



12 March 2008

Dear Parent

On Saturday 08 March 2008 Jerudong International School marked its tenth anniversary with a spectacular showcase concert featuring music from many different countries. The concert was attended by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Minister of Education, our Guest of Honour.

I mentioned in my speech that the primary school of JIS opened on January 15th 1997 with just 51 pupils. The secondary school followed in July 1997 with 75 pupils. Today we have a total of 1299 pupils and we are still growing. In ten years JIS has become one of the major international schools in Asia. Thanks to the inspection last year, we can be confident that JIS is providing a quality of education similar to that offered by the best schools around the world.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS:

Junior School

Term 2 in the Junior School saw the Athletics Carnival. All children from Kindergarten to Year 5 took part and competition was fierce. Blue House emerged the overall winner. Many thanks to the parents who provided cakes for the event. The Junior Disco was also a great success with some fantastic 70s gear and dancing on show! The Junior School held Humanities Day in February. The children learnt about William Shakespeare, Louis Braille, Charles Lindbergh, Anne Frank and other historical figures. There was a Parents' Workshop, at which Julia Rickell presented information on the History and Geography elements of the Junior School curriculum. Next term we will be holding a Maths workshop for parents.

JIS was the host for the Early Years workshop, which was attended by teachers and assistants from many schools in Brunei. The focus was on creativity. Visitors had a chance to look around the Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1 classrooms.

We held a 'Performing Arts Evening' on 14 February which was well attended. It is always wonderful to see how talented our young musicians and singers are. Last week we held Junior School Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings, so that parents had an opportunity to talk to the teachers and look at children's work in more detail.

Next term we look forward to the ever popular Year 4 'Egyptian Evening' and the Year 5 residential trip as well as Roman Day in Year 3. Many thanks to all the parents who helped us with different events.

Please ensure your child has a named hat as we are trying to enforce sun safe practices at break, lunchtime and during PE lessons.

Karen Lewis

Middle School

This term we had the Swimming Gala and House Basketball. The recycling competition has continued to gain momentum and many tutor groups eagerly await the results each week. Assemblies have covered many topics, but notably environmental issues, religious festivals and the Battle of Hastings. Year 8 pupils took part in the annual rivers trip; Year 6 went to Tasek Merimbun and all year levels participated in the hugely popular Panaga Football Tournament.

Next term we will run our first Activity Week for the Middle School. All students will select from a wide variety of activities ranging from overseas trips to classroom-based projects. You will receive more details on this shortly.

Ian Mehta

Upper School

Year 11 has been a crucial term for students as they review the results of their Internal Examinations, finish off coursework assignments and begin a revision programme for the GCSE examinations in May and June. In PSHE we have covered revision skills and we have also looked at option choices in the Sixth Form. In order to make sure that students have made the right choices, we are currently interviewing the whole year group. Parents will be receiving final Year 11 reports shortly. Students should also be planning their revision programme and beginning work on the subjects which will be examined first.

In Year 10, students received their module results in January and these were extremely pleasing with approximately 50% scoring a grade A or A* and over 90% achieving A-C. In addition to working hard in the classroom, students have also been exerting themselves on the sports field (see below).

Year 9 students have now returned their option forms and we are currently reviewing their choices carefully. We would like to thank parents for their support at both the Options Evening and Parent Teacher Interviews; at the latter evening over 90% of parents booked appointments. Year 9 students now have to concentrate on their first set of Science modular examinations which take place on **Monday 23 June 2008** and preparation for these has already begun in classes.

Next term is naturally an academically demanding time as GCSE and internal Examinations will be in full swing, but there are many cultural trips and social activities for students to look forward to. We hope that all students can strike a happy medium between rest and work over the holiday period and that they return to school refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead.

Peter Flynn

Sixth Form

It has been another busy term in the Sixth Form. January was dominated by the AS Level and A2 Level external modular examinations. We welcomed 13 new JIS students onto the 18 month A Level course in January and they enjoyed team building activities at the Empire Hotel as part of their induction to the school. There have also been two Year 12 Geography field trips to Temburong this term.

