



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Over the past few days, I have been leading an external review for the International Baccalaureate (IB) of another international school in Singapore. These reviews occur every five years and are a mandatory quality assurance component of being an IB school. For this review, I and another IB colleague, embedded ourselves in the school for two days. During this time, we poured over documentation, met students, staff and parents, participated in lesson observations and met the senior leadership team and governors to learn more about the school's commitment to the IB.

Participating in this process is beneficial for the school being reviewed as they get an external and independent assessment of their approach and practices. The report they receive contains Commendations for the areas they are doing well in, and Recommendations for areas where they might find opportunity for growth. As the Evaluation Leader I also benefit from this process. It is wonderful to go to a school and see their expression of the IB and quality teaching and learning in their context. Talking with other leaders and educators who have different ideas and approaches refreshes my own thinking about how the good practices of other schools might be transferred into ACS (International)'s context.

ACS (International) is currently preparing for its upcoming IB Review and Council of International School (CIS) re-Accreditation visit. These reviews provide our school with the opportunity to reflect on our own practices and the progress and improvements we have made since the last round of reviews. As part of this process the school is also at the start of renewing its next Strategic Plan. This plan will be formulated from the findings of these reviews as well as from the input of students, staff, and parents. In the second half of the year the school, with the support of the PSP, will be engaging with the parent body to seek your views about how you would like to see the school develop over the coming years.

As the school enters a phase of strategic planning it is important to keep Proverbs 16:3 in mind, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." This verse reminds us of the importance of committing our plans to God and keeping Him at the centre of all we do at the school. By committing our plans to God, we acknowledge His sovereignty and seek His guidance in our endeavours. I would ask that you would pray for the school as it begins this important journey and that you would partner with us as we seek to provide an outstanding education to our current and future students.

**Gavin Kinch**  
Principal

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## STAFF NEWS

New Staff	Department
Mr Linges S/O Segar	IT
Mr Chua Zong Ming	Music

## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## Doing ACS (International) Proud in Tennis Competition

Recently I took part in the Tennis Malaysia, Johor U14 Tour. It was my first tournament outside Singapore and I was anxious and excited at the same time.

My first match was on 6 March and I stepped onto the court, ready to give it my all. I won the first round which boosted my confidence level. The following day, 7 March, was my second match, and the competition became tougher with every round. What made 7 March memorable was that it was my birthday! Despite the challenges, I was grateful for all the birthday wishes — especially the video sent by 1LSG, which really warmed my heart and lifted my spirits. Despite the heat and exhaustion that day as I played two matches on the same day, I managed to pull through. The semi-finals were on 8 March, and I was battling a consistent opponent in the scorching heat. Despite feeling tired, the long rallies kept me on my toes. The finals came soon afterwards. Starting with a tough 0-3 setback, I had to dig deep and mount a comeback against my resilient opponent. The win in the finals was exciting and all the hard work paid off.

Overall, it was an incredible experience filled with highs and lows. But what made it truly special were the friendships I made along the way. Until next time, Tennis Malaysia! Thank you 1 LSG, Dr Kris Achter and ACS (International) for also giving me the permission and supporting me throughout the tournament!



Niyati Hiranandani Bhandari (1 LSG)



## Reflections of the Singapore National Theatre's Workshop Experience

The literature workshop conducted in Term 2, gave students the opportunity to stage the performance of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' conducted by Singapore Theatre Company. It was illuminating and has greatly enhanced our understanding of the characters in the play. This helps me to apply the IB learner profile of 'Knowledgeable' as I am able to explore how a character can be presented in multiple ways. The workshop gave participants invaluable insights into the complex personas of Stella, Stanley, Blanche, and other characters through immersive acting exercises and perceptive interpretations. We were able to understand these characters' motivations, conflicts, and emotional depth better by taking on the roles of these characters ourselves. Furthermore, seeing professional actors bringing these parts to life gave us a deeper comprehension of character development and the relationships among them. This interactive method of performance not only made the text come to life but also improved our ability to analyse it by pushing ourselves to explore the subtleties of each character's motivation and behaviour. The workshop was of great help to promote a deeper understanding of the play's themes and characters, which enhanced our knowledge of literature.

Ernie Tran (4 OLD)

The workshop offered us a deeper understanding of the play, exploring its use of tone and language to sculpt and evolve its characters. It helped me understand the IB Learner Profile of 'Communicator' better as it allowed me to express my ideas through different modes of communication such as freeze frames and staging. The experience was unforgettable, as the time we spent in the workshop allowed us to gain valuable insights into how these literary elements work together to create an intense and thought-provoking impact on the audience.

