



Newsletter

Issue: 2016 / February



Cover

What better way to embrace Book Week than to have a buddy read to you. With the Buddy Reading programme, older students are encouraged to read to and with their younger buddies. Here we have a Year 7 student reading to a group of Year 1 students.

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Message from the Principal



Happy New Year!

We have begun Term 2 with the usual fast-paced excitement. As we approach the Chinese New Year, celebrating the Year of the Red Fire Monkey, let's remain cool, calm and collected as the school year begins to gather momentum and growth.

We have also welcomed some new administrative and academic staff this term and I am always looking to recruit the best teachers we can find to make HIS even better. I have been busy interviewing some excellent teachers for new classes and for the increasing number of IGCSE and A-Levels students next year. The School Board is also very satisfied with our retention of good professional colleagues.

Sometimes I look back in wonder at the small group of people who were establishing the HELP International School when I first arrived in Malaysia less than 3 years ago, and think about the large team of staff who help to run the school today. We have teachers coming to us from around the world and we also have teachers-in-training eager to join us and learn about the HIS way. When I am interviewing and recruiting new staff, I can see that we are attracting some excellent candidates who see HIS as a good place to continue and build their careers. I always tell them that one of the best things new teachers find here is that our students are amazing!

I would like to welcome our new families to the HIS community, with 85 new students joining us this term. I wish you all a happy and successful school career. I am certain you will enjoy some wonderful years here and share your talents and skills with us.

We are now also in the fortunate position of having other schools wanting to visit HIS to look at what we do. A lovely group from a school in Indonesia have recently been welcomed to experience our school life and play some friendlies with our students. Other visitors (more information below) will visit us in due course. At the same time, some of our A-Levels students are beginning to finish their school life at HIS and I have been writing references for their applications to universities around the world, as they seek to take their skills and knowledge to the next level.

At HIS, we are committed to providing continuous professional development and training to our staff. We recently took a group of staff to Garden International School to look at one of their special project days and how Apple Technology plays a part in that. We also had staff attending the LEGO Mindstorms training (to help with the teaching of programming in our school). Teachers will be going to

a Google School seminar and we are also planning a visit to some high-profile schools in Singapore with Apple Technology, to look at good practices that we could bring back to HIS. Staff are continuing their development in Singapore Maths and with EAP (Early Autism Project). These are great professional development opportunities for our staff - we are fully committed to our professional learning as much as we expect our students to commit to their studies.

We were delighted to host a visit from Sarah Blackmore who is the IPC representative for Asia. Ms Blackmore is based in Beijing and was kind enough to come to HIS to see how we work with the IPC. Assistant Principals Mr Daniel Goldspink and Ms Evelyn Boey accompanied her to look at some lessons, talk to teachers, students and parents about IPC and have a tour of the school. Sarah said she was really thrilled to see the excellent work being done by our staff and students and also commented on the lovely atmosphere emanating from the classrooms and beyond. HIS looks forward to showcasing IPC to other international schools in Southeast Asia during the IPC festival of learning next term, showing them what can be achieved in a relatively short amount of time and continuing to pioneer great educational practice.

To give you a flavour of the events that we have enjoyed already this term and for our new families to gain a sense of Life in all its Fullness at HIS, I am happy to list a few: House Competitions organised by our great Heads of Houses, Prefect Camp for our dedicated prefects; and our School Production, the Musical *Oliver!* (which is deep into rehearsals at the moment). We have hosted the Year 9 Options Evening, the Year 8

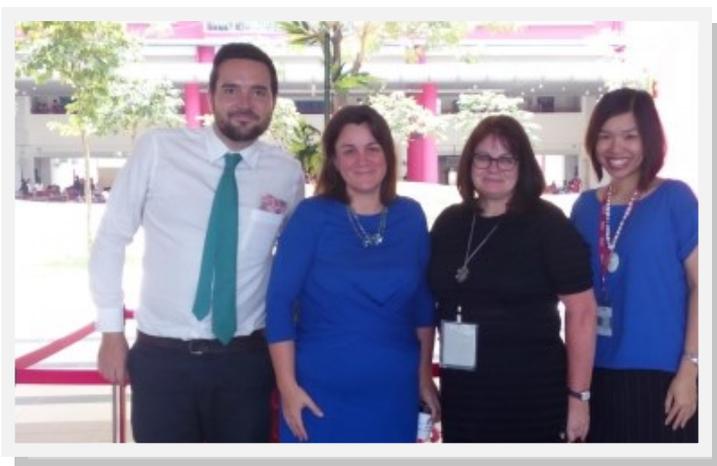
Parent-Teacher Meeting, CAT4 testing in Year 3, KS2 Parent-Teacher Meeting and a couple of school trips and visits, as well as our Year 11 mock exams. Teachers have been preparing our first cohort of IGCSE students for the busy months ahead. I wish them the best and eagerly await their successes.

