



# ACS (International)

## OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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### Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much indeed to those of you who provided the Teachers' Day lunch. These events are always arranged so very well by the parents involved. This year's Mexican event was even better than previous lunches. Many, many thanks.

A big thank you, also, to the parents who are providing food for the students to keep them going during Study Nights. I am pleased to see that between thirty and forty students are making use of the opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays to study in a quiet environment in preparation for their IGCSE and IBD exams. I am also aware that there is a shortage of study space for the year 6 students in particular during the day. The library is full to bursting, and students are looking for other corners in which to work when they do not have formal lessons. I will be publishing a list of classrooms that are available at particular times to provide additional work space for those who need it.

I was away last week, chairing the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council. This meeting was held in Chile, which turns out to be a long way from Singapore! It meant that I missed the year 2 Black Light Theatre production, which I hear was a great success. I am looking forward to seeing the DVD.

I mentioned in my last letter that my successor, Mr Kerr Fulton-Peebles, will be making a visit in November for meetings with staff etc. The meeting for parents to meet him will be on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm. Refreshments will be served. This will mainly be an informal occasion, but he will give a brief address to everyone at 7.30pm.

If you are driving in to school, you will have noticed that the Sports Hall development is now growing fast. The Board has agreed that the main hall will be named the Lim Sang Guan Sports Hall, in memory of the father of Peter Lim, who has given a major donation towards the cost of the development.

Ms Rita Kaur, our Careers and Higher Education Advisor, asks me to remind you of the need for Job Shadowing opportunities for year 5 and 6 students. Those who have been able to spend a period

in a law office, with an accountants firm or in a business have gained immeasurably from the experience.

Mrs Ivy Teo has asked me to remind you that Fees for this fourth term should now have been paid. Please check that this has been done.

We always welcome feedback from parents. Each year we have given an opportunity for parents to raise issues that concern them during an open meeting – Parent Matters. Details are given below of this year’s forum. Please note the change of date from that previously announced.

Finally, a reminder that we are splitting Speech Night and Prize Giving this year. You will receive an invitation in due course, but please note the date, which is **Thursday, 26 November**. The Junior Speech Night (for years 1 – 3) will be at 4.30pm and the Senior Speech Night will be at 8.00pm. Both events will be in the main Hall. Buffet Dinner will be available from 6.00pm in the Canteen.

Yours sincerely,  
John Barrett

### **Forthcoming dates:**

3 Oct	Parents’ Coffee morning – details below
5 Oct	IBD Visual Arts reception and exhibition 7pm
10 Oct	Scholarship Exam
12 Oct	O-Level Hindi Examinations
13-16 Oct	Art Examination
16 Oct	End of year reports for Years 4 & 6
16 Oct	Mid term grades for Years 1, 2, 3 & 5.
16 Oct	Parent Matters – forum and feedback 7pm (see below)
17 Oct	Deepavali Public holiday
19 Oct	Deepavali School holiday
19 Oct – 16 Nov	IGCSE exams
20-23, 26 Oct	Art Examination
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
16 Nov	Year 5 Aesthetics workshops
17 Nov	Year 1 Aesthetics Workshops
18 Nov	Year 2 Aesthetics workshops
19 Nov	Year 3 Aesthetics workshops
19 – 20 Nov	Year 5 Gp 4 Science Projects
20 Nov	FAREWELL for Dr BARRETT (see below)
24 Nov	Science Fair
24 Nov	End of year reports for Years 1, 2, 3 & 5
25 Nov	Parent/teacher meetings Years 1, 2, 3 & 5
26 Nov	4.30pm Junior Speech Night
26 Nov	8.00pm Senior Speech Night and Graduation
	End of term 4
27 Nov	Hari Raya Haji Holiday
28 Nov	Prom Night

## **MID TERM GRADES AVAILABLE on-line from 9.00am on Friday 16 October 2009**

Last month's newsletter had details of how to access these at the following web address:  
<http://www.ntrix.acsinternational.com.sg>

If there are any difficulties please email Mr. Raymond Yim at  
[raymond.yim@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:raymond.yim@acsinternational.com.sg)

### **CCAS**

CCAs will stop formally on 16 Oct and resume after the exams.

### **STUDY LEAVE**

Study leave for years 4 and 6 students begins following Friday, 16 October. After this date students are not required to come into school until their exams, but of course are welcome to come in to have revision sessions with teachers by arrangement with them.

