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# Garden International School Newsletter

*From the Principal*

16 March 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

I hope you are all well. Mr Abraham and I have just returned from the UK where we interviewed several candidates for positions in the school for the next school year. The trip was extremely successful and I have offered positions to an **excellent group of teachers**. There will be more about this in a future newsletter.

A couple of weeks ago we enjoyed a **terrific International Day** with excellent and entertaining performances by all sections of the school. There were also various activities during for the students during the day and of course great food at the pot luck supper. Many people greatly contributed to its success and it would be unfair to single out any one person –so I'll mention two! Mr and Mrs Sheills were involved in just about every performance both in the morning and the evening. I don't think we've ever seen the Hall as full as it was on Friday evening. Many thanks to all the support we received and a huge 'congratulations' to all the performers.

A few weeks back saw the launch of our **new website**. You can visit it at [www.gardenrayong.com](http://www.gardenrayong.com). We are continuing to work on it and give visitors thorough and essential information about the school.

There is no doubt that the most prestigious pre-university qualification that a student can attain is the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma**. This is a two year programme that opens doors to universities throughout the world. Many universities offer advance placement to students with a good diploma. The diploma is internationally recognised as a measure of rigorous academic quality. If a student is unlikely to leave Thailand then a good Thai university may be a sensible option, despite the educational benefits of the IB programme. However, if there is any possibility that the student might one day leave Thailand to work then I would strongly recommend considering the IB as a pathway to higher education.

If you would like more information about the International Baccalaureate as a route to higher education both worldwide and within Thailand, please contact Mr Fraser, our IB co-ordinator. Phone the school 038880360 or email him at [ianf@gardenrayong.com](mailto:ianf@gardenrayong.com). Several scholarships are available.

Be sure to **call in the library** in the next few weeks. You'll see a superb exhibition of "Alien Warrior Masks," by Year 8 Art and Design students and "Cubist Portrait Sculptures," by Year 9 Art and Design students.

**Our year 11 students** are working hard to for the final week of IGCSE coursework. Their work is sent to Cambridge in the UK. The first of the IGCSE final exams started recently with ESL Speaking tests soon followed by Art Exams, Spanish, German and Mandarin Speaking Tests and ICT Practical Tests. The main exam period for all other written exams starts on Monday 11 May. Good luck to the students, I do hope that they are able to achieve the levels of which they are capable.

In the meantime, have a great week until the well deserved Songkran break. I hope to see you on the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Secondary School Performance "Star Wars, the Musical Spoof".

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

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

These last two weeks have been extremely busy - even by Primary standards.

Three weeks ago we all had a trip; Years 5 and 6 went to Khao Yai and had a great time (photos?) and Years 1-4 went to the local YMCA and also had a fantastic time. Trips are so important for the children - they allow them to interact with each other in different ways and lead to better friendships. They also allow young people to gain more independence as well as 'test' themselves in the activities that we arrange for them. Trips are an integral part of Primary school and I want to thank the teachers who went as well as those who stayed to look after the children remaining at school. Khun Pia and Khun Noo did most of the work and deserve most of the praise. Last week Reception as well as Nursery enjoyed trips to Suppatrland, a local fruit and honey farm.

The International Day day and evening were spectacular and the memories of it will last a long while whether they are of the Birdie song (Reception E); the Korean Dance or any other particular highlight. Well done to all the children and teachers who brought out their best.

We are delighted that we have a squad entered for the 2009 FOBISSEA Primary games. I will tell you more about this in the future.

Regards,

**Mr Grisdale, Head of Primary**

***Don't forget, coming soon:  
'Star Wars, the musical spoof' is performed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm in the Hall.***

*From the PE Department...*

### **Sun Hats**

Just a reminder for all students, when you take part in PE lessons you are expected to be in your PE uniform, with appropriate footwear and you need to wear a hat.

## **Swim Squad**

Training is going well. We have 15 members of the team who train twice a week. The swimmers are busy preparing for the upcoming meets against ISE and at the Regents. There will be a full report from both meets in the next Newsletter.

## **U15 Basketball**

The season for both teams came to a close on Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> with a three-way tournament at Regents

The **boys** started tentatively in their first games against St Andrews and ended the first half trailing by 6 points. The second half saw an impressive turnaround with the by stepping up their defense, working hard under both baskets and by making their fast break work. They were able to turn the game around and deserved to win the game 33-17(W).

There were in action immediately following this win with their game against Regents. It was a hard game and again the team performed well under both baskets and dealt confidently with Regents full-court press. Regents eased away on the scoreboard during the last 3 minutes of the first half and hung on to maintain this advantage through to the end of the game 18-28(L).

The Boys were placed **second** overall.

I am very pleased with the way all players have performed this season both in training and in matches. The squad: Ooychai (Most Improved), James, Mark, Russell, Seon Woo, Thomas (Most Valuable), Nic and James H.

Coach: Julian Barnsley

The **girls** have a young squad; all of them played hard all season and made excellent progress ready for next year. They showed glimpses of how much they have learned this year at the Tournament.

The Girls were placed **third** overall.

Coach: Bob Edwards

## **Senior Girls Sports Tournament at The Regents School**

In February Miss Stanton and Miss Jones took a squad of 11 girls to The Regents School to participate in a Senior Tournament.

After a hard day of Basketball on the Saturday the girls were tired but remain enthusiastic, high spirited and ready to participate in the football tournament on the Sunday. The girls comfortably won their first game with Naz scoring the only goal of the game. However, with the girls' tiredness starting to show and the sun beating down on them, they were unable to perform at their best and drew their next game in the pool. They then went on to lose their next game against International Community School Bangkok, leaving GIS with one win, a draw and a loss in the knock out stages. With much anticipation we waited to find out if GIS had made the cup round, unfortunately we missed out on goal difference to Regents. But with great credit to the girls they kept fighting in hope to win the plate. They continued to smile on the pitch and worked hard, unfortunately on the day it just was not enough and the girls lost out on winning the plate. Nevertheless, the girls got to finish on a high and won their last game. It went to extra time and the girls won on penalties, with

everyone on the team succeeding in making the ball go into the back of the net and Daniela doing a fantastic job defending her goal.

Apart from the girls playing well both in the Basketball and Football, they conducted themselves well and made it a straightforward and enjoyable weekend. They are a credit to the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity and name Alice player of the match for the football tournament, Alice performed 100% every game and played hard for the team in every tackle she made.

Well done Girls. I look forward to next year's season.

Miss Stanton

The Squad: Nastassia Neufeld (Naz) IB, Tanya Sookmanus IB, Ji-Su Ahn IB, Alice Razon IB, Georgia Morris IB, Nicha Byers Yr 11, Grace Kijjaroenvisal Yr 10, Noot Kanjananon Yr 10, Daniela Escobar Yr 10, Vanessa Vanderpoel Yr 10 and Pim Bender Yr 8

### **Senior Girls Basketball**

The Senior Girls Basketball team had been waiting for their opportunity for a rematch against local rivals St Andrews since losing to them in the Semi Final of the Regents Tournament back in February. It had been a long break since the last game, and it showed as in the first half St Andrews took advantage of our being slightly 'off the pace'.

After a time out in the second half and a few encouraging words from captain Naz Neufeld the game pace picked up and we began to show what we were capable of. Hard work from Georgia and Matawee sparked a revival and with a few seconds left on the clock scores were tied at 16-16. It was time to test our new play (code named 'Tiger!') and with the ball out of bounds and a screen set by Naz and Georgia it left Tanya open to sink two points and win the game for the most exciting finish of the season so far.

We are coming to the end of the season with only two games left to play against ISE and are looking forward to them with much anticipation.