

Parent Newsletter

I am very pleased to announce that Jerudong International School has just received notice from the director general of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Mr Jeffrey R Beard, that we are now an authorised International Baccalaureate World School. This means that we are certified to teach the Diploma Programme from the start of the next academic year. With an initial cohort of more than twenty pupils, I believe the IB will grow and prosper in the future at JIS. Indeed, I see the IB as a key development in marketing the school overseas. I wish to thank and congratulate the Academic Director, Mr Barny Sandow, for his work preparing and coordinating the school's candidacy as an IB school. Dr Colin Dickinson will be IB coordinator from August.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the following Year 13 students who have recently been awarded Shell Scholarships: Muhammad Nazmi Hj Ahmad, Dk Nur Syazwani Pg Hj Kamarulzaman, Farah Azyan Ali Umar Safri, Ahmad Luqman Hj Mohammad and Mohamed Fahamin bin Faisel.

Earth Week is upon us! This year we are joining with our partner schools in FOBISSEA to support the WWF Malaysia Kinabatangan Corridor of Life project. Of course, there is much else happening this week, for example Earth Day assemblies, poster and writing competitions, the Eco Garden Bake Sale, the Beach Bunch cleanup at Jerudong Beach and a national eco-video competition. Last Saturday I was very pleased that fifty JIS pupils volunteered to help plant indigenous trees at the new BEBD housing estate in Kuala Belait. We are also keen to landscape the grounds at JIS with indigenous trees. Please be

assured that all the trees that have been removed during recent capital works at JIS are non-indigenous acacia trees. This acacia species (probably acacia mangium) is an invasive weed that can colonise and replace disturbed native forest.

The Heads of School have indicated some of the major events taking place this term. There is the Hong Kong Ministerial delegation, the Shakespeare drama festival, the Primary FOBISSEA Games, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Activity Week, prize-giving evenings, graduation balls and much else besides. And, of course, there are also public examinations that measure what pupils know and can do. Our teachers are working hard to get your son or daughter ready to achieve their best in these important tests. We will measure our achievement through your child's performance.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your support of the victims in the March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. To date our pupils have raised over \$7000 towards the appeal. The donation will be handed to the Japanese Ambassador Mr Noriki Hirose by our Head Boy, Mathew Bukit and Head Girl, Bryanna Rogers, at our Celebration of Achievement evening.

ANDREW TAYLOR, Acting Principal

From the Head of Junior School

Welcome to Term 3. It is hard to believe we are in the last term of the year already but, as usual, there is much to look forward to and we offer a very warm welcome to our new children and their families.

The new Deputies for the Junior School Council have been elected and they are looking forward to becoming involved in School Council activities. They will be helping with the organisation of the ever popular Talent Quest later in the term. We will also have the House Swimming Gala on **Friday 29 April** which you are very welcome to come and watch. More information will be sent home nearer the time.

Our big event this term is the Primary FOBISSEA Games running from **20 to 22 May**. We are very proud to be hosting the Games this year and welcoming our visiting schools to Brunei and to JIS. Many thanks to anyone who is helping with the Games. Our own team are training hard and look set to do well. You are all welcome to come along and support the teams during this three day event. I will send a full programme out at the beginning

of May. As the Junior School teachers are all involved in running the event, **Friday 20 May** will be a closure day for all Junior School children. There is also a further closure morning on **Friday 8 July** to allow staff to prepare for the move to the new Junior School classrooms created by the opening of the Arts Centre. This means the last day of the academic year for Junior School children will be **Thursday 7 July**, we will hold our traditional Leavers Assembly on that morning. Activity Day for Junior School will be held on **Tuesday 5 July**. More details to follow on this exciting day.

You will receive a full written report for your child on **Monday 4 July**.

Of course the children will be working hard in their lessons all term and hopefully taking part in the ASA programme offered by the school too.

Have a wonderful term.