We have had many Sixth Form assemblies with fascinating talks on 'winning', Mahatma Gandhi, Children of our Time and Internationalism, and International Women's Day. As part of our PSHE Programme we had a very successful Higher Education/Careers Carousel that involved over 40 speakers who provided advice on a wide variety of careers.

The Sixth Form Student Council has been busy with fund raising events this term. There have been two Casual Clothes Days, Rose-A-Grams and Candy-Grams and a very successful JIS Social at the Empire Hotel. The money raised will go towards supporting Pusat Ehsan and local Penan people.

The students have been involved in House events. This term has seen some great competition in House Basketball and the Swimming Gala. Congratulations must go to Rebecca Cross and Nathaniel Ting, who were our top swimmers. We must also congratulate our Under 18 boys football team who won a local tournament and our Over 15 girls netball players, who won the Plate Trophy at the FOBISSEA games in Singapore.

The second Gold Level International Award training weekend took place on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 February. The group braved an entire day of rain and lots of hills through the Jungle. After a wet camp on the Saturday night, they then completed another half day of walking on the Sunday.

David Hobday

BOARDING

Life in the boarding houses continues to move at a fast and furious pace. The four new houses, Eagle, Ibis, Kingfisher and Hornbill, are flourishing and really starting to develop their own individual identities.

We have had eleven new boarders join us this term: Sita, Michelle, Joanne, Alice, Angila, Ofonime, Aniekan, Sanguk, Umaima, Lorena and Shubas. We also had new boarding staff to welcome: Salina Salleh and Sarah Kallu, who are the new tutors in Hornbill House, and Cyrus Villanueva, who is a tutor in Ibis House, and his wife Kristine. They bring a wide range of talents to the boarding house. Ibis House is

growing and with the re-opening of block 7, it now has a full complement of three blocks and three teams of residential staff.

Hornbill House had a wonderful evening at the Empire Hotel on 27 February with the sixth form boys of Eagle House. It was a great opportunity to welcome the new staff and the pupils in this house. They were excellent company; they dressed wonderfully and behaved impeccably.

Kingfisher House had its long awaited water sports night at The Empire, which was a riotous occasion. All had terrific fun. Roll on 21 May for our next formal dinner, at the Atrium, Empire hotel.

Eagle House is flourishing and this can be largely attributed to our fabulous new facilities and the extremely well behaved students we have. The Sixth Form boys of Eagle House are excellent role models for the younger boys in matters of punctuality, tidiness, and scholarship.

On April 10 the boarding house has its annual in-house Lip-Sync competition and all children and staff in the boarding house are busy working on their respective performances.

John White

MUSIC

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the Empire Showcase Concert held on 8 March with over 150 students performing two shows. The matinee was attended by Junior School students and parents and local Brunei school students. The evening show had been sold out from the previous week and more tickets were requested! All of the student performers, musicians, singers and dancers, are to be congratulated on an outstanding performance. Special mention to student soloists Apreetha Silva Das & Sam Bukit (Gamelan), Kejia Wang (Chinese Guzheng), Samuel King (Piano) and Min Jin Cho (Vocals).

The annual A Level Recital took place on 20 February in which our students Samuel King (Solo Piano), Evelyn Lee (Solo Flute) and Yvonne Lim (Solo Piano) performed their personal selection of classical pieces.

In Week 8, the JIS Jazz Band took over the canteen floor and entertained the Junior School as well the rest of the canteen patrons during break and lunchtimes. This will surely become another annual event for us.

In the last week of the term Year 9 and 10 Music students performed to everyone during lunchtimes from Tuesday till Thursday. Another tremendous achievement for us this term.

Paul Edgeler

DRAMA

In February, the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies girls performed their self devised piece NEW BEST FRIEND, a satire on reality TV, in which a Paris Hilton-type figure launches a show to find a new best friend. Then, in March, our AS Drama students made their debut with A BUNCH OF COWARDS, an evening devoted to the work of celebrated playwright, director, actor and wit Noel Coward.

