



Issue: December 2021

TALKING *Straits*



**SCHOOL
UPDATES** **CELEBRATIONS** **HOLIDAY
FUN**

PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDITION



Straits International
School

A NOTE FROM MR. STEPHEN

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Dear parents,

We have come to the end of yet another successful and eventful term. I think we can all agree that it has been wonderful to have our children back at school for face to face learning, after many months at home. Watching our SIS community of students, teachers and parents reunite have been rewarding, to say the least. It has been a term of new learning, achievements and friendships. As we finish one year and begin another, I would like to say thank you all for your support and engagement. I hope you all have a restful break over the next few weeks, spent with family and friends near or far.

See you all in January!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

S Willoughby

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A green awareness ribbon, symbolizing mental health awareness, is positioned to the left of the title.

Mental Health Awareness

MS HARRIET
HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE (SECONDARY)

Mental health always matters, but after the two years (and counting!) of this global pandemic, I think we can all agree that we need a little extra TLC these days. It is so important to take a moment to step back and breathe, check in with ourselves and think about what we can do to support ourselves in order to keep on keeping on!

Sometimes it feels like anxious is the new normal, but it really is not sustainable to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that we are all ok, often the bravest thing we can do is acknowledge that we are struggling and ask for help.

With that in mind, we dedicated a week to mental health awareness throughout the school, with cross curricular links, assemblies and mindfulness activities. Each day had a theme, assigned by Ms. Nicola: Mindful Monday, Talk it out Tuesday, Work together Wednesday, Time out Thursday and Feel good Friday!

Students enjoyed guided meditation and mindful moments, we discussed coping strategies and the importance of communication, talking about our fears, feelings and emotions. We set achievable goals and had lots of collaborative tasks to facilitate working together and inclusion. We also touched upon the importance of fighting stigmas and not labelling each other. Negative words can have a big impact on how we view ourselves and it is so important to think before we speak or judge.

This will not be the last Mental Health Awareness week we have this year, it matters every day! Take care of yourselves, body and mind!

Spend some
time with a pet
and a good
book or movie



Pick up a
creative hobby
like cooking or
painting



Music is a great way
to relax! Pick up an
instrument, jam with
your friends, or sit
back and listen!



Deepavali



Ms. Emily
Events Co-ordinator

Primary staff Secondary staff

The SIS students celebrated Deepavali by making various art and craft activities during VL before the Deepavali holiday. We have some amazing Rangoli and Diya made by our students from EYFS to KS 3 & 4 using different methods and materials. After the school holiday, the students celebrated Deepavali by dressing up for school and having a great class party to celebrate the festival.

The teachers had a fun competition as well! The SIS teachers challenged themselves to read the Story of Rama and Sita in Bahasa! Students and parents got to vote who read it best - The Primary or Secondary. In the end, the Primary got the most votes!

Please scan the **QR codes** below to watch the Deepavali related videos.



EYFS



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6A

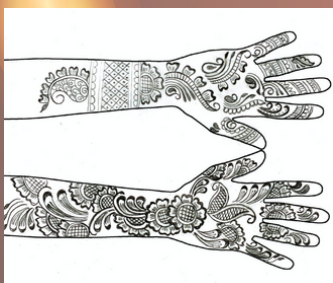
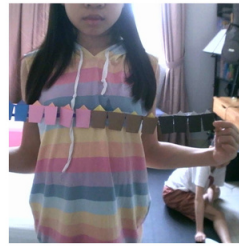


Year 6B



Secondary





I'M DREAMING OF A...

Straits Christmas



The school has been decorated festively, carols have been sung, seasonal treats have been made... and devoured. Happily all the classes are back in school and we held our Christmas concerts. We hope you had the opportunity to watch and enjoy the live feed of this fabulous event on the SIS Facebook account. Fingers crossed by next year we'll be able to invite everyone in person.

If you didn't manage to see the videos on our Facebook page, click the links below.

From everyone at SIS we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holidays, however you choose to celebrate it. We look forward to seeing everyone return in 2022!



Angel Project

Lee Ain

Student Council Vice President

The Angel project was once again conducted in Straits International school. This year, we collected presents and gifts and donated them to Ephraitha Home & Orphanage. This project is for children, teenage kids, young adults, grown ups and elderly. It is there to just make them feel happy as they do not have a warm family and kind parents like us, or do not have their own ability to obtain things that they wanted. This project helps us to appreciate what we have: although we might often get annoyed by our family, families are the creatures who know us well and take care of us the most. We do know that we do not get *all* the things that we desire in our life, but we usually get the things that we want. Imagine how happy we would be if we got the newest iphone from our parents. Even though the presents that we are donating are not as expensive compared to the newest iphone. However, the gifts would definitely make them more excited than if we got the newest iphone.



