

THE LION'S ROAR

NOVEMBER 2017



Realising Potential

www.iss.edu.sg



Nicola Zulu
High School Principal

Welcome to our e-newsletter and the end of a busy period at ISS. It feels like just yesterday when we opened the doors for our 2017/18 academic year! Quarter 1 has been a busy but meaningful time. Some of the highlights have been our on-site University Fairs for our seniors, our Elementary school Sports Day, our MYP Swim Gala and our annual International Day, which was a wonderful celebration of the coming together of our community "Appreciating our differences. Celebrating our similarities. Promoting global mindedness".

Looking around our global world one can see a great deal of political, social and environmental issues which make the news rather an unhappy read each day. It is because of these exact things that teachers at ISS realise the importance of what we do each day. Our role as a school is to prepare every child with a set of skills that will take them forward into our global world. This is not just providing them with academic skills but also helping them become honest, caring, open minded, critical thinkers, who are resilient and empathetic and prepared to face the challenges of their future.

One way we support our students to develop such skills is through our Week Without Walls in the Middle and High School. Our students are able to participate in a range of service learning activities that support our school mission and IB Learner Profile. Recently our students in Grade 11 traveled to Lombok, Indonesia where they gained in-depth knowledge of marine conservation and how it is multi-layered; comprising ecological, social, economic and political factors. They learnt how to conduct scientific surveys, and interpret results and left with a holistic understanding of marine threats and conservation, and how they can act to conserve marine life.

Our Grade 10 students returned from Sideli, Malaysia where they visited a Rohingya refugee school and participated in classroom activities with the young students in the school. Our students learnt about the plight of the Rohingya

people, human migration and gained empathy towards marginalised communities.

Grade 9 students returned from our 3rd visit to Vietnam. The project work included fruit tree donations and tree planting activities that benefit the local communities in years to come. Our students were also involved in challenging teambuilding activities and a community service house painting project.

Some Grade 7 and 8 students traveled to Bongkud, Borneo and worked with the local community building a kindergarten, which is nothing more than a shed, building bridges over gullies, and working with the kindergarten students. Also some of our Grade 7 and 8 students visited for the 4th year, the Sok Sabay shelter in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Here the students share a little kindness and make a difference in the daily life of the underprivileged. The trip also introduced them to a deep sense of what service means.

Our students in Grade 6 traveled to Telunas, Indonesia and had opportunities to hike in the jungle, play and swim at the beach, jump from the deck into the ocean, meet and work with the local community. They developed their skills as communicators and as part of a team to solve problems.

In the Elementary school students from Grade 3 and above will go on camp at a local destination in Semester two, as they too are provided with opportunities to gain an understanding of service learning and global citizenship.

The visits we plan and offer to your children, provide them with amazing experiences. Woven into all of the trips is teaching your child to be confident, independent, balanced and critical in the way they think, as they weigh in on what they see and the information acquired, and make useful and constructive sense of new knowledge. In the process they learn to consider an issue from various perspectives and viewpoints; analysing all the information to reach a balanced conclusion. These are essential characteristics that all Global Citizens need to be equipped with to navigate our world.

As you turn the pages of this e-newsletter and read about the many activities and opportunities our students have experienced, I ask you, what will you teach your child about being good world citizens?

Nicola Zulu
High School Principal

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MS students experimenting to discover answers

Critical Thinking and the lively discussions that Thinkers create!

Critical thinking and creative thinking are often touted in education, but what do these actually mean? These are two ends of a continuum, and both are important skills required to make the best possible judgement!

Creative thinking allows us to adopt a big picture or macro approach and to consider and view issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective. We need to know how to research to collect data, discuss issues with others to gain as much information as possible.

We then use our critical thinking skills to use the information acquired and make useful and constructive sense of the knowledge; learning to consider an issue from various perspectives and viewpoints of others; analysing all the information to reach a successful end goal. We use our critical thinking skills to form a purpose through analysis and consideration of the data collected.

The world is an unpredictable, rapidly changing interconnected global economy. While technical knowledge is important, knowing how to analyse the information and applying this technical knowledge to various situations, and coming up with the best solution, is what gives us the edge over others. This means that we have to apply thinking skills in a creative and critical manner; to creatively adapt and be critically 'smart' to thrive and survive. We cannot survive by applying the same formula over and over again and education systems must be prepared to teach our students to be ready to survive in this new economy.

At ISS International School, we use this as the backbone to empower our students to become skillful thinkers and creators. Students who are able to both pose and solve problems, researching and expressing their understanding using multiple forms of literacies. This starts all the way from their early years and this same philosophy guides our academic delivery and results in the child developing this skill from 4 to 18 years.