KAREN MEHTA

From the Head of Middle School

Welcome back. I hope that you and your child(ren) managed to spend some time relaxing together over the recent holiday. Term time is always busy at JIS and holidays should be about unwinding and resting for children. This is important as Term 3 should prove to be as exciting as ever in Middle School with the following events ahead.

Middle School Exam Week will take place during Week 8 from **Tuesday 24 May** until **Friday 27 May**. Further details will be sent to parents in another letter.

All students who will start in Middle School in September 2011 will be invited to participate in the Middle School Transition Day on **Tuesday 28 June**. This day aims to help make the start of the next academic year less stressful for students by allowing friendships to begin early. It also provides a great opportunity for students to get a feel for life in the Boarding House as many of the students in Middle School are boarders.

Activity Week will take place from **Monday 4 July** until **Thursday 7 July**. We have the majority of students in Middle School allocated to an activity already and we will distribute this information soon. If your child has still to provide an Activity Preference Form then please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Many activities are already full so late replies may result in disappointment. If you know that your child will be absent, then please ensure that we are informed by a note in the diary or a brief email.

Studying or working in a school like JIS brings many opportunities to be proud, excited and thankful. However, there are also moments when we feel sadness and one of those times is when friends leave. A number of students will leave JIS at the end of Term 3 and we will be sorry to see them go. I hope that those who leave will depart with happy memories and I hope that many of the friendships they have made will continue for years to come. If your child is leaving, we are happy to support the transition of your child to a new school by providing a reference, should you need one. However, please request this in writing and give us two weeks notice.

End of Year Reports will be distributed on the last day of Term 3. We do not release reports early. If you know that your child will be unable to collect their report then please contact Esther Tang in the Junior and Middle Schools Office. We will then ensure that you receive an

electronic copy of your child's report by email shortly after the end of term. The official copy will be available for collection in August or it will be forwarded to you if your child has left JIS.

Finally, I would like to congratulate a number of Middle School students. The U13 FOBISSEA Games squad travelled to Kuala Lumpur at the beginning of the recent holiday. During three very challenging days of competition, the girls and boys competed in swimming, basketball, athletics and football. The squad performed with great determination and they should be very proud of the manner in which they represented their school. The overall results were:

- Swimming - fourth
- Athletics - second
- Basketball (girls and boys) - fifth
- Football (girls) third and (boys) equal first

Last weekend thirteen students represented JIS in the Asia Pacific Mathematical Olympiad run by Chung Hwa Middle School. We finished third out of the fifteen schools that participated and Michael Koh of Year 6 was third in the individual competition.

Please remember to support us by reminding your child to commit to our core values:

- Work hard in all subjects;
- Commit fully to the co-curricular aspect of school life;
- Be respectful, tolerant and understanding of others.

IAN MEHTA

From the Head of Sixth Form

The focus for this term in the Sixth Form will be on the AS Level and A2 Level external examinations taking place in May and June. Our students have just completed their internal examinations and we held our final Parent-Teacher meetings on Wednesday 20 April. This evening gave parents the opportunity to discuss their son or daughter's progress towards their final examinations with their teachers. Naturally, we wish all of our students the best of luck in their examinations.

Sadly, we will say farewell to our Year 13 students at half-term as they start their study leave at this time. We have a special Leavers' Assembly and other activities arranged for them to celebrate the end of their school careers. Many of our Year 13 students are now holding offers from prestigious universities throughout the world. We wish them all every success in their future endeavours.

The Sixth Form Student Council has done a magnificent job organising numerous events throughout the school this year. The highlight for this term will be the annual Sixth Form Ball that takes place at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom at the Empire Hotel on **Saturday 7 May**.

The Sixth Form Student Council has spent many hours preparing for this major event for all our Sixth Form students. It should be a very special night, particularly for our Year 13 students who leave the Sixth Form after two very busy and fruitful years.

We also have Activities Week to look forward to at the end of the year, and our Gold International Award students will be heading to Tanzania for their major expedition in July. We will also have a two day Year 12 Information Programme for our Year 11 students on **Thursday 30 June** and **Friday 1 July** to give them a flavour of life in the Sixth Form next year. Seven of our Sixth Form students will also be attending Global Young Leaders Conferences in USA and Europe during the long holiday.

