



# Newsletter

Issue: 2016 / July



## Cover

Selamat Hari Raya and happy holidays from all of us at HIS.

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## *Message from the Principal*



This July will mark my third year in Kuala Lumpur. I arrived with my family in 2013, excited by the prospect of setting up the school and training staff along with Dr Gerard at the HIS headquarters in Pusat Bandar Damansara. However, we were surprised that our first five months our time was spent meeting and talking to parents, right up until the school's opening in January 2014. For me, this became a great opportunity to start to understand the cultural context and what parents expect from schools in Kuala Lumpur. I believe that the time we spent talking to prospective parents helped to establish the groundwork for the school to be as successful as it has. These three years have sped by ever so quickly and HIS has grown so rapidly that we have had to adapt and change to ensure we continue the positive momentum we developed. This has left little time to celebrate the many achievements and accomplishments that our students and the school have enjoyed over this period. With this in mind, I think it is time to look back and look ahead; to be aware of our experiences and challenges and to consolidate our current position as a vibrant new addition to the pantheon of international schools in Kuala Lumpur and beyond.

During my last holiday, I visited friends in the UAE, where I worked previously. I have fond memories of the generosity of the staff and parents there – something I will never forget. I am always interested in looking at established schools and took some time to visit the Brighton College Abu Dhabi campus while I was there. The facilities were impressive; particularly their art and design technology faculties and I enjoyed hearing about their rich traditions and the importance of their links with the UK founding school and with other international developments. I came away with some ideas for good practice and initiatives that we can adapt for our own school context. Seeing schools

networking and learning from each other reminded me that we are also developing our own system of connections with schools and colleges (we are of course, first and foremost, linked to the HELP University Group). Our founding Principal, Dr Gerard has been forging some initial links with Canberra Grammar School (CGS), in Australia's capital. CGS is a very established school, founded in 1928 and has a rich history. We plan to cooperate on student exchanges and staff opportunities and look to find areas of mutual benefit. In less than three years we have gone from local to global and this is very much in keeping with our ethos and philosophy.

While visiting Hong Kong this last half-term, I also had the chance to connect with the ESF group of schools there. I had a generous and fascinating conversation with Mr Graham Silverthorne, the Principal of South Island School, about school life and another tour,



[Congratulations to the winning team on their 'Hope Heals Hunger' project](#)

which, naturally, provided me with more ideas and direction for the next three years. These opportunities have helped me to think about how our school fits into the context of a global community. Gaining an international perspective allows us to see where we fit within the context of education in the world today and allows us to aspire to be a world-class learning centre.

Following the SKIPS award we had more good news for HIS. The IPC (International Primary Curriculum) has grown to be a leading light in primary education and we have been selected as a feature school for their website and publications. The work of our wonderful and dedicated primary staff and students will be showcased globally – a cause for celebration!

I am also very happy to announce the arrival of a second Deputy Principal, Ms Celine MacArthur who will join us from an international school in Switzerland in September. She will be supporting me as Head of Primary and in working towards readiness for school accreditation. You will find a fuller introduction to Ms Celine later in this newsletter. I think this is also the place for me to acknowledge the invaluable leadership of our Deputy, Mr Mark Jones, who continues to work tirelessly on behalf of HIS and also to thank him personally for his wonderful support. He will continue to be the school's Deputy Principal and my right-hand man and I am sure Ms Celine's addition to the team will help us to move forward with building a school of excellence.

As we begin to finish up for this year and continue planning for next year I would like to take this opportunity to thank our original cohort of staff, a number of whom are moving on to new pastures or returning home to the UK. It is never easy to move at a pace of growth as rapid as that which we have experienced at HIS and I commend them for their contribution. I am sure they will take away some fond memories of life at the school and of Malaysia. I wish them all the best for the future as they begin new lives, families and further adventures. Many of them will have already shared their plans with students and parents but please do add your thanks to mine and those of our Board of Governors for their excellent service to the students and the school.

In our last term of this academic year, we have celebrated our Year 11 and A-Level leavers with a wonderful A-Level graduation event at the Saujana Hotel. We have proclaimed the achievements of our students at our Awards Ceremonies and



Mr Graham Silverthorne, Principal,  
South Island School, Hong Kong

enjoyed some serious fun during our Activities Week. We have welcomed special visits from the Upper Iowa University and enjoyed the PSYC2016 Convention hosted by our HELP University partners. In addition, the 8-Hour Famine, with donations totalling RM 26,269 was a huge success. The money raised have been handed over to World Vision and will help fund community transformation for people living in poverty in Malaysia and other developing countries.

