



Head of Primary School, Mr Peter Allison

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 3.30pm

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

Collaborative Planning

AISS has large teaching teams across each year level. The teachers at each year level meet twice weekly after school to plan the curriculum delivery and development, and to organise various events such as excursions and camps. This investment of time is important to maintain continuity in the delivery of our teaching and learning programs, and utilises the different skills that team members bring to their craft for the benefit of the whole team.

Often, when working in large teams there is the need for extended periods of planning. In order to facilitate some extended planning time for year level teams in preparation for next term's program, the Primary School is altering the timing of the specialist lessons for next week. This will mean that the specialist lessons that are usually spread across the week will be scheduled onto one day for each year level, thereby creating an extended period for collaborative planning for year level teaching teams. The curriculum for the single subject teachers will remain largely unchanged; they will simply be reallocated to a different time during the week. This means that the remaining days during the week will be spent with the class teacher for the whole day. The single subject teachers will also have an opportunity to be released from teaching duties to work collaboratively across faculties and with their colleagues from the Junior School, to allow for extended focused planning. We believe that this approach will be an effective and efficient way for this important curriculum planning process to occur.

The changes to the scheduling of lessons will occur from Tuesday 16 to Friday 19 March. The children will need to wear their PE clothing on Friday as well as the planning day for each year level indicated below:

Tuesday 16 March	Year 4 Planning Day
Wednesday 17 March	Year 3 Planning Day
Thursday 18 March	Year 5 Planning Day
Friday 19 March	Specialist Teachers Planning Day

Celebrating the women in our life

When God created Eve it was a masterful stroke, despite the unfortunate encounter with the apple! The women in our lives bring us warmth, sensitivity, courage, passion, and wonderful role models of diligence and multitasking, to name but a few of their attributes. Monday 8 March marked International Women's Day. It is a day that is growing in prominence and recognition around the world. IWD is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.

The world has come a long way with an ever increasing number of women holding positions of leadership within politics, business and community services. Whilst recognition and equality has improved in time, international statistics show that women are still not equally paid in comparison to their male counterparts in certain vocations, women are still not present in equal numbers in leadership roles and in many countries they do not enjoy the same access to education, health and safety as men.

This week in assembly we used the opportunity to highlight the wonderful role that women play in our lives. With the Winter Olympics fresh in our minds, we examined the success of Australian aerial skier Lydia Lassila. Lydia was a very able athlete who dreamed of representing Australia at the Olympics in gymnastics. She trained hard as a youngster and was identified in an elite group that would prepare for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the year before the games, a succession of injuries forced her to forgo that plan. Rather than give up, Lydia turned her skills to aerial skiing. Having never stepped onto skies, she took up the sport at age 17 and within two years she began competing internationally. By the 2006 Winter Olympics, Lydia was one of the favourites for the gold medal. A cruel twist of fate saw Lydia rupture the



anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee and withdraw from the competition. Rather than wallow in self pity, Lydia's determination saw her take up studies in marketing, set up her own business and begin training again after the injury had healed. Finally, the Vancouver Winter Olympics of 2010 saw Lydia achieve her much awaited goal of winning a gold medal. It is a story of great courage and determination and one that is fitting to be shared at this time when the spotlight is cast on the women in our lives.



Utilising 'Experts' in our Learning

The Unit of Inquiry for Year 5 is 'How We Organise Ourselves'. Over the past few weeks in this current term, AISS hosted presenters who gave speeches relating to an organisation which assists people in need or a time when they were in need themselves. Year 5 had the pleasure of listening to a variety of presentations coming from all around Singapore and even overseas.

Firstly, we had Mr Hearps who works in the Middle School as a teacher in Year 6 and he shared his experiences with a tsunami in 2004 which hit the coast of Phuket. Afterwards, Mrs Evans, one of the school nurses gave us information on how to react to a medical situation in school. One presenter was Pastor Andrew Khoo who was the founder of NHCS (New Hope Community Services). He assists ex convicts and homeless people by supplying them with a bed to sleep in, food, water and psychological counselling. Mrs Aitken is a parent to one of the students in Year 5, Tessa Aitken, and her family once lived in Rarotonga, the capital of the of the Cook Islands. This location is prone to experiencing severe cyclones. Another parent of a student, Mrs Crocker, shared with us her organisation, Glaxo Smith Kline and how the company works globally to develop vaccines and provides medical supplies to people in need. She told Year 5 about the many diseases that are killing people around the world every minute. A faithful Red Cross volunteer who served the organisation for 44 years visited us and his name was Mr Tang Chun Tuck. He works in Singapore but visits other countries when there are emergencies. Jules and Jess are an Australian couple cycling around the world. They have completed 4 routes in Australia, Asia, Europe and South America. The founder of Tabitha visited us last week, and shared with us her experiences in Cambodia. Janne Ritskes complimented the school on how we've supported Tabitha

so well over the past years. Last of all, Mr Shepherd gave a very relevant presentation on World Vision and his position in the organisation as the Asia Relief Emergency Director.

These presentations all left a lasting impression on the students of Year 5. The speeches were informative, emotional and extremely enlightening. Students all enjoyed the presentations immensely and they all learnt something about all the experiences or organisations.

Year 5 Students Take Action to help New Hope Services

This term, Year 5 students have been inquiring into how people help one another in different ways during times of need. This has involved listening to the experiences of many people in our community. One special guest was Pastor Andrew Khoo, founder of New Hope Community Services. Pastor Andrew inspired four students, Lucy Ridge, Chloe Holmes, Mathea Lie and Eva Chen, all of 5S, to take action and help out this worthy cause. They have encouraged members of the Year 5 community to bring in supplies specifically requested by New Hope Community Services. The students have set up collection tubs in the Year 5 pod. The students said they were also inspired by a story Mrs. Mandziy read to them in class called 'Childhood in Chains.' This is the tale of a young boy in Pakistan named Iqbal, who faced many challenges to help people in his community.

Lucy, Chloe, Mathea and Eva are wonderful examples of how direct action can have a positive impact in the community. I'm sure New Hope Community Services, in particular Pastor Andrew Khoo, will be most appreciative of the drive and commitment shown by these four students. The staff and students of the Primary School are very proud of their efforts. Congratulations must also go to the Year 5 students, staff and parents for supporting this very worthy cause. You can find out more New Hope Community Services at <http://newhopecs.org.sg/>
Garth Sadler - Primary School Community and Service Coordinator



Parent Teacher Interviews

This week formal parent teacher interviews were conducted in the Primary School. This process presented a valuable opportunity to share information between the home and school about social, emotional and academic progress and how that can best be supported. On behalf of the families of the school, I'd like to pass on our gratitude to the teaching staff who invested many hours in the preparation and presentation of the interviews.

No Nut Products to School

The school has a nut minimisation policy. No nut based products should be brought to the school. This is in the interest of a number of our students who are highly allergic to nut based products. Peanut butter and Nutella are two products which should not be used on sandwiches that come to school. I encourage parents to discuss this arrangement with any home helpers that they may have who prepare lunches for the children.