



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER



May 2017

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Keeping ourselves and others safe is something that we all need reminding of from time to time. We have a responsibility to look out for each other. Supporting and caring for each other is a core feature of family life, whether it be the nuclear family, an extended family or our school family. Regular reminders to pedestrians and car drivers to obey the road rules and be considerate of each other in the narrow streets surrounding the school is but one example of helping keep each other safe.

Education and mental health professionals around the world are being increasingly concerned about a new series released on Netflix, '13 Reasons Why' which has the potential to undermine the safety of young people. The show sensationalises serious themes including sexual assault, bullying, drug use and suicide. It has an R18 classification. Parents are alerted to this series and are asked to discuss it with their children. Even if students have not watched the series they may well be hearing about it from classmates. Watching the series does not mean that students are at risk of dangerous behaviours but mental health professionals say that several aspects of the themes covered are at odds with guidelines for keeping ourselves safe.

Any student at ACS (International) who has feelings of deep despair, or who knows of friends who are suffering, is reminded of the various support systems available at school which include the School Counsellor, Nurse, International Student Pastoral Care Coordinator, a trusted teacher, House Tutors, House Masters and senior staff. As Mr Kinch shared in assembly this week, our school motto, *The Best Is Yet To Be* reminds us of hope and that things will be better in the future. We are also each called to action to help others. We have a responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe.

We wish everyone a safe and productive month ahead before the release of Term 2 reports on 24 May and the end of term on 26 May.

**Rob Burrough**

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**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**

Macadamia nuts  
are toxic to dogs

## ACS (International) Christian Ministry

Religious Emphasis Week took place from 10 to 12 April.

This year, Reverend Joel Yong shared about “Our Yesterday” and “Our Today” while the Singapore Youth for Christ (YFC) shared about “Our Tomorrow”.

“Our Yesterday” deals with how our glorious past or painful pasts need not have a hold over us. Jesus wipes the slate clean and offers us a new start.

“Our Today” deals with how our decisions today matter. We should not put off to tomorrow, the things which require action today. Change begins with things we cease to do and new habits we embark upon. Jesus leads us to a new life and transformation is possible in Him

For “Our Tomorrows”, we are reminded that our confidence is in the God who holds our future. He is the author and the finisher of our faith and as we put our trust in Him, we can be sure that He will lead and guide our paths.

At the end of the three days, we are thankful that some of the students have responded to the messages and we pray that the seeds sown will continue to grow and bear fruit.

*Roger Teo  
(Christian Ministry Staff)*



## Religious Emphasis Week Student Reflections

Religious Emphasis Week is held in the lead up to Easter, where we think about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. This year's theme was “Our Yesterday, Our Today, and Our Tomorrow”. As we reflect on our past, we often think about our mistakes or things we've done well. Our past contributes to making us who we are now, and sculpts our future. Some of us have pasts that we are not proud of (whether we had control over them or not), but we were reminded that the past is past and that Jesus offers us a new start.

Then comes our todays. The present. As much as our yesterdays mean a great deal, it is vital to know that we also have to live in the moment and think practically about the here and now. Whatever that has been done in our yesterdays, we still have a chance to change how we want our future to be depending on how we act from that moment on. The presentations show that one moment in our lives don't define us for the rest of our days. Pastor Joel even shared experiences from his own life, which made it more relatable for us.



And finally the great unknown that is our future. Despite what we may have done in our past, our future is what we make it to be. We can shape our own futures with our actions in the present. If you want to get into a good university it is important to study hard and focus in class, if you want to win at a sport you have to train and persevere. If you have done things in the past you regret and have made mistakes, learn from them and don't repeat them. The only person in charge of your life is you and ultimately only you can decide to change and better yourself.

We would like to thank Pastor Joel, the chapel band and everyone who presented and helped with these memorable Chapel sessions.

*Michael Buchanan (3 CKS) and Lorraine Chia (4 TCT)*



## NOTICES

## Year 4 and 6 June Holiday Revision Class Schedule

Some of our teachers have kindly volunteered to hold revision classes in the last week of the June holidays. The schedules for each subject are as follows below. Students are strongly encouraged to make the most of these sessions in preparation for their examinations.

### Art:

#### **Year 6 Visual Arts:**

The Art department Year 6 studio space is open except for 1st and 2nd of June.

Consultation with Mdm Chang is available upon request.

#### **Year 4 IGCSE Art and Year 5 Visual Arts:**

Consultation with Mr Talbot is available upon request during the last week of the June holidays

#### **Year 3 IGCSE Art:**

Consultation with Mdm Chang is available upon request.

