



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Our best wishes to everyone over this Lunar New Year period. We trust that the Year of the Rooster will be one of prosperity and happiness for all.

The Rooster has great symbolism in many cultures. The Bible story of the crowing of the rooster after Peter denied Christ three times is well known. Peter was distraught, repented and experienced grace and forgiveness. In Christian tradition the rooster has therefore come to symbolize the offer of divine pardon for sin through Jesus Christ. Many churches in Europe have a rooster on top of their steeples, and in the Netherlands many older churches have golden rooster weather vanes. The golden rooster is said to be a symbol of Jesus Christ who breaks the power of darkness, brings forgiveness of sins, and announces a new day by the power of His resurrection. For Roman Catholics the rooster symbolizes Saint Peter, who is regarded as the first Pope.

Before the birth of Jesus Christ, the rooster was associated with the sun, the symbol of the Creator, because it crows before dawn. At sun shrines in Japan roosters freely roam the grounds. The Khasi people believe in the sacrifice of a rooster as a substitute for man, because they believe that the cock when sacrificed "bears the sins of the man." Similarly in Judaism where the Hebrew word 'gever' means both "man" and "rooster", a rooster sacrifice is as a substitute for the sins of a person.

Thankfully as Christians we do not need to sacrifice any animal for the forgiveness of sin as Christ has already done that on our behalf once for all. *'For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.'* Hebrews 10:10. We are therefore not bound by superstition and are able to enjoy all that God has to offer.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

Rob Burrough



ACS (International)

February 2017

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DID YOU KNOW ?

The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds

STAFF NEWS

Farewell, Mr MacLean!

At the end of this month we say goodbye to popular Vice Principal, Mr Richard MacLean, who moves on promotion to the Headship of Hillview International School in Malawi. Although Mr MacLean's departure leaves a significant gap at ACS (International) we recognise that his heart belongs to Africa, and we are pleased that his leadership skills have been recognised with this promotion.



Mr MacLean arrived at ACS (International) in October 2010 to lead the introduction of the new House system. The strong, unique and distinctive house system that we enjoy today is largely due to the vision, focus, and efforts of Mr MacLean and our previous principal, Mr Kerr Fulton-Peebles.

Mr MacLean's very strong contribution to the life of the school includes overseeing pastoral and other day-to-day needs of the school, leading assemblies, teaching PE and Geography, supervising and supporting inter-house and inter-school sporting fixtures, and leading overseas service trips, most recently to Cambodia and Southern Africa. He has also been a keen member of the staff running group who can regularly be seen supporting local fun runs for charity.

The school will farewell Mr MacLean in assembly on Wednesday 22 February with his last school day being Friday 24 February. We wish him and his wife, Marguerite, the very best in their next adventure in Malawi.

New Christian Ministry Staff



Mr Roger Teo is our new Christian Ministry Staff at ACS (International), filling the vacancy that was left by Ms Jelin Tan when she left us in October 2016.

We catch up with him in this interview in an attempt to get to know him better and find out what inspires him.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself and what you are passionate about. What made you decide to serve in full time ministry as a ministry staff in the school arena?

A: I came to Christ through a classmate's witness at the age of 14. He then got me involved in a discipleship group and I grew quickly in the Lord through that. Those years of discipleship and fellowship helped formed the foundation of firm friendship and support for many years to come. Our bond spread over to our service in the Christian fellowship (CF) in school and the youth ministry (YM) in church. The CF and YM are mainly youth led while adults provide guidance and advice. This is the reason why I am involved with youth work as I hope to see the youths rise up to lead vibrant CF/ YM and be a powerful witness for Christ.

Q: What are your hobbies - how do you unwind?

A: I enjoy going to the movies. Action and war films are my favourites. Documentaries on National Geographic and Discovery Channel are second on that list. Reading and just hanging out with friends over a meal are also things I do to help me to unwind.

Q: What is your favourite bible verse and why?

