



KIS NEWS

At Kinabalu International School we are dedicated to providing an excellent education in a caring, respectful environment, challenging students to achieve their full potential as successful global citizens.

2nd February 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him." Maya Angelou

A huge thank you to so many people this week. Book Week has been a wonderful opportunity to lose ourselves in the imagination of magic and monsters for the past five days. Students, staff and parents have made this all possible with imagination, effort and time. Whether you have been involved in door decorations, feast preparations, costume design, or simply just encouraging reading and participation, well done to all of you and thank you. A few photos from the week can be enjoyed below, but for a larger selection please see the Book Week album on our Flickr account: [> Book Week Photos](#)

It appears we have our own young authors in school too. It was a nice surprise to come back this week and have some certificates to sign. Many of our students had entered a short story competition through FOBISIA, competing with up to sixty other international schools. We had a healthy number of first, second and third places to be awarded. Names to be announced shortly, but very well done, we are proud of you.

I am sorry to say, we are not so proud though, of some of our parents' driving skills near the school. Please remember to drive slowly, especially at pick up time (yes we know it's our parents as we recognise our students' uniforms in the car). Also please remember to use seatbelts for all passengers and stop looking at your handphone while driving, you might not see a child walking in the road. Safety first, please.

Whatever you may be doing next week, I wish you all a wonderful holiday. When we return we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year and I am looking forward to celebrating with you all.

Gong Xi Fa Cai.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Gross
Principal

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 4th to Friday 8th February:	Half Term Holiday, School Closed
Monday 11th February:	Y11 Parents Afternoon
Tuesday 12th February:	PTA Chinese New Year Celebration
Thursday 14th February:	Y3 Trip
Friday 15th and 16th February:	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice

Primary News

Book Week

As you are aware, KIS hosts many different theme days and weeks throughout our academic year, but Book Week has remained my firm favourite for many years. This year's event has been just as magical as previous years. Students in Years 6 and 7 have been seen around school 'muggleising' each other during break and lunch times. The story tent has been very popular with many of our younger students this week. On Thursday when we all came to school in our pyjamas I was very pleased to see that we didn't have anybody fall asleep as we were all so comfy! Along with the well loved Drop it and Read, Guess the Teacher and Book Swap, we have also had a new event - a reading monster came into class to kidnap the students if they were not reading enough!

I am a firm believer that reading is the best gift you can ever give to a child. If somebody, no matter their age, can read and develop a love of reading then they have a whole world of information at their finger tips and can use this skill to develop their knowledge and understanding of any area that they would like to learn about.

I would like to thank all of the teachers and TLAs for the effort that they have put in to making Book Week 2019 a huge success. I would also like to particularly thank Mrs Colbeck, Mrs Walker and Ms Kerry for all the hard work that they have put in over the past few months to ensure that this Book Week will be just as memorable as the many others we have hosted at KIS.

Chinese New Year

A huge thank you to the Mandarin Department for decorating the Primary school so well this week in preparation for Chinese New Year. The scrolls and other decorations welcoming in the new lunar year have been very carefully made by our older students. I would also like to say thank you to the staff again for the assembly that was held yesterday. The time and effort taken to create something like this does not go unnoticed.

TA JAWS Hosted by KIS

It was with great excitement, and some trepidation, that we hosted our first JAWS event from the 25th to the 26th January. After much planning and logistics we were able to release all of our Teaching and Learning Assistants to join with TAs from four other schools (Alice Smith, KTJ, Tanglin and British School Jakarta) for the Primary TA JAWS. In all 30 participants came together for the two days of workshops.

After a very energetic team building activity presented by some of the staff from KIS, the participants were treated to a wide ranging selection of workshops that covered many aspects of a TA's role - such as How to be an Effective Teaching Assistant and Teaching Assistants, Best Practice - as well as how to help support students with specific needs like English as an Additional Language, students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders or anxious students. Additional workshops included:

- An Introduction to Bar Modelling to Support Problem Solving
- ECA Activities
- Strategies to Promote Sequential Memory Through Play
- The Importance of Routine for Foundation Stage
- Fine Motor Skills
- Dough Gym
- Display
- Primary After School Service (PASS) Club

It was wonderful to witness so many different types of learning going on during the event. It was very obvious to see that gone now are the days of didactic, lecture style, teaching. The participants had people moving round the room, participating in physical quizzes, using Talk for Writing to help deliver messages, using manipulatives during the workshops to help emphasis how to support students, not to mention all the lovely displays that were created and craft activities made.