Our difference is that our faculty create classrooms that are cultures of thinking for students. Our students are always encouraged to research and consider an issue from a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural approach, and to draw parallels between



ES Students at the library reading to gain new knowledge

Creative thinking allows us to adopt a big picture or macro approach and to consider and view issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective.



HS students working together to weigh the pros & cons for a project

what they learn in class and apply this to what is happening in the world. As an example; within a creative language lesson, it is not all about grammar and punctuation only. Language classes become more interesting as our students are introduced to a subject which has as its backdrop a topic that studies a global issue and its impact. Students are encouraged to research the topic; discuss this amongst their classmates of multiple nationalities; understand their classmate's different cultural perspectives; create a balanced viewpoint and present the topic in class, referring to multiple points of view. This facilitates learning at so many levels, i.e. learning the rudiments of a language, data collection, and analysis, discussion and debate, oratory skills and general knowledge – all part of developing critical thinking, whilst acquiring language skills!

To meet this need, our faculty is professionally trained to ensure they are equipped to guide our students to adopt and develop this critical thinking skill set. "The development of a professional community in which deep and rich discussions of teaching, learning and thinking are a fundamental part of teachers' ongoing experience provides the foundation for nurturing a student's thinking and learning." (*source reference: Six Key Principles of the Cultures of Thinking Project*). This is coupled with ISS's fundamentals of academic delivery; creating an empowering environment where our students are encouraged to develop and pursue their own sense of purpose; guiding and nurturing our students as they make this journey of self-discovery; ensuring inclusivity where everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints; and delivering each lesson in a highly individualised and customised style to ensure that each student learns at their own pace and benefits fully from the learning.

"The world is unpredictable and the issues and problems that one faces are often not the same. Therefore the education that we deliver must prepare our students to thrive in such an environment. Our approach to education at ISS is multi-disciplinary so that our students can view issues from multiple angles and facets" shares Mr. Jungo, who is the IB Diploma

Programme co-ordinator and Theory of Knowledge (ToK) teacher at High School. "I personally challenge each student's belief and encourage them not to take issues at face value or come to conclusions based on their cultural or religious backgrounds. They must consider issues contextually and question all the time, read extensively to gain new knowledge and apply all that they know to a situation to develop new thinking to solve an issue. I interact with my students one-on-one frequently and read their reflections in their ToK journals to gauge their development. This helps me create different strategies to guide them in their growth. It delights me when I see maturity in their reflections. This shows me that the strategies that I have applied for each have worked".

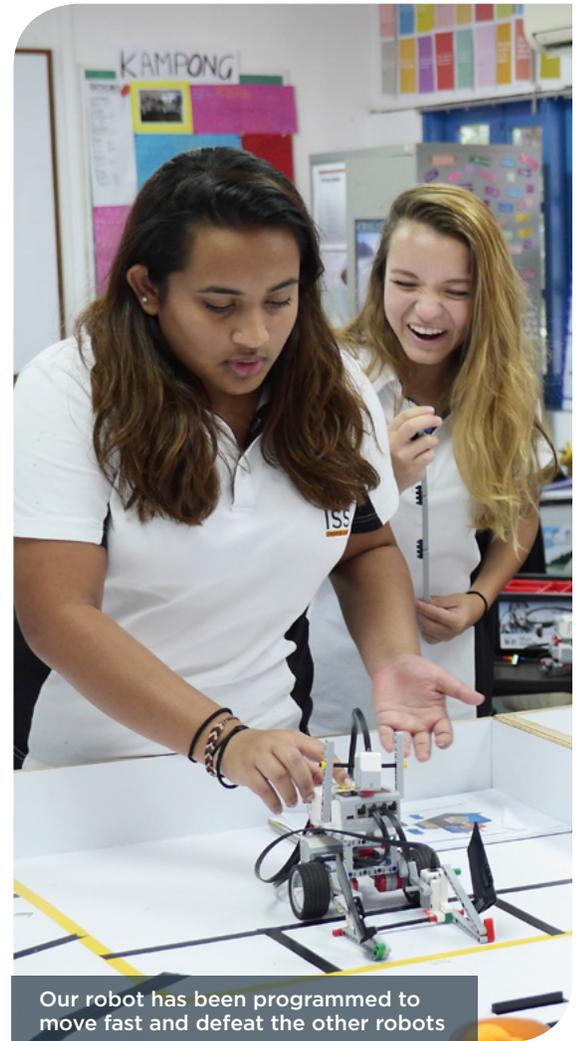
At our Middle School, critical thinking is brought to life when teachers apply an inquiry, multi-disciplinary based approach to lessons. Every student is given the opportunity to investigate, question, analyse, evaluate and challenge their beliefs. This approach builds critical thinking skills, that will eventually become second nature and extend beyond the classroom environment. Our teacher cites an example with Grade 7 students. They were challenged to design a hypothetical large scale garden for a school. Not only did they learn design concepts in geometry, but they also developed their critical thinking by reflecting on the accuracy and feasibility of their designs. The students also had to consider authentic budgets and costs, as well as ensure their own needs as a learning community were met. This was a challenging task but students rose to the occasion and produced thoughtful, realistic and meaningful designs!

