



February 2023

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

In December last year I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to California with one of my children. The purpose of the trip was to spend some time together doing the things we love, which was mainly watching sport! During our time in Los Angeles, we took the opportunity to visit the grave of Bishop Oldham, the founder of ACS in Singapore. His grave humbly states "Christian World Citizen" which is a simple and yet powerful statement of his life. As I stood by the grave, I contemplated how these words might be relevant to our school today.

As a Christian international school, we have the unique opportunity to learn and grow alongside individuals from all around the world. This experience allows us to develop a global perspective, but what does it mean to go beyond that and to become a Christian World Citizen?

As followers of Christ, we are called to love God and love others (Mark 12:30-31). This means that we must strive to treat all people with respect and kindness, regardless of their nationality, race, or beliefs. As we interact with people from different cultures and backgrounds, we have the opportunity to learn from their experiences and perspectives, which broadens our own understanding in order to become more empathetic and compassionate individuals.

We can also live out our faith as Christian World Citizens by being peacemakers. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). This means that we should seek to avoid unnecessary conflicts, strive to peacefully resolve conflicts that do arise and bring reconciliation where there is division. Throughout this year, we hope that our focus on social harmony and anti-bullying will result in students becoming peace-makers in our school community.

As we head towards Founder's Day, let us strive to embody the values of love, empathy, compassion and peace-making as we seek to emulate our Christian World Citizen school founder Bishop Oldham.



Gavin Kinch
Principal

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STAFF NEWS

New Staff

New Staff	Department	Designation
Ms Seow Siok Peng, Doreen	Finance	Account Officer

NOTICES

MethodistWalk 2023

The MethodistWalk is a biennial fundraising activity organised by the Methodist Schools' Foundation (MSF), on behalf of the Methodist schools in Singapore. Traditionally held on the last Saturday in March, student representatives from all 15 Methodist schools gather together with teachers, family members and supporters from the Methodist churches, to walk together and raise money for the needs of individual schools.

For the MethodistWalk this year, we have pledged to collectively walk 1,000,000 km from 7 February 2023 to 25 March 2023 and to collectively raise \$1,000,000.

The MethodistWalk 2023 Live Walk will take place on 25 March and will include Junior Division students at ACS (International), more details to come.

ACS (International) will be raising money for the following needs of the school:

1. Student Hardship Fund
2. Support of student Wellness Initiatives and Enhancements to Student Centre and Exchange Room in Library

We invite all in our ACS (International) community to join us and aim to walk at least 50km by 25 March 2023, in support of the "A Million For a Million" pledge.

We encourage cashless donations through the school's giving.sg campaign page found [here](#). Donations may also be given via cheque made out to Methodist Schools' Foundation, with the name of the school clearly indicated on the back. Details can be found on the [FAQ](#).

We look forward to having your fullest support as we come together as a school family for MethodistWalk 2023.

Methodist Walk Sustainability Bazaar

If you have any unused or unwanted items in good condition, we would like to request if you could donate them for the Methodist Walk.

A group of students have been tasked to set up a "sustainability bazaar" for ACS (International) — a shop that will sell donated items (pre-loved or new) to raise funds for a Methodist Charity.

Preferred items for donation could include accessories such as watches, sunglasses, hats, and jewellery (except jewellery that goes into piercings). Your children/wards can bring the items to school and place them in the designated collection bin shown below by 10 March 2023.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Enjoying a Familiar Chinese New Year Delicacy

During Chinese class, students of ACS (International) learnt how to make tang yuan, a sweet Chinese dumpling that is usually eaten on the last day of Chinese New Year during the Lantern Festival.

The students, who comprised Singaporeans, Koreans, and Chinese, among other nationalities, enjoyed mixing glutinous rice powder and water, after which they added fillings such as red bean. The mixture was then rolled into balls to form the tang yuan. The dumplings were then placed in boiling water used to boil pandan leaves, which would sweeten the dumplings.

Many of the students were unfamiliar with tang yuan but they enjoyed the experience, and they shared their [reflections here](#). It is hoped that more of such activities will be available to help students understand important aspects of Chinese culture and Chinese New Year.