We are also establishing some strong traditions at school as part of our calendared events and once again HIS Book Week has been a real joy with staff, students and the wider community all coming together to share a love of reading for pleasure and donating to a good project. This year we are working with the Nasi Lemak Project team to build Libraries for the urban poor. Again, for the third year in a row, we have invited authors and illustrators to work with our students. Many staff, including myself, have had the guilty pleasure of stopping what we normally do to read some stories to the students. My thanks to all who participated in making this a great success, particularly the library team, Book Week committee and parent volunteers.

As the first half of Term 2 comes to a close, while we are sad to bid farewell to our Admin staff, Ms Jeanetta Chiew, who will be moving on to explore new opportunities, we look forward to welcoming Ms Susannah Read, who will be joining the HIS family in Term 3 as a Humanities teacher. Having completed her degree at the University of Cambridge and her PGCE at University of Sussex, Ms Susannah taught History at A-Levels, GCSE and Key Stage 3 over the last 10 years in the UK and in Hwa Chong Institution (Singapore).

I would like to wish all our families who will be travelling this half term a great holiday and safe travels. I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school and recommend that you review our weekly bulletins for sports and upcoming events news, and our Facebook for delightful pictures of activities and learning. Whenever you can, please do keep asking your children what they are enjoying about school. It's good to talk.

~ Ms Davina McCarthy



*From left to right:
Mr Daniel Goldspink, Ms Davina McCarthy, Ms Sarah Blackmore (IPC rep for Asia), and Ms Evelyn Boey*

Academic Corner

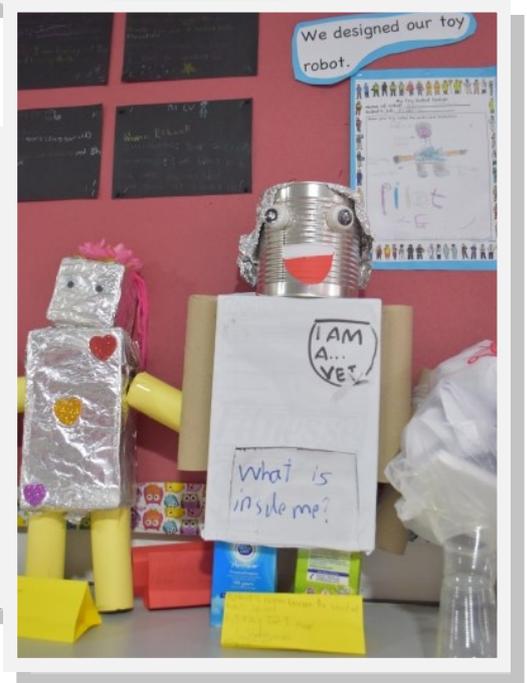


Preschool
Up, Up &
Away

Year 1 IPC
I'm Alive



Year 2
Robots



Year 2 IPC : The Things People Do / About Jobs

Field Trip to Kidzania



Year 3 IPC : Bright Sparks

Learning about electricity and how it works

Field Trip to Petrosains



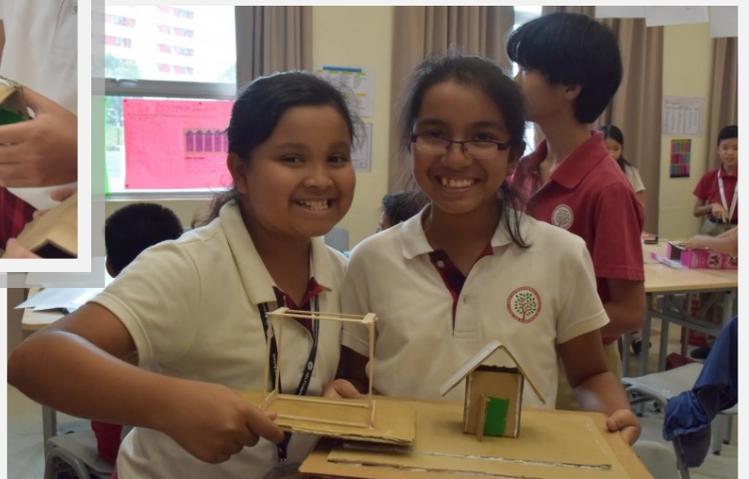
Year 4 IPC: On Tap

Year 4s conducted their very own water cycle experiments and created spectacular 3D journey maps to illustrate their learning. Simply amazing!

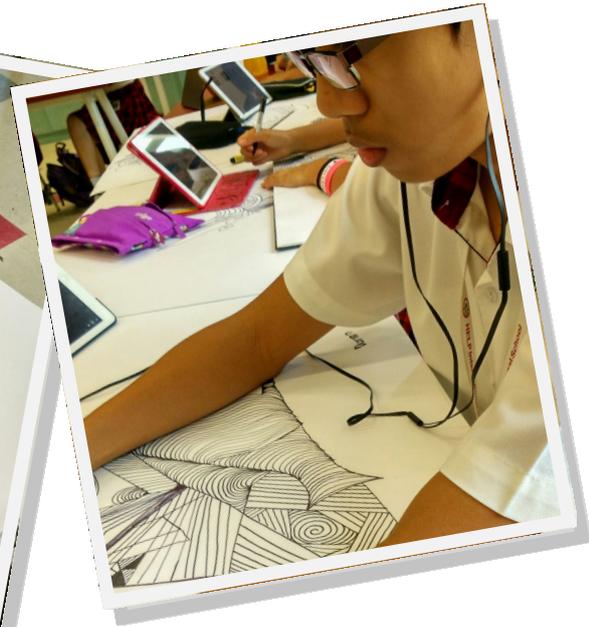


Year 6 IPC: History AD900

Year 6s researching and re-creating the architecture of AD900.



