



Mt Zaagkam International School

Kuala Kencana, Newsletter

January 27, 2012

Dear KK Parents,

This week we welcomed the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Water Dragon. Let us wish that this year be one of peace, happiness and (sorry...I had to put this in) and much productive learning.

Timetables for our 'active semester' will be posted soon. This semester, we have more community fitness opportunities, more musical opportunities and more 'Hot Lunch' opportunities. Added to a series of social events, a quiz night, a BINGO night and movie nights, I feel that our small KK community may be kept quite busy over these next five months.

Our PTA has taken on a new shape this week. Down a few leading members, it has been decided that the PTA will run as an executive committee for the remainder of this school year, with its members.

Our After School Activities will start this week, with events commencing on Monday. Many thanks to the community members and the teaching staff for supporting our community with these activities.

Have a brilliant week! :->

Up and coming Events.....

- ISA Testing starts soon.
- **Hot Lunch every Friday (don't forget to hand the 'food fee' to Ms Sandy)**
- PTA General Meeting on the 6th February, at 6.00pm
- School Assembly, hosted by Grade 2/3 on the 10th February, 8.00 am.

Exploration Walks in Preschool

As part of our third unit of inquiry "People make choices and decisions based on scientific observations", we have been going on a series of Exploration walks. During these walks, we use our 5 senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste) to explore the area surrounding our school. We have heard different birds and insects, seen different spiders and touched different leaves and flowers so far. We look forward to continuing these walks during the remainder of the quarter. Trish Phyll

New Staff Member BIO in TPRA

Karen Van Allen, Music

I've been in Tembagapura for one week, and I'm so impressed with the friendliness of the community.

Thank you all for helping me feel welcome! I come from Arizona, where I taught elementary general

music in the public schools for 28 years. Ms. Anita and I were colleagues in the same district for many of those years, and we're looking forward to working together again on behalf of your children!

As for my own children, I have three grown daughters: Megan (a music teacher in Colorado), Melinda (currently teaching English in France), and Meredith (a sophomore at Arizona State University). I play the clarinet but have recently taken up the banjo, so you may hear me picking away once my sea shipment arrives! I am eagerly looking forward to meeting and working with all of your children. I would like to send a special thank you to the first graders who helped me to decide whether to go by Ms. Karen or Ms. Van Allen. Ms. Karen was their choice, so that's what it will be!



After School Activities - session 3

Our After School Activity program begins on Monday 30th January and runs until Friday 9th March. We have a wide range of offerings in this term as you can see from the schedule



below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Triathlon club (MS)-run		Triathlon Club (MS)-bike		Triathlon Club (MS)-swim
	Computer Club (Grd 2-8)	Irish Dancing	Building 3D Models (Grd. 1-4)	
Yoga (Grd.K-3)	Irish Music Instruments. (Grd 4-8)	Paper Mache (Grd.K-5)	Musical practice (Grd.K-8)	
	Athletics MS Shotput/Discus (2:30-3:30)	Eco Club Grd. 4-8		
*Soccer (ages 6-9) (3:30 – 4:15)		*Soccer (ages 6-9) 3:30 – 4:15		*Athletics MS Shotput/ Discus (3:30 – 4:15)
*Soccer (ages 10-14) (4:15 – 5:00)		*Soccer (ages 10-14) (4:15 – 5:00)		

Please note these activities run after our normal ASA times.

The children are always being asked to try something new, or to follow up a particular interest that is not normally offered at school. The teachers try consistently to offer activities which are different, and fun to participate in.

With Mr. Alex being involved there is most certainly a wider range of physical activities being offered and we hope the students will benefit from Alex's expertise in the disciplines he is running.

The Musical Practice being offered on Thursday by Ms. Anita is aimed towards the musical production the whole school will be involved in in the final term of school.

The Triathlon Club will continue to train with their target being to participate in the Bintam Triathlon in late May. Hopefully we have managed to offer activities which appeal to as wide a range of participants as possible.



From the PYP Coordinator...

What is the PYP exhibition

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) exhibition represents a significant event in the life of a PYP school and student, synthesizing the essential elements of the PYP and sharing them with the whole school community. As a culminating experience it is an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile that have been developing throughout their engagement with the PYP. In the students' final year of the PYP, which occurs at MZIS at age 10-11, there are five units of inquiry and the exhibition. This year's exhibition unit takes place under the transdisciplinary theme of "How We Organize Ourselves". Students will be engaging in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that involves them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems.

The PYP exhibition has a number of key purposes:

- for students to engage in an in-depth, collaborative inquiry
- to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning
- to provide students with an opportunity to explore multiple perspectives
- for students to synthesize and apply their learning of previous years and to reflect upon their journey through the PYP
- to provide an authentic process for assessing student understanding
- to demonstrate how students can take action as a result of their learning
- to unite the students, teachers, parents and other members of the school community in a collaborative experience that incorporates the essential elements of the PYP
- to celebrate the transition of learners from primary to middle/secondary education.

We will be having an Exhibition Parent meeting in *Tembagapura on the evening of 23 February, 2010* (starting at 6:00 pm before the PTA) and in *Kuala Kencana on the morning of Friday, 18 February, 2010*. Please look for more information to come from your child's classroom teacher. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alby Matamu, Sandy Hanson or myself. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Trish Phyll

Music Notes

The growth of a child is an amazing thing to watch. While we can see physical development, it is much more difficult on observation to see what is happening emotionally and mentally. The important thing to remember as parents and educators is that they are all tied together. Success in any area leads to the increase of a positive self-concept. Long before a child is able to motor his body to a different place, he uses movement. The wiggling of an infant is necessary to build the muscles needed to crawl. Crawling is important because it builds the necessary muscles and brain function need to coordinate right side/left side activities such as swimming, throwing a ball and dancing. Success in physical activity comes after repetition and experimentation. We need to be sure we don't teach children how to do something before they have had plenty of experience trying it themselves.

Remember how Grandma used to tell us to stop spinning so much, that it would shake our brains up? Studies today show us that spinning is actually good for our brain; that the physical gentle movement can help us to focus. Try it yourself. Take a minute and spin one way for a bit, then the other way. Don't be timid. Spin like you wanted to when you were 5 years old. Have a seat. See how you feel in a few minutes.