



**Oct 2012
Issue 7**

Principal's Message during Assembly



September 10th

Comparisons were made between 21st century education and the early education systems of Rome, Greece and Egypt. Students were shown that many subjects being taught now were in evidence in ancient times, and that what the ancient civilisations valued – for example communication, physical fitness, and intellectual games – we continue to value today. Students were reminded of the concept of holistic education, and of the importance not only of developing academic knowledge, but also skills and characteristics which are pre-requisites for success at global level.



October 1st 2012

Of all the great inventions, ideas and innovations, one of the greatest must be the development of the World Wide Web. Students possess tremendous power in terms of global communication, online research and creative applications, but they were reminded that the internet can also be abused. Students were warned against downloading programmes which may contain viruses, the use of pirated software and DVDs and communicating online with anybody except their true friends. The School's facilities are for educational purposes only and, at home, the students should maintain a healthy balance between using the internet for education and entertainment. It was emphasised that spending too many hours online – especially late at night – is detrimental to health. Above all, we want the students to surf smartly – and safely.



September 24th

The students learned about a highly successful UK rock band called Animal Kingdom, two members of which are former students of the Principal. These two boys had had the same opportunities as our students here at Austin Heights, and had achieved their aims through commitment and determination.

Although we neither guarantee nor expect that every student will become a rock star, a school can often be the place where dreams can start. Dreams don't just happen to other people – they can happen to you, provided you work hard enough for them.



STUDY TOUR TO MELBOURNE- YOUNG LEADER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Austin Heights Private & International Schools are organising a ten-day study tour to Melbourne, Australia from 8 to 18 December 2012. This Young Leaders Summer School Training Programme at Trinity College is a residential programme for students from across Australia and around the world. It offers an enriching academic and personal development programme designed to give students an intellectual and social edge for their final years of schooling while providing introduction to life at university. It also incorporates an action-packed programme of extracurricular activities, and is characterized by the lasting international friendships formed by participants, many of whom later join the college as a resident.

This study tour, comprising thirteen students, is led by the Deputy Principal Mr Lui Lai Nam who is assisted by a teacher Ms Koh Yee Ching. This study tour provides a very good opportunity for students to further enhance their academic and personal developments which will enrich their out-of-classroom learning experience. The cost is RM8,800 per student. This summer school programme is most suitable for Year 11 students who will soon be leaving for college/university. If you are interested but yet to register, please do so immediately.

YEAR 10 & 11 EXCURSION- CAMBODIA EXPEDITION

Twenty Nine students from Years 10 and 11 will be participating in an expedition to Siem Reap, Cambodia from January 23 to 29, 2013. During the expedition they will be engaged in a range of educational activities related to the temples of Angkor, NGO work in Cambodia and the recent history of the country. Furthermore, they will spend two days at the Savong Charity School near Siem Reap where they will experience hands-on building work, working with the 400+ children who attend the school, teaching them English and organising sports and games.

Any students interested to join the expedition but have not registered yet are welcome to do so immediately at the Admin Office. It is only open to secondary students on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost is about RM2,000 per student depending on the currency exchange rate and the air fare at the time of booking. Our Principal Mr Alan Crombie will lead the expedition and is assisted by two teachers namely Mr Taliv and Puan Hasinah.

Year 11 Charity Drive



The Year 11 recently decided to embark on a charity drive. This is in line with the topic of 'endangered species' they have learnt in their English lesson. They plan to raise funds for WWF and, especially, to save the Sumatran tigers. This stemmed from a debate on "Zoos: Prisons or Sanctuaries?" Some students were convinced that zoos were prisons. Hence, the class formed a class committee, headed by Muhammad Hanif (as the Chairman). They are planning a few interesting activities to be carried out with the students. They hope they could raise at least RM 2000 for WWF. Please do support them!

JCI's "Nothing but Nets" Campaign



Junior Chamber International (JCI) Malaysia recently launched its charity carnival at Austin Heights Private and International Schools in their campaign against malaria which kills nearly a million people every year.

The carnival was aimed to promote JCI's "Stand Up and Take Action" project which involved its members selling stickers to raise fund to purchase mosquito nets for Africans with the desire to help eradicate the spread of the deadly malaria, which is spread by mosquitoes, in the African countries.

