

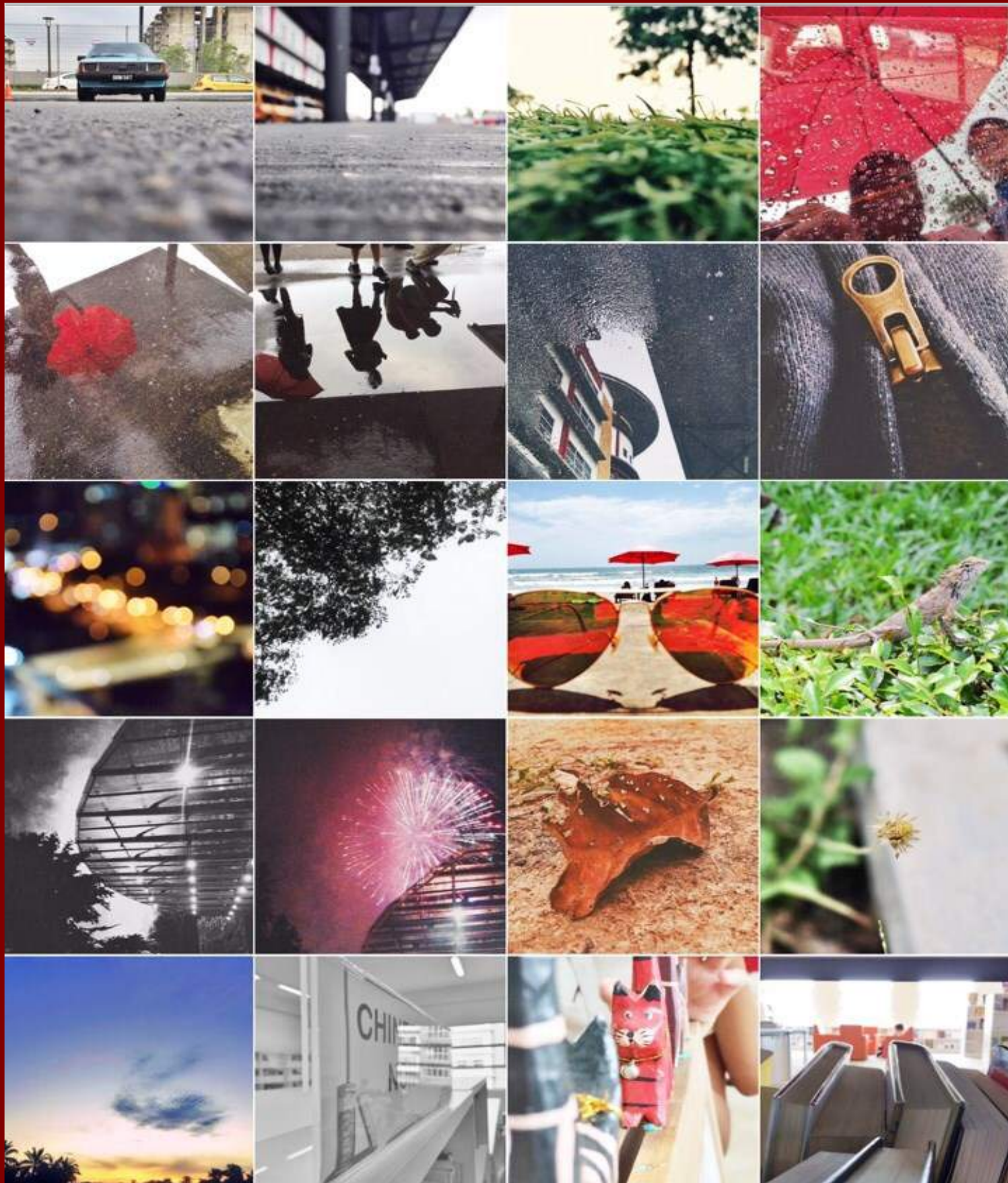


HELP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

"Life in all its fullness"

HIS NEWSLETTER

Issue: 2015 / January



Cover

Collage of photographs taken by students from the primary and secondary HIS photography clubs

Their photo exhibition will be held on:

Date : February 11 and 12

Time : 8am - 5pm

Venue: Multipurpose Hall Foyer, Level 5

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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

Since the start of term, it has been a real pleasure to see our students come together in Key Stage assemblies celebrating their achievements, and I have enjoyed listening to some thought-provoking presentations. The sense of community brought about by such events is what HIS is constantly seeking to embed and develop. I am really looking forward to our Chinese New Year assembly where we will all come together as a school to celebrate the variety and richness of the culture.

Exemplifying this, the wonderful efforts of our students, parents, teachers and sponsors in support of those affected by the Malaysian floods was a huge success and a true community effort. The 'HELP The Nation' Flood Donation Drive raised RM27,500.