On behalf of the Student Council, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thanks for everyone's kind cooperation and we appreciate everyone's warm hearts!

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Tasya for helping us organise all the presents, even after the term ended.





HOUSE COMPETITION



Our second House competition of the term, though the first held in school for quite some time, was held on Friday 10th December themed around our Christmas celebration. This was primarily organised by our House Leaders, Zati (Naga) and Alya (Rusa).

In EYFS, students used their hand prints to create wonderful Christmas tree art. In KS1, students used paper plates to create a snowman, complete with hat, scarf and button designs.

The competitive element was introduced in the KS2 Christmas wreath competition, with each year group working together in Houses to create fantastic Christmas wreath designs. They were also able to win additional materials with a quick quiz based on our recent charity event, M4M W4W.

There was some serious competition in KS3 and KS4, where students had to work together in their Houses (within year group bubbles) to build amazing and creative Gingerbread houses out of a variety of resources.

A special well done to Burung Kenyalang for winning both Primary and Secondary competitions. Thanks to all of our enthusiastic students and staff involved, who make these competitions possible and worthwhile. It was great getting the the House events up and running in school, especially after the previous success of Deepavali's House event online. Hopefully there will be more to come as we progress through the year. Next up, is Chinese New Year!

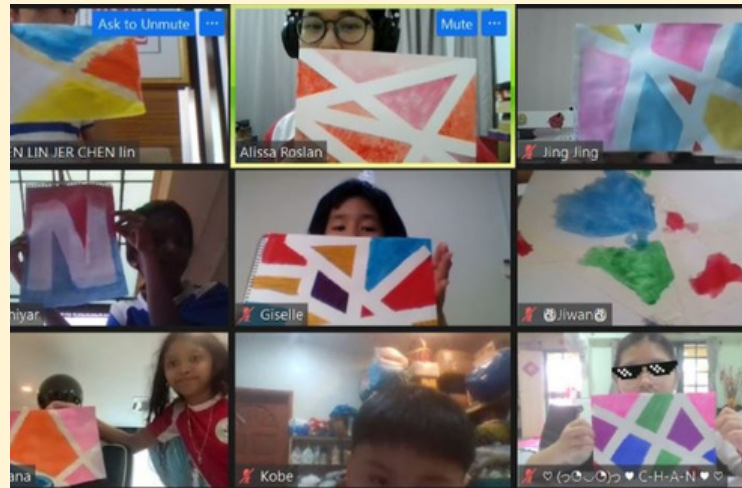
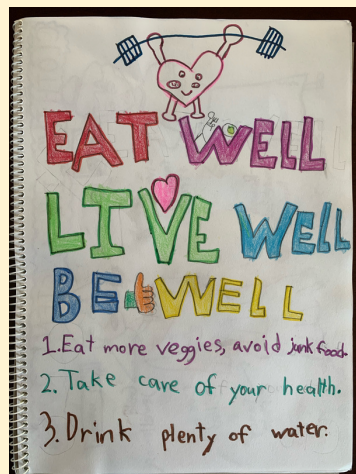
Mr. Kam
Head of Houses



Spirit WEEK



We all look forward to Spirit Week - we had plenty more fun and games this time around which broadened the pupils education and opportunities! We even squeezed in Halloween and M4M W4W as part of the occasion!





A new initiative was launched in Spirit Week this year with the aim to encourage physical exercise and healthy living, to raise funds for the Heart Foundation of Malaysia and to celebrate the lives of two friends of Mr Edward who sadly died of undiagnosed heart conditions.

The motivation was to use these two tragic events to bring about something positive and to focus our SIS community on:

- the need to keep physically and mentally fit
- to take care with our diets and improve awareness of diet
- to do something for a cause bigger than ourselves
- and importantly demonstrate to our students that by working together we can achieve much more than alone.



As such the event called Miles for Mano – Walk for Warren was born.



The support from students, parents and teachers was fantastic. The SIS community really came together, and even though participation was mainly done virtually, collectively we travelled over 550km by walking, running and cycling. Even more impressively, we raised over RM 15,000 to help support the important work that the Heart Foundation of Malaysia does across the country.

Students in EYS, Year 1, Year 10 and Year 11 helped support Mr. Edward's personal challenge to run around 40 laps (14km) around the school each morning, in order to complete the same amount as a marathon (42km) in 3 days. We even had some parents and other teachers join in to support the cause.

This is the first time we have done an event like this in the school. It has been wonderful to have had such a positive impact on the students and the money raised is going to make a huge difference to people's lives across the country.