Coleen Yow (4 TTK)



## World Mathematics Competition

On 2 and 16 March, I participated in the World Mathematics Championships (WMC) together with eight other ACS (International) students. This unique competition showed me how Mathematics is not just about solving problems in the classroom, but also about creative problem-solving, pattern recognition and collaboration, which were essential in completing the many fascinating activities of the competition.

We started with the online round on 2 March which consisted of 4 individual rounds, ranging from more traditional Mathematics Olympiad questions to intense speed duels. What fascinated me the most was that we were allowed to use any online resources and calculators we wanted! This gave rise to some interesting situations where I scoured the Internet for special calculators and even asked ChatGPT to explain some unfamiliar mathematics notation. This round challenged my abilities to use technology effectively, come up with creative strategies and think quickly to beat my opponents in games. But the highlight of the competition was the full-day in-person round at United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA) East Campus. We started with a very unique round: teaching younger competitors more advanced math concepts. To our surprise, the younger students loved our lessons, making this my group's best-scoring round. Other exciting activities included submitting answers by running around the hall, deciphering secret codes, racing to complete as many problems as possible, and more. Many questions also challenged us beyond the syllabus which led to some satisfying moments where we solved questions we didn't think we were capable of doing.

In the end, I won 3 medals in this competition: 2 golds and 1 bronze, and I'd like to congratulate some of my school mates who won up to 4 or 5! Amazingly, all participants from our school received a golden ticket to the World Mathematics Championships Finals to be held in London during the June school holidays. While many of us are unfortunately too busy to go, I am thrilled to represent our school with my classmate, Kim Geonwoo (5 CKS), at this international event. Lastly, I would like to thank all our mathematics teachers, especially Ms Sandra Sng, and the WMC organisers, for organising and guiding us through this memorable event.

*Bono Jakub Gajdek (5 CKS)*

Reflecting on my experience at the WMC, the mix of teamwork and individual challenges was very engaging. Activities such as Lightning and Shuttle tested our teamwork skills, while Recall and Duel Fast4 pushed us individually. Among them, Duel Fast4 stood out for me. It was thrilling to strategise quickly within the given time and with an opponent, to reach the target using the given numbers and operations. Overall, the event was challenging and enjoyable, offering a diverse range of mathematical puzzles to solve.

*Harshni Sivasubramanian (2 CKS)*



## RIMUN Rome MUN 2024

The Envoy Club had several students who participated in RIMUN 2024, a Model United Nations (MUN) conference in Rome from 14 March to 18 March 2024: Nayeong Lee (5 LSG), Yuto Sakamoto (5 OLD) who served as Ambassador of Finland, Jaeyoon Chung (5 TCT), Gabriel Seck Chuan Loh (5 THO) who served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Shingo Mase (5 LSG), Yeonwoo Sul (4 GHK), Zhang Shiyue (4 THO) and Simran Rakesh (2 TKK). Our students showed enthusiastic engagement and diplomatic skills during the conference, and forged new friendships and bonds during the trip. From this trip, our students were able to learn the important values and aspects and also have a joyous trip with colleagues.

RIMUN, referring to Rome International MUN, is a conference held in Rome, Italy, and more than 600 students take part from high schools from as far afield as Venezuela. The students debate about social, economic, and international issues to find innovative and creative solutions. Our ACS (International) students showed their passion and dedication by overcoming challenges and participating in conference debates. Some of the challenging obstacles were jet lag due to the seven-hour time difference between Italy and Singapore, and approximately six to seven hours of debate every day. However, despite the physical and mental tiredness the students experienced, our perseverance and high commitment to their roles as delegates of Finland, Kazakhstan, and Germany, overcame these hardships to have a great conference experience.

Our students also showed great leadership during the conference. As several students were the main submitters of their group's policy paper, they led groups representing several delegates, and expressed the stances of those countries. Although debate among other delegates was challenging, we successfully managed the discussions by proving our points, and getting the approval of our policies.

Beyond participating in the MUN conference, we also had an exciting tour around Rome. On the first day there, we visited a local pizza restaurant, and the interior, the variety of pizza and the authentic flavour gave amazing insights into local food and culture. We also tried various traditional Italian cuisine, such as Carbonara which originated from Rome, and the iconic desserts tiramisu, gelato and more. We also walked around the city and visited some remarkable attractions such as St. Peter's Basilica, Fontana di Trevi (the Trevi Fountain), the Colosseum, Pantheon and many more attractions. It was an unforgettable memory as all of us, as a group of friends, gathered to enjoy Italian food and learn new aspects of a different culture.