I would like to praise all the students involved in our House competitions over the beginning weeks of term along with the great work put in by our teachers to support them. Students enjoyed games and activities designed to enhance their pastoral experience at school, extend their skills and ensure learning at HIS is not just 'work' but is fun and enriching. I may use that word frequently but it is such an important part of what we do. The PE Department at HIS is also offering students the chance to test their character and skills and we are now ready to begin preparing, along with other schools, league competitions and events that I'm sure our students will find exciting and challenging.

I'm happy to report that last week's Fire Drill went smoothly. Evacuation and Marshall checks were completed in 7 minutes and the Fire Brigade was on site within 10 minutes. Thank you to staff for such excellent supervision

and to students for their exemplary behaviour. In addition, 15 staff undertook a two-day First Aid course last weekend – well done to all of you.

Assessment has been one of our core priorities this academic year and we have an upcoming opportunity to further develop our knowledge of our students' strengths and weaknesses. We will be running CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Tests) sessions shortly. This is a standard, well-respected assessment that gives us information on a student's abilities, potential, strengths and weaknesses and will allow us to generate reports for parents which communicate this information, along with furnishing us with more data to help us target areas for support and to challenge and develop our students' strengths. This assessment is provided by an outside agency (GL Assessment) and there is a small fee involved.

We continue to grow as a school and are committed to responding thoughtfully and prudently to the issues that arise, whether they be curriculum questions or pastoral concerns. Our community of parents has valuable opinions and ideas on these and all other areas of our students' education. Please rest assured that we are constantly discussing and addressing these questions. It is important that we take time and care over these matters without reacting too hurriedly or compromising our philosophies.

As a growing school, with next year's enrolment already on target, we are happy to note that the majority of our original cohort of staff are renewing their contracts and are excited by the challenges ahead. We are offering professional development and training to further enrich their expertise and we are actively recruiting high quality professionals to add to our team. Altogether, 25 of our Primary staff will be taking IPC training later this month to consolidate their practice. Our A-Level programme has



Presentation of Christmas hamper and cheque for RM1,500 (raised from the Parent-Teacher Football Friendly match) to Dignity For Children.

started in January with new students and teachers joining HIS.

We have a number of exciting things coming up. All year groups will soon be offering trips and visits for authentic learning experiences linked to the curriculum. Additionally, there will be other optional events like the Prefect Camp or IGCSE Geography field study trip. Some students will be offered the opportunity to attend a Tennis Open event, and we have an upcoming trip to Kechara Forest Reserve for all our budding geographers, botanists and zoologists.

We will be extending our Extra-curricular Activities provision, alongside our CCA programme, with specialist courses in areas like music and other subjects in which our gifted and talented students would enjoy extra coaching. These activities are at the heart of our philosophy, 'Life in all its Fullness'.

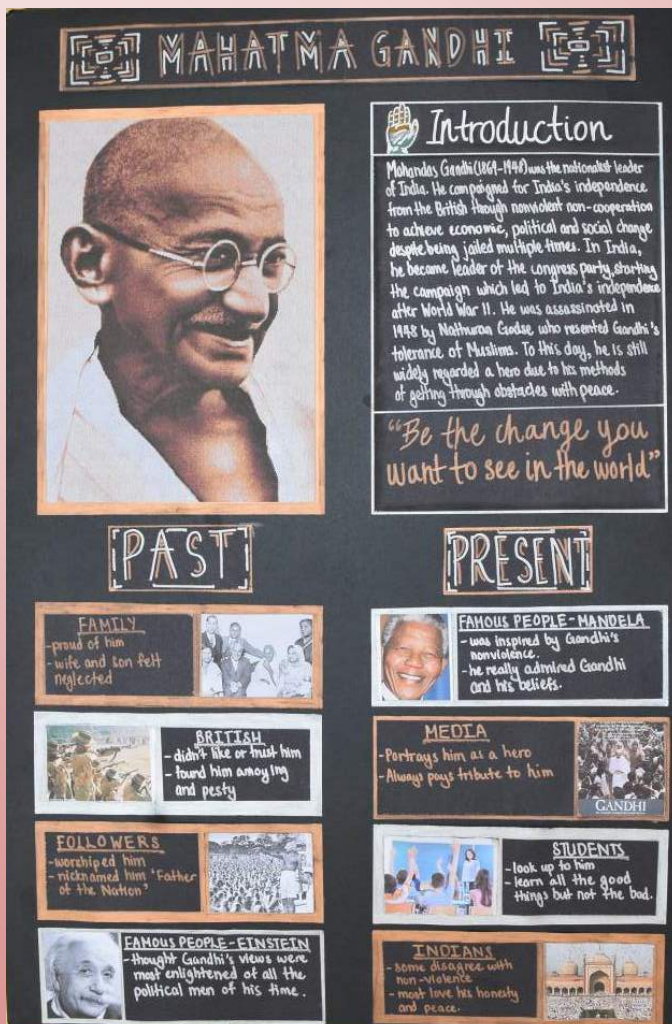
We are sad to be saying goodbye to Ms Stephanie (Admin), Mr Visu (Science and Maths) and Ms Cheong (Library) at half term and wish them well for the future. We are also saying goodbye to Ms Sanali (SEN) who is leaving us at Chinese New Year to work with Dr Goh at HELP University. We would like to thank her for all her help and support.