Coming next: the GCSE group in TO HULL AND BACK and the whole school science-fiction thriller, THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS.

SPORT

Badminton

We have managed to play a number of friendly fixtures and players from JIS entered the Brunei open for the first time. The standard is high and students need the opportunity to train more often. The ASA programme next term will allow players from Middle and Upper School to opt for a number of sessions each week. I would like to congratulate Aditya Anwar, Sam Bukit, Hazimin Aminuddin, Wafi Nairul and Jayne Wong on their performances in the singles and doubles at the Brunei Open.

Entry for the JIS closed badminton competition has been excellent and is now in progress. Good luck to all players.

Football

The U15 Boys Football team finished their league season unbeaten and won the title for the third successive year. 22 students represented JIS in the league; this is testimony to the strength of our players. Za'eem Omarali finished top scorer with 7 goals and was named player of the season.

JIS Boys Under 18 Football Team have enjoyed another successful and undefeated season. The team, captained by James Casey, won all of their league games in the School Sports Association (SSA) League. They also won the SSA Cup Competition in February without conceding a goal. The level of teamwork and conduct demonstrated by every member of the team has been exemplary. A special mention should be made of Joe Berry, who was player of the season, scoring 8 goals. HRH Prince Mateen finished the season as top goalscorer with 11 goals.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated at Panaga School. All players can be very proud of their achievements. We were well placed in all categories. Chris Bevan and the Under 11 team won all their matches and the trophy for this year. Many thanks to Panaga for organising such an exciting tournament.

Mike Carter

Rugby

The JIS Under 16 and Under 18 rugby teams have taken part in the Brunei Junior Rugby Championships this term. At the time of writing, the Under 16 tournament is approaching a nail biting finish as JIS and SOAS are neck and neck with one match to go, having fought to a 17-17 draw in their head to head match. The Under 18s have managed some wins and suffered some narrow losses in their matches. They are left mid-table. The Championships have broadened the experience of the boys: a particular highlight was taking a water taxi ride to play one school in Kampong Ayer. The progress of the JIS teams and the championships can be followed in the blog site bruneirugby.wordpress.com, which can be found by googling Brunei rugby.

Mark Pyrgos

Basketball

The U/18 boys team has played in two competitions this term. The UBD cup, an open age competition for school and colleges has been played at the University during the last four weeks. The JIS team has played particularly well, improving each week, often with a depleted squad due to scheduling clashes. The team had an excellent win against CCMS, 38-23, although two narrow losses, one to Maktab Duli, and one in extra time to SMSA, have resulted in us just missing the finals. Top performances have come from Captain Ritchie Chin, Neezam Apani, Andy Chieng, and Jake Rogers. The team is currently playing every Tuesday in the Schools Sports League, and has comfortably won their first game. Three more games follow the holidays. Please come and support the boys at JIS gym on Tuesdays at 4pm

Justin Kennedy

Over 15 FOBISSEA Netball

The following girls travelled to Singapore to compete against the best netball teams in S.E Asia (15 – 17 February 2008):

Yasmin Hobday
Ella Griffiths
Janet Tan
Aishah Baharudin
Rebecca Cross

Robyn White
Sarah Simmonds (VICE CAPTAIN)
Wen Juan Lee
Emma Foulkes
Ashley Holland (CAPTAIN)

The girls played 14 games in total over two days. They won 9, drew 1 and lost 4. They played extremely well and came home with the Plate Trophy. Congratulations to the girls on their success. Very well done.

Clare Poulain

Senior JIS Tennis Championship

The winners are:

Boys: Asher Khan in 12J08 batch beat a very determined Mathew Bukit (Year 10) in a thrilling match.

Girls: Two Sixth formers battled it out, but in the end it was Robyn White who defeated Adeline Kho to take top honours.

The junior finals will only take place next term.

Boys: Another newcomer to JIS, Jason Ting in Year 8, will take on Benjamin Tay in year 9.