CNY Red Packet Project 2023

On 4 February, the team members of the CNY Red Packet Project — Larissa Chan (6 SVM), Nanditha Vithanala (6 SVM), Hector Chia (6 LSG), Michael Cheong (6 TCT) and Luke Carter (6 OLD) — visited the Pathlight School in Ang Mo Kio to participate in one of the Autism Resource Centre's (ARC) Social Leisure Club (SLC) events.

The SLC is a weekend activity for young adults on the autism spectrum to participate in a variety of activities. We began this visit with a meet and greet session where we had the opportunity to befriend the 65 SLC members present. The SLC members we spoke to were outgoing and very eager to take photos with us.

We then joined the SLC members in a light physical warmup which included stretches and a jog. We then were given a choice of playing football, doing yoga, or physical training at the gym. We opted to play football and it was an incredibly fun experience. The five of us were split between the two teams and we had an enjoyable time under good weather. With communication, teamwork, and celebration, I came to realize that they were not very different from us after all.

We thank all those who supported the CNY Red Packet Project. We were able to raise \$2,140 which has been donated to ARC to support their various programs, including their Employability and Employment Centre and their social enterprises — The Art Faculty and Professor Brawn.

Hector Chia (6 LSG)



Lunar New Year Get-together High Tea

The Lunar New Year Get Together High Tea was held on 3 Feb 2023, from 3.15pm to 4.45pm and was organised by the International Student Committee (ISC) in collaboration with the ACS (International) Parent Support Partners (PSP) and Holland Village Methodist Church (HVMC). About 70 students, (including members of ISC) attended this event.

Our first bonding game was the 'Liar Game,' which is a game of exposing the liar, who has no knowledge of a common keyword of a given theme but needs to pretend that they know the keyword. Each person must describe the given keyword while the liar has to describe based on their assumption of the keyword, and at last, everyone should vote for the liar – which will decide which side wins. Since the nature of the game requires communication among group mates, it was successful in allowing the students to talk to one another and collectively vote for the liar. Their enthusiasm inspired the ISC members to work harder too!

The second bonding game was 'Musical Chairs,' but with a slight addition of cultural element, dancing to the rhythm of the Chinese, English, Indian, Japanese, Korean and other languages songs played during the game. Chairs were consistently being removed and the student who secured the final seat at the end was declared the winner. The international students and ISC members all had fun playing the game and interacting with one another.

The event was also memorable thanks to the delicious catered food, and yummy ice-cream sponsored by HVMC.

Kim Nakyung (5 SVM)



Participants' reflections:

It was my first time attending this kind of event, and I really liked the activities. Thank you for organising this event.

Lee Hoseong (5 TCT)

The bonding games and food were good. The leaders organised this event very well, and I would like to participate in this event again.

Hong Junyeong (5 THO)

I really enjoyed this event, and I want to appreciate the efforts of the leaders. Thank you for organising this event!

Ju Sihyun (5 TCT)

It was a good opportunity to make new friends, and I enjoyed the bonding games. Glad to experience this activity.

Roe Sooyeon (5 TTK)

Overall, the school Chinese New Year (CNY) Get-Together was a fantastic experience. It was a great way to socialise, make new friends, and have fun while also collaborating with others. I hope that we can have more events like this in the future as they are an excellent way to strengthen our school community and enhance our school experience.

Wong Wei Jie (1 OLD)

The event was extremely well-organised, and my group leaders, Joon, Reina, Haechan and Sayori, particularly impressed me with their work. They did a terrific job making sure that everything went on without a hitch and that everyone had a great time. I would like to thank the ISC members and the school for hosting such a lovely occasion. It was a wonderful chance for me to know new friends and make long-lasting experiences that I will treasure for years to come.

Lee Jihwan (5 TCT)

The smell of the food was enticing. I enjoyed sampling the different dishes and appreciated the variety that was offered. Overall, the CNY Get Together was a memorable experience that allowed me to have fun, make new friends, and work together with others. I appreciate the opportunity to attend such events and hope to participate in similar events in the future.

