

Cover

Seasons greetings and happy holidays from all of us at HIS!

Santa James and his elf, Magic Mark, made a special visit to the KS1 and preschool classrooms to bring some festive cheer.

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Message from the Principal



t HIS we believe in building on success. But what do we mean by success? Academic achievement, of course. Sporting triumphs, naturally. House competitions, certainly. I'm sure you all know that success comes in a myriad of forms and our motto, *Life in All Its Fullness*, is absolutely how we begin to define success at HELP International School.

To begin with, we try to foster high expectations for both students and staff alike. We have set the bar high already, partly due to some of our amazing students who have recently found success. They have excelled in examinations (celebrating phenomenal results at the Cambridge Outstanding Awards event). We have seen cheerleading champions, secondary poetry slam winners, overseas competition success and sporting victories just in this term alone. We commend these examples of students who have met high expectations and make us proud.

Of course, in reality, life is not always replete with these kinds of highlights. Every success is matched with real challenges. I am glad to be able to use this newsletter message to take the opportunity to thank colleagues, students and parents for their help and support as we reflect on the year and look to the new. It is good to take stock and realise that even though we are doing well, it has taken a lot of hard work and sacrifice from all concerned. At HIS, we have a system whereby colleagues nominate each other to receive a letter of commendation for jobs well done or for their attitude and commitment and it is always heartening to receive a nomination.

Staff have also made excellent commitments to planning, organising and delivering parent workshops this term. I hope parents have enjoyed and learned from them. My thanks also go out to those who have given their time to attend.

Our students, parents and staff are making an enormous commitment to charity initiatives at school, such as the 24-hour Race to Stop Trafficking, work with the Zomi Education Centre (ZEC) for Myanmar refugees, the Dignity for Children Foundation, activities during the Recycling and Sustainability Week, and the Christmas Charity Bears Project. Our Duke of Edinburgh students work with local communities in Johor, and individual students also raised funds for PAWS Animal Welfare Society. It seems our students are excited and eager to help make the world a better place for others and this is a measure of success that we welcome wholeheartedly. Through assemblies and on International Children's Day, we focussed on the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We hope our students become aware of the challenges facing the world and we are sure many will go on to be successful ambassadors for the school but more importantly, successful global citizens with achievements in all areas of life. Our aim, therefore, is to foster attitudes to achievement which allow for different approaches to defining success.

We hope that our students approach the challenges of life without fear, with concern for others, with awareness of the consequences of our actions, with belief in ourselves, determination to become even better and to work with passion and vision to reach their goals.

On a separate note, but a key component in being successful future educators, I would also like to call attention to how the school is developing as an exemplar of educational technology usage. The HIS EdTech team are beginning to introduce more exciting initiatives. Staff recently attended an iPad conference in Singapore and came back with some great new ways to get the best use from these tools. Students have already been recording Chroma Key or 'Green Screen' videos around school and students, teachers and parents are trying out our new core apps like interactive iBooks. If you have not downloaded these yet, please do so as soon as possible.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are also looking at how we can introduce 'flexible spaces' and have held our design competition with the winning entries to serve as inspiration for the murals we shall be adorning some of our walls with. In addition, parents are helping to make the school 'greener' and we have begun to set up 'breakout' spaces around the school.

Facebook, newsletters and yearbooks are good records of all we have done in a relatively short time frame and I urge you to take a look at the Facebook posts to enjoy a life-affirming journey through the school's three academic years to date.

Of course, there is much more to come. We are soon to have a blood donation drive with staff at HIS and HELP University. Over the next few months, we will look to see our students achieve in many areas of school life; in sports days, drama productions and public speaking events while sustaining success in exams and classwork.

As we move to continue taking HIS forward as part of the global (and local) educational community, I am pleased to note that we are currently in the process of becoming a member of AIMS (Association of International Malaysian Schools). We have become a featured school on the IPC website and our move towards Distinguished School status is on track. Our sister Crescendo-HELP school in Johor Bahru, International School (CHIS), is starting their first term soon in February 2017. This will certainly give us the chance to share good practices, as well as to collaborate on ways to develop both schools. A number of our key leaders attended CHIS Opening Ceremony with me last weekend and it was a joyful way to celebrate the end of our term and the start of a new chapter in the HELP success story.