Girls: Two year 9 players, Nicola Meuller and Ursula Searle, will fight for the junior girls' trophy.

Chris Kruger

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ACTION

The JIS Eco Kids have been recycling almost everything and raising awareness of the impact of plastic bags on the environment. The Upper School team is constructing an environmental awareness website that will be ready shortly. This website will have pictures of our ongoing recycling projects, a calendar of events, and links to other environmental education sites. Additionally, we have acquired more recycling bins and are able to recycle at school and at the boarding house. The recycling competition will continue every Wednesday morning between 7.30am and 8am for all students in all schools, so please remember to save all your cans, paper, and plastic bottles and send them in. The JIS Eco Kids reusable grocery shopping bag sale went extremely well, with nearly 600 bags ordered. This will go a long way to reducing the number of plastic bags that are wasted each year. If you didn't have the chance to order any bags, there will be some for sale in the school shop. We have started our assembly presentations and will continue to visit each school to educate our students about global issues.

Laury McPherson

SCHOOL TRIPS AND FIELDWORK

16 students from Year 8 to 13 are off to Switzerland for a week of skiing and snowboarding. Students in Years 2, 8, 9 and 10 produced some great pieces of work which were shown at UBD during the French Speaking Week exhibition.

This year's AS Level Geography trip to Temburong took place from 6 to 9 March. For four days, seventeen students carried out research tasks which took them from the streets of Bangar to the depths of the rainforest. They scaled waterfalls, braved torrential rain, battled rattan infested hillsides and were welcomed by the residents of an Iban longhouse. Their schedule was tough, starting at 8am each day and not finishing until 10pm. They rose to the challenge and much was achieved.

PROPERLY LICENSED SOFTWARE

JIS is committed to making sure that all the software we use at school is properly licensed and legally installed and deployed. We are however aware of the difficulties in obtaining legal software in Brunei and the need that students have to use their home computers to complete their homework.

Many parents and students may be unaware that Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc) is not the only solution for home PCs. Open Office is an open source option that is available legally and freely to download from the Internet (www.openoffice.org). It includes the following packages: Writer (word-processing), Impress (multimedia presentations), Calc (spreadsheet), Draw (guess!), Base (a relational database) and Math (a formula writer).

In addition to these options, Nvu is an open source solution for website authoring.

Both of these options offer features that have advantages over MS Office, for example, the ability to output documents as pdf files and multimedia presentations as movies in the Flash format. Both packages store files which are compatible with MS Office, and there are surprisingly few issues with moving files freely between the two.

All the school computers now have full installations of Open Office. From next August, the ICT Faculty will be supplying students with a CD at the start of the year containing software that can be used for ICT homework throughout the year. It will include Open Office (latest version) and Nvu. We hope you will be

able to install these applications on your home PCs and support this initiative to use legally licensed software. You may find you actually prefer it to MS products (as I do!) and save yourself over \$500 on software costs for your PC.

Simon Carter

HIGHER EDUCATION & CAREERS

Higher Education and Careers staff have supported all Options Evenings and Parent Evenings held for students in Years 8 to 13. Many wide-ranging conversations have taken place and much information has been supplied during these interviews and in follow-up. The process of choosing universities and courses began for Year 12 students at the annual Higher Education Evening, when students received their personal "Passports to Higher Education". Parental support in ensuring that all Year 12 students complete the first draft of their personal statements and hand them in by the end of the first week of Term 3 would be much appreciated.

Lunchtime briefings for students have been held on applications to UBD, Malaysia and Australia, on Ministry of Education scholarships for Bruneian students and, for UCAS applicants, on replying to offers. Parental briefings for UBD, Malaysia and Australia were offered in the evenings, according to the schedule published in the parent newsletter at the beginning of term.

Universities which visited JIS this term included Karlsruhe University (the Carl Benz School of Engineering), the University of Queensland and Edinburgh University. A UCAS representative will visit JIS on Friday 14 March, to offer a training session for students on how to use 'Apply' the electronic web-based system for applying to UK universities.

