



# Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

November 2, 2011

## From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

I hope that the students had an enjoyable break. It was a long hard run from August to October and the students and teachers certainly deserved a holiday.

Wasn't the Diwali night spectacular! Both culinary and visually it was a real treat for the audience. The heavy rain at the start certainly didn't dampen the evening's enjoyment. I would like to give a special mention and thank you to Mr Kam for working so hard leading the organisation of the event and to Ms Austin for her outstanding choreography. Well done, too, to all the performers!

I was, and continue to be, proud of the way our students respond and responded to aid the flood victims in Thailand. We will not forget the needs of the devastated communities so near to us.

Be sure to get your tickets for the Secondary School Production of *Mamma Mia*. It will have you humming tunes for weeks afterwards!

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:

### November

- 9: Interhouse Swimming Gala (secondary)
- 10: Loy Krathong
- 11: Grade Cards (Primary only)
- 12: Scuba Day
- 14-15: Primary Parent Teacher Conferences
- 22: PTA Meetin (7pm, school library)
- 22: Dress rehearsal for Mamma Mia
- 23-24: Foyles' Book Fair
- 23-25: School Production: Mamma Mia

## GIS helps flood victims

Kind-hearted students from GIS helped deliver supplies and funds to flood-stricken communities in northern Thailand.



The school's International Baccalaureate (IB) students wanted to help some of the victims of the flooding. They asked students and parents to bring in donations for people affected by floods, such as new clothes or tinned food. Donations were put in the front office and then on then taken upcountry to help those most in need (below, left).

To help out further, a mufti (non-uniform) day was held on October 20, where everyone donated 50B to take part (pictured below, right).

A bake sale was also held during breaktime and raised more funds (pictured left).

The mufti day raised more than 32,000 baht, so well done to everyone who has played their part and helped the flood victims.



## Garden Celebrates Diwali!

By Anushka Onkar (Year 8)



Diwali is a festival of lights, celebrated between mid-October and mid-November for different reasons. For Hindus, Diwali is one of the most important festivals of the year and is celebrated by performing traditional activities together in the home.

On October 20 a spectacular Diwali celebration was held at Garden International School. People came with their colourful costumes, including Lehengas, Salwar Kameez and Saris. The food that was provided largely by generous parents was mouth-watering and included dhokla, chole-bhature, rice with Indian curry, chicken tikka, and desserts.

Students put on performances, which were stunning. We could see all the hard work put in by the performers. There were many different kinds of show, including Garba dance, Bollywood style, a folk performance and a poem about Diwali, especially written by students. The grand finale was a fashion show involving students.



The stage set up was fantastic and the decorations were amazing - it made the whole school light up. Many thanks to Miss Austin, Mr Kam, IB students, the organisers, performers and lastly all the parents who helped arrange the event and who came to support Diwali.

## GIS Scuba Club

Recently staff at GIS have been visiting local dive sites and exploring the underwater world. Some staff are experienced divers, some are qualified divers that had not dived for a while, whilst others had never dived but wanted to try.

However, a good school club should always include the most important people: the students. Therefore the first GIS Scuba Club day will be on Saturday November 12. The day is open to everybody aged 12 or over but an ability to swim is essential. It doesn't matter whether you have dived before or not because the dive company that we use has the facilities to allow all abilities to dive.

There are costs involved, so a meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9.40am. If your child is interested in joining the GIS scuba club please encourage him or her to attend this meeting because more information will be given, along with a letter for parents to sign.

If you have any questions, please email [benl@gardenrayong.com](mailto:benl@gardenrayong.com).

## Foyles English Book Fair

Need inspiration for Christmas presents? Or are you looking for revision guides? The answers may well be at the next Foyles English Book Fair, which will be held in the school library on Wednesday 23 - Thursday 24 November from 8am - 5pm.

Remember - every book you buy means more new books for our library!