Wong Wei Zhe (3 OLD)

Inter-House Aesthetic Competition

The ACS (International) Inter-House Aesthetic Competition this year was eventful and full of excitement, and about 85 percent of the student population was in attendance. The panel of judges was made up of members from Holland Village Methodist Church and the Parent Support Partners, and they were all dazzled by the spectacular art works.

Each of the 8 panels showcased a slice of Chinese culture, a dash of ACS spirit, and some international flavour. The following Houses took the podium positions:

First Place TKK
Second Place TCT
Third Place THO

"Kicking off 2023 with 1st place in the Lunar New Year competition will keep the TKK Griffins inspired and motivated to perform just as well at our upcoming Sports Day! Despite the misunderstandings we had on the final day of the Aesthetics Competition, we managed to overcome them and win first place! It was heart-warming to see all the tutor groups contributing and making hundreds of fishes out of hong baos — we had a great response with help from so many students. A big thank you to everyone who contributed. We couldn't have done it without you. Great job TKK, let's keep this up!"

Clarissa Bongso (6 TKK)

"Starting the year off strong, TCT managed to place 2nd in the aesthetic event: Chinese New Year board decoration. The students worked tirelessly to craft a board that represented the true spirit of welcoming the Year of the Rabbit and saying farewell to the Year of the Tiger. Although we entered the competition with much confusion and inexperience, we worked collaboratively together to produce a true masterpiece which the students are incredibly proud of."

Evelyn Goh (6 TCT)



"Lunar New Year is the time of the year when family and friends get together. With the Inter-House Lunar New Year competition, the students in Thoburn House worked together to showcase their talents, communication skills, and creativity. There was a lot of enthusiasm, dedication, and fun! The initial ideas were ambitious, but we won third place overall with Thoburn's team spirit.

"During the discussion and planning of the decorations, many of us had different ideas and thought they would not work out well. However, we did better than expected as we communicated well as a team. We were determined as we were always on our toes to receive feedback from teachers and evaluate new ideas. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed and participated in this event. We also thank God for this opportunity for us to explore and showcase the artistic and aesthetic talents in Thoburn House. Well done, Thoburn!"

Siya Ketan Khair and Amina Cheuk (2 THO)



CAS Induction Reflection

Earlier in February, a Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) induction session was held to introduce the incoming Year 5 students, including myself, to CAS, which is one of the three IB Cores.

During the session we were briefed on the foundations of the CAS programme, what the passing requirements are, the CAS experiences, projects and a brief overview on the upcoming CAS trips.

We then broke up into discussion groups led by our ACS alumni of class 2022.

We were shown how to access and use our Managebac accounts to write clear and concise CAS reflections in the right format. In these small groups, I was able to ask the alumni about their IB journeys, as well as college applications and life after high school. As a student who was unsure about many things going into the IB programme, this CAS induction served as useful guide to help me navigate the start of the year.

Ashley Mya Gozali (5 TCT)



PSP

Coffee Morning 2023 Breaks Records!

For the first time in history, a record-breaking 250 parents and guardians attended the Parent School Partners' (PSP) annual Coffee Morning on 17 January, a hybrid session held at Oldham Chapel as well as via Zoom. Those who attended the session in person were warmly greeted by PSP members and treated to a sumptuous spread of refreshments and breakfast favourites.

Emceeding the event was PSP co-chair Ms Celine Abueg, while PSP chair Ms Alysia Ling introduced the PSP Exco, highlighting the work and commitment of its members and the various events organised by the PSP in support of the school. Alysia encouraged parents to be positively engaged in the school community and invited them to volunteer in upcoming events too.

Meanwhile, Ms Evelyn Lek, head of the Praying Parents Group (PPG), discussed the role and vision of the PPG. She shared the monthly praying schedule and invited parents to join the various bonding sessions and prayer gatherings held during the year.

The main highlight of the morning, however, was the briefing by ACS (International) principal Mr Gavin Kinch, and a presentation by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Mr Kinch welcomed the parents and introduced the members of the SLT who took turns to speak about the school vision and values, school culture, Pastoral Care and Support Services, CCAs, activities and divisional concerns, as well as the excellent IGCSE and IB results of 2022. The presentation ended with a lively discussion during the Q&A session, where parents' concerns and questions were candidly and patiently addressed.

