



Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

March 2, 2011

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

As a school, we encourage the use of the internet as a teaching tool. It is a wonderful, and fun, resource. But it also holds some dangers, such as internet predators, viruses, cyber bullying, and sexually explicit material.

There are resources that you can use to protect your children and some simple steps you can take to make sure that you have a measure of control over what your children view. You are your child's best internet protection. Here are two things that you can do today to help protect your child:

- Put the computer in the lounge not in the bedroom. That way you can monitor the use.
- Add filter software that blocks inappropriate sites. One recommended one is totally free and is called K9: <http://www1.k9webprotection.com/>.

In the next newsletter I will expand on this and give further advice on how to ensure that your child is internet safe.

If you are a year 11 student or parent, try not to miss the International Baccalaureate (IB) information session on the 8th March. It shouldn't take much above an hour and will give you a useful insight into the value of the IB, what the IB means to us here, and how the IB opens doors to top universities around the world. See later for more details.

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:

- March 2nd/3rd – World Spelling Day
- March 3rd – Years 1, 3 and 5 go to Nong Nooch and the Chinese Temple
- March 4th – Years 2, 4 and 6 go to Nong Nooch and the Chinese Temple
- March 7th – Spelling Bee Knockout Years 4-6
- March 8th – IB information evening
- March 14th – Visiting Author Ian Billings, Quiz in the Primary Hall
- March 19th – Drama Spotlight Festival at St Andrew's
- March 21st - Spelling Bee Finals
- March 25th – House Music Competition Finals
- March 28th – Primary basketball against Regents (away)
- March 29th - Parent Teacher meetings in Primary
- March 30th - Parent Teacher meetings in Primary and Foundation
- March 31st - Parent teacher meetings in Foundation
- March 31st – Spring Concert (evening)



Sports Days

Students enjoyed action-packed sports days at GIS. On February 22 the secondary students took part in track and field events that included the long jump, discus throwing and running.

The day after it was the turn of Foundation students to enjoy fun-based sporting activities, and lastly Primary joined in with a day of sport.

In primary, parents bravely took on staff in a water relay, tug-of-war and 50m relay. In secondary, Cobra was the overall winner, with Gecko second, Eagle third and Tiger fourth.

That means that for this year overall, Eagle still has its beak in front of the rest, with Cobra currently second.

Many thanks to the excellent PE department for organising the events.



News from Primary and Foundation

UK author to visit for Book Week 2011

To encourage and support our children as readers, we will be celebrating Book Week 2011. From Monday 14th March to Friday 18th March, Primary and Foundation have lots of exciting activities planned. Here's how you can help...

Monday 14th: We have a UK visiting author, poet and comic Ian Billings (www.ianbillings.com) who will be doing literacy workshops throughout the day. The cost towards this event will be 100 Baht per child.

Tuesday 15th: Dress like a Pirate day! To link with our author visit children can dress as a pirate - just like Sam Hawkins, Pirate Detective.

Wednesday 16th: We're looking for Mystery Readers to read our classes a short story. If you are free on Wednesday 16th March (in the morning for Foundation and from 2.30pm for Primary) please email me and I will try and timetable a reading slot for you. It's great for children to see people they don't expect reading a book. If you don't have a book- the library can help you find one that's just right.

Thursday 17th: "Funny Bones" will be performed by GIS Spotlight Drama Festival. The show is adapted from the book by Janet and Alan Ahlberg. All welcome at 2.10pm in the Secondary Hall. A Book Fair in the library will run from 8am-4.30pm.

Friday 18th: Book Fair in the library. Open 7.30am -4.30pm. The more books you buy - the more free books the school gets.

Looking forward to your support.

Ms Claire (Year 4) claireg@gardenrayong.com

Feeling Bored?

**Do you have a free evening on Monday
the 14th of March from 6.30pm to 9pm?**

**Why not come to the PRIMARY HALL
and meet Ian Billings, our visiting author, as well as
join in the fun quiz?**

Only 150 Baht entry, drinks available.



