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Garden International School Newsletter

From the Principal

16 January 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,
It is not too late to wish you all a happy new year. A special welcome to the new students, and I am sure that they will settle quickly into our GIS family. We have certainly had a busy start to the 2009 in the school and much to look forward to.

The **PTA held its first meeting** in January. We had interesting and productive discussions on the school uniform, security and food. If you would like to join the committee -and there are still several places- please come to our next meeting on **Thursday, 12th February, at 7pm** in the conference room. We still need a permanent Chairperson and a Secretary. If you'd like to have a voice in what goes on in the school please contact me at gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com.

This week the **mock (practice) exams for years 11 and 13** are being held in the school Hall.

A lot of people are working very hard on the **Star Wars Secondary School Production**. Having seen some rehearsals I can assure you this will be a terrific show (2nd April). Later in this newsletter you will see an article by Mr Cambell requesting some items to support the show.

When dropping off students in the morning outside the Secondary School please use the **left lane** in front of reception. I have seen parents stop in the right lane and let their children out. This is dangerous as children then have to cross the vehicles in the left lane. It also blocks the right lane from drive through traffic.

The year book is coming along very well indeed, and promises to be our best ever. You should have had a separate letter about sponsorship and advertising. If you would like to **advertise in the year book** and reach out to hundreds of families in the region please contact yearbook@gardenrayong.com

Plans for the annual **International Day** are progressing well. This is an event that pulls the whole school community together.

Two sessions that involve parents are the early morning one and the evening one **on the 13th March**. From the start of school to 10am we will have the Flag Parade with anthems followed by the Early Years 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. Don't miss it!

IB Business students were recently treated to a visit by **guest speaker Richard Watkins**, an innovation consultant based in London. The students spent an exciting, interesting and informative morning discovering what innovation and creative thinking means to business. After learning new ideas and new approaches to solving problems the students were given the task of “Getting Children off the Sofa” a real life problem set by a gaming company, who are looking at ways to encourage children to be more active. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session and **Richard was extremely impressed** with the contribution to the session from everyone involved.

Last month year 10 geography students and IB1 geography students went on a trip to the **Camillian HIV/AIDS Centre** in Ban Chang. Later is a report written by Meang, one of the IB1 students.

Some more important events coming up:

On **February 25th** is the **Korean Evening**. Our Korean students make a large group in the school and they will be treating us to a spectacular show –put it in your diaries! Before then, on the **28th January** there will be **Korean food available** in the canteen.

The **29th January at 1830** brings the ‘**Musician of the Year**’ contest. Many Primary and Secondary musicians will demonstrate their talents in front of a panel of judges and a live audience. Prizes and certificates will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd from Primary and 1st, 2nd and 3rd from Secondary. There will also be a certificate for the Most Promising Performer. Another evening not to be missed!

On Thursday the **5th February** is the **Primary Sports** Day and the next day, the **6th**, we will have the **Secondary Sports** Day.

February 13th is the **Valentine’s Disco** and that weekend GIS hosts several schools for a **basketball tournament**.

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

News From Mr Gridale, Head of Primary:

Welcome back to Garden International School and a special welcome to the new parents who join us. I hope you and your children had a lovely holiday and have come back refreshed. I would like to welcome our new teacher in Year 3 – Ms. Tiina Luukkonen – who has come to us from Finland after having also spent some time teaching in the UK. Tiina is a very dedicated professional and will add greatly to GIS; she is a very welcome addition to the Primary teaching team.

We would also like to welcome all the new children who have joined Primary and Foundation. We hope they will be very happy here.

This week we had the annual spelling competition and these children took part:

In Year 1 *Nithilan* and Rida

In Year 2 Jennifer and Ashcharya

In Year 3 Arran and Mako

In Year 4 *Alita* and Jignil

In Year 5 Ayushi and Gear

In Year 6 *James M*, Chris S

They are all winners but the winners of the competition are in italics.

Several parents have asked to see the assembly rota for the primary assemblies. Here it is:

20/1 Year 5V
27/1 RG – Pop Idol
3/2 Year 2
10/2 Year 6W
17/2 Year 3C
24/2 Year 1E
3/3 Year 3T
10/3 Year 4M
17/3 Year 1K
24/3 Year 4H
31/3 Year 6M

The Visit to the Camillian Centre



We learnt about how to protect ourselves from HIV and AIDS, the many ways HIV can be transmitted, and what diseases are associated with HIV. We also learnt about sex education and how to prevent STDs.

