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Garden International School Newsletter

From the Principal

4 December 2008

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

What a **busy run up to the end of term** we are having! As well as working hard in their lessons, the students treated us to some displays of the wealth of talent being nurtured here at GIS.

As I write this I still have the music from last night's **Christmas Concert** buzzing in my head. It was a super night of musical entertainment featuring a wide range of musical styles performed by students from year 5 up to year 13. The performers are to be congratulated for the hard work they put into their practices, as well as the superb performances. Special thanks also go to the music staff, Mr Shiells, Mrs Shiells, and Mr Williams.

The week before it was the turn of the Primary School to shine with their performance of **Treasure Island**. Congratulations to all the children and staff that were involved in this Production. It was awesome and they all worked really hard to make it as good as it was. Mr Millar, Mrs Shiells and Mr Watkins, supported by many others, brought out terrific skills in the students in just four weeks of rehearsals. The show was an extravaganza of songs and theatre. Those of you who were there know what an entertaining show it was. Thank you for giving us a night to remember.

Next week, on Tuesday the 9th of December at 10:00, will be the Years 1 and 2 show in the Hall.

We can also now add another date to the calendar: on the 25th of February we will be having our annual **Korean Night**.

The PTA is ready to start!

Do you want a greater involvement in the education of your children at GIS? Then join the PTA committee and let your voice be heard.

The first PTA committee meeting will take place after the Christmas break on **Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 7pm**. We will use the conference room (A room to your right as you face the Secondary building). Thank you to those that have already volunteered to be on this committee. There are still some places available so please let me know if you want to join and speak on behalf of the parents.

We still need a permanent Chairperson and a Secretary. If you are interested, please contact me. gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com I will attach the final PTA constitution (in English and Thai) with this newsletter.

Soon after we return from the holidays we have the **mock (practice) exams for years 11 and 13**. The holiday is a good opportunity for revision. Please support your children by ensuring that they have a quiet area in which to study.

There is a **Father's Day display** of images by years 7 to 9 GIS art students in the Secondary Library. There is also an additional display of new work by art students in the Library's exhibition space.

It was a couple of weeks back now, but we all had a great day out at the **Christmas Fair**. In the next newsletter I will tell you the final amount raised and where the money will be going. Many thanks to Mrs. Yuthiwattana for organising us all so well.

The winners of the Secondary School's 'Form Merit Cup' and the 'Lone Wolf Cup' (most individual merits) are.....

The Form Merit Cup. a close run competition:

3rd 9S with an average of 53 merits per student

2nd 8W with an average of 56 merits per student

1st **8F with an average of 66 merits per student** Well done 8F!

The Lone Wolf. worthy of mention:

Oie (7C): 87 merits

Na Young (8W):101 merits

Heta (9S)101 Merits

Rain (8W): 103 merits

Parth (9S) 103 merits

Kenneth Lloyd (8F) 115 merits

The top three were

3rd Paul (8F) with 124 merits

2nd Akshaya (9W) with 163

1st **Azeez (9S) with 164 merits** Well done Azeez!

They will have their photographs taken next term with the cups and the cups will be displayed in the library. On the last day of this term these merit-hungry students (8F along with Azeez and two friends) will receive their **victory pizza** when they are taken on Friday to the Pizza Co in Rayong for their well deserved prize.

EAL Assessments

This week all secondary pupils studying EAL took their end of term assessment.

Congratulations to the following students who passed the KET exam (elementary English). After the Christmas break they will join the PET group (pre-intermediate English)

Seok Hwan Ju (Joey)

Prathumma Saikaew (Oie)

Na Young Kim

Chien Wei Liu (Jack)

Chainont Limsakul (Pocky)

Dasom Kwon (Teenie)

Well done to all the students studying in both the KET and the PET groups; English is a hard language to learn and they are all making great progress. The next round of assessments will be held in the last week of March.

Staffing News

Two weeks ago we welcomed **Mr Kenneth Lund** as the new Primary EAL teacher. Mr Lund hails from New York and brings a wealth of experience. He will work with K. Noo in helping our younger students develop their English skills.