Next term will see some staff moving on, some taking maternity leave and more new colleagues joining the school. I would like to say thank you to the following for their contribution to HIS and wish them a successful future - Ms Mariann (Science), Ms Naela and Ms Meena (Primary TAs), Ms Deborah (HR) and Ms Yasmin (Admin). Good luck to our mothers-to-be: Ms Susannah (Humanities), Ms Han-Yu (Mandarin) and Ms Stephanie (School Counsellor). We look forward to meeting your new arrivals and welcoming you back to HIS when your leave finishes. Congratulations also to Ms Vicky, Ms Zamwati, Ms Harky and your other halves, Ms Pauline and Mr Victor, who are soon getting married.

Happy Christmas to all. Please have a safe and enjoyable break.

Vita ad plenitudinem
Ms Davina McCarthy



Celebrating the next generation of HELPians at the baby shower for Ms Susannah, Ms Stephanie and Ms Han-Yu.

Academic Corner



The IPC Path...

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) is one of the fastest-growing curriculums around today; It is now the curriculum choice for schools in over 90 countries across the world.

Perhaps what makes it so successful, is that it is a comprehensive curriculum that centres around enquiry-based learning and preparing students for the future; with the implementation of themes through independent yet interdependent subjects. This encompasses a broad academic spectrum, including everything from Geography and History to ICT and Design Technology. Alongside academic progression, great emphasis is also placed on each child's learning journey and self-development through the IPC's personal learning goals: enquiry, resilience, morality, communication, thoughtfulness, cooperation, respect and adaptability. Equally, the importance of international mindedness and global citizenship in a rapidly evolving world.

At HIS we are proud to be a feature school on the IPC website, held up as an example of how successful this curriculum can be for the development of young minds. The following link gives you access to the article regarding our school:

http://www.greatlearning.com/ipc/why-ipc/case-studies.

I think you will agree that it is evident that we are extremely proud of our students' progress and this is in no small part down to the IPC and its promotion of rigorous, interesting and fun learning. To give you a snapshot of the diversity of topics covered, next term students at HIS will be exploring: International tourism, ancient civilisations, the human body, landscapes and habitats and the world of work, as well as much more!



Year 1 IPC Sensational!

Year 1 have been very busy finding out about our senses from our IPC topic, Sensational! We have taken part in lots of activities which have allowed us to explore our different senses and investigate how they work. We worked collaboratively in groups to create musical instruments, models of our ears, take part in food and smell experiments and we even made our own telephones using a cup and string!





Year 2 IPC

We Are What We Eat

To make teaching and learning fun and interesting, students recorded a 'Master Chef Kids' programme. They researched their recipes, made their own butter and recorded a show on how to make the perfect butter and jam sandwich.







Year 3 IPC Exit Point Footprints of the Past

To finish off this unit, students came dressed to dig and excavate, and were totally engrossed in the dinosaur adventure today.

They used paleontologist's tools to find and identify fossils. They followed a map to their prospective dig, carefully brushed the rare and delicate specimens, then photographed them for later comparison to known fossils.





Year 4 IPC

How Humans Work

In this topic students learnt all about the human body (bones, muscles and joints) and functions. They also learnt about the digestive system and the journey of food.







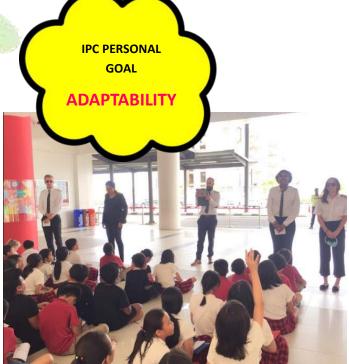
GOAL

COOPERATION

Year 5 IPC Entry Point The Holiday Show!

Students met in the foyer in 'planes' and their captains, (the teachers) set them off on a challenge. They had to discover which country each classroom was using the geographical clues stuck around the classroom. The children had to complete a passport to show they had visited the 5 countries.





Year 6 IPC

Moving People

Students learnt about situations that lead to people being forced to leave their home countries to escape persecution or war. They looked at the refugees' journeys, reflected about what they have lost, discussed what reactions they may have had in new countries and where they would go for support.

40 children from the 'Dignity for Children Foundation' were invited to our school to take part in fun learning activities organised by the Year 6 students, ranging from football games to science experiments.











KS2 Drama

Journey

The Year 4 to 6 students staged an experimental piece of theatre based around the famous Chinese legend: Journey to the West, which tells the story of Monk Tang Sanzang, who was accompanied by three unlikely bodyguards on his journey. Through theatre games and improvisations, the students worked as an ensemble. They used the stage and surrounding space with some intricate choreography beautifully. They were both the wind and the waves, the solitary voice and the chorus.

