



ACS (International)

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Grease is the word. I think everyone who saw the production, enjoyed it greatly. Because of my small involvement in it, I had an opportunity to appreciate at first hand the enormous commitment of time and energy that it required from everyone and also the strong sense of mutual support and encouragement that emanated from everyone involved. It was a very professional show and that owes a great deal to Edward and Sylvia Kent and Circus Maximus, who supported us with sound and lighting equipment and personnel. They are certainly stars! But coordinating the whole things were our two directors, Paul West and Paul Hannon, and the school owes them a great debt.

I was pleased to be able to be at Hard Rock Café to see three school bands perform on 1st September. It was a great evening and I felt proud of our students.

This week we celebrate Teachers' Day. As usual the students are heart warming in their efforts to show appreciation of those who teach them, and once again the PSP have planned a wonderful Teachers' Day Luncheon for all the staff. This last week has also seen the annual Methodist Schools Staff Get-together (a bit downsized this year because of concerns about H1N1). At it, the Teachers' Pledge is retaken.

"We, the teachers of the Methodist Schools in Singapore, pledge that we will be true to our calling and our mission to bring out the best in our pupils. We will be exemplary in the discharge of our duties and responsibilities. We will guide our pupils to be good and useful citizens. We will continue to learn and pass on the love of learning to our pupils. We will win the trust, support and co-operation of parents and the community so as to enable us to achieve our mission. We will serve with integrity, to the glory of God." I hope you feel that we fulfil this, and more.

I am disappointed to learn that despite reminders there are some parents who have not paid this term's fee. I will need to get involved in this now, and contact parents directly myself.

Details are given below of the Year 4 evening re the IB Diploma. This is a very important opportunity to hear about the IB Diploma and discuss subject options within it. May I remind year 4 parents that there is an important form to be returned by the end of September indicating plans for next year.

Once again we will be arranging study nights for those who want a supervised environment in which to revise. This year they are open to year 4 and year 6 students. See below.

My successor, Mr Kerr Fulton Peebles, will be making a visit in November for meetings with staff etc. I know many of you are anxious to meet him. On Thursday, 5th November there will be a reception for parents to enable you to do so. You may like to put this date in your diary.

Finally, below you will find details of the term dates for next year, 2010. They follow the same pattern as this year, and as usual we have tried to give as much overlap with Government schools' dates as possible.

**Yours sincerely,
John Barrett**

Forthcoming dates:

2 Sep	Presentation to Year 2 parents re IGCSE
3 Sep	School Cross Country Competition
4 Sep	Teachers' Day Celebration
	Issue of Term 3 (term end) Grades' Report
	End of term 3
4- 6 Sep	Student Leaders' Camp
5-13 Sep	School Holiday
15 Sep	Year 4 Meeting
18/19 Sep	Year 2 Black Light Theatre Production
20/21 Sep	Hari Raya Public Holiday
26 Sep	Bowling with PSP
3 Oct	Parents' Coffee morning – details to be announced later
5 Oct	IBD Art reception and display for year 6 parents
10 Oct	Scholarship Exam
16 Oct	End of year report for year 4 & 6
17 Oct	Deepavali Public holiday
19 Oct	Deepavali School holiday
24 Oct	Parent matters – forum and feedback
27 Oct – 6 Nov	Year 3 School Exams
2 – 6 Nov	Year 1, 2 & 5 School exams
3 – 20 Nov	IBD exams
5 Nov	Parents' reception to meet new Principal
9 – 13 Nov	Aesthetics Week
16 – 17 Nov	Year 5 Group 4 Science Projects
24 Nov	Science Fair
24 Nov	EOY reports for Years 1, 2, 3, and 5
25 Nov	Parent/teacher meetings Years 1, 2, 3 & 5
26 Nov	Junior Speech Night – 4.30pm
26 Nov	Senior Speech Night and Graduation – 8.00pm
	End of term 4
27 Nov	Hari Raya Haji Holiday

DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

School Terms in 2010

Term 1	18 Jan to 12 Mar 2010
Term 2	22 Mar to 28 May 2010
Term 3	6 Jul to 3 Sep 2010
Term 4	13 Sep - 26 Nov 2010

School Holidays in 2010

Term 1	13 Mar - 21 Mar 2010
Term 2	29 May - 6 Jul 2010
Term 3	4 Sep - 12 Sep 2010
Term 4	28 Nov 2010 - 17 Jan 2011

EXAMINATION NEWS

A number of students took IGCSE Chinese, Malay and Hindi in May in advance of their main exams. 84.5% achieved A or A*.

