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# Garden International School Newsletter

**From the Principal**

**13 February 2009**

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

If you missed the **Musician of the Year** competition a couple of weeks back you missed a terrific night of talent on show. The judges (myself, Mr Millar, Ms Peralta and Mr Halliday) had the very difficult task of picking winners from the wonderful acts we saw. My congratulations and thanks go to all the performers.

The winners were:

### Primary

1<sup>st</sup> place. Seung Youp Oh (y5) who played Kuhlau's *Sonatina* to near perfection, with very expressive phrasing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Sea Young Kim (y5) played a brisk and exciting *Sonatina* by Clementi.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Sea Jin Kim (y3) played a complex piece very well.

We judged the most promising player to be Sadudee Yuthiwattana (y2) who confidently played *the freight train*.

Thank you to the other performers: Ayushi, Mara, Coco, Yuan Yuan, Laila, and Hui Eun.

### Secondary

1<sup>st</sup> place. Jin Hee (y9) gave an excellent performance of a long and difficult piece (*Silvery Waves*) entirely from memory.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Jisu (y13) gave an impressive rendition of Handel's *Sonata in D*, a difficult violin piece to played very strongly.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Hyo Jung, last year's winner, gave a dynamic performance of *Secret*.

The most promising player in Secondary was judged on the night to be Joey (y7), beautifully capturing the melody of the familiar *Für Elise* by Beethoven.

Thank you again to the rest of the performers: Tae Hwan (y7), Trisha (y7), Ben (y9), Christina (y10), Rachel (y13), Monica (y10), Oie (y7), Daniela (y10), Insha (y9) and Azeez (y9). Monica was especially commended for her singing.

A reminder that the annual **International Day** is on the **13<sup>th</sup> March**.

From the start of school to 10am we will have the Flag Parade with anthems followed by the Foundation to Year 3 performances. In the evening, starting at 1830, we will have a 'pot luck supper' and then the International Show by Years 4 to 13 from 1930 to 2100. Parents are of course welcome to both sessions.

Yesterday, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>, we held a Valentine's party in Primary and later in the evening a Valentine's disco. Both events were enjoyable and well attended.

**The PTA** held its second meeting this week and I was pleased to see such a good turn out. Many important items were discussed and I will be sending out the minutes of the meeting soon. We are still looking for a permanent Chairperson and a Secretary. If you would like to step forward and take on one of these roles please contact me.

We were pleased to donate 15740 Baht to the **Mercy Center in Pattaya** to help the underprivileged children there. The money was raised from 2 Mufti (non-uniform) charity days.

There is an **IB Information evening** for at 7pm on Monday 23 March. This is an important information session for all Year 11 students and their parents who might be considering the International Baccalaureate as their pathway to higher education both worldwide and within Thailand.

This week **grade cards** for Secondary students were issued to parents. Please commend your children where appropriate. Most of the students in the school are hardworking and dedicated to their studies.

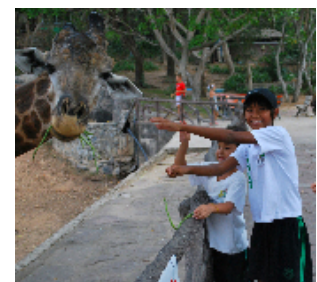
Finally, next week is a shortened week for students; half term is the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

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

#### **News From the Primary School:**



This week was busy with trips - on Wednesday years 1, 3 and 6 went to the zoo and had a great time and on Thursday years 2, 4 and 5 had their turn at the zoo. Please see our display of photos upstairs in the Primary building.



In addition we are preparing for residential trips that happen early in March - Years 3 and 4 go to the local YMCA and Year 5 and 6 go to Khao Yai National park. The children are understandably excited.

The sports day was well attended by parents - thank you for coming - and was enjoyed by all. Cobra were the overall winners followed closely by Tiger. Eagle came in third and Gecko brought up the rear. Photos of the day are upstairs in the Primary building. Foundation held their sports day this Friday and it was, as promised, a fun event.

Have a great half term - don't forget that Grade cards for Year 3-6 go out on Tuesday.

**Mr Grisdale, Head of Primary**

Our student council is very active at GIS and here is their news:

The Student Council has continued its good work from the first term in the first half of the second term. We have successfully organized three events this term raising a noticeable amount for various charities.

Firstly, for 'Children's Day' the Student Council wanted to put a smile on the faces of children less fortunate than ourselves. We started a money bucket, going around and collecting money from people around school. This raised a total of 1,500 baht, which we thought wasn't quite enough, thus we set up a Primary Art Competition. Entering price was 20 baht each and enough students were interested, raising another 1000 baht. Taking this money and adding another 600 from the Student Council funds itself we decided to buy three bikes for the students of a local school. The school and children were really pleased with the bikes and we hope they get many years of fun out of them!

The Second event we organized this term was to raise awareness for World Cancer Day. We bought little pink ribbons to distribute at a price of 10 baht each. By doing this and relating about World Cancer Day in assembly, we increased awareness of the importance of this day to the students in the school. The selling of ribbons produced a profit of 1,790 baht which the Student Council is donating to a cancer charity here in Thailand.

The 'Valentine Bear' raffle is the latest event the Student Council have embarked on.

Everyone in the Student Council body has contributed to the success of the events that have been organised this term and we would like to thank everyone who has participated and donated money for the events.

The Student Council

### **Events Coming Soon:**

✚ **13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> February** GIS hosts several schools for a basketball tournament. More information on this is at the end of this newsletter.

✚ **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** Foyles Books will be back in the library with this term's Book Fair. Come along and buy books –we receive a commission on sales which goes straight back into extra books for the library.

"At the moment that we persuade a child.....to cross that threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It's an enormous force for good"

Barack Obama.

✚ **Wednesday 25th February** at 7pm is the Korean Evening.

And looking further ahead:

✚ **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** International Day

✚ **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** IB Information evening at 7pm.

✚ **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** Open Day –an opportunity to see the school in action.

✚ **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Secondary School production, which this year is Star Wars: the Musical.



From the PE Department...

### Primary House Athletics

Last Thursday the Primary school got together for a morning of athletics. Competition was fast and furious with all students doing their best for themselves, their team mates and their Houses.



|                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cobra</b>          | <b>Tiger</b>          | <b>Eagle</b>          | <b>Gecko</b>          |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> |



### Secondary House Athletics

Last Friday the Secondary school met for this annual event. A different format this year saw has the students competing in a more traditional athletics meet. The program started in the Filed with all competitors able to compete in both a throwing and jumping event before moving on to the track. Races were keenly contested and there were some very good performances. The result could not have been closer with only one point separating the top two teams.



|                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cobra</b>          | <b>Gecko</b>          | <b>Eagle</b>          | <b>Tiger</b>          |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> |



Congratulations to everyone that took part in both events; they were both very exciting and very successful!

### Sports Shoes

Just a reminder for all students, when you take part in PE lessons you are expected to be in your PE uniform; this includes footwear. Your safety is very important. Please ensure that you wear training shoes for lessons, open toed sandals, flip flops, thongs and bare feet are not good. Students without training shoes will not join in.

### Swim Suits

As part of the ongoing development of PE at GIS the PE Department is pleased to announce that GIS swim suits are now available from the uniform shop. The suits are in the Storm colours; blue with gold. For Primary boys there are swimming shorts, for Secondary boys there are racing suits and for both Primary and Secondary girls there are one piece suits. There are swim tops available for both boys and girls and silicon swim hats for students with long hair

## Sports News...

### U15 Basketball

Both boys and girls teams have been in action with a couple of games since the last newsletter; St Andrews (home) and The Regents School (away).

On both occasions the girls have been out-played and out-scored. They continue to work hard on the basics and will play ISE next week.

Against St Andrew's the boys played well and were able to make their fast break work effectively. Whilst they are still struggling to make their offence work consistently their performance was a step up from the first home game and they were unlucky to be beaten by one basket in the last 10 seconds. The team continued with their progress and a marked improvement in defense saw them holding their own for three quarters of the game against Regents. Unfortunately some poor choices in the fourth quarter saw Regents win by a flattering margin.

Teams will be in action next Monday (away) against ISE before taking a break. After the holiday players will have two weeks to prepare for their Tournament which will be played on Monday March 2, starting from 2.30pm, at Regents.

Looking forward to it!

### Senior Girls Basketball

Last weekend the Senior Girls Basketball team took part in the **Regent's Tournament**. Our first game was against pre-tournament favourites (CIS, Bangkok) and unfortunately we caught a little off guard by the precision of their passing and ruthless finishing. It was the wake-up that we needed, because in our second and third games we stepped up the level of our play and won convincingly against Regents B and RSI Bangkok. This launched us into a semi-final encounter with St Andrews School. It was a nail-biting game with both GIS and St Andrews holding the lead at different stages. Into the last minute scores were even but with thirty seconds on the clock St Andrews broke away and scored. The disappointment of losing to local rivals was hard, and only made a little better when we learnt that we had been beaten by the eventual tournament winners. Well done St Andrews.

Our 3rd/4th place play off was against CIS Bangkok again who were out to make a point having been narrowly beaten by Regents A in the other semi-final and again we were beaten by a better team.

It was an excellent team performance throughout the day with all players working hard for each other on the court. Here are two of my highlights:

- ▶ Naz Neufeld top scoring for GIS with 32 points in the tournament
- ▶ Pim Bender (Year 8) played exceptionally well and held her own against much older, taller and stronger pupils

The team were excellent ambassadors for GIS, well done!

Miss Jones

### Senior Boys Basketball

Looking for their first win of the season, the Senior Boys traveled to Regents last Wednesday. The boys played well but trailed the entire game. **Q** and **TK** came off the bench to play some strong defense, **Guy** rebounded very well and **Nic** was more aggressive taking the ball to the basket. Trailing 25 – 22 with about 3 minutes remaining, GIS went on a 7 – 1 run to win the game 29 – 26. **Nic** led all scorers with 11 points, **Guy** had 10, **Stian** had 6 and **Jan** chipped in 2.

Mr. Lynch

## VALENTINE'S DAY INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

This coming Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13 & 14, Garden International School will host the inaugural Valentine's Day Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Garden International School is pleased to welcome teams from Benjamarachanusorn School, International Community School, International School of the Eastern Seaboard, International School of Myanmar and Siam International School.

Players will compete in competing in Boys and Girls Divisions.

There will also be a western style barbeque, sponsored by **BEST QUALITY FOODS** (Mr. Raymond Bodemer) going on all day Saturday.

We hope to see you this weekend!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for their generosity as well as the following members of the GIS community for their contributions:



Atkinson Family (**Coco** – Year 6)  
Persson Family (**Albin** – Year 8)  
Philip Family (**Nithin** – Year 4)  
Minhas Family (**Ankita** – Year 8)

Kang Family (**Min Ki** – Year 4, **Tae Hwan** – Year 6)  
Churakova Family (**Svetlana** – Year 11)  
Svensson Family (**Jan** – Year 12)  
Hubbard Family (**Beam** – Year 5)

Razon Family (**Jezabel** – Year 3, **Alice** – Year 13)

**PLEASE CHECK THE TOURNAMENT WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://sites.google.com/a/gardenrayong.com/gis-valentines-day-basketball-tournament/Home>