



Principal's Newsletter –20th August 2010

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Dear Parents,

I recall from my school chemistry lessons that reactions increase in their rate with the application of heat: it seems to me that this principle could be applied equally well to the pace of life here as time seems to pass so rapidly. It is remarkable that we are into the final weeks of Term Three with the approach of public examinations and the associated preparations.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

In this connection I would like to highlight some important points.

Study leave for Years Four and Six will begin on Monday 18th October. These arrangements have been put in place after much consideration and careful thought so it would be very much appreciated if parents and students could respect this decision and avoid creating undue pressure to make special arrangements. Revision and preparation for the exams will continue right up until the preceding Friday, which we believe will provide a valuable experience for these examination candidates.

To help Year Six students with their private study we have created a study room in the new classroom block which will be open **from 9.15am until 6pm** each school day. This replaces the rather cramped and unsatisfactory arrangements in the Library and should represent a significant improvement, particularly as the students themselves have made the necessary arrangements and rules.

To assist students further, **the School Library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm until 8pm from the start of Term Four in September.**

The section on the web site for policies also contains important information on examinations which I would encourage you to consult. In addition, there is a summary of the policy on the dropping/changing of academic subjects, but, to remind you, it is based on the fact that students may not drop or change subjects and that they should be carried through until the examinations.

Looking ahead we have two information evenings for students proceeding on to the next stage of their education here:

Year 4 IB Diploma Information Evening, **7pm Thursday 16th September**
Year 2 IGCSE Information Evening, **7pm Tuesday 21st September**

Grades for Term Three will be released to parents and students on Thursday 2nd September just before the holiday break.

In another of our information meetings I was pleased with the response that our university adviser, Ms. Rita Kaur, received: the booklet on university admissions that she has produced is both comprehensive and valuable, and it complemented perfectly the presentation at the meeting held recently. I would encourage you to keep an eye on the School website for dates of university talks and visits so that you might keep yourself fully informed. You should also note that **Ms. Kaur is available in her office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 4.30pm**, and **on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 5.30pm**. Should she not be in her office, students can sign up for an appointment on the notice outside.

The enrichment which is such a vital part of our academic provision continues unabated in a variety of forms. Our young mathematicians took part in the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad, with Simon-Kyle Rocknathan gaining a bronze certificate and Chiaki Matsuno an honourable mention. The NUS Students Political Association hosted some of our students at the inaugural Singapore-China Relations Forum, and our biologists are shortly to travel to Malaysia for field studies in coastal and freshwater ecosystems, as well as studies of the rainforest environment.

Links with other schools continue to provide fresh experiences for all involved and we very much enjoyed hosting ten students from Japan.

THE CO-CURRICULUM

Although the exotic seems almost part of life in this region, I am pleased that our students continue to explore new opportunities within it. This was certainly the case in a recent service trip to Malaysia where the stay in a Malay village was unforgettable: the students enjoyed the hospitality of a close-knit, traditional community as well as practicing some traditional skills in cooking, weaving, singing, dancing and batik painting. The group also had a fruitful day in a local orphanage and enjoyed (if that is the right term) a mountain trek which took them well out of their comfort zone.

Our girls' touch-rugby team took Hwa Chong Institution out of their comfort zone in a 4-0 victory; unfortunately our netball was not able to precede beyond Round 2 of the Pesta Sukan Netball Carnival, not least because of illness and injury. Nonetheless the team did put up a good fight losing their matches only narrowly.

Unfortunately, through my absence on a recruiting visit to Hong Kong, I was not able to participate in the PSP-sponsored bowling activity organised by the students. By all accounts it was a wonderful event enjoyed by all (as the photograph shows).



SERVICE

I very much hope that the School will be able to join with the Methodist Church and its initiatives in helping the chronically poor in our society: we are in discussion with the Church as to how best to manage this. As a start we again hosted local residents to a National Day lunch in the School where our prefects and councillors distinguished themselves as hosts and helpers. It was lovely to be able to share food and fellowship in a very convivial atmosphere.

Indeed the National Day celebrations in the School were vibrant and enjoyable with the Chapel service being followed by a variety of activities: Years One and Two enjoyed a variety of traditional games in their Amazing Singapore Race; Years Three and Four put together some remarkable digital collages (some of which are available on the website); and Years Five and Six performed Pecha Kucha. This draws its name from the Japanese term for the sound of 'chit chat' and rests on a presentation format of twenty images in twenty seconds. There were some very accomplished presentations.