In February, over 50 professionals gathered at the school for the annual "Higher Education and Careers Carousel". Experts from over 30 professions, industries, diplomatic missions and government institutions gave talks to the 380 students in Years 11, 12 and 13. All students attended two talks on different careers, each presented by experts in their field: Law, Architecture, Banking, Engineering, Business, Armed Forces, Medicine and other Healthcare professions were just a few of the careers featured. There were also talks by representatives from the Ministry of Education's Scholarship unit and Accreditation Unit, and by representatives from the British Council and the Australian, USA and Malaysian High Commissions about higher education opportunities in their countries. Many of the students took the opportunity to network with the professionals in order to arrange work experience places for after their examinations.

Wendy Isaac

INTERNATIONAL AWARD – BRONZE LEVEL

This January 60 students from Year 10 participated in this year's Bronze Level International Award expedition; this is the largest number of participants to date. For the main expedition the students hiked through the forestry reserve near Bukit Udal, inland from Tutong. They experienced the natural environment of swamps and rainforests and were educated on the various plants that they encountered by our excellent guides from Mona Flora Fauna Ecotours. Despite some boggy conditions, one night of torrential rain, and armies of leeches, all students performed exceptionally well and returned to JIS extremely tired, muddy and bruised, but happy.

SPEAKERS

Jean Galieni, Deputy to the French Ambassador in Brunei, spoke to some Year 9 students about his role in Brunei and gave his opinion on the work produced by our students during Term 2 as part of la Semaine de la Francophonie.

WATER, HATS, SUNSCREEN

Please encourage your children to drink more water at school. There are 22 water fountains for their use. They are allowed to bring bottled water into school and may take water bottles into class. (They may not however take bottles into science, DT and IT labs.)

Please provide your children with hats and sunscreen and encourage them to wear them during break, lunchtimes and for outdoor ASAs.

COMING EVENTS

We have a number of events to look forward to next term.

There are national knockout competitions in football, basketball and netball and we are hoping to enter the National Cross-Country championships which take place on April 23. These events are for under 18s and under 15s. The under 15 and 18 league matches in netball and basketball are currently in progress with both teams starting well. Netball Funday will now take place in term 3 for students of all ages. Details will follow next term. Training for the Under 15 and Primary FOBISSEA competitions is under way.

PTCG

The PTCG is planning to hold a dinner and disco at the Baze in the Empire on May 10. More details next term.

Earth Day

Each year our celebration of Earth Day grows a little bigger. The events planned include tree sponsorship, a beach clean up, Junior school visit to the Turtle rehabilitation centre, a T-shirt design competition, a Photo competition, Junior School clean up, lunchtime environmental talks by local professionals, a special Earth Day assembly, food collection and craft sale for the Penan, face painting, street art, casual clothes day and much more. If you are interested in purchasing a tree for Earth Day, please contact zoe.perry@jis.edu.bn. Please help support our Earth Day initiatives and encourage your child's participation in the events.

Earth Day Dinner and Lecture

Dato' Mikaa'il Kavanagh, Special Advisor to the Heart of Borneo project will give a lecture on the Heart of Borneo Project on Friday 25 April. Dato Paduka Hamdillah Wahab, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, has kindly agreed to be our guest of honour. The evening will take the form of a dinner followed by the lecture and questions and answers. More details will follow and tickets will be on sale shortly.

FEES

Inevitably, fees are expected to rise in August 2008. The school has submitted an application to the Ministry of Education to raise fees and we have been given to understand that the application will be approved. I attach a provisional schedule to this letter. Rises in the cost of resources, insurance, maintenance, inflationary pressures generally and planned capital expenditure make increases unavoidable. I hope you will agree that our fees are still extremely competitive by international standards.

AND FINALLY

Many thanks to parents for all they have done to support us this term. I hope you all have a good holiday and return refreshed in April.

Yours sincerely



John Price
Principal and Chief Executive