



Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

May 31, 2011

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

It may be near the end of term but we have a busy final few weeks to look forward to as you'll see from the up-coming events page later.

The Secondary school students 'enjoyed' five days of tests last week. You probably know that at GIS we don't use the tests to define a student's grade. Teachers use them as part of a range of assessment tools used to help inform the students, teachers and parents. All secondary grades are based on set criteria that say what the student can do. Most of these criteria are published on our website. It is the turn of Primary students to sit their tests this week.

Thank you for respecting the tightened procedures for picking up the children at the end of the day. We now believe that the car park is a safer environment for the students. Please always drive very slowly on the school campus.

There will be another, final, newsletter of the year before the end of term (24th June, at 1200). Until then,

**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:

June

Primary

May 30-June 3 - test week

May 31-June 4 -FOBISSEA event in Bangkok

6 – 6H Assembly

6 – T-Ball at St Andrew's

7 – Biathlon (running and swimming) event at the Regents

8 - Musician of the Year (starts 6.30pm, whole school)

13 – GIS Primary Has Talent Finals

14/15 – Year 3 and 4 at Khao Kheaw Zoo on a residential trip

17 – House Chairball

19 - Car boot sale (8am-12pm)

20 – Award Winners' Assembly

21 – End of Year Reports go home

22 – Primary Music Concert (1.30pm-3pm)

23 – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Secondary

May 31-June 1 - IB Group 4 (Science/DT) project

8 - Band-Slam (1pm), Musician of the Year (starts 6.30pm)

10 - Year 6 Induction Day

11 - IGCSE Graduation Evening, Hilton Hotel, Pattaya

16 - Science: Fact or Fiction? Interdisciplinary day

17 - Reports issued

18 - Parents Evening (6pm-8pm)

Whole School

24 – End of Year Assembly– school finishes at 12 noon.

* ***School starts again on August 23, 2011.***

Take the plunge with a Cross Bay Swim

The Cross Bay Swim will be held on Sunday November 27, providing weather conditions are good.

The day will include a traditional Cross-Bay Swim (CBS) of 3.5 km starting at 9am and ending around two hours later. For safety reasons entries will be limited to international schools and a small number of independent competent swimmers. Up to 30 swimmers are expected to take the plunge for the CBS.

There will also be a family short swim of 1.1 kms, starting at noon. This should last 45 minutes and involve about 60 swimmers.

In addition, a New International Vector-type Course will be held for those who want a challenge but do not wish to swim across the bay This 2 km event will start at 1.30pm and take around two hours.

The Sea Rescue Service will be further enhanced for both open sea Swims. Organisers will provide towels, water and a full buffet lunch to all swimmers.

For more information contact Mr Liversidge.

Book Fair - Something for the holiday?

Foyles will be holding the last book fair of the year on Wednesday 8-Thursdady 9 June in the library. There will be a wide choice of books with something for everyone so make sure you pop in and have a browse.

Please support the fair and stock up on books for your long holiday.

News from Primary and Foundation

Primary Swimming Gala



On Friday May 20, the entire student body of the Primary section at GIS came to school armed with their swimming gear, smelling of sun cream and full of competitive spirit to take part in our annual "House Swimming Gala."

The big event included a variety of races for our children, with ability-appropriate events like the 25-metre kick board race and lifejacket relay for our beginning swimmers and Reception children.

The events were tailored according to ability all the way up to our strongest swimmers in Year 6, with competitions in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and 25-metre four man team relays for our older, more proficient, boys and girls.

The swimming gala was very close and was decided by the results of the last race of the day. The top house was Cobra, which came top in the Years 3-6 section with 40 points, giving Cobra a total of 46. Second overall was Eagle, third was Gecko and in fourth place was Tiger, though Tiger did come top for the Reception and Years 1 and 2 gala.



I would like to thank the PE department and in particular Ms Patsy for putting together such a fun day. I would also very much like to thank all the parents who came to support their children – it made the day even more special.