The Envoy Club is proud of the dedication and perseverance of our students during the conference and are looking forward to following up and learning from their experiences.

*Lee Nayeong (5 LSG)*



## TKK House Charity Event

In March, more than 50 students from TKK House visited Ghim Moh Senior Care Centre once in a week over 4 weeks to interact with the elderly through various activities to help them stay engaged and active in their cognitive abilities. The students worked together with the elderly to make origami, solve puzzles, and play memory games. Determined to leave a meaningful mark in their lives, we achieved this emotionally and physically by leaving behind our handicraft made from activities such as jars of stars decorated by both the elderly and students. We encouraged the elderly to be more active by performing multiple dances with songs that they were familiar with.

It was heart-warming to see students try their best in stimulating conversations and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zone. Many had to push themselves to speak in languages that they would not be comfortable speaking in public in order to converse with the elderly. By the end of the sessions, the students gained valuable insights into the importance of empathy, patience, and understanding when working with the elderly. Not only did this House Charity provide companionship and cognitive stimulation for the elderly residents, but it also instilled a sense of purpose and fulfilment in the students involved. The elderly would share insightful stories and advice to the students who were listening intently, nodding at the end of every sentence. The volunteers also formed new friendships with each other as they worked around problems encountered during the charity sessions such as encouraging participation and motivating the elderly to take part in activities. TKK's efforts in propelling the House Charity has reminded us all of the importance of connecting and fostering inclusive communities.

### Project Leaders:

Benetta Yu 6TKK

Lavanya Aggarwal 6TKK

On the first day of the charity event, all of us were nervous. In the corner, there was a group of anxious and hyped-up students like me who were practicing the origami steps, almost like a ritual. Some of us had prepared a list of topics to talk about too. During our first interactions, awkward greetings were exchanged, until we got into some teamwork to make our origami masterpieces. We talked about a lot of things; it went from little chats to wise and warm advice. We befriended one another regardless of the age gap, and blending into each other's backgrounds wasn't so much of a challenge when we started to share our thoughts. My most memorable experience there was when a senior said the Chinese phrase “我很开心” when I was leaving. It simply meant “I was happy to be with you,” but that short phrase gave me flashbacks of trying hard to overcome language barriers to socialise with them. Even as a Mandarin beginner, I could recognise that word ‘happy’, and I felt a sweet sincerity.

I feel grateful for what I could do and contribute to my community, and this charity experience was an unforgettable memory that reminded me of countless possibilities to contribute further. Personally, this was the best way to celebrate the Easter season, and bonding with my housemates through this event gave me many chances to get to know them better as well.

Lee Hyunsuh (4 TKK)

Project Supervisor

Ms Jasmine Lee



## Open House 2024

On 6 April, ACS(International) was exceptionally busy as it was the school's Open House. Between 9am and 1 pm that day, nearly 900 guests attended the Principal's talk, displays at the Sports Hall and Sitorus Library, demonstration practice organised by the PE department, exhibits at the Chemistry and Physics laboratory and last but not least, the popular school tour led by our prefect nominees. Our involvement started way before the actual date of the event. One of my tasks was to plan and create boards for the current 19<sup>th</sup> Prefectorial Board. More members joined us in making the boards during set up day. During Open House, I had the pleasure to take the families around on school tours, making sure parents the parents knew what we offered in our school. During the tours, many parents asked thoughtful questions about the school and I answered their queries to the best of my abilities. Families also tried the activities and games the faculties prepared for them. The parents were also pleasantly surprised that a new elementary school will be built in the premises. I feel that we have created a larger community of eager learners ready to join the ACS (International) family. I found joy in not only helping the parents and prospective students understand our school better, but I also reflected on how much goes into the running of our school. Each description of every part of our campus and every function, renewed my appreciation for our school.

I would like to thank our teachers, Madam Koh Leng Leng, Ms Carmen Choong, and Ms Phoebe Tan who helped us along the way. This experience has allowed me to gain even greater pride for our school and really treasure what the school has done for me throughout the past 5 years."

