

THE LION'S ROAR

JANUARY 2018



Realising Potential

www.iss.edu.sg



Michael Taylor
Middle School Principal

programmes. The Learner Profile encourages outcomes that motivate, challenge and inspire every student to become better global citizens; better people. Of the ten Learner Profiles, one looks to inspire students to be risk takers. To "...approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; [to] work independently and cooperatively, to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. [To be] resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change." (source:ibo.org). In this issue, you will also examine why it is important to not only encourage our students to be risk takers, but also why a supportive environment, as exists at ISS, leads to rewards that reach far beyond the classroom.

So, what is there to look forward to in Semester 2? Sports Day for Grades 6-12; the Swim Gala for K-5; five more grades in Elementary School putting on Performing Arts extravaganzas; an Arts Exhibition on Paterson Campus; the Middle School Talent showcase; school transition celebrations for Grade 5 into Grade 6 and Grade 8 into Grade 9; and the ultimate celebration being the graduation of our Grade12s. Special mention goes to the wonderful Fun Fair. Driven by the PTA, it is a highlight of the semester. On the academic front, we will see the IB Diploma exams commence in May and the IB MYP e-Assessment for the Grade 10s. Grades 6-8s will see a mix of online exams and e-folios (projects), while the Grade 5s will focus their efforts on the IB PYP Exhibition. Opportunities to meet the teachers will again happen via Parent Teacher Conferences and Three-Way Conferences as we move further into Semester Two.

As always there is so much going on at ISS and irrespective of the campus you are on, there are ways to stay in touch. At the end of each week the principals from ES, MS and HS publish their blog with what's happening and important dates to note. The school website (iss.edu.sg) always publishes important announcements and interesting articles about the school. Our Facebook page has loads and loads of information as does the Facebook page of the PTA. Just a few of the ways you can keep up to date. Of course, there is this newsletter!

We look forward to welcoming you to all our events and supporting each and every parent, guardian, and family member to take an active role in their child's learning pathway.

Happy Semester Two!

Michael Taylor
Middle School Principal

Welcome to 2018!

Greetings and welcome to the second half of the academic year. Also known as Semester Two and widely referred to as 2018! A special welcome to the many families who are joining the ISS community this mid-year. Orientation programmes and support are available to help you enjoy life in your new school. To all our returning families, we hope your break was relaxing and we look forward to seeing familiar faces around the campuses.

Semester 1 whizzed by in a flash with many activities. The concerts presented by our early years and Grade 2 students, the Festival of Lights musical extravaganza by the Grades 9-12, the Personal Project presentations by our Grade 10 students- all these activities showed our students' risk-taking skills. Service as action activities featured strongly too, with all our Middle School students taking over the East Coast parkway by storm in their "Urgent Run and Walk towards Zero Hunger" initiatives.

Why is risk taking a core skill set to develop in our students?
The International Baccalaureate (IB) has built its success on the academic rigour students are challenged to embrace and, as importantly, on the development of quality individuals who contribute positively to society. These quality individuals can be traced back to the IB's Learner Profile, which is the bedrock of all IB

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Equipping themselves with learning new words before writing a composition

Be a Risk taker, venture into the unknown and you gain multi-fold!

It is widely known that “it is human nature to read the actions of others, and then to follow suit.” Simply put – it is easier to follow the norm, because it is always safe and sure. On the flip side, success stories like Apple and IKEA were not created by following the norm. Each of these successful global companies took the risk to be different; Apple with the revolutionary iPhone and IKEA with unassembled furniture. Individuals in each of these companies had the courage and confidence to make the leap, taking the risks to attempt a different path to come up with something revolutionary.

