



8 December 2010

Dear Parents

This is my last newsletter. I have enjoyed my six years in Brunei immensely and it's been a great privilege to be head of this wonderful school. Sarah and I will take away very fond memories of Brunei. We are off to Kazakhstan for new challenges and a change of climate. The temperature can drop to minus thirty in Almaty in January, so I won't be wearing my shorts. I should like to thank everyone in the JIS community, pupils, parents, staff and governors for all their support during my time here. I have had a marvellous time and I am very grateful to have had this opportunity. Andrew Taylor takes over as Acting Principal from January and I wish him every success in his new role.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

**Junior School:** Many new children joined the Junior School this term. The children have settled in well and quickly made friends. Induction Day for new families was followed by a welcome meeting for all parents. We celebrated Peace Day in September with a special assembly and planted our third Peace Pole near the canteen. Each year we add to the number of languages represented on the poles and fairly soon we shall cover every language spoken by our children. The highlight of the term was 'Rats'. The quality of the production was excellent and all the children's hard work at rehearsals was amply rewarded. The Coin Drop raised much money for the Special Needs Unit and the Junior School Council will soon deliver the presents. House Athletics went off without a hitch and every child from Nursery to Year 5 took part. Congratulations to Red House as overall winners. There were some excellent individual performances and great team spirit was demonstrated by all. International Day was a resounding success with the introduction of the 'World Expo'. All the children got to travel to different countries and experience the sights, sounds, food and culture from that country without leaving Brunei! Thank you again to everyone who was involved in this. The Teddy Bear's Picnic in November was a real treat for the younger children and they enjoyed the family picnic at the end of their long hunt. The PLG hosted a Coffee Morning and a Body Shop evening for parents this term. We hope you enjoyed these events.

*Karen Mehta*

**Middle School:** Almost half of our students were new to the Middle School in August. Being new brings great opportunities and the chance for new friendships. It also brings challenges. Most of the students have adapted to their new environment very quickly. They have embraced the core values that we shared with them at our first assembly and they have worked hard in lessons: they seem fully committed to the co-curricular aspect of school life and they have been respectful, tolerant and understanding of each other. Recently we had the opportunity to speak to many of you about your child's progress at the Parent – Teacher Meetings. The highlights of the term have been the KK Football Trip, house football, JIS Idol, the Middle School Production of *Snap!*, the Year 7 Leadership Camp and the Year 6 Brisbane Trip. We celebrated Peace Day on Tuesday 21 September with a casual clothes day and some lessons had Peace Day as a theme. On Wednesday 22 Mr Price was the guest speaker at the Middle School Assembly. All money raised throughout JIS was directed to Cambodia where we support an orphanage and *The Cambodian Landmine Appeal*. We raised about \$11,000. The orphanage in particular will benefit from this as we will be paying for the installation of a new kitchen in one of the housing blocks. On Friday 5 November we celebrated International Day. The students came to school in their national dress we had a fabulously colourful parade. We also held an International Film Festival for the students of Years 7 and 8 while Year 6 had a chalk challenge and heard guest speakers. At lunchtime we all enjoyed the food stalls and the International Day Concert was simply fantastic.

*Ian Mehta*

**Upper School:** Participation in After School Activities has been at an all time high and the house system is also flourishing. The majority of students have made a good start to the academic year and it is pleasing to see students participating in class so well. Parents will be receiving full reports and should read these carefully as they not only provide a clear sense of how a student is performing, but also specify learning targets. Year 11 students should take the time to recharge their batteries during the holiday, but will also want to prepare for the Internal Examinations in **Week 2** of next Term (10-14 January). The examinations will show how students are

progressing in each of their subjects. It is expected that students prepare independently for these exams. The internal exams contribute to the forecast grades that a student will receive and also provide an indication of possible Sixth Form choices. Year 10 students have settled well into the GCSE curriculum and some have already had a taste of the controlled assessments which have replaced coursework. Many students have completed the second round of AQA Science Modules. Some have benefited from the extra help provided by our homework clubs. Year 9, who seemed a little overawed at the beginning of the year, are now at home in the Upper School. It is heartening to see how quickly the students mature and adjust to the expectations of the school. We are very pleased with our current system of student leadership. The Student Council helps to coordinate many events and we have very active teams of house leaders who are selected from Year 10. On Thursday afternoons the school field and gymnasium is often teeming with students.