DAVID HOBDDAY

From the Head of Upper School

The third term in the Upper School is a challenging one; students face end of year assessment tests and, in the case of Year 11, the final GCSE examinations. Many Year 11 students have already begun their GCSE examinations: as I write Art students are working on their final examinations and the oral component of Modern Foreign Languages is also being assessed. Syllabuses are complete in many subjects and students have settled down to serious revision. There is a hum of activity in classes and a tangible sense that time is valuable.

I am pleased to say that most students seem well organised; they have constructed revision timetables and thought carefully about the subject content that needs to be covered. In addition to this, all Year 11 students have received the details of their examinations and this information should be carefully stored. The last day of teaching will be **Tuesday 10 May** and thereafter students are on study leave except when they make appointments to see teachers. Before leaving, Year 11 will have their Celebration of Achievement Evening on **Monday 9 May** in the school gymnasium. We will be awarding academic, sporting and creative prizes to a large number of students all of whom have displayed special aptitude and commitment.

The old Upper School Council is departing and we will certainly miss them. They have been filled with ideas and have kept us on our toes. Their final task will be to organise the Year 11 Prom which takes place on **Saturday 25 June**. Even though this year's event will be in school, it still promises to be wonderful event with elegant table linen and silver cutlery. The food, which will be prepared by the chefs of the Radisson Hotel, also promises to be delectable. A significant body of students do leave us at the end of Year 11 and it is fitting that we are able to say good bye to them in a way that leaves them with a significant memory.

I also wish to remind parents that the Sixth Form Information Programme

takes place on **Thursday 30 June** and **Friday 1 July**. Students will be given a taste of lessons in the Sixth Form and will also learn a great deal about life in this part of the school. If your child is attending the Sixth Form in JIS, it is highly desirable for them to attend.

In Year 10, many students recently delivered a speech as part of the process of applying to be on the Student Council. The quality of speeches was superb and new ideas were certainly in evidence. I am delighted to see the high level of interest in the Student Council and the impressive leadership qualities that the students display.

Likewise, in Year 9, House Leaders were recently appointed and they now taken up their positions. The students appear eager to begin work on new projects and the experience will certainly help them develop both organisationally and socially.

Finally, in assembly, we have already reminded students in both Years 9 and 10 that they face important internal exams in Week 7 and 8 respectively. Teachers will prepare students for these examinations but good results require commitment and organisation. Tutors will be working with students to ensure that they draw up a proper study timetable and that they make use of effective revision methods. To guide their revision, topic checklists for each subject can be found at <http://www.jis.edu.bn/intranet/secondary/SecondaryStudentindex.htm>

This term is very important for assessment, but there will be much more than examinations on offer. It is essential that students maintain a balanced life; we want everyone to sign up for our ASA programme and take part in as many House activities as possible.

PETER FLYNN

Notice of Withdrawal

At least eight (working) weeks' written notice is required for any student who is leaving the school, the Boarding House and the Boarding House bus service. For those under non-corporate billing rates, a financial penalty is levied if inadequate notice is given. The financial penalty for late notice is calculated on a weekly basis as follows:

Tuition fee: \$174-\$382 per week (depending on a child's current year level).

Boarding House fee: \$402 per week.

Boarding House bus: \$60 (Miri); \$45 (KB) and \$40 (Seria) per week.

The final date of notification for those leaving JIS at the end of the

2010-2011 academic year is **Friday 6 May, 2011**.

Parents need to collect a Notice of Withdrawal form from the Admissions Office or download this from the Admissions section of the School's website. The day that the form is returned to our office is recorded as the official notification date.

Leaving documentation is kept in the Admissions Office and can be collected on the student's last day of school.

Students in Year 13 are not required to give notice. Year 11 students who do not intend to continue their Sixth Form studies at JIS must submit a Notice of Withdrawal form.

