Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all staff and students as we begin a new term. It is hoped that all of you had a good break and have returned invigorated to face the challenges that we may face in the new term. Nevertheless, let us look forward to many interesting and fun filled learning experiences for Term Three. This term started from the 23rd April to 28th July, with mid-term break from the 14th - 16th June 2012.

Open Day and Registration

On 26th & 27th May, the school will be holding its Open Day to provide prospective students and their parents an opportunity to view the set up and facilities available in the school.

If your child is currently in a kindergarten and going to be 6 years old by September 2012, do come visit us to explore the possibility of your child embarking on the primary education in the new academic year starting September 2012. This will enable your child to start his/her formal education at least half a year earlier than the other children.

If you have friends or relatives who are interested in joining Austin Heights Schools, this is a great opportunity to find out more about our school. Registrations for the next academic year intake are presently ongoing. Applications have been coming in for the new academic year which starts in September. Our admission tests for acceptance into the school is scheduled from this month.

International Primary Curriculum (IPC) Exhibition

We will be holding an IPC Exhibition in conjunction with our school’s Open Day. Our primary students’ works will be displayed at the IPC Exhibition and you will definitely have a better understanding of what IPC is all about. Come and experience it for yourself.

Photography Exhibition

We will be having our Photography Exhibition – Facets. It features photographs taken by students, teachers and non – teaching staff, depicting the various facets and atmosphere of the schools. The exhibition will be held from 26th to 27th May. The proceeds from the sale of these photographs will be donated to charity (Amitofo Care Charity Association of Malaysia).

Colouring Contest

There will be a colouring contest on 27th May 2012 at 11am for students aged 4 to 12 years old. This contest is open to public.
Teachers’ Day Celebration

The Teachers’ Day was celebrated on 17th May, 2012 on a modest scale but nonetheless packed with friendliness, respect and appreciations with activities in the school field.

Enthusiastic students, teachers and non-teaching staff had all gathered in the school field early in the morning, for friendly competitions between teachers and students in five exciting telematches. Fun and excitement filled the air. After competing for nearly an hour, the activities drew to a close with our Deputy Principal Mr Lui Lai Nam’s group declared the champion.

Later, in the school hall, both Dato’ Steve Chong, the school Chairman and Founder, and Mr. Lui Lai Nam addressed the assembly. In their speeches, the teachers’ hard work as well as contributions to the school and students were mentioned and recognised. Besides, they also reminded the students to duly show their appreciation to the teachers for their invaluable contributions to the school. In conclusion, they reminded the students to always aim to excel in their academic performance and personality development pursuits, not forgetting to display their noble virtues at all times.

The very entertaining performances in the hall by the teachers and students which included a magic show, dance, vocal performances and dramas, followed by the prize-giving ceremony made the Teachers’ Day celebration a warm and enjoyable one. Later in the afternoon, a high-tea buffet at Austin Heights Golf Resort was held exclusively for all the teachers and staff of the school by the Board of Management. At the function three teachers, namely Mr Lui Lai Nam, Ms Darlene Fredriks Hartsteen and Ms Choong Foong Hiam received the “Our Favourite Teacher Award”. They were voted in by the teachers present.
The Austin Heights’ Got Talent Competition is the hot topic on almost everyone’s lips within our school campus these days.

Auditions for the Primary and Secondary schools participants started on 1st June 2012. A total of 30 groups/individuals from the primary school category and 27 groups/individuals from the secondary school category will vie for 15 places in the semi-finals for each category. The semi-finals will be held on 11th June 2012.

The top eight acts from each category will enter the finals which are scheduled on 7th July 2012 from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. The top three acts with the highest scores from each category shall be judged the winners. They will be invited to perform again in the school’s academic year-end concert in July 2012.

Prizes include a trophy, a certificate and a book voucher are up for grabs for the first, second and third winners in the grand finals for each category. The performances in the final will be recorded on video so that students and parents can share the memorable moments with friends and relatives in the comfort of their homes later.
 IPC Year 1 Exit Point – FOOD. Healthy Diet Day

With the theme FOOD, our young “explorers” experienced unique learning at our school canteen. Yogurt was the main topic. The children learned and understood the benefits of yogurt and ways to DIY (do it yourself) in mixing it. Fresh fruits such as mangoes, strawberries, grapes and raisins were prepared for the mixing. The children were very excited. Their eagerness to learn made this event a success enhanced with joyful experience. It was a truly a hands-on experience for every student!

 IPC Year 3 : CHOCOLATE

In line with the IPC theme ‘Chocolate’, our Year 3 students became chefs for a day, when they made Chocolate Cornflakes Crisp at the school pantry last April.

These chocolate cornflakes crisp were baked specially for the orphans of Berkat Children’s Home, as gifts, at the following day event. The fair was aimed at allowing the students an opportunity to learn how to make chocolate cornflakes crisp and to inculcate the spirit of sharing in them by presenting their hand-made products to the orphans.

 Year 3 Field Trip to “The Berkat Children’s Home”

Our Year 3 students visited the orphans of Berkat Children’s Home on 10th April 2012. They brought along gifts such as ‘Chocolate Cornflakes Crisp’ which they had baked, and some daily necessities for the orphans. Our students performed some chorus numbers including a song called ‘I believe I can fly’ by the famous Space Jam, to bring cheers to residents of the foster home.

The Management would like to thank parents who had contributed pre-wrapped gifts. The gifts, including those donated by the school management, were presented to the orphans. The school is proud that we have such a supportive school community who cares and feels for the less fortunate.
IPC Year 4 -
Saving the World (RAINFOREST)
Our Year 4 students are currently learning the theme “Rainforest”, where they learn about where rainforests are located and the people living in rainforests. The students also learn why rainforests are being destroyed, and the ways we can help to save them. What better way to start if not by doing it in their own school, by growing plants such as fern, money plant, dracaena etc.

With the help of Mr Goh from the Austin Heights Golf Course, students explored ways of growing and nurturing plants in the project called ‘Saving Our School Environment’. A mini nursery was specially built for this project, and was officiated by our Deputy Principal, Mr Lui Lai Nam recently. The project is aimed at impacting on our students to appreciate and show more concern to nature and our living environment. Go green!

Year 4 – Entry Point
– EXPLORERS AND ADVENTURE (DISCOVERING THE WORLD)

The IPC Team welcomed Year 4 students for this new term with a new theme “Explorers and Adventures” (Discovering the World). In this theme the students learned about famous explorers and their adventures, the obstacles navigations they used etc.

To make learning more fun in IPC, students were placed in groups where they had to do a research on explorers from different continents. This was to help students understand the topic better.

The idea of requiring students to do research and present it in front of their class was actually to help them overcome the fear of facing a large group of people, and to perform to their full potential. They learned to understand the audience better, and with confidence they would be able to reach out to their audience more effectively.

Our students brought out their best. All of them were really into the task given to them; they even came up with a creative and interesting slide show for their peers to see.

Trying ultimately leads to success, but success can never happen without trying.
- Greg Henry Quinn

Keeping The Community Informed
2012
Year 8 - Puppet Show

On 4th May 2012, the Year 8S students successfully put up a puppet show. They had spent two weeks designing and researching on relevant scripts for the play. The students were divided into five groups.

This puppet show was aimed at building students’ confidence in pronunciation and enunciation. Some groups went the extra mile in designing their backdrop and adapting various scripts to make it their ‘own’ for stories on ‘Rapunzel’, ‘Three Puppies’ and a few others.

There were two guest judges for this event, Mr Lui Lai Nam, the Deputy Principal, and teacher Ms Alison. They eventually crowned a winner. Overall, everybody had fun and was thrilled in embarking on this ‘puppetry’ journey. The English department is always trying to make learning English a truly experiential learning.