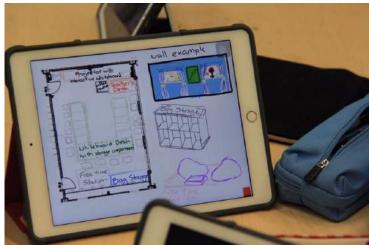


Year 7 IMYC Entry Point

Adaptability

Design Thinking Process was used to redefine and reimagine learning spaces at HIS, and students were challenged to redesign and reimagine the secondary classrooms and the school library. Their ideas will form part of our consultation on learning spaces and will be put into practice later in the academic year.









Year 8 Spanish
Día de los Muertos
(Understanding the Day of the Dead)





Year 9 / Year 11

Options Evening

November 29

Students and families came to learn and understand about the myriad of subjects offered for IGCSE and A-Levels. Talks were conducted by Mr Mark (our Deputy Principal), Mr James (our A-Levels Coordinator) and Dr Goh (Board of Governors) to give parents and students a broad understanding of the roadmap ahead.











Students, please download the Options iBook for more indepth information.





Year 10 / A-Levels

Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Camp 2016

November 18-20, Mersing, Johor

In order to achieve their bronze and silver awards, students were involved in a range of activities to meet these three objectives: outdoor competency building, service to the community, and appreciation for the eco system and the environment.





"THE DOFE IS THE WORLD'S LEADING YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, GIVING MILLIONS OF 14 TO 24-YEAR-OLDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE VERY BEST THEY CAN BE"













Vp Close & Personal



TEACHING COUPLES

Being a close-knit community school where we believe in the philosophy that it takes a village to raise a child, it's no wonder that we find many couples amongst our teaching staff. In this issue, we get a little up close and personal with four couples.



Ms Stephanie Cheah, School Counsellor Mr Ian Wong, 6 Hopper Homeroom Teacher

Who / What inspired both of you to go into teaching?

- **I:** I come from a family of teachers. I started teaching when I was 15 and have always been in either teaching or training since.
- **S:** When I reflect on my own life, I can vividly remember a number of teachers whose care and guidance went beyond academia. These teachers instilled many of the values that make me who I am today and have inspired me to choose my current career.

How and where did you meet? What is your partner's best quality?

- **I:** We met when we were working for the International Organization for Migration. Steph is an amazing listener, she has a way of putting a person at ease.
- **S:** We met at our previous job working with the refugees. I admire that lan is passionate towards people and things that are important to him. I am frequently amazed by the length he takes to be there for someone in need.

What do you both enjoy doing in your free time? Do you have any hobbies in common?

Hiking. We both love hiking. There is something about being outdoors that gives us the opportunity to reflect and relax.

How do you like teaching together in the same school?

It's great! We've been working together since we met. We know the other person's work responsibilities and commitments. So we don't feel like we are competing for our partner's time with their job. It's also good to have that moral support at work.

What is the one piece of advice you would want to impart to your students? And what is the one piece of advice you would like to give to the parents of your students?

To the students:

As long as you are putting in the right amount of effort, the results are secondary.

To the parents:

Find the inner child in you and connect with your children. Many years from now, they are going to remember the moments you spent together more than anything else.



Ms Maria Ruiz, 2 Awang Homeroom Teacher
Mr Jose O'Donovan, 5 Newton Homeroom
Teacher

Who / What inspired both of you to go into teaching?

M: My parents inspired me to become a teacher. They are both teachers and I grew up seeing them work hard and display a love for the profession. My older brother is also a teacher and my sister is an educational psychologist working for the public schools system in Spain.

J: I was also influenced to become a teacher by my family. My mother is a teacher and two of my sisters are also teachers. Due to my father's work, my family lived in Africa for most of my childhood and I attended international schools there, very similar to the ones I now teach in. My experiences and fond memories of teachers and students have definitely influenced my choice of career.

How and where did you meet? What is your partner's best quality?

We met 11 years ago at a mutual friend's birthday party in Alicante, Spain. I was living there and Jose was visiting from the UK, spending his Christmas holidays visiting his family.

M: Jose's best quality is his dedication to his family, friends, job and everything he does. He always gives his best and tries to go beyond his responsibilities. Jose grew up in different countries and cultures, he always listens to others and is respectful. He is the most adaptable person I know.

