

# THE TERM TIMES



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THAI-SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1000 Moo. 5 Srinakarin Road, Sumrong-Nua, Muang, Samutprakan 10270

Tel.: 02 710 5900-1

Fax: 02 710 5700

www.tsis.ac.th

## Training for Teachers: Gearing Up for the New School Year



Parent's Corner, page 10



*"By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail."*

- Benjamin Franklin

Thai-Singapore International School places value on teacher's preparation, planning and assessment in order to comply with its mission of providing high quality, comprehensive education in a nurturing, trilingual environment. With this in mind, all teachers joined the two day training on the "Assessment of Pupils Learning" last 11th - 12th August 2015 at Dusit Princess Hotel.



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The training was to ensure that all of the teachers at TSIS are equipped with the latest techniques and knowledge to effectively implement interactive, thorough and measurable lessons, ensuring that the student's development is always the core objective.

Klover Asia Limited is a Singapore-based educational consultancy firm that believes in the transformative power of education. Dr. Justina Tan, Managing Director of Klover Asia, was the key trainer and worked with all our Homeroom and Subject teachers to develop both their lesson planning skills and assessment of pupil learning.

Dr. Tan's first training session concentrated on effective lesson planning strategies. She emphasized the importance of identifying specific and measurable learning outcomes, and establishing students' prior knowledge, in order to work towards and achieve the desired learning objectives. Relevant, structured activities should be created to help students understand and practise the language aspect or topic being taught. Dr. Tan also highlighted the need for teachers to focus on the rationale for each activity, to ensure they are conducive to the specified learning objectives.

The training then focused on how teachers can improve the standard of their assessment process. This essential procedure enables educators to understand their students' development, evaluate whether learning objectives have been met, and assists in future planning. This process does not solely involve assessing the learners, but also the curriculum, educational policies and the teachers' effectiveness and delivery of lessons. It is imperative that learning objectives are linked with the learning activities and that the assessment process is relevant, reliable and thorough.

"The training was very insightful. I will definitely be using my newly acquired knowledge in the setting of my exams. I enjoyed the fast-paced nature of the training and felt that Dr. Tan was an expert in her field," K2 Homeroom Teacher Marcel noted.

Carolyn Lim, also of Klover Asia, trained the Teaching Assistants on the four key communication skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. She highlighted the importance of each of the skill areas, addressed the common challenges faced by learners, and gave our teachers strategies to help students develop these skills. "Our training was fantastic and very inspiring. We felt motivated after the training and were all eager to put into practice what we had learned. Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students," K2 TA Carmie said of the experience.

After a very successful training course, the staff have enjoyed applying the innovative knowledge and techniques learnt and have observed the benefits in our students' knowledge and language acquisition brought about by these new teaching practices. We look forward to the next training session and our further professional development to ensure TSIS provides the best education for every student.

By Lauren Welbourne



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# A Message from the Principal



It shall be a challenging academic year for TSIS for the following reasons, among others:

1. We are seriously preparing our P6 pupils, as the inaugural batch, to take the IPSLE next year.
2. We are working on the Secondary Years 1 and 2 Curriculum in view of the opening of our Secondary Division in the next academic year 2016/2017.
3. We are teaching the various components of English Language holistically by deploying one EL teacher per class and having another teacher to support the weaker students from P1 to P3.

Two briefing sessions with P4 to P6 parents were held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September. It was clearly explained to the parents the subjects we are proposing to offer in Secondary Years 1 and 2 (In addition to the subjects our pupils are studying in Primary, they will learn Geography, History and Literature in English Language.), and also the subjects in Secondary Years 3 and 4 (new subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Additional Mathematics, Global Perspectives, Business Studies and Accounting). The plan of the school is to prepare our pupils either for careers related to Engineering and Science, or careers related to Management, Business and Accounting. The aim is for our pupils to attain

the Cambridge International Certificate of Education (passing a minimum of 7 relevant subjects), while the less ambitious will be aiming for the IGCSE Certificate (passing 5 relevant subjects).

For the parents of K2 to P3, four briefing sessions were held from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October to explain the fundamental shift in our approach to teaching English Language holistically. We shared with the parents the practices in deployment of English Language teachers in international schools globally, and those international schools using the Singapore curriculum. While we realise the initial gaps which may arise, we are confident systems have been put in place to improve on our approach, which is universally accepted. This will eventually improve the outcomes of teaching and learning of the English Language.

We shall be calling briefing sessions on iPSLE once we receive more information from the Singapore Assessment and Examination Board. By then, parents can decide what will be in the best interests of the pupils with regards to iPSLE.

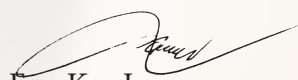
This year we have started the Punctuality Award to recognise classes which have done well at getting to school on time. At the morning assembly, we gave out the awards for classes which came top in punctuality at every level. It will be important for our pupils to learn the importance of punctuality. To be punctual is

a positive habit that should be acquired from an early age. We appeal to parents to support the school in our endeavour to get our pupils to school on time.

