



## Head of Preschool, Ms Judy Pfeffer

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### 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 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

### Dates to Note

School Photos	Tuesday 9 March and Thursday 11 March
Class Open Afternoons	Weeks 7 and 8 (More details from Class Teachers)
PYP Information Session	Wednesday 10 March 10, 9am – 10.30am, Preschool

### Make-A-Wish Foundation

Have you seen the lovely Make-A-Wish teddy bear in its glass case in my office? This has been given as a thank you for the donations from fundraising done in the Preschool in 2009, a staggering total of S\$100,000. The presentation was made recently and the AISS Preschool was honoured as a 'Platinum Star Supporter' of Make-A-Wish. As representatives of the Preschool, we viewed an inspiring yet humbling musical presentation from some Make-A-Wish recipients and heard about the wonderful work which continues to assist children with life threatening illnesses.

We should all feel proud to have assisted in achieving the Make-A-Wish Singapore's goal of "bringing hope, joy and strength to our special children in need". Please come in and show your children the 'teddy bear', who will soon have a new home, pride of place in a new display cabinet to be fitted in the Preschool entry.

Planning for the 2010 Preschool Art Exhibition has already begun, so please keep in mind the date, Friday 22 October for the official Opening.

### Visitors

AISS Preschool often receives requests for visits from groups varying from university students, local teachers and often international educators. This week has been particularly hectic with two large groups being guided through our school. The Reggio Emilia inspired, play-based philosophy which underpins our early childhood PYP curriculum is well known and therefore is a much sought after experience for educators.

We were able to show how our children learn through purposeful play, through inquiry-based experiences to stimulate and enhance children's learning to become truly internationally-minded students. Students undergoing the module "Integrated and Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum" at the Nanyang Institute of Management were led by their lecturer, who regularly requests tours for his students throughout the year.

This week, there is a Reggio Emilia international conference running in Singapore and we were pleased to be able to send 4 teaching staff to attend. International delegates were so eager to visit AISS Preschool that we had to double the original 20 to 40. This is a source of great pride, in that our Preschool is held in such high regard and is a much sought after destination for early childhood educational settings experience. Of course, we are intending to offer some traditional 'Aussie' treats for Morning Tea, so watch out for the photos next week as we see the looks of wonder, surprise and hopefully delight!

### Open Afternoons

Teachers have sent home dates for you all to come along to Preschool and be a 'Preschooler' for an hour in the next weeks. Following on from the parent teacher interviews, you will be able to see just how, what and why your children learn at Preschool. The children and staff will have collaborated on favourite activities to show you so let your child be your guide through their world and above all, enjoy being a Preschooler for just a little while.

### Preschool Photos

I've been watching the classes filing past my office today on their way to the 'big school gym' for the first of the photography shoots for the Preschoolers.





It's a long way for little feet to proceed (like "a long, long caterpillar", as Mrs. John asked the Kangaroos to be) and also to still look happy and smiling for the photographer to get just the right shot of the entire class - all looking ahead, hands away from noses and mouths, not crying and trying to sit up straight - no mean feat as many of the children are so new to the Preschool.

Hopefully you'll soon see the evidence and be able to talk to your child about who are their friends and teachers in their photo, as a memory to be treasured for a long time, their year at AISS Preschool.

### Proposed Talk

Ever wondered about the why, what and how of issues such as nutrition, toilet training, behaviour management strategies and/or maintaining appropriate sleep routines, and of course how to cope with the transition to a different country? We are looking into having a parent discussion/talk about matters such as this at Preschool soon. A local paediatrician, nutritionist or occupational therapist could be approached to conduct this and we look forward to hearing of your interest/suggestions for topics in the near future.

### Changes

As part of the current UOI, 'Who We Are', classes are investigating a range of issues relating to families, self, senses, family and friends. I had to produce photographic evidence to convince the Kookaburra children that even I was really a baby once and used to have long dark hair too!

I watched as a Mum brought her baby in to be bathed in the Crocodile room - dolls are constantly being bathed and dressed in home corners and in outside areas here; it really illustrated how much the Preschoolers have grown since they were babies.

It is so exciting to be conducting enrolment interviews with known families bringing in their 'baby' or they were the baby two years ago! We've had some new children starting this week, just having had their third birthday and it's wonderful to see the 'old hands', who turned 3 just two weeks ago but who were ready to show their new friends around! All in all there is nothing surer than this is an exciting time in your child's and your family's lives.

### Preschool Cookbook

Thank you to three more willing cookbook volunteers (Is there a budding Julia Childs in our midst or at least her editorial team)? If there are any more offers of assistance or ideas/options that you may like to investigate, please let me know as we would need to begin any project by the start of Term 2.

### Reminders

#### PYP Information Session in the Preschool

Have you wondered why your Preschoolers call themselves risk takers, inquirers, caring or principled etc as they work through the Units of Inquiry of 'Who We Are' at the moment? This will all become more apparent to you, if you can come along to the PYP Information session at Preschool next Wednesday 10 March (see flier attached).

### Second Hand Uniforms

Whilst coming along for the information session, you and friends may like to visit the second hand uniform stall. Second hand uniforms are available for sale from our Preschool Secretary, Kerry, but there will be a larger display on Wednesday 10 March, from the AISS Parents Association.

### Parent teacher Interviews

Thank you for taking the time to meet with your child's teacher over the past weeks in the more formal interview setting. Communication between home and Preschool is so important as each child is unique, and with combined knowledge and observations, individual goal setting and appropriate learning experiences can be planned and implemented. I hope this has been a relevant way to forge a bridge between your home, your family, your class teacher and AISS Preschool.

