



TALKING *Straits*



EVENTS

PHOTOS

NEWS

PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDITION



A NOTE FROM MR. STEPHEN

Dear Parents / Carers,

As the second term draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, staff, and community members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

We have seen incredible growth this term, both academically and socially. Our students have shown remarkable progress in their academic studies, and we have had terrific feedback from our parents on the progress they have seen in their children. It is a testament to our dedication to providing a high-quality education for all of our students.

On the social side, we have seen a marked increase in student engagement in our extracurricular activities. From our sports teams to our art, music, and ILOS programs, our students have embraced the opportunity to express themselves and develop their passions. We are proud of the sense of community that has been built among our students and staff.

Finally, I want to thank all of the parents and community members who have supported us so far this year. From attending parent-teacher conferences to volunteering in our classrooms, you have all made a difference in our student's lives. As we look forward to the next term, I am confident that our students and staff will continue to strive for excellence.



S. Willoughby



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Chinese New Year



As you may know, Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for family gatherings, feasting, and wishing for good luck and prosperity in the coming year. At our school, we wanted to celebrate this important holiday in a fun and educational way, and we were thrilled to see so many students, parents, and teachers come dressed in Chinese traditional costume.

The morning started with a lively lion dance, which is a traditional Chinese performance to bless and bring good luck to the school. The children and teachers were mesmerized by the colorful costumes and the rhythmic beat of the drums. It was a wonderful way to start the day and set the tone for the rest of the celebrations.





In the afternoon, we had our assembly, which began with a storytelling session on the legend of Nian. The story is about a fierce mythical creature that terrorises a village until a wise old man comes up with a plan to scare it away. The students were fascinated by the story and learned a lot about the symbolism and traditions associated with Chinese New Year.

In between the storytelling, we had singing and dancing performances from Nursery, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, and Year 9. It was heartwarming to see our students showcasing their talents and enthusiasm for Chinese culture. The audience was captivated by the performances, and many parents commented on how impressed they were by their children's dedication and hard work.

Overall, the Chinese New Year assembly was a great success, and we want to thank all of our students, parents, and teachers for their participation and support. We hope that this celebration has deepened our students' understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and traditions, and we look forward to many more festive occasions in the future.

Written by;
Ms. Haifaa

Events Coordinator



House Competitions & Captains

During our whole school Chinese New Year celebration, we also held a variety of House competitions throughout the school that were planned and organised by Ms. Jasmine (Naga) and Ms. Kanaga (Rusa).

In Early Years, students enjoyed creating beautiful finger paint art using Japanese blossom flowers as inspiration!

Our Year 1 and Year 2 students were challenged to create the longest paper chain Chinese dragon puppet. It was a fantastic opportunity to work in their Houses and develop their teamwork and communication skills.

The competitive element to these House activities began in Key Stage 2, where students had to work together as a House (within Year groups) to complete different challenges. In Years 3 & 4, students had a small dance competition, judged by Ms. Nicola. In Years 5 & 6, students worked together to create wonderful CNY posters. Congratulations to Harimau for being the overall winners in KS2.



House Competitions & Captains

In Secondary, students were again divided into their Houses, within Year groups, and worked together to design and build their own Rabbit mascots. There were some fantastic designs showing creativity and flair! Congratulations to Rusa for winning the secondary competition.



In other exciting news, we also introduced Secondary House Captains for the very first time. After a round of speeches in front of their peers and teachers, the following students were chosen to represent their House:

BK - Daniel (Year 10)

Harimau - Amrit (Year 8)

Naga - Divya (Year 9)

Rusa - Yu Chen (Year 9)

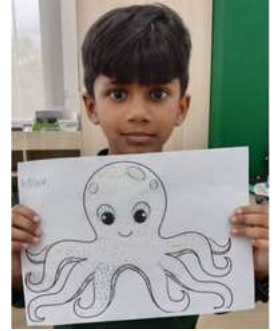
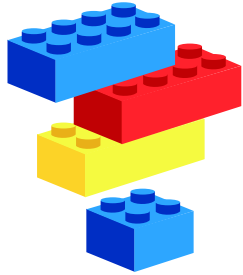


Written by;

Mr. Kam

Head of Houses

Co Curricula Activities



The CCA programme at Straits continues to develop, offering a wonderful array of non-paid and paid activities for our students. The biggest development in term two was making CCAs optional to our students. There were a few issues to iron out initially but hopefully, it will allow parents more flexibility in deciding whether or not their child can join CCAs for that particular term. We can also focus on providing quality clubs, rather than quantity. Regardless, the majority of students, particularly in Primary, continued to participate in the CCA programme this term.