### Language (Spanish)

#### **Year 4:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time
4 SL 1	Spanish	Mr Olger Portilla	NB 3-01	27 June (Tuesday)	10am – 12 noon
4 SL 1		Mr Olger Portilla	NB 3-01	29 June (Thursday)	10am – 12 noon

### Mathematics

#### **Year 6:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time	Content
6MaSL5	6SL	Mr Charles Lee	OB 4-06	28 June	9am – 1030am	Consultation, PYP
6MaSL2	6SL	Ms Tan Shiao Ser	OB 3-02	28 June	9am – 12 noon	Past Prelim Papers
6MaSL2	6SL	Ms Tan Shiao Ser	OB 3-02	29 June	9am – 12 noon	Past Prelim Papers
6MaSL2	6SL	Ms Tan Shiao Ser	OB 3-02	30 June	9am – 12 noon	Past Prelim Papers
6MaHL3	6HL	Ms Jasmine Teo	OB 3-04	28-June	9am – 12 noon	Consultation, PYP
6MaHL3	6HL	Ms Jasmine Teo	OB 3-04	29-June	9am – 12 noon	Consultation, PYP
6MaHL1	6HL	Mr Raghu	OB 3-06	29-June	9am – 12 noon	Consultation, PYP
6MaHL1	6HL	Mr Raghu	OB 3-06	30-June	9am – 12 noon	Consultation, PYP
6MSSL1 & 4AM2	6MSSL & 4AM	Mrs Lim Lay Pian	OB 3-08	29 June	9am – 12 noon	Past year papers
6MSSL1 & 4AM2	6MSSL & 4AM	Mrs Lim Lay Pian	OB 3-08	30-June	9am – 12 noon	Past year papers
6MaHL4	6HL	Mr Damien Chiang	OB 2-01	30 June	8am – 4pm	Paper 1 & 2 questions

#### **Year 4:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time	Content
4AM5	AM	Ms Sandra Sng	OB 4-06	29 June	10am – 12 noon	Consultation
4Ma2 & 4Ma8	4Ma	Ms Diana See	OB 3-05	29 June	10.30am – 12 noon	Past Prelim Papers & Support
4Ma2 & 4Ma8	4Ma	Ms Diana See	OB 3-05	30 June	10.30am – 12noon	Past Prelim Papers & Support
4Ma7	4Ma	Mr Charles Lee	OB 4-05	27 June	9am – 1030am	Consultation, PYP
6MSSL1 & 4AM2	6MSSL & 4AM	Mrs Lim Lay Pian	OB 3-08	29 June	9am – 12 noon	Past year papers
6MSSL1 & 4AM2	6MSSL & 4AM	Mrs Lim Lay Pian	OB 3-08	30 June	9am – 12 noon	Past year papers
4Ma1 & 4Ma4	4Ma	Mrs Ong Teck Hoon	OB 3-03	29 June	9am – 12 noon	Consultation, PYP

### Music

#### **Year 6:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time
6 Mu HS 1	Music	Ms Carol Ling	MS 2-03	29 May – 1 June (Monday – Thursday)	9am – 1pm

### Science (Chemistry)

#### **Year 6:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time
6 Ch HL 1	Chemistry	Ms Cheryl Seah	Ch 1-02	30 June (Friday)	9am - 11am
6 Ch HL 2		Mdm Josephine Teo	Ch 1-03	27 June (Tuesday)	9am - 11am
6 Ch HL 3					
6 Ch HL 4		Ms Kom Kuppusamy	Ch 1-05	29 – 30 June (Thursday – Friday)	10am - 1pm
6 Ch SL 1		Ms Grace Lim	Ch 1-04	30 June (Friday)	9am - 1pm
6 Ch SL 2		Ms Cheryl Seah	Ch 1-02	30 June (Friday)	1pm - 3pm

#### **Year 4:**

Year Group	Subject	Teacher	Venue	Date	Time
4 Ch 1	Chemistry	Mdm Susan Ong	Ch 1-01	28 June (Wed)	9am - 10.30am
4 Ch 5					10.30am - 12 noon
4 Ch 3 and 4		Ms Hilda Toh	Ch 1-03	30 June (Friday)	9.30am - 11.30am
4 Ch 2 and 6		Mrs Phua Mui Kiam			





## Edusave Accounts for Singaporean Students

Parents of Singaporean students may have received a letter from MOE to inform them that they may make use of the Edusave funds to pay for approved enrichment activities organized by the school.

As determined by MOE, these approved enrichment activities must be conducted locally. To ease administrative works, Edusave funds may only be utilized to offset the cost of year-end local camps, and limited other activities. More details will be provided as soon as they are finalised.

## End of Year Adventure Camps

Year 2, 3, FIB and Pre-IB students should have already received a letter and seen posters around the school regarding the compulsory end of year Adventure Camps.

Please fill in and return the consent forms along with cheque payment to the General Office by **Thursday 4 May**. *Cheques must be made out to ACS (International).*

Please see Ms Gemma in the PE office for more information about any of these Adventure Camps.

Year 2 Adventure Camp: Telunas Resort, Sugi Island, Indonesia  
12 – 15 November 2017  
\$570 per student

Year 3/FIB/Pre-IB Camp: Bali, Indonesia  
11 – 15 November 2017  
\$1,400 per student

Year 3/FIB/Pre-IB Camp: Cameron Highlands, Malaysia  
11 – 15 November 2017  
\$970 per student

Students in Years 2, 3 and FIB/Pre-IB who do not go on the overseas Adventure Camps will participate in the Year 1 day activities in Singapore held on 13, 14 and 15 November.