Finally, we have the upcoming Parent-Teacher Meetings. Our admin staff and teachers have been hard at work finalising the mid-term reports. These are important opportunities to communicate achievements and look at areas for students to target for improvement. This is also an opportunity for parents and students alike to feedback to the teachers and school management. Such is how our school community should work and HIS is a community of achievement, underpinned and enriched by your help.

Thank you for all your support.

Vita ad Plenitudinem.

Ms Davina McCarthy



For the Year 9 History assessment piece on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, students had to compare how Gandhi was viewed by different people in the past and how he is viewed now.

This poster is the work of **Leanne Yule** and it showcases her excellent presentation, styling skills and detailed, well selected content and research .

Up Close and Personal With Mark Jones

Deputy Principal and Head of Secondary



Q: What values do you wish to impart to students at HIS?

I believe in the same education values that Help International School aspires towards, 'Life in all its Fullness'. Growing up, I was always ready for change and willing to try various pursuits. I played a variety of sports such as rugby, tennis and golf. You could say I was a 'Jack of all trades'. My philosophy would be to expose students to as many things as they can whilst they are in school; be it academic, sport or cultural pursuits. They have their whole life to specialise so their schooling years should be about exploring a variety of interests.

From the short period I have been here at HIS, I appreciate the fantastic work that the pioneer team has achieved. Strong foundations have been laid and as a Deputy Principal overseeing the Secondary Education at HIS, one of my goals will be to offer a wider range of IGCSE subjects and similarly for the A-Levels programme covering academic and vocational subjects.

As educators, we have a responsibility to mould students into global citizens who are able to grasp various issues and contribute to society in a meaningful way. The goal for

schools now are to produce students who are flexible, adaptable and able to cope with change positively.

In the tertiary level, universities are not only looking for students with academic qualification. They are actively seeking out students who have a rich and full personal statement written about themselves. Traits that will give them the edge over other students are flexibility, adaptability and tenacity.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

Probably indigestion from the spicy food I have come to enjoy! Jokes aside, it's probably the thought of being away from my father and family in the UK. I have been working away from the UK the last 15 years and I do miss them.

Fortunately, my wife, Ruth, and my two boys, Harry and Louis are able to travel with me. We have all been made so welcome by the community at HIS.

Q: How do you drop the 'parent hat' when you are teaching in the same school your boys are students at?

My sons, Harry, is in Year 6 and Louis, is in Year 4. They understand that when I'm at school I'm the Deputy Principal. This will be their 4th year being in the same school as Mum and Dad so they understand that they can't bother us when we are at school. I only put on my 'parent' hat when we are back home. (Ms Ruth is also a teacher at HIS).

Q: What made you decide to move to Malaysia after your stint in the Seychelles?

We spent a month in Malaysia and Singapore back in 1999 and really enjoyed our experience here. We love the fact that Malaysia is a melting pot of different cultures and offers the best of both the Eastern and Western world. Personally, the food is also a big draw.

I worked with Ms. Davina in Kuwait and when the opportunity arose to work with her again in a location that captivated us back in 1999, it was a relatively easy decision.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your experience in the Seychelles and what you have learned from it as an educator.

There were quite a lot of politics involved in the school environment in Seychelles which I'm not used to. My role there was to try and make things consistent for all teachers.

From my experience, I realise that we have to be respectful and empathetic of the challenges people face everyday. Embrace the differences and do what you can to make things better.

Q: If you can have one superpower, what would it be?

I would love to be able to fly. I love travelling and thrive on change and variety. It will be terrific to be able to go wherever I want to.

My superpower is kind of selfish but I believe that if you are happy, it comes across in your work. For parents, it's important to do things that you enjoy as happy people makes better parents.

Q: What would you like to achieve in HIS?

HIS is already a fantastic school. My job is to keep my ears and eyes open to absorb as much information as possible. There are a few projects that I would like to implement in HIS that are close to my heart. One of it will be to launch the *Duke of Edinburgh Award* come September 2015. This international award will help challenge our students and hone their leadership qualities. At the same time, the programme motivates them to be self-sufficient, to explore the outdoors and learn about commitment. These are all important values that young people should develop.