### **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 years 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.

### **PROMOTION CRITERIA – a reminder of the procedures that will apply this year**

Students entering years 1, 3 and 5 will expect to complete the two year cycle.

Specific criteria for entry into year 5 will remain as it is at present – namely 3 B grades and 3 C grades at IGCSE with B grades in the subjects to be studied at Higher Level.

Students entering year 3 will need to meet certain criteria for particular subject choices – i.e. A. Maths and Science. Thus, their subject combinations would be subject to certain restrictions.

There will not be any re-sits as we have known them but the EOY examination is essential to prove that they meet the criteria for entry into the next phase. The EOY examinations in years 1, 3 and 5 are to be taken as an indicator of their progress towards the end of the phase and poor results will trigger off specific consultations with parents, monitoring, strategies and recommendations.

Students who perform particularly badly throughout the year may be asked to repeat the year. The school will consult with parents of such students during the course of the year and every effort will be made by the school, the student and the student's parents to follow appropriate support guidelines.

## **PARENT MATTERS**

This year the parents' forum – entitled PARENT MATTERS – will be held on **Friday, 16 October, 7.00pm – 9.00pm**. I and the two Vice- Principals will be present, together with Mrs Ivy Teo. Light refreshments will be served.

Parents are invited to send their questions in advance. Following the forum, the answers given will also be emailed to all parents so that a parent who cannot attend may also feel there is value in asking a question. Please email questions to [regina.wong@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:regina.wong@acsinternational.com.sg) or hand them in at Reception.

## **PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING – Supporting my child for success**

The next Coffee Morning is scheduled for **Saturday 3 October 10:00 am until 12:00 noon** in the Conference Room. Miss Manley will lead a discussion on supporting the child at home for success in school and will consider a range of strategies. All parents are welcome.

## **IB Visual Arts Graduation Exhibition 5 October**

As part of their exam requirement and as a celebration of the completion of the IB Visual Arts course, the year 6 art students have put up an art exhibition in the Art studios (at the 3rd floor of the new block) . The exhibition is open to the public on the 5th October. There will be a reception at 7pm on the night of 5th October especially for the art students, their families and friends. Teachers, students and parents of ACS (International) are also welcomed. The exhibition showcases art works from a range of media, from paintings, mixed media works, photography works, ceramics to sculptures. It will be particularly useful for current year 5 students and for students who may be thinking of taking Visual Art as an IB subject in the future.

## **IGCSE Certificates**

Any students in years 5 and 6 who have not collected their final (official) IGCSE certificates (examinations 2007 and 2008) should collect them from Ms. Manley's office. Please note that you will be asked to sign to acknowledge receipt.

## **Year 4 and Year 6 - End of Year Reports**

The EOY reports for years 4 and 6 will be given to the students on **Friday, 16 October**. This document is the full record of your child's work and progress for 2009. Students will be asked to sign to acknowledge receipt of their EOY report.

End of Year Reports for other Years will be available on **Tuesday, 24 November**.

## **BUSINESS CONNECTIONS WANTED URGENTLY!**

### *Message from Mrs Pat Simmonds:*

There are now 44 students taking IB Business & Management and they have to find firms willing to cooperate with them and provide research data for their Internal Assessments. The IA coursework counts for 25% of the total marks for this subject, so it is very important that every student has a business to study. I know that the parents of ACS (International) are wonderful and that they help the school so much, so I am sure those of you owning your own firms, working for large organisations, or having friends and relations in business will assist us by e mailing me the contact details of student-friendly firms.

A typical coursework title is: “An investigation into how the use of Human Resource strategies based on motivation theories has improved the productivity of Company X”. All the data given by firms is, of course, confidential, and no-one except the student and the teacher see this information. It is difficult and time-consuming for students if they have to search for businesses themselves from scratch, so it would be most helpful if we could compile our own database of friendly firms willing to share their experiences and data with students.