*Eldon Joel Kwan (5 TKK)*

This year, the Open House was one to remember and to learn from. I conducted the school tour with several families who had many questions about the different programmes in our school. Having been in the school since Year 1, I was able to answer all their questions as I related to my personal experiences in school.

I was part of the team that wrote the script for the school tour, and the process took a long time, as we dwelt on the words to use and also translated the script into different languages. Looking back at the response from the school tour, I felt that the students benefited from conducting the tours as the families found out more about the school, and they also learnt of my perspective as a long-time student in this school, and what their child might experience in the future. This provided a more realistic outlook for them and their children. I hope to see the prospective families in the ACS (International) family in the future!"

*Dhar Yutika (5 GHK)*



## Higher Education Fair

The recent Higher Education (HE) Fair on 8 April provided the attendees with invaluable insights into university courses and opportunities to interact directly with university representatives.

The higher education fair held on 8 April was an extremely eye-opening experience for me. It presented many opportunities to gather useful insights of the potential courses that I wanted to pursue in university, and also enabled me to discuss, with the university representatives, any queries and doubts that I had.

*Student from 6 THO*

The university fair was a valuable experience. It was incredibly helpful to explore different schools and get a feel for their programs and campus life. I learned a lot about the Law programme at Kings College which is definitely something I'm interested in pursuing further. The insights I gained were great. It helped me narrow down what kind of environment and programs I'm looking for in a university. Now I'm excited to continue researching some of the schools that caught my eye.

*Student from 5 LSG*

The HE Fair was organised really well, aiding us to find the specific university booth that we wanted to visit. Each booth has their own way to engage us to be interested to know about details of the university. Very engaging and interesting, it was a considerably meaningful time.

*Student from 4 GHK*

## Alumni “Ask Me Anything” Session by Rohan Arora (Class of 2021) and Ethelyn Huang (Class of 2023)

In our recent alumni talk, former ACS (International) students offered valuable advice for navigating post-graduation life. Here are some nuggets of advice from the sharing sessions.

- **Online Courses:** Embrace continuous learning by exploring online courses in areas related to your field of study.
- **National Service (NS) Workload Management:** Plan tasks effectively during National Service, balancing periods of high and low intensity to maintain productivity.
- **Exploring Interests:** Stay open to exploring various interests and career paths to discover fulfilling opportunities.

The alumni talk provided practical insights to help students navigate the transition from student life to the professional world with confidence. Here are some feedback from the students:

“It was a very Inspiring talk!”

“I will follow Ethelyn's suggested Year 6 timeline and make sure to not lag behind on coursework as reminded by Rohan. As for the applications, I will make sure to manage my time as effectively as possible to be able to apply starting later this year.”

“I will keep a look out for more information regarding how my time might look during NS, so that if needed, I can apply with quality applications to schools.”

Students should look out for more of such sessions in the upcoming months.



## Psychology Taster Lecture

The Higher Education Department hosted Dr Albert Lee, Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, NTU for a Psychology Taster Lecture titled “The Social Psychology of Prosocial Behaviours”. The lecture was held in school during lunch and students delved into the fascinating realm of social psychology and explored the concept of ‘pluralistic ignorance’.

Students found the session very informative and insightful, expressing a desire to either explore this realm of psychology deeper or think about future career options. This feedback highlights the lecture's success in sparking curiosity and encouraging further exploration of careers.



## Job Shadowing

In March, our Year 5 and 6 students participated in a diverse job shadowing programme covering a wide range of professions. A total of 53 students gained valuable insights into various fields, including medical, legal, business, engineering, finance, technology, and more. Through shadowing professionals in their respective fields, our students gained valuable knowledge about the day-to-day responsibilities, challenges, and rewards associated with different career paths. This diverse learning experience not only broadened their horizons but also inspired them to envision their future aspirations with clarity and purpose. Thank you to all the professionals and organisations who made this enriching experience possible!

Job Shadowing (March 2024)	No. of Students Participated
Medical	9
Legal	8
Business/Operations	5
Engineering/Project Management	5
Finance/Accounting	5
Technology	4
Architecture	3
Arts	3
Sales & Marketing	3
Veterinary Services	3
Physiotherapy	2
Human Resources	1
Supply Chain	1
Taxation & Risk Advisory	1

**PSP NEWS**

## Two Chefs: A Dad-Child Bonding Event

Who is the more fun parent? After the Parent School Partners (PSP) organised the Dad-Child Bonding Cooking Event, I'm inclined to agree that it might just be the Dads! Held on Saturday, 23 March at Let's Yori! Korean Cooking Studio, the dads came in with no expectations other than to have a good time with their teenage children while learning to cook Korean Beef Bulgogi and Seafood Pancake.