FOBISSEA

The Swimming Gala was followed by a sponsored swim where 13 children (and Tatchan in Year 4) swam for two hours to raise money for their FOBISSEA uniforms.

Jakki swam the farthest - an incredible 122 lengths, or just over 3 kilometers, and all of the children swam more than 100 lengths (over 2.5 kilometers). Well done to all of you for your swimming and to Mr Edwards and Ms Patsy for all their hard work putting the fundraiser together. Our FOBISSEA event is being held in Bangkok and the team will be representing GIS from May 31- June 4. We wish the team and accompanying teachers all the best of luck and we will report on their success in the next newsletter.

Mr Thomas Grogan

Test week

From the 30th of May to the 3rd of June we are having 'Test' week in Primary. These tests allow us to monitor the progress made by the children over the year. We do not want children to get stressed over these tests as they are an internal assessment tool for our teaching purposes.



New things in Primary

The next time you are in the Primary building, please have a look at the lovely work done by the Year 6 DT class. They have made CD racks and these are displayed on the stairwell.

In addition, stop to admire the work done by the painting club in transforming our top playground (pictured left). The children, led by Ms Lucy, designed and later painted these new games for all to enjoy.

Talent Show

The final of this incredible competition will be held on June 13 from 2.10pm to 3.10pm. Well done to all the performers who made it through. These are the final six contestants:

Peter - Year 1 - piano
Sonal – Year 6 - dance
Suyash –Year 5 - jokes
Swamini – Year 2 - presentation
Seren – Year 6 - music and singing
Aastha – Year 2 - dance

They have to prepare a new 'act' in the same genre for the final. All six will win a prize and a certificate. It would be lovely to see parents there so please come and support us, even if your child did not make the final.

Car Boot Sale – June 19

A car boot sale will be held in the primary building and on the primary covered area on June 19 from 8am to 12pm. Entry is 50 baht but to run a stall is free - and you keep all the money you make.

Anybody interested in having a stall, please contact Rob Grisdale at robertg@gardenrayong.com

We will be running a Primary and Foundation second-hand stall so if anybody has things at home they wish to donate please send them to Rob Grisdale.

Star Students for May

The Star Students for Primary in May all did some amazing work. The students were Thomas (1T), Thanusha (2L), Shasha (3T), Erik (3K), Tatchan (4C), Miheer (4J), Hafiz (5M), Stefanie (5S), Katrina (Ms Horwell), Hariz (PE), Ridi (swimming), Hemakshi (music), Jessica Year 3 (Mandarin), Mary (Thai language), Hansika (Thai culture), Pao Pao (EAL), Screen and Gee Gee (DT).

Well done to all those children. Next month we have Star of the Month as well as Star of the Year.

News from Secondary

Get ready to rock!

There are two major musical events coming up at GIS.

On Wednesday June 8 everyone should head to the secondary hall at 12.50pm for our Band-Slam competition. Parents are welcome to come along too, and listen to some great songs from 10 different rock bands, ranging in age from Year 6 up to IB. The first band will start at 1pm, and the event will last around an hour. After the event secondary students will register in their form rooms before going to period 8 lessons. At registration they can also vote for their favourite band.

In the evening of June 8 from 6.30pm, GIS will present our Musician of the Year event. This is a competition for soloists, and we are looking forward to some wonderful performances. Last year's winner (Joey) has now left GIS so the competition is wide open! Although the main competition is for solo performers, we will also be treated to performances from the choir and the orchestra, plus the winning band from the afternoon's Band Slam event. Please come along to support the students!

Year 9 IGCSE Options Evening

We were happy to see so many of our Year Nine students and their parents at the IGCSE Subject Options Evening on Wednesday, May 18th.

This is always an exciting but important time of year for Year Nine students as they are about to start their two year IGCSE courses, ending in examinations marked externally at Cambridge, UK. First though, they have to select which subjects to study. The purpose of the evening was to inform parents and students about the IGCSEs in general and to help make this decision a little easier.

Parents and students listened to a presentation explaining the IGCSE courses and had the opportunity to speak with all the subject teachers to ask questions about their subjects.

