



## Head of Junior School, Ms Sue Pike

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### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**TERM 1:**  
**Monday 25 January to Friday 26 March**

**Mon 15 Mar:** Yr 4 Camp Info. Session 3.30pm  
**Wed 17 Mar:** Yr 7 Camp Info. Evening 7pm  
**Mon 22 Mar:** Yr 5 Camp Info. Session 3.30pm  
**Fri 26 Mar:** Last Day Term 1

**TERM 2:**  
**Monday 12 April to Friday June 18**

**Mon 19 Apr:** Middle School Camp Week 1  
**Mon 19 Apr:** NO CCAs  
**Wed 21 Apr:** Parents' Assoc. Newcomers' Morning Tea  
**Sun 25 Apr:** ANZAC Day  
**Mon 26 Apr:** Primary School Camp Week  
**Mon 26 Apr:** Middle School Camp Week 2  
**Mon 26 Apr:** NO CCAs  
**Mon 3 May:** Labour Day Pub.Hol. NO SCHOOL

### Changes to Drive Through Arrangements

Owing to the increasing traffic congestion that we are experiencing in the afternoons, we have decided to trial some changes to the way in which the Drive Through Collection service works in the afternoons. Letters have been sent out to all Junior School families with clear guidelines about our proposed changes; these will come into effect next Monday 15 March.

Please be aware that, if you come to the school by taxi in the afternoons and wish to collect your children from the grounds, you must arrive before 2.55pm in the afternoon and wait until after 3.10pm to depart again. Taxis will only be permitted to enter the drive through zone between 2.55 and 3.10pm if parents intend to stay in the taxi and use their allocated laminated card to collect their child when the taxi reaches Collection Bays 1-5.

### Gross Motor Program

Emails have been sent to all Junior families this week outlining changes to the Gross Motor Program that will occur in Term Two. All classes will attend Gross Motor sessions with other classes for their year level only, with session times each Friday being as follows:

PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 7
9:20	10:00	11:30	12:10	12:50	2:00
PJO	PRS	1MC	1SI	2CO	2HE
PLO	PMR	1RY	1KI	2HO	2HS
PPR	PSL	1CE	1CA	2HR	2SH
PMA	PTI	1HA	1ME	2LA	2NE
PHO	PRO	1NE	1CU	2LE	2ME

Each session will have a Sports House focus, with groups being able to score points for their respective houses – Derwent, Lachlan, Murray and Fitzroy. Children are encouraged to wear their House T-shirts for Gross Motor sessions each Friday. If you would like to assist with the Gross Motor program, please complete the expression of interest form and return it to Mr Ron Barnes, the Junior Sport Co-ordinator at [ron\\_barnes@ais.com.sg](mailto:ron_barnes@ais.com.sg)

### Planning Week

Next week is Planning Week across the Junior and Primary Schools. Whilst school will operate as normal, there will be some changes to the timetable of specialist lessons to allow us to release year level teams of teachers to work collaboratively on planning for Term Two. Staff on each year level will be divided into teams and will work for the day on planning for Literacy and Numeracy, as well as for upcoming Units of Inquiry. Specialist staff will also be released from teaching duties in order that they can plan for next term. We will be looking not only at horizontal planning at each year level but also completing some vertical planning across the Junior and Primary Schools.

PE uniforms and Library bags will be required on the following days next week:

Prep – Tuesday

Year One – Wednesday

Year Two – Thursday

The Gross Motor Program will take place as normal on Friday.

### International School Networks

Several times a year, Heads and Assistant Heads from international schools across Singapore gather together to share ideas and expertise and to discuss issues that are common to us all. This week, Mrs Bev May and I attended the first of the Primary Principals' Network meetings for 2010, held at Chatsworth International School. Items for discussion included provisions for learning a second language, differentiating curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of all learners, and school review processes.

This week, the Junior School Librarians at AISS, Mrs Denise Jackson and Mrs Ali Hughes, also hosted this term's meeting of the International Schools' Library Network and welcomed approximately 30 Librarians from other international schools in Singapore to our beautiful facility.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

Many thanks to all those parents who have availed themselves of the opportunity to meet with their child's classroom teachers this week. Our students are most fortunate to have such strong support from their families and we are grateful for your willingness to share your own insights and to assist at home with your children's learning.

### PYP Introductory Session for Parents

This Wednesday, Mrs Joanne Pearn our PYP Co-ordinator, welcomed about 30 parents new to the Junior School to an introductory workshop about the Primary Years Programme that underpins our teaching and learning. This was a hand-on session in which parents were able to participate in some of the learning experiences that our students also enjoy and was designed to help parents understand how our classrooms are structured to facilitate learning.

### New Teachers' Assistant for Junior Visual Arts

Commencing on Monday 15 March, the Junior School will welcome an additional Teacher's Assistant who will work specifically with Mrs Sue Bastone in our Visual Arts room. This is an exciting new development for the Junior School and we know that Ms Fanny Chung will be a wonderful addition to our team and will enable Mrs Bastone to embark upon some more ambitious projects with the children.

### Writers' Workshop

Writers' Workshop is an important component of our weekly Literacy program in classrooms and enables students to write 'as real writers do', choosing their own topic and genre about which to write. Writing in the 'Writer's Notebook', children can explore the world of their imagination, write information reports about topics of personal interest, create their own joke and riddle books, devise their own recipes or respond to literature, for example. Michael Loo of 2HO was inspired to write about a dragon after reading the book 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell.

"I went for an adventure high in the mountains, far beyond the village. It was very hard to climb the mountain. When I came across a cave, I went into it. It was very dark in there. I saw a deadly and dangerous dragon. I picked it up and I put it in my bag. It was very cold. That meant that it was fast asleep. I went home and went to bed and had a sleep. My dragon woke up when I came downstairs. My fierce dragon came up to me and flew onto my shoulder. He shot a fireball out of his mouth but I did not get hurt. Luckily my dragon did not try to hit me because dragons are very good at aiming anything, even it is very fast at moving. If he is far away however, it is a bit harder for a dragon."

