



## Principal's Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010

Dear Parents,

I delayed the writing of this letter to allow me to incorporate comments about the International Day: I am glad that I did delay because the Day was super and very much worthy of comment here.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY

The committee set up to organise the event, and led most ably by Ms. Bonny Morris and Ms. Carol Ling, certainly deserve praise for providing us with a rich cornucopia to titivate every sense. They were ably supported by many other staff and students, notably in the latter case Ang Jun Hung, Brian Toh, Nicholas Ang and the Ambassadors; mention should also be made of the help provided by the PSP and *Circus Maximus* (stage, sound & lighting); the dance ensemble and announcers Nur Aishah Binte Muhammed Said and Ian Hooi Wai Hoe – Erb also provided the appropriate sparkle for the band competition in the afternoon which saw bands from five schools competing for a new platinum award which *Take Cover* (ACS International) scooped. Fortunately the adjudicators – Dr Larry Francis Hilarian, Greg Lyons and William Gathright – were all independent and their decisions respected! The day was summed up by me in a piece of doggerel that I reproduce here in the hope that it might provide a flavour of the variety and enjoyment of the day.

*We've come together on International Day  
To show how we can find a common way  
To help the world become more green  
And learn new languages; and be keen  
To fuse the food from east and west,  
Then run it off in sporting contest.  
Or dancing: hip, Bali, belly or Bolly;  
Whatever it was we've been quite jolly  
Cutting and folding and tying things in knots,  
As well as indulging in cultural thoughts.  
Arts of the martial sort in Taekwondo  
Then up to the north for Akido.  
Vietnam provided many games and food  
Which really were rather good.  
So we give thanks for the fun we've had today  
And the blessing of fellowship we've enjoyed on the way.*

We also enjoyed last week the investiture of our new Student Leaders. In many ways, it gave a foretaste of the International Day in its reliance on student initiative, inspiration and organisation –

in this case Paula Paw Pin Pin and Mariska Dharmajaya – and in the variety and appropriateness of what was done. The event was rounded off by the Pledge which I reproduce below to give you an indication of the style we expect, often dubbed today ‘servant leadership’ (although we all know that Jesus provided the model first).

### ***THE STUDENT LEADERS’ PLEDGE***

*Relying in the strength and guidance of God  
We commit ourselves as leaders to serve  
The School community, always to the best of our abilities  
We will do our best to care, serve and to lead.  
We will persevere and work together to always uphold  
The image of the School and to live up to its motto:  
‘The best is yet to be’*

As you can imagine I have been impressed and somewhat humbled by what we do here and the way we do things.

## **ACADEMIC MATTERS**

These impressions have been confirmed in the academic sphere too with the award of distinctions based on the end-of-term reports: these are given to those who achieve the status of Very Highly Commended. This is not an accolade easy to obtain: the student must gain more than six effort grades at levels 6 or 7, five or more achievement grades at levels 6 or 7, and no low effort or achievement grades. On this challenging basis some 21% of the School gained this award: a remarkably good state of affairs. It was, therefore, a delight to present the certificates to the students who reached this pinnacle. A further 9% were highly commended, illustrating the strength of the academic side here.

This is enriched in many ways and the recent *Equilibrium 2010* organised by the Economics and Business Studies Department (under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Divya Jesudoss) was no exception. Teams from several local and international schools competed in a series of business-related challenges including advertisement compilation and window dressing. ACS (International) students distinguished themselves in winning two of the events and thereby lifting the trophy for the day. Leona Szeto, Sarah Ang, Meyi Dwichayani, Sherrin Harjo, Swati Srikumar, Shrijit Kundu, Luvisha Hareh, Nicole Lee, Tan Yan Ning and Reggie Kent all contributed in the winning teams.

Winning ways have also been a feature of our junior debaters: Maxine Tan, Ashvin Niruttan, Jeremy Tan, Anand Mohan and Achal Dayakar battled their way through to the semi-finals of the national competition but could go no further. Theirs was quite some feat given that this is the first time we have put out such a team, but Maxine’s eloquence saw her being named ‘best speaker’ in most of the debates.

Innovation has also been seen recently in an event organised by SMU where teams from 44 schools competed in designing a new product to help the operations of the integrated resorts: Reggie Kent, Eva Sediati and Nguyen Nghiem Hoang Nam developed an i-Touch gadget for Universal Studios. Although they did not win anything they took pleasure from participating and have an ‘ad film’ they made to retain for posterity.

Languages do not miss out on this enrichment experience because their festival takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May. During the week students will make presentations in assembly on a variety of themes: English and Chinese drama sketches; German and French videos, Malay and Spanish songs, Hindi poetry, Japanese cultural guidelines and the finale of the Chinese Singing Competition.

I should also remind you of the Higher Education Fair, which is happening on **Tuesday, 4 May 2010 in the Main Hall from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm**. The list of the participating institutions could be found in the previous newsletter.

The details on the talk schedule are found below.

#### TALK SCHEDULE AT THE LIBRARY

TIME	TITLE	INSTITUTION	SPEAKER
1300 -1320	Admissions to NUS	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Ms Eunice Foo
1330 -1350	Admissions to NTU	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Mr Tee Lip Hwe
1400 -1420	Admissions to SMU	Singapore Management University (SMU)	Ms Bona Lee
1430 -1450	Study in Australia	IDP Singapore - Studying in Australia	Mr Giri Subramaniam
1500 -1520	Study in the USA	USEIC – Studying in the USA	Ms Karen Kaylor
1530 -1550	Study in Canada	Information on Studying in Canada	Ms Sally Ng
1600 -1620	Study in the UK	British Council – Studying in the UK	Mr Jason Gan
1630 – 1650	Psychometrics Testing for Careers Guidance	The Morrisby Guidance Service	Mr Chris Marley

For more information, please email Ms Rita Kaur at [rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg).