Our students at Elementary School are nurtured to consider how lessons taught in class can be applied to real life scenarios. They too are taught to actively research; formulate questions, collect and record data and then present what they have learnt. Ms. Gemma, our Early Childhood Coordinator, and Kindergarten teacher enjoys the teaching philosophy at ISS. "It's not about spoon-feeding, even for the younger students. It is about creating a meaningful learning environment for

our children. They are taught to explore, research and form conclusions.” Over in Grade 4, the students were encouraged to explore diverse, resistant materials and mediums such as wood, bamboo, plastics and polyurethane and were challenged to create something interesting. The result - stunning. All of our community can now marvel at the ‘solar system and universe’ that has been created outside the library.

Our Swedish alumna Johanna who graduated from Cambridge University with a Bachelor of Law, and who is now pursuing her Masters of Law in Public International Law at Utrecht University in The Netherlands, further supports this by sharing that, “my years at ISS from Grades 9 to 12, definitely laid down the foundation for me to exercise critical thinking. Studying ToK challenged me to reflect on how I acquire knowledge and apply this thinking to all my other subjects. We were always encouraged to apply our own interpretations from across the subject areas we had studied, and also reflect further on issues based on our own experiences.” She further reminisces that “I remember coming into mathematics class in Grade 11, straight after having had a fierce debate in ToK about whether mathematics is discovered or invented. Needless to say, this deeper thinking about my subject made it harder to focus on factoring in mathematics class that day!”

ISS’s success reaches a pinnacle when parents themselves notice the change and maturity in the way their children process their thoughts and information. As Paul and Avis have shared, it fills them with delight to see the way their daughter Grace thinks and analyses issues now, even on issues that in the past would never have interested her! “She is thinking, questioning and creating her own questions about topics and drawing parallels between what she has learnt at school and current affairs”, shares Paul. Avis adds that recent discussions around the dinner table revolved around Grace’s recent school work on Nazi Germany and Communist Russia, and seeing her think and analyse parallels to the recent political events in the United Kingdom and the United States. This has not only created lively and enjoyable discussions around the family dinner table, but has also facilitated critical thinking beyond the student! This is what brings the greatest joy to Mr. Jungo, when education goes beyond the student and spreads amongst other family members too!



Getting to Know Our Board Members

Mr. Leong Weng Kam

Mr. Leong Weng Kam, is a retired veteran journalist. He started his career as a reporter with the Singapore Armed Forces’ monthly Pioneer magazine in 1975. He then joined The Straits Times as a bilingual reporter in 1977 when the paper launched its bilingual page. Later, he moved to write news reports and features for the local, China, foreign, and political desks, as well as the Life! section of the paper. He was one of three senior journalists from the paper tasked to write the book, Men In White, The Untold Story Of Singapore’s Ruling Political Party, which was published in 2009. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature from Beijing Normal University, and a Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies and a Master of Arts in Contemporary China from the University of Leeds and Nanyang Technological University respectively.

He has been on the Board of ISS for more than five years and has seen the improvements made by the school in its curriculum development and in raising professional standards amongst the teachers to facilitate the provision of quality international education for its students from K1 to G12. He is confident that under the leadership of its capable CEO, Head of School, their principals and a dedicated teaching staff, the school will continue to do well on the academic front, as well as brace itself to face the challenges ahead with strong plans to bring ISS to the next level of excellence.

Mr. Leong also shared that his hope for the school is that ISS will continue to recruit strong and dedicated teachers to carry out its plan to be an inclusive school where all the students, can realise their full potential.



Mr. Leong Weng Kam

Week Without Walls 2017

Week Without Walls (WWW) takes learning beyond the classroom. Every trip expands each student's personal development, furthers their role as active global citizens and brings authenticity into their curriculum. These journeys create learning experiences that encourage each student to realise their potential.

We share reflections from our students and teachers from each of the WWW expeditions here.

Week Without Walls Bongkud, Borneo



Arrival in Bongkud!

At Week Without Walls Bongkud, the students had the opportunity to be engaged with the local students through sports, by participating in the local cultural dance, as well as by helping to build a volleyball court for the local community. They also had lots of fun visiting the local Market, the Poring Hot Spring and Canopy Walk Way.