A: Psalm 23. Not just a single verse but the whole psalm. It is a desire of mine to keep things simple and not be caught up with things that draws me away from my call. These verses speaks plainly that, in Jesus, there is all that I ever want and ever need. And in Him, I will find peace, refreshment, restoration and favour.



NOTICES

IBDP 45 Pointer - Li Changrui

Following a re-mark of examination papers, we are pleased to announce that Li Changrui's grade has been upgraded from 44 to 45 points.

We congratulate him on his perfect IBDP score. This is the second year in a row that an ACS (International) student has gained 45 points.

Cambridge Bound – Ivan and Zhaomou

Congratulations to Ivan Phanada and to Song Zhaomou who both received offers from Cambridge University this week following the release of the IBDP results.

Zhaomou has been offered a place in Churchill College to study Engineering, and Ivan a place at Peterhouse College to read Chemical Engineering (via Natural Sciences). Ivan has also been awarded the prestigious Jardine Foundation Full Fees Scholarship for the duration of his study.

Pleasing IGCSE 2016 Examination Results

ACS (International) students in the November 2016 IGCSE examination scored a 91.6% pass rate narrowly exceeding last year's previous best pass rate in recent years of 91.4%.

Distinction passes of 50% were slightly lower than last year's previous best of 53%.

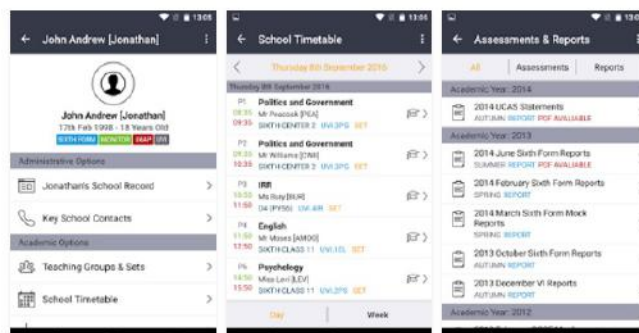
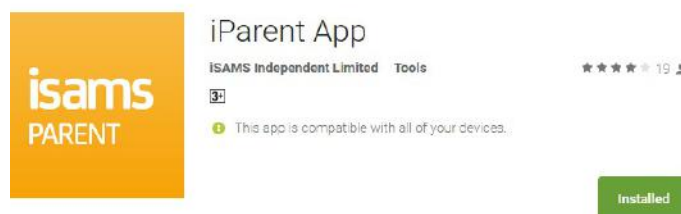
Fourteen students in the 172 strong cohort gained all Distinction passes (A * or A) – compared to 17 last year and 12 the year before. These top performing students who each gained 100% Distinction passes were Siddhantha Awasthi, Chen Jiashu, Kalyani Samir Garud, Michelle The, Wu Jiaqi, He Zhuoxi, Chen Kangan, Vieri Harney, Jiang Zixin, Wang Zelin, Ultima Sirithanawat, Samyak Yalvigi, Wu Yihui, and Yang Tze-Te.

Top performing subjects included Music and Hindi with 100% pass rates; followed by English Language and Additional Mathematics 96.7%, Mathematics 95.9%, Geography 94.2%, Physical Education 94%, English Literature 93.4%, Physics, 93.3%, and Chemistry 92.4%. The highest percentage of distinctions were in Music (80%), Physics (70%), Chemistry (67%), Mathematics (64%), and English Literature 55%.

Top of the World results are released later in the year. The school has gained 17 of these prestigious awards over the previous seven years in English Literature, English Language, Economics, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Geography, Physical Education and Chinese.

We congratulate both students and staff on the high quality IGCSE results.

iSAMS iParent App



The official iSAMS iParent app links directly with the iSAMS Parent Portal. The iParent app offers parents quick, easy access to real-time school information about your child. This includes everything from their attendance records, term reports, and timetable etc.

- The Activation Code is ACS.
- The log in password and IDs are the same as that of the parent portal.
- You will need to refresh it from time to time to ensure that information is updated.
- This app is available for both Android and iOS devices.