All in all, Coffee Morning 2023 was a great success! Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended the event!

We look forward to working with you in making your child's learning journey at ACS International an exciting and memorable one!



PPG

United in Prayer

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20 (King James Bible)

The first 2023 Combined ACS Schools Prayer Meeting had 52 people, among whom were the senior leadership team of ACS (International), including ex-principal Mr Rob Burrough. What a significant moment to kickstart the first of 6 combined ACS meetings for the year! We are so thankful for the fathers in our midst as we continue to look forward to more joining us the next round.

ACS (International) hosted the meeting and Rev Jeremy Ong, pastor-in-charge of Holland Village Methodist Church expounded on the verse "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by your name" (Matthew 6:9). He shared that the intimacy and the relationship we have with our Father in Heaven is one that we can call upon, with confidence and assurance, knowing that He has the best for us, in His time.

The ACS (International) principal Mr Gavin Kinch shared his experience visiting Bishop Oldham's grave in California last year. Bishop Oldham's grave marker simply read "William Fitzjames Oldham, Christian World Citizen", a testimony to a humble man who founded ACS in a shophouse in Amoy Street 137 years ago that later led to many more ACS schools including the upcoming ACS Tengah and ACS Bali.

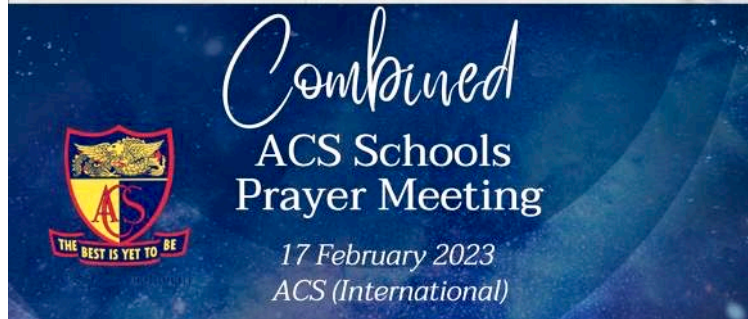
Mr Kinch concluded by emphasising that we want our children to have a deep compassion for humanity based upon Christian belief and values.

The opportunity to commit our school leaders in prayer was a privilege as Brother Dinesh prayed for the team, the school staff and the strategic plans of the school. The meeting concluded with 7 groups of parents praying for each of the ACS schools: ACS Primary, ACS Junior, ACS Barker, ACS Independent, ACJC, ACS (International) and the new project ACS Bali. The partnership between the schools, church, and community of parents is one that is valuable and cherished and it encourages each of us to continue walking by faith and in prayer.

We would like to warmly invite you to our next Parents Prayer Group (PPG) meeting on Thursday 2 March, as well as a special talk by Dr. Barry Corey on "Helping Your Young Adult Thrive in College with a Christian Perspective." The talk will be immediately after the PPG meeting. Please scan the QR Code to register.

Thank you and see you soon!

Daphne Lee and Priscilla Lai



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) PARENTS PRAYER GROUP (PPG)

Save the Date!

2 March 2023, Thursday

8:00

PPG Monthly Prayer Meeting

9:30

"Helping Your Young Adult Thrive in College with a Christian Perspective"

Dr Barry Corey, President of Biola University & author of "Make the Most of It! A Guide to Loving Your College Years"

Venue: ACS (International)
John Wesley Hall, Sports Block Level 6

Please Scan QR code to register
for Dr Barry Corey's Talk

Light refreshments will be served



The HV Food Pass 2023

The 5th Student Affairs proudly launched the Holland Village (HV) Food Pass for students and staff of ACS (International) on Wednesday 15 February. The HV Food Pass is an exclusive discount scheme in collaboration with various F&B vendors in the Holland Village vicinity.