For further information, contact the Admissions Office on 241 1000 (ext 1206).

Touch Rugby Tournament

On Sunday 10 April a team comprising Year 10 and 11 boys won the NZAB Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Charity U18 Touch Rugby Tournament held at the RBRC. The boys won all their five games and were a credit to the School in terms of sportsmanship, commitment and general level of performance. Well done!

COLIN DICKINSON

Drama

The Year 11 GCSE Drama will perform Eugene Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* at 7:00pm on **Monday 25 April** and **Tuesday 26 April** in the Drama Room at JIS. Tickets are available from the Drama Office (\$5 for students / \$10 for adults).

The Year 12 GCE Drama class will perform Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* at 7:00pm on **Monday 2 May** and **Tuesday 3 May** in the Drama Room at JIS. Tickets are available from the Drama Office (\$5 for students / \$10 for adults).

MARK ECKERSLEY

Tuition Fees 2011-2012

The invoice for first semester will be distributed to students on **Thursday 30 June**. Fees which are being paid by certain companies will be sent out by post.

If you have not received your invoice by **Friday 8 July**, we should be grateful if you would contact the School's Accounts Department (telephone: 2411000 ext 1311 or 1314) or request by email at accounts@jis.edu.bn

E-Invoice and E-Statement

Thank you for the majority of parents who have returned the form to confirm the email address for e-invoice and e-statement. We will email the invoice for the 2011-2012 academic year before **Saturday 9 July**. A monthly statement of account will be sent by email from June. Parents who would like to receive an invoice and statement via email, please inform the School's Accounts Department.

Government Education Allowance

We would like to remind parents who are under the government allowance scheme that it is time to re-apply for the education allowance for the 2011-2012 academic year. This is a standard requirement set by the Treasury Office (Ministry of Finance). If you have not submitted the form and Certificate of Enrolment to the Ministry/Treasury Office, please do so as soon as possible.

You can request a Certificate of Enrolment from Esther Tang (Junior and Middle School) or Chong Hyen Seem (Upper School and Sixth Form).

DVD Showcase Music Concert 2011

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the recent Showcase Music Concert on DVD, this can be pre-ordered (and prepaid) from the Stationery and Uniform Shop at \$10 each. Forms are available at the shop.

International Science Competition 2011

We are very pleased that around 150 students from Years 3 to 13 have opted to sit the UNSW ICAS Science competition. The competition this year will take place on **Tuesday 26 April**.

The competition gives students the opportunity to test skills such as observing, measuring, interpreting, predicting, concluding, investigating, reasoning and problem solving. Each student will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation and performance. Should any students be the top student in Brunei for their particular age group, they will be eligible to receive a medal. However, these tests should not, in any way, place the students under pressure and we do not expect or require them to prepare for them. However, if any student wishes to work through any past papers, copies can be obtained from the Science faculty. This is entirely optional.

There will be an additional question and answer session on **Monday 25 April** in room P2 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. These sessions are for **students in the Junior and Middle School**. During these sessions

Sport

A number of competitions are just commencing in Brunei and our best wishes to all players, who have trained hard through the ASA programme since August.

Badminton

We are currently involved in the Brunei National Interschool knockout competition. Congratulations to Maria De Silva, Mayang Purwanto, Victor Lim and Ashraf Haledi who have all won through to the semi-finals or finals of their Zone.

Under 19 Football, Netball and Basketball Leagues

JIS is currently organising and hosting a number of government and independent schools in this year's competition. The first weeks results were very positive with wins for all JIS A teams.

The National Football knockout competition starts later this month for the Under 18 and 15 Boys teams in Tutong.

Squash

Ten players from Middle and Junior School will be representing JIS in the first leg of the Sarawak Circuit squash competition from 22-24 April.

Swimming

A trip to Jakarta in the holidays saw a number of JIS swimmers perform to a high level, with the school finishing in third position. Additional congratulations to Sabrina and Amanda Liew and Anderson Lim who have been selected for Brunei in the upcoming SEA age group championship.