Year 7: Art with Mr Kevin



Year 7: History (Medieval Castles) with Mr James

Students' research output were presented in the forms of academic paper, or using Minecraft programming, or building 3D models.



Year 8: Science with Ms Prem

Students were inflating a pair of sheep lungs to learn about the respiratory system.





YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

January 21

Year 9 students and parents attended an evening with Mr Mark Jones who introduced the subject choices available for IGCSE at HIS. IGCSE subject teachers were present to answer questions, and some current Year 10 students were also there to share their current IGCSE journey and experiences.



LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Every other Thursday, 1:40pm—1:55pm, Humanities Room 2

THE OLYMPICS ARE A FORCE FOR WORLD PEACE

Mr Michael McDonough

Thursday, February 18



IS IT EVER RIGHT TO KILL?

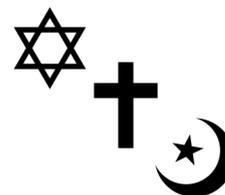
Mr James DeGazio

Thursday, March 3

HOW CAN THERE BE SO MANY RELIGIONS IF MOST BELIEVE IN JUST ONE GOD?

Ms Catherine McDonough

Thursday, March 17

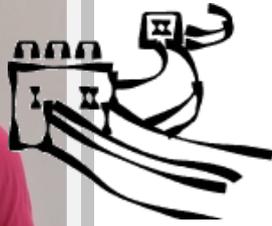


We started running Lunchtime Lectures since December and the lectures have been well received. Talks are open to all students in Year 8 upward. The topics are excellent preparation for A-Levels and university applications.

Students must arrive by 1:30pm for a 1:40pm start. Please try to fit in your lunch beforehand but you are also welcome to bring your food to the lectures. Do think ahead about questions on the topics.



THE JOY OF LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

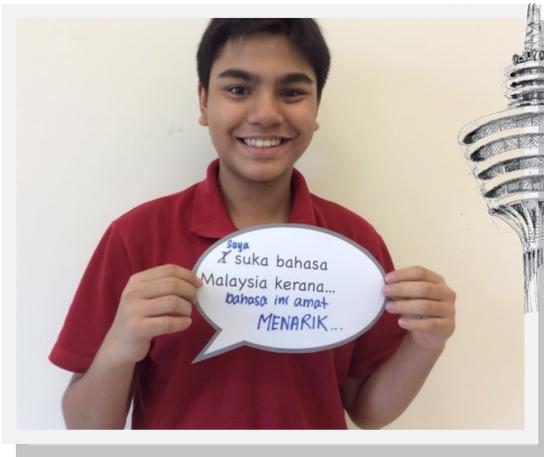


"I like Mandarin and am happy to learn useful phrases for everyday conversation."

Navaneeta Tharmalingam (6 Borlaug)

"I like French because I have always wanted to go to Paris and it is the language of love."

Aliya Hafiz (7 Guo Xi)



"I like BM because it is very interesting. I also enjoy knowing more about the culture and history of it."

Darvin Woo (10 Kuok)

TO HAVE ANOTHER LANGUAGE IS TO POSSESS A SECOND SOUL. -Charlemagne



"I like Spanish because it is challenging and difficult. Our teacher helps us to become more fluent in Spanish."

Joshua Verghese Bijoy (8 Morrison)

Up Close & Personal



DANIEL GOLDSPINK

Get the scoop on our new assistant principal of primary school

How would you rate your stay in Malaysia so far? Why?

10/10! It's been an amazing experience. Firstly, I've met some wonderful people here, who I envisage will be lifelong friends. This has made the move from the UK much easier and I now consider this my home. As to Malaysia itself - one of my favourite things has been the food. What a joy it is to have such a diverse range of dining options and flavours on your doorstep - especially here in KL and in Penang. Lastly, I'd have to say the weather never ceases to put me in a good mood. Not just the sunshine, but the storms. One of my favourite things is to sit on my balcony at home and watch a storm unfold - dramatic multi-coloured skies and magnificent lightening, accompanied by a cacophony of thunder; it's glorious!

What do you think makes a great teacher and how do you motivate your students?