Should you need assistance, please email itsupport@acsinternational.com.sg with "iParent app" in the subject line.



School Fees

Many thanks to all families who have paid the school fees. To those families who have yet to pay the Semester I fees a final notice will be sent out next week. We regret to advise that we will have to withdraw students from class if fees remain unpaid.

Please see the school website

<http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/study/information-for/potential-students/fees/> for the 2017 Fees Schedule.

A reminder for returning Year 5 students that the school Deposit needs to be 'topped up' to \$6,000 due to the drawn payments for camp and examination fees. The IBDP is regarded as a separate two year school programme, hence the request for the top up.

In addition, we remind IBDP families of the refund policy for IB students who leave before the end of Year 6. If an IB student leaves the school before the end of the two year course the full deposit is forfeited. This measure was introduced two years ago to recover some lost income due to early withdrawal. The school is unable to replace any student who leaves the IB programme after the first month or so as it is too difficult for a new student to catch up on missed work. We are therefore not able to replace withdrawn students and recover lost fees.

Uniform Matters

Please note the following regulations:

PE Uniform: Students may **not** wear PE kit to school. All students should arrive to school in full school uniform. Similarly, students must not wear PE kit to lessons/tutor time/assembly/Chapel. All students are given ample time after and between lessons in order to change out of their PE attire and into their school uniform

Shoes: School shoes must be 'all white' or 'all black'. Flashes or logos with other colours are not permitted.

Tattoos: These are not allowed.

Hair: A reminder that hair should be of a natural colour and kept tidy. Boys should ensure that their hair is kept short.

Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day

Due to the heavy congestion at the school gate by both vehicles and foot traffic we restrict vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7.30 and 8.10am.

This means that parents are not able to enter the school grounds to drop off their children. All drop offs must be outside the main gate at the drop off zone. On wet days however, parents will still be able to access the covered drop off zone outside the Administration Block.

With an increased roll there is increased congestion at the school entrance and students on foot are contributing to that. Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off their children. (see below map for details).



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Singapore International Schools' Debate League

The Singapore International Schools' Debate League (SISDL) is a student-led debate competition run by members of the Debate Club. Since its inauguration, students from local international schools have been invited to participate.

This year, teams from local and overseas schools were invited to attend for the first time, resulting in the biggest turnout yet. More than 200 participants across 40 teams from Singapore and Asia came together from 14 – 15 January to debate on a wide range of motions such as international treaties, LGBTQ rights, monopolies, New Atheism, and education. Participating overseas teams came from Malaysia, China, Philippines, and Indonesia, whilst local teams consisted of the Singapore National Debate team (World Schools Debating Championship team), Hwa Chong Junior College, Anglo-Chinese Junior College, United World College Dover, St. Joseph's Institution, St. Joseph's Institution International, Singapore American School, and our own school's team. Most of our top school debaters were unable to participate in the debates due to being on the organising committee.

To make this all possible, a veritable army of students including Student Prefects, volunteers, and the debate EXCO put in three months' of intensive planning and coordination. This concentrated effort resulted in an event that was well received by all the participants, with many posting positive comments on social media. Praise for SISDL included appreciation of our students' warm hospitality and how well-organised it was.

Champions:

(International Break): St. Joseph's Institution International B
(Open Break): Hwa Chong Junior College A

Runners-Up:

(International Break): St. Joseph's Institution International A
(Open Break): Temasek Polytechnic A

Acknowledgements: The Debate Club would like to thank Mr Peter Thompson, the Prefects, volunteers, and the debate EXCO: Naveen Venkat, Dhruv Uppal, Daniel Lo, Leow Yeong Tee, Jeriel Lim, Lim Mun Yiang, and Leo Ja Hyun Koo who helped to make this event possible. We look forward to next year's SISDL with great anticipation.