Austin Heights Private and International Schools also donated some insecticide-treated mosquito nets in support of the charitable aid to the needy Africans.



IPC Year 5- Entry Point Myths and Legends

Our Year 5 students dressed up as ancient warriors, Greek Gods and Goddesses for their entry point for the theme “Myths, Legends and Beliefs”. The students loved this unit, particularly the focus on ancient beliefs.

For the Entry Point the IPC Team decided that the students should be given the opportunity to explore and discover their own ways to create props and attire worn by ancient Greeks and ancient Egyptians. The students were able to link Geography, History, Art and Literacy together within this task, as well as develop research and recording skills in very creative ways while meeting a number of learning targets

The entire project really brought out the best from the students. They showed a lot of interest especially during the presentation where they talked about their costume and its history. We are so proud of our Year 5 students as they showed enthusiasm their learning.



IPC Reception Year- Exit Point Clothes

To end the IPC topic on Clothes, the preschool team decided to have “a rainy day”. The exit point was carried out on Friday, 21st of September 2012. All Reception students came to school prepared with their rain coat, wellington boots, some flip flops as well as umbrellas.

The students were all set and dressed to proceed to the lower ground floor to start the event. The “rain drops” were from the hose reel imitating the rain. Nevertheless, the children had a great time playing in the man-made rain.

Some of them did say... “Teacher, I’ve never played in the rain before”...okay! May your wish be granted! Was it awesome? Yes, it was!



Art News

Students in Austin Heights are creative. Every student is given proper guidance to nurture their creativity and strive for excellence. Beginning this month, selected artwork will be published in the newsletter. For now, please enjoy these beautiful pieces of work produced by the students from three different Key Stages.



Collage by Sarah Tan Year 11 A



Abstract Painting by Harshini Thiyagu Year 9A



Skyscraper by Liew Zhen Shi

SWIMMING

After two months under the watchful eyes of three qualified swimming instructors engaged by the school, our young swimming enthusiasts have acquired the basic swimming skills. This is certainly very encouraging. To sustain their interest and at the same time encourage them to be more active in swimming, the school plans to hold a swimming competition in November. Thereafter, a school team will be formed to represent the school at inter-school level.



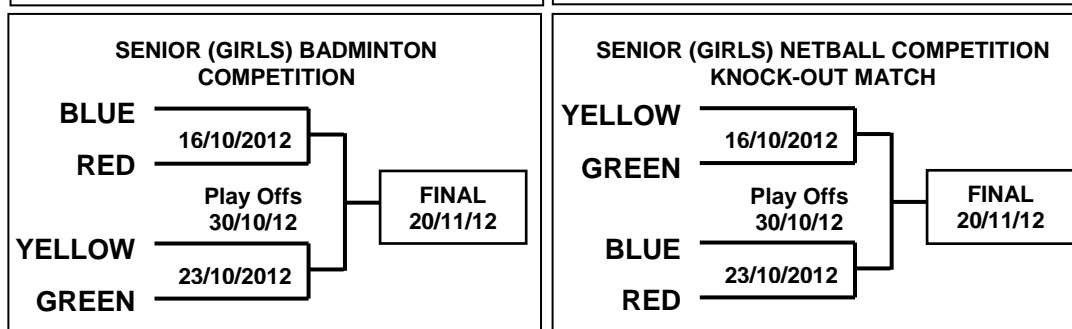
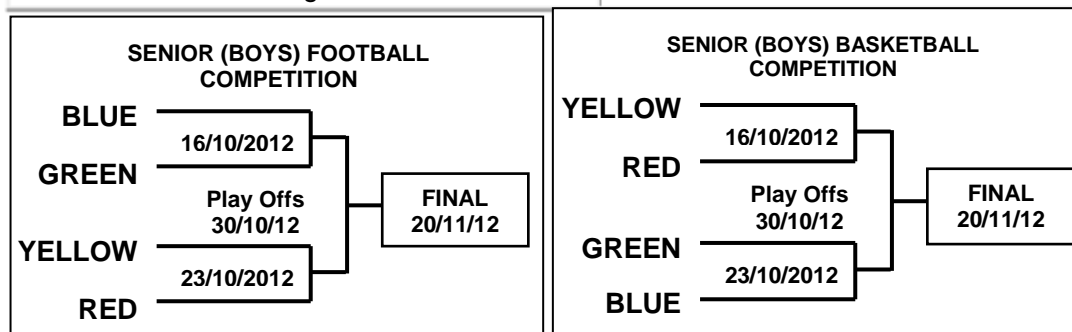
SPORT NEWS