Everyone has the capacity to learn more than they realise - they just need the means. A great teacher is someone who's able to take a topic that may seem incomprehensible or even impossible to some and translate it into something palatable, understandable and engaging. In a nutshell, you need to be able to inspire a student to take control of their own learning. Teaching is not simply an exercise in imparting knowledge these days and a teacher must spark a thirst for skills and knowledge. When motivating students, it's a case of making a subject interesting and exciting. If pupils are interested and excited, they will inevitably be engaged. And if they're engaged, they're motivated. This usually involves customising the



learning experience to meet the needs of individual students in the class.

Have you ever been caught in difficult situations with children? How did you deal with them?

Behaviour management is something all teachers must deal with, as it is such a fundamental element of classroom success. In my experience, if you treat children with respect by giving them responsibilities that make them feel important and valued, they will enjoy the challenge and will actively ensure that their own behaviour is positive. One tricky situation that sticks in my mind, is taking approximately one hundred nine-year-old children on a school trip to central London. The excursion involved a rush-hour train that changed at Clapham Junction (Europe's busiest train station) and there were commuters everywhere you looked. It was more essential than ever that day that I was systematic, composed and clear with my instructions, especially as the students got on and off the packed train carriages. I am pleased to report that we all had a safe and enjoyable day at Shakespeare's Globe, as part of a project on Tudor Britain.

What would you like to see in your students and what are some important skills/qualities that our students should be equipped with in order to cope with the pressures of today?

The quality I appreciate most in my students is enthusiasm. Being enthusiastic means you're able to approach any subject matter with openness - which makes teaching it smoother and more enjoyable. It is more vital than ever in today's world to be adaptable and versatile with each profession requiring a broader skill set. This is why it is crucial that each teacher is equipping their students with a spectrum of impressive qualities to set them apart from the competition. Communication is key in all of its forms and I feel that HIS provides the perfect platform for students to allow them to express themselves. Technology forms the bedrock of most of today's advancements, so we are privileged at HIS to have access to so much technology and capable teaching staff willing to incorporate it into their teaching and learning.

You have just been appointed the Assistant Principal of the primary school. How do you feel about your new role?

I feel very honoured to have been granted this position. I intend to throw myself wholeheartedly into the role and rise to the challenge. I have an excellent group of admirable colleagues at HIS and the teamwork ethic is strong. The support network that is in place is an invaluable bonus to me.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Hiking and climbing mountains are some of my favourite things to do; when I am at home I absolutely love the great outdoors. I am an avid hiker and mountain biker and regularly go camping. Since living in Malaysia it is not quite as easy to do these things, but I have been on some thoroughly enjoyable jungle treks and climbed a volcano in Indonesia. I even find a walk in the park helps me to relax and unwind. Badminton is a regular hobby during the week and I have begun to play more since arriving here and am improving. Seeing live music and sport is one of my passions and I will never turn down the opportunity to see a band or sports team that I am a fan of.

When relaxing at home, I love to read all sorts of literature and watch films. When I put my mind to it, I am quite a good cook and I like to attempt dishes from around the world and experiment. So, a combination of the three is almost an ideal evening in for me.



My wife and I with our nephew after he was born



Hiking in the Peak District, UK

What is your personal philosophy?

Be as kind as you possibly can and don't take people for granted.

What is the best place you have visited in the world and why?

I've been incredibly lucky to have been to some truly wonderful and beautiful places, so to choose one, is nigh on impossible! If pushed, I'd have to say that I loved going on Safari in Sri Lanka, where I was fortunate to see some leopards in the wild! I also adored Sapa in Northern Vietnam; beautiful lush hill sides and paddy fields as far as the eye could see. Another highlight was Khao Sok Lake in Thailand - we stayed in floating huts in the middle of the lake, so we woke up to crystal-clear waters and huge limestone rocks coated in vegetation, all to the soundtrack of gibbons singing.

I could go on... as I say, it's just too hard to choose one place. All I know is that I want to keep on exploring! There's a big world out there, and I want to see as much of it as I can. One of my ambitions is to see a tiger in the wild, so I would like to make that travel-dream a reality in the not-so-distant future.

FUN FACTS



FreeSignPrinter.com

Birthday:

30th June

Home before moving to Kuala Lumpur?

South London

Favourite food?

Spicy Indian curry or a roast dinner

Favourite books?

1984 by George Orwell; A Fraction of the Whole by Steve Toltz; The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger.

Favourite movie?

