



Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

April 1, 2011

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

March was a busy month, wasn't it? We had the book week, a visiting author, a quiz night, the IB information evening, lots of exams, the arrival of Cat and Liz from the UK by bike, drama workshops, a drama festival, various language exams, trips, sporting events and, the Spring Concert.

I was really proud of our students recently in the way that they responded to the tragic events in Japan. See later for more information.

In the previous newsletter I gave advice on protecting our children from some of the dangers of the internet. In school we have software to block access to many sites but of course the WWW changes by the minute so none of us can guarantee 100% protection. This week I had a parent tell me his son had visited some inappropriate sites at home. The boy had first seen the sites in school. How? No, not through the school: it was on a friend's mobile phone. Many children now have internet capability on their mobile phones. From anywhere sites could be accessed and if in school it can be done without going through our network. Do you know what has been accessed on your child's mobile phone?

The week beginning April 25 we will have seven special visitors in school. They are the team sent by the Council of International Schools (CIS) for the accreditation visit. The staff have worked extremely hard for the past year in preparation for this visit. We all have our fingers crossed for a successful outcome!

Kind Regards,
Dave Moroney, BSc, PGCE, MA

GIS is registered with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in the UK.



department for
children, schools and families



GIS is accredited by the IB to deliver the IB Diploma Programme



GIS is a member of The International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT) and a member of the Federation of International schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA)



GIS is a Regular Member of the Council of International Schools



Up-coming events:

April

5: Songkran party and mufti day (Primary).

19: Back to school!

20: Primary Swimming Gala (new date)

May

3: Next PTA Meeting (7am, primary hall)



GIS students help Japan

Kind-hearted students responded magnificently to the natural disasters in Japan and raised 20,000 baht towards relief help.

The GIS Student Council held a lunchtime disco, Mufti day and cake sale to collect donations.

Viraj, from the student council, suggested the school should take action. On March 16, the student council held a bake sale that raised around 1,700 baht, and on March 17 the IB1 students and the student council helped to organise a lunchtime disco and sold French

crepes and Rafaiell's famous spring rolls during break and lunch time. It was also a free Mufti Day, where students could make a donation. In total we raised around 20,000 baht, which will go to help the victims in Japan. Well done to everyone for helping out.

News from Primary and Foundation

Book Week

A BIG thank you to all those who supported Book Week from March 14-19 - especially Ms Tara in the library and the Secondary English Department.

This is an annual theme week in which we focus intensively on books and the skills associated with the reading, writing, sharing and enacting of books.

On the Monday, Ian Billings our visiting author, inspired children with his ideas for creating story characters. Our dress-as-a-pirate day was great fun where we learnt to sing pirate songs, talk like a

pirate and listened to pirate stories. Our Mystery Reader and Reading Buddy sessions on the Wednesday saw all sectors of the school community share in the magic of books.

We all enjoyed the Spotlight Drama Festival Group bringing the Funny Bones book to life and soon after it was played in the Spotlight Festival at St Andrew's School.



Throughout the week foundation, primary and secondary classes were buddying up to share books and read to each other. In addition IB students displayed their story telling skills in the library. On the Thursday we finished with a successful Book Fair in the library. Happy reading!

Ms Claire

Make our mole-hill into a mountain!

We've started filling our Songkran boxes - so please donate something. The boxes are filled with donations for children at the Camillian Centre in Ban Chang, which cares for youngsters with HIV.

Every year at Songkran, GIS students also help make a 'rice mountain' and donate bags of rice to help the centre, so please give generously.



Garden's Aastha is a spelling sensation

Primary student Aastha Sawarkar took part in World Spelling Day - and came 24th in the entire world!

Aastha took part in the online games and began well, with a ranking of 72nd in the 4-7 years category. She then moved up to 68th, then 39th and eventually reached 24th position with an accuracy level of 99.15 per cent for the first 3 levels.

Her mother, Mrs Sawarkar, said: 'We enjoyed watching her making such efforts and there is something she said which I was surprised to hear - she said "I am not doing this for me, I want my school to be top". She never said such a thing before and to be frank we were proud of her and her statement bought a million smiles to our faces.'

Aastha said: 'I enjoyed doing the "World Spelling Day" and am looking forward to it next year, when I'm sure I can do much better and see my school in the top 10.'

Students played at home and at school against other students around the world in live spelling games. Each game lasted for 60 seconds and students could play up to 100 games, earning points for their personal tally.

More than 50,000 schools took part in this year's event, answering more than 52 million questions!

Among the trickier words Aastha, six, had to spell were 'scone, bled, snap' and 'grid'. Well done to GIS's spelling sensation Aastha, who is in Year 2 and has been at GIS since 2008. Her class teacher is Miss Lucy.

Special seminar on special needs

An expert on children with special needs visited Garden to pass on valuable advice and teaching tips.

Teachers from Years 5 to 9 came to school on Saturday, March 5 to listen to Edith Bulle talk about the inclusion of SEN students within the classroom.

Ms Bulle, who has an MA in Teaching Special Education, has worked for more than 30 years as a teacher and consultant for children with special needs in Germany, the USA and Australia.

Pedal power raises money - and awareness

Two friends have completed an epic bicycle journey from England to Thailand to help people living with HIV/AIDS.



Catherine Howett, whose sister is GIS primary teacher Miss Lucy, and her friend Liz Darley arrived in Ban Chang on March 20.

The pair began in London and then cycled more than 10,000km through Turkey, Iran, India, China, Vietnam and finally to Thailand.

The last leg of their journey was from the Camel pub to the Camillian Centre. The pair led off a procession of bikes and were followed by several children from the Camillian centre, teachers and

students from GIS and other well-wishers. At the Centre everyone was welcomed with performances and a disco.

There were two aims behind the ride. The first was to take part in a 'Voices' oral history project, that captured diverse opinions in one-minute video clips from people they met on their trip.

The second aim was to raise funds for The Camillian Social Centre in Rayong, which provides support to orphaned children and adults living with HIV/AIDS. Money will also go to help The Food Chain, which gives nutritional help to chronically ill people living with HIV/AIDS in London. In total, about 5,000 pounds has been raised so far.

While in Rayong, the pair visited GIS to talk about their trip and held a special assembly. For more on the ride, visit www.onelittlewheel.com.



Secondary News



Model Club (by Yew, Year 11 IGCSE ESL)

In the model club students are making their own models such as jet planes and robots. In this picture, James and Golf are making a robot in the activities lesson.

These students are able to solve problems, such as fixing the little pieces of the model together. This has taken a lot of concentration from each student but in the end they will finally make it.

IGCSE Examinations 2011

It's that time of year again!

Our year 11 students have started their final IGCSE examinations. So far students have sat their IGCSE English as a Second Language, Mandarin and Spanish Oral Tests as well as two ICT Practical Tests. Coming after the Songkran break will be the Art exam followed by all the main written exams throughout May and June.

As well as Year 11 this year we have our Year 10 Accelerated Maths Class taking their Maths IGCSE a year early. Wow! I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the best of luck in their exams!

Chris Stokes

IGCSE Exam Officer, Upper Secondary Co-ordinator

Parents learn more about IB



An information evening to promote the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme was a huge success.

More than 40 parents and students came to Garden International School (GIS) in Rayong on March 8 to hear about the school's successes with IB.

GIS had a 100 per cent pass rate in 2010 with all 14 students gaining the full IB diploma.

Mr Ian Fraser, IB Coordinator, told parents that GIS has been running the IB exams since 1997 and has achieved a 91 per cent pass rate, far higher than the global average.

He added: "We have great IB teachers who are passionate and really want the students to do well."

Since 1997, GIS has had more than 50 successful graduates who have carried the GIS flag as international students at many prestigious universities worldwide.

The Diploma Programme is an academically challenging two-year course but the rewards are worth the effort. Students gain an international perspective to their studies, learn to think critically, are able to question all forms of knowledge with Theory of Knowledge lessons and, at the end of two years, are able to open doors to some of the world's finest universities with an IB Diploma. A recent UK survey of 51 universities found that IB was considered the best preparation for further education, employment and work overseas.



As well as academic work, students have to also undertake community work as part of IB.

After the presentation, parents were able to talk to subject teachers while current IB students displayed some of their work.

Garden teachers have their say
To help mark World Poetry Day

English teachers helped celebrate World Poetry Day on Monday March 21. They selected some of their favourite verses, which included everything from Spike Milligan and Roger McGough to Dylan Thomas and Keates, and then went into other classes to read out their poems.

We've cracked it - IB students' *egg-cellent* ideas!

The IB1 Business & Management class has been studying motivation. The motivational impact of employees working in teams has very strong support from a number of motivational theorists. To help prove or disprove these theories they took **The Great Egg Drop**.



The class split into 3 teams, their aim being to produce packaging that would protect an egg should it fall from the top shelf in a supermarket. They were allowed to use 12 straws, a small amount of tape, a piece of A4 paper and a small amount of toilet roll! Bonus marks were available for producing a 30-second advertising jingle to advertise the product.

The '*Egging*' team's egg cracked at the first attempt, a height of around 2.5 meters. '*Humpty Dumpty*''s egg finally broke after being dropped from the second floor. Amazingly the winner, '*Legendary*' lived up to its name by surviving a fall from the top floor.

All the groups demonstrated excellent teamwork skills, while there were some truly creative advertising jingles!

D Yarwood

Teacher of Business Studies

Music



Students went to the FOBISSEA Choral Festival 2011, which was hosted by Bangkok Patana School. In Year 10, Nan, Fang, Lisa, Melissa and Hyo Jung went, while from IB, Christina, Hyo Mi and Grace attended.

They took part with many other students from across the FOBISSEA network, and performed in a free gala concert on March 12.

Paul Shiells

Student council

Primary News

Students had a fantastic Leprechaun hunt on March 15, where they all ran looking high and low for chocolate coins. The winner had to find a hidden picture of a Leprechaun, and eventually John (5S) found it and won a blue Yoyo from Toys'R'us. Students said they would like to have another treasure hunt again, and John was very happy with his prize! Why a Leprechaun? - because it was St Patrick's Day on March 17!

Primary is also having a competition, where years 3-6 write a poem based on 'Spring'.

Secondary News

We secondary students like to dress up in costumes and as there was



a book week in primary, the student council decided to organize a day where students could dress as their favourite book characters. So on March 16 many students participated from years 7-11. The best-dressed student from years 8-11 was rewarded by being able to read a book to primary students. I myself dressed up as Little Red Riding Hood and my Secretary (Noot IB1) dressed up as Minnie Mouse.



It was Coconut Ice-Cream Day on March 24. Secondary and Primary students enjoyed dozens of cones at 10B per scoop.

On March 29, a slave auction was held, and the students who buy slaves received their slaves on April 1. And finally, we held a hugely popular badminton tournament - pictured left are the winners!

Daniela Escobar, Student Council President.

Chocolate - an article by Nuk (Year 11 IGCSE ESL)



Get that yummy chocolate right.

Nowadays, many chocolates are getting more popular such as milk chocolate, dark chocolate and green tea chocolate. these chocolates have different tastes and different aromas that can attract the consumers attention and appetite.

I've tasted some lovely dark chocolate and it was really yummy. I

love it so much, when I took the first bite I could feel the melted chocolate in the middle of it. So I tasted more.

Another kind of chocolate was given to us by our teacher. It was 'Lindt'. It looked brown but when I had a bite I noticed the the inner chocolate was white and soft. I love this chocolate.

Consumers should be careful when eating chocolate because eating too many sweets and chocolates is harmful to our health. We should know the ingredients and the amount of sugar used in a certain kind of chocolate before we eat it.

Sports News



The GIS Gladiators juggernaut rolls on...

On Sunday A younger Gladiators team, brimming with youthful exuberance, took on the PCC Thoroughbreds at Horseshoe Point in a 21-over duel to the finish. Although the Thoroughbreds got off to a cracking start, GIS managed to bottleneck their run-rate after the break. By the 11th over they had amassed a total of 75 runs - largely due to their two openers who found the boundary on a number of occasions. Once their

openers had to retire (players need to retire on 30 runs) we were able to stem the hemorrhaging of the first session.

The second session saw GIS claw their way back by restricting the opposition to 125 after 21 overs. With 126 to win, getting there was never going to be easy. Our openers, Pavit and Viraj, got off to a flyer and on 80 for 1 we were coasting to a good victory with some overs to spare. The middle overs saw a slight collapse with young Martin Turner and Abhishek struggling to get going. The game went down to the wire with 12 needed off 2 overs.

Just when it seemed the Gladiators might fall short, the ball found the outside edge of young Yesh Raj's bat twice in consecutive balls and went for 4. The end result: a great victory for the Gladiators and some great debuts for Vishal and Pratiman.

Football

After three years of coaching football teams at Garden, I've never been involved with a team who has beaten Regents, that is until now!

A hard fought 2-1 victory against Regents was richly deserved. Well done to our Under-15 stars Albin, Rohit, David, Teng, Chris, Sony, Rain, Harry, Kain and 'Captain Marvel' Luqman who covered every blade of grass.

Mr Yarwood

GIS 9 ISE 0

On March 3, the GIS Under-15 team took on ISE in a home game. GIS kicked off and within two minutes were a goal up thanks to a deflected goal from captain Luqman. A few moments later Luqman found the net again, this time from a GIS corner. The third goal came from Rain, brilliantly finding the net to make it 3-0. Chris and Kenny both grabbed a goal each to make it 5-0 at half time.

After half-time Chris and Luqman continued to conjure up some lovely moves taking it in turns to score the second-half goals, all with help from a dominant defence and strong midfield. A great match and a great result where GIS simply outplayed ISE.

Team: Albin, Rohit, Frank, Luqman, Rain, Chris, Eddy, David, John, Teng, Sony, Harry, Kenny

By Luqman & Rohit

Storm Lose Regular Season Finale Against Regents

The Storm headed into the season-ending ESAC Tournament this coming Saturday April 2 on a losing note.

Unable to overcome poor shooting, player illness and a short bench, GIS lost their final regular season game 33-28 to Regents. Playing with just six players for the second consecutive game, the Storm give a valiant effort.

Trailing 14-13 at halftime, GIS would take a 26-23 lead after playing a strong third quarter. However, Regents would outscore GIS 10-2 in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Battling a stomach virus, Nic fought through it to lead the Storm with 15 points on 6-of-16 shooting. Unfortunately, he would foul out of the game with five minutes remaining.

Thomas scored seven points, while Air came off the bench to add three points. Martin chipped in with two points and Mark scored one point while going 0-for-5 from the field.

Notes: The Storm shot just 46% (6-13) from the free throw line. ...Thomas fouled out of the game and GIS had to play with four players for the remaining 30 seconds. **DL**

Neufeld, Hemi, Cercleron Spark Storm To 51-47 Win Over Ban Chang Thai School

Nic Neufeld, Mark Hemi and Thomas Cercleron each scored in double figures to lead the Storm to a hard fought 51-47 win over Ban Chang Thai School.

Playing with just six players, the Storm raced to a 13-point halftime lead and then hung on for the four-point victory.



Behind Nook's 3-point shooting, Ban Chang would outscore GIS 20-8 in the third quarter and cut their lead to just 36-35 with eight minutes to play. However, Ban Chang couldn't pull any closer as GIS made some clutch baskets down the stretch to seal the win.

Nic's 21 points, on 10-of-20 shooting, would once again lead GIS.

Mark would shoot 6-for-9 from the field and add 13 points, Thomas would score 10 points, six coming in the crucial fourth quarter, while Ben and Martin would chip in with four and three points, respectively.

Nook from Ban Chang would lead all scorers with 26 points, including five 3-pointers. Earth scored 13 points and James had eight to round out the scoring.

Notes: The Storm extended their home-winning streak to nine games with the victory. ...GIS is now one win away from breaking the team record of 12 wins in one season. ...GIS would shoot 48% from the field. ...Max, playing for Ban Chang, works in the MIS Dept. at GIS.

DL

Neufeld, Cercleron Lead Storm Past Regents 34-31



Remember.....it's never over until it's over.

The Storm seemed to forget that on Tuesday afternoon as they built themselves a double digit lead halfway through the fourth quarter and then had to hold on for a 34-31 victory over Regents.

GIS looked to be cruising along as they led Regents 32-18 with about 4 1/2 minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

However, Regents went on a 10-2 run to cut the Storm's lead to six points with just under one minute to play.

With Nic on the bench with five fouls, GIS toughened up their defence down the stretch to preserve the win. Regents would hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to close out the scoring.

GIS was led by Nic's game high 15 points as all five starters would score in the game.

Thomas added six points, which included a key basket late in the game, Mark would score five points while Lee and Ben chipped in four points each.

Notes: The Storm have an 8-0 record at home dating back to Feb. 14, 2009. ...Thomas Cercleron's six points put him over 100 points for his career. ...Nic Neufeld has now scored at least one point in 37 consecutive games, putting him ahead of Stian Jonsgard for first place overall. ...Ben Mayley received the Storm's first technical foul of the season.

For more Storm sports information, please go to: www.gisrstormsports.com

Sports Fixtures 3rd Season 2011

Primary School

April 26 th	Track and Field Meet at Regents, Pattaya	
May 3 rd	Swim Meet at Garden Int School	3.30pm Start
May 14 th	Swim, T-Ball and Football at Regents, Pattaya	
May 18 th	Football at Garden Int School	1.30pm Start
May 23 rd	T-Ball at St. Andrews	
May 28 th	Track and Field Meet at Regents, Pattaya	
June 6 th	T-Ball at St. Andrews	

Secondary School

May 26 th	Tennis at Eastern Star Courts, hosted by Garden Int School
May 30 th	Badminton at Regents, Pattaya

Softball

May 19 th	GIS vs Regents at Regents, Pattaya
May 24 th	GIS vs REPS v's ISE at Garden Int School
June 6 th	GIS vs Regents at GIS
June 9 th	GIS vs REPS at Garden Int School

Biathlon

Swim and Run	
June 7 th	Yr 5,6. Yr 7,8,9. Open at Regents, Pattaya

HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOL THE BEST IT CAN BE
News from the volunteers of the P.T.A. (Parent Teachers Association)

Parents should not dose up children who have a simple fever on regular spoonfuls of paracetamol and ibuprofen, according to doctors who say that doing so could put the youngsters at risk.

A high temperature is usually the body's way of fighting an infection, according to advice issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics, so to bring it down could actually lengthen the time a child suffers.

Aspirin should not be given to a child or teenager who has a fever, especially if the child also has flu symptoms or chicken pox. Aspirin can cause a serious and sometimes **fatal** condition called Reye's syndrome in children. More information can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8350422/Fever-medicines-given-to-children-too-readily.html>

- The next PTA meeting is on May 3 at 7pm in the primary hall.

Get in touch!

If you have any articles for the newsletter, please send them to markb@gardenrayong.com before the end of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.