In the International Baccalaureate (IB) environment, risk taking is one of the ten IB Learner Profiles and IB students are encouraged and guided to be confident in taking risks. This is not about the act of doing something rash, but about building the confidence to courageously get out of one’s comfort zone to face challenges, and not let the fear of failure hinder. Students are similarly encouraged to be confident about the decisions, choices and actions that they adopt. To do this, they are guided to explore new, innovative ideas and strategies and challenge their ‘old’ ways of thinking. It is when students try new experiences that they then get to learn new things and discover strengths that they never knew they had. Doing the same old activity does not allow such discovery opportunities. With this, critical thinking and self-management skills are harnessed at the same time. Students weigh the pros and cons of information that they have gathered and analysed critically. They develop the ability to keep calm, stay organised, and think outside the box and adapt, no matter how unsure or difficult the situation is.

At ISS International School (ISS), our students are similarly guided to build this risk-taking skill and to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. They are challenged to think and encouraged to be confident in the decisions they make and take. The difference lies in the **safe environment** that our teachers create in class. “A safe environment is about ensuring that our students are encouraged to take risks, equipped with a certain level of preparedness. It is not about taking risks in an ill-informed / ill prepared manner, because that would be risky, not risk taking,” shares Michael, our Middle School Principal, “it is about equipping them with certain core skills such as inquiry, research, communication, action, reflection, organisation; outcomes that are part of our “Approaches to Learning”, which transcend across



A little help from a friend to overcome one’s fear

In the International Baccalaureate (IB) environment, risk taking is one of the ten IB Learner Profiles and IB students are encouraged and guided to be confident in taking risks.



Students were guided on what to observe before they started on their experiments

all the subject areas taught. These are the springboards to developing risk taking skills”, adds Michael.

A safe environment is also about a place where the students are not afraid to make mistakes! Minaal, our Scientific & Mathematical Literacy coordinator and elementary school teacher further shares this, “risk taking is a big part of my classroom and when it is appropriate, my students can choose activities that centre around the same outcome but are at different levels of difficulty. For risk taking to come naturally to my students, I ensure that my students are not afraid to try new things, make mistakes and learn from it. I typically make a determined effort to acknowledge the fear and understand why there is negativity towards attempting a certain task. One of my students found mathematics scary and felt that the task which I had assigned was just too difficult to do. It was important for me not to downplay my students’ fear. Instead, I acknowledged it and we talked about what the fear was. “Math can be very scary” I said to her, “especially if we’re working on questions we don’t know how to solve.” We talked about how new things can be scary because they’re new but we need new things so that we can learn. By the end of the lesson, my student successfully completed the math task (after some initial support) and the next day when we began a new task, I overheard this student telling other classmates that, “I can do the work now.”

What this example shows is that it is not just about the safe environment that is created, but that 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.

Michael, our Middle School Principal continues with this thought. Four things are important components to develop this risk taking skill :

- (a) ensuring **open and positive communication**, so that the environment is non-threatening,
- (b) **welcoming feedback** with a positive attitude and approach,

- (c) a **reasonable level of organisation** so that boundaries are known, and
- (d) doing so in a **fun environment** with a human touch

This is also his mantra with his faculty, “create this environment in your learning spaces with the students and always show them support. This will ensure that our students not only develop risk taking skills, but will develop to become strong global citizens. This was the kind of environment that I was fortunate enough to grow up in - at school, university and in the home front. It worked.”

“I give full credit to the School’s Head and teachers for instilling in my children a level of responsibility and self-assurance which increases as they progress through the ranks - from subtly giving them small individual tasks to work on at the age of 4 to taking on more complex research topics at the age of 13. I certainly do see my children growing as risk takers,” shares Karen a very proud mother whose children have been studying at ISS for the past 8 years. “The key thing that stands out (for me) is their ability to speak in public before a large audience with confidence, clarity and pride. Once upon a time, I could not say with certainty that they were as good as they are now. I will always remember an event almost 2 years ago when my eldest child participated, with numerous others in an oratory recital which parents were invited to attend. He was the last to go up on stage and before that, his wait was agonising. After his recital, Nicola Zulu, the High School Principal said to him ‘I could listen to you all day.’ It was a mother’s pride in looking at how far her son has come.”