## PSP Workshop on Bullying for Parents

Bullying is one of the main issues youth face as they grow and develop their own identity. Incidents of bullying, intolerance, put-downs, and exclusion are far too common and far too costly. It is happening earlier, harder to identify, and more often found in cyberspace. Bullying undermines student achievement, and is harmful to young people's social and emotional development. These are challenging issues for families to address, especially since parents/guardians or other adults are often unaware of the incidents that are happening.

Ms Chantal Roux, our school counsellor, will share some cases and talk about awareness of the severity and impact of bullying. Parents will be given tips on how to spot the bully and the bullied, strategies to encourage their children to open up and respond effectively, and taught how to help should their children be involved in bullying or know someone who is.

This will be an interactive workshop with activities (depending on group size), sharing time, and Q & A.

### Event Details:

**Date:** 20 May 2017 (Saturday)

**Time:** 9:00am – 12:00pm

**Venue:** Staff Lounge, ACS (International)

### Programme:

**9:00 am** Registration and Breakfast

**10:00 am** Workshop

We would appreciate an RSVP if you are attending, to [acspsp.net@gmail.com](mailto:acspsp.net@gmail.com), by 18 May 2017 (Thursday).

Please include your full name and the year your child/ward is in.



## PSP Coffee Morning

Twenty-five parents, about half of whom are new to ACS (International), attended our recent Coffee Morning cum Dialogue session with the Principal and Vice Principals on 20 April 2017. Mr Burrough started the session with an update of the various happenings around school. He spoke about the Open House, changes to leadership boards structure, PEAKS sessions with students & parents, the policy pertaining to Year 5 change of subjects after deadlines, upcoming Year 5 overseas CAS trips, and the annual school production to name a few. He also shared some future plans like a possible lift for the Old Block, and the renovating of the school canteen.



Parents then had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their concerns with Mr Burrough, covering a wide range of topics. These included: why ACS (International) does not offer the IB ICT course, the selection process for House Prefects, the proper channels for raising concerns with regards to both staff and students, clarifying the second language policy for Foundation IB students and the possibility of resources from different teachers to be shared among students of all classes,...etc.

The formal yet lively and informative session ended at about 9.30am, and refreshments were served. Both Mr Burrough and Mr Kinch stayed till about 10am to mingle with parents and to answer more individual questions. The PSP Exco is delighted to note that parents appreciate and enjoy our coffee mornings, and we hope to see many more parents in the future!



## PSP Bonding Activity

On Friday 28 April 2017, 24 fearless Moms of ACS (International) embarked on an agricultural adventure deep in the countryside of Kranji. We were met at Bollywood Veggies, Singapore's very own sustainable organic farm, by the Gentle Warrior herself, Ms Ivy Singh-Lim. The very charismatic Ivy regaled us with stories of her childhood which left us in stitches and in a good mood – a great start to the day!



Our farm tour guide was Dr Anthony Hopkins. He was a font of knowledge about anything related to plants. He said, "Plants improve the quality of our lives. Plants are smart but humans are smarter!" He introduced us to the many different types of vegetation. We got to examine the insides of a coffee bean, crush citronella leaves for protection against mosquitoes, taste moringa leaves, discover the uses of hibiscus and learn the historical significance of sugar cane with thanks to Christopher Columbus!

After the tour, we were divided into teams to compete in a treasure hunt. Each team had to complete a number of tasks within a stipulated time and the winning team would receive a prize! The ladies had a fun time solving puzzles, searching for various plants and making a video pitching their favourite plant.

We then had lunch at Bollywood Veggies' very pretty café called Poison Ivy. All vegetables served were grown right there at the farm. There was much laughter and chatter as we feasted on chicken wings, crispy moringa tempura, tofu, sweet and sour fish, curry chicken and more. Thankfully, the other patrons in the café tolerated the ruckus we raised.

All too soon the bus arrived and it was time to leave but not before we got a chance to shop! We were all eager to bring home some of the fresh organic goodness we enjoyed at the farm. We bought organic vegetables, banana bread, books and potted plants.

The PSP Exco would like to thank all the parents who joined us at Bollywood Veggies. We hope you enjoyed your day as much as we did. Two links to view all the photos from this event:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/ACS-International-PSP/457464777685030>

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bxb1avFnw9zAZ3BUWXIzXzhi\\_a2c?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bxb1avFnw9zAZ3BUWXIzXzhi_a2c?usp=sharing)



## STUDENT SUCCESSES

Congratulations to the following students who have been appointed to the Prefectorial Board of 2017 to 2018.  
The Student Leader Investiture was held on Thursday 27 April.