New (or returning) paid clubs included:

Little Kickers - Football for our Reception and Key Stage 1 students.

Third Down - Flag Football for our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students.

Eye Level Maths - Critical Thinking Maths for our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students.

We also added an additional Swimming club for our Key Stage 2 students due to its ongoing popularity.

Our staff, including those who have recently joined the Straits family, also offered a range of amazing clubs, including K-Pop dance, Spelling Bee, Creative Movement, Speech & Drama, ISP Futures, ISP Film club, ISP Scientist, KS2 Choir, Story Telling/Reading, Football, and many more.

I am looking forward to term three CCAs already!



Written by;
Mr. Kam

Head of CCA



Book WEEK 2023



For Book Week 2023 we really wanted to not only promote reading and follow the international theme that 'Everyone is a reader' but also to align the way Primary and Secondary celebrate this important occasion. With that in mind, across the whole school Book Week began with a bang as students and staff came dressed as their favourite book characters. Some of the costumes were incredible, and special mention needs to be made of Daniel in Year 10, who spent two weeks perfecting his Warhammer-inspired creation!

In Primary we followed this up with the ever popular 'Mystery Reader', where pupils guessed which mystery adult would be reading to their class by looking at a photo of the person with a book covering their face. On Wednesday, we had our Big Book Swap, which was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who brought books in for the event. The children absolutely loved swapping their books and it was a delight to hear the children discussing the new books they were looking forward to reading at home. There were even a few books left over, especially in KS1, which will now be used so the children can read during breakfast and lunchtime. On Thursday, Primary had an arts and crafts day, and Year 4 went above and beyond by following the theme of their class novel 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and their IPC topic 'Chocolate' by visiting a chocolate factory, where the art and craft activity involved building a house out of chocolate!



In Secondary, the week continued with a number of workshops run by the English & Humanities Faculty, with an array of different experiences including making 'book spine poetry', writing six-word stories, quizzes, drama and creative tasks.

Students from years 7-10 spent their English lessons doing Book Week-related tasks, such as sharing their favourite books, taking part in writing and design competitions, beautifying the library and more.

The week culminated for both Primary and Secondary in a comfy pyjama day on Friday, with lots of students' favourite time of the week - Buddy Reading! The secondary students had a great time buddying up with primary students and reading to them, or being read to.

Overall, it was a wonderful week and we are already looking forward to Book Week 2024!



'Authored' by;

Ms. Steph

Head of Secondary English & Humanities

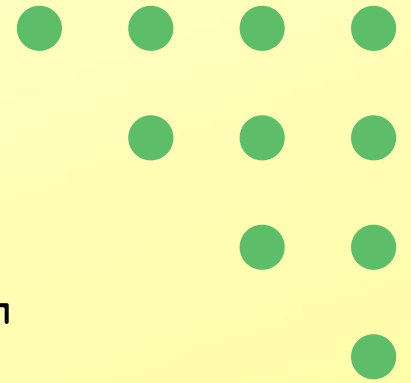
& Mr. Laurence

Primary English Coordinator





Fair



On Tuesday the 14th of February, we were delighted to host yet another successful University Fair in conjunction with the ISP Future Pathways team. This year, the event grew even bigger as we welcomed 40 universities from all over the globe offering a wide range of courses and pathways into careers of every kind.

The MPH was abuzz with conversations as our students and parents used their time wisely and efficiently to gather more information on where their learning journeys are likely to take them. These events are an essential part of every student's school life and can have a huge impact on what will end up being very big decisions.

The ISP Future Pathways programme is designed to help our students grow into their career and education decisions and we hope that they feel supported and guided in this process. All our Secondary students are now plugged into Unifrog, which is an excellent space for students to learn more about the types of learners they are and possible careers best suited to their interests.

There will be more Future Pathways events throughout the academic year, and we are really looking forward to next year's University Fair which is bound to be even bigger and better again.



Written by;

Mr. John

Head of Secondary



SPORTS CARNIVAL

MARCH 11TH 2023



Earlier this Term, we hosted our very first SIS Sports Carnival! With participation from over 200 students, 70 parents and 3 other international schools, this was a great event for the entire community.