An Educational Trip to Singapore

The school Drama Department organized a one-day trip to Singapore on 18th May 2012 for Year 9 and 10 students.

The trip was to expose the students to literature and drama appreciation by watching a live play entitled “Twelfth Night”, a great work of Shakespeare’s, at Fort Canning Park, Singapore. At the open-air theatre, the venue of the play, the students had the rare opportunity of watching the famous Shakespeare’s work in a picnic atmosphere, sitting very close to the stage with a clear view of the cast. It was indeed a refreshing experience to all the students present. Hence, they were deeply impressed.

Additionally, a visit to the Singapore National Museum was also included as part of the trip to inspire the students with significant historical events. During the 3-hour workshop facilitated by Ms. Betty Wee, the students learned about the Japanese occupation of Singapore, through interactive, fun and enjoyable ways with keen participation by the students.

All in all, it was a very significant and memorable trip to all the participating students.
Mother’s Day at Austin Heights School

The event, themed “Mother’s Day at Austin Heights School”, was dedicated to the queen of our hearts in conjunction with Mother’s Day. The event kicked off with “Crystal Bracelet for my mum” activity, followed by “Creative Gift Box Making”.

Our primary and early year students gathered at the school hall for this event on 11th May 2012. These students were guided by teachers step-by-step on the making of ‘crystal bracelets’. Students were also taught ways to be creative in making a gift box out of recycled greeting cards. Our students had great fun making the crystal bracelets and also wrote short notes for their beloved mothers. Participants walked away with new creative skills, and learned moral values such be appreciative and thankful for as the importance of valuing your mum’s sacrifices all these years.

The Royal Commonwealth Society’s Annual Young Commonwealth Competitions 2012

Ashvini Sivakumar is a Year 8U student. Being a creative and inspiring student, she always shows enthusiasm and passion towards the English language. Recently, she participated in the Royal Commonwealth Society’s Annual Young Commonwealth Competitions 2012 with an entry titled “The Wedding of the Century: The Wedding Ceremony of Prince Charles & Princess Diana”.

Ashvini’s entry has been shortlisted to be considered for the final round of selection whereby only 60 best entries, as the People’s Choice, will be included in the Jubilee Time Capsule timeline.

The Royal Commonwealth Society’s Annual Young Commonwealth Competitions encourage young people to use writing, film and photography to respond creatively to local challenges.

Year 2012 marks the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her 60th year as Head of the Commonwealth. To celebrate this very special occasion, the final selected entries of the Young Commonwealth Competitions will become part of the world’s biggest history project, the Commonwealth Jubilee Time Capsule.

To view Ashvini’s entry, you may link to: http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org/discover/timeline/date/29-07-1989, or http://www.austinheights.edu.my (click ‘Hot News’)

If you think Ashvini’s article deserves to be one of the 60 best entries, please click on the Facebook or Twitter icon at the bottom of the above webpage, and click ‘Like’ this article. Hopefully, with your support Ashvini’s entry will end up in the People’s Choice!
ENGLISH CAMPAIGN

Promote English Campaign
Throughout the entire term 3 beginning 23rd April the school English Department will be hosting activities for students at different levels. These activities range from essay writing, story-telling, choral speaking, poem recital, debates etc.

Austin Heights’ Reading Programme
- DEAR programme
Several weeks ago, parents were informed about our reading programme DEAR. At the same time students were also provided with some reading material titles provided by the Scholastic Book Club.

The school encourages students to read at the rate of at least a book per week. A synopsis of the book read must be written before it is considered read. Students will be awarded certificates for the Gold Reading Award if they have read at least 20 books since the programme started until July 2012. Silver Reading Award for at least 18 books read and Bronze Reading Award for at least 15 books read.

It is a pleasure to see our students increasingly more interested in reading. Nowhere is that more obvious than during Austin Heights’ ‘Drop Everything and Read’ (DEAR) programme. For the last 20 minutes of the lunch hour every Tuesday, students will do nothing else but read a book. Reading innately develops language mastery and our thanks go to parents for their understanding and supporting their children’s development by supplying them with books they enjoy reading.