Prefects	Name	House
Head Boy	• Kan Chi Mun	GHK
Head Girl	• Megan Low	LSG
Deputy Head (Welfare Committee)	• Tan Manting	THO
Deputy Head (Ambassadors)	• Chen Kangan (Michael)	LSG
Deputy Head (Student Council)	• Kaitlyn Koh	SVM
Deputy Head (Heads of House)	• Michelle The	TCT

Ambassadors Committee	House
Chen Jiashu	TKK
Christopher Robin Panutomo	OLD
Grace Khoo	THO
Ho Tze Yin Nicole (Nicole)	THO
Lim Si Min Grace (Grace)	CKS
Si Mahaoqi (Angela)	TKK
Sophie Anne Fung Li Wen (Sophie)	GHK
Tan Weng Tong (Tiffany)	TCT
Tan Xin Yee	TKK
Trieu My Han (My Han)	GHK
Wang Zelin (Eric)	CKS
Zhuang Kaidi (Kristen)	LSG

Welfare Committee	House
Augustine Michael Chai Shao Foong	SVM
Brendan Marc Tan	LSG
Chng Javier Er Jue(Javier)	SVM
Karan Ahuja	TKK
Lam Man Tak Andrew	GHK
Liu Yang	OLD
Ma Tang Hieu Binh (Cassandra)	THO
Nirel Hoe Tze En	OLD
Shwetha Anandan	TKK
Yang Tze Te (Denny)	OLD
Yujin Kwak	TCT

Ambassadors Committee EXCO	House
Liu Xiao Han	GHK
Sophie Darmawan	OLD
Thanaporn Prayoonrat (Niece)	GHK

Student Council Committee EXCO	House
Choi Myeong Jun	GHK
Shawnia Seah	TCT

Student Council Committee	House
Deborah Au-yong Hui En	GHK
Evan Wu	TKK
Jennifer Lee Peng Hsuan	THO
Jessica Thia	THO
Lee Wen Xin (Nicole)	CKS
Michael Anthony Lim Hongming	CKS
Rachel Pang Wen Hui	CKS
Rheanna Sanpayo	CKS
Thanakorn Hoontrakul (Birdie)	SVM

Heads of House	House
Claudia Movita Putri Lie Santoso	Head of CKS House Leaders
Javen Lai Yew Jhun	Head of GHK House Leaders
Sue-Wei Chung	Head of LSG House Leaders
Kylie Liaw Sze Kei	Head of OLD House Leaders
Nika Sadat Sadri Tabatabaei Naeini	Head of SVM House Leaders
Alasdair Low Hoi Kit	Head of TCT House Leaders
Russell Scott Indradjaja	Head of THO House Leaders
Nathaniel Marthen	Head of TKK House Leaders





A Leadership Camp for the newly invested School Prefects took place on 29 April 2017. Through the adventure-based experiential programme which included kayaking and team building activities, the prefects were introduced to the 5 practices of exemplary leadership by James M Kouzes & Barry Posner - *Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, Encourage the Heart*.





## Swimming to Success

The school recently received news that Charity Lien (2 LSG) has been awarded the 2017 Singapore Olympic Foundation – Peter Lim Scholarship (High Performance U18 Category), a scholarship which aims to support high-performing athletes in their pursuit of sporting excellence.

Charity has also been selected to represent the Singapore Schools Sports Team (SSST) in the 9th ASEAN Schools Games (ASG) – no small achievement.

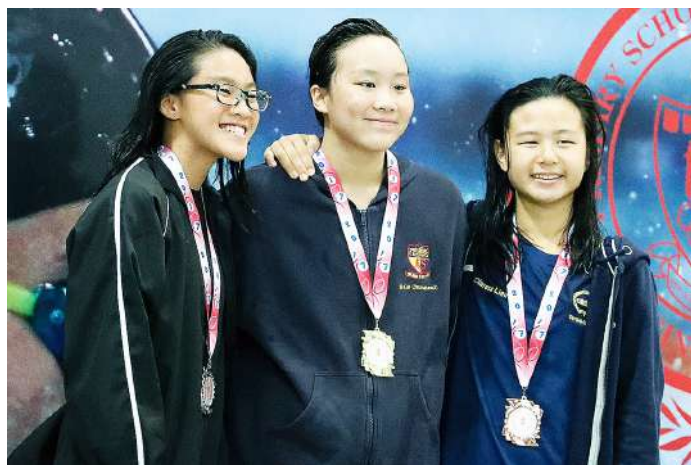
The school would like to congratulate her on being awarded the scholarship and being selected to represent Singapore. We wish Charity all the best.

## 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Schools Games Representatives

Congratulations to Charity Lien and Madeline Lye who have both been selected to swim for Singapore in the ASEAN Schools Games in July. An outstanding achievement by both girls.

## National School Games 2017

The National School Games (NSG) is the largest annual inter-school competition in Singapore, offering more than 400 championship titles, for more than 55,000 student athletes across all schools (primary, secondary, junior college and centralized institutions) in Singapore.



This year, Charity Lien (2 LSG) competed in the 100m and 200m breaststroke events, and achieved the gold medal for both events. Congratulations to Charity on her win.