Inter House Competition

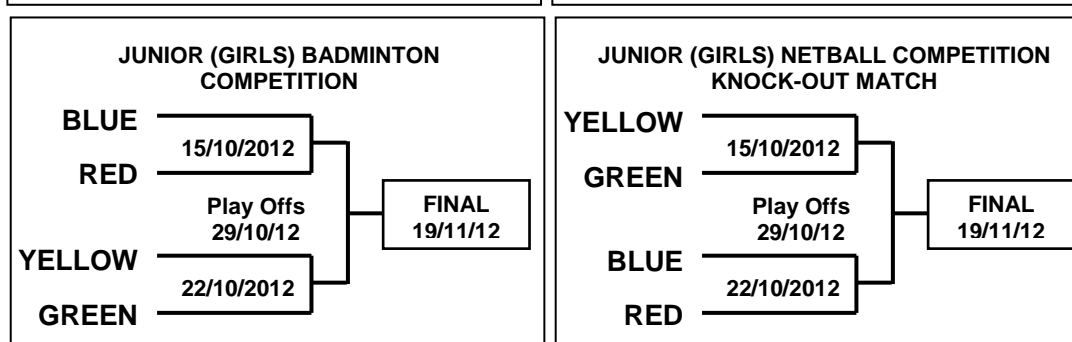
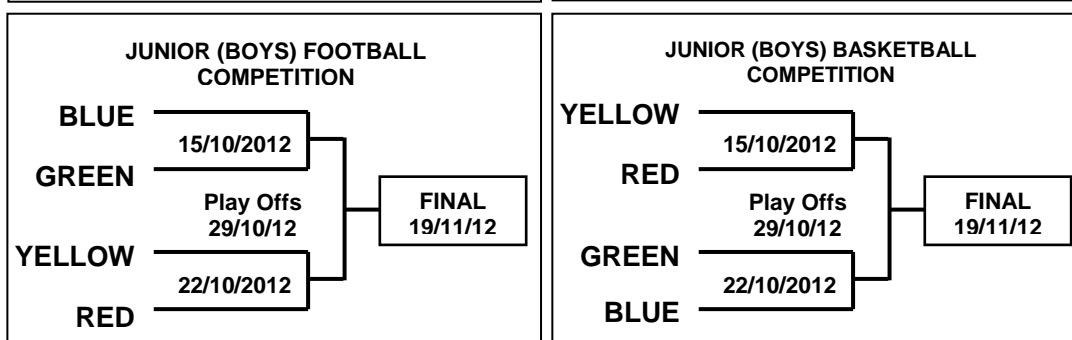
The Inter House Competition at Austin Heights Private & International School is an important part of the school curriculum. The purpose of the inter house competition is to develop pride in the school, and to foster a school culture, through a wide range of sporting activities. Boys compete against each other, representing their by House in games of basketball and football while the girls complete among themselves in netball and badminton.

HOUSE NAME	HOUSE COLOUR
Phoenix	Red
Deer	Blue
Tiger	Yellow
Dragon	Green

SENIOR INTER-HOUSE FIXTURE DATES



JUNIOR INTER-HOUSE FIXTURE DATES



EXAMINATIONS & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Term 1 Assessment

Term 1 Assessment will take place as follows:

Year 1 - Year 6:

from 6th November to 8th November 2012

Year 7 - Year 10:

from 6th November to 9th November 2012

Year 11:

from 6th November to 8th November 2012

PMR Examination

Austin Heights School Form 3 students will seat for the PMR Examinations from 9-16 Oct 2012.

Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)

In August this year our students participated in the international Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS Mathematics) organised by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The certificates indicating the achieved level of success and performance will be handed over to the winners soon. Congratulation to those students who won prizes in the competition.

✓ New Grading System

In order for students, teachers and parents to be able to monitor students' academic progress throughout the term, and to identify areas to address in advance of the assessment and examination periods, a new and readily comprehensible grading system has been introduced which will indicate students' classwork and homework and how well they have done in each assignment. This numerical system is summarised below. A version of the criteria written in student-friendly language is posted in the classrooms.