Representatives from The Heart Foundation of Malaysia kindly agreed to visit the school just before the end of term where they took time to explain to the pupils how all the money raised will be used to help the people that need it most. We were also able to hand over the cheque for the money raised. This personal touch was greatly appreciated.

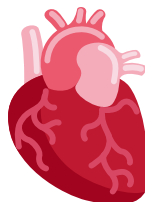
This initiative was originally set up with the motto;

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"

As a community we have gone farther than ever imagined. Thank you to everyone for making this such a success.



**Mr. Edward
Year 5**



YAYASAN JANTUNG MALAYSIA
THE HEART FOUNDATION OF MALAYSIA

INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM IN KS1



We are proud to announce that Key Stage 1 have recently started using the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). This curriculum is used in over 1000 schools across the world. This is a comprehensive, thematic and creative curriculum with a clear process of learning and specific learning goals for all subjects. It allows children to develop international mindedness and encourages personal learning. It also supports the pupils to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding as well as develop personal attributes and support an international perspective in a way that responds to revised ideas about learning.

It was delightful to have all the KS1 students back in school this term. Face-to-face interaction and the joy of learning in the classrooms knew no bounds for all children and teachers as well.

This half term, Year 1 has explored the IPC unit 'Let's Celebrate'. In Let's Celebrate, we have been learning about celebrations as a hugely important part of human life. As artists, designers and historians, we have explored the ways in which all peoples and cultures, from every part of the world, take part in and hold celebrations to mark special events and special times in people's lives.



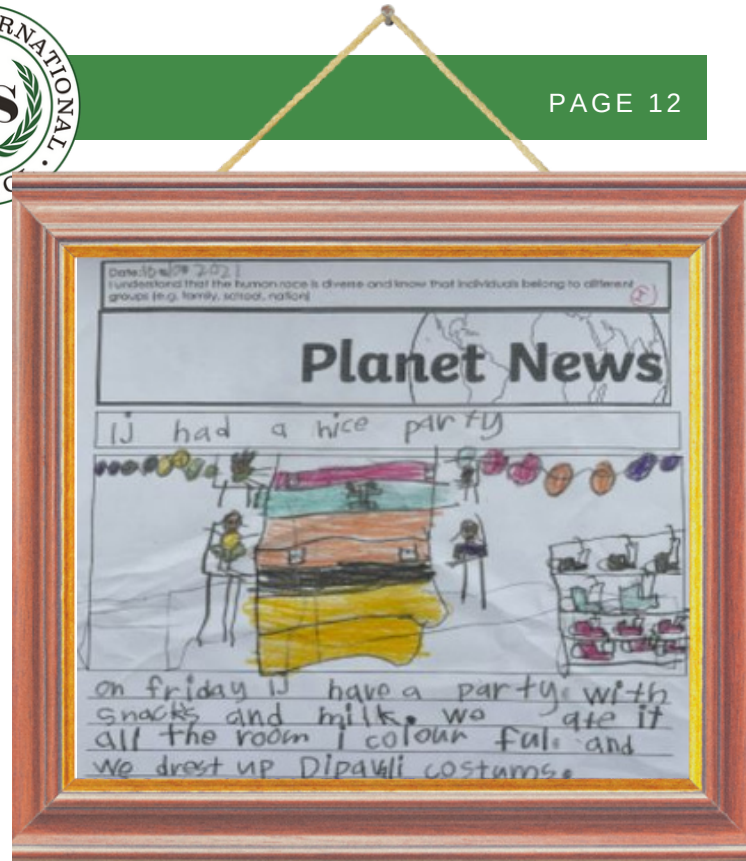
1J playing pass the parcel



1L showing the sequence of celebrations

Here is a recount of our Deepavali event by student Qi Xuan and above are other fun activities that we did in this unit.

In year 2, we have been looking into the unit 'Seeing Light', where we explored the complex relationship between light and dark, how shadows are formed and can be different throughout the day. We also learnt how light and dark affects the lives of people around the world.



In Science, we carried out several experiments to find how shadows change throughout the day and how plants need light in order to grow. Our favourite part was interviewing a few people from all over the world, to find out more about how life can be different in other parts of the world. As scientists and geographers, we explored what would happen if there were no light in our world. As artists we created amazing artwork using different techniques.



2N exploring where countries are on the globe



2N learning how shadows change throughout the day



2P planting seeds and observing their growth



Videos calls with Uzbekistan...



...and Belgium



Ms. Pearline
IPC Co-ordinator

MEET THE

Teachers

Ms. Pearl

Reception



What is your name?