*Charity's timings may be found on the NSG website at <https://nsq.moe.edu.sg/sssc/swimming#result> (Sessions 3, 8, and 9).*





## TEDxYouth@HCIS

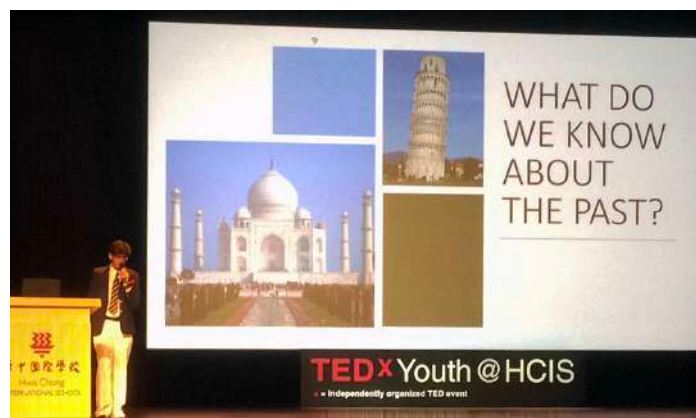
In the first week of April, Year 5 students Armaan Nirav Haji, Shwetha Ananda and Karan Ahuja participated in TEDxYouth at Hwa Chong International School (HCIS). TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to the mission, "Ideas Worth Spreading". Springing from the spirit of its mission, TED created the programme TEDx, which is a programme of local, self-organised events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

TEDxYouth@HCIS provides a platform for student participants and invited speakers to share ideas, interact and build networks among IBDP students.



## TEDxYouth Talk Student Reflection

When I first got the email from HCIS on being selected to give a TEDxYouth Talk, there was no word in the world that could describe how I felt. My heart was filled with happiness and I felt blessed to be given this opportunity. I realised I would have to work very hard to not let my school down. I did my best to refine my presentation, practising with family and friends.



Finally, D-day came. I was nervous and began to question whether I should go or not. I was afraid of embarrassing myself in front of everyone, but I took a deep breath and went on the stage to give my presentation. To my relief, my presentation was followed by a big round of applause. Later that day, we had a poster designing session, where we had to write about our favourite presentation. I was very pleased to see that many posters were based on my presentation. Upon reflecting on this event, I realised how much I had learned. I learned that the only way to solve your problems was to face them. I also saw just how important being open-minded is. I had to be open to suggestions from family and friends on how to improve my presentation – it helped me see that it is always a benefit to be open-minded.

*By Karan Ahuja (5 TKK)*



## A\*STAR Student Research Attachment Programme



During 5 weeks of my November and December holidays last year, I had the opportunity to work at A\*STAR, the Agency for Science Technology and Research, as part of the Student Research Attachment Programme (RAP). It was a very fulfilling experience. Not only did I get to participate in a project led by the professors, I had also gained many practical skills in the process of writing the report and learnt scientific concepts that were outside of my scope.

By the end of the attachment for last year, I was thankful to be nominated by the staff at A\*STAR to emcee for the 2016 RAP Closing Ceremony on 15 February this year. At the closing ceremony, all the awardees gathered together to receive their awards for the successful completion of their attachment. A few students were asked to share about their research work and projects which were all very interesting and insightful. Our Guest of Honour, Professor Huan, gave an inspiring talk on the future of scientific research, which would potentially be led by us (the students) in that room.



I truly appreciate ACS International and A\*STAR for giving me the golden opportunity to work for and receive the A\*STAR Junior College Science Award. It is indeed a very memorable chapter of my life as a student of the school, an unforgettable experience which will remain so in my life's journey. To God be the glory, the best is yet to be!

*By Evangeline Leong (6 TCT)*

## Fundraising for Bunina High School

In the upcoming June Holidays, a group of students will be visiting Bunina High School in the Gweru area in Zimbabwe. It is a school that ACS (International) has supported in the past.

An old farmhouse is currently used for schooling around 600 primary school students and about 170 senior school students. The school and its students face a great need on many fronts: there is a lack of funds for school facilities, school uniforms, books, stationery, and even running water. Yet many of these children walk willingly and eagerly for an hour and a half to school each day, mostly in bare feet.

Bunina's situation compels us to make an effort to protect and support the aspirations and ambitions of students like our own, and we would value your support for its students and staff.

During the past two years, our students raised funds to start building two classrooms, but these remain unfinished. This year, ACS (International) is hoping to sponsor the education of 12 young girls so that they will not be married off at a young age to provide for the family. Through this, we hope to give them a chance at a better life. Aside from student sponsorship, there are other projects you may like to sponsor: Fencing the school premises for safety, installing a working water pump, completing the new school building, and educational resources. Our students are hoping to raise a sum of \$5000. The need is great and we would like to invite you to share this opportunity to support Bunina.

ACS (International) aims to channel donations made before 20 May 2017 to Bunina School through local organisations whom we supervise to do the work regularly. Receipts of donations will be made available following our visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Billy Molloy (teacher-in-charge) at [billy.molloy@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:billy.molloy@acsinternational.edu.sg) for any clarification.

Cheques can be made payable to "ACS (International)" and designated to Bunina High School Zimbabwe.





## Alumni Catch Up: Risa Tan



Risa Tan graduated from ACS (International) in 2015 with an IB score of 44 points. She is currently studying Law at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University. We had the opportunity to catch up with her just before Open House. She was unable to join us for Open House, but shared her ACS (International) experience with us via email:

I have just finished my first exams at Oxford and am about to enter my third term. Here is a photo of myself at the

Matriculation ceremony before the start of first term, having no idea just how much work is about to hit me and looking way too optimistic.