With a range of sports including Basketball, Badminton, Netball and Football, there was something for everyone. Our parents also successfully managed to beat the teachers in a final game of Tug-a-War!

We were very proud of our official Straits Dragons sports teams, and their accomplishments, especially in Football and Badminton. Looking forward to the next event already!

Going forward, we want to continue to shine a spotlight on the sporting talents of and achievements of our students. This is a priority for our school, and there will be plenty more events to come.



Written by;

Ms. Nicola

Head of Primary



International
Schools
Partnership





Combining Curricula



Last year we successfully introduced the International Primary curriculum (IPC) to KS1 and this year has seen its implementation across KS2. The reasons for this change are broad ranging and many, but at the heart of the decision is to ensure we are offering the best quality education and learning experiences for our pupils and we firmly believe that this is what the IPC offers at this stage.

Knowing that Secondary still follows the Cambridge syllabuses, the IPC topics have all been carefully curated by the IPC and Science Coordinators to ensure that all Cambridge science learning objectives will be covered from Year 1 all the way to Year 6. In doing so, it will form a stronger foundation in the learning of the science concepts that will help them when they move up to Year 7 and beyond. Through hard work, dedication and using the experience and knowledge of our teachers in their specialisms we have successfully mapped out the IPC curriculum to ensure that key areas of the Cambridge curriculum are also being covered by the IPC units. In some cases this is as simple as IPC covering the same learning goals as Cambridge, albeit in a slightly different way. Other times this has involved classes having additional learning goals added into the IPC units in order to provide coverage. For example, in the Year 4 topic of Chocolate, there was a Science Task that talked about the different states of matter (solid, liquid, gas). However, it only covered the change of states from solid to liquid without addressing how it can be reversed, which was part of the Cambridge learning objective. As such, the teachers made some adjustments by adding extra Science lessons to address this while also keeping to the theme of Chocolate.

While the relationship between IPC and Cambridge Science can sometimes be unclear, parents may find these explained in the IPC letters shared on ClassDojo, where it provides a list of topics from varying subjects that will be covered in that unit. If that unit will be addressing any Science topics, it will be mentioned in these letters.

IPC's method of thematic, cross-curricular learning has proven its effectiveness in many research papers that study how people learn, and that is through making links in their learning. Much like how the brain learns best through connecting its neuron cells, each containing a piece of information, with one another to form a sturdy net of knowledge and signals. IPC's approach to learning very much mirrors that. The concepts presented in science can be complicated if taken at face value with little relevance to the world around us, but IPC provides the tools to realise these scientific concepts in a more tangible way, relating these concepts to real life in more ways than one. By supplementing this with additional elements of the Cambridge Science curriculum we truly believe that we are offering the best of both these curricula.



Written by;

Ms. Alissa

Primary Science Coordinator



Passport to a Healthy Lifestyle



Thursday 9th March saw the whole of key stage 3 involved in the Passport to a Healthy Lifestyle day. This was an event where all students took part in a series of lessons in:



Maths



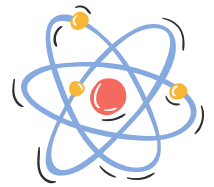
ICT



Food Technology



P.E



& Science

The central theme was to see how Healthy Living could be explored and discussed in a number of ways.

The children had to take a Passport to each lesson which was then stamped as proof that they had visited the event.

At the end of the day, they received a guest lecture from Miss Tania, a member of the Sports Nutrition Academy.