These events are designed to rejoice in the richness of life at HELP International School and to let all our students know that education, for us, is about bringing together academic excellence, love of learning, personal growth, understanding, physical expression, creativity, social responsibility and enjoyment of opportunity. We celebrate '*Life in all its Fullness*' and do this with gratitude for all the wonderful support you (our parent community) give to the school.

I hope you have a super 'summer' break. Travel safely and help our students to stay curious about the world or the traditions of home.

Warm regards

Ms Davina McCarthy

## Plants & Sustainability

### Years 1, 5, 6 & 8

While our Year 1s explored the world of plants during their IPC unit, the Year 5 and 6 students started their sustainability project with the support of fund raising efforts from the Year 8s. In addition to learning about soil preparation, the students planted purslane, spinach (bayam), Cuban oregano, tarragon, sawi and basil.



If we do not permit the earth to produce beauty and joy, it will in the end not produce food, either.

~ Joseph Wood Krutch

## KS2 IPC

# Hope Heals Hunger

June 27

As an entry point to the Key Stage 2 learning unit on global poverty and hunger, our Year 4, 5 and 6 students took on the challenge to participate in World Vision's 8-Hour Famine event to experience hunger and learn more about these global issues. The learning unit aims to help students become more aware of their identity as global citizens and their responsibilities to the world. What better way to introduce the week-long project than to first have a taste of what it is like to go hungry for 8 hours; and to catch a glimpse of what the poor have to do to survive. During the 8-hour fast, the enthusiastic students worked together with their 'pretend' families to overcome problems that they might face in poverty, such as lack of food, clean water, healthcare, education and income generating opportunities.

This was undoubtedly an informative, effective and meaningful project for all and we hope that by the end, all children will learn that hope heals hunger.



## Year 4—Year 6 Drama

### 'Sun Wu Kung' - The Monkey King

An ensemble of KS2 students contributed their own ideas to this original script. They worked together to solve the problems that arose and organised themselves and their costumes.

It was a fun but challenging piece of theatre, and each student involved deserves to be congratulated on their success!!



## Secondary : Performing Arts

### Music Trip

The students attended a wonderful and stimulating music workshop at International College of Music conducted by Kevin Stannard and Debra Abraham.

The workshop engaged students in singing and music-making, drawing on songs from all over the world, starting with Amadeus and ending with Bruno Mars.



## Secondary : Food Technology

### Masterchef Class with Marcus Low

A group of secondary students were selected to be part of a special cooking session with the finalist of Masterchef Malaysia, Mr Marcus Low.

They were given the opportunity to work alongside one another to create Marcus' trademark apple crumble pie dessert!



# Up Close & Personal

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## MS CELINE MACARTHUR, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL PRIMARY

*Meet our newest member of the HIS Senior Leadership Team. Ms Celine will be joining us in September along with her husband, Mr Simon.*



### **What made you consider (joining) HIS?**

As an educator and parent, I was looking for a school that not only prepared children for examinations but also for life. I firmly believe in holistic education and the need to educate the whole child. From what I read and heard of HELP international school, it is very clear that HIS is a dynamic school, with a clear vision of what education should be and a framework to allow this to happen. The motto, *'Life in all its Fullness'*, sums up what I am looking for in a school.

### **In your opinion, what is your vision of an ideal school?**

An ideal school should be caring and supportive. The children and teachers should feel that they have the freedom to grow and develop. It should have a clear vision of what it hopes to achieve and provide a structured and safe environment. Anyone should be able to 'feel' this ethos as they enter the doors and it should be reflected in everything the school does. The ideal school should be a place where the teachers and students feel proud of and share in its achievements. While the 'bricks and mortar' of the school is important, what is more important is the people that inhabit its walls. They should be passionate about the school, have a growth mind-set and a drive for self and schoolwide improvement. This school should encourage independence of thought and action and instil a love of learning to everyone who enters.

### **What made you take up teaching and education as your career choice?**

When I was schooling, I always enjoyed sports and regularly helped coach younger students. I really enjoyed passing on my knowledge and passion for sports and decided that teaching would be the best avenue for this. My interest in teaching also stems from growing up in a large family. I frequently had to help my younger siblings with their school work and found that I enjoyed helping others. After leaving school, I decided to make this my profession and pursued a PE and mathematics teaching degree.