I am constantly telling people what a gem of a school ACS (International) is. At home, my parents often remark that opting out of JC at the last minute and enrolling me in ACS (International) was the best decision we ever made. Our only regret is that we did not do it sooner, starting from Year 1. Because of our experience, several of our family friends have enrolled their own children in ACS (International) as well. I strongly believe that I would not have gotten into Oxford if I had not gone to ACS (International).

I gained two major things from ACS (International) - confidence in my unique abilities and strong friendships with my school mates. My confidence was built through the countless opportunities ACS (International) gave me to lead and initiate new events like the Debate League.

What sets ACS (International) apart is the freedom it gives its students to flourish in their own unique ways. You can try out as many CCAs as you want, regardless of your level of proficiency in that sport or activity. There are leadership opportunities for everyone at every level. The teachers appreciate that the spirit of the IB is to encourage critical thinking and creativity, so they give students the freedom to pursue their studies in their own intellectual direction. When it comes to exams, teachers like Mr Chan have fantastic exam strategies, and they go the extra mile to mark your practice papers and explain why one answer is a 6 and another answer is a 7. It really makes a difference.

Thank you Risa for taking time to pen your thoughts down. We wish you all the best in your studies.

## Alumni and the Bone Marrow Donor Programme

Towards the end of last year, a group of students came together to raise funds for the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP). They raised almost \$1,000 for the BMDP through one of the Casual Dress days. They also planned to get students and staff to register to become donors, but due to a lack of time, this could not happen.



More recently, alumni Dana Sivarajan (Class of 2016) was invited to the BMDP's "Celebration of Heroes" event at SOTA. This event was held to celebrate donors who have stepped forward to donate their bone marrow to save lives. The patron of the BMDP, Minister K Shanmugam, was in attendance.

Who will take up the challenge to encourage members of our school community to register to become donors? There are currently about 75,000 people on the register in Singapore. The BMDP aim to bring it up to 100,000 this year. Registering to be a donor is a simple and painless process.

### *Who can be a donor?*

For students and staff who are interested, anyone between the ages of 17 and 49 can sign up as a bone marrow donor. You need to be in good health and you can apply online at [http://bmdp.org/be-a-donor/#donor\\_signup](http://bmdp.org/be-a-donor/#donor_signup) for a postal kit to be sent to you. Then all you need to do is a simple cheek swab, fill out a form, and send it back to the BMDP.

Interested parties can get more info from the BMDP site <https://bmdp.org/>.



## Chinese Cultural Trip

On 12 April 25 Chinese Language students went on a short cultural trip led by Mr Ang Chew Yan and Mdm Chen Yongzhen. Chinese culture has always been a significant culture in Singapore, but traditions have been given up for the sake of modern progress. Therefore this trip was organised to encourage students to discover the remnants of traditional Chinese culture.

We went to the China Cultural Centre to view an exhibition of Chinese Paintings by the faculty of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. All the students were lost in admiration at the beauty of these remarkable paintings. We also viewed the Centre's library which houses 40,000 books, mainly on Chinese history, culture and current affairs.

After the visit, we walked to Bras Basah Complex, which is also known as the City of Books. It was a cultural feast filled with books, art, music and literature. The complex had many shops with a large selection of second-hand books and magazines. Mr Ang noted that whilst Bras Basah Complex had certainly flourished before, many of its bookstores have closed down in recent times. He took us to two Chinese bookstores in the complex, and we all had a great time wandering in this old building which still retained a strong feeling of a cultural atmosphere.



We live in an era where technology has become indispensable. Fragmented reading has gradually become a major way of reading. Every day, people are bombarded with so much information from our favourite digital platforms, but many of us can barely remember the last time we sat down to read a physical book from cover to cover. It was something I realised of myself after the short field trip in town. It is time for all of us to pick up those traditional ways of reading again to genuinely feel the joy, the peace and the excitement in between the pages.

*Michael Chen Kangan (5 LSG)*





## Year 3 Ecology Field Trip

On Saturday 29 April, the Year 3 Biology students got up close to nature when we visited Hay Dairies, Sky Green Vertical Farms, and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, where we learned about the different types of farming and coastal ecosystems in Singapore. We also got to learn about and discuss the impact of humans on the environment.



At Hay Dairies (a goat dairy), we learned about the milk production chain and farming methods, and discussed about the different types of farming.



*Vertical Farm system*



We then proceeded to Sky Green Vertical Farms, where a variety of leafy vegetables is grown in a vertical space using an efficient system to minimise the farm's environmental impact. The vegetables are grown in stacks of troughs which are rotated to maximise their exposure to sunlight. The whole process is driven by water that is also used to water the plants. We learned about how this 26 million dollar facility is maintained, and engaged in a debate about the sustainability of vertical farming and whether it can support a growing population in land-scarce Singapore. We agreed that vertical farming is more efficient and sustainable than traditional crop farming methods, and has a smaller negative impact on the environment.