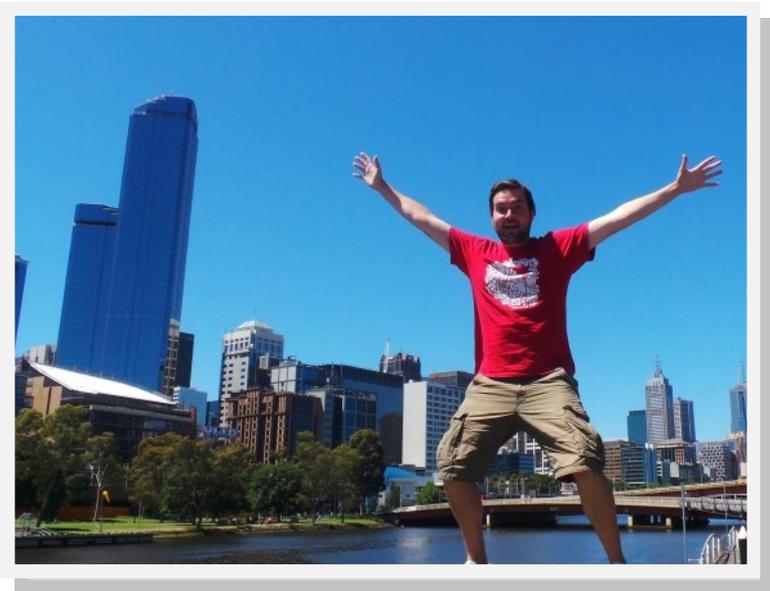
All the Indiana Jones movies, because they were childhood favourites of mine.

Favourite musician?

I don't have a favourite, as there are too many to pick from, but I absolutely love Bob Dylan's music and always have done.

What is the biggest adventure you could imagine?

Sailing around the world with a crew made up of friends.



Visiting family in Melbourne , Australia





BOOK WEEK

January 26—29

Book Week went off with a flying start this year with buddy reading during the month of January. Year 7 & 8 students had great fun picking out and reading to their 'buddies' in Year 1 & 2. This year also saw the students in each year group adopting an author, where all aspects of the author's books and his/her life was studied. That probably explains why there were pirates and witches aplenty during the character parade for the book week assembly! (hint: Treasure Island from Robert Louis Stevenson and a certain book from Julia Donaldson)

The students certainly displayed their flair and hard work in the class posters on their adopted authors too. In addition, secondary students made their own book marks on their adopted authors. The adopted author theme carried over to the storytelling sessions as well where Years 1 to 4 had very animated storytellers from our dedicated teachers! Not to mention Mrs Khaw, who read her own published book on folk tales to some very raucous and engaged Year 2 classes!

As part of our Meet-the-Author sessions, we also had Lydia Teh, Nizar Musa, Eugene Low and Yuen shared their writing experience with the students. Similarly, Carly Nair, our very own HIS teacher shared her tips on supporting struggling readers in our parent workshop.

Finally, students also had the opportunity to get their own books and stationery at our book fair and swap their donated books at the Book Swap. This year's book swap will see the donated books go to the Nasi Lemak project where a library is created for the urban poor in Kuala Kubu Baru. Still, we'd love to be able to do more for the project, so please continue to donate books till the end of term.

~ Ms Hui Ping, the Library Desk





BOOKS



STORIES



READ



NOTES & QUOTES

“After nourishment,
shelter and
companionship,
stories are the
thing *we need most*
in the world.”

— PHILLIP PULLMAN

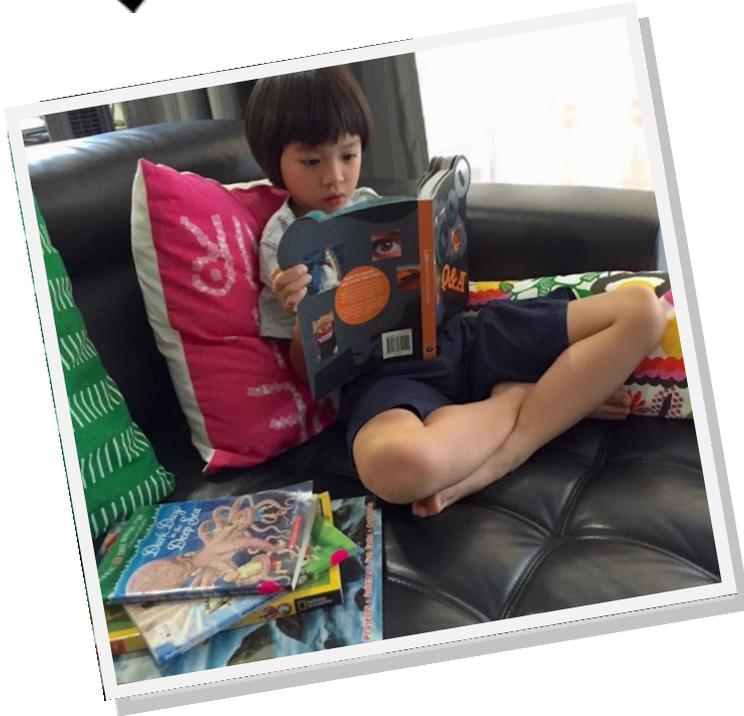




Books are a passport to all kinds of knowledge, intelligence and wisdom.

— Dr T.P. Chia

Reading CORNER



I love to read all kinds of different books, including comics. I really love adventure, historical and scientific books as I also enjoy learning while I read. I have many favourite authors, some well known ones like Roald Dahl and Dr Seuss. My favourite books are all of The Magic Tree House series.