*Working with the children to foster a love for the environment.*

**Can you tell us a little bit about your work experience in other countries?**

I have been very fortunate to have taught in many countries and different kinds of curricula over the last 23 years. I started my career teaching physical education and mathematics in the UK, where I spent 9 years in several schools learning my craft. Then my husband and I decided that we wanted to travel so we moved to Abu Dhabi, UAE to work in an international school. We enjoyed our 5 years in this school and watched it grow and expand. When we started a family, we moved to Qatar and spent 4 years working in a large international school there. We returned to the UAE thereafter and spent the next 6 years in many different roles, ranging from teaching PE and mathematics to Head of pastoral care and project manager to the deputy headteacher. Most recently, I have been a headteacher in a school in Switzerland, where I was fortunate to experience first-hand the big picture of school development.

**What is the most memorable experience in your teaching career?**

I have so many memorable experiences but the most recent one was winning the Eco Schools Green Flag. I started our eco schools committee with only 2 other people. After 2 years, our committee grew to nearly 100 (10% of the school teaching staff) and inspired the entire school community to be involved in eco school work. We held action days, created an eco boat, eco garden, linked up with the local municipality to recycle and created a composting system in the school. The children grew increasingly passionate about the environment and we were all very proud of our achievements.



“An ideal school should instil a love of learning to everyone who enters.”



*Ms Celine (far left) being awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag*

### Can you tell us about your family?

I am originally from Ireland, where I was one out of nine children. Upon graduation from a university in London, I met my husband, Simon. We have travelled the world together and are blessed with two wonderful children, Oisín who is now 12 and Iona 10. Oisín was born in Abu Dhabi and Iona was born in France, en route to Qatar! Both my children have grown up in the Middle East and lived expat lives. As a family we enjoy travelling and have travelled to many parts of the world together. We also love sports and outdoor living, especially hillwalking and camping.

### What kind of experience are you looking forward to in Malaysia?

We, as a family, are looking for a new adventure. We have spent many years in the Middle East and Europe and are very excited about travelling around Malaysia and the surrounding countries. We want to experience a new culture, language and food.



*(clockwise from top left) Mr Simon, Ms Celine, Iona and Oisín*

### Where is the best place you have visited in the world and why do you like it?

If I say Malaysia, would you believe me? We were very fortunate to have visited your wonderful country several years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the sights, sounds and smells. We have travelled to many places and wherever we go, we try to find something special about the place we visit and bring back unique experiences and memories.

### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

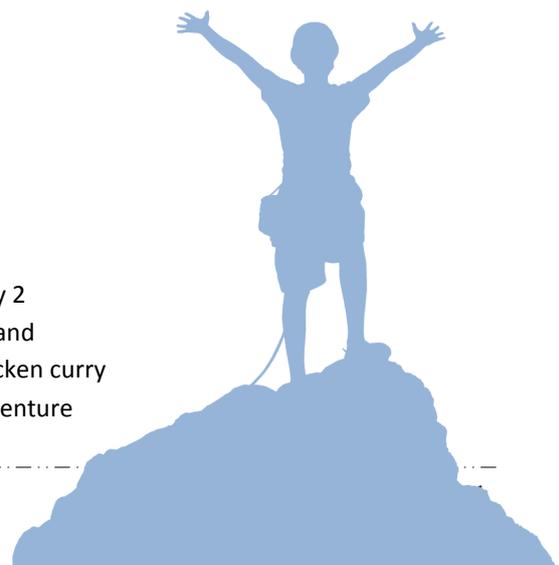
I enjoy the great outdoors and all the activities and sports that comes with it, whether it be hillwalking, camping, kayaking, bicycling, climbing, rowing, swimming or just admiring the view. I also love travelling with my family, especially road trips and adhoc adventures, as well as environmental activities.