Our final stop was Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserves, a well-known mangrove area where Singapore aims to conserve biodiversity of precious flora and fauna. We learned about the importance of mangroves as a habitat for many animal species, their role in protecting our coastlines, and how they are currently being threatened by development and the accumulation of locally and globally generated plastics. Expert biologists from EcoFieldtrips Pte. Ltd. also taught us how to use quadrats for population studies to understand the distribution of organisms in a survey area. There was time allotted for us to walk through the mangroves, and some of us were lucky to spot the different creatures living there, including water snakes, giant spiders, and mudskippers. It was interesting to see how the different plants there have adapted to their environment!

All in all, it was a good opportunity for us to learn more about the local farms and ecosystems, our impact on the earth, and to think about what we can do to lessen it.

*By Shreaya Suresh Kumar (3 OLD)*





## International Student Event Night Hunt

The Night Hunt was organized by the International Student Committee and took place on 21 April. It was a chance for our diverse international students to enjoy an iconic landmark of Singapore—Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay Sands, made all the more enjoyable with an Amazing Race game.

It was a good opportunity for us to bond and chill out after a week at school. The game started with a photo quiz and a photo-taking competition set against the picturesque scene of Gardens by the Bay with Marina Bay Sands in the background. It was made all the more exciting by the competitiveness of each team as they competed for prizes which included a \$50 Daily Scoop voucher.



The committee went through several obstacles in planning this event, it did not bring us down but instead brought us together. We supported each other in coming up with many of fun ideas, not to mention our amusing nightly skype meetings, which made this event a resounding success.



All in all, this was a great opportunity for the international students to enjoy the beauty of Singapore, as well as to unify us as we strive towards a common goal.

*By Tan Weng Tong (Tiffany) (5 TCT)*





## Itsy The Musical



A group of Year 5 students from the Chinese Drama CCA decided to take up a sponsorship challenge by local theatre company "The Finger Players". The project was to sponsor a group of their choice to watch the musical "ITSY" showing at the Victoria Theatre. This sponsorship project was spearheaded by Liu Xiao Han (5 GHK) and was fully supported by the

members of the Chinese Drama CCA. It was very successful and provided an opportunity for the less privileged students from New Town Primary School to experience a theatre show for the first time.



For these students, watching a musical might not change their current life situations drastically, but we believed that this opportunity to see the world and beauty of theatre would open another window of perspective for them. On the actual day, we conducted an after-school workshop, which included sharing some theatre knowledge with them and ice-breaker activities before we went for the show. It was a very memorable and meaningful event where it helped us to develop our organisation skills. In preparation for this event, we had to contact the New Town Primary School teachers to work out the timing of the workshop schedule, discuss with teachers about the event details, publicise our event and organise the tickets and money. I believe everyone who was involved in this event has learned something. There were some challenges, but in the end we pulled together and managed to achieve our initial goal to allow these children to enjoy a night at the theatre.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the teachers in charge of this project for their constant guidance and support that helped us a lot along the way. Thank you Ms Sia Ee Mien, Ms Tan Wan Sze and Mr Ho Wee Kwang

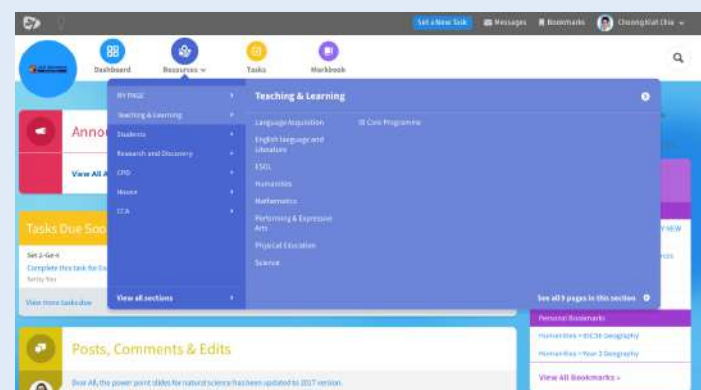
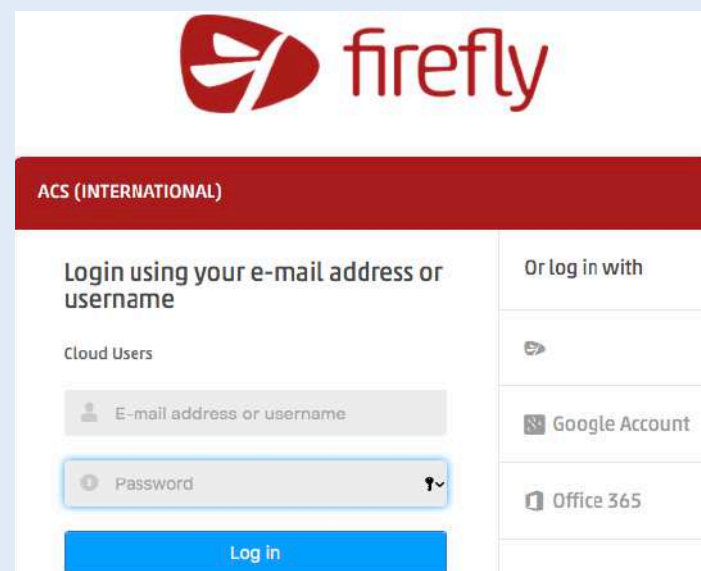
*By Liu Xiao Han (5 GHK)*

To see more about the sponsorship, follow this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Fingerplayers/photos/a.426074485669.207242.243092975669/10154166256350670/?type=3&theater>

## IT News

Firefly is our school's dedicated learning portal for students in the Lower and Middle Divisions. It can be accessed from the school internet, intranet or via <https://acs.fireflycloud.asia>.

