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ACS (International)

Principal's Newsletter – 14th May 2010

Dear Parents,

I continue to be delighted with the variety and scope of activity that takes place in the School. The last two weeks has been no exception with the Languages Festival a notable feature. To celebrate the diversity of languages studied, our students presented a number of items in a variety of ways over a one-week period. Kicking off the festival, our Year One Higher Chinese students performed a colourful and lively Chinese drama sketch while the Year Two beginner learners of Chinese presented *The Legend of the White Snake*, replete with dance, sword fights and kung-fu moves. The Drama Club treated us to a sleek and polished delivery of *Territorial Actors*. The Japanese presentation highlighted the link between language and culture, while students of Hindi recited a poem on the heroic exploits of Rani Laxmi Bai. The audience was treated to songs in Spanish and Malay and viewed videos contributed by students of French and German. A major event of the week takes place tonight when the finalists of the Chinese Song Competition will pit their vocal talents for a chance at the top spots.



OTHER CCAs

Our students also took to the stage in Indonesia when the string ensemble paid a visit to our sister School in Jakarta where they performed a varied and challenging series of concerts both in the school and in the central city. This marked the first

opportunity for an exchange programme which I hope will develop in the future with other student trips and teacher exchanges.



It was good also to have the fine work of one of our students – Ang Jun Hung – recognized by the Habitat for Humanity organisation: he helped to run a fashion fest which played a part in raising \$10,000 for the charity.

The whole concept of CCAs was reinforced further when the School hosted a meeting for teachers from other international schools to discuss the I. B. CAS programme.

SPORTS

Our sporting teams have continued to participate in competition, not without success. In the Barclays Cup our rugby boys got through to the semi-finals of the bowl competition whilst the girls went considerably better in reaching the final only to be beaten by a club side; they beat five other schools before going down by one point in the final. The C-Division boys' team will participate in the Singapore national championships later this month with a break over the holiday.

In badminton our teams continued to impress with the under-nineteen boys distinguishing themselves by securing two wins against Tampines JC in the first singles and second doubles competition. The under-fourteen boys beat the Global Indian International School 5-0 in their first match of the International Schools' Competition and they now await eagerly their next series of matches.

Basketball has begun its competitions and although the team lost by one point to the National Junior College their victory against Hwa Chong International means that they have now made it through to the final eight.

On an individual basis it is pleasing to record that IZ Ho Jian Song performed creditably in the Singapore sprint series tribob triathlon: he came in eleventh position in a time of just over 47 minutes.

The school will host the A-Division Tchoukball championships next week and of course the whole school will be involved in the athletics competition on the 26th May: classes will end at 12.30pm and buses will take students to the Clementi Stadium

where the events will take place; the event should finish by 5pm and buses will be available to bring students back to school should they wish. Of course the following day will see parents meeting staff to discuss the end-of-term reports and I look forward to welcoming you to the school on that occasion.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

The parent-teacher meeting begins at 8.30am on Thursday 27 May, and will continue until 6pm: parents are welcome to attend at any point in the day to meet the teachers of their sons or daughters. There will be a break for lunch between 1pm and 2pm but full details of the programme will be sent out in due course.

Our senior students were able to learn something of a life beyond the scope when they participated in the higher education organized by Ms. Rita Kaur. A range of universities was represented and talks provided much food for thought in a day which proved to be both popular and valuable.

In another example of encouraging students to consider their future - the business club is preparing to start and run their own company. This is a part of the Junior Achievement organisation and the programme teaches students how to start a company, sell shares, sell the product or service, and write an annual report, before liquidating the company and distributing profits to the shareholders. Senior executives from Credit Suisse have volunteered to guide our students in what unquestionably an excellent opportunity to provide an insight into a possible career.

Speaking of insight, I thought it would be useful to provide you with some advance information about academic matters which I hope will continue to keep you informed and involved.

Preliminary Examinations 2010

Please note the following dates for the preliminary examinations in 2010:

IBDP - 6 – 15 July

IGCSE - 6 – 16 July (Please note that art will take place later)

Revision Classes - Year 6 and Year 4

In view of the forthcoming public examinations and the prelims, a programme of revision classes will be held during the final week of the holidays from 28 June – 2 July. Details of this programme will be sent out in due course.

Study Leave

Advance notice that study leave for Year 4 and Year 6 students will begin on 18th October.

Curriculum

Our academic policy at ACS (International) provides academic rigour and challenge. It supports students developing and strengthening their skills over the period of their IGCSE or IB programme. As such, students are expected to continue with all their subjects until final examination. Our policy is not to permit students to drop or switch subject courses unless there is a clear educational reason why it would be advisable to do so.

I also wish to let you know that two new members of staff have joined the School recently to provide the necessary stability and expertise in their respective departments. Mr. Chan Tien Hsiang joined the Economics and Business Studies Department, and Mrs. Shiva Sharma the Science Department to teach biology. We wish them every success and fulfillment in their time here, just as we wish their predecessors – Mr. Adi Reddy and Ms. Ervyna Noor – similar success in their new ventures.

PRIMARILY FOR PARENTS

I continue to be touched by the commitment of many of you to our prayer groups, which is a feature of the ACS family. Many fathers are keen to be involved in such groups and I am happy that we appear to be successful in starting this. To support in this, the Methodist Church will hold a prayer summit on Saturday 3rd July, at the Mrs. Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall at ACS Barker Road, from 8.30am until 10.30 am, and it may be that some of our fathers might wish to attend. Full details are available from Mr. Peter Tan at ACS Barker Road , Tel: 62561633.

I was also heartened to learn that the PSP raised S\$2,626 from the International Day lunch: half of the money raised will go to the Society for the Physically Disabled, the other half going to the School's service trips.

I should also give advance notice that the Labour Day holiday, which the School did not observe this year, will be acknowledged by providing a day-in-lieu on Wednesday 11th August. You might also like to know that our Year Six students will have their own graduation ceremony on the afternoon of Friday 19th November, with full details to be provided nearer the date; Speech Night will take place one week later on the evening of Friday 26th November.

I know that the final few weeks of the term will be busy ones particularly for our Year Six students as they finish off various items of coursework but I hope that the prospect of a break from routine will sustain them, and provide an attractive prospect. In the meantime I look forward to welcoming you to the School at the end of term for the parent-teachers meeting.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely,

P Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal