

# Newsletter

HELP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Issue: 2019 / July



CONGRATULATIONS PHOENIX!  
HOUSE CHAMPION 2019



Featured Within:

**2018/19**  
**AWARDS DAYS**

**YEAR 13**

**GRADUATION**

**UP CLOSE with**  
**MR MARTIN**

**ACTIVITIES WEEK**

**HOUSE ASSEMBLY**



**Cover:**  
*Congratulations Phoenix House on being crowned Overall Champion for 2018/19.*

*"In our hearts and in our heads, we are the Mighty Reds!"*



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# CONTENT

## Message

**3** Dr Gerard Louis, CEO

## Up Close & Personal

**6** Mr Martin Van Rijswijk, Incoming Principal

## Intellectual Mastery

**9** Primary Learning Showcase

**11** Transition Workshops

**12** Preschool Awards Day

**13** Milepost 1 Awards Day

**14** Milepost 2 Awards Day

**15** Milepost 3 Awards Day

**16** Years 7 & 8 Awards Day

**17** Years 9 & 10 Awards Day

**18** Year 13 Asian Scholars A-Level Graduation

## Physical Mastery

**19** 2019 Secondary Sports Personality Awards

**21** Mileposts 2 & 3 Swim Gala

**29** House Combined Events 2019

## Social Mastery

**20** Years 11 & 13 Prom

**23** Hari Raya Assembly

**24** Activities Week

**30** House Assembly

# CEO'S MESSAGE

## DR GERARD LOUIS



Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff of HIS,

As the academic year comes to a close, it is time to take stock of all that our school has achieved over the year as well as to say a few words of thanks and welcome to some very special people.

When I passed on the torch to Ms Davina 5 years ago, our school was just coming out of its cocoon, a little butterfly waiting to make its mark in the world of international education. The last 5 years has been one of exceptional growth in the life of the school. HELP International School is on the world map as a model of a school with a very strong culture of learning, filled with teachers and leaders who are passionate and dedicated in all that they do. At its helm has been our founding Deputy Principal and my successor, Ms Davina McCarthy. She has worked very hard to lay a solid foundation for HIS and was untiring in her efforts to ensure that we develop a school that has a strong culture of teaching and learning. We are thankful to her for her deep sense of commitment to the educational principles and vision of the HELP Education Group. We extend our deepest appreciation and best wishes to her as she moves on to the next chapter of her educational and life's journey.

I also want to make special mention of our Deputy Principal for Curriculum and Innovation, Mr Matthew Marson. He has been pivotal in driving the way we use technology in our teaching and learning. We owe our Apple Distinguished School status very much to him and his team of Apple Distinguished Educators and Learning Innovation Coaches. Mr Matt will also be leaving us at the end of this school year. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank him for

creating such a vibrant culture of learning through the use of technology. We wish him every success and happiness in his next port of call.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome our incoming Principal, Mr Martin Van Rijswijk. With 20 years of experience as a Principal of 6 different schools in 4 continents, Mr Martin brings a global wealth of experience to HIS. Originally from New Zealand, he is no stranger to Malaysia, having worked here for 12 years, previously in Garden International School, the Alice Smith School and Kinabalu International School. Please extend your warmest welcome to him when you meet him along the corridors of the school and let's give him our fullest support and cooperation as he takes over the reins of leadership from Ms Davina.



*Celebrating HIS being recognised as #AppleDistinguishedSchool 2019-2021!*

We have seen exciting developments over the academic year 2018/2019. Other than being shortlisted for the International School of the Year Award by the Times Educational Supplement (TES) UK, we also became a FOBISIA member (Federation of British International Schools in Asia) and participated in our first group games (Under-13) in February with great results. We were awarded the Silver medal as an Eco-School, and recognised as a Common Sense School (Digital Citizenship). We recently were re-awarded the Apple Distinguished School status for the period 2019-2021. We are now also a member of CIS (Council of International Schools), a community of more than 1,300 institutions – 734 schools and 622 colleges and universities representing 116 countries – all of whom are committed to high quality international education.

This year, we celebrated our first ever Family Day, which saw the whole school community coming together to celebrate our 5th anniversary as a school. We were able to raise RM25,000 for our Eco-School initiatives and The Lost Food Project at that event. Our MakerSpace was launched on the same day too. This space provides our students the environment and resources to innovate and create futuristic tools and solutions using some very interesting technological tools.

Other than our outstanding sports achievements in FOBISIA, KLSL and KLISS, all 45 HIS scholars qualified for the World Scholar's Cup Global Rounds in Beijing, China and Sydney, Australia. Our Year 12 Project Purpose Leadership Programme provided our students the opportunity to contribute back to the society by teaching in a refugee school and raising funds for a soup kitchen by selling pre-loved items.

Our students have made great strides in literature and the arts. Some have had their stories published and sold in MPH bookstores, won prestigious literary awards or excelled in talent shows. Kudos to all.

As we join our students in celebrating "Life in all its Fullness", I would like to thank each and every member of the HIS community for always trying to do what is best for our students. We are stronger and better because of you.

Vita ad plenitudinem

Dr Gerard Louis  
CEO  
HELP International School



This beautiful mural was painted by one of our Mandarin Department teachers, Ms Wai Bing, together with her students in the Chinese Painting CCA.

This mural was commissioned by Ms Davina as her farewell present to the School with the message:

"Thank you HIS, you will always be in my heart."  
"Terima Kasih HIS, anda akan sentiasa dekat di hatiku."  
"感谢HIS, 我将永远铭记于心"

Thank you Ms Davina, for your six years of tireless service at HIS. You will be missed!

Good Bye & Good Luck



“THIS IS NOT A GOODBYE, IT’S TIME FOR A NEW ADVENTURE.”

# INCOMING PRINCIPAL MR MARTIN VAN RIJSWIJK

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff of HIS,

I feel extremely privileged to have been appointed as the next Principal of the HELP International School.

I joined the school at the beginning of July as part of a planned transition between Ms Davina and myself. This has allowed us to use the final two weeks of this academic year to help fully induct me into the school vision and supporting strategic plan. I look forward to continuing the fine work that Ms Davina and her team have done in founding the school. My goal will be to further develop the culture of excellence that underpins the school's vision, values and aims.

I am deeply convinced that 21st century learning means hearkening to the cornerstones of the past to help us navigate the future. This learning builds upon such past conceptions of learning as "core knowledge in subject areas" and recasts them for today's world, where global perspectives, creativity and collaboration skills are critical. It involves an absolute commitment to creating learners who take intellectual risks, fostering learning dispositions, and nurturing the limitless potential of our young people to lead exciting and generous lives. I have already seen strong evidence that this growth mind-set is very much embedded in the nine masteries that the school utilises as part of its vision to equip young people celebrate '*life in all its fullness*'.

I look forward to being part of this journey, and to having the opportunity meet all of you in the coming months.

Yours truly,  
Martin Van Rijswijk



## What is your impression of HIS so far?

I have been immediately struck by the strong sense of commitment amongst the staff to the school and its vision. It is obvious that people care very much about the young people in their charge. Innovation appears to be a hallmark of the school. There exists a willingness to try research based best practices, whilst retaining a commitment to the more traditional basics of learning. I am really encouraged by this.

I have been similarly impressed by the strong sense of pride that students have in their school. They obviously enjoy being part of the learning community at HIS.

**What are the areas that you'd be looking to work on / champion as the new principal?**

HIS has had a terrific beginning with it being one of the fastest growing international schools in Malaysia. The Board have made it clear that after experiencing such tremendous growth, it is now time to consolidate and build on the acknowledged strengths of the school. A key area of focus in the approaching months will be to undertake a period of consultation with all stakeholders (staff, parents and students) with a view to reviewing and updating our 3 - 5 year school strategic plan.

**What role do you see parents playing in school - how do you intend to build a closer rapport between parents and the school?**

A positive parent-teacher relationship helps your child feel good about school and be successful in school. I particularly like the analogy where education is likened to a three-legged stool. For our school to be successful, we need equal commitment and effort from our staff, our parents and our students - all three have crucial roles to play in student success. If one 'leg' in this partnership is missing, the 'stool' will be precarious at best and may not stand at all. As such, it is vital that parents are given every opportunity to play a full part in their child's learning journey. The starting point for this is ensuring open, honest and transparent lines of communication are maintained between home and school.

In this partnership, it is important to recognise that parents need information about what and how their child is learning, and the teacher needs important feedback from the parent about the child's academic and social development. We need to treat the teacher - parent - student relationship as a problem-solving partnership; one that is built upon a mutual respect and understanding of each other's needs. The onus is on the school to be proactive in alerting parents to any potential learning issues that arise. Teachers need to know their learner well, and be in a position to provide authentic and well-informed feedback on next steps in a child's learning journey. While students need to take advantage of every opportunity that their parents and teachers have afforded them in becoming independent, self-moderating and successful learners.



**We know that you have been a principal in several schools in various countries. Would you be able to share with us some notable differences you see in international schools in Malaysia and other countries around the world?**

In each of the international schools that I have worked in, be it in Asia, the Middle East or Europe, there is one defining characteristic that is shared by most of them; and this is the absolute commitment on the part of parents (and staff) to provide their child with the very best educational opportunities possible. While all schools, be they be national schools or international schools, attempt to foster a culture of excellence in one way or another, international schools tend to have a more global outlook on what is important in education. Because their staff tend to be recruited from all around the world, they benefit from the more global perspectives that they bring to the school, and with this, the very best in educational practices from their home systems of education.

Having worked in Malaysia in the past, I know that parents place an absolute premium on ensuring their child receives every advantage in their education. I have observed how the partnership between local and expatriate staff can result in outstanding educational results, built around the need for both academic rigour and broad-based child centred learning. It is this balance in educational philosophies and approaches that international schools in Malaysia have been more successful in achieving. The need for a sound foundation in the more traditional basics of learning are preserved, while ensuring more holistic 21st century skills build upon these basics.

**What is the one word your wife/family and close friends would use to describe you? Is it accurate?**

Hyperactive - They complain that I don't sit still and can be a bit tiring to be around. I think it is a good thing to be busy and use each day productively

**What is Martin like (the man, not the principal) - what hobbies / interests do you pursue outside of school?**

I have always had a passion for sports. My great love is fishing, closely followed by scuba diving and sailing. I really enjoy mountain biking, however, my fitness is not anywhere near where it should be. So I am determined to try and take advantage of the local biking trails now that I am back in Malaysia.

**Is there one thing you wish you could do but never got to do so far?**

Sail around the world. The adventure really excites me, but I'm still building up the courage to actually do it.

**What is the single most important advice you have imparted to your children?**

Always maintain your integrity - even when it's the unpopular thing to do. Act in a way that you can look at yourself in the mirror at the end of each day.



*Mr Martin and his wife, Zuriana, enjoying our first ever Family Day in March.*



*Engaging with HIS parents at school.*

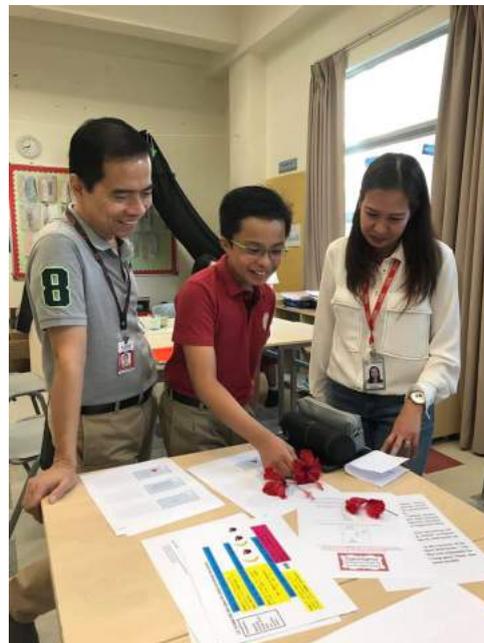


*Addressing prospective parents at a recent HIS Open Day.*

# PRIMARY Learning Showcase

25 JUNE

To round up their academic year, our primary students stepped up and conducted a learning showcase to their parents. There was a hive of activities as everyone eagerly took turns to present what they have learned this year. We appreciate the planning and preparations the students have put into this. Their work shows a depth of maturity and understanding. Thank you to the parents for taking time out to attend and support the students. To the teachers, thank you for all your awesome effort and dedication throughout the year.

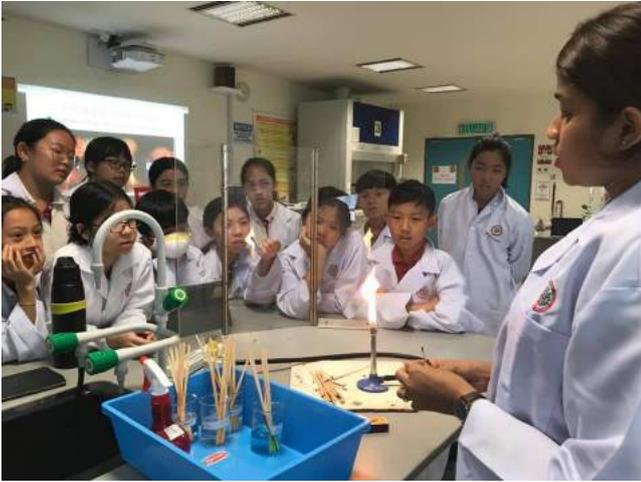




# TRANSITION

## workshops

27 JUNE



What an exciting time it is when the students move up to a 'big' school.

Preschoolers got a taste of life in Year 1 as they attended a Year 1 lesson and ventured into the canteen to have their break. It was a chance for them to mingle and experience primary school.

As the Year 6s head off to secondary school, they were given an introduction to new facilities and lessons such as Design Technology, Science and Food Tech. They have much to look forward in the coming academic year!



# AWARDS DAY

## Preschool

10 JULY



# AWARDS DAY

## Years 1 & 2

10 JULY



The Milepost 1 (Years 1 & 2) Awards Day Programme Book may be downloaded from this link:  
[http://bit.ly/HIS\\_2019\\_Milepost1\\_AwardsDay](http://bit.ly/HIS_2019_Milepost1_AwardsDay)

# AWARDS DAY

## Years 3 & 4

10 JULY



The Milepost 2 (Years 3 & 4) Awards Day Programme Book may be downloaded from this link:

[http://bit.ly/HIS\\_2019\\_Milepost2\\_AwardsDay](http://bit.ly/HIS_2019_Milepost2_AwardsDay)

# AWARDS DAY

## Years 5 & 6

10 JULY



The Milepost 3 (Years 5 & 6) Awards Day Programme Book may be downloaded from this link:  
[http://bit.ly/HIS\\_2019\\_Milepost3\\_AwardsDay](http://bit.ly/HIS_2019_Milepost3_AwardsDay)

# AWARDS DAY

## Years 7 & 8

11 JULY



YEAR 7 AWARD RECIPIENTS



YEAR 8 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Years 7 & 8 Awards Day Programme Book may be downloaded from this link:  
[http://bit.ly/HIS\\_2019\\_Yr7\\_8\\_AwardsDay](http://bit.ly/HIS_2019_Yr7_8_AwardsDay)

# AWARDS DAY

## Year 9 & 10

11 JULY



HELPIan OF THE YEAR AWARD



PRINCIPAL'S AWARD



YEAR 9 AWARD RECIPIENTS



YEAR 10 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Years 9 & 10 Awards Day Programme Book may be downloaded from this link:  
[http://bit.ly/HIS\\_2019\\_Year9\\_10\\_AwardsDay](http://bit.ly/HIS_2019_Year9_10_AwardsDay)

# Year 13 A-LEVEL ASIAN SCHOLARS GRADUATION

21 JUNE

It was with much pride as we celebrated the end of a journey for our students with a meaningful graduation ceremony.

In the two years of hard work, they have grown so much in so many areas of their lives. We have seen them not only progressed in their academics, but also in their social and emotional development.

They are now off to new adventures in universities in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and Singapore.



Congratulations to Tan Min Khian who was awarded the Raintree Award. The award is to recognise and celebrate an outstanding student who has demonstrated not only academic excellence and leadership, but has also been a positive role model within the year group. He or she would have exemplified our school motto of 'Life in all its Fullness' in their contribution in the local community far beyond school activities, exhibiting the qualities of civic responsibility and community mindedness, alongside achievements in the fields of arts and sport. Min Khian is a worthy recipient.