Our alumna, Mhairie-Claire who is now studying at Osaka University in Japan, thanks the teachers at ISS for their guidance. “If not for my teachers’ encouragement to challenge myself and consider doing things different from the norm, I would never have considered studying in a country where I did not speak the language and where I was not completely familiar with the culture. My teachers’ nurturing approach gave me the courage to ‘take a risk’ and try something new. The benefits are enormous! I can now speak Japanese and have an in depth understanding of a culture other than my own. Importantly, I have the resilience needed to face the demands of a high quality and challenging university course.”

“Teachers at ISS have guided me to be a risk taker by creating

an environment to encourage me to try new things. They do so by assuring me that it is okay to make mistakes, as long as I learn from it. This makes me feel safe and comfortable to try unfamiliar activities, and I have benefitted as I have personally learnt and grown. I recognise that I have developed this risk taking skill, as I now dare to try, as opposed to not trying at all in the past.” Jeewoo, ISS student leader.

Jeewoo’s actions are echoed by Minaal, who observes that children who dare to take risks will often push themselves to take up a challenge. They also become more reflective as some will think about all the tasks before choosing one instead of rushing to pick the hardest. She remembers how a group of her students chose a task that they realised was too easy. In the next lesson, one of them said, “I am going to pick a harder task today because yesterday’s was too easy.” On the flip side, she has also seen her students recognise that a task that they had selected was too difficult. They do take the initiative to stop what they were doing to try a slightly less challenging activity, and then pick up on the more difficult task as they learn new knowledge and feel more confident tackling this more complex task, under her guidance.

As Minaal further shares, “risk taking is certainly not something that comes naturally to us, but for those who dare to venture into unknown territory, the benefits gained are abundant. We develop resilience, a growth mind-set, the ability to remain flexible as we learn to cope when things don’t go as planned, and we apply our critical thinking skills gained from past knowledge to work towards success.”

These, together with the ability of take risks, are all important skills sets to have, as ISS grooms its students to become global ready. “As long as we understand that failure and mistakes, are part and parcel of risk taking and a huge part of the learning experience, then we will know why risk taking is truly an important skill set to nurture!” As a final parting shot from Minaal whose favourite quote from Thomas Edison draws parallels to risk taking and its benefits, “I haven’t failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that don’t work.”



Inquiry, research, communication, action; springboards to developing risk taking skills

Getting to Know Our Board Members

Mr Charlie Chan

Mr Charlie Chan worked for many years with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Purchasing Departments at the Ministry of Health and the Singapore General Hospital. After his retirement from the civil service, he joined the Beijing International School of Singapore (BISS) as its Facilities Manager and held that position for more than 20 years. While in Beijing, his extensive knowledge of Chinese government regulations, good relations with the municipal offices and the local community enabled him to effectively promote BISS’ interests in the area where it is located.

He stepped down from BISS in 2014 and was subsequently invited to serve on the ISS International School Board. He has been on the ISS International School Board since November 2015.

Mr Chan shared that ISS has a reputation of prestige and a track record of achievements

for both the schools in Singapore and Beijing. The strength of ISS comes from a combination of being innovative and from its many years of experience in sound curriculum development by the schools’ dedicated teams of devoted teachers and leaders. The organisation has taken advantage of its small teacher student ratio, and has developed a caring culture which consistently also provides strong pastoral and personal support to students of any background. The schools’ practice of keeping the extended community of parents, Board, and Alumni informed of its activities and progress, has also worked to its advantage.

Parents can be assured that in ISS your child enjoys challenges, learning how to think, knowing real life experiences and immersing in a multicultural environment. This prepares the ISS graduate to thrive and succeed in the global economy.



Mr Charlie Chan

Elementary School Performing Arts Concert



What a wonderful performance put up by our K2 students!

The Elementary School Performing Arts concerts allow us the optimal opportunity to deliver performances with authentic connections to curricular content. Each unique performance is inspired by the unit the students are inquiring into for that particular grade level. The more intimate and meaningful nature of our performances allow for each child to play a greater role in the production and to become familiar with and confident in the performance space. Our K2 and G2 Performing Arts concerts were very successful this first semester and we look forward to sharing more amazing experiences second semester with K1, G1, G3, G4, and G5.



Grade 2 students immersing themselves fully in their characters

Paterson Library Book Fair

"I like the Book Fair because there are different books from different authors. My favourite book is 'Ghosts' by Raina Telgemeier"

"I like the books because they are fun to read".

These were the thoughts of our students, Olivia and Josh, when they came with their family to visit Paterson Library's Book Fair on 1st November.

During the day of the Paterson Campus '3 Way Conferences', students from the Elementary and Middle School had the opportunity to bring their parents into the library. They could browse and purchase a fantastic selection of books provided by a 'Closetful of Books', who helped with organising the Fair. There were books from Singapore, UK, Australia and the USA, comprising fiction books of all genres, information books about interesting topics, and even picture books with a variety of beautiful illustrations. Books for all ages of students could be found including the latest releases and many old favourites too. The librarians and the book fair staff were able to advise parents and students on which choice of books would be suitable for the students.

Book Fairs are an important activity in ISS International School's calendar of events, because it strongly supports a core ISS value; "all individuals are nurtured to achieve their full potential". By giving parents an opportunity to share in developing their children's literacy skills and to expand their reading material, this will help our students gain new knowledge. The Book Fair also provides an opportunity for our students to decide if a book they selected is what they want before they make a purchase. Finally at such Book Fairs, not only do the students have the opportunity to purchase books that are not found at bookstores around Singapore, the School Librarians are also provided with the opportunity to pick some new resources for our library collection!

We encourage everyone to come to the next Book Fair which will be held at the Paterson Library in April 2018.



Read, read, read!



Book Fair at Paterson Campus Library

Festival of Lights



Performing under the stars!

The Festival of Lights is a fantastic occasion to celebrate the musical talents of our students at ISS.

The programme that memorable evening was split into two sections. The first part of the evening saw our finest solo piano players from Grades 11 and 12 (Mingzuo, Wijie, Naoki and SooYun) present at the piano recital. The second part focused on the Grades 9 and 10 ensembles, as well as solo performances from our Grades 11 and 12 players like Mhairie-Flor, Tristen, Hui Tung, Yuki, Risa, Miho, Young Chin and Uta. While all our performers felt somewhat nervous, they rose to the occasion and gave their very best. A true embodiment of their risk taking profile!

The warm applause received after each and every performance is testament to the enjoyable time that our audience had.



A sumptuous buffet spread



One of our many musical talents

The Personal Project Exhibition and Extended Essay Presentation

The **Personal Project Exhibition and the Extended Essay Presentation** are both a great part of the MYP and DP programmes respectively. Both allow students to undertake a project that will not only challenge themselves personally, but also develop skills such as critical and creative thinking, and social and communication skills.

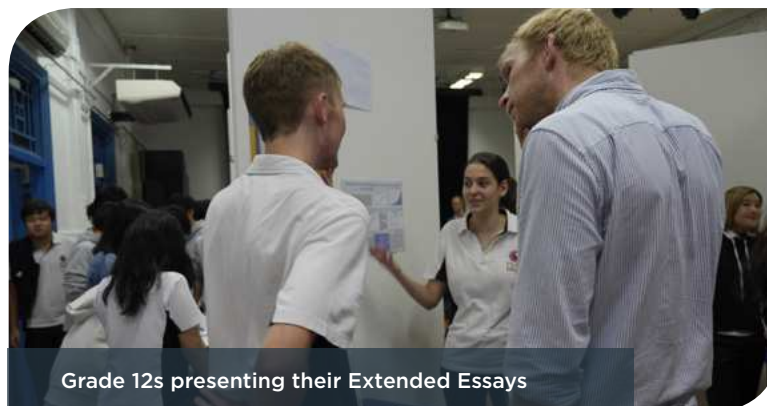
Within the MYP, students' communication and social skills are manifested when they display and present their projects to their fellow schoolmates and parents. Their critical and creative thinking skills came into play when they committed themselves to in-depth research for the project and in answering each question, during their presentations. This was certainly an opportunity for our students to celebrate their achievements and learning.

The Extended Essay (EE) Presentation is also a celebration of our students learning and an accomplishment of a milestone; completing their EE. The EE is a process where students produce an academic assignment which requires them to independently research, investigate and evaluate a question in detail. In the course of doing so, they hone and develop their research and inquiry skills, they learn new knowledge, learn to develop a balanced approach to the topic and become better open-minded thinkers.

A pat on the back for all our Grade 10s and 12s. They all did well!



Our future author presenting her Personal Project



Grade 12s presenting their Extended Essays

Walking Towards Zero Hunger, Urgent Run and Park Clean Up 2017



Grade 5 - 7s Service As Action Day



Beach Clean up

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” - Mahatma Gandhi

On Thursday, 14 December, Grades 5-8 students took part in our annual “Walking Towards Zero Hunger, Urgent Run and Park Clean Up” community service activity. Students walked or ran for approximately five (5) kilometres, along the East Coast Parkway and participated in a park cleanup.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

The **ISS Urgent Run** is a project linked to a local NGO named The World Toilet Organisation which is committed to “improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide”. Our Urgent Run is connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goal #6: Clean Water and Sanitation- “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all”, Our students were able to purchase an Urgent Run t-shirt for \$10 in support of this UN Goal and the proceeds collected were donated to the World Toilet Organisation.

Walking Towards Zero Hunger aims to focus attention on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #2: Zero Hunger- “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.” Our students donated food which were given to the Singapore Food Bank and through our effort, we aim to help many local community groups and families who struggle to make ends meet.

Our **park clean up effort serves to** address the UN Sustainable Development Goal #14: Life below Water- “to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities...”. Our students hope that their actions can make a small dent in reducing the amount of trash in our oceans.

Service as action is an integral part of the curriculum in Middle School. It helps students apply what they have learned in the classroom to real world issues in their community. The goal is to develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as to meet the learning objectives of the curriculum. It gives our students an opportunity to make their learning more applicable in the real world. The activities that took place on the 14th December certainly ticked all these objectives for our students.



Enjoying their 5km walk



Our students and teachers working hard to clean up the beach



Our students taking part in the “Walking towards zero hunger” movement

Education for the new reality, investing in a robust head start



Inquiry based learning with a multi-disciplinary approach is core

The world is an unpredictable, rapidly changing interconnected global economy. 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.

Dr Stephen Holmes* (Dr Holmes) expanded on these skills, that will take a child from Kindergarten to Grade School to University and then into the workforce at the first ever 'ISS International School Education Talk' series, which took place on Tuesday, 28 November 2017 at our Paterson campus.

"The skills needed to prepare our children from school, to college, to the work force is ever changing and changing dramatically too. School programmes must be ready to support this change and cannot continue the same practice of the past." Dr Holmes

Skills such as the ability to:

- o pose and solve problems;
- o research to ensure that students can discover things and acquire new knowledge and thinking skills (evidence based thinking);
- o manage their own learning and collaborate with others;
- o be creative and innovative to adapt to new situations;
- o communicate effectively and persuasively with diverse people skills;
- o have a global mind-set;
- o have an entrepreneurial passion;
- o always have integrity, be reliable, responsible and show humility

He also expanded on what schools must do to support this skills development amongst our students. He shared the importance of an inquiry based learning environment with a focus on interdisciplinary learning for students, and identified three pillars for future educational establishments that parents should look for when making critical schooling/university decisions. The reputation of the school, the ability to make your child learn happily and a school that is innovative and forward thinking. It was good to know that ISS International School had strong ticks in all the necessary boxes!

The enthusiasm shown by the parents (ISS and non-ISS parents) and guests who came, was unmistakable as endless questions were asked and Dr Holmes amicably complied to de-mystify queries on the subject.

A fruitful learning experience was definitely had by one and all that evening.

*Dr Stephen Holmes is an experienced and credentialed facilitator in the world of strategy planning, market positioning, and reputation management for the education sector. He has consulted, researched, published and spoken globally with schools, colleges and universities. He has built his name as a world leading authority in facilitating the transition of the education sector, to a more responsive orientation in increasingly competitive and open contexts.



Our CEO Mrs Chan with an Alumna who attended the talk



Schools must be prepared to evolve to prepare our students to be future ready - Dr Holmes



Parents arriving at the talk!



Our audience listening intently to Dr Holmes

First ever Japanese University Information Session in Singapore

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Higher Education Department of Japan, together with ISS International School Singapore and Global Education Foundation, Japan (GEF), held the first ever 'Japanese University Information Session' in Singapore at our ISS Paterson campus on Sunday, 10 December, 2017.

Representatives from 10 of Japan's top universities were present to have one on one sessions with interested students who are keen to pursue their university and post-graduate studies in Japan.

The programme for the day was varied and interesting because of the information provided. Each University not only shared information about their programmes taught in English as well as those taught in Japanese, they also provided the students, parents and educators with up-to-date, research based information about Japanese higher education.

"Both Singapore and Japan have had over 50 years of peaceful cooperation, and we certainly look forward to more. This collaborative opportunity to work with ISS International School to bring Japanese Universities to Singapore to share authentic information about tertiary education in Japan, to students of all nationalities is therefore timely. The possibilities to build better intercultural understanding amongst our younger generation are endless."

- **Ikuko Tsuboya-Newel**, Representative Director, Global Education Foundation, Japan

"At ISS International School, it is our belief that everyone deserves an education that fits their needs, interests and future plans. This is our inclusive philosophy and culture, and this is why working together with MEXT and GEF, Japan to hold this event, supports this core belief."

- **Dr Margaret Alvarez**, Head of School, ISS International School

Students who attended had this to share :

" I would like to pursue Biological Science at University. Japanese Universities are known to have done alot of research and practical work in this area and have the strong experience of teaching this programme. With Japanese universities now offering their programmes in English in the Global30 progammme, this benefits me tremendously. I get to pursue my interests in an English tertiary environment, and still have the opportunity to study in a multi-cultural environment. I am glad I attended the session."

- **Jason**, ISS Student

Other non-ISS Students from various international schools in Singapore had this to share:

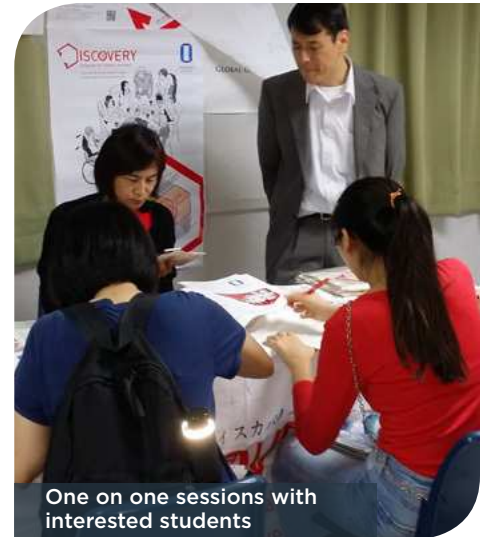
"I heard about this Japanese University Information session from the University Advisor from my international school. Japan is so much closer to Singapore where my parents have been posted for their work assignment. So furthering my tertiary education in Japan is definitely a viable option."

- **a South East Asian international school student.**

"I am keeping my University options opened. But because I would like to pursue Engineering, and Japan now offers programmes in English for this discipline, a tertiary education in this country is therefore a good consideration."

- **a South Asian International student.**

It was certainly an enlightening and beneficial sharing session, with a lot of insights shared by the various Universities. We are already looking forward to next year's Japanese University Information Session!



One on one sessions with interested students



Participants listening intently to the talk by a University representative



So many questions were asked!



A prospective student at the Japanese University Information Session

School Activities

- November to December

ES Performance, Grade 2 (24 November)

Our Elementary School Grade 2 students prepared a whimsical musical inspired by a famous painting, "Starry Starry Night." The experience for the students allowed them the optimal opportunity to develop their imagination, physical expressivity, as well as artistic and creative skills pre, post and during the performance.



ES Grade 2 Performance, "Starry Starry Night."

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

Our High School parents learned more about the IB curriculum and the different subjects we teach at ISS. These IB Diploma Information and Subject Fair sessions allow parents to know more about what their child is taught at school.



HS IB Diploma Information Evening with the parents

HS Music Festival of Lights Concert (6 December)

Our High School Festival of Lights concert was a huge success with our musical talents staging an amazing performance! A big thank-you to Mr Chris Hoddinott for organising this concert, and to our students who have put in so much effort to prepare for this annual musical extravaganza.

We would also like to extend our thanks to both the ISS Parent & Teacher Association and the ISS International School Board for their kind sponsorship of the Festival of Lights preconcert reception, and for the wonderful and special buffet spread at this event.



Concert under the stars

Japanese University Fair (10 December)

ISS hosted the first-ever Japanese University Information Session in Singapore at our Paterson Campus. 10 prestigious Japanese Universities were present for one to one sessions with interested students who were keen to pursue their university and post-graduate studies in Japan. The students and parents took home with them valuable feedback, information and answers for considering an education in Japan.



Japanese University Fair - What a crowd!

Personal Project Exhibition and Extended Essay (12 December)

This year, our students did an excellent job for their personal project exhibition and extended essay presentations. There was a wide range of subject matters, social issues, historical and cultural contexts as well as research topics which our students covered. Some presented their project in a self-written book, a video game, a campaign awareness website or even a prototype model. Extended Essay students presented their academic research-based essay; a core component of the Diploma Programme. Well done students for your hard work, and the teachers for their guidance along the way.



Personal Project Exhibition

Middle School Service As Action Day (14 December)

Our grades 5-8 students participated in the "Walking Towards Zero Hunger, Urgent Run and Park Cleanup" on our 'Service as Action' day. Students did a mixture of walking and running for approximately five kilometers, along the East Coast Parkway and participated in a park clean up afterwards. Service as action is an integral part of the curriculum in Middle School. Our students took home with them valuable experiences that will help them apply what they have learned in and outside of the classroom to real-world issues, and in so doing develop a sense of social responsibility.



Picking up trash along the East Coast Beach

Events to Look Forward To

January to February

Grade 10 DP Taster Day (16 January)

Grade 10 students will get a 'taste' of the subjects in their IB Diploma programme (IB DP) on 16 January at Preston campus. The students will spend the entire day taking part in a range of lessons to provide them with some in-depth information about the IBDP programme. This is to further help our grade 10s for their subject selection later in the Semester.



Lessons to get a taste of IBDP subjects

High School Introduction for Grade 8 Parents (26 January)

(26 January)

We will organise an orientation for our Grade 8 parents to learn more about the IB curriculum and the different subjects we teach at ISS. Join us for an 'Introduction to Grade 8 IB Curriculum and Subject Fair', to know more about what your child will learn in high school.



Introduction for our Grade 8 parents

HS Grade 12 Art Exhibition (29 January to 2nd February)

Our Grade 12 art students will be displaying their artwork at the G12 Art Exhibition. Do drop by to take a look at their masterpieces, and understand the concept behind these creations at our Preston campus. See you there!