## SPORT

The national swimming championships took place recently and it was good to see two of our students doing well. Leonis Lau achieved a personal best in the 'C' Division freestyle, although was not placed; Alicia Chiang continued her winning ways and came a very close second in the 'B' Division 100m backstroke. Continuing the aquatic theme, but extending it a little, Iz Ho Jian Song gained a first place in the Cyclone Triathlon Race Series, bettering his winning time from last year in the process.

Our basketball team is now participating for the first time in the 'A' Division and have performed admirably in their recent matches: they beat Yishun JC 50-31 and were very unlucky to lose 38-39 against Victoria JC; they then took their revenge in a fine 54-46 win over Catholic JC. Our Senior Boys are now in the final 8 in the Nationals interschool.

Our soccer players are also now competing at 'A' Division level and doing so pretty well drawing two out of their four initial matches.

Rugby training takes place for all 'B' and 'C' Division players until the official 'stand-down' in July and the culmination of the season in the 'C' Division Championships; prior to this there is the Barclays Cup on 8<sup>th</sup> May at Turf City.

## CHAPEL & CHARITY

Following the Religious Emphasis Week's success in stimulating the spiritual side of our student's lives some forty or so have taken this further in signing-up for lunchtime classes to continue developing their interest. This is very encouraging.

Living our Christian witness is vital and I am pleased to see that our service trips to Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand are advancing well in their preparations. Our efforts to make the School a greener place are proceeding through the medium of the Friday paper collection from classrooms, and we are going to help deliver computers to social services.

## **PRIMARILY FOR PARENTS**

There will be a briefing on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 1645**, in the Conference Room, about the history trip to France and Germany for all relevant students and parents. This is an important meeting. Students are reminded to ensure that they have a valid passport (with at least six months validity) and visa.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May will be a casual dress day in aid of the Africa trip's initiative in equipping the science labs at Mosi-Oa-Tunya High School in Zimbabwe. Students will have to pay S\$1 for the privilege of dressing in their favourite clothes, although there should be no strapless tops or ultra-short skirts for girls, and no unseemly logos.

I have referred earlier to the Higher Education Fair but I would encourage parents to attend as the various talks are very illuminating. New information will also be available about the job-shadowing initiative.

## **JOB SHADOWING**

All Year 6 students are invited to apply to participate in this programme. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interviews which may later result in being selected for the attachment. Please hurry as there are limited places available. Interested students should see Ms. Rita Kaur. The closing date for application is Friday, May 14 2010.

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### **What is Job Shadowing?**

It is an opportunity for students to make informed career choices and increase awareness by learning about a job. This is done by 'shadowing' with a business professional who has specific knowledge about a particular job.

### **What do the Students benefit from Job Shadowing?**

The benefit of a Job Shadowing experience includes:

- Presents up-to-date facts about an occupation
- Provide the opportunity to experience the 'actual' work involved in getting a particular task completed
- Provide information about the skills required for certain jobs
- Allow students to be aware of trends in a particular field and see workforce technologies in action in the real setting
- Assist students in developing communication skills and self confidence in talking with professional people in a more relaxed work environment

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### **When should students participate in Job Shadowing/How long does it last?**

The period of attachment is any date from June 1 – June 30 2010. The attachment is only for one/two weeks

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**Participating organisations:**

- Accounting Firms
- Engineering Companies
- Hospitals
- Law Firms

Two new members of staff join us on Monday. Mr Chong Tien Hsiang replaces Ms Eryyna Noor in the Economics and Business Studies Department, and Ms. Shiva Sharma joins us as a Relief Teacher of Biology to take care of Mr. Reddy's classes. Unfortunately Mr. Reddy has not really been very well and, despite his efforts to continue, he has been recommended to step down. I do realise that it is very unsettling for students to face changes of teachers during the year but do be assured that we have done all that is possible to find suitable replacements. Unlike MOE schools we do not have the luxury of a pool of spare teachers from which to draw and we must engage teachers through the market. I believe we have been fortunate in gaining the services of Ms. Sharma and Mr. Chong both of whom are well-qualified and appropriately experienced; we are currently in the process of appointing a permanent Teacher of Biology for July or August from a strong pool.

Finally may I say how much of a pleasure it has been to receive such kindness and support from so many of you, both seen and unseen: it has been much appreciated and inspires me to continue the process of building the School on the excellent foundations laid by my predecessor.

**2010-2011 Prefectorial Board**

Head Girl	:	Sam Mun Tung
Head Boy	:	Joshua Peter David Griffiths
Deputy Head Girl	:	Divya Saigal
Deputy Head Boy	:	Sia Zong Ye
Discipline Head	:	Kanchana Madhubashini Niruttan
Organization Head	:	Chee Yung Seng
International Heads	:	Gu Yu Qi (George) Rupinder Singh Ahluwalia
Secretary	:	Nikita Rajendra Rane
Welfare Heads	:	Meyi Dwicahyani Reginal James Kent
Treasurer	:	Zech Loh Ziwen
Other Members	:	Jessica Venly Eva Alexandra Setiadi Keiren Michael Goh Subha Khullar Stephanie Ong Pham Hoang Lan

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely,  
P Kerr Fulton-Peebles  
Principal#