This programme has been on-going since the second term. Our objective is to encourage every child to read to improve their command of the English Language. Students are thus reminded to bring a story book or other suitable reading material to school every Tuesday.

Story Telling Competition
In conjunction with the English Enrichment Programme being held in the school, the English Language Department decided to hold a Story Telling Competition for the Year 3 to Year 6 students. The purpose for such a competition was to help students to improve their command of the English Language. As for the listeners, listening to stories can help them to be aware of the rhythm, intonation and pronunciation of the English language.

The students had a good time and what is more important is that this activity had helped them in learning English.

POSITIVE THINKING WILL LET YOU DO EVERYTHING BETTER THAN NEGATIVE THINKING WILL.

- ZIG ZIGLAR

Keeping The Community Informed

2012
IGCSE Examination Timetable for Year 10 Students (May series 2012)

The Year 10 students will be sitting for the University of Cambridge International Examination from 9th to 24th May 2012. Detail of the examination as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>Malay (Reading &amp; Directed Writing)</td>
<td>8.50 a.m. – 10.35 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0546/2</td>
<td>Chinese First Language (Reading)</td>
<td>10.40 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.</td>
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<td>0509/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>Chinese Foreign Language (Reading)</td>
<td>12.45 p.m. – 2.40 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0547/2</td>
<td>Mandarin Foreign Language (Listening)</td>
<td>12.45 p.m. – 1.45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>Mandarin Foreign Language (Reading)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0547/1</td>
<td>Mandarin First Language (Writing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th May</td>
<td>Malay (Continuous Writing)</td>
<td>8.50 a.m. – 10.25 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0546/4</td>
<td>Mandarin Foreign Language (Continuous Writing)</td>
<td>10.35 a.m. – 12.20 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0509/23</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24th May</td>
<td>Mandarin Foreign Language (Continuous Writing)</td>
<td>12.45 p.m. – 2.20 p.m.</td>
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<td>0547/4</td>
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Commonwealth Essay Competition

Every year, the Commonwealth Essay Competition inspires thousands of young writers from all over the world. Organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), this international youth writing contest has been running for over 100 years. It is the world’s oldest and largest, and is a highly regarded and popular international educational project.

Open to all commonwealth citizens aged 18 and below, the Essay Competition offers young people the opportunity to put their thoughts on paper on a global platform, encouraging students to engage with issues which are important to them.

Participants are required to choose from a list of topics and write an essay, a story, a poem, a film script or a play. All works must be original. There are several age groups. Which age group you are in depends on your age as on 1st June 2012. For competition details, please click on the following link http://www.thercs.org/youth/essaycompetition. There are some submissions from the students.

Hopefully we’ll hear some good news from the students when the results are announced.

Read.Love.Share Story-Telling Competition

Two of our students won prizes in the Harris Bookstore-sponsored Story Telling Competition held on 20th May 2012. Our students Sim Le Qin (6A) and Anushri (5U) were awarded a consolation prize each for their effort. The competition which attracted participants from other schools in Johor Bahru was held at the Harris Bookstore premises.
Congratulations Ong Jie Yang!

On 1st May 2012, our Year 9 student, Ong Jie Yang, did our school proud by winning third place in the Underweight category (45kg) in the Muhibbah Taekwando Open Championship which was held at Taman Sentosa, Johor Bahru. Kudos for the impressive effort!