"This year's WWW trip to camp Bongkud, Borneo was amazing. We had the opportunity to build a new volleyball court for the village community. It was hard work but my classmates and I collaborated with neighbouring villages and now there is a new, second volleyball court for the enjoyment of everyone.

Camp Bongkud Trip was not just all about work. Actually, I had an amazing time with my schoolmates too. On the last day, I went to the Canopy walk and the hot spring which is a UNESCO world heritage site. I enjoyed the waterfall, the hot spring and definitely the waterslide."

Koji, ISS Student



Building a second volleyball court



Learning to make concrete

Week Without Walls Sok Sabay, Cambodia

It was a fulfilling trip for some of our Grade 7 and 8 students at Week Without Walls Sok Sabay. The students were engaged in activities with the children of the Sok Sabay Shelter in Cambodia, attended cultural craft and dance workshops, learned the history of the Khmer Rouge period, swam and even sailed on a boat!

A poem by one of our students sums up the experience aptly.

S - Sok Sabay a shelter for children
O - Overexcited children
K - Khmer Rouge

S - Service and empathy
A - Action with children
B - Be respectful
A - Artistic children
Y - You do the workshops

"I chose to write an acrostic poem for my Sok Sabay reflection because each letter of the word means something to me. To go and work with kids that are not as fortunate as I was a wonderful experience. As a returning student to the Sok Sabay shelter, I wanted to be an inspiration to the children. I felt that I inspired them because my workshop was full of laughter and energy; everyone was cheering and we could share some happiness. During this trip, I also came to realise the brutal history of Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge period when we visited a former prison camp. As a global citizen, I know I do not want this to happen anywhere in the world! Overall, this trip was once again an enriching and thrilling experience, which leads me to understand the world better."

Karl, ISS Student



Teaching the children the Hakuna Matata Dance



Smile, we are in Phnom Penh!

Week Without Walls Singapore

The Arts Week Singapore programme brought our students to performances, museums, exhibitions, places of recreation and trails. They were able to focus on different aspects of art forms in Singapore, as well as learn batik painting and ceramic art. They also contributed to the local community by volunteering at the KK Hospital and Food Bank to help needy families. Students were challenged to discover more about the culture of Singapore; the city and country they live in, and how they can become an engaged member of the community.

"The local trip was an amazing experience to immerse in the culture of Singapore, and to take part in service activities. Our trip was focused on the arts in Singapore. We visited the Esplanade and the Lasalle College of the Arts to learn how to play the Gamelan, indulge in, batik painting and ceramic art. We also went to the KK Hospital to sell cookies and raise money for the needy patients. The money raised goes to the patients who are not able to afford their medical bills. Though this is not a huge amount, I hope it will help them a little for their treatment. We also helped out at the Food Bank by organising and checking the food packages. Surprisingly, there are people in Singapore who have the misfortune of not having food. It was hard work but we all felt very satisfied to know that we had helped people who lacked food in Singapore. We also went to the "Dignity Kitchen", a hawker centre run by disabled people, where we had lunch and learned to cook a few dishes. I was pleasantly surprised to know that despite their special needs, the food prepared was excellent. They even taught us how to cook! Overall, the trip was fantastic and I was very privileged to have been able to help out so many people!"

Vivika, ISS Student



Learning to cook at Dignity Kitchen



KK Charity Bake

Week Without Walls Telunas

Week Without Walls, Telunas with our Grade 6 students were one they would remember forever! They had opportunities to hike in the jungle, play and swim at the beach, jump from the deck into the ocean safely and work with the local community. At the local school, our students read and donated books, played kampong games, art games and taught the students PE, Science and Mindfulness exercises. It was overall a fun and fulfilling learning trip for Grade 6 students.

“Last week, we visited a local school at WWW Telunas. Despite the fact that the school wasn’t big and had only one fan, the students at this local school gave us the use of the fan! The students were indeed very selfless.

We were also told that many of the local students had to stop going to school after Grade 6 to help care for their younger siblings or even start work to help with the family’s finances.

It made me realise how fortunate we all are to lead a life that is not as difficult as theirs. It also taught me to count my blessings and to be grateful for what I have.”

Huaiyao, ISS Student



WWW at Telunas!



Reading with the girls



Activities with the children in a local school

Week Without Walls Vietnam

Thirty-nine students and four staff traveled to Vietnam for our Week Without Walls trip that combined service activities, cultural learning and physical challenges. Many of our students had never participated in manual labor activities such as weeding, digging, planting and painting before this trip. They showed great enthusiasm and energy at learning new skills. One student, Faisal, was heard saying, “How can food be so cheap when this is such hard work?”, while the team was cleaning a plot of land in preparation to plant the fruit trees that the Grade 9’s had raised money to purchase, in the river village of Dong Binh. A benefit of being part of a trip where ISS students have gone before was that we were able to see the fruit being produced on trees that current G11 students planted two years ago when they were in Vietnam. The week was full of teamwork challenges that required students to support one another with encouragement, and rely on one another to each do their part. The trip leaders were impressed with the positive attitudes and open-mindedness that every student demonstrated throughout the week.

“Working in a team was fun but tough because our opinions and thoughts were not always the same. I learned that respect is needed between teammates to collaborate well. When things were difficult, my team at least tried to listen and looked for ways to solve the problem.”

Gangmin, ISS Student.

“I am very new to this school and the students, but during the WWW trip, I have learnt so much about the different cultures of my classmates who come from all over the world. I am not alone in this journey because of them, and I feel empowered by everyone who was with me.”

Sophie, ISS Student.

“I was able to experience Vietnamese culture and also develop my IB learner profile skills such as communicating in groups and taking risks. One thing I learned about myself during the WWW was that I was able to lead the group sometimes, and be a great communicator by thinking carefully.”

Yo, ISS Student.



Accomplished our house painting!



Students learning to play local instruments



Tree Planting in progress

Week Without Walls Sedili, Malaysia

At Sedili, Our Grade 10 students walked away with experiences which, they will never forget! They visited the rain forest to study exotic fauna and flora; an organic rice and shrimp farm to learn about the benefits of sustainable farming; and visited the Rohingya refugee school where our students led educational lessons, games and team building activities for the Rohingya students. Our students also had hands-on experience in the study of seashore ecology and participated in a beach clean up, where they were educated on the damage caused to our seas by the pollution that was building up in the oceans.

“We visited the Rohingya Tampoi School and I was filled with anticipation. I kept wondering whether they would understand me, will they want to communicate and respond to me and would they be interested in what we had to share with them.

I had nothing to worry about! The visit was an amazing experience. I was assigned to a group of 14-16 year old Rohingya students and we had so much fun interacting with each other, playing games such as packman, name games, and football. We also taught them some geography and mathematics, using puzzles and quizzes, and they were so eager to learn.

The experience at the Rohingya refugee camp was a very special time for me. It made me realise that we are not different at all. We enjoyed similar activities and learning opportunities. The only difference is that I am truly fortunate to lead a life that is not difficult like them. I will never forget this experience. It has taught me to enjoy what I have been blessed with.”

Taegyun, ISS Student



Discussing and communicating with local students



Activities with the Rohingya school students

Week Without Walls Indonesia

This year, our Grade 11 students visited Indonesia and had a chance to visit the shark processing plant, the fishermen island, and to snorkel out to sea, past bio rocks, and work with the local school community.

“Week Without Walls Indonesia was a truly enriching experience! Spending more time outside school through the activities organised, working collaboratively and playing together with my schoolmates enhanced our friendships.

It was also an eye opening experience to visit the shark market. Although, I could not help but feel a tinge of sadness as I observed the sharks being caught, talking to the fishermen also gave me another perspective into their hard lives. As this is the only source of income for their families, each of them spent up to 2 weeks away from home at sea each time, open to all the dangers of the sea and the weather elements, and there are times when they come back with no catch at all. While I do not support the killing of sharks for their fins, this experience taught me to understand the simple harsh lifestyles they led and I hope that one day, shark fishing can stop perhaps when the fishermen become ecotourism guides through the help of capital support from the Government. This trip made me count my blessings for not everyone receives the same opportunities as us in modern Singapore.

I also had the opportunity to build a bio rock to help corals grow, I understood that saving the ocean comes from every decision we make daily, such as not using plastic or throwing things away recklessly without thought to the environment. Through each small action that each of us takes, we can make a significant difference in saving the oceans.”

Vera, ISS Student.

Vera’s experience at this ‘Week Without Walls’ (WWW) expedition has given her a sense of engagement and a better understanding of the causes and effects of global issues, and how she can contribute and play her part in doing something that is ethical and right for the benefit of everyone! The WWW trips are beneficial to each and every student’s learning development and life experience.



Team Indonesia!



Craft making with local school students



Campfire at the beach

Elementary School Sports Day

An active body is as important as an active mind! Every week, our elementary students stay active physically from the many activities they do during PE lessons at school. They not only stay active, but they also develop good motor skills, learn to work as a team, and strive to do their best to win a game or competition.

Our annual Elementary School sports day is a culmination of all the hard work and effort that our students do at PE lessons. They not only get to develop their sporting skills, but they also learn to work together as they participate in group events.

At Sports Day this year, our students had lots of fun, and from the way each and every one performed during the sports meet, it showed that all their hard work and training paid off. They all did very well. The sheer determination displayed by the participants in the various individual relays, and the collaborative efforts in their team competitions, definitely showed that our students are not only risk takers, but that they also have great team camaraderie.