Students will need to log in using their email ID and password via the log in via the Office 365 link. If they should encounter problems logging in, they can seek help from the IT Support Office located in the school library. Please note that unlike the Parent Portal, separate parental access to this portal is not available at the moment.



Parents are also reminded to install the ISAMS iParent app to access term reports, lesson attendance etc. The school code is "ACS" and the log in details are the same as those used to access the parent portal. The iParent app is available for free at both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

If there are problems logging in, please email [itsupport@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:itsupport@acsinternational.edu.sg).



## 7th National Inter-School Archery Championship 2017

185 students from various schools competed in A, B, and D Divisions in the 7th National Inter-School Archery Championship held at Shelton College. Five of our students, Rishi Bharadwaj (6 GHK), Daniel Leow (6 GHK), Akkshaj Sanjay (AJ) Singh (6 GHK), Joseph Lim (4 CKS), and Panchatsharam Abhishek (3 CKS) participated in the competition.

On the first day of the competition, all of our archers qualified to compete in the Individual Knock-out (IKO) and Team Knock-out (TKO) rounds that were held the next day.

During the A Division TKO match, two teams competed. Our A Division boys Daniel, Rishi and AJ lost to the MJC team, winning the silver medal for this round. During the A Division IKO match, there were four rounds of match plays. Rishi won every round and emerged as champion of the individual category, gold medal. Daniel and AJ were knocked out in the earlier matches. Joseph managed a bronze medal after four rounds of match plays in the B Division IKO match.

Due to their overall good performance in the matches, our A Division team was also awarded the silver trophy.

### Overall Result:

- 1) "A" Division: Silver (Team, Daniel Leow, Rishi & AJ Singh)
- 2) "A" Division: Gold (Individual, Rishi Bharadwaj)
- 3) "B" Division: Bronze (Individual, Joseph Lim)
- 4) Overall Trophy : Silver

Congratulations to our team of archers for their excellent performance.

*By Coach Gordon Thong*



*Overall A Div Silver Trophy*



*A Div individual champion Rishi*



*B Div individual bronze medallist Joseph*



*A Div Team silver medallists Daniel Rishi and Akkshaj AJ*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

## ACS (International) Annual Musical Production

ACS (International) presents our Annual Production:

### Roald Dahl's The Witches!

If you enjoyed last year's production of Into the Woods,  
you will love this one!

Join the cast and crew of ACS (International) as we follow the adventures of Arthur, our young hero. Who, travelling with his devoted grandmama, unwittingly stumbles into the middle of the child-hating witches and their dastardly plans.

Adapted for the stage by David Wood, this classic heart-warming fantasy is a must-see for anyone who has ever read and loved a Roald Dahl book ... or for anyone who has yet to have that pleasure!

For tickets, please contact Ms Helen Baker at  
[helenbaker@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:helenbaker@acsinternational.edu.sg).

(Credit goes to Chia Yun Wong (4 TKK)  
on winning the poster design competition - the final poster design was  
based on her submission.  
Well done!)



ACS (International) proudly presents

Roald Dahl's

# The Witches

Adapted for the stage by David Wood

## Date

11-13 May 2017, 7 pm

## Tickets

Youth: \$5 (Thurs & Sat)  
\$10 (Fri)

Adults: \$10 (Thurs)  
\$20 (Fri & Sat)

## Venue

Oldham Chapel

Doors open at 6:30pm



For tickets

[helen.baker@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:helen.baker@acsinternational.edu.sg)





## Darren Loh Cup V

Do you love the beautiful game?

The school's annual Darren Loh Cup (DLC) is coming soon!

This year, ACS (International) is partnering with the Rainbow Centre, a "not-for-profit organisation that serves children and young people with a diverse range of moderate to severe developmental needs, including autism, physical, visual and/or hearing disabilities; many have multiple disabilities".

There are several categories you can play in, so get your team (needs to include at least 4 ACSians, past or present), and sign up as soon as possible!

It's always a great day of football, BBQ, prizes and more – so don't wait too long to sign up!

Find out more about this year's DLC from our website at <http://www.acsinternational.edu.sg/DarrenLoh2017>,

Alternatively, you can check out our Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/282263238866260/>.

## CATEGORIES

**U19**

7-a-side  
each squad  
allowed max.10

**OPEN**

**MIXED**

**GIRLS**

At least 4 ACSians (past or present) for all categories



## SIGN UP

Approach Mr.Rajan(NB-101)

OR

Visit school website for signup sheet

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Email your forms to [DLC@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:DLC@acsinternational.edu.sg)

OR

Hand in to Mr Rajan

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Payment to be given to Mr Rajan to confirm your slot in the tournament