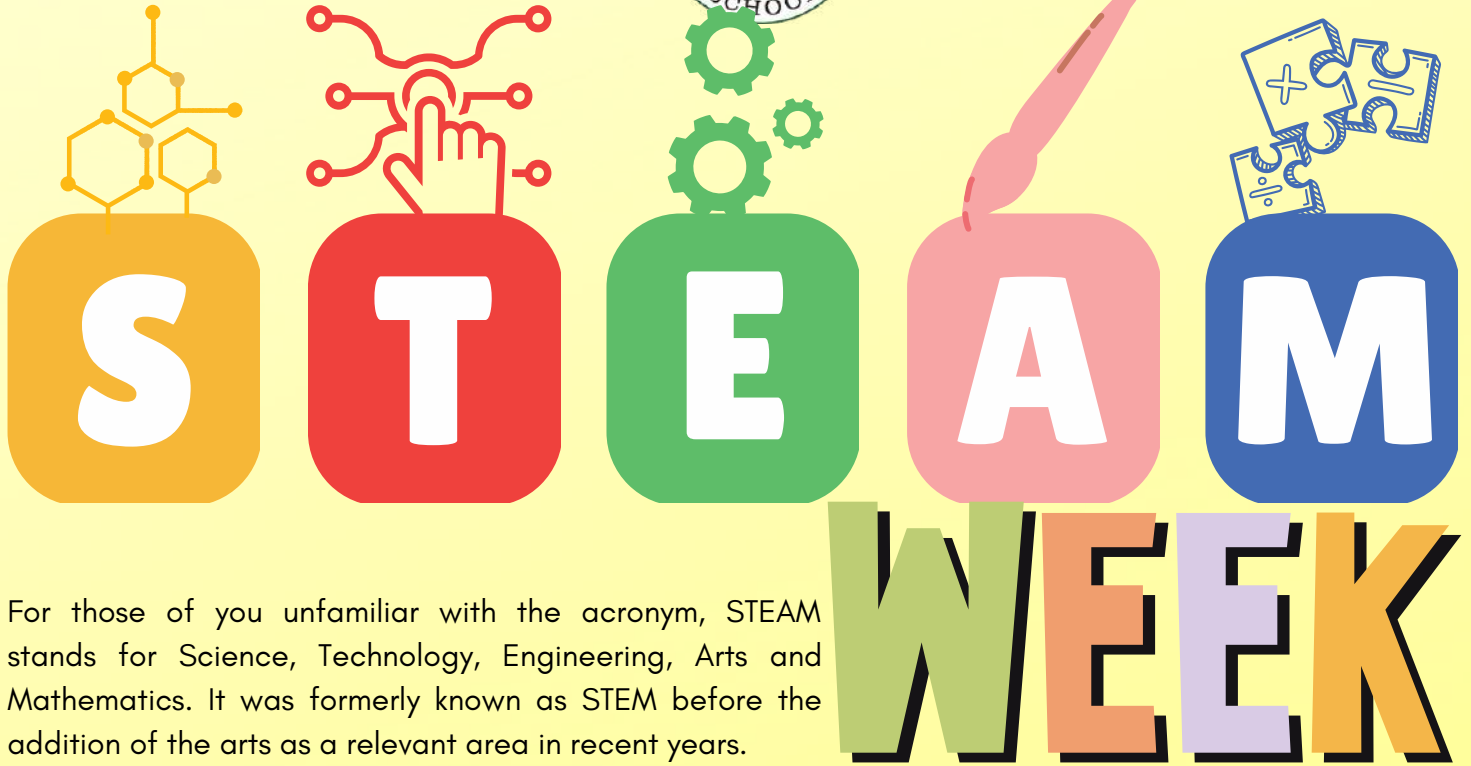
A very interesting and informative day for all students.

Written by;

Ms. Paula

Head of P.E





STEAM WEEK

For those of you unfamiliar with the acronym, STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. It was formerly known as STEM before the addition of the arts as a relevant area in recent years.

For this year's STEAM week the theme across Primary and Secondary was renewable energy.

Keeping with the tradition from the previous STEAM Weeks, students were once again presented with science demonstrations related to renewable energy to pique their curiosity, from Early Years to Year 6. This time around, we had our Year 11 students demonstrate some dramatic (and messy) science experiments to students of Key Stage 2 on the rooftop. Of all the demonstrations presented, the elephant toothpaste experiment was definitely the star of the show that day! On top of that, Early Years had the opportunity to play with the "scary" (but fun!) Van der Graaf machine. Needless to say, they had quite a hair-raising experience with that!



As part of STEAM week, Primary had a number of Maths challenges. Throughout the week, a Mangahigh Maths competition was ongoing for all pupils from year 1 to year 6. The student with the most medal points accumulated received a certificate and a prize, with all students in the top 10 receiving a certificate. There was also a mental Maths Olympiad for each year group throughout the week, so there was plenty of healthy competition to help get the best out of our students and allow them to show off their flair and passion for Maths this STEAM week.

Finally, to round things off, students had been busy all week planning, testing and adapting their projects before presenting them to parents, teachers and other students at our inaugural Science Fair. All of the projects were linked to the theme of renewable energy and pupils really benefitted from the hands on element of their learning this week and the purposeful end to their learning by sharing in this wonderful event.



Written by;
Mr. Eoghan

Primary Maths Coordinator

&
Ms. Alissa

Primary Science Coordinator