**Garden International School**  
**Presents**  
**Mamma Mia!!**

November 23rd, 24th & 25th  
Performance begins 7pm  
With thanks to our sponsors:

**Gold**  
Rosie O'Grady's Pub & Restaurant  
The Camel Pub & Restaurant  
USANA Health Sciences

**Silver**  
U Smile  
Indian by Nature  
Praw Street Dance & Modelling Studio

**Bronze**  
Eastern Star  
Khun May's Restaurant & Caffe  
The Gunn Family  
PM Valve  
VIKING Power Systems

Tickets 100 baht before 18th November, 140 baht thereafter.  
To reserve your seats contact [dramadept@gardenrayong.com](mailto:dramadept@gardenrayong.com)

### Here We Go Again!

Garden's students are busy rehearsing for the school's next production - a version of the Abba musical 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.

The show will be staged on November 23, 24 and 25 from 7pm each evening.

Tickets are 100 baht before November 18 and 140 baht after. The show is likely to be a sell-out, so to reserve your seat email [dramadept@gardenrayong.com](mailto:dramadept@gardenrayong.com).

Many thanks go to the companies who generously agreed to sponsor the show.

The gold sponsors are Rosie O'Grady's pub and restaurant in Pattaya, The Camel pub and restaurant in Ban Chang and Usana Health Sciences. Our silver sponsors are U Smile, Indian by Nature and Praw Street Dance and Modelling Studio, PM Valve and Viking Power Systems. And the bronze sponsors are Eastern Star, the Gunn Family and Khun May's restaurant and cafe.

## ***News from Primary and Foundation***



We held a Halloween party where nearly all children came dressed up and had a fabulous party in the afternoon. In Foundation the children went tricking and treating from room to room and created wonderful Halloween artwork. In Primary the children had a fashion show with prizes going to the 5 best-dressed children from each year group. Afterwards, we had a party with lots to eat and many activities. The children and staff had a great time.

The Festival of Diwali was celebrated on a very wet Thursday before half term. The rain could not dampen the atmosphere as there was amazing dancing and scrumptious food. This is one of the best nights at GIS and once again it lived up to its expectations. It was a night to remember. The dancers from Primary did extremely well and we were very proud of them all.



### **Christmas Fair**

The annual Christmas Fair is only 6 weeks away. Please book your stall by contacting me at [robertg@gardenrayong.com](mailto:robertg@gardenrayong.com).

### **Loy Kratong**

The Thai department is busy organising this year's Loy Kratong celebrations for November 10. It should be a great success and is an opportunity for many parents to get involved in an important Thai festival.

### **Primary Football**



The Primary Football Kit is being made for us. It is the **green** kit on the left. Goalkeepers will wear the black long-sleeved kit on the right. The kit is made from the best material available and should last a few years. If you want to buy your own kit the cost is 1000 Baht for the top, the shorts and socks. You can choose your own number and have your name written on the back. We also have a black kit – this will be for coaches and parents. You can buy one too, but



we will be playing in the green kit.

If you are interested in buying your own kit please see Mr. Grisdale and hand in this slip.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your size of shirt \_\_\_\_\_

Your size of Shorts \_\_\_\_\_

How many kits you want \_\_\_\_\_

The number you want on the back \_\_\_\_\_

The name you want on the back \_\_\_\_\_

**Rob Grisdale, Head of Primary and Foundation**

## Light-footed Aastha wins award

Primary student Aastha Sawarkar has received an Honours Trophy for her ballet dancing skills.

Aastha came top of her class at an awards ceremony on on October 9, which included a performance of Swan Lake.



The trophy was awarded to her by the Mayor of Pattaya after Aastha danced in a performance of Swan Lake at the Tiffany Theatre in Pattaya. Aastha is a member of the Dance Studio Pattaya, which performed the famous ballet in honour of HM the King's forthcoming 84th birthday.

Aastha is in Y3T at Garden and her class teacher is Miss Tina. She has been learning ballet since 2010 at the Dance Studio School in Pattaya. Aastha started from Pre-Primary Ballet in 2010 and was then promoted to Primary. She then took her ballet exam for Primary in June 2011 at the Dance School, where she topped her group with a distinction.

