



### Head of Middle School, Mr Ashleigh Martin

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

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

##### TERM 1:

**Monday 25 January to Friday 26 March**

**Mon 15 Mar:** Yr 4 Camp Info. Session 3.30 pm  
**Wed 17 Mar:** Yr 7 Camp Info. Evening 7pm  
**Mon 22 Mar:** Yr 5 Camp Info. Session 3.30 pm  
**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

It was very pleasing to see the engaging conversations taking place throughout our Parent Teacher interviews throughout the week. It is essential that this dialogue continues between our staff, students and parents. I strongly encourage all parents to not wait until September to have discussions with your child's teacher. An open transparent relationship between school and home is paramount.

Reflecting on many conversations I had with our parent community throughout these evenings it is evident a real understanding of what authentic Middle Schooling is about is becoming more prevalent in our school community. Adolescents need to be engaged and they need forums to articulate the learning that is taking place. Archaic classrooms where students sit and listen to teacher instructions for fifty minutes are a thing of the past. Classrooms should be an environment where collaboration is embraced and student discussion is encouraged. The thought provoking quote below encapsulates the challenges we as educators have in catering for the learning styles of a 21<sup>st</sup> century student. It would be interesting for our families throughout the Middle School community to reflect on their relationships with their children in comparisons with the percentages below.

#### "We learn

- 10% of what we read,
- 20% of what we hear,
- 30% of what we see,
- 50% of what we see and hear, (*less as we get older!*)
- 70% of what we say ,
- 90% what we say and do."

*Vernon A Magnesen*



#### Science

To conclude our first science unit, *Managing Risks*, students in 7W and 7Y were given an opportunity to create a fun science experiment using their knowledge of the lab equipment, procedures in the science lab, the scientific method and how to plan and conduct experiments. Investigations ranged from measuring the boiling point of different varieties of soft drinks, determining which colour of candy snake stretches the most, seeing if hot or cold milk or water makes Weet-Bix the softest in the fastest amount of time, measuring the average length of time it takes for a lollipop to dissolve, determining the effect of different Mentos flavours when put into soft drinks, and deciding if food colouring affects the boiling point of water. The photos reflect the students enthusiasm when participating in their lab sessions.

*Elizabeth Love – Science Teacher*

#### Maths Competition Report

On 25 February, six students left for the South East Asian Maths Competition (SEAMC) in Hong Kong. Upon arrival, we checked in to our hotel and headed down to the ballroom for the 'ice breaker'. This is always the first event where we are put into ice breaker teams with students from other schools around Asia. Trying to find our ice breaker teams proved to be a challenge in itself as we looked among the 213 participants, most of whom we had not met before. At the end of the session, we went back into our school teams of three and were issued the long term questions, which were to be completed over the course of two nights.

We started the first day of competition with an individual round, a bit like a multiple choice test, followed by the pass back round. In the pass back round, teams sit behind one another. The first player answers the question and passes the answer to the second player for him/her to solve problem and so on in our teams of three. Then, we had a round called 'Suss the Sequence'. Teams play as individuals. The first two codes for a number sequence are provided and





teams need to figure out the sequence. The objective of the event is to break as many codes as possible before the other teams do. The highlight of the day for many was the 'Island Adventure'. In buddy teams, we had the opportunity to travel around Hong Kong Island to admire the essential sights and attractions, answering questions on our sheet, using different modes of public transport, including mini buses, MTR (like the MRT here) and even ferries. After 5 hours of travelling around HK, we made our way to a Chinese restaurant for dinner.

On the second day of competition, our activities were mainly in teams, the activity round, team round and dragon round. In activity round, we had to complete activities that needed more logic and thinking than just straight maths. These included origami and knots. The final event of the day was the dragon round. In 50 minutes, we had to answer as many questions as possible with one team member acting as a runner, running to the markers for questions. After the conclusion of all events, British lecturer and

author, Rob Eastaway gave us a talk on the maths of games. He came up with interesting facts and strategies to household games, like monopoly. That night, we were bused to the Hong Kong Football Club for the formal Gala Dinner. The awards ceremony was held after the dinner. The end of the dinner marked the conclusion of SEAMC.

Our teams placed 41<sup>st</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> respectively out of 70. SEAMC 2010 was a valuable experience for all of us. Not only did we challenge ourselves, we also made friends with people from different schools and countries. On behalf of the SEAMC teams, we would like to thank Mr Collette for his guidance leading up to the competition and for organizing our trip there, without whom, we would not have had this wonderful experience.

*Middle School Students involved in South East Asian Maths Competition*

## Year 6 French

Did you know?

With close to 169 million French-speakers spread over 5 continents, French is an important world language.

3.2% of the world's population speaks French, which makes it the 9th most common language - and that's without counting the 84 million people who are learning it.

There are now 100 more people learning French, as four classes in Year 6 – 6S, 6T, 6U and 6V, have commenced the study of French this semester. Our first unit of study is called *Who am I?* and students are now able to give a short self introduction in French. Students have enjoyed practising their speaking skills in class with pairwork activities and number games.

Students are busily preparing for their first speaking task next week - we look forward to some fabulous conversations!

*Glenys Davies – Year 6 French teacher*