# Secondary SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARDS 2019

28 JUNE

## Congratulations to the winners!

**Category: Year 7 Sportsman of the Year**

★ Tan Jun Euu 7 Renoir

**Category: Year 7 Sportswoman of the Year**

★ Andrea Wong Ee Syuen 7 Picasso

**Category: Year 8 Sportsman of the Year**

★ Raja Idris Othman  
Raja Rizal Azman 8 Austen

**Category: Year 8 Sportswoman of the Year**

★ See Xin Rou 8 Austen

**Category: Year 9 Sportsman of the Year**

★ Abel Ang Yi Min 9 Beethoven

**Category: Year 9 Sportswoman of the Year**

★ Elizabeth Lim Tze Li 9 Mangeshkar

**Category: Year 10 Sportsman of the Year**

★ William Henry Hills 10 Ka-shing

**Category: Year 10 Sportswoman of the Year**

★ Cheng Xiao Xuan 10 Ma

**Category: Year 11 Sportsman of the Year**

★ Bryan Kan Yao Bin 11 Keller

**Category: Year 11 Sportswoman of the Year**

★ Chew Han Ying 11 Browne

**Category: Team of the Year 2019**

★ Girls U15 Football Team

**Category: Outstanding Contribution  
- the Prefect Award**

★ Teoh Yu-Xuan 8 Mo Yan

**Category: External Achievement Award**

★ Luanne Lee Cai Ying 7 Rembrandt

**Category: Sports Personality of 2019 - Male**

★ Nicholas Ng Zhan Rong 11 Sullivan

**Category: Sports Personality of 2019 - Female**

★ Soo Zhi Xin 11 Montessori



# YEARS 11 & 13 PROM 22 JUNE

SOCIAL MASTERY



Mileposts 2 & 3 (Years 3-6)

# SWIM GALA

25 JUNE



Pegasus



Griffin



Dragon



Phoenix

We are proud of each and every student who competed today. We thank all the Primary PE Dept and teachers, LTAs and Primary sports prefects who helped with this event.



# HARI RAYA ASSEMBLY

20 & 21 JUNE



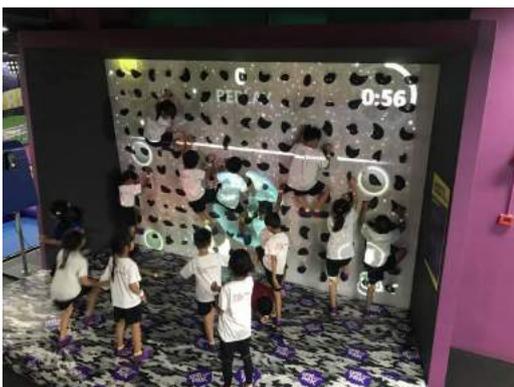
# ACTIVITIES WEEK

1-3 JULY

The activities offered during the Activities Week provide valuable educational experiences that we normally cannot offer during a traditional school week.

Students are able to choose from a wide range of activities that have been planned to benefit their learning, ranging from school-based events such as drama and art workshops, to field and residential trips to supplement their recent curriculum.

It sure looks like everyone had fun!





**YEAR 2**  
KL Tower Mini Zoo



**YEAR 3**  
Puppet Workshop



**YEAR 4**  
Funtopia



**YEAR 5**  
Jump Street



**YEAR 6**  
Penang



**YEAR 7**  
Janda Baik



**YEAR 8**  
Malacca



**YEAR 9**  
Port Dickson

**YEAR 10**  
Penang



**DoE**  
Gopeng





Years 9 to A-Level Cultural and Language Immersion Tour to Hangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai, China from 24 - 29 June 2019 organised by the Mandarin Dept





Years 8 to A-Level Cultural Trip to Seoul, South Korea from 24 - 28 June 2019 organised by the HIS Cinematic Club and KPop CCA Club



# HOUSE COMBINED EVENTS 2019

3 & 5 JULY



# HOUSE ASSEMBLY



## HOUSE RESULTS

### Primary

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| 1. Dragon  | 3,350 |
| 2. Pegasus | 3,050 |
| 3. Griffin | 2,075 |
| 4. Phoenix | 1,775 |

### Secondary

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| 1. Phoenix | 4,350 |
| 2. Pegasus | 3,100 |
| 3. Dragon  | 2,950 |
| 4. Griffin | 2,600 |

### Overall House Standings

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| 1. Phoenix | 9,743 |
| 2. Dragon  | 9,677 |
| 3. Pegasus | 9,509 |
| 4. Griffin | 8,209 |