Singapore
International
Schools' Debate
League 2017



Lunar New Year Celebrations

24 January was a day of joyous Lunar New Year (LNY) celebrations at ACS (International). The morning started with a high quality lineup of performances, including a *guzheng* recital, intense martial arts demonstrations, Chinese drama, and a couple of surprise performances by staff! The concert was followed by a series of entertaining inter-House games, and concluded with heart-pounding Dragon and Lion dances.

Following the concert, students gathered during lunchtime to play games and try their hand at traditional craftwork. These included paper cutting, Chinese knots and making lanterns with *Ang Pau* (red packets). Completing each activity earned them a stamp, and a full collection of stamps could win them a very cute rooster prize!

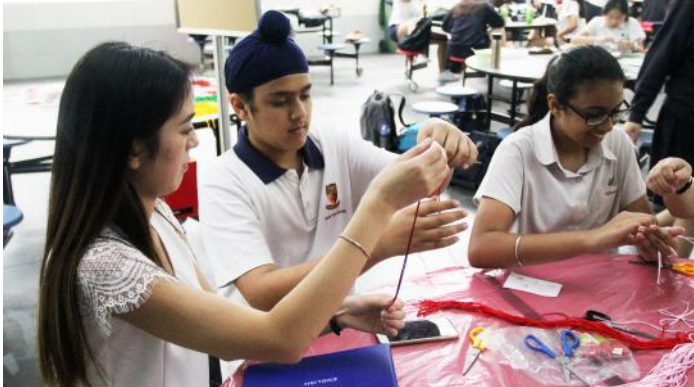
To add to the festive cheer, a figure traditionally associated with the LNY, Uncle Fortune, went around taking pictures with staff and students, and did his part to sell Fortune Bags for charity. Tucked in a corner was the noodle and dumpling section, a small booth with students hard at work selling noodles and dumplings, all for the sake of charity.

This event was mainly organized by the Year 6 Chinese students, supported by staff from the Chinese Language department, to spread the festive joy and provide an opportunity for their international schoolmates to have a taste of the Chinese culture. Everyone really enjoyed the games and crafts, with some lucky students walking away with little rooster toys. This was a wonderful start to the year, and we look forward to a good year ahead!



Behind the Scenes of the Lunar New Year Celebration Concert

Everyone had a great time at the Lunar New Year Celebration Concert. Here, the President of the Chinese Drama CCA, Dorothy Xu Tianzhe, gives us an insight into the work that went on behind the scenes.



“As the President of Chinese Drama CCA, I was appointed to be the overall student-in-charge of the Lunar New Year Celebration Concert. It has been a great learning opportunity as I learnt a lot from my teacher Ms. Tan Wan Sze, who has always encouraged me to strive for the best and who has endless creative ideas to offer.

It wasn't easy organising an event of this scale. First, we needed to contact the different performing groups to confirm their performance items, then we needed to set a common theme which connects individual shows to tie everything together. This year, we wanted to tell the audience something about “Heritage & Development”. Then, we reviewed each performance rehearsal individually. After a whole process of individual rehearsals, we went through a procedure rehearsal, a technical rehearsal and finally, a full-dress rehearsal.



Now that the concert has ended on a successful note, I'd like to show my gratitude to the following people: to Feng Hui, Mengqi, and the PA crew who worked behind the scenes. To all the performers and emcees who worked really hard and attended all the rehearsals, you are the centre of the celebration. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation.

Last but not least, I would also like to express my gratitude to the teachers in the Chinese Department for their strong support. I am honoured to head this project of carrying forward Chinese traditions and advocating multiculturalism. “

Dorothy Xu Tianzhe, 6SVM



Chinese Language and Theatre Arts

On 17 January, the Chinese Department invited *The Theatre Practice*, a bilingual theatre group to run a workshop on theatre arts for the Year 4 Chinese Language students. They started with a performance to teach improvisation techniques that are used in the craft of storytelling, placing much emphasis on unleashing creativity.



It was an eye-opener as we were led through the process of conceiving a short story which can be created and enacted within a short span of time.