Ready, on your mark!
Get set! GO!



An excellent javelin throw



Loonngg Jump

MYP Swim Gala



Congratulations to Somerset!

Every year, ISS organises a Swim Gala for our students. Our Swim Gala is extremely beneficial as it provides an opportunity for the MYP (Middle Years Programme) community to come together as a family to promote sports and celebrate success. Our students strive for excellence by training hard during swim lessons and this benefits them physically and mentally, as they constantly push themselves to overcome their barriers, and work through difficulties, showing themselves to be strong risk takers!

As a teacher, it is heartwarming to see our students learning to overcome challenges through perseverance and have a 'never give up' attitude. As importantly, they encourage and support their teammates and friends selflessly, regardless of the outcome. This fosters care and inclusivity within our students, which are core values of our close-knit ISS community.

Paul Crozier

Athletics & Activities Coordinator, PE Teacher



Swimmers getting ready



Smile

ISS Alumni

Our alumni are all over the world and remain an important part of the ISS International School community. In the future, alumni will be invited to attend special gatherings such as networking events, professional talks, annual reunions or dialogue sessions.

Tony Harlich

I graduated from ISS in 1986, and some of my fond memories of ISS include swimming, track, the hawkers stalls below the Preston campus, the canteen on campus and all my great teachers and friends. I loved being with students from all over the world and the diversity they all brought to my education.

The best thing that happened during my time at ISS was, I met my future wife there - Mary Hanley. We are now happily married with a 26 year old son, two dogs, and a few chickens and ducks too.

I currently work as a Group Program Manager at Microsoft. The department I run is Program Management of software localization/international for the Windows and Devices Group which includes Windows, Phone, Surface, Xbox, Games and many other products within the division.

My international experiences at ISS helped me land my international role at Microsoft.

I currently work with an extremely diverse team from all over the world which often reminds me of my fond memories of ISS.



Tony Harlich

“I loved being with students from all over the world and the diversity they all brought to my education.”

“My international experiences at ISS helped me land my international role at Microsoft.”

- Tony Harlich

We love to hear about what our alumni are accomplishing on their lifelong learning journey, and how their time at ISS has influenced who they are, what they do, and the part they play in the global community.

Join our Facebook group for the latest updates on our alumni activities and events!

www.facebook.com/groups/issgalumni/

Announcing the PTA Committee

The new committee for the 2017-2018 school year was elected on 13th September 2017, and its members come from different countries and backgrounds. Like the ISS community, our PTA committee is truly multicultural.

OUR NEW PTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

Chairman: Savannah, USA

Vice-Chairman: Paul, UK

Treasurer: Cliff, USA

Assistant Treasurer: Neal, USA

Secretary: Vanessa, Singapore

General Secretary: Carlos, Venezuela

Communications: Atsushi, Japan

Elementary School Representative (Rep): Ikumi, Japan

Middle School Rep.: Hiroko, Japan

High School Rep.: Farida, Bangladesh

Japanese Community Rep.: Rina, Japan

Teacher Rep.: Ma Aye, Myanmar

The PTA's goal is to work with our school to share a spirit of cooperation and support, for the benefit of students and the ISS community.

Throughout this school year, the PTA will organise multiple events. Everyone can look forward to the ISS Fun Fair, Trivia Night, Wine Tasting night, trips and workshops for parents, and our ever-popular series of talks from professionals and specialists. The Committee will endeavour to organise events that cater to our multinational community and diverse needs, and continue to foster and build on the strong sense of community and inclusivity.

We will similarly continue to support various school activities, like International Day -- where ISS showcases its global community, the Middle School performance, the Elementary and Middle Schools' arts exhibitions, drama events, and multiple fundraising events for the benefit of charities selected by the Student Councils.

We welcome all parents to get involved with the PTA. To find out more, please email us at pta@iss.edu.sg or visit our Facebook group "**ISS International School PTA**".



PTA 2017 Committee



PTA Social Night



PTA AGM

Jeff Kinney visits ISS!

The renowned author Jeff Kinney visited the ISS Paterson campus and shared his inspirations for his series of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books, and what he does when sketching for the book. Our students were also given the chance to indulge in some sketching work under the guidance of the author!

The enthusiasm from our students was unmistakable as everyone was clamouring to ask him questions about the books and his sketches. The snaking queue to get his autograph was also testament to this enthusiasm!

"I am inspired to be a writer. I can use my imagination and like Mr. Kinney, mix this up with the everyday happenings in my daily life to write books that will make people happy and laugh." **Mia, ISS Student.**

The teaching environment at ISS is dynamic as the teachers adopt creative methods to strengthen the interest and optimise our students' learning opportunities. This experiential time spent with Jeff Kinney will certainly give them insights into the finer points of sketching, and an assurance of the benefits of being true to yourself and being confident about it!



Jeff Kinney at ISS Paterson Campus

International Day 2017



What a turn out!

The theme for this year's ISS International Day was "Appreciating our differences. Celebrating our similarities. Promoting global mindedness". This was the focal message not only for our International Day celebrations, but also a theme celebrated and nurtured within the teaching and learning environment at ISS.

We are committed to educating our students to become global citizens who respect and understand diversity. Teaching and learning about global mindedness is an integral part of our curriculum and a cornerstone of the School's values and culture system. When the school was founded over 35 years ago, Mr. Chan Chee Seng combined his deep-rooted love of learning with his understanding of his country's needs, and created the vision for an inclusive international school with a cosmopolitan outlook. Within our curriculum, our students are given many opportunities in Service as Action & Creativity, Activity, Service platforms to develop authentic actions and projects to help the community around the region and in Singapore. Within the classroom environment, our students are made aware of the many global issues through the lessons taught, and this makes each lesson real, current and applicable.

It was fantastic to see the array of colours and traditional costumes of our ISS family, as we celebrated the over 50 nationalities represented within the school community, through a parade, cross-cultural performances, exciting displays of student work country noticeboards and student-led workshops, which demonstrated students' growing understanding of what it means to be a global citizen. It was also great to see the way in which we paid respect to our host country- Singapore. Our Student Council took the initiative to celebrate Singapore through a range of games and general knowledge quizzes, and the Grade 5 students embarked on creating an art installation to honour Singapore. This will be expanded throughout this school year.

We had an overwhelming response from our parents and guardians who volunteered help at the event. They left the corridors of our Paterson campus colourfully adorned with information and images of different countries and made a spread of delicious food for our buffet.

International Day was celebrated with success. The display of culture and internationalism was remarkable, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our teachers, the open-mindedness of our students, the support of our parents/ guardians, the ISS Parent and Teacher Association, and the International Day Committee.

As our student Jeewoo sums up the day aptly, "At International day, we are introduced to the language and culture of other countries', through the many activities and food served. I find this beneficial because I learn about the practices and habits of the various countries. This allows me to appreciate my multinational classmates better and prevents misunderstanding between us, which can sometimes occur because of cultural differences. I truly enjoy International Day."

Lisa Missen

Multiple Literacies Coordinator, Drama Teacher
International Day Committee Leader



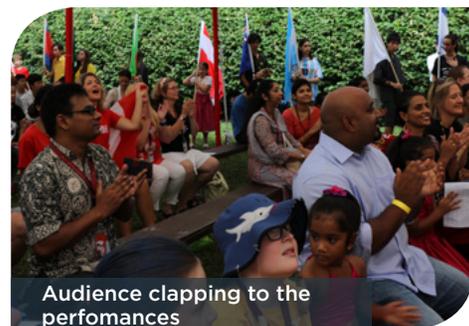
Dance Performance



Flag bearers



Learning to play a new musical instrument!



Audience clapping to the performances



Students learning about local food

School Activities

- September to November

The University Presentation (7 September)

At High School University Presentation night, information was given to our grade 11s and their parents so they can plan forward for their education in the Universities of their choice.



Parents and students at University Presentation

PTA AGM/Social Event/Meeting

(13 and 14 September / 6 November respectively)

Our PTA selected the new committee members for the 2017-2018 school year during their AGM held on 13 September. The next day, they had a great night getting to know each other better at PTA's Social Event accompanied by great food and wine. The PTA meeting held on 6 November was an information sharing about "Wellness". The committee members collaborated this session together with our school counselors and nurse to allow parents to have a better understanding of the importance of their child's mental and physical health. The PTA is a great way to meet other ISS parents, get involved and play a role in your child's experience at ISS.



PTA Annual General Meeting

ES Sports Day (22 September)

Our Elementary School students had fun at their sports day. From the way each and everyone performed during the sports meet, it showed that all their hard work and training paid off. They all did very well! To our winners of house team Orchard, congratulations!



The race has begun!

MS Spirit Week (25 to 29 September)

Every year, leading up to the MYP Swim Gala, our Middle School sports leaders organise a Spirit Week to develop school spirit and generate excitement for the Swim Gala. This year, we did a dodgeball challenge and the students had lots of fun!



Dodgeball House Challenge for Spirit Week

MYP Swim Gala (29 September)

Our MYP students trained hard for the Swim Gala – and it showed! They did a great job in all the races, portraying good sportsmanship and teamwork. We had a wonderful day at the pool supporting and cheering on one another.



Go Swimmers go!

International Day (6 October)

Appreciating our differences. Celebrating our similarities. Promoting global mindedness.