*Peter Flynn*

**Sixth Form:** We started the year by enrolling 161 Year 12 students onto their AS Level programmes, joining the 140 Year 13 students studying for their A2 Levels. For the first time we have over 300 students in the Sixth Form. We appointed a new Sixth Form Student Council, led by Fauzan Yahya and Nurul Shamir, the Sixth Form Captains. The Council members attended a Leadership Training Camp at the Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort near Miri in October. They have been busy organising a number of events, including Peace Day, Football Fun Day, International Day and the Sixth Form Social which all proved to be a great success. They have also raised large sums of money for Pusat Ehsan, our Sixth Form charity. The Sixth Form 'Echo' Magazine had an exciting first edition this term and the next edition is due out on the last day of term. Well done to Ira Cruz and his team for working on this excellent production. Within the faculties, the focus this term has been on teaching the AS and A2 Level programmes, together with preparing the Year 13 students for their AS Level re-sits in January. Year 13 Biologists visited Temburong and the Geographers went to Singapore. We have had a large number of visits and presentations from world class universities, including Edinburgh, Loughborough, Manchester, Melbourne, Rochester and UCL. As usual, the students have been involved in a wide variety of House events, PSHE sessions, enlightening assemblies, and even trips overseas, such as the THIMUN conference in Singapore. The students are fully involved in the school's After School Activities (ASA) programme and also provide community service in school through the Make a Difference (MAD) programme, offering classroom support, administrative support and sports coaching. The teachers are very grateful to all our MAD students for the support they have provided this term.

*David Hobday*

## BOARDING

The boarding houses are full to bursting and we are looking forward to having a new boarding house – construction will start in the new year. The boarders are happy and enjoying a full and active life. As well as so many new children across the age ranges, we have also welcomed Gwendoline Sandow as Housemistress of Kingfisher House. She has two new Boarding House Tutors, Ms Julie Ayres and Ms Regina Foo. All three ladies work in school during the day. Kristine Aduna, also a JIS staff member and wife to Cyrus Villaneuva of Ibis House, covered the maternity leave for Michelle De La Flor, our school nurse and block 1 BH Tutor for Kingfisher House. Our thanks to Kristine for her help in getting Kingfisher girls off to a good start at the beginning of the year. Michelle had a beautiful baby boy, Nathaniel, and is now back at work. We have a new Boarding House Admin Assistant /Receptionist Miss Nurul Fasihah. Nurul will have a leading role in communicating with parents and is available from 7.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday and from 9.30am to 12.00am on Saturdays during term time in Eagle House Reception. Her contact details are +673 2411000 ext 3111 or she can be reached by email at [boarding.houseadmin@jis.edu.bn](mailto:boarding.houseadmin@jis.edu.bn) or at [Nurul.fasihah@jis.edu.bn](mailto:Nurul.fasihah@jis.edu.bn).

This term has been fabulously busy in the boarding house. The four houses have been holding team building meetings, house outings and innings. We held a BH Talent show and Kingfisher ran away with two of the top prizes. Our boarders have been involved with golf, horse riding, Model United Nations, school plays, raising money for charity, Peace Day, International Day, the International Award, (D of E), the ASDAN Award, Football Funday, FOBISSEA swimming, ASAs and MAD activities, a Harry Potter cinema trip, choirs, school council business, leadership Camps and much, much more. Many have been taking exams, most recently the Ugama exams which take place at the weekends. The positive impact of Ramadhan and Hari Raya have been felt throughout our multinational boarding house community. Special buses were put on for those wishing to attend the local UBD mosque and the students themselves organized a splendid Hari Raya meal in our dining room. Many of our boarders also celebrated Dysain and Tihar during this first term. Boarding House reports will come out in the last week of term and be brought home by your children in sealed envelopes. We also have

our Christmas time celebration, aptly named Fabulous Festive Fun on the last Wednesday of this term and this will be the second such event, organized by the girls and staff of Kingfisher House for the whole boarding community.