There was much joy and laughter as we were entertained by the artists who came prepared with a short story which they narrated and acted out with much enthusiasm. This was quickly followed by an improvised performance based on a title suggested by the students. Finally, a performance was put up by two student volunteers, entitled "Romeo & Juliet".

The interactive session ended on a happy note, and students were encouraged to make use of their new knowledge to join the *Story Challenge*, an improvisational storytelling challenge.

Tan LiYi, 4-TCT



Alumni Catch Up – Jessica Venly



In late January this year, we received some heart-warming news from Jessica Venly, one of our alumni. With her permission, we are sharing it below.

Jessica joined ACS (International) in 2009, and graduated with an IB Diploma in 2011. She has since become her own boss, and started her own property development company in 2015. Here is what she had to say about her time with us:

"I am writing to say thank you and to recognise ACS (International) for who I am today. ACS has been a crucial institution in my life. Not only did I gain academic knowledge, I also grew as a person.

I started my own property development company in 2015. I believe that knowledge can be gained anywhere, and provided by any institution. But what I have today, what I have gained from my time at ACS, cannot be substituted. I am now running my first project with an estimated worth of S\$20 million. This wouldn't be possible if not for the support from the teaching staff. They were a constant source of encouragement and helped me see what I was capable of. Regarding my company, I should say it is not easy working in an Eastern cultural context, since I'm a fresh graduate and a female. But I will persevere.

Whenever people ask me which school I graduated from, I know that they want to know which university I attended. But I never forget to say that I graduated from ACS (International), because it laid down an important foundation and made me who I am today. Because of my own experience, students I have spoken to have shown great interest in ACS (International) – some have already joined the school, whilst others are even thinking of transferring schools. I believe that this is not because I have good marketing skills. I know in my heart that it is because I am sharing my love for my alma mater and how much it invested in me.

I'm now in my final year of an MBA in Australia whilst running my project. It has been very hectic, but I am confident that I am able to do both because the IB Diploma Programme has prepared me for it.

Thank you for everything."

Jessica's letter has been edited for length and clarity.

IB Induction Programme 2017

For the past few years, the IB induction programme has become an essential part of orienting our Year 5 students. All IB students are expected to attend the two-day programme that included an introduction to the IB programme, a sharing session with IB Alumni from the class of 2016, a talk about Higher Education and career prospects, and talks about time management and study skills. It was a truly fruitful two days of induction, and we hope that our IB students found it meaningful.



US/Canada Trip 2017

The Humanities and Higher Education department is organising its 7th Business/University visit trip to Vancouver, Seattle and Los Angeles from **27 May – 5 June 2017**. The objectives of the trip are that students will visit some of the countries' universities including campus tours of the University of British Columbia, the University of Washington and UCLA. They will also be able to hone their business presentation skills with experiences at Simon Fraser College and UCLA.

The unique selling point of the trip is that students will be housed in the university dormitories instead of hotels (except for a one night hotel stay in Seattle). They will also have most of their meals in the university cafeterias, so that they can have a first-hand experience of university life. Students will get to speak to university representatives about entry requirements. In addition, students will attend a workshop lecture on business plan preparations and will need to prepare a business plan to be presented at UCLA Anderson Business.

Some of the highlights include:

Universities	Business	Leisure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of British Columbia Simon Fraser College University of Washington University of Southern California UCLA Green River Community College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture at Simon Fraser College by Business Professor - Business Plan Preparation Boeing Factory Tour UCLA Anderson Business school – for own Business Plan Presentation to a panel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga Session upon arrival Whale watching Universal Studio Tour Shopping

The 10-day and 9-night tour package costs approximately **S\$5400**.

Please contact: pamela.ng@acsinternational.com.sg for consent forms, by no later than 17 February 2017.



Introduction to Singapore

The orientation of new international students included a whole day induction programme. Our day started on 21 January with a hearty breakfast of the Malay dish, Nasi Lemak. We met Ms. Stacey Low, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, and were introduced to some of our seniors, who welcomed us with open arms and warm hearts. As part of the Singapore Experience Programme, we were introduced to our host families. Our host families are members of the Holland Village Methodist Church who kindly took up the task of looking after us and helping us explore and get to know Singapore.

