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Garden International School Newsletter

From the Principal

1st October 2008

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

What a **great start** we have made to the new school year. The students, teachers and management are working together to ensure your children get the best education.

In the last newsletter I talked about the importance to any school in ensuring that the parents have a voice in their children's education. One of the ways that helps the school to develop is to have a strong partnership between the school and the parents, especially through a **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)**. Through the PTA we can work together to continue to improve the school. I am inviting all interested parents for a General Meeting on **Thursday the 9th of October**. It will be held in the School Hall at 7pm. At the meeting we can agree the aims and constitution of the PTA and elect a committee for regular meetings. If you want you can contact me on gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com and I will send you the draft constitution ahead of the meeting.

Please come and visit us on the **15th of October when we will hold an open day**. The school will run as normal and parents and friends of GIS are invited to join tours of the school in action. You can visit any time from 0800 to 1200 and 1330 to 1500.

We have **experienced exceptional growth** this term, especially in the primary school. We have already split Year 1 and Year 4. Mr Gridale will tell you something about Keir Hyde (Year 1) and Marybeth Mergens (Year 4) in the Primary News later. After half term we will split year 3. We have already appointed a year 3 teacher and also an additional Primary EAL specialist to start after half term.

I am committed to the **professional development** of the teachers at GIS. Already this term we have sent Ms Ransome to Melbourne to an IB Art workshop, Ms Jones to Singapore to an IB Geography workshop, Ms Howett to Bangkok for first aid training and this week some 20 of the teachers are going to ISE to join with other teachers for 'job-a-like' sessions. In addition, on Saturday 19th September, Khun Noo and Mr Fowler, two of our EAL teachers travelled up to Bangkok to attend a talk given by one of the foremost experts in 2nd language acquisition, Dr Stephen Krashen. I think you will find their report on the talk very informative, and I have included it below.

Kind Regards,
Dave Moroney, BSc, PGCE, MA
Principal and Head of Secondary

Report on Dr Krashen's Talk, given in Bangkok Saturday 19th September

Dr Krashen is a world renowned expert on 2nd language acquisition, and has an immense knowledge of his subject area (not surprising after 30 years of research) but he also has a strong passion to promote the findings of his latest research, which is **the importance of free voluntary reading**. Of this he said "I believe that free voluntary reading is the most powerful tool we have in language education, first and second."

Dr Krashen stressed the importance of the reading being totally voluntary, and no pressure should be put on to the individual. Research has proven that we acquire a language when we get comprehensible input in a low anxiety environment, so following up the reading with book reports or tests would be counter productive. As for the act of reading being voluntary Dr Krashen quoted one of his colleagues, author Alfie Kohn who said "If you give kids some pizza as a reward for reading then all you will get is fat kids who hate reading." As Dr Krashen himself put it "Why reward children for doing something that they should be enjoying anyway?"

Children (and adults) who are acquiring a second language should be allowed to read anything in that target language that they find interesting. Just allow the individual to find enjoyment in their reading, and language acquisition will occur naturally. Through reading, the individuals speaking, writing, listening and knowledge of grammar will all show a marked improvement over the course of an academic year.

We were both entertained, educated and encouraged by what Dr Krashen had to say, and since the talk have both been spreading the word of the **power of reading** to all those who will listen!

Mr Fowler and K. Noo

News from the Primary School

This week we split Years 1 and 4 as we welcomed Ms. Mergens to Year 4 and Mr. Keir to Year 1. Both of our new teachers are Canadian and both will add greatly to the spirit and community here at GIS. Ms. Mergens is bilingual English and French and in addition to her normal teaching duties will also be able to teach some French if needed. Mr. Keir is extremely interested in sports and his bubbly personality will make the playground even more fun. Both teachers have settled in really well and I am sure the children will benefit hugely from their experience and professional approach to teaching.

A number of staff and students have been sick with a form of gastric flu over the last couple of weeks. If you think your child is beginning to develop the symptoms of this illness – stomach ache, weakness, vomiting, and diarrhea– then please keep them off school as we want to contain the outbreak and save others from becoming infected. We have also taken extra precautions at school to limit the outbreak.

We enjoyed a very lively assembly from Year 5 last week and it is the turn of Year 6W this week. I attach the order of assemblies. Please feel free to attend our assemblies. They are held at 8.50 every

Tuesday in the hall. This week is also the first week for Star of the Month, I hope your child is one of our stars. The names and a photo of the award winners are displayed inside the Primary building.

30 th September	Year 6M / SOTM
7 th October	Year 2
14 th October	Year 1
28 th October	RG / SOTM
4 th November	Year 6W
11 th November	Year 4
18 th November	Thai
25 th November	Year 3 / SOTM
2 nd December	House Assembly / RG
9 th December	RG

Best wishes, Mr Gridale

ISE Golf Tournament

On Sunday, October 5, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Berry and 4 students (Tae Trangansri -Yr. 7, Nuthipong (Drive) Bunmark -Yr. 8, Sapon Trangansri -Yr. 9 and Buratat (Bu) Sakultanapanich -Yr. 10) will take part in the 3rd Annual ISE Invitational Golf Tournament. The competition will take place at the beautiful Burapha Golf Club and feature staff, students and parents from ISE, Regents, St. Andrews and GIS. Results will be posted in the next edition of the newsletter. If you want to get involved please contact Mr Lynch on dougl@gardenrayong.com .

Sports Information –from Mr Barnsley



U13/U15 Games 2008/9

This year the Games are to be hosted by The British School in Katmandu. However, it looks unlikely that the Games will take place in Nepal; they will probably be staged in Penang, Malaysia. The Games are to be held in late February/early March.