Of 162 students who took Chinese (Mandarin), 89 were awarded A*, 47 A, 11 B, 10 C and 5 D. Of the four students took IGCSE Malay, two got A* and two A. Two students took Hindi, both achieved As.

END OF TERM GRADES AVAILABLE on-line from 9.00am on Friday 4th September.

You can access Grades at the following web address: <http://www.ntrix.acsinternational.com.sg>

(A reminder that the User ID for parents is the NRIC or FIN number of your child / ward with a 'p' at the front. The default password is the 8 digits date of birth of your child / ward in DDMMYYYY. For example: User ID: pS1234567X Password: 01011990

NB the Prefix 'p' gives access to the Parent's file. The same user ID without the 'p' prefix gives access to the student's file. After you login, you may change the password and update your profile by going to the *Home* menu.)

If there are any enquires regarding the matter please email Mr. Raymond Yim at raymond.yim@acsinternational.com.sg

STUDY NIGHTS

Beginning from the first week of term 4, there will be supervised Study Nights on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.00 to 9.00pm**. These will be open to members of year 4 and year 6 to provide a quiet environment for revision for IGCSE and IBD. Teachers will take it in turn to supervise these evenings and will be available to offer support and answer students' queries.

PARENT – TEACHER MEETINGS

On Tuesday, **15 September**, there will be an evening for **all year 4 parents** and students to introduce the IBD programme. At 7.00pm prompt there will be a presentation explaining the elements of the IB Diploma. It will be followed by an opportunity to talk with individual subject teachers about what is involved in studying their subject and how it is assessed. Students will receive the choice form on which to make their provisional choice of subjects for next year.

Procedures for Testimonials and Transcripts

This is the time of the year when some students may be moving on. In each case, the school provides an official testimonial which covers the dates the student entered and left ACS (International), comments on academic ability and work ethic, the student's strengths and skills, CCA participation, contribution to school life and character. Additionally, the student receives a full academic transcript covering the period of time he/she has been in the school.

Students in Year 6 will receive both the transcript and the testimonial on the occasion of their Graduation at the end of the school year. Should a student in other year groups be leaving the school they will be provided with the transcript and testimonial upon request. Please contact either Ms. Seet Eng Neo or Ms. Kathleen Manley.

Absence

Please be reminded that this year's end of year reports will also report on your child's attendance and punctuality record.

Deadlines for IAs and C/W

Both the IGCSE and IB examination courses require students to complete a range of internal assessments and course work. Students are provided with the dates of the deadlines well in advance. These deadlines are non-negotiable and students must plan their work well in order to meet them. We ask parents to support the school by not condoning your child's absence as the date of the deadline draws near. Such absences are considered to be 'unauthorized absences'.

Parents' Coffee Mornings

The next Coffee Morning is scheduled for Saturday 3 October 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. The topic will be confirmed shortly.

The School Library

The Library will be open during the September break from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm for students who wish to use it for revision or to access resources. Please note that the library rules remain unchanged during the holiday and that students are not permitted to bring food and beverages into the library, to play games or to listen to music either in the main library or in the Year 6 Quiet Study Room.

BIZness Club

In collaboration with JA organization the Business club is offering a new life skill learning program "It's My Business" to our year 2 and Year 3 students. JA It's My Business is an engaging, academically enriching, and experiential learning sessions in entrepreneurship. The program is delivered through volunteers from VM Ware to provide a real-world perspective as well as be role models to the students.

The Business club is also planning to offer various other programs like **NEFE Financial planning program, JA Company program** and **JA Titan Program**. Following participation in the programs,

students will be able to apply their Managerial, Marketing and Entrepreneurship skills in local and international competitions like *NTU -THE NEXT FUND MANAGER*, *FedEx – International Trade Challenge*, *PITCH IDEAS ALIVE* and *YES challenge Business Plan competition*.

We are looking for parent volunteers, preferably with business world working experience, to jointly conduct the workshops. Please contact Jamuna.madhav@acsinternational.com.sg

PARENTS PRAYER GROUP

The Praying Parents Group (PPG) and Praying Fathers Group (PFG) have combined on a new monthly date

Praying Parents' Group (combined Mothers and Fathers Group) now meets every first Tuesday morning of each month. *The meetings will start at 8.30am and end by 10am and are held in the Conference Room.*

ALUMNI REUNION - 4 December

Advance notice – the first reunion of ACS (International) alumni will take place on *Friday, 4 December*. It will be held at the school from **7.00 – 10.00pm**. Buffet dinner included.