Your children have been so easy to look after and are a credit to themselves. Of course there are always a few hiccups and relationship issues, but on the whole it has been a very enjoyable and productive first term. There are far too many individual achievements to mention here, but I would like to give a special thanks to all of our BH Prefects and their deputies for supporting the boarding house community so effectively, especially Mo and Kirsty who have been a key driving force behind several very successful initiatives in their roles as Head Prefect and Whole School Council Members.

*John White*

## **MUSIC**

This term's first major Music event was the Junior Production of "RATS!" in October. The production included students from Years 4 to 6. Based on the story of Pied Piper of Hamelin, this musical was a great hit with the youngsters. JIS International Day on Friday 5 November and this year's concert in the gym were especially well received. As usual, the senior orchestra, the junior and senior choirs and a range of soloists as well as all the major ensembles took part. The programme was varied and included the opera duet "Con Te Partiro" performed by Dominic Briffa and Ursula Searle, upbeat items like Wicked, River Dance and the 2010 World Cup songs: 'The Wavin' Flag' and 'Waka Waka', in which the musicians were joined by student dancers. The most ambitious piece was a performance of Holst's 'Jupiter' movement, in which the orchestra was joined by a choir of 150 students from Years 3 to 8.

Fourteen students participated in this year's FOBISSEA Music Festival in Hong Kong from 11 to 16 November. The Festival was hosted by Kellet International School and students stayed at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel. JIS students along with 350 others from seventeen FOBISSEA schools participated in a range of musical, social and sightseeing activities. Unlike the sports FOBISSEA, the Music festival is non-competitive and the emphasis is on collaboration and participation. Some twenty workshops were on offer ranging from Chinese and African Drumming to Musical Theatre and Disco Dancing. The festival concluded with a ninety minute concert by a massed choir and an orchestra in the Cinderella Ballroom. Many of our students either performed solos or were key members of the orchestra. In particular, violinist Azri Hasnan (Year 12) was chosen as concert master to lead the orchestra and Nathan Schaumann (Year 7) received a standing ovation for his solo piano performance in the student concert.

In November the Middle School Production "SNAP!" took place. The production is based on the story of paparazzi and lives of celebrities. It was a big hit with two sold-out nights. The November session of Trinity Guildhall practical examinations also took place. Instrumental entries included flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar, drums, tuba, piano, violin, singing, trumpet and recorder. With 40 candidates and a 100% pass rate, we averaged 81% with 9 distinctions (87%+), 22 merits (75%+) and 9 passes (60%+). Distinctions - Rosie Clynes (Grade 7 – piano), Mere Chong (Grade 7 – flute), Phoebe Taylor (Grade 3 - piano), Jin Park (Grade 3 - flute and recorder), Alice Wilson and Rebecca Ninan (Initial - piano). The next round of examinations will be in May 2011 and entries will close in February. The term ends with the Music House Festival.

*Paul Edgeler*

## **THE DESIGN MARK AND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS' CONFERENCE**

We are very proud that the Design and Technology faculty at JIS has been awarded the Design Mark. This is a UK based award given to schools that demonstrate that their Design & Technology teaching and learning is of a very high standard. JIS is the first international school and the first junior to sixth form school to obtain this prestigious award. Well done to Justin Harris and his team. We now have a responsibility as a local centre of excellence to work more closely with local and regional schools to help them raise their standards. The D&T Faculty hosted a very successful international teachers' conference in October for thirty-six teachers from local government schools and from the region. They were joined by two consultants from the UK who delivered many seminars to the staff.

*Justin Harris*

## **FRENCH LANGUAGE TRIP**

Six students from the Upper School will be travelling to Grenoble during Chinese New Year next year. They are spending seven days in a French family, immersing themselves fully in French language and culture. They have made contact with their French penfriends and exchanged information in various ways: emails, powerpoint presentations, sound recordings etc. JIS students will go to school with their penfriends in the morning and follow lessons, eat at the school canteen and make some visits in the afternoons. Bon voyage à tous!

*Philippe Poulain*

## **BIOLOGY**

Students carried out a fieldwork exercise at Tungku Beach as part of their A Level Biology studies, looking at factors such as zonation on rocky shores, succession and competition. Our biologists were also addressed by Dr David Marshall, Biology professor at UBD, in a lecture entitled Expeditions in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions.