*Ms Celine enjoying a bit of quad biking*

### QUICK FACTS

- ★ Birthday : May 2
- ★ Home country : Ireland
- ★ Favourite food : Chicken curry
- ★ Favourite books : Adventure





# PRESCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

July 13





# KS 1 AWARDS CEREMONY

July 13





# KS 2 AWARDS CEREMONY

July 14





# SECONDARY AWARDS CEREMONY

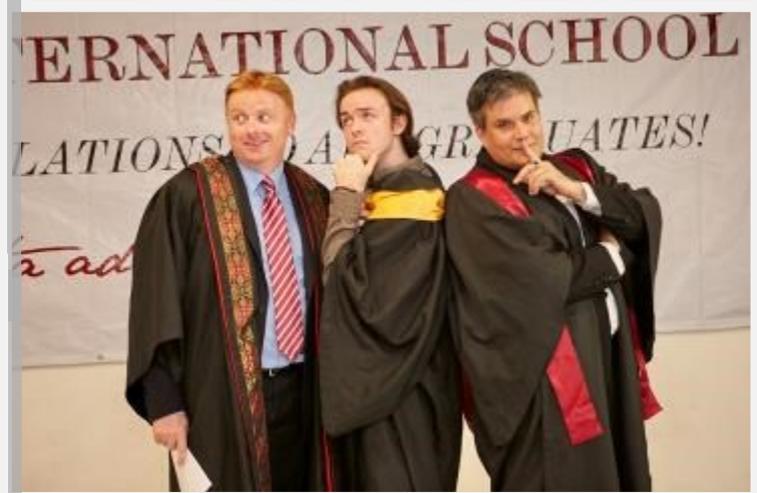
July 14





# A-LEVELS GRADUATION

June 17





# YEAR 11 & A-LEVELS GRADUATION BALL

June 17





# STEM RESEARCH CHALLENGE

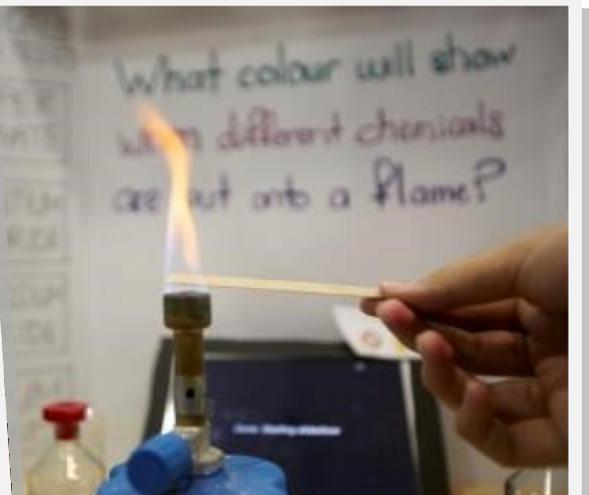
June 28





# STEM RESEARCH CHALLENGE

June 28





# ACTIVITIES WEEK

June 29—July 1

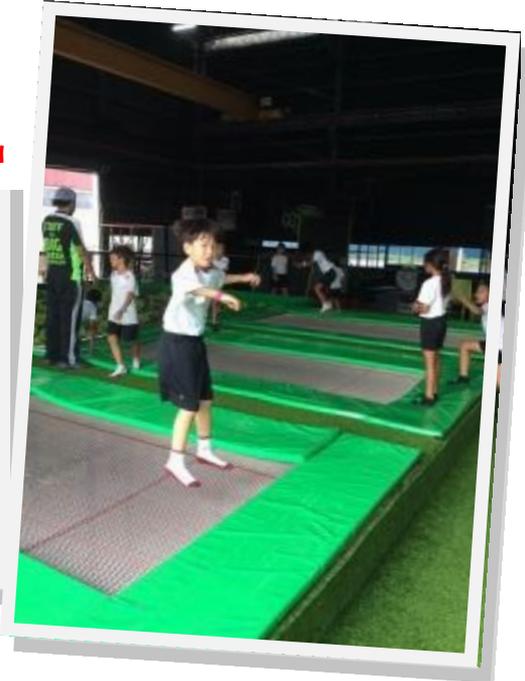




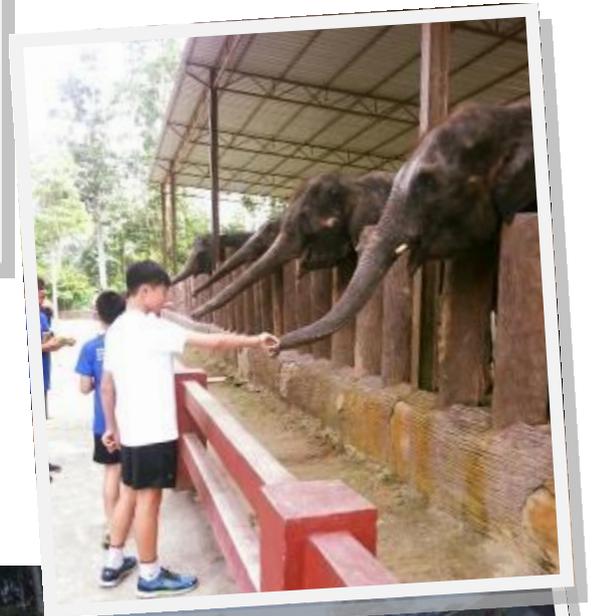
# ACTIVITIES WEEK — TRIPS & CAMPS

June 29—July 1

**Year 3**  
**Flip Out Trampoline Arena**



**Year 6**  
**District 21**



**Year 7 & Year 8**  
**Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary**





# ACTIVITIES WEEK — TRIPS & CAMPS

June 29—July 1



Year 7  
Janda Baik



Year 10  
Janda Baik





# ACTIVITIES WEEK — TRIPS & CAMPS

June 29—July 1



Year 8  
Penang



Year 9  
Port Dickson





# PREFECT BBQ

July 8

A big thank you goes out to all prefects who served on the 2015-2016 Prefectorial Board. We thank you for your service and leadership.

As a gesture of appreciation, we invited all prefects to attend a year-end BBQ where they were presented with their certificates.



# BOEY'S VISIT

July 14





## TRANSITION (PRESCHOOL to YEAR 1)

Our preschoolers had a taste of what Year 1 entails when they visited the Year 1 teachers and classrooms to familiarise themselves with the primary block—locations of classrooms, changing rooms and cafeteria, as well as with the school day routine.



"SOMEWHERE,  
SOMETHING  
INCREDIBLE IS  
WAITING TO BE  
KNOWN."

~ CARL SAGAN





## TRANSITION (YEAR 6 to YEAR 7)

As part of a series of transition programmes, the Year 6s got a chance to experience a little taste of Year 7 at a design and technology lesson as well as at a science lesson. They have much to look forward to as they move from primary to secondary in the next academic year!



**"EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE."**

**~ W.B. YEATS**



# HARI RAYA ASSEMBLY

July 15





**Aidan Wong (Year 8)**

**Linus Theo Dengah (Year 8)**

**Yap Xin Wei (Year 8)**

**Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO) 2016**

★ Gold medal for their individual events