I always judge the success of an event by how quickly the participants want to leave at the end. At the end of this JAWS the majority of the participants were staying behind to swap contact details, take additional photographs and to continue discussing professional topics. It was a pleasure to witness this number of TA's gathered in one room engaging in such worthwhile CPD outside of their own school and with their peers from other international schools. I hope that this will be the beginning of many long lasting professional connections for these participants and that the TA JAWS will continue next year.

Maths Success in Year 2

We were very pleased to hear at the end of last week that Seoyun from Year 2 has been working exceptionally hard with her Maths. She entered a worldwide Maths Olympiad at the end of last year and for her age group, not only did she come first in Malaysia, but she also came first in the world out of a total of 1677 students. I am sure that you will all join me in sending our heartiest congratulations to Seoyun.

Mrs Nicky Russell
Head of Primary



Weekly Housepoint Totals

There has been a buzz of excitement around Primary all week as Book Week has been celebrated to its fullest and this has certainly had an impact on the Housepoint totals collected. Our House Captains worked extra hard to check and double check all the totals and they found the following results:

The Primary classes together collected a staggering 1,776 housepoints! Well done everyone, what an amazing total to end this half term with. This breaks down to give us the following totals for each House:

In 3rd place, with 561 points is
In 2nd place, with 566 points is
In 1st place with 649 points is SAPI.

Congratulations to Sapi for winning for the second week running and ending the half term as our Weekly Champions! I hope you and your children have a restful holiday and return after the break ready to continue earning housepoints for their Houses!

Housepoint Awards

This week the hard work and housepoints collected for all the Book Week activities and fun has helped to ensure we had lots of certificates to award! Children have continued to earn their Bronze Certificate for 40 housepoints and we also presented the first of our Silver Certificates for this half term.

Bronze Awards - 40 Housepoints

F1	F2	Y1
Alex, Hazzel, YunSheng	Ignance	Emma, Maxime, Raphael, Ricky
Y2	Y4	
Chevy, Jane	Jovan, Eloise, Amanda	

Silver Awards - 80 Housepoints

Y3	Y5	Y6
Ashley, Eshaana, Kayden, Ada, Janesse, Princexxbaby, Zidane	Pik Ern, Caleb, Lizzie Jayden, Keira	Joshua, Micky, Bella, Harry, Jia Yuan Yi Chen, Dania, Aaron

I'm excited to see if we can award our very first Gold certificate for 120 housepoints soon. Whose name do you think will appear?

Mrs Sarah Fletcher
Year 5 Class Teacher

Secondary News

Many congratulations to Mrs Colbeck and the supporting cast of colleagues who made this year's Book Week such a resounding success. It is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the school calendar and has been a wonderful end to the first half of term 2. Yesterday the School Leadership Team played its part in judging the creatively imaginative Book Door competition and in the Secondary assembly all the prizewinners for this and other competitions were recognised with special awards.

We are already looking ahead to the week beginning February 11th and the weeks thereafter. We hope to see all Year 11 parents at the Parent/Teacher meetings on that day and we are looking forward to the Chinese New Year Lion Dance on the 12th..... our thanks to the PTA for organizing this. We ask that Secondary students dress up in Chinese inspired costume and colours on that day. On the 13th we are delighted to be hosting a visit from Scubazoo; our students will be able to view excerpts from Borneo Diaries Season 2..... more about that in a future newsletter.

Student Lockers

A quick word about student lockers. On Thursday I noticed that almost half of all the Secondary lockers had been left unlocked by their owners. A quick check revealed that students had left their valuable belongings open to potential theft. Whilst this is thankfully a very very rare occurrence at our school, it is of common sense that basic precautions are taken and that locks are employed as a matter of course. We will be following up on this but would be grateful if in meantime parents could speak to their children to reinforce the use of a lock on their locker.

Year 11 IGCSE Geography Trip

Our Geography students report on their recent field trip to support their exam preparation:

Have you ever thought about the height of waves? Or the direction waves approach the beach? If so, you should have been with the four Year 11 geographers at Tanjung Aru on 25th January because we had to measure such phenomena. We also measured the frequency of the waves, as well as considered the environment at Tanjung Aru. Then it was off to the Kota Kinabalu Wetlands to get a feel for mangroves and again an environmental assessment was conducted. Finally we conducted pedestrian and vehicle counts as well as mapped the land use on Gaya Street. Back in the classroom, we, the Geography 4, will process our data and consider our hypotheses. And those frothy drinks in Starbucks? Well, they also linked to our studies ...on globalisation!

Gabby, Marwan, James and Eric

I hope that all our families have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing all our students back in school on Monday 11th February.