*Dominic Briffa*

## **TESMEC TUTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME**

In October JIS hosted a 'Teaching English Second Language Students in Mainstream Classrooms' Tutor Training Programme. The fourteen participants hailed from international schools in Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Thailand. The course equipped them to deliver a certificate course to teachers in their home schools. The course encourages teachers to develop teaching and learning strategies suitable for students who have English as an additional language. The course leader and trainer, Mr John Polias, was a representative of the South Australian Department of Education and Children's Services.

*Richard Smith*

## **BAHASA MELAYU TRIP TO KAMPONG AYER**

Year 9 Bahasa Melayu and Foreign Language Malay students were taken around Kampong Ayer in a boat and also visited two houses. They were welcomed by the hosts and served local food and drinks. Year 8 Bahasa Melayu and Foreign Language Malay students will be going to RTB (Radio Television Brunei) in Bandar Seri Begawan this month. They will be taken to the recording studios, editing and newsrooms. They will have the opportunity to meet radio DJs.

*Narissa Osman*

## **EXCITING TIMES IN GEOGRAPHY**

The geographers started the term with a Year 12 trip to Berakas Beach. Students learnt the importance of risk assessments for outdoor activities. Year 10 heard a talk by Dr Diana Cheong from the Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies. She spoke about Brunei's future energy issues and how renewable 'greener' energies are being investigated for future production in Brunei. In October Year 13 went on a four day field trip to Singapore. The focus of the trip was to investigate how sustainable and green a World City could be. We visited the Housing Development Board, the Marina Barrage, the Land Transport Gallery as well as going up to the roof of the new Marina Bay Sands Hotel. The students went out into the city on their own and produced videos on sustainability and regeneration in the city. In November we returned to Berakas beach with 125 Year 9 students to complete an investigation into the management of Berakas Beach. They completed Long Shore Drift experiments as well as measuring wave height and wave frequency. They also completed a beach audit which will form part of an investigation by the Brunei Beach Bunch who are working to achieve Blue Flag Status for some of Brunei's beaches. One of the founders of this group also came into school to talk to the students about the scheme in an Upper School Assembly.

*Tony Piper*

## **DRAMA**

Year 12 and 13 A Level Drama students started off the year with outstanding ensemble and individual performances in 'Unmasked' and 'Love is like a Box of...'. In Media Studies Year 10, 12 and 13 students are

making films for the Second Annual JIS Film Festival in February 2011. Last year's festival started auspiciously with twenty films shown in the festival competition. At present some 45 films are being made at school and around Brunei by students. These include horror flicks, documentaries, music videos and social realist films. Entries are welcomed in the festival competition for films from Middle School and Junior School students at JIS. Contact Mark Eckersley at [mark.eckersley@jis.edu.bn](mailto:mark.eckersley@jis.edu.bn) or Brandon Alford at [brandon.alford@jis.edu.bn](mailto:brandon.alford@jis.edu.bn) for further information.

*Mark Eckersley*

## **PACE – MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

PACE (Personal Achievement Challenging Education) is a stepping stone to the International Award for our students in the Middle School. This term 35 Middle School students took the PACE ASA. This included four afternoon sessions and one camp. Over four weeks the students came together and took part in a series of teamwork and leadership activities. They constructed tents in groups of three or four on the site, learnt how to cook pancakes in chocolate sauce with trangers and hiked through the local jungle in wet, muddy and dark conditions.

*Guy and Claire Velzian, Nigel Shaw*

## **SPORT**

**Squash:** We have made significant progress this term in developing squash at JIS. The Gymkhana Club in Miri hosted our players twice this term for friendly matches, enabling us to get a first taste of match play. Four of our Under 11 and 13 players are competing at a formal tournament for the first time at the Sarawak Open in Kuching. Our squash players also enjoyed a three day 'squash camp' during the half term break with Daniel Tanner from the Australian Squash Academy. I am particularly grateful to Daniel for making the effort to come and share his expertise and all players are keen to be involved again in the near future.

**Football Funday:** 104 teams entered Football Funday this year. Many congratulations to all players (regardless of results) for organizing their teams and playing in the spirit of the event. The competition was a great success.