The idea arose when I was in Year 5 as my friends and I would often buy lunch from the F&B outlets in Holland Village as senior students. I noticed that many other students and staff frequented the F&B outlets during their lunch breaks as well as after school hours. I thought of how my team and I could help improve the welfare of the students and staff by partnering with the various F&B vendors to offer exclusive discounts to the school community. This would be mutually beneficial as the school community would be rewarded for their loyal patronage whilst the vendors would be able to expand their customer base. During the past few months, we worked hard to bring our idea to fruition. Hundreds of cold calls were made, numerous e-mails were sent, and multiple visits were made to the various stalls, cafes, and restaurants in Holland Village. We encountered many rejections along the way, which was disheartening at first, but we persevered and were determined to bring this special project to life. As we started to receive favourable responses and keen interest from some of the vendors, we were imbued with renewed vigour, and this propelled us to work even harder. A major milestone was achieved when Baker & Cook and Keong Saik Bakery finally agreed to come on board as participating vendors. The full list of participating vendors and the various discounts, terms and conditions can be found on the Student Affairs Instagram account ([@acsint.affairs](https://www.instagram.com/acsint.affairs)).

Students and staff need to show the vendors their ACS (International) passes in order to enjoy the discounts. Student Affairs will endeavour to add more vendors to the list in the coming months, so do check our Instagram account for further updates!

Larissa Chan (6 SVM)



Interact Club February Service Projects

Welcome to another exciting year of service for all of us here in the Interact Club! Here are two current service projects that all of you can participate in, and we look forward to your support!

Project Dignity

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPERIENCE

GET FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF MANAGING A BUSINESS

We give you:

\$100

WEEKLY
ADVICE

You give us:

Business
idea

GROUP
3-4
PEOPLE

STEPS

1. SUBMIT THE GOOGLE FORM TO REGISTER INTEREST
2. WAIT FOR EMAIL REQUESTING YOUR BUSINESS PLAN

Carry out your plan over a 6-week timeframe, with weekly check-ins with teachers

FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS THIS WILL COUNT

TOWARDS CAS

For further enquires, email us at:

om.acharekar@acsinternational.edu.sg

FORM



shorturl.at/CFQWY

STOPSHOP

Our aim

to help raise more money to help the **Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home**.

This shop will be stocked with items donated by **YOU** (to promote sustainability) hence, Your donations will be given a **second-life**

When + how to donate?

- All items must be donated before March holidays.
- Please head to the student centre and place your items in the donation box.



What to donate?

1. Newly bought and unopened:

- Consumables
- Bottles of water
- Milo
- Sports drinks
- Granola bars



2. Pre loved items in good condition, and can still be used:

- Hair accessories
- Rings and bracelets
- Watches
- Sunglasses and hats



UPCOMING EVENTS

February	Event
24	PCF Mathematics Competition
March	Event
1	Founder's Day
	ACSpirit De Corps
8	ChatGPT Information Evening
22	Commendation Awards
25	MethodistWalk
29–31	Religious Emphasis Week

Scan here to give



METHODIST WALK

25 March 2023

ACS (International) will be raising money for the following needs of the school:

1. Student Hardship Fund
2. Support of student Wellness Initiatives and Enhancements to Student Centre and Exchange Room in Library

We invite all in our ACS (International) community to join us and aim to walk at least 50km in support of the "A Million For a Million" pledge.

We encourage cashless donations through the school's [giving.sg](#) campaign page. Donations may also be given via cheque made out to Methodist Schools' Foundation, with the name of the school clearly indicated on the back.

We look forward to having your fullest support as we come together as a school family for **MethodistWalk 2023**.

Details can be found on the [FAQ](#) and fundraising platform [Giving.sg](#)





ACS (International)

OPEN HOUSE

1 April 2023

ACS (International) Singapore is a distinctive international secondary school open to all Singaporeans & other nationalities, offering an all-round English-based education for students aged 12 to 18 years leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

Senior Leadership Team



Mr Gavin Kinch
Principal



Mrs Tan Siew Hoon
Vice-Principal



Mr Christopher Hayward
Vice-Principal



Dr Kristopher Achter
Vice-Principal

Information Sessions

Session 1

9am – 11am

Session 2

11am – 1pm

Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)

*61 Jalan Hitam Manis,
Singapore 278475*

Visitors only need to attend one session

*For more information,
please contact
Joseph Ng or Serene Lim
at +65 6472 1477 or
admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg*

Attendance by reservations only