I'm also passionate about sports and would like to further develop the school teams through CCA and ECA. We would like our teams to enter more leagues and grow in confidence and stature.

The school is also introducing the Scouts movement for the younger ones and hoping to expand on our current musical and performing arts production.

In the long run, as the school continues to grow in capacity, I hope we will see a greater variety of subjects being offered.



Clockwise:
Mr Mark, Harry, Louis and Ms Ruth

Looking back at our school life, what we remember most are not the lessons in the classroom but the experiences we share with our fellow friends on the sports field, performing on stage or even getting lost whilst orienteering. Let's ensure our students have the opportunity to explore other areas in life and build memories of school life that they will treasure in years to come.



Born: 29 December

Hometown: Leicester, UK

Hobby: Most sports - rugby, hockey, football, badminton, squash, tennis, water sports, skiing, snowboarding and outdoor pursuits. Other hobbies include travel, survival, entertaining, sea fishing, spicy food and new technology

Charity Begins With Me

At HIS, we aim to teach our students how to develop a greater awareness for the needs of the wider community and encourage them to be willing to make sacrifices to help others.

Flood Donation Drive Charity Bazaar

In response to the recent floods in Malaysia, HELP University and HELP International School (HIS) undertook a Flood Donation Drive, with HIS aiming to raise RM25,000.

We are thankful to announce that we have exceeded our target; raising a total of RM27,500 from corporate partners' donations, Teachers' Charity Lunch and proceeds from the Charity Bazaar that was held on January 29.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, staff and students for their support; it is truly a combined effort of the entire school community.

"I am glad to be able to help out at the Charity Bazaar. It was fun yet meaningful!" said Joey Lim, a student helper at the Bazaar.

"As parents, we can always lead by example, and show our children what it means to share and care," said Indra, a parent volunteer who helped organise the Bazaar.

Dignity for Children Foundation

Last November, HIS had a friendly football match between the teachers and parents and raised RM 1,500 for the Faisal Cup Tournament organised by **Dignity for Children Foundation**, a sport tournament for the underprivileged children.

As a follow-up action, the school has decided to support the students at the **Dignity for Children Foundation** further by:

- Offering free courses in Textile, Product Design and Food Technology over three weeks
- These courses aim to equip secondary students from Dignity for Children Foundation with vocational skills, giving them a means to earn an income
- HIS student leaders will be selected in assisting the teachers during courses

"This is a great opportunity for HIS students to be involved and get to know students from different background. I am looking forward to seeing the young people make friends through learning," said Mr Salam, Head of Year 7 & Technology and Visual Arts Coordinator.



Fast facts on *Dignity for Children Foundation*

- Set up by for the underprivileged families in the Sentul area
- Believe that quality education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty
- Started out with 50 students. Today, there are more than 1,000 students
- More information can be found on www.dignityforchildren.org







This term Preschool entered the world of 'Art'. They discovered and experimented with the different mediums used to create works of art, and learned how to use various techniques for these mediums. Our Preschoolers were also introduced to some of the great works of our day and learned about their painters. Dickens class did a project on Vincent Van Gogh. They learned the names of some of his paintings and chose to do a display of their favourite Van Gogh painting, 'The Starry Night'. The children have also made self-portraits, drawn a still life and worked with charcoal.





ACADEMICS



Year 1

In IPC this term, students have done various fun activities that have allowed them to explore their five senses. The Exit Point shows them putting together an exhibit on their projects done throughout the term representing any one of the five senses they have found particularly interesting. This gives other children an opportunity to see what others have done and how they have taken information and experiences in IPC to display their learning.





Year 2 Shakespeare presented posters at assembly on January 23. The theme of the presentation was on the importance of good dental

hygiene: brushing twice a day, eating healthy foods, etc. The projects were a part of our current IPC unit, 'We Are What We Eat'. The children loved sharing the information they have learned over the past few weeks to their classmates and teachers and did a fantastic job.