Under 13 FOBISSEA

This year's squad competed at the ELC school in Kuala Lumpur, participating in athletics, swimming, football and basketball. All players represented the school with a high degree of commitment and enthusiasm. Among many highlights were the boys winning gold in football and the girls winning bronze after losing a thrilling semi-final on penalties. Congratulations to all.

Information regarding next year's Under 15 games which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in November, will be given to students in the near future.

MIKE CARTER

they will have the opportunity to discuss and try some past paper questions.

Arrangements for Tuesday 26 April

1. Students must report to the following venues at 2:30 pm:
Years 3 – 6: Room P2 and P3
Years 7 – 9: S21
Years 10 – 13: Dance Studio
2. Students should make sure they have with them a B or 2B pencil, a pencil sharpener and an eraser. Spares will be available in the test rooms.

We hope that your child will find the tests interesting. They will undoubtedly hone their scientific skills as well as complement their academic portfolio with the certificate awards. Results and certificates usually reach the school before the end of the term.

CHRIS KRUGER

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Friday 6 May: *Junior House Swimming*

Friday 20 May: *Junior School closed*

7-8 June: *JIS Young Playwrights*

Tuesday 28 June: *Talent Quest*

Monday 4 July: *Junior School reports distributed*

Tuesday 5 July: *Activity Day*

Thursday 7 July: *Leaver's Assembly and academic year ends for Junior School*

Friday 7 July: *Junior School closed*

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tuesday 26 April: *Theatre Sports @ lunch*

Thursday 28 April: *House Netball*

Tuesday 3 May: *Year 6-13 Dance @ lunch*

23-27 May: *Examination Week*

Thursday 26 May: *House Frisbee*

7-8 June: *JIS Young Playwrights*

Wednesday 8 June: *Year 6-8 swimming morning*

Tuesday 28 June: *Transition Day*

UPPER SCHOOL

22-25 April: *Brunei Drama Festival*

Wednesday 27 April: *Theatre Sports @ lunch*

2-3 May: *GCSE Drama examination performance*

Tuesday 3 May: *Year 6-13 Dance @ lunch*

Monday 9 May: *GCSE examinations begin*

Monday 9 May: *Celebration of Achievement Evening (Year 11-13 only)*

Tuesday 10 May: *Last day of Year 11*

16-20 May: *Examination Week (Year 9)*

23-27 May: *Examination Week (Year 10)*

Wednesday 8 June: *Swimming Gala (Year 9 and 10)*

Thursday 9 June: *Year 9 PHSE*

11-12 June: *Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition*

Friday 24 June: *Year 9-10 Celebration of Achievement assembly*

Saturday 25 June: *Year 11 Prom*

25-26 June: *Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition*

Tuesday 28 June: *Year 10 IGCSE E2L excursion*

Tuesday 28 June: *GCSE examinations end*

30 June - 1 July: *Year 12 Information Programme*

SIXTH FORM

Thursday 28 April: *House Netball*

29-30 April: *IELTS examination*

Tuesday 3 May: *Year 6-13 Dance @ lunch*

6-7 May: *IELTS examination*

Saturday 7 May: *Sixth Form Ball*

Monday 9 May: *Celebration of Achievement Evening*

Friday 13 May: *Last day of Year 12*

Friday 27 May: *Last day of Year 13*

Monday 13 June: *Year 12 return to school*

28 June - 12 July: *Gold International Award expedition to Tanzania*

WHOLE SCHOOL

Tuesday 26 April: *UNSW ICAS Science Competition*

25-25 April: *The Bald Soprano performance*

2-3 May: *The Matchmaker performance*

20-22 May: *Primary FOBISSEA Games*

26-27 May: *Trinity Guildhall Practical examinations*

Wednesday 22 June: *Art, Design & Technology Exhibition*

4-7 July: *Activity Week*

Friday 8 July: *Academic year ends (12:45pm finish)*

Monday 5 September: *2011-2012 academic year begins*