5	The task displays excellent knowledge and/or application; there are no errors, or only minor errors which do not detract from the overall quality of the task.
4	The task displays very good knowledge and/or application but <u>narrowly falls short</u> of the criteria for Grade 5; there may be one weakness or a few minor weaknesses preventing the attainment of the higher grade
3	The task displays satisfactory knowledge and/or application but the quality does not merit more than a mid-range or 'pass' mark within the individual subject criteria; the task contains a range of frequent and mostly minor errors, but not to the extent that it falls below Grade 3
2	The task falls short of the expected level for the year group, or only partially responds to the requirements, or displays a major error or errors preventing the attainment of Grade 3; errors, even if major, are not to such an extent that there will be significant challenge in rectifying them
1	The task displays considerable weakness in the area of the subject addressed; there are many errors which reveal a major gap or gaps in knowledge and/or application and which, if not rectified, will seriously limit progress.

A PARENT'S COMMENT

Austin Heights International School is very pleased that the father of one of our students is very satisfied with the effective lessons attended by his son. The happy parent, Mr Ting Lian Lee, praised the school for having transformed his son to being one who loves attending school.

"My son, a former student of a vernacular school and who frowned each time coming back from school, started to beam from ear to ear after I admitted him to Austin Heights International School in Johor Bahru," Mr Lee wrote in his letter to the editor of The Star which was published on 7 October 2012. (Below is his letter to The Star).

School-based system is excellent

Extract from Star
Newspaper 27 Oct 2012

ARE our schoolchildren being subjected to too much physical punishment in the pursuit of academic excellence in SJK (C) and SJK (T)?

The letters from Worried Mother "Primary students need highly skilled teachers" (*The Star*, Sept 4) and Concerned Mother "Fast to use the cane" (*The Star*, Sept 25) may provide a glimpse into its usage in classroom management in these two vernacular primary schools.

Take the case of the SJK (C), parents enrol their children for its teaching of the mother tongue and emphasising on the subjects like maths and science in the curriculum while cultivating cultural values through its co-curricular activities.

It has become a popular choice among parents when it comes to choosing a primary school for their children. Without a doubt, the schools have fulfilled the task entrusted to them exceedingly well, but at a price.

Top of the list is the workbooks of the various subjects which presumably aim at enabling students to achieve academic excellence. The load of their work can be reflected in the heavy schoolbags which they lug to school each day.

The teachers, while trying to carry out their daily lessons plan diligently, scramble to complete the workbooks and in the process, the student-centred pedagogy is sidelined and a cane has replaced it to

control the class of over 35 energetic students to enable the teachers concerned to achieve the desirable level of learning.

Comes 2013, the Primary Three students will be taught an extra History subject which aims to instil patriotism among our young minds and before 2017, the Bahasa Melayu subject which is currently taught using a simpler syllabus, will be upgraded to the same syllabus used in the SK schools as listed in the National Education Blueprint.

By then, Primary Four, Five and Six pupils will have to attend extra classes in the afternoons to cope with both tougher Malay Language and English Language in line with the MBMMBI policy.

While the noble aim of its implementation is laudable, students will be further taxed to perform to the expectation of their teachers. Thus, the implementation of 'Penilaian Berdasarkan Sekolah' (PBS) or School-Based Assessment in 2012 is a move in the right direction.

It is less exam-orientated and the emphasis is on continuous assessment.

Currently, the Primary One, Primary Two and Form One students seem to be much happier as they do not have much homework to do and literally no monthly exams and mid-year exams to sit for.

As PBS requires the students' academic progress to be monitored constantly, the teaching and learning

process and the subsequent school-based evaluations should be strictly gauged to reflect the true achievements of the students' ability.

Theoretically, the students work on their own efforts and elicit the guidance of parents and teachers to complete the assignments given.

An alternative choice to SJK (C) or SJK (T) is the international schools. Those parents who have reservations about the teaching pedagogy and the loads of the schoolwork of these vernacular schools can reconsider their choice.

The syllabus which emphasises English (some taught by native speakers) and mind-provoking Maths and Science is practical and realistic while other subjects like BM, Chinese, ICT, Dramas, Art and games are taught too in an interesting manner.

