



Principal's Newsletter - 26th February 2010

Dear Parents,

I did enjoy the New Year celebrations which were skillfully put together by a team of staff and students. The event started with a traditional (sic) Chinese hip-hop dance which demonstrated great skill both in teamwork and individual performances. There was then a Chinese instrument solo by Mr. Wong Cheng Wei, complemented by another memorable performance by Mr. Phang Weng Kiong, Wang Shi Wen, Tao Jing Ying, Wu Zhidi and Zhang Shi Sha which combined music and Chinese art. A variety of games, songs and videos culminated in a traditional lion dance by *Ngee An* to begin a long weekend of celebration with families and friends.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

It has been heartening to see how much enrichment of curricular opportunities is taking place through a variety of trips and visits. Our scientists have been taking part in the Singapore Biology and Chemistry Olympiad and have all been awarded certificates as a consequence of their participation: these are prestigious events open to students ages seventeen and eighteen. We sent the top 10% of our students who then had to go through a preliminary round before being selected for the finals. The following students represented the school with some distinction:

Singapore Biology Olympiad:

Aalya Imran	6Y
Francesca Tan	6Y
John Kum	6X
Benjamin Quek	6W
Julian Liew	6X
Kevin Chan	6W
Vidette Wong	6Z

Singapore Chemistry Olympiad:

Francesca Tan	6Y
Yeo Ee Jie	6X
Jeffrey Ou	6V
Aalya Imran	6Y
Tran Ngoc Khanh Thy	6X

Not to be outdone, our mathematicians will distinguish themselves by their participation in the South East Asia Mathematics Competition: we will be represented in Hong Kong by Li Meng Chen (Yr.3), Gha Joon Ho (Yr.3) and Kongkrisch Limwattanaphan (Yr.4). The competition is spread over two days with team and individual rounds, and we hope that the students will return with experiences to share with their class-mates.

I was honoured to be able to represent the school at the Agency for Science and Technology and Research at the Biopolis where one of our A-star students received an award: I was then delighted to present Tran Ngoc Khanh Thy with it in front of the School in assembly;

she spent several weeks working with research scientists on the whole process of crystallisation gaining inspiration from working with top researchers in this field. It was wonderful to see how young people could be inspired by working alongside practicing scientists in an environment with top-class facilities.

The National Museum of Singapore will be hosting our year-one students who will be visiting the *Quest for Immortality Exhibition* and participating in a workshop directly linked to the syllabus. The aim of the trip is to gain a deeper understanding of ancient Egypt through the team-based workshop where students will engage in games, competitions and other activities. Hopefully they will leave with a deeper understanding of ancient Egypt, its leadership and the significance of its symbolism. The pre-secondary class will visit the Land Transport Authority's museum to understand the development of different modes of transport in Singapore. Our year two geographers also enjoyed their visit, this time to the National Science Museum.

I am obviously most grateful to my colleagues for their initiative and willingness to extend such opportunities for learning to our young people.

THE CO-CURRICULUM

We have had success on the sporting front recently with the under-19 badminton boys' team participating in the International School League. Their recent strong showing in other matches gave them the opportunity of victory against SJ I International, 3-2, with victories in the first singles and doubles, and a heart-stopping victory in the third singles which clinched the match.

Our rugby players found the going against Greenridge somewhat harder but it was encouraging to note their determination, mutual support and commitment which produced an even outcome in the second half.

Our junior girls will be taking part in a netball carnival later in March that will give them the opportunity to learn the game in a non-competitive environment; our senior girls will be playing in the Kaki Bukit Carnival a little later, hopefully with success.

A carnival atmosphere will, I have no doubt, pervade the hall on Friday night when our students take part in a movie marathon. This event will raise funds to allow our year five students to provide cleaning staff with a day out and also to be able to present them with gifts on Cleaners' Day: another touching example of the Christian witness in our community.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations are scheduled to take place at the end of Term 1 and the start of Term 2.

IB English Individual Oral Commentaries (IOCs)

6 and 8 March

IGCSE Chinese Orals (Final examination)

29 – 31 March from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Candidate lists and times will be published by the end of Term 1. Please ensure your son / daughter checks the time of arrival for the preparation session.

Candidates are required to present themselves promptly at the appointed time. Please note that the times set are non-negotiable and that all candidates must ensure their attendance. In rare cases of illness, an official doctor's note is required.

IGCSE Mandarin Chinese Written Examination Prelim

The Prelim examination for the written papers will take place on 13 April in the morning.

IGCSE Mandarin Chinese Intensive Course

Four sessions will be provided to give the students an understanding of the examination format, the syllabus, as well as some practice on both written and oral questions from past year papers. They will be held after school hours each day at LR1 (above canteen).

Session 1

Date: 2 Mar/ 4 Mar/ 5 Mar/ 8 Mar

Details: Going through syllabus, vocabulary list, Paper 2 and Paper 4.

Session 2

Date: 9 Mar/11 Mar/12 Mar/22 Mar

Details: Preparation for Oral and Listening Test.

Session 3

Date: 23 Mar/ 25 Mar/26 Mar/ 29 Mar

Details: Oral Practice

Session 4

Date: 5 Apr/ 6 Apr/ 8 Apr/ 9 Apr

Details: Exam papers practice

FOR PARENTS

Speaking of Christian witness reminds me that our parents' prayer group meets regularly at the school on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:30am until 9:30am: you are warmly encouraged to join this group which provides support of an intrinsic nature to our community.

Parents can also help to support the School by displaying the car label which is now available at the reception.

PREFECTS

Our school prefects have performed their duties in exemplary fashion but are now looking forward to handing over some of these to a new batch of young leaders. Recommendations have been received from staff and the young people identified are going through the first round of interviews with the Vice-Principal (Pastoral) Mr. Png; the long-list selected will then have to go through the ordeal of a series of tests before an interview with me. They will also shadow the existing prefects who will assess their capabilities according to clearly defined criteria. Once the new team has been confirmed they will take up their duties following the Investiture Day on the 23rd to April. Given the success of this year's team I am confident that the process just described will produce an equally fine crop of young leaders.

We now look forward to our annual Founder's Day celebrations, with a report on this to follow in due course.

For now I close with my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal