



**AUSTIN
HEIGHTS**
Private & International School
TOGETHER WE EXCEL

Newsletter

FEB 2013 **ISSUE 11**



The School Management and staff wish
all Austin Heights students, parents and guardians

**A Happy Chinese New Year &
GONG XI FA CAI!**

May the Year of the Snake bring good health and good luck to one and all.
All Austin Heights students are reminded to always display a high level of dignity,
respect for the young and old, and be filial to your parents.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received and our thanks go to all those involved.
This is the international standard of voluntary service that we cherish.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



CELEBRATION

The school ushered in the Year of the Snake with lots of excitement and thoughtfulness. Our students welcomed our special guests from an old folks' home and an orphanage with a grand opening escorted by lion dancers and drum rolls, and not forgetting The God of Fortune who made all those present smile with joy.

The objectives of this event are to provide experiential learning for our children and for them to develop their social relationships and social concepts such as friendship and sharing among their peers. This gave them a rare glimpse of the under privileged and an opportunity to appreciate all the blessings they enjoy in their lives. The children experienced the joy of the Chinese New Year celebration while understanding and respecting each other's beliefs, culture and heritage. This was not limited to our Chinese families; students from other countries took this opportunity to experience this ancient festival by participating in activities that provided them with a first-hand experience of international-mindedness and appreciating cultural differences.

Our students dressed themselves in their traditional costumes and sang songs and danced to add more flavour to their joyful experience. Our students, starting from the pre-schoolers, put on a show that was so remarkable that it made the guests dance along. There was even

a performance by a professional yo-yo player who captivated us all with his amazing skills.

Finally, The God of Fortune showered the students and guests with ang-pow and goodie bags which brought smiles on all the children's faces. Right after that all the guests were invited for lunch where some festive delicacies were served. It was the perfect way of commemorating such an important day.

A big thank you goes to everyone involved to organize the Chinese New Year celebration event. We are extremely grateful for all support extended to the school and our thanks goes to all those who have made time and effort to take part in these activities. We are also grateful to all parents for your unwavering support by joining to give ang-pow and goodies to our special guests.



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Message from The School Board

FROM CAN'T TO CAN

You will never learn to ride a bicycle until you actually get on one;

and you will probably fall off a few times (as I did) until you finally master the skill. Perseverance, determination, trying something new and discovering previously untapped talents are integral elements in holistic education, and ones which we seek actively to foster here.

During our recent expedition to Cambodia, one of our students was visibly anxious as she awaited the arrival of 30+ Cambodian students to whom she was going to teach English at Savong School. I also witnessed the joy and satisfaction when, successfully, she worked with them and spoke confidently with them.

“You’ve never done that before, have you?” I asked.

She nodded in agreement.

“Now you know you can.”

I should imagine that most of our participants in the expedition had never taught English, worked and played with primary age children, experienced life in an orphanage, interviewed war victims, mixed cement and laid floor tiles, trained in a professional kitchen, climbed sheer temples (and coconut trees) in the searing heat, ridden quad bikes through the dust – or raised enough

money for charity to complete both target projects and to lay the foundation for a new one. Now they know they can, and I was delighted with the attitude and impeccable behaviour of all of them. I hope that they will have life-long memories of a demanding, but highly rewarding expedition and that not only have they a better understanding of other lives and other cultures but also a better understanding of themselves.

We recently saw the inauguration of the Student Council, an important body of students elected exclusively by their peers. They too have to find within them new skills as they represent their fellow students, plan and debate to make their contribution to the continuing development of the school and display ingenuity and hard work in organising events. That they are already able to do so was evinced in our Chinese New Year celebrations in which they, assisted by the Prefects, worked with great efficiency to ensure the success of the entire morning.

With the trial examinations now over,



the Year 11 face their last lap, and it is vital that they prepare a methodical and thorough revision plan. It is not advisable to spend long hours poring over text books since our concentration and ability to retain information cannot respond to such uncompromising time frames. It is far better to focus for an hour or so, have a break, and continue revising. Students should think of different ways of revising e.g. highlighting key points and noting them separately on cards or asking their friends to test them on information. They should consult with their teachers as to the key areas to address rather than engaging in indiscriminate revision. Similarly, a healthy regime, while always important, is essential at this time for successful learning. Please ensure that your son/daughter does not stay up too late, that she/ he eats well, and that the internet is a source of information and research rather than a source of on-line chatting.

I wish you all a happy Chinese New Year and, if you are heading out of JB, please drive carefully.



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CULTURAL & HUMANITARIAN

EXPEDITION TO *Cambodia*

Date: 23rd to 29th January 2013





Expedition to Cambodia

A total of 29 students from Y9-11 went on a 7-day trip to Cambodia from 23rd-29th January 2013. They were accompanied by Mr Alan, Principal of Austin Heights International School, Mr Taliv and Ms Hasinah.

The students went through an experiential learning journey as they were led to appreciate the wonders of Angkor Wat, interviewed and admired the works of a professional photographer, Mr John Mc Dermott, and listened to the tales of a Khmer Rouge victim. They were exposed to individuals and organizations who

have made a great difference to Cambodia like Dr Beat Richner of the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospital, Svay Savong of the Savong Foundation, and Artisans d'Angkor. They worked closely with the Savong foundation by spending time doing activities with orphans in the orphanage and students in Savong school.

The students who went to Cambodia were also tasked to raise funds to help Savong school, and succeeded in raising a fabulous amount of about RM 20,000. The money enabled the school to build an outdoor classroom and purchase a 'tuk tuk' to help transport the orphans from the orphanage to school. Furthermore,

since the amount raised was greater than expected, the remainder was donated to initiate a new orphanage and education centre. Students were not only involved in raising funds, they were also involved in digging soil, mixing cement, laying tiles, washing the floors and many other laborious tasks. Our students were challenged to perform tasks they never thought they could achieve and came out feeling more confident in themselves as they discovered their hidden talents and inner strengths.

The students came back with precious, valuable and unforgettable experiences. It was a very successful expedition!



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INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM (IPC)

YEAR 1 - ENTRY POINT

Theme: Celebration

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important traditional festival and a public holiday in Malaysia. The festival falls on the first day of the first Chinese month (usually in late January and early February), and ends with the Lantern Festival which is on the 15th day. The Chinese New Year 2013 – the Year of the Snake – started on February 9 (Chinese New Year's Eve). In conjunction with that the Year 1 IPC Students decided to decorate their classroom.

The objective of this activity was to be able to use a variety of materials and processes in making decorations for any celebration and not just for Chinese New Year. They also learned about the history and stories behind each decoration they made and learned to respect the works of artists who have contributed to celebrations.



YEAR 2 - ENTRY POINT

Theme: The Stories People Tell (Myths, Legends, Folktales, and Fairy Tales)

Students in Year 2 started exploring classic stories originated from various countries across the world at the beginning of term 2. They began by creating a story board of a story they loved reading. This story was illustrated in class and taken home to complete with the assistance of their family.

Upon their return to the classroom, students shared their story board with their classmates. This was the entry point into the world of storytelling that has captivated the minds and hearts of children from across the world.



YEAR 3 - EXIT POINT

Theme: Chocolate

Our year 3 students took advantage of the second week before Chinese New Year 2013 to complete their IPC Exit Point by having a Charity Chocolate Fair. They set up their chocolate stand at the school canteen and, in two days, achieved two aims: they had a lot of fun and raised money for the old folks and orphanage.

The main objective is to expose the students to trading and social awareness (sharing and caring).



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SECONDARY SCHOOL

Music Lesson



The Music department has designed an activity for the secondary students called “ Battle Of The Band” for the second term.

Students discussing and preparing their own musical arrangement...



The aims of this music activity are to encourage the students to showcase their talents in playing musical instruments and to develop their singing ability as well. Through this activity, students are given the platform to express themselves through their own interpretations of songs and music. This activity will also help the students to develop their self confidence in front of an audience. Students will also learn the essence of “Together We Excel” (unity) through this healthy inter-class competition. Ultimately, the best performing group of students will earn the opportunity to perform at the school’s year end concert.



“ Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven’t planted. ”

~ David Bly

David Bly (1852-) is a Minnesota politician and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives representing District 25B.

Art & Design

During this term the Year 7-9 3 students are learning the 3 D aspect of Art & Design. They will experience and create different 3D works. Clay and plaster were used to make low relief sculptures and objects of art. 3D art is a three dimensional art form where the viewers are able to go around it and appreciate it.

Using clay, containers were made through the coil building method. Pots and bowls were created from lumps of clay. This helped them to understand the development of ideas into aesthetic forms.

The domed plaster pieces were carved and painted to represent their personal ideas. Some of the displayed works were brilliantly done and it showed progressive results from the tiled plaster pieces.

With plaster they cast and carved out the works. Abstracting the surface of a plaster tile piece, the students showed their ability to control the appropriate tools and materials.





“You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948) was the pre-eminent political and spiritual leader of India during the Indian independence movement.

NEWLY FORMED STUDENT COUNCIL

Austin Heights International School Student Council was established and had its inaugural installation on 21st January 2013 during weekly school assembly in the school hall. There is a total of 26 student councillors elected by their classmates to form this student-centred body. This council will be under the guidance of Mr. Lui Lai Nam as the advisor and Ms. Yvonne Choong as the teacher in-charge.

As student councillors, they have promised to uphold the good name of the school and fulfill their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. Besides, they also ensure that the voices of the students are heard and acted upon. Their ultimate objective is to persevere and work together for the betterment of the school.

On 1st February 2013, the student councillors helped during the Chinese New Year celebration at school by welcoming and ushering our honoured guests (the old folks and orphans) as well as serving them with food and drinks during lunch break.

On 6th February 2013, the Committee of Student Council was formed through a smooth election within the 26 student councillors.

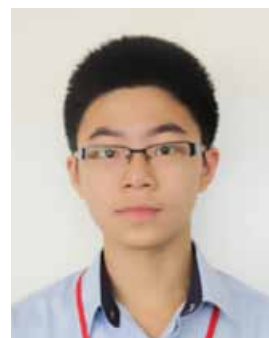
The elected student Council Members are as follows :



President
Brynner Ch'ng (10A)



Vice President
Jensen Wee (9A)



Secretary
Lee Jia Yi (7U)

Year 7A	Imelda Tan Wei Wei Cham Tat Cheng	Year 9A	Yuushani A. Magendran
Year 7U	Priya Rebecca Mohan	Year 9U	Benjamin Hon Qi-En Muhammad Najib Nasser
Year 7S	Lee Deng Jiun Kek Shye Lianq	Year 9S	Lim Wei Kee Ng Jin Heng
Year 8A	Kervin Rees Tan Hui Min	Year 10A	Cheong Weng Kin
Year 8U	Chin Yi Fan Tan Pei Xuan	Year 10U	Rudy Tan Li Xiong Raehan Hemanth
Year 8S	Rafay Ahmad Quresh Tay Teck Wee	Year 10S	Suzen Lee Yong Chun
Year 8T	Ooi Ying Zhao Pauline Tan		

EXAMINATION & COMPETITION

Registration for IGCSE Examination May/June Series 2013

The present Year 11 students will be the first cohort of candidates for IGCSE examination. The exams including oral test will take place from **February until June.**



IGCSE Trial Examination

An IGCSE trial examination was conducted from 14 January 2013 till 22 January 2013. Students were exposed to questions of IGCSE level. Results of the students have been analysed and individual feedback has been given to the respective student and parent. Subject teachers have identified the areas to be given emphasis to help the students to further improve their performance in the upcoming IGCSE Examination in May and June 2013.

In order to further prepare our Year 11 students to sit for the IGCSE examination more confidently in May/June 2013, our school will conduct another mock examination at the end of March 2013. The aim of this mock examination is to provide indicator to all parties especially the students with regard to the level of their readiness in the actual IGCSE examination, and the students are expected to make full use of the remaining time that they have to address the weaknesses in order to achieve a better grade and performance.

Cambridge Checkpoint Test and Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Test

Students in Year 9 and in Year 6 have registered for the Cambridge Checkpoint test and Cambridge Primary Checkpoint test respectively. These tests in English, Science and Mathematics will be conducted in April 2013. Each student will receive an analysis report from Cambridge International Examination after the test. The report will indicate the strengths and the weaknesses of the student. It also provides reliable feedback according to an international feedback to enable the school, the teachers and the students to devise plans and strategies to overcome the difficulties faced by the students in each subject.

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work learning from failure.”

~ **General Colin Powell**

Colin Powell (1937 –) is a retired four-star general in the US Army and the 65th United States Secretary of State (and the first African American appointed to this position) serving under President George W. Bush from 2001-2005.

International Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

All students have been encouraged to participate in this competition. The competitions have been scheduled to be held between April and July. Students can participate in all or any of the subjects which include Computer Skills, Science, Writing, English and Mathematics.

World Education Games schedule :

Subject	Competition Dates
World Literacy Day	Tuesday, 5th March
World Maths Day	Wednesday, 6th March
World Science Day	Thursday, 7th March



AUSTIN HEIGHTS INAUGURAL MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

A total of 16 participants took part in the tournament which was held at the Austin Heights Golf and Hotel Resort on 25 January. This tournament was open to all students of Austin Heights Private and International School under 3 categories, namely the under 12 years old, under 15 years old and under 18 years old. The participants played in a 9-hole 'Stroke Play' System. Only students had experience in playing golf were eligible to participate in this tournament.



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MSSD SWIMMING COMPETITION 2013



Thursday, 31st January 2013 was our school's first experience of the MSSD swimming tournament at Daiman Johor Jaya Swimming Pool. Our school sent a total of 18 representatives for the Under-13 – Under 18 category. The event started at 7:30am and ended at 5:30pm, and our students did well in the tournament. We congratulate all our representatives for their fine performance. The following is the list of participants and their achievements:

Event	Category	Name	Position
50m freestyle	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
100m freestyle	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
50m backstroke	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
100m backstroke	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
50m butterfly	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
100m butterfly	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
200m medley	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	Champion
50m breast stroke	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	1st runner-up
100m breast stroke	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong	1st runner-up
50m freestyle	Under 13 boys	Elson Cham Tat Cheng	2nd runner-up
50m breast stroke	Under 10 boys	Ethan Matthew Quah	3rd runner-up
50m breast stroke	Under 13 girls	Loh Zi Le	3rd runner-up
50m breast stroke	Under 13 boys	Elson Cham Tat Cheng	3rd runner-up
50m freestyle	Under 13 girls	Lau Yii Nuoh	3rd runner-up
F4 x 50m relay	Under 12 boys	Bryan Lim, Eng Xuan Ming, Joshua Lau, Ng Cia Tung	2nd runner-up
F4 x 50m relay	Under 13 girls	Koh Jia Jia, Lau Yii Nuoh, Loh Zi Le,	1st runner-up
F4 x 50m relay	Under 15 boys	Clement Lim Yu Fong, Tham Boon Yun, Eugene Kim, Woon Xue Bin	1st runner-up
F4 x 50m relay	Under 18 boys	Kuang Kee Hau, Lee Guo Ting, Nam Chan Woo	2nd runner-up
F4 x 50m relay	Under 18 boys	Lee Guo Ting, Nam Chan Woo	2nd runner-up

Sport Calendar

Date	Event
5th February	MSSD – Table Tennis Competition
7th February	MSSD – Golf Competition
19th – 21st February	MSSJ - Golf Competition (Kota Tinggi)
22nd February	Intra-school Bowling Competition
22nd – 24th February	MSSJ – Swimming competition (Kluang)
23rd-24th February	MSSJ – Table Tennis Competition (Segamat)
26th-28th February	MSSD – Bowling Competition, Daiman Bowl
3rd – 5th March	MSSD Badminton Competition

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Chinese New Year Celebration Cum Annual Dinner

On 30 January, Austin Heights School Management organised a Chinese New Year Cum Annual Dinner held at the Austin Heights Golf and Hotel Resort. All members of the staff had an enjoyable evening with most staff going home with lucky draw prizes. There was also performance by some of our staff singing Chinese New Year songs.

English as an Additional Language Programme (EAL)

The EAL programme commenced this term on 4th February 2013, where selected students from Year 7-9 were recommended to participate by their English language teachers. In this programme, the students were given more exposure to the English language. They were engaged in oral activities like reading aloud, reader's theatre, speaking and discussing pictures and scenarios. They were also involved in playing and learning from grammar games. The programme aimed to increase the students' vocabulary and raise their confidence in using English.

Chinese Calligraphy Competition 2013

In conjunction with the Chinese New Year, Austin Heights Private & International School Mandarin Department organized its first Chinese calligraphy competition. The event was aimed to raise the awareness and appreciation of Chinese culture and to introduce Chinese calligraphy to the younger generation.

red-coloured paper and was required to complete the calligraphy within the allotted time.

Through this event, the students had the chance to experience the art of Chinese calligraphy and they understood that it would require many years of practice to master the techniques.

The competition was divided into four categories namely Primary, Secondary, first and second language students of Mandarin. Each contestant was provided with bright

The work was then judged based on the neatness of the characters, skills and techniques in using the brush to write as well the artistic approach.



PRIMARY CATEGORY

- Mandarin First Language**
- First Prize : Koh Khee Soon (6U)
- Second Prize : Teh Zi Syn (6A)
- Third Prize : Zhou Xin Zhu (5U)

- Mandarin Second Language**
- First Prize : Aaron Cheah Xin Ee (6A)

SECONDARY CATEGORY

- Mandarin First Language**
- First Prize : Pauline Tan (8T)
- Second Prize : Bon Wei Ting (9S)
- Third Prize : Bon Hai Ting (7A)

- Mandarin Second Language**
- First Prize : Choi Yoohyun (10A)



UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Academic

- Assessment 2 will be carried out from 11-15 March 2013 for all in Year 1 – Year 10 students. Year 11 students will be having their mock examination at the end of March. All topics covered since Term 1 until 28th February of the academic Year 2012/2013 will be assessed.

- Austin Heights Private School will be having its 1st Assessment for the new academic year 2013 on 11-12th March. The subjects to be assessed are Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Living Skills (Kemahiran Hidup), and Islamic Studies for the secondary school. For the primary schools, students will be assessed on Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mathematics and Science.

- The Secondary Science department will be carrying out scientific experiments based on the Archimedes Principle. Bottle rocket making, based on Newton's Law, and other activities such as soap making and yoghurt making will be carried out on 18 & 25 February for the students in Year 8.

- Year 5 and 6 students will be carrying out extra science activities such as making musical boxes, testing reversible & irreversible reactions, physical and chemical changes using plaster of paris, cement & water. They are also going to make CO₂ balloons using vinegar and soda.



Sports

MSSJ Golf Competition, Orchard Golf and Country Resort 19-21 Feb

Eugene Kim Wei Hong (Year 9) and Ng Zi Xuan (Year 6) have been selected to represent the Pasir Gudang District at MSSJ level to be held at the Orchard Golf and Country Resort, Kota Tinggi. We wish them all the best.

MSSJ Swimming Competition, Kluang 22-24 Feb

Clement Lim Yu Fong of Year 8 who won 7 gold medals at the MSSD level has been selected to represent Pasir Gudang District at MSSJ level.

MSSJ Table Tennis Competition, Segamat 22 – 23 Feb

Werner Kee (Year 9) has been selected to represent Pasir Gudang District at MSSJ level in Segamat.

MSSD Bowling Competition, Daiman Bowl, Johor Jaya 26-28 Feb 2013

Terrance Chiam (Year 11) and Choo Wei An (Year 8) won the Under 18 & Under 15 respectively in the Intra-Bowling Competition on 22nd February and has been selected to participate in the MSSD Bowling Competition.

Key Dates for the Term

Date	Event
10th - 12th Feb	Chinese New Year *
11th - 15th Feb	School Break - Chinese New Year
26th Feb	IPC – Year 1– Theme “Flowers & Insects” Field Trip to Tmn Daya’s Nursery
27th Feb	IPC – Reception – Theme “Shopping” Field Trip
1st Mar	PTC – Early Year
1st Mar – 30th Apr	Oral Test for Malay, English as Second Language and Mandarin Chinese
5th Mar	IPC – Year 4 – Theme “Rainforest” Field Trip to Singapore Gardens By the Bay / Singapore Science Centre
11th- 12th March	Assessment 1 for Austin Heights Private School
11th – 15th March	Assessment 2 for International School (Year 1 – Year 10)
April	International Day * Public Holiday

Newsletter

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Austin Heights Private and International School

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