International Day was a meaningful celebration of cultural diversity that is representative of ISS International School. Everyone dressed up in their national costumes or national colours and had a blast! Our day was filled with performances and workshops teaching us about different cultures, not forgetting the delicious array of food from all over the world.



International Day!

MSHS Week Without Walls (23 to 27 October)

Our MYP students take a Service As Action school trip every year called *Week Without Walls* (WWW) to countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Through these WWW trips, we educate to make a difference through meaningful, practical and authentic experiences by fostering cross-cultural exchange and understanding.



WWW Students helping to build the school

ES Performance (27 October)

Our K2 students did a fabulous dance performance on the theme, "How we organise ourselves." They learned about cooperation to achieve team goals, dancing to songs from different parts of the world.



K2s Dance and Music Performance

Urgent Run (28 October)

Our students participated in the Urgent Run, to do their part and raise funds for countries that have limited access to clean toilets. The purpose of this charity run is to allow our students to help raise funds, as well as be aware of the global sanitation issue.



Urgent Run

Elementary School Book Fair (1 November)

We had an Elementary School book fair at our Paterson campus. This is a yearly event for our Elementary students and we believe that reading is a great way to expand vocabulary and knowledge.



ES Book Fair

Middle School Student-Led Conferences (1 November)

Our Middle School student-led conferences on 1 November was a great way for parents to discover what their children are learning in school, from their children's perspective. Our students played 'tour guides' to their parents as they showcase different activities, skills, knowledge, and lessons they have experienced at school.



Student showing his mom what he does at school

IN Art Exhibition (15 Nov to 15 Jan)

Our talented Art students will be showcasing their work, along with students from many other schools in Singapore, at the IN Art Exhibition from 15 November 2017 to 15 January 2018 at the Australian High Commission. Feel free to drop by to appreciate and enjoy their beautiful masterpieces!



IN Art Exhibition

Events to Look Forward To

November to December

ES Performance, Grade 2 (24 November)

Our Elementary Students take turns to perform on stage. These artistic performances are unit focused based on different performance idea.

HS IB Diploma Information Evening and Subject Fair (30 November)

We organise talks for our parents to learn more about the IB curriculum and the different subjects we teach at ISS. Join us for our High School Grade 10 IB Diploma Information and Subject Fair, to know more about what your child will learn at school in Grades 11 and 12.

HS Music Festival of Lights Concert (6 December)

Our High School music students will stage an amazing performance under the stars at our annual Festival of Lights concert.

Japanese University Fair (10 December)

ISS will host a Japanese University Fair at Paterson Campus. Universities represented will offer courses taught in Japanese and courses fully taught in English. This is a unique opportunity to learn about a range of quality and affordable University courses available.

Personal Project Exhibition (12 December)

The personal project exhibition allow students to create a product or a campaign that is of personal interest to themselves. It can be a music video, a website to raise awareness or raising money for charity by creating a fundraising event. On 12 December, the students will be presenting their projects at ISS Preston Campus. We look forward to seeing you at this presentation.

Middle School Service As Action Day (14 December)

Our Middle School participates in a Service as Action day at the end of each semester. Having a Service as Action Day is part of our desire to have a positive impact on the environment and to provide meaningful learning opportunities for students.



IB Information Sharing Evening



Festival of Lights Performance



Japanese University Fair



HS MYP Personal Project Exhibition



Using nature to create art

Upcoming Events in Singapore

Here are a few events and meaningful activities you could bring your children to or simply go in a group with other ISS families!

Endless Wonder

Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA) proudly invites you to celebrate a Christmas of Endless Wonder on Orchard Road.

Saunter down Singapore's favourite shopping street where malls and metros meet magic and mystery. Immerse yourself in an enthralling world of lights and be spellbound as you stroll down the *Great Street*.

Visit our pop-up stores for a shopping experience like no other, and the Christmas Village with its abundance of amazing food, amusement rides, and stand-out performances.

Welcome to our *Great Street* and another indulgent Christmas Light-Up brought to you by ORBA.

ORBA wishes you and your loved ones Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

 Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza (Christmas Village)

 Sun - Thu: 11am - 10pm

Fri - Sat: 11am - 11pm

Christmas Week: 11am - 11pm Daily

 www.orchardroad.org/christmas/



Christmas Wonderland

Christmas Wonderland is a huge festival held at the beautiful Gardens by the Bay, and is known as Singapore's biggest Christmas celebration.

Christmas Wonderland offers a wide variety of live entertainment, sculptures, ice skating, tasty food and plenty of Christmas cheer. Bring your family along and enjoy the festive season.

 18 Marina Gardens Drive, Marina Bay, Singapore

 4 -26 December 2017, 4.00pm - 11.00pm

 <http://www.christmaswonderland.sg/index.php>