Vayden Wong, 2 Tagore

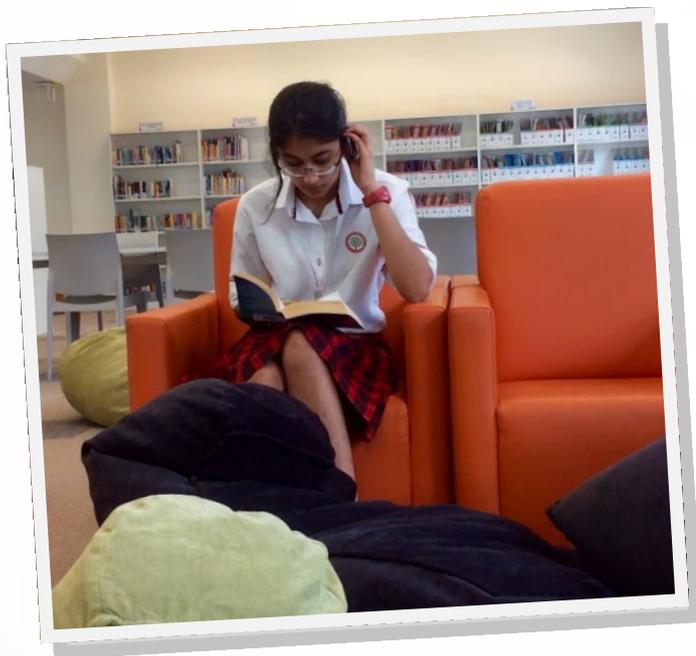
I love reading and read every spare minute that I have throughout the day. I have been reading since I was very young as I was always encouraged by my parents, who bought me lots of books. I love reading books that have twist and turns. I love to guess how the story might end and make predictions about what might happen next.

Rachel Yee, 6 Bell



I like reading; it's a distraction from everyday life. But I don't have a favourite author as such because I like to read widely to be able to learn from as many points of view as I can. I like to see how even authors of fiction can get across their opinions in their work.

Haqem Moreton, 8 Austen



My favourite genre is horror because the plots are complicated so they make you think. If someone has never read horror before they should start with crime mystery; reading Stephen King straight away could be a bit scary.

Diya Koomaresan, 10 Winfrey



BOOK WEEK CHARACTER PARADE

January 28 & 29







SECONDARY HOUSE PUBLIC SPEAKING

February 4

Electrifying! That would describe the whole mood and setting of the Multipurpose Hall during the 2016 Public Speaking Competition Finals on Thursday, February 4.

The hall had been set up in the style of TEDTalks, complete with a circular red carpet where finalists stood to speak! With the scene set, finalists stood up to the occasion and gave invigorating and inspiring speeches — it was our very own HISTalks.

As finalists who had championed through preliminary, then semi-finals rounds, every contestant returned home a winner.

Congratulations to all the finalists, and thank you to the invited and in-house judges, supportive parents and teachers, and awesome students who were engaged and respectful audience.

Special thanks to the English department, especially Ms Yen, and the Heads of House for organising this fantastic event.

RESULTS

Year 7

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Winner | - Puteri Nadia Iman Razalee | "Never Give Up" |
| 1st runner-up | - Aliya Hafiz | "Wonderful Japan" |
| 2nd runner-up | - James Chen Jian Ming | "City vs. Countryside" |

Year 8

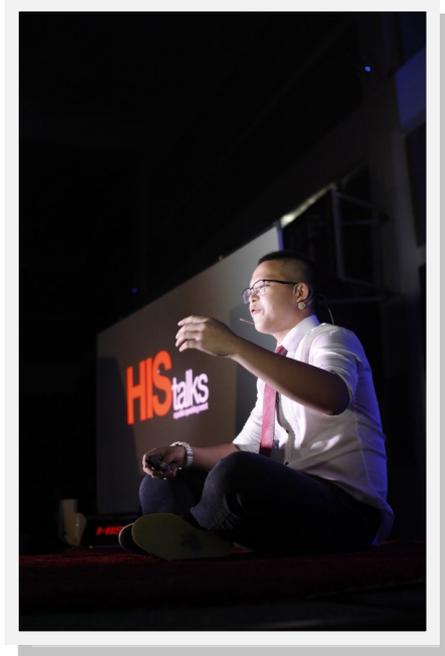
| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Winner | - Shawn Phun Yong Xian | "Growing Pains" |
| 1st runner-up | - Aletheia Goh Chien Yin | "Making Stress Your Friend" |
| 2nd runner-up | - Amanda Lim Yann Yi | "Cartoons: Not only for Children" |

Year 9

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Winner | - Serena Selvam | "Procrastination" |
| 1st runner-up | - Loh Nicole | "Are Asian Parents Overbearing?" |
| 2nd runner-up | - Wayne Lau Chung Long | "Success Redefined" |

Year 10

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Winners (tie) | - Leanne Sophie Yule | "Save Our Generation" |
| | - Teoh Khai-Xiin | "Our Life is a Holographic Illusion" |
| 1st runners-up (tie) | - Tan Min Khian | "A Meaningful Hug" |
| | - Diya Prita Koomaresan | "Fear" |