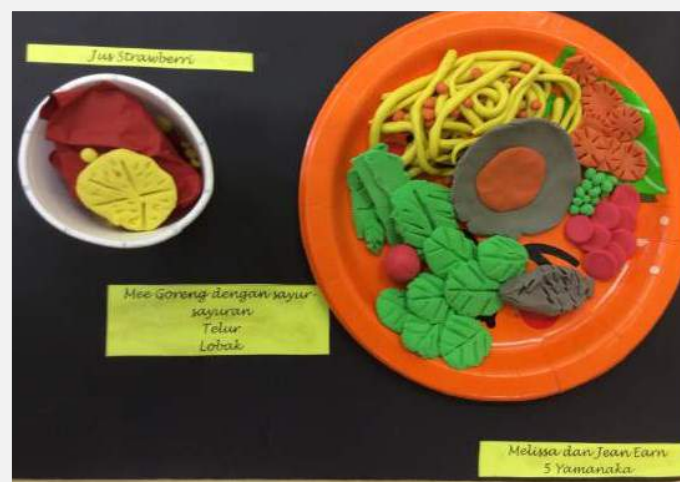
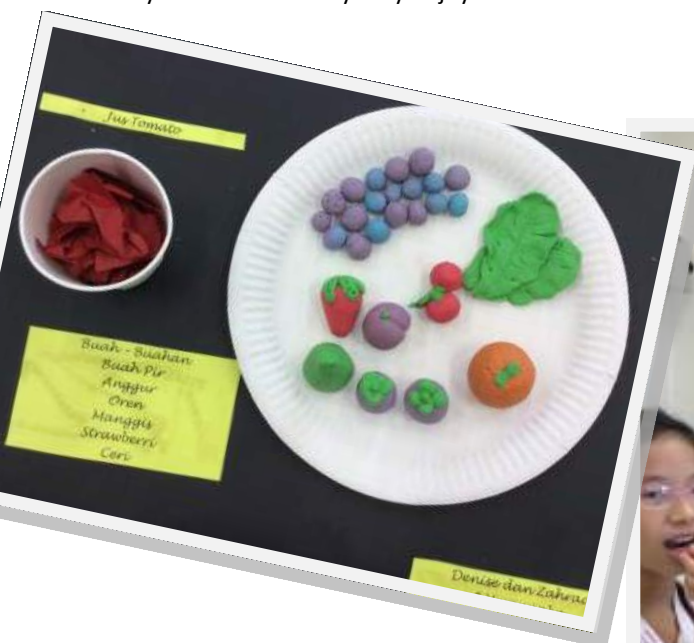


As part of **Year 5** Yamanaka's geography lessons on the theme of Weather and Climate, we explored how the climate of different cities around the world can affect the people who live there. Each group used maps, internet research and books to gather weather, climate and geographical information for their chosen city and then created a visual aid to teach the rest of their classmates.



Bahasa Malaysia

Students from Year 5 Yamanaka have made a replica set based on the theme of healthy foods in month of January about nutrition. The students used clay to design the types of foods, such as vegetables, fruits, and complete set meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They found the activity very enjoyable.



By Ashley Ang

Design and Technology

Year 7 textile project saw students learning to use the sewing machine and learn the basics of constructing an item of clothing. Students produced mood boards and design ideas that helped them to create an apron for their textile project. Many various styles were produced with their hard work and commitment.



By Eleanor Lim



By Julia Oh

Reward Points System

The reward points system is a way of recognising individual achievement on a daily basis. Students within **Key Stage 2** have been given reward points when demonstrating unprompted kindness and generosity or for performing above and beyond their individual expectations. This system supports positive behaviour uniformly across all subjects in the curriculum.

It actively upholds the school's behaviour system and provides students with both a goal and acknowledgment of their accomplishments. So far, many students have already received 10 points. These students have been presented with a 'White' level certificate. 'Bronze', 'Silver' and 'Gold' level certificates will also be presented to students for achieving 25, 50 and 100 reward points respectively. We fully anticipate some students setting their sights on these higher level certificates as they progress through the school year.



Congratulations to our 1st recipients of the 'White' level certificate

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| * Cheng Zhe Rong (Melody) | 4 Plato |
| * See Pei Hui | 4 Plato |
| * Lee Kai Heng | 5 Yamanaka |
| * Wan Khaleesya Wan Murdzaffa | 5 Yamanaka |
| * Priya Kaur Parhar | 5 Newton |
| * Cheng Xiao Xuan | 6 Galileo |
| * Lam Wan Nee | 6 Galileo |
| * Precious Hong Poh Yi | 6 Galileo |
| * Jessalynn Kaur Inderjit Singh | 6 Borlaug |
| * Adam Bin Abdul Karim | 6 Bell |
| * Ang Zheng Yao (Bryan) | 6 Bell |
| * Kareena Sivam Kunandran | 6 Bell |
| * Lee Zhi Lyn | 6 Bell |
| * Lucas Lim Kit | 6 Bell |
| * Natalie Mikkelsen | 6 Bell |
| * Rahul Jo-Shua Thanasekaran | 6 Bell |
| * Chang Chun Yung (Timmy) | 6 Bell |

Clouds

By Navaneeta Kumar (5 Curie)

Scattered and wispy clouds in the sky...

Cirrus clouds are drifting by.

Long and flat clouds in the sky...

Stratus clouds are moving by.

Large and puffy clouds in the sky...

Cumulus clouds are floating by.

High and dark clouds in the sky...

