



1 Lorong Chuan
SINGAPORE 556818
Ph: 68835155
Ph: 6319 7640 (Junior)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

TERM 1:

Monday 25 January to Friday 26 March

Mon 8 Mar: NO CCAs THIS WEEK

Mon 8 Mar: Parent Teacher Interviews

Mon 15 Mar: Yr 4 Camp Information 3.30pm

Wed 17 Mar: Yr 7 Camp Info. Evening 7pm

Mon 22 Mar: Yr 5 Camp Information 3.30pm

Fri 26 Mar: Last Day Term 1

Parent Volunteers

As a Junior School, we are very fortunate to have a large number of parents who are both willing and able to assist us with our classroom programs. Now that the year is well underway, we are already beginning to reap the benefits of using parents as assistants in supporting student development in Literacy and Numeracy, as well as in Gross Motor Activities. This year, we have also extended our implementation of another program, Move to Learn, which is designed to stimulate the body senses and support the development of movement reflexes that have a significant impact on the later development of academic skills such as reading, writing and handwriting as well as sporting skills. Following training by our Learning Support staff, parents are now working with students on skills such as rolling, eye tracking, crawling and cross-walking. We expect to see a significant difference in our students as a result of their participation and are very grateful to those parents who have offered their services in this area.



Junior Choir Activities

This year, we have had over 150 students from Years One and Two enrol in the Junior Choir. As a result, we have decided to split the rehearsals so that we are able to provide more focused opportunities for students each week. The children at each year level will, however, be taught the same repertoire and will continue to come together for performances.



Commencing next week, rehearsals will be held at lunchtimes on the following days:

Year One Choir members – Thursday lunchtimes (10.40 – 11.30 am)

Year Two Choir members – Wednesday lunchtimes (10.40 – 11.30am)

In Week Nine of this term, we will be holding open rehearsals as an opportunity for parents of Choir members to join us and to hear some of the songs upon which the children have been focusing. Dates and times of the open rehearsals will be as follows:

Wednesday 24 March 11.00 – 11.30am – Year Two Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 25 March 11.00 – 11.30am – Year One Choir Rehearsal

Please feel free to come along and join us for your child's rehearsal this week. Rehearsals are held in the Junior Music Room D212 located near the MPH.



Reading in both English and Chinese

This year, we have invested in additional resources that will allow us to provide students with greater opportunities to read simple books written in Chinese. Much as we do when introducing new texts in English, having multiple copies of these books enables children to read together in small groups and to share their thoughts and experiences with each other. In our Core 2 class in 1ME last week, Mrs Gao introduced some of these readers to the children and was amazed at the results. Having been read the same story in both English and Chinese, two children quickly noticed the differences between punctuation in the two languages.

Junior School CCAs

Year Two CCAs have begun and, over the past two weeks, Year Two students have enjoyed participating in Cooking Club, Gardening Club, Dance Club, Chess Club, Book Club, Readers Theatre, Construction, Science

Club and Ceramics. CCAs provide students with the opportunity to take part in activities that are not generally part of the mainstream curriculum but in which they have particular talent or interest. Many CCAs in which students participate often develop into a lifelong passion or hobby which brings them great satisfaction. It is also a great chance to spend time with peers who are not in their class, as well as assisting students to take responsibility for their own choices and to learn about making commitments.

New Teacher's Assistants in the Junior School

This week, we have welcomed Mrs Catherine Chua as a new Teacher's Assistant working with 2LE. Mrs Chua replaces Mr Edwin Martan who has left us to commence his university qualifications to become a primary teacher. Mrs Jean Thomas has also been confirmed this week as the permanent replacement for Ms Gurmail Kaur in 2ME.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

All Junior School parents should by now have received confirmation of their interview time with their child's classroom teacher. All interviews are of 15 minutes duration. Parents are asked to arrive on time so that the schedule for interviews is not disrupted in any way.

PYP Introductory Session for Parents

Next Wednesday 10 March, the Junior PYP Co-ordinator Ms Joanne Pearn will be conducting a hands-on workshop for parents interested in learning more about the Primary Years Programme. This session will be particularly useful for parents new to the school who may not know a great deal about the special nature of the programme. The workshop will be held in the Preschool Pod from 9.00 – 10.30am. Interested parents are asked to RSVP directly to Ms Pearn at joanne_pearn@ais.com.sg.



After swimming, I took Ollie up to my friend Oliver's house to play. Here we are in Oliver's bedroom.

Being a Risk-Taker

Another of the attributes of a PYP Learner is that of being a risk-taker. A risk-taker is described as someone who 'approaches unfamiliar situations without anxiety and has the confidence and independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are courageous and articulate in defending those things in which they believe'. In the simple language of Prep children, a risk-taker is one who 'tries new things'. Each day in the Junior School, we encourage our children to be risk-takers in the classroom and in the playground. To be an effective learner, it is essential that our children take risks as they attempt to spell new words, decode unfamiliar vocabulary in books, share their news, suggest answers to questions or solutions to problems and make new friends.

Last week, the children of PLO focused on being a risk-taker and Briana Wells was noted particularly for her excellent efforts in the classroom. Her reward was to take home Ollie Orangutan, the class mascot, who had a wonderful time sharing Briana's weekend adventures with her. When he returned to school with Briana on Monday, she took further risks in sharing those adventures with her peers. This was a wonderful example of authentic child-centred learning with a clear purpose and a very satisfying result.