Classes are relatively small, facilities are adequate and physical lessons are varied.

My son, a former student of a vernacular school and who frowned each time coming back from school, started to beam from ear to ear after I admitted him to Austin Heights International School in Johor Bahru.

Though the fees burn a hole in my pocket, the words like "I enjoy going to school very much" is worth every single sen that I have spent on his education.

TING LIAN LEE
Johor Baru

Police's presence in School

Lately, you must have noticed that there were some policemen in our school compound before school lessons commence and after school ends. Do not be alarmed at their presence. This is part of the newly initiated police department's service to our school community. They are police officers on duty daily in our school to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The school is certainly thankful to the Police Department for the friendly gesture and valuable service.

Punctually

Most students arrive at school punctually between 7.45-8.00 am in the morning, ready to start lessons as soon as the school bell goes. However, there is a significant small number of students who arrive late, after the lessons have started, which is very disruptive, for the learning of the other students in the class and for the teacher. On one occasion, there were some 25 late arrivals after the bell. Please help us to ensure your child and others in their class don't miss out on prime learning time.

Vaccination

The third dose for the Human Papilloma Virus HPV vaccination for (13- year- old) students will be given in the school Medical Room from 9a.m on Wednesday 10.10.2012. HPV vaccination is given for the presentation of cervical cancer. Please ensure your child is present in school on that day to complete the vaccination.

There will also be a yearly dental check-up for all year groups on Monday 19.11.2012

School Uniform & PE Kit

At Austin Heights Schools, all students must wear the approved school uniform & black leather shoes. Checks on students showed that majority of them conform to this regulation. However, a handful of students still do not wear black leather shoes together with their uniform.

There are also cases of students not following school rules by wearing black leather shoes instead of white trainers and white socks while doing physical activities such as PE or playing games. We urge parents to ensure that your children put on proper uniform and shoes for normal school lessons and also wear the approved clothing and footwear for physical activities, including PE Kit for PE lessons.

Students must understand and conform to the normal practice of wearing suitable and proper clothing and footwear for a certain activity/ occasion.

Lost & Found

From time to time students' personal possessions are found left behind in the school. These personal properties are taken to the school Administration Office and efforts are then made to trace their owners. But many of these lost and found items cannot be returned to their rightful owners either because no name is written on them or nobody has come forward to claim them.

As such, we would like to seek the help of parents to have your child's name and class clearly labelled on their personal belongings including shoes, bags, books and water bottles for easy identification especially those belonging to younger children.

The items that are often left behind are shoes, bags, books and water bottles. Students who have lost their personal possessions may claim them at the school office during break time or lunch breaks.

Update your contact information

Please note that if you have changed any details of your contact information e.g. change of mailing address, telephone number or e-mail address etc. kindly update your contact information by filling in a form which is available at the Reception Desk. This regularly updated information will help to ensure that the necessary information is always correct, thereby enabling smooth communication between the school and parents at all time.

In the event you require a letter from the school for a certain purpose, please fill in the 'Special Request Form' which is also available at the reception desk. Normally, the school will require three working days to process your request.

Hari Raya Haji Break



Austin Heights School will be closed on 26 October for celebration of Hari Raya Haji Holidays.

Key Dates for the Term

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9-16 Oct	PMR Examination
20 Oct	Prefect Motivation & Leadership Training
22 Oct	Prefect Installation
25 Oct	Children's Day Celebration
26 Oct	Hari Raya Haji
31 Oct	Halloween Celebration
6-9 Nov	AHIS Assessment Term 1
12 Nov	Half Term Break
13 Nov	Deepavali
15 Nov	Awal Muharram
22 Nov	Sultan of Johor Birthday
23 Nov	Fun Run & Back to Nature
24 Nov	Swimming Gala
7 Dec	End of Term 1
8 Dec	PTC (Parent- Teacher Conference)

Austin Heights Private and International School

Wholly-owned by Austin Heights Education Sdn. Bhd. (777277-H)

No.2, Jalan Austin Heights 3/1, Taman Mount Austin, 81100 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.

Tel 607 3515 000 Fax 607 3528 373 Email enquiry@austinheights.edu.my

www.austinheights.edu.my