Cumulonimbus clouds are thundering by.



Year 7 Renoir geography students are working on their detailed models of either, the elements of a river basin, or the creation of an ox bow lake. The models will be the central to their presentations.



YEAR 7



Year 7 have made a great start to the second term. We have initiated our Mentoring scheme to train the Year 7s, they will assist in the transition of students from primary in to secondary.

Year 7 Da Vinci and Year 7 Michelangelo started off the homeroom assemblies, portraying a great message to live a healthier lifestyle. They presented it with a lot of enthusiasm and it was well received. All the other homerooms will lead their own assemblies in due course.

During homeroom time on Wednesdays, we have started to come together as a year group to discuss current issues. We have discussed the importance of conflict resolution, and the next session will be dedicated to iPad training, with the aim of ensuring students use of their devices to efficiently organise their lives and not just to play games!

With the introduction of our 3-strike rule, Year 7 have been given an excellent opportunity to go on a trip that will test and challenge their ability to communicate and work together as a team. More details will follow soon.





By Chung Heng

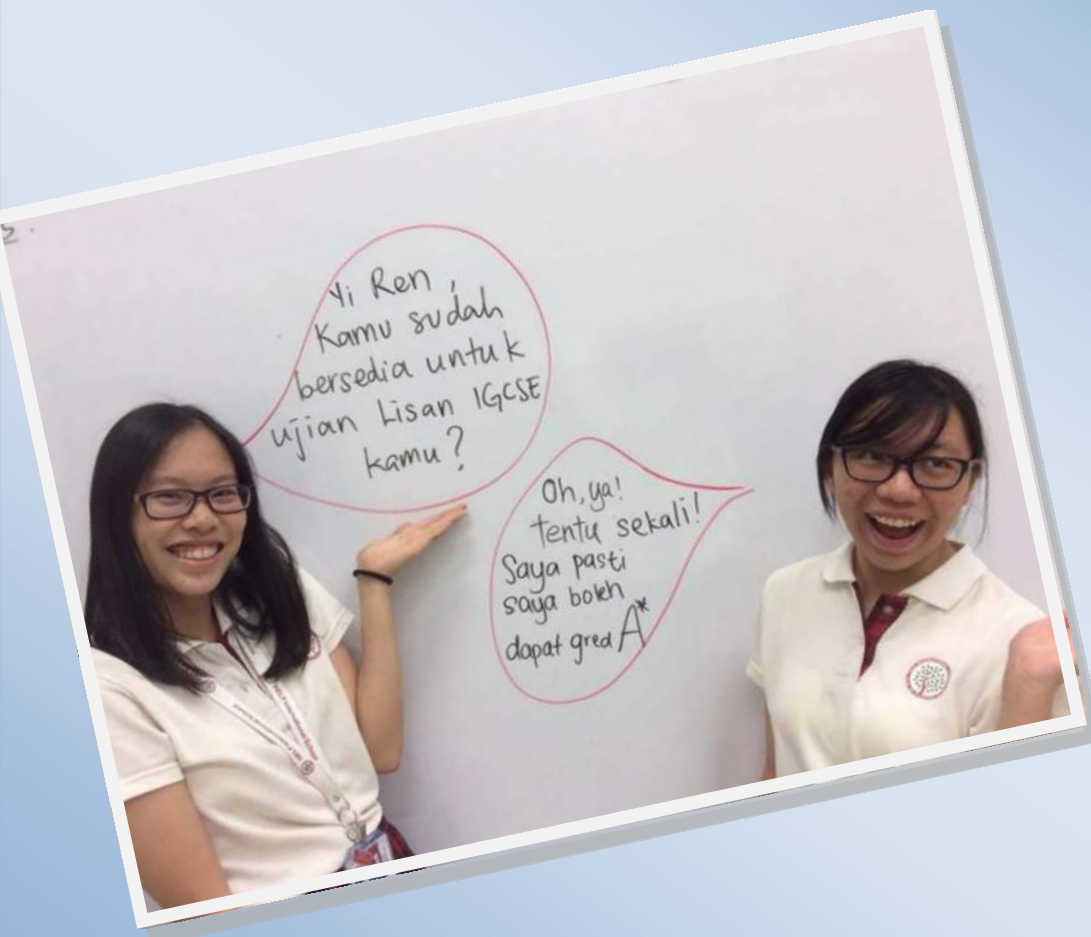
Year 9 textile project in Design and Technology was based on recycling materials around them to create a T-shirt. All students used various mediums such as cardboard, plastic, newspaper, felt and many more. Students experimented with tie-dye and created visually interesting outcomes for their project.