**Tickets
on Sale
NOW!!**



HELP International School
Presents
OLIVER!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!!
H'oscar Award
Winners
Shawn Phun
as OLIVER
Theo Barrett-Marshall
as FAGIN

A musical directed
by James Peter
DeGazio
WITH BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS
BY LIONEL BART

Produced by
Jamie Krishnan
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SOUTHBROOK
GROUP AND CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD

FEATURING
LOUIS NORMAN-JONES
S. BHARGGAVI
PRISCILLA LIM
NUR MOHAMMAD SYAZWAN
CAITLIN TAN
VALENTINO TEW
ALIYA HAFIZ
CHLOE SIM

MUSIC ORCHESTRA DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
DEBORAH JERMYN ZAILAN RAZAK CAROL WOODS DARREN ONG CAROLINE MARSHALL

COME WATCH US LIVE!
Date: FEBRUARY 26 & 27, 2016
Venue: Ciaran Hinds Theatre
Level 5, HELP International School



Friday, February 26

* 1:00pm

Saturday, February 27

* 1:00pm

* 7:00pm

Tickets are available for purchase from the admin office.

- * Adults - RM 50
- * Students - RM 20
- * Family Package - RM 130
(2 Adults and 2 Children)

Please sir, I want some more.





PREFECT CAMP

January 16

The most recent Prefect Half Day Camp was a tremendous success. It helped to facilitate the integration of our recently appointed primary prefects with our more senior prefects. Both age groups displayed great enthusiasm for the ice breaker games, directed by Leanne (Year 10) and the more serious debate and discussion on school policy and rules directed by Christine (Year 11), Theo and Vik (A-Levels). Mr Moreton and Mr Ed both gave their advice to new prefects on how to handle tough situations, and the younger students impressed us with their maturity in these areas. Artistic skills were given a chance to shine with our poster design session, where prefects were instructed to create attractive ways of displaying the rules around school, and many laughs were shared while watching a video presentation on duties made by our chief coordinators Ryan and Areeshya, featuring a sneak appearance by Harvey the rat. By the end of the camp, many new friendships were made and it proved to be a rich experience for all those involved. We appreciate the support of everyone who helped make it such a fun day!

~ Theo Barrett-Marshall, Head Prefect





PRIMARY HOUSE COMPETITIONS

KS1 and KS2

January 13

The Year 1s had their lovely Art Competition that spanned throughout 2 weeks. The students drew and coloured with their utmost best to win for their House. Years 2 and 3 did an obstacle race and Capture the Flag game respectively, garnering points with their sweat and speed. The crowd was cheering wildly in the stands for their friends despite the blazing sun. Year 4 were given the opportunity to show off their skills at benchball while Years 5 and 6 were able to participate in football, benchball and badminton. The Multipurpose Hall was lively, as each point scored was met with resounding applause and cheering!

Congratulations to the winning House — Pegasus!



STUDENT CORNER



Zaira Rahman Abdullah (Year 4)

MSSS Rhythmic Gymnastics U12

February 3, 2016

- Won 2 Gold and 1 Silver medals
- Will now represent Selangor in the MSSM competition on March 14 in Johor Bahru

Bryan Cheong Kai Feng (Year 11)

Malaysia Fencing Federation - President's Cup 2015

December 17 - 22, 2015

- Senior Open category - Silver Medal
- Junior category (U20) - Bronze Medal
- Cadet category (U17) - Bronze Medal

Malaysia Fencing Federation - National Junior & Cadet Championships 2016

January 30 - 31, 2016

- Cadet category - Silver Medal

Austin Cheong Kai Xun (Year 10)

Malaysia Fencing Federation - National Junior & Cadet Championships 2016

January 30 - 31, 2016

- Junior category - Bronze Medal



Leanne Sophie Yule (Year 10)
University of Melbourne
Future Students / International
Students 2015 Photo Competition