Robin Hood plays to a packed house

Parents were treated to a special production from our primary students.

The youngsters staged a performance of 'Hoodwinked' at the school on February 10.

Playing before a packed audience of parents and friends, the Key Stage 2 students put on an excellent musical adaption of the timeless story of Robin Hood.



The production had an amazing set, one minute showing Sherwood Forest and the next the city centre, full of shops. Students' costumes were just as impressive, from Friar Tuck to Maid Marian.

Come and welcome Ms Lucy's cycling sister

Two women who are cycling all the way from London to Garden are nearly here!

Liz and Catherine (whose sister is Primary teacher Ms Lucy) will be arriving in Ban Chang on March 20. There will be a celebratory last lap at 2pm from the Camel Bar to the Camillian Centre. Participants will include local bike clubs, motorbike clubs and parents and friends from school.

The trip is helping to gather opinions from young people about why they think HIV/AIDS continues to devastate lives. This is research for Voices, a project that captures opinions from around the world in video clips. The ladies are also raising money for two charities: the Food Chain in London and the Camillian Centre in Ban Chang.

Please come and welcome them on March 20, families are very welcome. If you can't come please do donate. Ms Lucy has a donation box in her classroom. It costs 2million baht a month to feed, clothe and medicate the 50 children at the centre - so let's give them all the help that we can!

Cat and Liz will be coming into school from March 21 to run workshops for our students.

Star students

Primary's Star Students for February are Sarah (1T), George (2L), Ojas (3T), Haruto (3K), Lynsey (4C), Sharika (4J), Manau (5M), Engila Khan (5S), Peter (Ms Horwell), Seren (Mr Watkins), Shann (Library), Hazim (PE), Fiona (swimming), Miriam (music), Izzat (Spanish), Khushi (Mandarin), Jezebel (Thai language), Sammy (Thai culture), Daniel (EAL) and Pau Pau (DT). Congratulations to everyone!

Secondary

IB students score 100%!



2010 was another exceptional year for Garden International School, Rayong - with the IB Diploma Programme examination results giving a 100% full diploma pass rate for the graduating class of 14 students.

The top three International Baccalaureate (IB) students at GIS for 2010 – **Tanya Sookmanus**, **Jaemin Shin** and **Stian Jonsgard** – achieved full IB Diplomas with superb scores of **41**, **39** and **37** out of a maximum possible total of 45 points.

This total is based on six subjects as well as overall performance in the IB Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge components. Other students gained excellent total scores, with the overall average being 33 points, one of the highest ever for GIS.

GIS has proudly offered the well-respected and internationally-recognised IB Diploma programme since 1997. In that time we have had over 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. You will gain an international perspective to your studies, learn to think critically, be able to question all forms of knowledge with Theory of Knowledge lessons and, at the end of two years, be able to open doors to some of the world's finest universities with an IB Diploma.

Well done to all of the IB2 students of 2010 and their teachers for producing these outstanding results. We now eagerly await examination scores for our next graduating class in May 2011.

Mr. Ian Fraser
IB Coordinator, GIS.

IB Info Evening



If you would like to know more about IB, come to school on March 8. On **Tuesday March 8th at 7pm** there will be an IB information evening in the secondary school hall. Interested students in Years 10 and 11 and their parents are warmly invited to attend this event, where we will explain the IB Diploma Programme which is studied in Years 12 and 13 at GIS.

Mr. Fraser, the IB Coordinator, and a selection of IB subject teachers will be available to talk to prospective students and their parents about this prestigious educational programme.

Flowers and food boosts IB graduation fund

CAS raised an impressive 10,000 baht after selling Valentine's roses and cooking food at our International Day evening.

This money will go towards the IB2's graduation dinner. Many thanks to all the parents who generously helped support the students.