By Daniel Lou



By Andrew Lee



Bahasa Malaysia IGSCE

The BM IGCSEs are looming and Year 10 students have been working hard with Ms Suffiah preparing for their oral exams in March. All Malaysian nationals take BM as an IGCSE in Year 10 and then have the opportunity to continue on to another year of IGCSE in Year 11.

Here is what Derric Gan (Year 10) has to say about the upcoming BM IGCSEs, "In March we are doing our BM oral exam. I'm really excited, Ms Suffiah is a great teacher hopefully I can live up to the expectations of my parents. I'm sure I will make them very proud. I love my BM lessons because Ms Suffiah always makes it fun for us and easy to understand."

A Focus on Economics

Economics is a two year IGCSE course we offer at HIS. Taught by Ms Sharon it is a new subject that students have the option of choosing when they get to year 10.

In the words of Marselia (Year 10) Economics, "Econs is a very interactive lesson. We study things like supply and demand and price elasticity. It is very interesting as it is a new subject this year. We can apply the knowledge we learn to the real world to help us when we are older. Economics has taught me more about money and how it is used."



The Moon

by Vara Qi Gunananthan (5 Newton)

The moon is a bright round sphere,
smiling down from ear to ear,
a silver banana in the middle of space,
like a wide, wild, grin floating in its place.

The moon is as gentle as a glow,
moving ever so slow.
It's glowing nice, warm and bright
in the darkness of the night.

A silent, silver, sinking sensation
as you marvel at the marvellous moon,
and think of rockets whooshing to space
stations.
You'd want to go to space quite soon

to see the glorious moon and stars
and listen to the moon chat with Mars
to float in space, no gravity at all
no need to worry I would ever fall.

Climb out of bed when midnight strikes
and ride to the beach with my bike
to hear the sound of calming waves
to see the moon that makes me brave.

When I feel oh so timid and frightened
I look up and I then don't feel so frightened;
for there in the dark sky, grinning at me
is the moon, as comforting as can be,

telling me that it won't be long
till the sun comes and the moon goes,
its voice like a joyful song
warming me up from head to toe.

Oh moon, oh moon, please don't go;
you are a friend, not a foe.
I'd hate to see you disappear
waiting till night when you reappear.

the moon, a silent guardian
the moon, a gentle giant
the moon, a silver guidance
the moon, my faithful companion.



EVENTS

The recent House competitions in January proved to be one of great anticipation and excitement for our four Houses; Dragon, Griffin, Pegasus and Phoenix. Students took part in a variety of 32 events spread out amongst Key Stages 2, 3, and 4.

Events ranged from academics, to sports, to creative arts, music and even a few out-of-the-box activities, arranged and set by each House's team leaders and sports captain. Effectively planned and executed by the Head of Houses, every student was tactically placed into events he/she is best at.

The competition proved to be successful in bringing together students from all years.



Results

KS 2

- 1) Phoenix
- 2) Dragon / Pegasus
- 4) Griffin

KS 3 & KS 4

- 1) Dragon
- 2) Pegasus
- 3) Phoenix
- 4) Griffin

Crystalline Loo, 9 Mozart

Last week I took part in a MSSD competition for both badminton and table tennis. This was my second time participating in that competition. Although I lost in both competitions I managed to gain experience in those matches I played. Also, I met my ex-classmates from my previous school and got to greet them too. I enjoyed being there the whole time, observing other participants performing in their games. I will train harder this year and try my best again the following year.

Tan Min Khian, 9 Mozart

Last Thursday I had the opportunity to represent HIS and participate in the MSSD badminton 2015 tournament. Despite being injured, I was able to join the quarter final which is an awesome achievement. I'm glad that I've gained a lot of experience and met some new friends from different schools. A big thank you should go to Mr Shukri who has been busy organising these tournaments for us.



Congratulations to Katerina Lee Jia Jing (Year 4) who achieved overall champion in Grade 1, with 3 gold and 1 silver medals in the recent Rhythmic Gymnastic MSSD held February 2. Katerina has been selected to join the MSSS competition as a representative for the state in March.