We look forward to hearing from you!  
The Business and Economics Department  
Contact : [patricia.simmonds@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:patricia.simmonds@acsinternational.com.sg);

## **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](mailto:Jamuna.madhav@acsinternational.com.sg)

## **PARENTS PRAYER GROUP**

Praying Parents' Group (combined Mothers and Fathers Group) 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.*

## **FAREWELL DR BARRETT 20 November 2009**

*Message from the VP (Pastoral):*

From **3.30 pm to 5 pm on 20 November 2009**, we will have a ceremony in the Hall to bid Farewell to Dr Barrett. All students are expected to remain in school to 5 pm on this day. Parents are invited to come and witness this event. Please send your names to [pngcharles@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:pngcharles@acsinternational.com.sg); to indicate that you are coming.

## **ALUMNI REUNION - 4 December**

Repeat 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](mailto:jo.macdonald@acsinternational.com.sg) . Please make this known to former students.

## **Higher Education News**

### **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

What: University of San Francisco

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

When: Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

Where: 3.45pm in the Conference Room

For more information on University of San Francisco, please visit [www.usf.ca.edu](http://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](http://www.tuj.ac.jp)

## **SPORTS and COMPETITIONS**

### **NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS - COLOURS**

National Colours Awards were given to the following students for their outstanding achievements in the National Schools' Sports this year:

Alicia Chiang from Year 2 for Swimming,

Michael Rosenberger from Year 5 for Tennis,

Levine Tan from Year 3 and Geoffrey Jamal Idenburg from Year 1 for Golf.

### **BASKETBALL**

ACSIS Basketball League matches:

14 Sep 2009: Beat UWC(C) 41-18

25 Sep 2009: Beat UWC(G) 54-40

28 Sep 2009: Lost to Canadian International 27-34

### **CHESS**

Daniel Choo of 4y came in 18 out of 115 in the Novice section in the 38th Queenstown CC Chess Championships (held on 22 – 23 Aug).

### **CROSS COUNTRY**

2009 ACS (International) Cross- Country

We held our 2nd Cross-Country Meet on 3 September at West Coast Park. A total of 80 trophies were given out to the top 20 winners of each division. TKK house emerged as the overall house champions with a total score of 252 points.

#### ***Overall Team Results:***

1st- TKK

2nd- Oldham

3rd- GHK

4th- Thoburn

#### ***Individual Results:***

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>House</i></b>	<b><i>Class</i></b>	<b><i>Time</i></b>
<b><i>Junior Girls</i></b>			
1st- Alicia Chiang	GHK	2W	14 mins 26 secs
2nd- Kayla Dionisio	TKK	2V	16 mins 02 secs
3rd- Isabella	Thoburn	2W	18 mins 33 secs

### ***Junior Boys***

1st- Alex Lim	Thoburn	3X	12 mins 08 secs
2nd- Jonathan Foo	GHK	3Z	12 mins 11 secs
3rd- Xavier Tan	TKK	3X	12 mins 32 secs

### ***Senior Girls***

1st- Zheng Li	Thoburn	6Y	17 mins
2nd- Nathania Wijaya	Oldham	4X	17 mins 17 secs
3rd- Meyi Dwicahyani	Thoburn	4X	17 mins 28 secs

### ***Senior Boys***

1st- Maurice Sam	TKK	4X	12 mins 04 secs
2nd- Jeffery Yip	Thoburn	5Z	12 mins 05 secs
3rd- Alden Cheng	Thoburn	6w	12 mins 13 secs

## **KARTING**

Andika Triputra Sasabone has been selected for the Indonesian National Junior Racing Team to take part in the Asia Pacific Championship in Macau on 10 October and the Rok World Championship in Italy on 24 October.

## **NETBALL**

Our Netball Team emerged 1st Runner up in the recent Pesta Sukan Carnival. Our girls showed good sportsmanship and fighting spirit through all their matches.

Our Year 1 & 2 girls will be playing in a Street Netball competition next on 4th October, Sunday at West Coast Park in the Under 16 Category.

## **SOCCER**

Soccer Results for the school's Under 16 team in friendly matches:

ACS (International) beat West Spring Sec School: 5-2

ACS (International) beat St. Francis Methodist School (U-16): 6-1

ACS (International) beat St. Francis Methodist School (U-17): 4-0

## **RUGBY**

Rugby CCA has stood down from all training since the End of Term 3 as Term 4 is the lead up to the examinations. Rugby training will recommence for all students in Years 1-3 and 5 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November after the lower school examinations. Year 4's will restart after their exams finish on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Training will be essential as the B Div Championship will start shortly after we return to School in 2010.