal School Examinations (no school for Y1,1B,2,PG) |
| 29 | • Deepavali |
| 31 | • School Holiday |
| NOVEMBER | EVENT |
| 2 | • IB Examinations start |
| 3 | • PSP Coffee Morning (08:15 – 10:30) • Y5 Theatre Collaboration Project Showcase |

University Visits In School (Term 4)

US Institutions

The University of California, Santa Cruz,
University of La Verne and Foothill
De Anza Colleges

Thursday, 6th October
11.40 am-12.20 pm
Booth in the Canteen



University of Dundee
Thursday, 6th October
11.40 am-12.30 pm
Booth in the Canteen

Regent's University
London
Thursday, 6th October
11.40 am-12.30 pm
Booth in the Canteen



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