Mrs Margaret Renshaw

Deputy Principal/Head of Secondary



Secondary Maths Challenge

The Secondary Weekly Maths Challenge can be found here:

<http://kismaths.pbworks.com/w/page/125944556/Weekly%20Maths%20Challenge>

PE & Sports News

I'm glad we have Chinese New Year and a week off school to look forward to because it has been yet another week of action for KIS students on the sporting field, court and even alleyways!

On Sunday, students from Primary and Secondary were treated to a masterclass in Basketball from American Professional basketball coach Matthew Van Pelt. Matthew provided our younger Primary students with some fantastic tips and tricks to improve their dribbling and shooting skills. While the Secondary students worked hard on their ball handling, shooting and court movement. It was wonderful to see the students benefiting from such high level coaching and we are very thankful to Matthew for making the time to work with our students. All the students are hoping that we will get to see him again in the near future.

Also on the weekend, following on from their MSSD Badminton event, Kon Yi and Kon Han had no time to rest as they traveled to Ken- ingau on Friday for the Sabah Closed Badminton Tournament. Kon Yi finished the tournament as 1st Runner Up in the Under 14 Boys dou- bles, as well as making it through to the round of 16 in the singles. In the Girls Under 14 competition, Kon Han finished as the 2nd Runner Up in the doubles competition and was eliminated in the Quarter Finals for the singles. As a result, both students have qualified to repre- sent Sabah at the National Badminton Tournament that will be held in Penang on the 9th-13th March. Congratulations and best of luck to both Kon Yi and Kon Han as they prepare for this next challenge.

Traveling to Bangkok in Thailand, Timothy had an exceptional tournament at the Hainan Junior Golf Tour held at Bangkok Golf Club. Timo- thy was the Boys U15 Champion of the event, which is part of the Asia Pacific Junior Championship. Timothy is an aspiring golf pro and will be one of KIS' leaders on the course at the FOBISIA Golf Invitational in March. Congratulations Timothy.

Action continued this week in MSSD events with students taking part in both Squash and Ten Pin Bowling.

Ling Qian was representing KIS in the Under 18 girls squash competition. After winning her 2 opening matches in Round 1 she progressed to the 2nd round of competition where she was placed in a 3 person round robin. After a narrow loss in her first match she bounced back to a comfortable win in her second match to progress to the semi-finals. On Wednesday morning, she had a very tough match against the 1st place winner from the other group which she unfortunately lost placing her in the 3rd/4th play off. A win in this match would have seen Ling Qian qualify for the next level of competition representing KK at the State Championships. Sadly, Ling Qian finished in 4th place after losing the playoff in a very close match 8-11, 9-11 and 9-11. Well done Ling Qian!

Also on Wednesday, Nicholas was in fine form at the MSSD Ten Pin Bowling Championships. Nicholas played 8 games throughout the day in the U15 Boys age group and managed a high score of 186 and an average of 161 placing him in 4th place for his age group. This result meant that Nicholas was successful in qualifying for the next level and will now represent KK at the Sabah State titles in a few weeks. A 'striking' achievement Nicholas, well done!

One of the many benefits of our involvement in MSSD, is that we are able to offer opportunities for students to compete in sports not normally offered at KIS in a competitive setting. Many of our students train and compete in a wide range of physical activities and sports outside of school and it is wonderful that they are able to participate in events such as these to challenge themselves and that we are able to support them achieve their best results and share in their successes.

FOBISIA Games

This term we have already seen our swimmers set off and return from their competition, and after CNY we will have three more teams travelling to Thailand and Kuala Lumpur to take part in FOBISIA events.

The U13's FOBISIA team have been training hard since the start of term and will travel to Phuket on the 20th February to challenge other schools in swimming, athletics, basketball and football. While our KIS golfers will return to the wonderful golfing facilities of Black Moun- tain Resort in Hua Hin on the 11th March. For the first time, KIS will also have 2 students from Year 11 travelling to Kuala Lumpur for the FOBISIA Climbing invitational being hosted by Garden International School also in March.

Ms Catriona Watt
Head of PE and Sport



PTA News

The PTASC would like to wish the community a very Happy Chinese New Year. We hope you will enjoy the festivities over the half-term holiday.

When we return to school on Monday, February 11th, the PTA will be putting up Chinese New Year decorations around the school grounds. We would appreciate parent-volunteers to help us out from 8am, for about an hour. We hope to see many of you at the Parent Waiting Area. This is a great way to meet other parents and make new friends.

On Tuesday, Feb 12th, all students, staff members and parents are encouraged to wear Chinese New Year theme clothing. It is a KIS tradition that our community is treated with an amazing performance by a Lion Dance Troupe. The performance will start at 9am until 10:20am. This is a performance not to be missed!! Please save the date!

GONG XI FA CAI!

From the PTASC