It is with regret that **Mr Williams** is leaving us. His new school in Malaysia is fortunate indeed to get such a dedicated and popular music teacher. We do wish him good luck in the move and hope that he able to visit us again in the future. We are lucky, however, to find an excellent replacement. **Michelle Peralta**, currently working in an International School near Bangkok, is stepping in. Ms Peralta is a talented musician with experience in teaching at all levels in the Secondary school.

Ms Tiina Luukkonen will travel from the snow of Finland to join us as a year 3 teacher in January. Ms Luukkonen gained her bachelor's degree in London and has taught in both the UK and Finland. The year 3 class has grown and I would like to take this opportunity to **publicly thank Mr Ceri Fisher** for doing a superb job in looking after a large group of students.

We are also **hoping to split the Early Years class** as well as from the New Year we expect to have more than 20 students. We will keep you posted on the latest developments.

Some Important dates for next week

- On Monday the 8th of December we have **Parent Teacher Meetings** for Foundation parents.
- On Tuesday the 9th of December we have **Parent Teacher Meetings** for all Secondary, Primary and Foundation parents
- Also on Tuesday the 9th of December at 10:00 is the **Years 1 and 2 show** in the Hall
- On Wednesday the 10th of December it is Constitution day and it is **a school holiday**
- On Friday the 12th of December, at 09:00, we have the **Foundation Christmas Show** and then all Foundation children go home at 10:00. All the rest of the school goes **home at 15:10** for their holiday

Ms Jones' year 9 class has been studying about the First World War and the poetry that was inspired by that conflict. Below is a striking war poem **written by one of our year 9W students, Keen.**

He calls it "*The Terror of War*"

War, war, war
That's the Captain's roar
Digging into the surface of earth
Where the worms give birth
When we fight in the frontline
We all know a "friend" is going to die
Every now and then it's gas, it's gas
Seeing soldiers burn

They can't put on their masks
Machine guns rifles
Who is too blame?
Once I read, 'war is just a game'
The truth is, it's just slavery and pain
So say the old lie
"It's an honor to serve your country
no matter if you live or die"
You'll be more the lucky to survive the night
And see tomorrow's sunlight.

We will welcome back all the students on **Monday 5th January**, refreshed and ready for a new term.

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

Sports News



ESAC -Season 2 Sports

All students that would like to have the opportunity to represent The Storm should sign up on the Sports Notice Board for:

- U13 Soccer
- U15 Basketball
- U15 Volleyball
- Senior Basketball

U13 U15 Fobissea Games

Penang 2009

The school will be entering two squads.

U13 Girls

Marisa (6W)
Trisha (7C)
Oie (7C)
Ploy (7C)
Melissa (8F)
Pim (8F)
Mook (8F)

U15 Boys

Albin (8W)
Bruce (8F)
Frank (8F)
Keen (9W)
James (9W)
Russell (9S)
Ooychai (9S)

Hyo Jung (8W)
Na Young (8W)

Mark (9S)
Nic (10B)
Thomas (10R)

Players will begin preparations this term as they start to train for ESAC Season 2 sports.

Swim Team

The swim team was in action this month. They traveled to The Regents School for the term 1 ESAC meet. All swimmers performed very well.

ESAC Records

U9 25m Breaststroke Kelly 26.06s

U9 25m Fly Simon 22.20s

U9 25m Backstroke Simon 21.91s

First Places

U9 25m Backstroke Simon

U13 50m Backstroke Marissa

U9/U11 Boys 100m Medley Relay team

U9/U11 Girls 100m Freestyle Relay team

Congratulations to all swimmers

Senior Soccer

Both boys and girls team have been in action three this month. All players have continued to work hard to refine their skills.

Results:

	TRS (A)	TRS (H)	STA
Boys	2 - 1 L	0 - 2 L	0 - 1 L
Girls	3 - 3 D	4 - 1 W	3 - 1 W

From The PE Department...

PE Uniform

This is a reminder to all students. You need to change for PE lessons.

- Students in Years 1-6 should wear the black PE shorts and a white GIS PE shirt.
- Students in Year 7-10 should wear white GIS PE shorts and a white GIS PE shirt

All PE kit is available from the Uniform shop

All students will be expected to wear the correct PE uniform from the start of Term 2.

Student that are unable to bring their kit for a lesson are still expected to change. They will need to bring a note in their Diary or Communication Book with a short explanation and something that can be worn for the lesson.