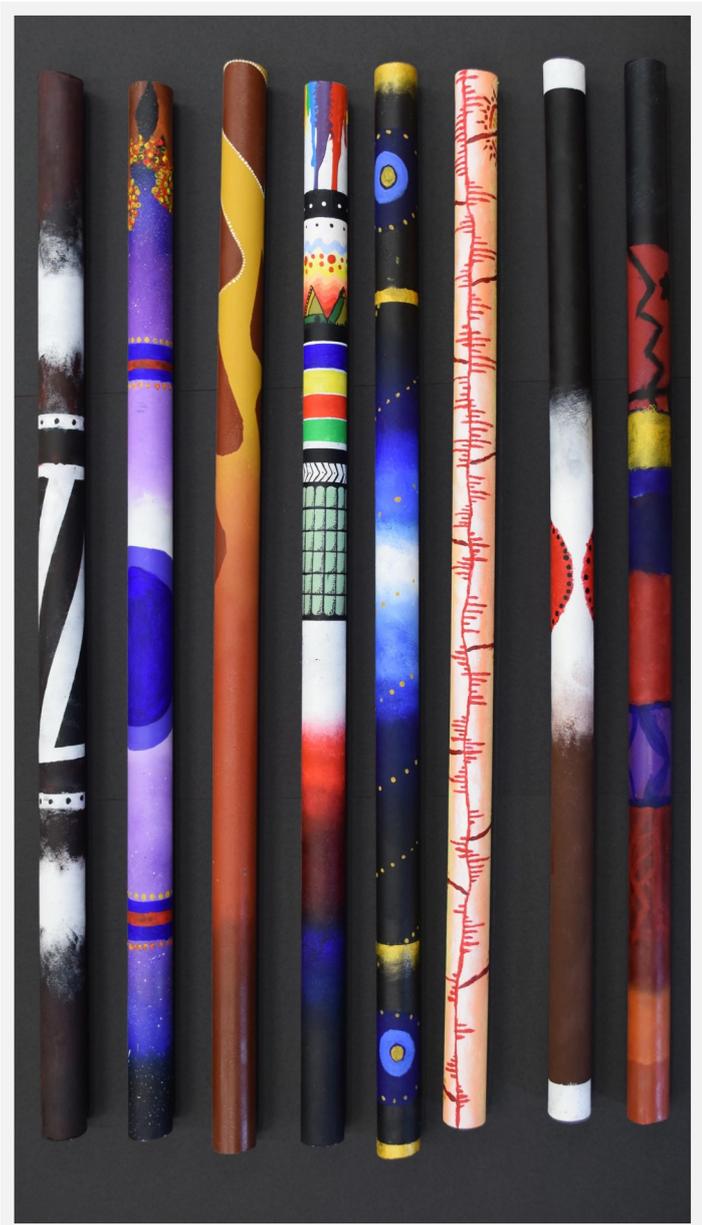
- one of Top 10 winning entries



Where Art Meets Youth

I strongly believe that young, impressionable children should be encouraged to pursue and explore their developing artistic abilities. Through observing my younger brother, I have learnt to admire the attitude of young children towards art. Their artwork is fueled only by what they want to create and not confined to what they think other people will appreciate. This, to me, is what makes their artwork so creative and imaginative. The imperfections; the crooked lines, the wonky circles, the strange colour combinations and the completely unrecognisable faces and objects, results in beautiful, unique artwork. I find it very sad that some people my age, no longer share this same attitude and interest towards art. I think that by encouraging young children to continue expressing themselves through art, this artistic interest will continue to grow and develop throughout their whole life, resulting in a generation of people all connected through their love and appreciation for the beauty that is art.

Leanne Sophie Yule
HELP International School
Malaysia



ART

Didgeridoos are musical instruments invented by the Australian Aborigines.

They are possibly the oldest known wind instruments, some researchers say, dating back 40,000 years! Traditionally, didgeridoos are made from small eucalyptus tree trunks that have been naturally hollowed out by termites. The word "didgeridoo" or "dijeridu" is NOT an Aboriginal word but an onomatopoeic word conjured by the English settlers. Different Aborigine tribes have different names for the didgeridoo, but the most common one is "Yidaki".

These didgeridoos in both the traditional and modern styles were made by Year 8 students.

~ Mr Raj Sathi

SHARING BY JOHNATHAN WONG

After my graduation, I was determined to take a gap year to gain some life experience. I knew what my plans were and what I was worming into.

I started working as a barista. I know it's not much, but I get paid really well. Within 6 months, I have managed to save about RM18,000 - enough for me to buy a one-way ticket to Germany and approximately 4 months of university fees and accommodation expenses.

My working experience started with me being a part-time barista in August 2015, and a month later, I was offered a full-time job. I said yes because I won't be flying off to Germany until late July 2016. In October 2015, I was given an opportunity to work as a manager. Although I had no knowledge of what a manager should do, I said to myself, "Why not accept it and learn about the job afterwards?" I felt like a fool then, but I don't regret my decision. I was able to take on the responsibilities and now I have the experience of being a manager.

I will be applying to the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences of Kleve, Germany, enrolling into Mechatronic Engineering which is a mixture of several engineering disciplines.

I'm very fortunate that my parents aren't funding me for my further education. That's right, they aren't funding me! I feel thankful in a way as I have found ways of making my own income. I plan to purchase a vending machine while I'm there and work out an agreement with the administrators of my university to pay rent and supply my vending machine with canned drinks or food on my own accord, which means that all the profit comes to me. Hopefully, this will cover my university fees and my other living costs. Whatever happens, I am determined to make it work and fulfill my dream of becoming an engineer.

Besides gaining work experience, the highlight of my gap year was going on a diving trip in the Philippines. I am now an advanced underwater diver and I have developed a passion for underwater photography. Life is an adventure, I took an unconventional path and look forward to a different experience at my next stop!



Johnathan (2nd from left) heading out on a diving expedition in the Philippines

"WHEN GIVEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, SAY YES, AND LEARN HOW TO DO IT LATER."



Johnathan's close encounter with a whale shark.