J: Maria is one of the most thoughtful people I know. She is kind and loves helping others. When she was 18 and before going to university, she spent a month in Paraguay working with local disadvantaged communities. This reflects her dedication and character.

What do you both enjoy doing in your free time? Do you have any hobbies in common?

We like spending time together and with our friends and family when possible. We enjoy sports and holidays at the beach!

We both have a passion for travelling and love discovering new places together. So far, as a couple, we have been to China, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Mozambique, South Africa, Seychelles, Portugal and we hope to visit many more places.

How do you like teaching together in the same school?

We really enjoy working together as we can support each other and share our successes and ideas!

It can sometimes be difficult because work ends up taking up a large part of our lives and at times it seems like we don't stop talking about school! But it is great being able to see each other at school and also gives us an opportunity to work together on some exciting projects.

What is the one piece of advice you would want to impart to your students? And what is the one piece of advice you would like to give to the parents of your students?

M: I would just tell them to enjoy their learning journey and school life as much as they can. Childhood is a beautiful stage and the kids need to have fun learning.

J: In my opinion being a teacher is a huge responsibility. Not only are we entrusted with the task of preparing children to meet the challenges of the future by guiding them in their academics, we are also ensuring we develop children with good core values. I always tell my students to treat others as they themselves would like to be treated.

I would like to be remembered as a teacher who motivated and engaged her students, awaking in them an eagerness to discover the world.

~ Maria

I would like to be remembered as a teacher who cared about my students. A teacher who had the children's best interest at heart and who was dedicated to the job.

~ Jose



Ms Manmeet Kaur, Physics Teacher
Mr Ananthan Seluerajah, Mathematics Teacher

Who / What inspired both of you to go into teaching? We both feel fulfilled on a daily basis as we are interacting with children and nurturing their minds with knowledge.

How and where did you meet? What is your partner's best quality?

We met in university while pursuing our bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

M: Ananthan is very innovative and always thinks outof-the-box. He is also very meticulous in his endeavours.

A: Manmeet is very hardworking and adapts very well to change.

What do you both enjoy doing in your free time? Do you have any hobbies in common?

M: Ananthan enjoys gadgets and he always keeps himself busy with something tech-related.

A: Manmeet loves music and dance.

How do you like teaching together in the same school?

We find working together in the same school has many benefits. This is also complemented by the fact that our eldest son also goes to preschool at HIS. This privilege extends our family time and hours spent together. Professionally, we are also able to share ideas and strategies for the benefit of our students and the school as a whole.

What is the one piece of advice you would want to impart to your students? And what is the one piece of advice you would like to give to the parents of your students?

Knowledge is precious and learning is fun.

What would you like to be remembered most as a teacher?

Teachers who have a great love for the subjects we teach and also being down-to-earth.



Ms Pauline Mok, Mathematics Teacher Mr Victor Tseng Li, Mandarin Teacher

Who / What inspired both of you to go into teaching?

V: My faith led me to teaching and impacting students' lives.

P: My mother. She always told me that as a teacher, we need to work with our hearts open because we are dealing with people.

How and where did you meet? What is your partner's best quality?

We met while teaching at a former workplace.

V: Pauline has a kind and soft heart. She is a very determined and highly organised person. Most importantly, she shares my faith in God.

P: Victor is genuine and passionate with teaching, especially in guiding students. He always gives his very best in every single thing that he is does and he is honest.

What do you both enjoy doing in your free time? Do you have any hobbies in common?

V: I enjoy playing basketball, travelling, photography, blogging and sleeping!

P: I like cooking, eating and watching Korean movies. We like to build Lego together. Victor has a huge Lego collection!

How do you like teaching together in the same school?

We love working together! This is what attracted us to join HIS. As a couple, we can assist and remind one another in our teaching journey.

What is the one piece of advice you would want to impart to your students? And what is the one piece of advice you would like to give to the parents of your students?

Be a good person, study well and give back to society. (做好人,读好书, 回馈社会).

What would you like to be remembered most as a teacher?

V: My never-giving-up spirit and humour.

P: A genuine friend to talk to and to seek advice from.



PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 8





















CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY & HIS CHARITY PROJECT

December 15



















INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

November 18

















KS2 SWIMMING GALA

November 25





































SECONDARY/A-LEVELS SWIMMING GALA

November 24





































PRIMARY MUSIC CONCERT

December 1













































SECONDARY MUSIC CONCERT

December 1







































SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

November 7-10





















COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

December 5—9















"In 15 years we'll be teaching programming just like reading and writing... and wondering why we didn't do it sooner."

~Mark Zuckerberg





Caedon Loo (Year 5)

1st YCBgym Interclub Competition November 20, 2016

Category: 10-12 years

*	Team	Gold
*	Floor	Silver
*	IAAF	Silver
*	Vaulting	Bronze



Zaira Rahman (Year 5)

Artistic Gymnastics competition, KL November 12-13, 2016

*	Team	Gold
*	Floor	Bronze
*	Top 8 Individual All Around	5 th



Tan Yu Shen (Year 4)
Australian Mathematics
Competition (AMC)
July 28, 2016

- ★ High Distinction (Middle Primary)
- ★ 8th in the whole Malaysia out of a 1,500 participants (Primary 3)



Aletheia Goh (Year 9)

Bharggavi Shanmugananthan (Year 10)

Emily Chew (Year 10)

Teoh Khai-Xiin (Year 11)

Poetry Café KL's Youth Poetry Slam November 16, 2016

- ★ Champions out of 11 national, private and international schools that participated
- ★ Winning the poetry recitation with a poem of their original composition



Ryan Koh (Year 8)

Malaysian Youth Orchestra (Permata Seni Muzik-PSM) November 2016

As part of the Malaysian Youth Orchestra, Ryan has been invited together with members of the PSM to perform in the Prime Minister's Residence for:

- ★ Lunch performance for the President of Turkmenistan
- ★ Dinner performance for the President of Philippines



Gabriel Ng (Year 11) Leanne Yule (Year 11)

Arjuna Tharmalingam (Year 11)

World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions Yale University, USA November 18-21, 2016

Overall, there were over 3000 teams from all over the world that participated and HIS students were one of the 200 teams (600 students) that made it to Yale.

Gabriel Ng

★ Challenge Science 65th★ Challenge—Special Area 50th

Arjuna Tharmalingam

★ Debate Champions 12th★ Champion Scholar 127th

Leanne Yule

Writing Champions 45th
Challenge History 60th
Challenge Literature 40th
HIS Top Scholar Gold

Champion Scholar 90th

Team Achievements

★ Scholar's Bowl Top 100★ Scholar's Challenge 33rd★ Debate 35th



Garima Malik (Year 12)

Taylor's College Model United Nations (TAYMUN)

November 25-27, 2016

 Awarded the Most Outstanding Delegate



Congratulations to our first batch of IGCSE students (2015/16) who achieved top scores in the following:

from left to right:

Ng Wey Han Top in Malaysia - Cambridge IGCSE Physical

Education

Christine Lee Top in the World - Cambridge IGCSE

Mathematics (without Coursework)

Ong Chia Yi Best across Eight Cambridge IGCSEs

Michael Ng Top in Malaysia - Cambridge IGCSE

Economics

absent:

Leanne Yule Top in Malaysia - Cambridge IGCSE Foreign

Language Malay

Cheong Joe Ee Top in Malaysia - Cambridge IGCSE Foreign

Language Malay



Team Evolution

Edmund Chee (Year 11)

Nicole Low (Year 10)

Chantelle Lee (Year 10)

Joey Chee (Year 9)

Sean Lee Kin (Year 9)

Megan Ong (Year 8)

Rachel Lee (Year 8)

Nikhita Jeyakumar (Year 8)

Vivianne Cheong (Year 8)

Jasmine Affrina (Year 8)

Marsya Danialla Razak (Year 7)

Cheer Factor Championship 2016 November 12, 2016

★ 1st place CheerX Secondary Level 1 Small Group



Marcus Lee (Year 7)

6th Youth Service All Martial Arts Competition Incheon, Korea December 4, 2016

- ★ Winner poomsae competition (Male -12 years old and below)
- ★ Named the best poomsae winner of the category



Isabel Ling (Year 4)

Genting — Selangor International Junior Open Tennis Championships November 28 – 2 December 2, 2016

Bronze medal in her category



Every October, artists all over the world take on the InkTober drawing challenge by doing one ink drawing a day the entire month.

Lara took on the challenge and produced a book full of beautiful ink work.

Watch this video, put together by Mr Raj Sathi, and catch a glimpse into Lara's world..

http://bit.ly/Inktober video