We hope all benefited from the evening and that students are choosing wisely. We look forward to seeing our year nine students start these courses in August 2011.

Chris Stokes
Deputy Head: Upper Secondary

Year 7 Poems

Budding poets in Year 7 have been creating their own works in their English classes. Some were so good, we wanted to share them with you, so here are the top three efforts. All poems were based on the topic 'Storm'

Storm

As it pelts down the street at a great speed
Hanging a dull mood on his face,
Drenching people on first sight.
Pounding down the lane in a fright.
Clash upon clash breaking through
Splitting everything in two.
Crashing down on rooftops
Howling in the barren street
Throbbing on the window sill,
Like a horse galloping.
Flashing through the misty fog
As if tearing through the paper.
Breaking and throwing through the night
The storms rage uncontrolled.

Abhigyan

The Storm

Not a single gleam of sunlight
Like a black blanket
Wrapped on the sky
The heavy deep rain
Splattering fiercely down
And the loud, deafening thunder
Booming through the air
As the sharp, blade lightning
Streaking across the sky
The wind howling at the trees
Making them noisily rustle
And whisper helplessly back

Reha

Storm

When black clouds cover the sun
And dry roads become flooded with rain
When lightning slices through the sky like a blade
And wind howls at you like a wolf to the moon
When thunder screams as if in war
That is a storm
When wind dances in the rain
When drums of thunder beat loud
When rain attacks you
That is a storm

Gear

Checking our energy levels...

A Group 4 science project involving all 20 IB1 students was held on May 31 and June 1. Students were in the science labs and also around the campus conducting experiments throughout both days on the theme of water and energy use at GIS.

In case you are wondering, "Group 4" in the IB curriculum consists of the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Design Technology. Students must take at least one of these subjects as part of their IB course.

Picnic treat for local nursery

The students of IB1 have decided to organise a Teddy Bear's Picnic on June 7 for the children of Dek Dee, a well-known nursery near our school. Dek Dee is a centre that supports the welfare of babies and toddlers from around the ages of 2-5 years old whose parents do not earn enough income to support their family.

Parents can leave their children with Dek Dee each day and then go out and work in order to earn more money. On behalf of the staff of Dek Dee, we would like to ask parents to make a donation to help us organise this picnic so the Dek Dee students can enjoy a day of fun activities and delicious food. Or if you have a new teddy you'd like to donate, that would be wonderful.

Please send money to your child's form tutor and all the money will go towards the Teddy Bear's Picnic.

IB1 students

Krispie cakes help ESL students



Year 9 students have been getting a taste of IGCSE ESL - by making chocolate Rice Krispies cakes.

I decided to throw these Year 9 students into the frying pan with a Year 11 type exercise - and they did fantastically well.

They took notes of myself making the Rice Krispies (pictured above) and then had to make cakes themselves using their notes. All students bought chocolate of their choice. Students enjoyed making the cakes - and liked eating the results even more!

Master chef Berry

Sports News

Primary Team Prepares For FOBISSEA Games



A very busy couple of months lies ahead for our Primary athletes as they prepare for the 2011 Primary FOBISSEA Games at the Regents Bangkok from May 31 to June 4.

Track and field, swimming, football and tee-ball against Regents, ISE and St. Andrews will get our athletes ready for the intense four-day competition.

During last year's games held in Malaysia, the 10 athletes from GIS won a total of 52 medals (16 Gold, 14 Silver and 22 Bronze), including two team Gold medals in Girls Football and Tee Ball.

For more information on the 2011 Primary FOBISSEA Games, go to www.regents-school.com/PriFobisseaGames2011/home.html

For GIS Storm Sports information, go to www.gisrstormsports.com

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Chess championships

Vishal Iyer (year 8S), Vedant Iyer (year 3K), and Jignil Shah (year 6 W) all participated in the third IWICA junior chess championship held in Bangkok on May 29.

Vishal finished fifth in the under-16 category and won a trophy. Vedant and Jignil won medals for participation in the under 8 and

under 12 categories respectively. Well done to all of them!



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