



## Head of Senior School, Mr Buino Vink

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 CCA THIS WEEK

Mon 8 Mar: Parent Teacher Interviews

Mon 15 Mar: Yr 4 Camp Info. Session 3.30

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

Mon 22 March: Yr 5 Camp Info. Session 3.30

**Fri 26 Mar:** Last Day Term One

With one of our major annual carnivals taking place mid-week, there has been a heightened awareness of House spirit and competition in the air. This was followed by an presentation for all Senior students. As the week drew to a close our Year 12 students reflected on their remaining 9 days of school prior to their mid-year examinations.

### Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday we had an extremely hot day to conduct our annual Athletics Carnival. The build-up from House Captains and houses over the past two weeks has been excellent, and on Wednesday each house presented themselves in the true spirit of these events. Participation was high throughout the day and all attending students must be congratulated on their enthusiasm and commitment. Our congratulations go the following individuals and groups:

Derwent House – House Championship winners

Lachlan House – Spirit Cup winners

Open Age Champion (Girl) – Rachel Joiner

Open Age Champion (Boy) – Lachlan Chirgwin

16 Years Age Champion (Girl) – Rachel Thompson

16 Years Age Champion (Boy) – Justin McGarvey

15 Years Age Champion (Girl) – Jessica White (Year 9)

15 Years Age Champion (Boy) – Sophus Lie and Shinmi Takuro

A full account of results and winners is produced in the CCA newsletter.

### Assembly this Week: Mount Everest – Singapore Success 2009

We were privileged to hear from two representatives of the Singaporean 6-woman team who successfully climbed Mount Everest last year. Joanne Soo and Lee Lihui gave their motivational and informative presentation, showing how they had trained for 5 years prior to their expedition. Their Singapore training ranged from climbing stairwells with full packs twice a week for 5 years to gym work and climbing Bukit Timah. They also engaged in going on annual expeditions to New Zealand and China to climb smaller mountains to train in cold conditions. Joanne described the level of total commitment they needed, as well as the fund raising and sponsorship they required. Getting to Everest itself took 5 years, acclimatising and finally summiting took a further 2 months. What was incredible to hear was that when they reached the summit they experienced a long queue as there were many climbers each day trying to get to the top. In the limited Everest season, they counted 73 groups, large and small, at base camp while they were there. In the end, they had the audience in hushed silence as they described their half hour on the top of the world, Nepal on one side and China on the other.

They had 3 lessons to pass on to our students. The first was to laugh. This, they said, was crucial to their well-being and attitudes. Learning to make situations lighter through looking at it differently, or inventing humorous distractions, took their minds off the hardships they endured. The second lesson was that the weather always looks worse from inside the tent. This can be generalised throughout life's experiences, but in this case it's literal sense was also demonstrated. The third lesson was to deal with fear. Overcoming fears was particularly relevant in their context, as they saw many fitter climbers return home because of their inability to overcome the fears they faced on the journey up the mountain. For further information, visit their website [www.womenoneverest.com](http://www.womenoneverest.com)



### Towards the Diploma Programme

We extend our thanks to parents and students who attended the Year 11 2011 Course Information Night on Tuesday 23 February. Students were asked to submit an initial Course Planning Form by the end of last week to help our current Year 10 students start thinking about choices available to them at AIS. At this early stage we have a pleasing number of students considering the DP as an option for Year 11 2011. Mr Vanderkelen has started to meet with Year 10 students and has been impressed by their enthusiasm and understanding of the IB DP.

Over the next month as we prepare to move into the new Senior School Building, training, planning and curriculum development in each of the DP subjects we are exploring at this stage will continue in preparation for the IBO pre-authorisation visit in April.

Parents are encouraged to contact our DP Coordinator at school by phone or e-mail [simon\\_vanderkelen@ais.com.sg](mailto:simon_vanderkelen@ais.com.sg) with any DP related questions.

### Parent Teacher Interviews Next Week

Parents and students are reminded of the organisation surrounding the two days of Parent-teacher interviews next week. Tuesday will run as a normal school day and interviews will take place from 4pm to 6.30pm. Please note that on Thursday a condensed timetable will be invoked to cover all classes and students will be dismissed at 12:50pm to allow for appointments to commence at 2pm. School buses will, however, run as normal and students who need to go home by bus will be able to remain at school to study in the library until the normal bus departure time. Thursday's interviews will run until 8.30pm. All interviews will take place in the large gymnasium. If you are unable to attend but would still like to discuss your child's progress, please contact the relevant staff members either by phone or via email to arrange an alternative appointment.

### Our New Building is Nearly Completed

With the near completion of the new Senior School building the planning for shifting is also near completion. Details will come out in next week's newsletter, but we are anticipating being able to move much of our equipment into the building during the last week of school. This may require a change in schedules on the last day of term to facilitate last-minute packing and moving. A shift by the Senior School is closely followed by a further shift of the Middle School as Year levels and staff workrooms are rearranged to be accommodated throughout the current main building.

### Dates to Remember

<b>Tuesday 9 March</b>	Year 10 and Year 11 Parent-Teacher interviews 4.00 – 6.30pm
<b>Thursday 11 March</b>	Year 10 and Year 11 Parent-Teacher interviews 2.00 – 8.30pm
<b>Friday 19 March</b>	Year 12 Examinations begin for week
<b>Wednesday 24 March</b>	Year 12 reports distributed
<b>Saturday 27 March</b>	Year 6 – 12 Ski Trip begins
<b>Monday 12 April</b>	Term Two starts