The theme is: 'GOODBYE DR B' - A night of fun, food and friendship for all former students of ACS (International) to say farewell to our Principal, Dr Barrett.

To register your interest in attending, please email Joanna MacDonald.

jo.macdonald@acsinternational.com.sg

Please make this known to former students.

Higher Education News

Wednesday, 23 September

What: Regent's College (UK) visit

When: Wednesday, 23 September

Where: 11.00 am – 12.45 pm in the School Canteen (Booth)

For more information on Regent's College, please visit www.regents.ac.uk

Thursday, 1 October

What: Study in the USA Tour at ACS (International)

When: Thursday, 1 October

Where: 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm in the School Hall

Note: There will be about 10 visiting USA universities

Friday, 2nd October

What: University of San Francisco

Presentation by the representative of USF on the undergraduate courses and entry requirements.

When: Friday, 2nd October 2009

Where: 3.45pm in the Conference Room

For more information on University of San Francisco, please visit www.usf.ca.edu .

Monday, 5 October

What: Temple University (Japan)

When: Monday, 5 October

Where: 11.00 am – 12.00 noon in the School Canteen

For more information on Temple University, please visit www.tuj.ac.jp

Geography Excursions / Field Trips

Year 1s – The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (22-29Sept 2009)

To explore how the Equatorial climate gave rise to some of the unusual flora and fauna of this Rain Forest, to understand this Reserve's importance as part of Singapore's heritage and the need to conserve it.

BLACK LIGHT THEATRE - 18 & 19 September

A Year 2 Art & Music Production

We are pleased to inform you that our Art & Music Departments have planned and organised a Black Light Theatre production for our Year 2 cohort this September. Our teachers have recognised the creativity in our students and have tailored the schemes of work in the Year 2 Art & Music curriculum to develop their interest.



The production combines music, visual arts and theatre, and utilizing the mystical technical effects of black light to create a multi-media presentation of stories, inspired by famous art works or musical compositions. These stories have themselves been created by our students'. Every Year 2 student will be involved in some way, either directly or indirectly. This is a massive and challenging production. In addition to individual contributions will be the experience of working together to create a unified theatrical experience.

Performances will be on the **18 and 19 September 2009** in our school hall, which will be adapted to create an environment in which the production can take place. We shall need to bring in a special sound system to capture the sound effects, special lighting to enable the props to glow in the dark, etc. On top of that, we have hired professional puppeteers to teach our students the art of puppetry. We seek your support by attending but also if possible donating towards the cost of this production. All sponsorship will be acknowledged in the programme.

We would like to hear from interested parents by **10 September 2009**. If you have any queries, please email our Art teacher, Mdm Chang Hung Tho at hungtho.chang@acsinternational.com.sg or Miss Carol Ling at carol.ling@acsinternational.com.sg

SPORTS and COMPETITIONS

ATHLETICS

ACS (International) won the Invitation 100m at ACS (Independent) sports. The team members were: Hironobu Wee, Ho Ren Chun, Alex Lim and Fabian Yeo.

CHESS

The school Chess teams (Team A) has emerged as the West Zone Champion for the second time in the Secondary Open section.

The members of the team were:

Tran Xuan Bach 5y
Truong Quang Hai 4x

Trinh Huy Hoang 5v
Luong Pham Vinh PreIB

Nationally Team A was ranked 11th out of 29 teams, and Team B 20th out of 29.

SOCCER

On 24 Aug, our under-16 soccer team played the under-17 team of St. Francis Methodist School in a training match and won 4-0. On the 27th, the same team played St. Francis' under-16 team and won 6-1.

NETBALL

Two teams participated in the Pesta Sukan Netball Carnival . One of our teams came in 1st in their group, while the other team came in 2nd. Thus, both teams qualify for 2nd round which will be played at Kallang Netball Center this Sunday, 6th September.

RUGBY CCA JACKETS

- ✓ WINDPROOF & LIGHT RAIN PROOF
- ✓ QUALITY FABRIC AND FINISHING
- ✓ FRONT ZIP AND POCKETS
- ✓ ORIGINAL ACS BADGE 'RUGBY' LOGO ON BACK
- ✓ ATTRACTIVE DESIGN

**AVAILABLE TO ALL BOYS RUGBY, GIRLS TOUCH RUGBY AND PARENTS
SIZES : M , L , XL & XXL - COST S\$50 ONLY – SEE MR RONALD SMITH.**