The cooking activity was chosen by popular student demand. The event, named Two Chefs, ran from 11am to 2pm. All our dynamic duos came in early and mingled with fellow participants. Talk about the dads' punctuality and discipline on display! The modern kitchen was transformed to a bustling place once dads and children entered. With ingredients, a copy of the procedure, kitchen utensils and cooking hob set up on countertops and ready for use, it became a game of decipher the code, teamwork, fun execution and skill. The dads felt their way through and with their task-oriented minds kicking in, they engaged their teenage children to join in the preparation and cooking effectively. The teenage children keenly observed their dads with respect and silent admiration, stepping in and jointly cutting, stirring and frying. It was also a chance to show-off their MasterChef plating and presenting skills and techniques. The result was impressive looking and beautifully decorated plates of beef bulgogi and seafood pancake made within the time limit of 2 hours.

We took time to appreciate each dad and child's work by giving out prizes before heartily enjoying the meal. Special thanks to our Korean chefs Minju and Miyeon for judging and announcing our winners for Best teamwork, Best presentation, Best workstation, Most creative, and Best pancake flipper! Also special thanks to our guest, Mr Burt Peh from Centre for Fathering, for emphasising the importance of bonding with our children throughout the event.

Our dads and children left with a better appreciation of one another and a souvenir photo capturing precious bonding time while cooking.

Thank you parents and teens for making our first ACS (International) Dad-Child Bonding Event fun and worthwhile!

*Cherry Bodestyne Siow  
PSP Secretary*



It was a memorable experience with my son.

*Mr. Rishi Nair  
Dad of Siddharth Arkin Nair*

It was an incredibly fun and memorable experience with my daughter, as cooking is very much something that we both love.

*Mr. Daryll Ng  
Dad of Year 5 student Kaylee Ng*



## Striving for Excellence at Rock Climbing Competition

On 21 and 22 March, at the beginning of Term 2, the ACS (International) rock climbing team participated in the UWCSEASAC bouldering competition that also featured schools all the way from China, the Philippines and Malaysia! We had trained hard in the months preceding our first inter-school competition. The competition kicked off with qualifying rounds, in which our climbers faced a variety of challenging routes but we fought hard to make it to semi-finals. In the semi-finals, routes were harder, with 4 minutes on the clock, and we had to strategically adapt to and overcome each route, our every move watched by over a hundred spectators.

Diving headfirst into the finals, our two finalists were presented with their last challenge. That day, the crowds roared and supporters cheered with excitement, raising the anticipation and tension among competitors. It was a hard-fought round where they displayed exceptional feats of strength, balance and coordination. This was not an easy competition and ACS (International) was proud to have 2 finalists, coming in 5th and 4th in the U16 male and female divisions respectively, just steps away from reaching the podium. Although we didn't win big we managed to snag minor victories during the fun climbing challenges winning the U16 male crimp and pinch strength challenges. Winning is a mindset and every participant from ACS (International) won in our eyes. Although they did not achieve the results they hoped for, we congratulate them on the effort, dedication and courage they displayed throughout the competition. At the post-competition gala dinner, we met the other students and learnt more about them through upbeat presentations about their schools and where they come from. We felt a strong sense of belonging in our newfound climbing community, ending our speech with some heartfelt words, "It wouldn't have been such an amazing competition without every one of you." The night concluded with a prize presentation ceremony where we celebrated the achievements of some admirable climbers. This inspired us to raise the bars and push ourselves in every aspect of our training.

Overall, it was an unforgettable experience that we learnt so much from and we owe it all to Mr. Alvin Ho's and Ms. Jacinta Koh's encouragement, dedication and support throughout our journey. The climbing team aims to continue to grow and hopefully return with a larger and stronger team next year. The best is yet to be!

*Kelly Ng (5 GHK) and Luke Wayne Calver (5CKS)*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

May	Event
1	Labour Day
7	Meet the Guardians/Homestay Providers Afternoon Tea
13 – 16	Personal Statement/Essay Workshop
16	CEMC Maths Competition
21	Inter-House Sports (Basketball/Touch)
22	Vesak Day
23	Commendation Assembly
23 – 24	Drama Production
24	PTMs (Years 2,3,5,FIB & PIB) (no lessons)
27	Start of School Holidays