**Junior Athletics Day:** On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October the Junior School hosted their Athletics Day. The event was divided into two categories; Kindergarten to Year 2 held a fun sports and relay event, while the Year 3 to 5 students competed on the school field in events such as the 100m, long jump and relay. Congratulations to Yellow House who became the 2010 Junior School Athletics Champions.

*Mike Carter*

## **PENAN**

Another Gift Box delivery was made to a Penan settlement from the Upper school this year. 24 boxes were delivered to Lg Surong containing items ranging from mechanical torches, school equipment, sarongs, glasses and the ever welcome food. This poor settlement has the bitter sweet situation of being beside a logging track with easy access to transport, but having no rainforest from which to obtain food and shelter. Mrs McLaren, Mrs Pyrgos and 6 students went on the adventure.

*Jacky McLaren*

## **JIS LIBRARY NEWS**

We have just completed ordering over \$11,000 of book orders for families. These orders will arrive before December to allow much holiday reading. In early January all the free books will be processed and go out on display for borrowing. The library staff are also busy putting together reading list brochures. There is a great selection of popular and classic titles in each of these.

January 17-21 is Book Week. This year's author is Alan Gibbons. We are sharing the visit with ISB and the Garrison School. More information about Alan can be found at: [www.alangibbons.org](http://www.alangibbons.org). Alan is a great advocate for boys' literature and public libraries. Students are busy reading his stories and sharing them in English lessons. We will be arranging a parent coffee afternoon, where Alan will come and talk about how to get boys into reading. More information will come out in early January.

*Fiona Mulvaney*

## THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION 2010

Students from Year 3 to 13 achieved outstanding results in this year's University of New South Wales International Science competition. For over 20 years, Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) of the University of New South Wales has been conducting the International Competition for Schools. The competitions form the largest independent assessment programme for schools in Brunei, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Hong Kong, China and the Pacific Region. JIS has been part of this competition for a number of years. Annually, around 2 million entries are received from students worldwide. 87 students from our school entered the Science competition this year and certificates were awarded as follows: 24 High Distinctions, 28 Distinctions, 20 Credits and 15 certificates of participation. 24 of our students' results placed them in the top 1% in Brunei. 9 students received medals this year for achieving the top mark in Brunei.

*Chris Kruger*

## PTCG REPORT

The new recruits to the PTCG committee have certainly provided new direction and many new ideas. Football Funday was a great success. We approached successful businesses to sponsor the day and help foster ties between JIS and the local community. Sixteen different sponsors made generous contributions. Our Deputy Chair, Cynthia, introduced a Funzone for children which was a great hit with parents and children alike. The stalls in the gym were very busy all day and a huge variety of goods and services were on offer. Our PE department organized the football with 104 teams participating. The committee would like to thank all those staff and parents who gave so freely of their time. The PTCG also held a highly successful Welcome Barbecue in September. Many parents and staff came along and enjoyed a sausage sandwich and a drink. A bouncy castle and our new playground equipment provided fun entertainment for the children present. Upcoming activities include a JIS Open Golf day on 26th February 2011, and also a Quiz night in Term 3. Do come along. The PTCG will also host the popular Parents' Forum to be held in the PAR on Monday 21st February, commencing at 7.00pm. Our Annual AGM will also be held on this same night.

*Paul Williamson*

## EXTERNAL EXAMS JANUARY 2011 FOR YEAR 13

GCE AS/A Level Exams will run from 10 January to 27 January 2011 from 5.00pm to 10.15pm. Individual exam timetables have been distributed to the students. If your child has not received one, please let me know and I will be happy to reprint another copy. Results will be available in the exams office on 10 March 2011 after school. If you have any queries with regards to your child's exam(s), please do not hesitate to contact me. Certificates from the May/June 2010 Exam Session are now available in my office.

*Nicole Chong*

## INVOICES FOR 2ND SEMESTER 2010/2011

Invoices for the second semester will be distributed to students on 5 January 2011. Fees which are being paid by companies will be sent out by post. If you have not received your invoice by 11 January 2011, we should be grateful if you would contact the school's Accounts Section (telephone: 2411000 ext 1311 or 1314) or request by email at [accounts@jis.edu.bn](mailto:accounts@jis.edu.bn).

Have a great holiday and good luck for the future.

Yours sincerely

John Price  
Principal and Chief Executive