All 3 have now been invited to participate in 2016 Asia International Mathematical Olympiad (AIMO), held in Hong Kong, China, August 2-6, 2016.



*Left to right:* Yap Xin Wei, Linus Theo Dengah and Aidan Wong



Nicole (front row, centre) and her fellow delegates

## Regional Consultation on the Development of Online Child Safety Materials

Organised by Child Rights Coalition Asia  
Supported by UNICEF

February 26-29, 2016

Sharing by Loh Nicole, Year 9

Where do I begin, I can't believe I did these things, but all I knew was that this would be a once in a lifetime experience. I made many friends whom I can trust and share. It has changed my entire outlook and attitude towards life. The best part was listening and meeting children from all over ASEAN countries about child rights. Their backgrounds were truly beautiful - they pointed out about the way how children are being brought up in their country and it was fascinating.

I've learnt so much in three days, I was surprised by the way they communicated even though there was a language barrier but that didn't stop us from working together! I don't think it's about where we are from and what status we have, one thing we all have in common is that we are children - we have rights, we shouldn't be neglected, we need to be seen.

The workshop has altered my skills such as:

- patience
- leadership
- communication
- team work

I would have to say my biggest achievement was being patient, how I learnt it was through communicating with the children themselves. Since most of the content was in English, I tried my best to explain and simplify it to my team which brought us closer.

The people who organised this event are truly passionate about child rights, they understand that a child has a voice and that needs to be heard. Having to see the children and coordinators' faces light up is not something I will forget anytime soon.



# the World Scholar's Cup®



Congratulations to our World Scholar's team qualified to go to Yale for the Tournament of Champions with incredibly impressive results!

**Arjuna Tharmalingam (Year 10)**

**Leanne Yule (Year 10)**

**Gabriel Ng (Year 10)**

HIS team performed brilliantly at the Global Rounds of the World Scholar's Cup 2016 which was held in Bangkok from the 27 - 30 June 2016.