We were taught in many ways that kept us involved in conversation. We also conducted experiments and studied from billboards. The experiment to simulate how HIV spread was fascinating. Firstly, we were given out one test tube with water in it each. Then we had to take a partner and share the water we do this 3 times and then the instructor dripped a chemical indicator in each test tube to see which how many people had HIV. When we dripped chemicals into the test

tube, the water turned purple if the person had contracted HIV. We noticed from our simple experiment that 8 out of 10 had HIV after only one person began with it. There was a graph on a billboard that explained how long will it takes for HIV to turn to AIDS and what diseases come with HIV. The diseases that come with HIV can also happen to people without the virus, but the effects will not be as bad as people who have HIV.



We had a chance to listen to one middle age woman talk about her life, how she contracted HIV, and how she feels. She got HIV from her husband who had slept with someone else while they were married. He then passed it onto her and she also became pregnant before she found out she was HIV positive. A few years later she started to feel sick and to get symptoms like sores in her mouth at which point her friends told her that they thought she should go to have a blood test. At the first she believed that she couldn't have HIV because she thought people only got HIV from having many sexual partners, which is not true. As she got weaker she then decided to quit her jobs and come to Camillian Centre with her daughter for treatment. She said that as she takes medicine every day and so she is getting better and is able to work again.



Now she is working for the Camillian Centre, she has forgiven her husband and is now happy. It is very important to learn about HIV/AIDS because everyday many people die because of AIDS and if you only make one mistake it is enough to get HIV and it will always be with you.

Meang, IB1

Star Wars the Musical Spoof

This year the secondary school will be putting on a musical entitled 'Star Wars the Musical Spoof'. The show is on the 2nd April and promises to be really fantastic! To help us make the show even better, donations for costumes and props would be hugely appreciated. Mrs Ransome can turn your most useless pieces of junk into Jedi furniture, your old pairs of jeans into a bounty hunter costume,

your plastics, paint and anything not needed can be magically transformed into props or costumes. To give you a basic idea of what we could use, think about Star Wars and the weird alien costumes and have a look at the list below. If you think you have something we could use please send it to either Mrs Ransome or Mr Campbell. We love your junk!

- *Clothing* that we can spray-paint, especially helmets, hats, gloves, goggles, old boots or trainers/sneakers, masks, weird-looking glasses, full jumpsuits (paint-ball style ones are great), coveralls, uniforms of any description would be a huge bonus- military-styled odds and ends like badges would also be great.
- Fabrics to be used for making clothes, headgear and props/ backdrops would also be very useful.
- Miscellaneous: netting, metallic string, string, wool, metallic or other buttons, sequins, beads, glitter, webbing or harness materials, wigs or hair pieces, your old Halloween masks- the list goes on...
- Cardboard, wood, plastic or rubber sheeting or even metal sheeting, paints, glues, face paints, make-up, fabric paints, dyes, enamel paints, sewing cotton and needles- staple guns, you name it- we need it.



If you have any of these items and can either donate them or lend them to us please contact me charlc@gardenrayong.com

Thanking you in advance,

Mr C Campbell



From The PE Department

The New Year has started smoothly and students across the school are busy practicing and refining their running, throwing and jumping skills in preparation for the House Athletics.

- Primary students will meet on the morning of Thursday 5th February
- Secondary students will meet on the morning of Friday 6th February

The competitions will start just after 8.00 am and will run until lunchtime. Please come along and support!

Sports News

ESAC Season 2 is underway and there has been a mixed start to the season.

U13 Soccer

Both boys and girls team competed bravely against The Regents School (TRS) and showed that they have the potential to develop. However both teams were beaten on their first outing.

U15 Basketball

Boys and girls were also in action against TRS.

The girls raced away to a half time lead and TRS fought back bravely but the team did enough to hang on for the win.

The boys opened their season competently and put some of their pre-season training to good use. It was a very close game with end to end action. The score was tied at full time and again after extra time so both GIS and TRS share the honours.

Senior Basketball

Senior teams traveled to Bangkok to play Triall for their season opener.

The boys started confidently in a high scoring opening first quarter but they were unable to maintain the intensity and Triall came out on top.

The girls traveled with a small squad which meant that all players saw lots of court time.

This was a difficult first game but all players worked really hard; Naz top scored with 18 points.

Regretfully we are unable to participate in the FOBISSEA games in Penang in March as we have not had sufficient numbers wishing to attend.