On October 9 the Dance Studio School had an Awards Ceremony, where Aastha received her Honours Trophy from, Mr. Attipol Khunpluem, Pattaya Mayor.

## Munky Bizniz



Non-Thai students in Year 6 spent time last half term working on a magazine, which they decided to name "Munky Bizniz".

It contained all kinds of articles, including interviews with new teachers, information about Diwali, cartoons, things to do and much more. For sale at an introductory price of just 10 baht, the first print run quickly sold out, followed by a second and a third. In all, just under 180 copies were sold.

The Munky Bizniz team, under chief editor Karan for this first edition, were understandably delighted with their success, and have resolved to make the next edition bigger and better.

The Munky Bizniz team is set to expand this half term, with the addition of a Munky Bizniz club, which is open to those Year 6 students who could not contribute to the first magazine due to Thai commitments. New editor Philipp is hoping to have Issue 2 on sale at the GIS Christmas Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, so make sure you bring your money!

## News from Secondary

### Showcasing Garden's talent



Dancers, singers and musicians helped show how much talent there is at Garden International School.



GIS held a Garden's Got Talent show on Friday October 30. The afternoon event produced about a dozen acts, ranging from dancers to Indian dancers to songs from Bruno Mars.

Judges had a tough time picking a winner but eventually went to the girls from the Boarding House, who put on a high-energy performance of r'n'b tracks. The winning team consisted of Nan, Mar, Fang, Stam and Oie.

The comperes were IB students Hanna and Vanessa, who both did an excellent job. Congratulations to everybody who took part and showed that Garden is brimming with talent.

#### **New PE uniform on the way**

A new PE uniform will be ready for students by Term 2. Measuring will be done from November 7-11 in preparation for this. More information will follow soon.

By Daniela (IB2) and Satya (IB1)

## Fab Flamenco!



Students from Garden International School had the chance to experience Spanish culture first-hand on a trip to Bangkok.

The GIS students, who all take Spanish as a Second Language, witnessed a 'Flamenco Dance Show' performed by the Ballet Nacional de Espana at the Thai Cultural Centre, as part of the 13th international festival of dance and music.

During a scene which portrayed the streets of Espana, men gathered to sing and others to play music for a lady to dance. The extravagant traditional dress is called *trajes de faraleas* and is usually brightly coloured, with several layers of ruffles in the skirt which give it volume. It was incredibly impressive to see the dancers move with such grace yet force to move their dresses.

The students were awestruck by the fabulous performance of the dancers and got tingles down their spine on hearing the heartfelt cries of the singers (*cante*) and the stamping and clapping of the dance. The overwhelming music, fantastic costumes and dance movements, with graceful postures made the experience even more memorable. This event was both enjoyable and a great learning experience for the students.

Garden International School encourages such events and aims to show students different cultures from around the world, thus providing them with an all-round education that promotes an international mindset.

### Fobissea Drama in KL

GIS Rayong has been invited to take part in the first ever Drama Fobissea festival for Key Stage Three. It is a three-day event to be held at Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur.

The theme for this year is 'New Beginnings' and children attending the event will take part in workshops which focus on leadership and teambuilding, working in an ensemble and improvisational skills. There will also be cultural excursions to local museums.

Students who go to the festival will have the chance to meet and interact with students from schools in China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia. They will also have the opportunity to explore how drama can help build confidence and creative thinking.

Although it is a Key Stage Three event, all secondary students are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Ken Lund or Kasia Grisdale at [kennethl@gardenrayong.com](mailto:kennethl@gardenrayong.com) or [kasiag@gardenrayong.com](mailto:kasiag@gardenrayong.com).

By Sarah Chi (Year 10)

### **Blue Planet Concert amazes GIS students**

Students from Garden International School experienced a musical concert with a difference in Bangkok.

On October 3, students and teachers from GIS went to the Blue Planet Concert. The concert featured a giant screen that showed a nature documentary, while a live orchestra played a suitable accompaniment for each scene.

The documentary included the stories of whales, mysterious fishes that live in the depths of the sea, crabs and other creatures. Students thought this concert was fascinating as they could see the documentary and orchestra at the same time. For each part of the story, the orchestra played an effective piece of music which made the documentary even more dramatic.

The music helped the audience follow the story and the choice of instruments, changes in texture, dynamics, pitch, and speed helped create just the right mood for each part. The crescendos and diminuendos were particularly impressive as they helped fantastically to build the mood.

During one scene involving a killer whale hunting a baby whale, the music had a suspicious mood at first but after the baby whale was killed, the music had a sad tone so that it made the listener feel sorry for the whale. One of the highlights of the concert was when the orchestra played some wonderful music during a scene involving strange creatures from the deep. The music was quiet, high-pitched, monophonic (single melody), and quite slow so that it made scene miraculous and mysterious.

The concert was enjoyable because of the blend of live music and recorded documentary.

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### **Helping our Garden grow**

One of the Activities Clubs in Secondary is aiming to create a garden in school.

To help achieve this, donations of flowers, plants, seeds, pots, soil and tools would be very gratefully received. The plan is to have areas of beauty (a sensory garden) as well as an edible crop area that can be used by the canteen or sold on.

If any green-fingered parents or anyone else can offer support or advice, their input would be appreciated and will help make Garden even more eco-friendly.

If you can assist, email [davidb@gardenrayong.com](mailto:davidb@gardenrayong.com).

Canteen goes online

The school canteen now has its very own website! If you want to check out go to <http://gardenrayong.com/canteen.html> where there is information and a link to the full menu and prices.

### **IB Learner Profile**

The IB Learner profile is a set of ten characteristics that reflect successful student learning and behaviour at GIS. All IB students in Years 12 and 13 strive to be:

<b>PRINCIPLED</b>	<b>REFLECTIVE</b>
<b>RISK-TAKERS</b>	<b>CARING</b>
<b>KNOWLEDGEABLE</b>	<b>COMMUNICATORS</b>
<b>BALANCED</b>	<b>INQUIRERS</b>
<b>THINKERS</b>	<b>OPEN-MINDED</b>

During the 2011-2012 academic year there will be a focus on strengthening the presence of the IB Learner Profile at GIS in several ways:

- Greater visual awareness of the IB Learner Profile throughout the GIS campus
- IB term reports to reflect students' ability to display Learner Profile characteristics
- IB Learner Profile self-reflection exercises to be undertaken by students.

For more information on the IB Learner Profile, please visit:

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/profile/>

### **Spanish Evening**

Once again the IB language B Spanish students will be organizing a "Spanish Evening" on December 8. To start off the evening there will be games like "*Hacer una estimación*", Bingo and to make the evening even more enjoyable there will be a treasure hunt as well.

The highlight of the evening will be the food as this year we will have a fusion of Spanish and Latin American food and to give variety we will also be having Indian food. Soon there will be letters coming out with more information regarding the event.

Heta Shah (IB)

## **Sports News**

### **Sponsors needed for international games at GIS**

GIS is offering the chance for companies to be a part of a major international sporting event to be held at the school.

GIS is to host the Primary FOBISSEA Games from June 5-9, 2012.

At the moment the school is looking for sponsors to help with this international event. Nine schools from Southeast Asia will be heading to GIS to compete in Track and Field, Swimming, Football and T-ball.

Sponsors will benefit from being able to advertise to a wide audience, and their assistance will also ensure the event is a success.

FOBISSEA (Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia and Asia) includes 37 schools from Southeast and East Asia.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, which should attract national and international publicity, please email [bussabac@mbftaylors.com](mailto:bussabac@mbftaylors.com).

### **HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOL THE BEST IT CAN BE**

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

The next PTA Meeting will be on November 22 at 7pm in the library.

Get in touch!

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