April Pearl Kennedy

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love the fact that every day is different with the kids. The early years are just so exciting. It is the time in our lives when the brain is making the most developmental connections and I am surprised each and every day by the children's thinking, insight and inquiry. To be part of that development is something I am very grateful for.

If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would love to go skiing again! I tried a few years ago and had a blast. Now that it's coming up to Christmas time I get the feeling of wanting to go again.

What is something you want to learn how to do?

I really want to brush up on a second language. I have always been able to speak a little bit of German and Spanish but I would love to be able to hold a proper conversation in either!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SECONDARY

What a term! What started out as a continuation of virtual learning has gathered momentum and snowballed into something like a 'normal' school experience for our secondary students. We had some false dawns (who could forget when KS4 were due to come back in on a Monday, only for the rug to be pulled out from under our feet at the last minute?), but we made it back in eventually and the students reacted to the return brilliantly.

It has been a relief to see the students engage with aspects of school life that we might have taken for granted in the past. From playing badminton during PE to trying to be first in the queue for the canteen, every day is an opportunity to revel in the simple little things.

Of course, our main focus is on the serious business of learning as the show goes on. Over the last few months, our Year 11s have been availing of daily extra lessons to ensure that they are as primed as can be for the forthcoming mock examinations and subsequent IGCSEs. We recently began our Academic Mentoring programme for all KS4 students so that our senior students can have a guiding hand as they navigate the route towards meeting their examination goals. Our Year 9s will find themselves taking their Checkpoints before long and our teachers are ensuring that they are in peak academic condition by the time they come around.

The school is back to being a busy and bustling hub of activity with students rushing to class and teachers rustling up cups of coffee. We will not take it for granted but are buoyed by the knowledge that the last few years has given the secondary school community, students and staff, the flexibility and fortitude to meet head on whatever trials come our way in both the near and not so near futures.

MR. JOHN
Head of Secondary

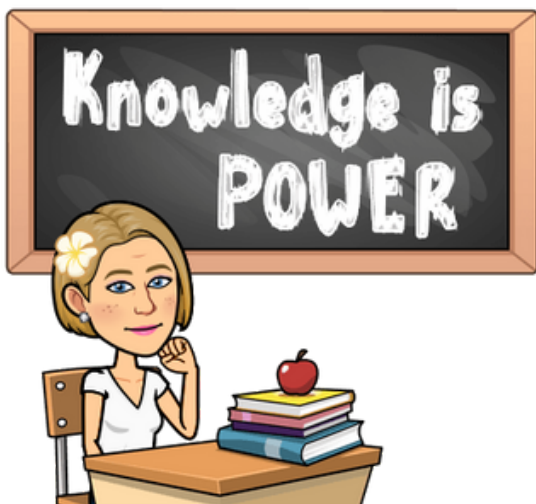


Additional Language Support

After the successful completion of the English Enrichment Programme in July, SIS launched the ALS programme in September. ALS is an EAL programme designed to provide additional support in mainstream classes to students who struggle with English. Students on the ALS programme are provided with extra support in 8 periods over a week. These students are accompanied by an EAL teacher to some of their Maths, Science and Humanities classes where they work together to lower the linguistic load while still maintaining the cognitive challenge.

Students are taught strategies that they can apply to their learning across subjects such as tracking academic keywords and working collaboratively with their classmates. ALS students can also participate in the free ALS Clinic which runs three times a week during lunch and break. These sessions provide opportunities for the students to get one-to-one help from an EAL teacher focusing on parts of their learning that they struggle with the most.

In Term 2, we will continue with the ALS programme and we will add more classes to provide even more support. We would also like to grow the ALS Clinic by promoting it on ClassDojo and during form time in school.



Ms. Adri
Head of EAL

SECONDARY Art Gallery

Y8 – Pointillism; time for students to train their patience, the stippling technique used in artwork. Students worked on their pointillism with animals over 2 weeks as stippling is really time consuming.



Sharvin



Allyssa

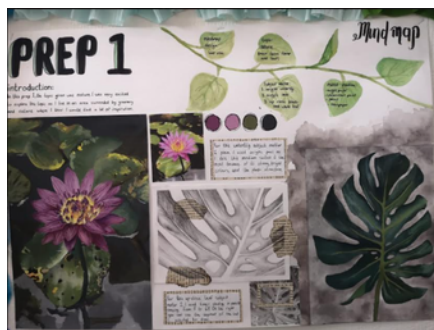


Yi Feng

Y10 – IGCSE format practice; students need to do their observational studies, annotation and research for their given topic.



Chanise



Aimee



Jeslyn

A stylized illustration of a female badminton player in an orange shirt and black shorts, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a backhand shot.