The cost for participation includes games, souvenirs, hotel accommodation, all travel within the host country, meals and snacks at the hotel and during the games, medals, officials and venue hire. It is anticipated that the charge for individuals to take in the Games will be around **THB 10,000**

There will be an additional cost that will cover travel to and from Suvarnabhumi Airport, return flights to either Nepal or Penang and a team shirt.

Participants will be expected to take part in at least three of the competitions and will be encouraged to take part in all four.

The Games are run as age-group competitions so students are able to play alongside teammates from different year groups.

U13 Girls

ATKINSON	Coco	6M
BELGRAVER	Emily	7C
LOOKHANUMANJAO	Naraawadee (Pan Pan)	7C
ROWE	Kym	7C
SAIKAEW	Prathumma (Oi)	7C
TECHAPRATOMTHONG	Pusita (Ploy)	7C
TOOLEY	Lalitar	7C
BAKER	Melissa	8F
KOSONNIYOM	Chayanee (Mook)	8F
SRISUPHAN	Yanit (fairy)	8F
AZRI	Nur Amirah Binti	8W
JUNG	Ye Na	8W
LEE	Hyo Jung	8W
MAHER	D'Lisa	8W
MINHAS	Ankita	8W
NIYOMSAMARN	Krittiya (Tang)	8W
THONGSONGSANG	Puthida (Lek)	8W
MUSITHMANEE	Unchaleeporn (Ploy A)	9S
RATTANARUANGSUP	Rubina	9S
SHAH	Heta	9S
GOVINDAN	Akshayaa	9W
THIANGTRONG	Phavinee (Rosa)	9W

U13 Boys

FITZGERALD	Jonathan	6W
HAM	Gyu Sik	6W
ASSAID	Aree	7C
KHAIRRAZI	Muh'd Umar Abdul Aziz	7C
KWON	Se Hun	7C
TEMRUKSA	Piyapoom (Poom)	7C
TRANGANSRI	Kittitat (Tae)	7C
UACHERDKUL	Patsakorn (Gorn)	7C
WEI	Yuan-Hao (Simon)	7C
CAULES	Anand (Frank)	8F
HARRISON	Phatee	8F
PHOTHARAM	Achakrin (Max)	8F
ZIMOWSKI	Kenneth-Lloyd (Ken)	8F
BALASUBRAMANIAN	Yogesh	8W
BUNMARK	Nuthipong (Drive)	8W
LEE	Jung (Rain)	8W
PERSSON	Albin	8W
YOON	Joong Su (Billy)	8W
KHANIJOU	Chakrit (Azeez)	9S
UNGKU SHAMIR	Ungru Mohd Ezzat	9S
BUGATA	Harshavardhan (Harsha)	9W
TRANGANSRI	Sopon (Taei)	9W

U15 Boys

FRAME	Niphon (Bruce)	8F
LEE	Kyoung Jun (Paul)	8F
LIMSAKUL	Chainont	8F
LIU	Chien Wei	8F
AMORNPANSIRI	Atirach (Yew)	9W
KODALI	Sai	9W
LAPNARONGCHAI	Thanasak (James)	9W
NGAMAROM	Watcharej (Fawn)	9W
SHAH	Parth	9W
STUVIK	Sandy	9W
THAMMATHATAREE	That (Keen)	9W
YEON	Tae Won	9W
BARTLETT	Ben	9S
HAHLEN	Kevin	9S
HEMI	Aphisit (Mark)	9S
IRWIN	Russell	9S
KIM	Byeong Su	9S
POON	Chi Shun (Jason)	9S
RATTANARUANGSUP	Kriangsak (Lalit)	9S

U15 Girls

SINGHSATHITSUKH	Paveena	8W
TIANTONGNUKUL	Jidapha	8W
AZRI	Nur Aqilah Binti	9W
JIRADECHA	Praewpat (Ploy B)	9W
KHAIRRAZI	Nurul Balqish Binti	9W
MUN	Je Hyeon (Harry)	9W
NARANG	Prathana	9W
INTHARARAT	Hanna	9S
JANTANAVARANON	Thitinan (Aom)	9S
JU	Jin Hee	9S
LIKHITHATTHASIL	Junwalai (Pla)	9S
GUHA	Anushree	11B
SHANKAR	Jayshree	11B
AMORNPANSIRI	Daranee (Mint)	10R
LEE	Hyo Mi (Anna)	10R
PETERSEN	Monica	10R
YOON	Sae Ra	10R
BURANROM	Matawee	10B
ESCOBAR	Daniela	10B

YUTHIWATTANA	Ooychai	9S
HARRISON	James	11B
CERCLERON	Thomas	10R
CHOKSHI	Viraj	10R
KANJANAPLEE	Podcharapol	10R
KHANIJOU	Akalak (Sam)	10R
KHANIJOU	Adisorn	10R
PILLAI	Vishal	10R
KHANIJOU	Rachthep (Romy)	10B
LEE	Seon Woo	10B
NEUFELD	Nicolai (Nic)	10B
SAKULTANAPANICH	Buratat (Bu)	10B

KANJANANON	Bhunyanutch (Noot)	10B
KIJJAROENVISAL	Nachanok (Grace)	10B
KULPREEDA	Pattira (Name)	10B
LEE	Joo Hyun (Hannah)	10B
NUTTASOPHON	Sakaomon (Kant)	10B
TRAISTER	Christina	10B
VANDERPOEL	Vanessa	10B

I would like to be in a position to confirm that GISR will be sending a team and to start preparations after the half-term break. A team will be made up from a minimum of seven players.

Interested students should sign up on the PE Notice Board.

Any questions related to the Games should be directed to me on julianb@gardenrayong.com

Thanks,

Julian Barnsley
Head of PE & Sport

FOBISSEA – ‘The friendly games!’