Rotary Charity Run

Our students from Austin Heights Private and International School participated in the Rotary Charity Run in aid of Children’s Education Funds and MyKasih Foundation held at Dataran Johor Bahru (Clock Tower) on 20th May 2012 (Sunday). Our students did pretty well and one of our students (Victor Lee from Year 10) got 8th placing which was a good result. Overall, our students sweated and enjoyed the run and most importantly, they did it for a good cause: For Charity
Golf Club

Every Friday, members of the Austin Heights Private and International School golf club will have their golf practice at the Austin Heights Golf and Country Resort. Their Coach Mr Tan Boon Seng and Assistant Coach Mr Kassim will be present to coach them. The teacher-in-charge is Ms. Tan Joo Lee. There are a total of 15 members in the golf club. The club members are scheduled to practise their basics at the driving range for two weeks before proceeding to the golf course proper for another two weeks. This process will be repeated till the members master their basic golf skills.

The students will learn the basic positions, the type of clubs to use to achieve different driving distances, and the type of clubs to use at different sections. Golf requires frequent practising to achieve targeted distance, accuracy and playing experience in the golf course to play well. Golf is a suitable sport for all ages from age 7.

The aim of the club is to enhance members’ interest in golf which is geared towards producing future professional players.
New ESL Teacher

We are pleased to welcome Miss Bronwyn Jane Kelly the new teacher who join Austin Heights International School on May 2012.

Miss Kelly originates from Australia and obtained a Master’s degree in Education before training as ESL teacher. Prior to moving to Malaysia Miss Kelly taught in UK and Australia. Miss Kelly has more than 15 years of teaching experience. The School Management believes Miss Kelly will be of great help to students who do not have English as their first language

School Counselor

Congratulations to Ms. Lee Khai Ling, our school counselor who has recently been conferred with a Doctorate in Philosophy, majored in counseling and guidance from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). We are proud to inform that from now on she will be known as Dr. Lee Khai Ling.

Scholastic Book Club

Just to remind you that Scholastic Book Club leaflets have already been distributed to students. If you would like to purchase any books, please fill in the Order Form indicating the quantity and total amount to pay. Payment can be made vide cheque (payable to Grolier (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.) or by credit card (details to be filled in on the order Form). No cash will be accepted for ease of organisation. All orders need to be handed to the respective Homeroom teachers by 11th May 2012. The books will take approximately four weeks to arrive.

Morning Break & Lunch For Year 1 & 2 Students

We have put in special effort to come up with a nutritious and suitable meal plan for Year 1 & 2 students’ morning break and lunch daily from Monday to Friday. For morning break, the children will be served a nutritious UHT packet drink (with no preservatives) and a snack. For lunch it is a Western or Asian meal with fresh fruits. The menu will be changed every week.

Parents please take note that if your child is allergic to any food, such as any dairy products, kindly inform the school administrative office immediately so that actions can be taken to ensure that your child will not be served such food.

HEALTHY FOOD MAKES HEALTHY BODY!

School Diaries

A gentle reminder to parents to monitor your child’s homework and learning progress by checking his/her School Diary. Please remember that any notes written by the Homeroom teacher for the parents should be read and acknowledged with parents'/guardians' initials or signature and if you have any comments or queries for the Form teacher or Class teacher, they can be written in the diary. Don't forget to tell your child if you have written a comment so they can bring it to the attention of the relevant teacher. If your child has lost his/her School Diary, he/she will have to purchase a new one from the school bookshop.

Website for French Games

Students taking French lessons may go online and play French games on these websites:
1. www.digitaldialects.com (primary)
2. www.bbc.co.uk/education/languages/fresh (secondary students)

Anyone interested in subscribing to a French language learning magazine (suitable for students in Years 7-11), please go to www.maryglasgowplus.com to find out more.

Medication in School

If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, please hand the medicine together with a note detailing the time and dosage of the medicine to be taken, to the School Nurse, Ms. Esther in the medical room beside the Admin office. She will administer the medicine at the required time. This is for the safety of your child. Please do not ask your child to self-medicate. Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

Newsletter Delivery Problem

There have been cases of some parents failing to receive the past issues of newsletters because the e-mails have been bouncing back. This is due to insufficient space in the recipients’ e-mail folder to receive the large-volume newsletters. However, the newsletters can still be obtained via the school’s website: www.austinheights.edu.my