The Interactive Club's fourth installation provided an opportunity for our students to distinguish themselves and the Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Changi were full of praise for how well they did in making the event an enjoyable one. Particular mention should be made of Joshua Griffiths, Zech Loh and Bernard Dinata; equally Darren Oon and Yap Jun Xian provided outstanding support, as they always do, in the P. A. box.

STAFF NEWS

We have been pleased to welcome two new members of the Christian ministry staff. Cynthia Yeong joins us after three years at ACJC and, in a nice touch of ecumenicism, Jelin Tan comes to us from All Saints Presbyterian Church. They will be available in the Christian Fellowship office on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

and Fridays from 12noon until 4pm. We do hope that they will enjoy a long, happy and fulfilling time at the School.

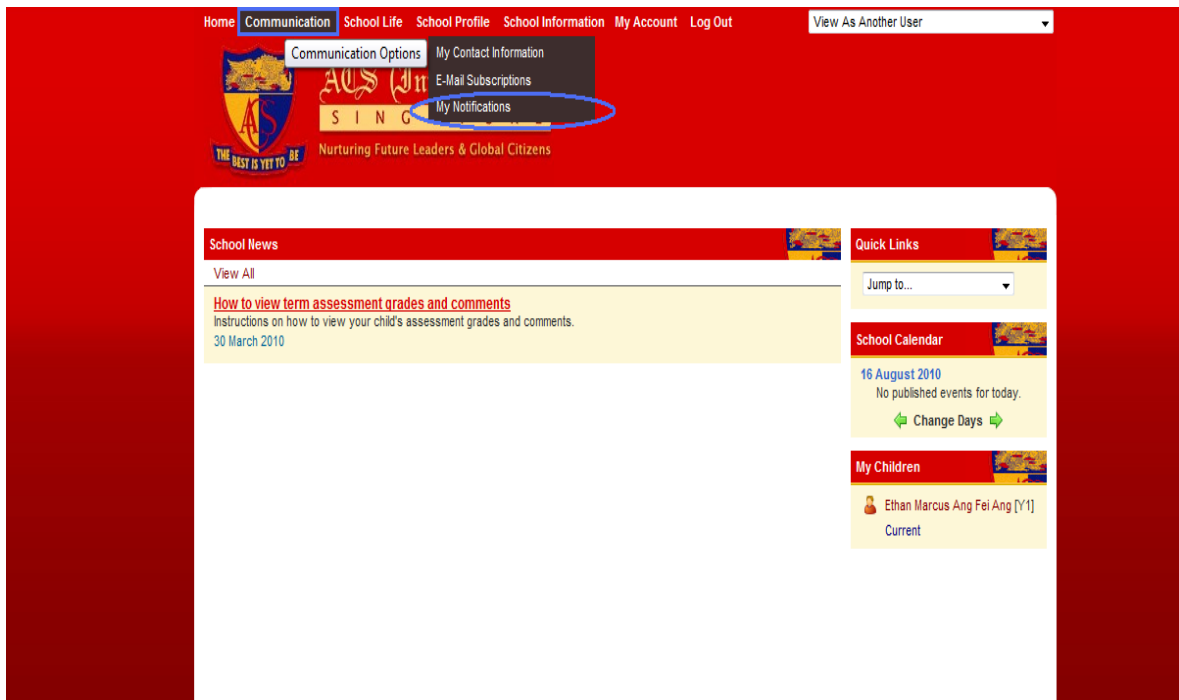
PRIMARILY FOR PARENTS

Those of our parents who originally paid a deposit on admission of S\$3,825 will be written to shortly by our Bursar, Mrs. Ivy Teo, to arrange for a top-up to ensure that there are sufficient funds to pay for trips and other expenses.

Parents who would like to be informed of their child's attendance, detention, or merit/demerit awards can do this through the School's parent portal. Details appear below but further assistance is available from our vendor VimalRaj@espore.com.

Step 1:

After login, Please select "Communication" menu then click on "My Notification".



Step 2:

The previous click will redirect to this page, just select the notification you want and click on "save settings" button which appears below in this window.

Although we are approaching the end-of-term there is much yet to do and I anticipate a busy, but enjoyable, fortnight.

In the meantime I extend every good wish to you all.

Yours sincerely,
P Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal