

# Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

August 25, 2011

## From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

Firstly, may I welcome back you of all and of course offer a special welcome to the families that have joined us this term. I am sure that you will be pleased with the quality of all-round education that the students receive at GIS. We have several great new teachers with us this year and later in this newsletter you can read a little about them.

Congratulations on their results to all our students who took International Baccalaureate Diploma and IGCSE exams in 2011. Our exam results continue to be a credit to the students and their teachers.

I was delighted to see the smart appearance of the students across the school in the first few days. Please continue to encourage your children to be proud of their appearance as they represent the school in uniform.

If you do not want your child's photograph shown in the newsletter or any other publication, please inform me in writing – the easiest way is [gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com](mailto:gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com).

Finally I wish you all, students, families and friends of GIS, a great year.

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)

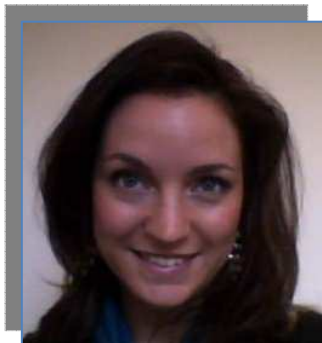


GIS is a Regular Member of the Council of International Schools



## *Say Hello to Our New Teachers*

**Miss Katie Austin** is a dedicated and enthusiastic History teacher who spent her formative years living in Cyprus. She has taught in England for eight happy years, having spent the last four on the South coast. She has had the privilege of travelling the world extensively and has recently returned from taking 30 students to Uganda where they helped build a maternity ward as well as many educational development projects. She is experienced in many outdoor pursuits and particularly enjoys scuba diving, mountain biking and most water sports. Katie thoroughly enjoys the cultural stimulation of theatre, film, books and live music. She is looking forward to making a positive contribution and being an active team member in the Garden International School community. Katie is teaching History in Secondary.



**Stephen Baker** and his family are joining us from the UK. He is married to Nicola and has a son Charlie, who will be starting in Year 7. Whilst Stephen is now a Teacher of English in Secondary, he has also taught Philosophy, Media Studies and Citizenship. He has been in the teaching profession for six years and although most of his time has been spent teaching in England, he also spent a year teaching on the island of Koh Samui. Stephen and his wife first came to Thailand eight years ago and after 'falling in love' with the country, they have been back every year since! Stephen really enjoys playing all sports, although when pushed for an answer, he says that football is his favourite. He is looking forward to meeting all the staff and students at GIS.



**Brian Cullen** has been teaching science in the southeast London / Kent areas of the UK for 16 years. He studied Biological sciences at the University of Reading, specialising in Zoology with a special interest in marine biology.



Before teaching, he worked for British Telecom as an electrical and electronic technician. After working on a marine conservation project last summer, based on the island of Koh Tao, Brian decided that he would like to move to Thailand to further his teaching experience and to give him more opportunities to pursue his own loves of scuba diving and conservation work. Brian teaches Biology in Secondary.



**Laurence Dombeg** is a French citizen and mother of two daughters, who has lived in Thailand for almost five years. She completed her first degree (Master's of International Trade Manager) in France and the USA. She then spent several years working for an air taxi company which specialised in ambulance flights, before making the career switch to becoming a teacher. Laurence then completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from England. Most recently, she has spent the last four years working at St Andrews International School, Green Valley, taking on a myriad of teaching positions including Y3, Y4 and English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Aside from teaching, Laurence practises yoga and enjoys painting. She also loves to read and travel. Laurence teaches in Primary.



**Phil Orbell-Durrant**

Phil was born in Oxford, UK, a very long time ago. He has taught Mathematics and Science in UK, Portugal, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Colombia and Thailand.

He likes good food and cooking. Phil returns to us after a year in Australia, and has taken on the position of Head of Mathematics.



**Rhys William Tyers** is a 38 year old teacher from Melbourne, Australia. He has been teaching for 12 years and has worked in Australia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Most recently he was employed at Mahidol University International College (MUIC) where he taught academic reading and writing, literature, and creative writing. Rhys has spent most of his teaching career in Bangkok working at international schools and international universities. He completed a Master of Education in 2006. In his spare time Rhys likes to read, swim, and play music. He has always wanted the opportunity to live

near the sea, so he is very much looking forward to working at Garden International School. Finally, he is married and has two sons: Henry and Martin. Rhys is teaching EAL in Secondary.



**Bernice Melhado** has worked as a teacher in the UK, but wanted to experience a new culture and country so decided to move to Thailand.

Despite having never visited Thailand before, she is looking forward to this big adventure and gaining many new happy memories. She has traveled here with her new husband John. Bernice teaches Business Studies in Secondary.

**A big welcome to all of these teachers. We expect that they will settle down quickly and be great assets to the school.**

## **Visit by the Council of International Schools.**

You may remember we had a visit from a team from the Council of International Schools (CIS) last term. Before giving us full accreditation they have asked us to work further in particular on a couple of areas.

One area is curriculum, where we are already making great strides forward. The other is in the area of school governance. Last year we set up an advisory body, the School Executive Board (SEB). This was an important first step in the development of the school. School governors work in partnership with the school to make sure the school provides a good quality education. The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school but school governors work with the Principal to set the school's strategic aims and policies.

If you would like more information on the role of the SEB please contact Mr Moroney [gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com](mailto:gisprincipal@gardenrayong.com). We have one parent governor but would welcome another or a community governor (a person without children in the school) to join the SEB. At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our Parent-Teacher Association I will expand on the report from CIS. The AGM is scheduled for the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> September, and I will send you more details nearer the time.

### **AGM Date**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our Parent-Teacher Association is scheduled for the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> September. More details will be sent nearer the time.

### **Thanks for the books!**

Many thanks to Mr Stuebing, Alex's father, for the generous donation of books for the school library. We do welcome donations of suitable books, in particular we look for children's books for all ages or fiction that staff and parents may be interested in.

## **News from Primary and Foundation**

Welcome back. I hope that your holidays were relaxing, interesting and educational. I hope that you await the new academic year with as much eager anticipation as we do. I have a feeling that 2011-2012 will be a very good year for Garden International School (GIS) and all those associated with it. I would especially like to welcome new children and their families to GIS. We have 18 new children in Primary and 12 new children in Foundation. I hope that you are happy at GIS, please come and see me if there is any way I can assist you in settling into the GIS community.

### **Staffing**

We only have one new member of staff this year – Ms Laurence – who is joining us from St Andrew's. Ms. Laurence is teaching Year 3 and we wish her and her family a very happy time here at Garden.

The list below indicates the teachers we have allocated for each year group in Primary and Foundation for this coming academic year.

### **Foundation**

Class in 2010-2011	Teacher	Teaching assistant (s)
Early Years Yellow Room	Mr. Kamrul	Khun Tim, Khun Su
Nursery Blue Room	Ms. Aren	Ms. Russel, Khun Boy
Reception Green Room	Ms. Jane	Ms. Manisha, Khun Poi

### **Primary**

Class in 2010-2011	Teacher	Teaching assistant (s)
Year 1L	Ms. Lucy L	Khun Nic, Khun Ruth
Year 2L	Ms. Lucy H	Khun Pom, Khun Ruth
Year 3L	Ms. Laurence	Ms. Siew Har
Year 3T	Ms. Tiina	
Year 4C	Ms. Claire	Khun Pia
Year 4E	Ms. Erica	
Year 5M	Mr. Miller	Ms. Aenny
Year 5S	Mr. Siv	
Year 6J	Ms. Jenn B	
Year 6W	Mr. Watkins	

### **Communicating with school**

If you want to communicate with your child's teacher about something that happened at home or at school or clarify a point, please use the communication book that each child has. In the book are all sorts of important details that will make your child's and your life, as regards the school, easier to keep track of. Your child's teacher will also use this book to communicate with you.

In the communication book are details of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and how to contact them if you wish to do so. I know that the PTA is always looking for new, active, members – so please don't hesitate to contact them. It is also a great way to meet new, like-minded people. The communication books will be out before the end of this week.

## **Improvements**

There have been a number of improvements made to the physical layout of GIS over the holiday. The lower floor of Primary has been completely painted and the roof has been replaced. We also have new exits to the playground directly from the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms; this will greatly enhance the learning opportunities offered in those years. Many more additional improvements are planned this year, including modernizing all the toilets and improving the playgrounds.

Last year a group of parents raised the point that they felt we needed another swing set in Foundation. With this in mind we ran a 'second-hand sale' at the end of the third term last year and raised 7,500 Baht. We added an extra 7,000 Baht to this and have bought an additional swing set that should be installed in the next few weeks. Thank you to all the parents that got involved in this project.

## **General Reminders**

### **Pencil Cases**

This year we are introducing the fact that all children from Year 3 onwards need to provide their own pencil cases. We are doing this for two reasons:

- It teaches the children responsibility and awareness of personal possessions.
- School money is better spent on materials which will further enhance your child's learning. We spend a lot of money on consumables and would rather spend it on academic resources.

We suggest that the pencil case has: - writing pencils; a rubber; a sharpener; a ruler and a glue stick. Additional items could include coloured pencils and an ink pen in Years 5 and 6.

### **Sunhats and Uniform**

Thank you all for buying the new school uniform, we look so much smarter. Please do not forget to label them as I know they cost a lot of money and it would be a shame to lose them. Please remember that black shoes are the correct colour. Please also ensure your child brings a labeled sunhat to school for outdoor play. Please make sure you know when your child has PE and Swimming and help them to take the right clothes to school for those lessons.

If your child needs to miss PE and swimming, please have a Doctor's note explaining the reason why. A note from the parent might not be considered sufficient and your child might be required to do the lesson.

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### **School Lunches**

In Foundation the children will continue to eat with their teachers and teaching assistants. Please continue to fill in the menu which is available at the front office and remember to top up the canteen cards. This year we have extended this communal eating to include Years 1 and 2 who will be eating together in their new playground. Please help us make this a success by selecting from the menu and by topping up your child's card.

In Years 3 to 6 we will be eating in the canteen as usual. Please remember to top up your child's card so that they can afford lunches. It is a good idea to label your child's card so that if it gets lost it can be easily returned.

### **Class letters and Math's Targets**

Your child should bring home a class letter explaining about the class expectations. In Years 1 to 6 they should also bring home a set of Math's Targets which outline the course they will be following and its expectations.

On September 1 we will be holding an evening where parents can meet the teacher of their child and ask any question regarding the education of your child. The evening will start by a speech, given by myself, about GIS and the education that we offer.

This will be followed by the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher in their classroom where the teacher will explain how the class works and you can ask any questions. The evening starts at 7pm in the Primary Hall. We hope to see you there.

If you wish to contact me with any questions or comments – my e-mail address is: [robertg@gardenrayong.com](mailto:robertg@gardenrayong.com).

Welcome back once more.

**Rob Grisdale**

Head of Primary and Foundation

Information on absences

**If your son or daughter is off school for any reason, please have them bring a note from you on their return. The communication book / diary can be used.**

### **Car park safety**

For the safety of our children, at the end of the day please ask your driver to park up in the front car park and come and collect them. Young children are especially vulnerable wandering unattended around the car park as they often cannot be seen by drivers reversing.

## ***News from Secondary***

### **IGCSE Stars at GIS**

Garden International School (GIS) is celebrating after another batch of successful IGCSE results.

Seeing as GIS is a non-selective school which accepts students of all abilities and nationalities (over 30 at present), most with English as a second language, this high score reveals a high value-added element invested by the teachers.

This year's GIS figures revealed that nearly 80% of students achieved an A\*-C grade. In 2010, the pass rate in the UK between grades A\*-C was 69%.

Star students included Mehar Satya Shirin Chappidi and Heta Shah, who were both awarded 7 A\*s and 1 A grade. Parth Shah gained 6 A\*s and 2 As while Ben Bartlett was awarded an impressive 7A\*s among his passes. Let's not forget also the many students that, through their hard work and their teachers' dedication, got excellent results, well above their expectations. Every one of our accelerated maths class (year 10 students taking their IGCSE a year early) passed. Some of the students have stayed with us at GIS to study the prestigious IB Diploma. This qualification opens doors to universities around the world.

IGCSE Coordinator Chris Stokes said: "These are brilliant results. This is a testament to the students' hard work and also to the teachers who have helped everyone achieve such great grades. We are now looking forward to equally good grades for next year."

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### **Open Office Reminder**

In an earlier newsletter, we mentioned the software used at school. It is beneficial for students to use the same software both in school and at home as it allows them to become more familiar with the suite that aids learning.

Therefore I would like to remind everyone that we use Open Office, which is open source and therefore free. It can be downloaded at <http://www.openoffice.org/>

B Liversidge

## Making Merits



Congratulations to Han Yang Lin (left) for winning The Lone Wolf award.

Also congratulations to 7S (below) for being the form group to obtain the most merits throughout the of the academic year 2010-11. They will find the photographs in this newsletter framed on the library wall immortalising their success to the oncoming generations.



Congratulations to Hyo Kyung Chi (Sarah, right) for winning the Peter Brown Award. This trophy is given to the student in year 9 who obtains the highest academic marks in year 9, for that academic year.



## International Clean Up Day

Living in Rayong or Chonburi provinces we have fantastic beaches and clean seas on our doorstep, cheap and fresh seafood and the opportunity to participate in watersports easily. However this natural resource needs to be monitored and at times needs a little help from us to keep clean and healthy. GIS has a good reputation within the local area and further afield as a school that cares and likes to help improve the community participating in a number of different events.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September is international clean up day in Pattaya and GIS are hoping to take a team along to help make it a success. Mermaids Dive Centre in, the dive shop used by GIS for our upcoming scuba diving club, have this to say: "Come along as a diver, snorkeler or even a passenger to lend moral support and to make your difference to our local environment. You don't have to be in the water to make it count."

The day is open to all, with the more people that attend the greater benefit to the local environment. If you are interested in attending then please contact [BenI@gardenrayong.com](mailto:BenI@gardenrayong.com) for more information or visit: <http://www.mermaidsdivecenter.com/1287>. Please ensure all bookings through GIS or via the website are completed by Saturday September 3. If booking through the website please ensure you mention GIS in the group box so we can try to keep our group together. See you on September 17.

B Liversidge

## Mamma Mia...here we go again!



Rehearsals are underway for the next GIS secondary school production, which will be Mamma Mia.

This is the story of a bride-to-be trying to find her real father, told using hit songs by the popular '70s group ABBA. We want to make this production bigger and better than last year so we are calling on you to help.

'My my, how can I resist you?' I hear you all saying. Well there are a number of ways to get involved, such as donating some of your

time to help our cast and crew prepare for the show whilst you are also 'smiling, having fun'.

Perhaps you have expertise with lighting boards to give the show that professional touch, or can be a choreographer? If so, please get in touch. There are a whole range of jobs that need doing from set design to wardrobe creation that may not get you the limelight but make you part of the team

Perhaps you are busy and can't give up your free time but you still want to help out. In that case think about 'money, money, money - all the things we could do if we had a little money'. There are three different levels of sponsorship for the show: bronze, silver and gold. Each level of sponsorship brings added benefits for you, if you choose to promote your business or product to the audience that will come to watch the multi-night performances.

Sponsorship can help us pay for a number of things, such as paints and materials for the set design, the clothing used in the wardrobe, covering the costs of our tickets and programmes and much much more.



The show is scheduled for the end of November but there is a lot of work to do before then and we can only achieve success with your help. If you feel you can help out please contact [bonnie@gardenrayong.com](mailto:bonnie@gardenrayong.com) or [benl@gardenayong.com](mailto:benl@gardenayong.com) and we can provide you with more details. Alternatively call 038 880 360-3 or 08 1859 6460.

Helping out can leave you 'feeling like a number one' as you know you will have made a difference.

B Liversidge



## **Garden International School, Thailand**

### Vision:

To be internationally recognised as a leading provider of quality student-centred international education.

### Mission:

Garden International School is committed to:

- Providing a safe, positive and enjoyable learning environment using a British educational framework.
- Encouraging all students to develop to their full potential.
- Responding to the differing needs of individuals.
- Promoting qualities of leadership, responsibility, critical thinking, international mindedness and respect.
- Providing an environment that aims for the highest educational standards in life-long learners.

***We have translated our mission statement*** into a set of learning outcomes:

Students at GIS will

- Enjoy learning in school and beyond.
- Develop to their full potential in all areas.
- Be confident people able to take leadership roles.
- Take responsibility for their actions and the environment.
- Apply critical thinking skills.
- Develop knowledge and understanding across a wide range.
- Be open-minded to the values and traditions of all cultures.
- Be respectful of others.
- Study in an environment promoting high academic standards.

**If you have any articles or reports for the newsletter, please send them to [markb@gardenrayong.com](mailto:markb@gardenrayong.com). Many thanks.**