With the formalities out of the way, we boarded buses to start our Singapore tour. On board the bus we were introduced to Mr. Logan, our guide for the day. He told us stories of what Singapore was like back in the day, about its culture, its people, and many other interesting things.

Our first stop was Chinatown. Chinatown was full of everything related to the Chinese culture; amongst many things there were wanton noodles, firecrackers, lanterns, good-luck coins and Chinese people. It felt like a tiny part of some place in China had been removed from the mainland and brought to Singapore. We spilt up into our own groups to explore Chinatown on our own before gathering back at the Chinatown Visitor Centre. The sun was blazing down, so everyone found some way of cooling down while waiting for the buses; some of us bought ice cream sandwiches or soda, others produced fans, and others acted like vampires and hid in the shade.

The next stop was Singapore's National Library. We had a quick tour of the building with a lot of stories, and learned about the library's loan system. After the tour we got to explore the library for a little while.

Little India was the last stop of our adventure. Mr. Logan showed us the Indian art of henna, where an artist draws on skin with special ink, leaving behind intricate patterns of swirls and lines. Some of us even decided to get tattooed as well, with flowers, lines, spiders, dragons and other images. We were allowed to explore Little India on our own for a while before meeting at the Little India Heritage Museum, where we learned about the Indian culture in Singapore. Everyone also got a souvenir; the tail feather of a peacock, with its beautiful shades, of green, blue and brown.

It was then time for lunch. We feasted on various Singaporean dishes like roti prata, chicken rice and nasi padang. We were actually supposed to visit another place after this, but our plans were disrupted due to wet weather so we returned home early.

Despite not being able to discover if Kampong Glam really is glamorous, we had a marvelous journey. We had embraced Singapore with open arms, experienced new things and acquainted ourselves with her culture and people. This is one trip we will truly never forget, and a great way to start the year; with a bang.

By Arthur William Karkam, 5 OLD



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY	EVENT
10	• Back to School Party
18	• Student Leaders Conference

MARCH	EVENT
1	• Founder's Day
4	• South East Asian Mathematics Competition (SEAMC) 2019
7	• Inter-House Athletics Sports Day

Christian Ministry at ACS (International)

See you at the Pole

A gathering of Christians to meet for weekly devotion and prayer, everyone is welcome.

Every Tuesday 8:00 – 8:25am at the chapel foyer.

Chapel Band

We are looking for musicians and vocalists who would like to play in a band to build towards a more inviting worshipful chapel experience every Friday.

We meet every Wednesday 3.45 to 5.30 at the music room, level 2 (above the canteen).

Contact: ChoongKiat.Chia@acsinternational.com.sg for more information.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

more than just a CCA

Every Friday 3.15pm to 5.15pm
John Wesley Hall, Level 6
Sports Block

Christian Fellowship meets for Worship, Word & sharing...



A platform for student leaders to come together to envision, explore and exchange thoughts for the implementation of improvements to our education policies....

Singapore Student Leaders Conference

Sponsored by Parent School Partners

18 February 2017
8am – 5pm
ACS (International)

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/j6t8nld> for more information or scan the qr code below!



English Tuition for International Students



Need help with the Language?

Join us for a time of games and learning in February!

Lessons will be taught by ACS (International) students who graduated last year.

Free of charge!

Dates: 3/2, 10/2, 17/2, 24/2
(Every Friday in February)

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Venue: SB 3-2

University Visits In School - Term 1

Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)
Friday , 10 February
11.30 am - 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



University of California, Riverside
Monday , 13 February
11.15 am - 12.15 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

Hong Kong Baptist University
Tuesday , 14 February
11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



Information Session for SAT/ACT
by TESTTAKERS
Tuesday , 14 February
11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

Singapore Management University (SMU)
Tuesday , 28 February
11.15 am – 12.45 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



University of California, Irvine
Tuesday , 28 February
11.45 am – 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