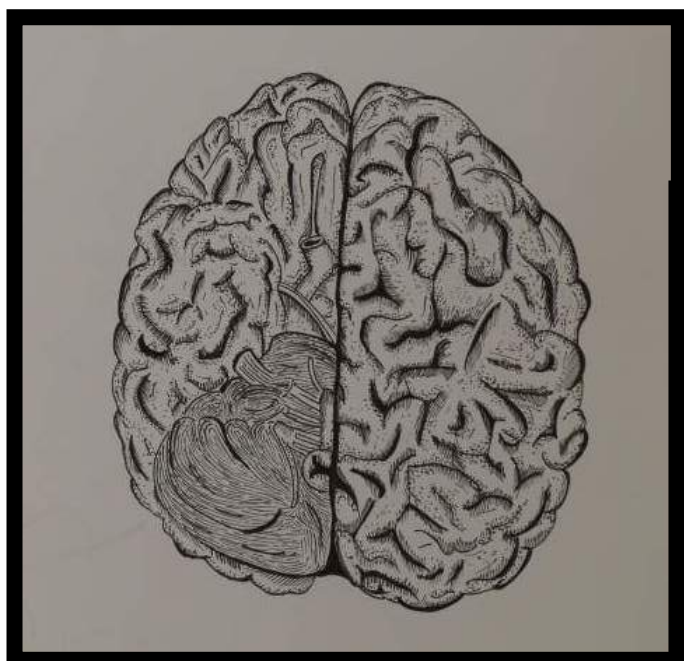
STUDENT CORNER



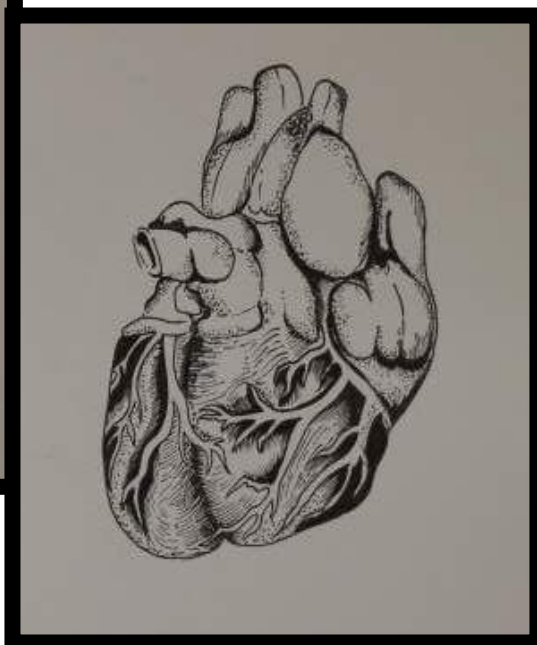
325 Year 7, 8 and 9 students collaborated on the unique Boey Art Piece, which was approximately 25cm x 8000cm



Boey-inspired cups by:
(L) Teoh Khai Xiin (Year 9)
(R) Hannah Yoo (Year 7)



Brain and Heart by Loh Nicole (Year 8)
While learning about the human body, this student expressed learning creatively by illustrating the brain and heart.





Creative approach by Teoh Khai Xiin (Year 9) in presenting her geography findings on soil erosion. The work was presented on a scroll placed inside a bottle partly filled with soil.



My Weather Poem

By Rachel Yee (5 Curie)

Very, very hot,
Like boiling in a pot,
Very, very cold,
Look at my frozen toe,
Very, very dry,
When the clouds don't seem to cry,
Very, very wet,
So let's stay in and not fret,
Good weathers; Bad weathers;
It doesn't really matter!





Congratulations to all students who participated.

HIS is very proud of you!

PERSATUAN RENANG AMATUR SELANGOR (PRAS) 2015

Date : 30 and 31 January, 1 February

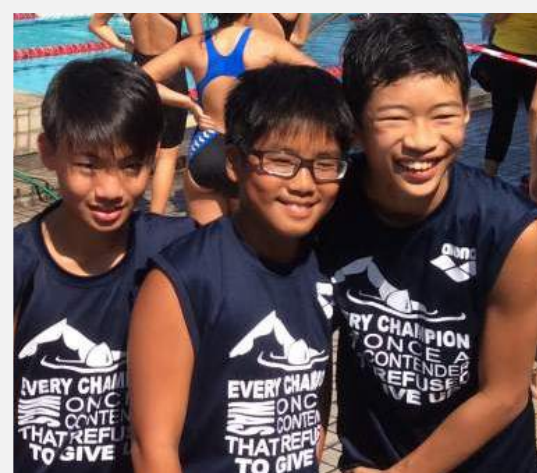
Age Group 13-14

Chia Vern Kye (Year 9)

- * Silver (400m freestyle)
- * Silver (4x100m Mix medley relay)
- * Bronze (4x100m freestyle relay)
- * Bronze (4x100m medley relay)

Pneh Lip Kai (Year 10)

- * Bronze (4x100m freestyle relay)
- * Bronze (4x100m medley relay)



PERSATUAN RENANG AMATUR KUALA LUMPUR (PRAKL) 2015

Date : 31 January, 1 and 2 February

Age Group 11-12

Alyssa Yong (Year 6)

- * Gold (4x100m freestyle relay - meet record)
- * Silver (4x100 medley relay - meet record)

Linus Theo Dengah (Year 7)

- * Gold (50m Breaststroke)
- * Silver (4x100m medley relay)
- * Bronze (100m breaststroke)

Sean Woo (Year 6)

- * Bronze (400m freestyle)