The Global Round in Bangkok saw over 3,400 delegates from 50 countries debating, writing persuasive essays, facing team challenges, participating in scavenger hunts with delegates from other countries and making new friends. It was like a United Nations of young scholars, eager to learn and share their experiences and cultures with each other.

The ultimate prize for all the delegates in the Global Round is to qualify for the Tournament of Champions in Yale university. To make the cut, teams have to be in the top 100 or have a total scores of above 25,000 points in all 4 events combined. Despite the tough competition, our team qualified and was ranked 80th overall! For the Team Scholar's Challenge Event, they were ranked 20th; an amazing achievement! They will be heading to Yale this November for an experience of a lifetime!

We are immensely proud of this trio. We wish you all the very best in Yale! The whole school will be rooting for you.

~ Ms Lydia Sundaramutty

English Teacher & World Scholar's Cup chaperon



Left to right: Gabriel Ng, Ms Lydia, Leanne Yule, and Arjuna Tharmalingam



**Andrew Lee (Year 10)**

## **Participation in AFS Green Academy**

July 6—August 7, 2016

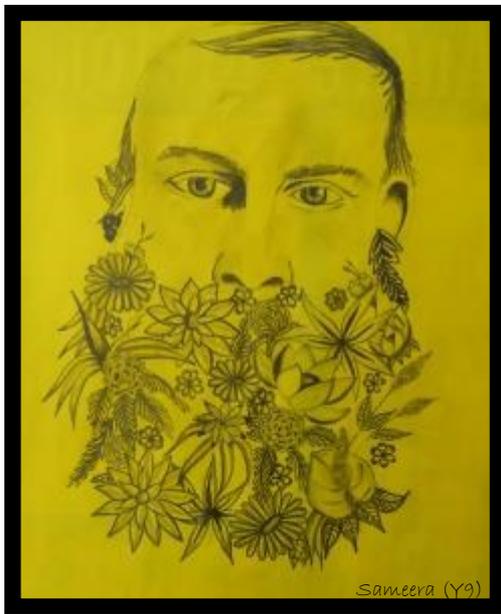
Congratulations Andrew!

After a nation-wide competitive selection process involving application with personal statements, academic vetting, testimonials and interviews with the AFS state selection committee, Andrew has been chosen as one of only 3 students to represent Malaysia as her Youth Ambassador to participate in the AFS Antara Budaya Malaysia Intercultural programmes to Germany this summer.

Andrew will be joining the Green Academy programme and will be based in Heilbronn, Germany for 1 month from July 6 - August 7, 2016.

The Green Academy creates opportunities for young people to develop an intercultural perspective on sustainability issues. It includes workshops and seminars on selected green topics, site visits and excursions, an intensive daily German language course as well as intercultural learning workshops and other leisure activities.

Andrew will be staying with a German host family throughout the programme to enable him to share a little bit of Malaysia to his host family and the German community, whilst fully taking part in their lives and community.



**Katerina Lee Jia Jing (Year 6)**

**National Circuit Rhythmic Gymnastics competition**

- ★ Bronze medal - Freehand routine
- ★ Bronze medal - Ribbon routine
- ★ Bronze medal - Rope routine
- ★ Overall winning a Silver medal for Selangor team



**Goh Jit Wern (Year 3)**

**National Circuit Rhythmic Gymnastics competition**

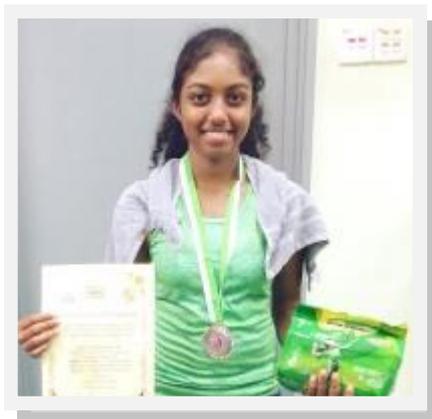
- ★ Ball – 3rd place
- ★ Freehand – 5th place
- ★ Rope – 4th place
- ★ Overall 4th place



**Serena Selvam (Year 9)**

**Tennis**

- ★ Runner-up in Girls U16 Finals in the recent MBPJ-Milo Junior Tennis Tournament
- ★ Nominated as part of the team to represent Malaysia in the Asian Schools Games to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand to be held July 21-29



**"EDUCATION IS NOT FILLING A PAIL BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE."**

**~WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**