Asking questions and learning more about the concept behind the art

PTA Meeting (5 February)

Please join us for the PTA meeting this February. The PTA is a great way to meet other ISS parents, get involved and play a role in your child's experience at ISS.



Camaraderie is built amongst our parents in the PTA

Elementary School 3 way conferences (23 February)

Every year our teachers, together with our students and parents come together to know more about the IB Curriculum as well as their individual progress.

PTA Fun Fair (25 February, Tentative date)

Our PTA organise a fun fair every year, and this year is no exception! We're looking forward to a day full of fun and games, as we spend time together as a community. Join us at Paterson campus!



Yummy! The food at PTA Funfair is the best!

Elementary and Middle School Literacy Week

(26 February to 2 March)

Our Elementary School + Middle School (ES + MS) Literacy Week will feature a variety of activities related to books and reading. Watch out for the book character parade, and of course a book fair! Do drop by our Paterson campus for this event.

HS Parent / Guardian - Teacher Conferences Grade 9 to 11 (28 February)

We organise talks for our parents to learn more about the IB curriculum. Join us for our HS Parent/Guardian teacher conferences for grades 9 to 11, to learn more about your child/ student's progress and learning in school.

ES + MS Teaching and Learning in PYP/MYP Parents Coffee Morning (1 March)

We organise talks for our parents to learn more about the IB curriculum. Join us for our PYP and MYP coffee morning to learn more about what your child is learning in school.



3 Way conference - Building relationships and talking about the child's progress



HS parents getting to know the IB Curriculum better



Parents getting know more about the PYP and MYP IB programme



Upcoming Events in Singapore

Happy 2018 to everyone! Here are a few events and meaningful activities you could bring your children to or simply go in a group with other ISS families.

Auspicious beginnings

Usher in the Chinese New Year at the River Hongbao, a celebration of all things Chinese at Singapore's iconic Floating Platform @ Marina Bay.




The River Hongbao has been on Singapore's festive calendar every year since 1987. Held at the Floating Platform @ Marina Bay, this iconic event has become an integral tradition of Singapore's Lunar New Year celebrations for locals and tourists alike. This lively festival offers a special Chinese cultural experience - from giant lanterns to mouth-watering food - that is a feast for your senses.

You will be astounded by the larger-than life lanterns depicting figures from Chinese myths and legends, handcrafted onsite by craftsmen from China.

Crowd favourites include the God of Fortune, and of course, the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac.

A myriad of fringe activities, ranging from amusement rides to carnival games, will ensure that there is never a dull moment. Opera and other street performances round up this colourful extravaganza.

Then take a breather amid the cacophony of sights and sounds. Treat your taste buds to a spread of exotic delicacies served at the largest outdoor Food Street in Singapore. Like fireworks? Then you'll love the River Hongbao Opening Night and the Chinese New Year Eve Countdown Party - each has its own pyrotechnics display, welcoming the New Year in bright, auspicious style.

 Floating Platform @ Marina Bay, Singapore
 14th to 24th February 2018, 4:30 PM - 8.00 PM
 <http://www.riverhongbao.sg>




Chingay Parade

The Chingay Parade is a raucous display of Singapore's multicultural heritage at its most vibrant.

If a single event could capture the essence of Singapore's unique multicultural personality, it would be the Chingay Parade - an annual marvel of dazzling floats, dancing dragons and stilt walkers. It may be held during the Chinese New Year festivities, but this wondrous event brings together people and performances from across the spectrum of Singaporean culture; celebrated by Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians alike.

With all its noise and gaiety, the parade was mooted over four decades ago as a way to compensate for the ban that had been placed on firecrackers, a customary New Year practice to drive away evil spirits.

Today, the Chingay Parade is the largest street performance and float parade in Asia - a shimmering celebration that makes its way across the heartland of this country.

 F1 Pit Building
 23rd, 24th February 2018, 8.00pm - 9.30pm
 <http://www.chingay.org.sg>
<https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/chingay0218>