The Model Club

Iron Man flying high with a tank! Yes, anything can happen in the model club.

All types of models are being constructed - from Iron Man to a tank. They all require precise skill to get it right, otherwise you could find that your tank looks like, well, Iron Man!

Soon, new, more difficult, models will be ordered to really test our model makers. Let's see if they improve and still enjoy this very skillful challenge.

Flt Sgt Berry

Student Council News

A badminton game was held in the secondary hall on the first day back from our week's holiday. We were pleased to see many students take part, and hopefully we can organize more badminton games soon.

On Friday 25 February, the student council of GIS held a late Valentine's Disco in the main school hall. The event was a success, with most of the secondary students attending, along with their friends from other schools. A band called 'Street Horse' - Ben B (year 11), James M (year 8), Christina (IB), Grace (IB) and Rohit (year 10) - rocked the stage and Laila (year 8) sang a solo. It was also student council member Vanessa's birthday, so 'Street Horse' played the traditional 'Happy Birthday' song. Happy Birthday Vanessa! We hope everyone enjoyed the disco.

GIS Student Council



Planes, trains and automobiles help ESL class

Here is my Year 11 ESL class in their final stages of exam preparation. They are looking for information involving transport in local newspapers - a skill needed in exercises 1 and 2 of the reading and writing exam paper. For each exercise they need to find the correct information which best fits the question provided.

Their task was to find as many modes of transport possible in the quickest possible time. Brief answers are required and it is essential that they do this within the set time limit, if not they will lose valuable marks.

Carry on scanning guys and aim for the maximum 100%!

Mr Berry

Sports News

GIS Finish 6th At Chiang Mai Invitational



The Storm Varsity Boys split their final two games and finished in sixth place at the Chiang Mai Invitational.

GIS played NIS in their first game and came away with a 41-36 win in overtime. The Storm opened the first half with three of their five starters on the bench as Air, Martin and Vee joined Mark and Jun to start the game. The group played well together, leading GIS to a 13-11 halftime lead.

The game went back and forth in the second half, but ended tied at 33-33 and headed for a five-minute overtime period - the first in Varsity Boys basketball history. Lee hit back-to-back baskets early in overtime to get GIS out in front and the Storm hung on to win.

Nic led all scorers with 17 points while Thomas shot the ball much better to end up with 12 points. Lee and Ben each had four points and Mark and Jun would add two points each.

GIS played the host school, CMIS Eagles, in the fifth place game later that afternoon. The Storm did their best to keep the game close but too many missed shots and poor passing would once again be their downfall and they found themselves trailing 24-12 at the half. GIS played better for the first 10 minutes of the second half and cut the Eagle's lead to four points.

However, some untimely shots and some strong offensive play from CMIS pushed the lead back into double digits and an eventual 46-30 loss. Nic led GIS with 24 points while Lee scored four and Ben added two.

The Storm still have some work to do to improve, but the CMIS tournament proved to be a great experience for them.

Over the course of the tournament, Thomas Cercleron moved into fourth place on the All-Time scoring list passing Jan Pornpherm and Josh Morris-Hambling. Meanwhile, Nic averaged 20.2 points per game during the tournament.

Storm Thunders Past ISE 49-9



The Storm Varsity Boys got back to their winning ways with a convincing 49-9 home win over ISE.

Coming back after a week holiday, GIS started slowly but still managed to open up a 10-3 lead after the first quarter. However, the second quarter proved to be the difference as the Storm went on a 19-0 run to take a commanding 29-3 advantage at halftime.

With many of their starters on the bench, GIS continued their strong play in the second half outscoring ISE 20-6 to secure the victory. Nic, in just 12 minutes of playing time, would lead all scorers with 14 points on 5-for-7 shooting while Thomas scored six of his eight points in the fourth quarter to lead GIS.

Coming off the bench, Mark would add 10 points; Air would score five, while Martin and TK would chip in with four and two points, respectively. Jun's four points and Lee's two points would round out the scoring for GIS.

GIS overcame the shaky start to shoot 48 percent from the field, by far their best effort of the year. The Storm's next game is scheduled for March 8 when they play host to Regents. Tip off time is at 4.15 pm.

Notes:

- This was the first game this season that GIS did not attempt a 3-point field goal.
- The 40-point victory margin was the largest in GIS history.
- Nic Neufeld has now scored at least one point in 36 consecutive games, tying him with Stian Jonsgard for first place overall.
- In games where he has attempted a free throw, Nic has made at least one free throw in 23 consecutive games dating back to February 7, 2010 against BISV.

Varsity Girls Gain Valuable Experience In Chiang Mai

The Varsity girls put in a great effort at the Chiang Mai Invitational. Their first game was against TCIS and, despite playing well, they lost 25-16.

In the afternoon, GIS had a rematch against NIS, a team that beat them earlier in Pool play. GIS improved and scored more points than they did in any of their previous games in the tournament, but unfortunately, it was not meant to be as they ended up on the wrong end of a 27-21 score.

Even though they were probably the youngest team present, the girls never gave up and played each game to the final whistle. As disappointing as it was for the girls not to have won a game, they did gain valuable experience.



The GIS Varsity Girls got their first win of the season after they defeated ISE 13-6. Jida led GIS with five points, while Ploy and Pim each added three points and Mar would chip in with two points.

Hopefully the girls can continue their winning ways when they host Regents on March 8 at GIS. Tip off is scheduled for 4:15pm.

For more information about GIS Storm Athletics, please visit www.gisrstormsports.com



Storm Baseball Caps On Sale!

Extended by popular demand, the Storm baseball caps are on sale - and you can save 50 baht off the normal price if you buy before March 31.

The caps, which come in white or navy blue, normally cost 300 baht, but the sale price is just 250 baht. To buy one, contact Doug Lynch or visit the PE office on the first floor.

GIS hangs on for St Andrews win

Garden's Under-15 football team took on St Andrews - and came away with a 2-1 victory. The starting line-up for the February 2 game was Teng, Rohit, David, Chris, Sony, Kenny, Eddy with Luqman, Sean and Albin on the bench. Chris was injured in the first few seconds, so half-fit captain Luqman had to come on. What an impact he made, heading in the opening goal with one of his first touches from a Sony corner. A few minutes later the provider turned scorer as Sony hit the back of the net from a near-impossible angle. For the remainder of the half Rohit and David did an excellent job defending, Chris recovered to reclaim his position, Eddy and Kenny showed great movement and Sean came on and did a good job retaining possession.

St Andrews were shell-shocked going in half time 2-0 down to a much younger Garden side. It was no surprise then that the home team came out for the second half all guns blazing - substitute keeper Albin came on and made a string of brave saves. Midway through the second half St Andrews pulled a goal back, which set up a nervy finish, but they held on. Overall it was a very entertaining game!

Rohit (Yr10)

Unbeaten GIS team at cricket tournament



Fresh off our Plate final and a great victory at Horseshoe Point, the team's continued its success as they cleaned up the competition at the St Andrew's Tournament - not losing a single game. The first two games involved some magnificent bowling by our resident quick 'Yogi Bear' Bala and the ever-deceptive Yeshi Raj. Sajan and Samy were in top form with the bat, the final going down to the wire as we needed 12 off the last over. After Samy hit a beautiful 4 over extra cover, but he had to retire as he'd reached his allotted 25 run limit. Sajan and Pavit saw us home with 2 balls to spare with some great running between the wickets.

HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOL THE BEST IT CAN BE

News from the volunteers of the P.T.A. (Parent Teachers Association)

Check out the new PTA page via a link on the top of the school website. PTA minutes can be posted there along with information on meeting times. If anyone can help get more information together for it please contact Devina Maxwell, PTA treasurer.

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.