KS4 INTERHOUSE BADMINTON COMPETITION

A stylized illustration of a male badminton player in a grey shirt and yellow shorts, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a forehand shot.

MISS PAULA AND THE PE TEAM

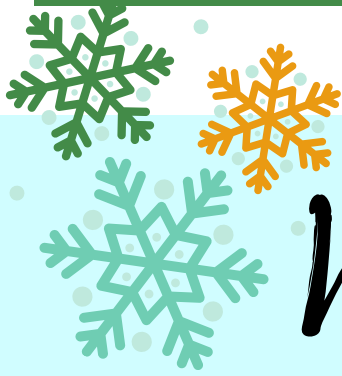
After so long away from school PE and competitive sport we were able to hold the inaugural Key Stage 4 Inter House Badminton event in the MPH on Thursday 9th December. This was a highly anticipated event which grew from the interest the students gained in core PE. Students worked together in their houses and appointed a team manager, 2 Umpires and 2 Results runner's per house team. Despite having to stick to very tight timings we saw some amazing matches across all categories with the eventual winners being Naga house.

Well done to everyone involved and we look forward to hosting this again next year!

A stylized illustration of a male badminton player in a black shirt and orange shorts, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a backhand shot.

GO NAGA!

A stylized illustration of a male badminton player in a yellow shirt and orange shorts, captured in a dynamic pose as if hitting a forehand shot.



Winter FUN!



Why not make a fleet of origami reindeer for Santa?

1. Start with a long strip of paper. You can use A4 or letter copy paper, and cut a long stripe with a width of 2 to 3 cm (about 1 inch).



2. Fold the strip in two, along its length.

3. Make an inside reverse fold for the back legs.



4. Make an outside fold for the front legs.

5. Make a simple valley fold so that the front legs are as tall as the back legs. Your giraffe is almost ready!

6. Unfold the last fold at the bottom of the front legs, open the neck and fold back the bottom fold of the front legs.



7. Make a valley fold on the neck so that the bottom of the head is at the same level as the bottom of the body.



8. Put the reindeer face down, and bring the two sides of the neck to the middle axis of the neck.



9. Roll the neck. You can use a pen to start the roll, and then once you have rolled the neck once, you can make the roll more tight. Make a slight fold towards the front at the bottom of the roll.



10. Free the bottom of the head, and fold back the two sides of the head to the middle. You can experiment with different ways to shape the head, and possibly make a few more folds at the bottom of the head to make it thinner.

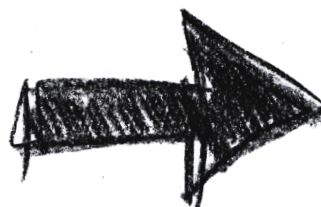
11. Fold the bottom of the back of the front legs inside to make them thinner, then fold the bottom of the back of the back back legs to thin them.



12. Your reindeer is complete, and you can make it stand!



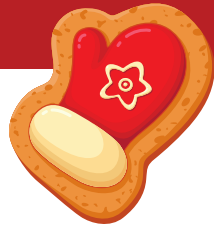
Or watch the how to video here!



Recipe for fun



Christmas Sugar Cookies



- ☐ 225g / 1 cup unsalted butter, softened (or use salted, skip salt)
- ☐ 1 cup (220g) white sugar, preferably caster / superfine
- ☐ 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- ☐ 1 large egg (55-60g / 1.9-2oz)
- ☐ 3 cups (450g) flour, plain / all purpose
- ☐ 3/4 tsp baking powder
- ☐ 3/4 tsp salt
- ☐ Icing or sprinkles for decorating!

You will need...



Instructions:

1. Preheat Oven to 180°C / 350°F (160°C fan). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl until creamy (1 minute on speed 5)
3. Add egg and vanilla, beat until completely combined.
4. Add flour, baking powder, and salt.
5. Start mixing slowly, then beat until the flour is incorporated – it will be clumpy.
6. Dust work surface with flour, scrape dough out of bowl. Pat together then cut in half, then shape into 2 discs.
7. Roll out to 0.3cm / 1/8" (for thinner, crispier cookies) or 0.6cm / 1/4" (for thicker, softer cookies), sprinkling with flour under and over the dough so it doesn't stick.
8. Use cookie cutters to press out shapes and use a knife or spatula to transfer shapes to prepared baking sheets. (Keep dough that doesn't fit in the oven in the fridge).
9. Bake for 10 minutes, swapping trays halfway (Note 2), until the surface is pale golden and the edges are just beginning to turn light golden.
10. Allow cookies to cool completely on trays (they will finish cooking on the trays).