In terms of the attitude and behaviour of our pupils, I wish to congratulate the vast majority. They come to school eagerly and pay close attention in class, while doing their homework diligently after school. For the few who have infringed on school rules, we need parents to work with us to bring about positive changes in the attitude and behaviour of these pupils. With the understanding that parents and the school are the same stakeholders in inculcating desirable values in our pupils, it is pertinent to note that a confrontational approach is not in the best interests of our students.

Last but not least, we look forward to your continued support, and to more open and fruitful communication between parents and the school.

Yours in TSIS' service,

  
Eng Kee Low

Principal



## New Computers at NK Computer Lab

In the Nursery-Kindergarten Division this term, the students have been enjoying the use of new computers with the latest software. We have twenty new Acer i3 computers to enhance the students' learning experience. Teacher Apple, the kindergarten ICT teacher, said, *"The new computers are a great tool. It's essential the students practise using a keyboard and mouse, as most are only familiar with touchscreen tablets. Our new facilities are really helping to improve our students' computer literacy and skills"*.

## School Fire Drill

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October at 09:30, TSIS carried out a whole-school fire drill. Fire drills are a very important practice to ensure students and faculty members know the safest and quickest way to act in an emergency situation. We are very pleased to report that all procedures were correctly followed and the drill was very successful. All our students reached the assembly area within the prescribed five minutes and conducted themselves efficiently in a composed manner. A further fire drill will be conducted early in the second term.



by John Thomson

## Term 1 ECA Music Holds Recital

The ECA Music classes, namely Singing, Keyboard and Ukulele, organised a combined music recital on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The short programme proudly featured 27 Primary and 2 Kindergarten pupils, who

all performed a musical piece in front of a small audience of parents, teachers and other pupils.

For the past three years, this musical endeavour – under the guidance of our music teachers – has continued to provide a good platform for our young performers to showcase the musical skills they have learnt in their ECA Music classes. Aside from cultivating musical proficiency, it is a valuable opportunity for our students to develop and increase their confidence.

Currently, our ECA Music classes are taught by Mr Giovanni & Ms Hannah. They are looking forward to uncovering more new talent in the subsequent terms of this academic year.

## TSIS Pupils Win Awards

This term, TSIS celebrated good performances in competitions entered by four of our Primary 4 pupils, who earned some awards.



Tonnam of P4 Hope class won third prize in the Art Creation by Hand competition on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at CentralWorld. The competition was organised by the Protex Company in line with Global Hand Washing Day, which aims to promote hygienic awareness and set a good example for the prevention of contagious diseases. For his performance, Tonnam was awarded with a certificate and B10,000 scholarship from Her Royal Princess Soamsawali.

Two pupils from P4 Faith class also scooped awards in the Nanmee Chinese Language Skill Contest held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. Mark and Candy emerged as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners, respectively. Mark was

# NEWS BRIEF



awarded the top prize: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Royal Trophy, a certificate and a scholarship worth B 6,000. For 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Candy received a certificate and a scholarship worth B 3,000.

Bonus of P4 Hope class also brought home a trophy for winning first place in the International Crossword Competition organised by BRANDS. The competition was held on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at Central Plaza, Chaengwattana, Nonthaburi.



In the field of sports, Teem of P3 Love was declared as the Winner and Best Golfer 2015 in the Singha-ISF Junior Golf Open at Unico Grande Golf Course in Bangkok, and Kids Golf World Championship at Palm Resort Golf in Malaysia, respectively.

TSIS would like to congratulate our pupils for their impressive achievements and for making us at TSIS proud.

By Dave Jan Fabe





# Anti-bullying Campaign

This year's Anti-Bullying Campaign was held from 14th-18th September and culminated on Monday, 21st September with the making of our Pledge Wall. The theme was "Stand Up, Lend a Hand: TSIS Against Bullying" and the focus was on fighting bullying by being a good friend.

In our PSHE lessons we learnt about the cycle of bullying and its negative effects. Students were taught how to identify bully behaviour and take action against it. They learned that the best way to fight bullying is to befriend someone. Students then took turns complimenting each other as a positive approach to ending the cycle of bullying.

We had an Anti-Bullying Art Gallery on the bridge connecting the primary and kindergarten buildings. There were lots of posters teaching us about different types of bullying, how it can make victims feel and what we can do to encourage more positive attitudes towards each other. The gallery was a constant reminder for us to treat others with respect and dignity.

The students also participated in a Poster-making Contest and made their own designs during their Art and Crafts period. The posters reflected what we had learnt and were also hung in the Art Gallery. Our students created some very original and thought-provoking posters that helped to educate others about the dangers of bullying. Huge congratulations to the winners of the Poster Contest!

This year's successful campaign concluded with the Pledging Ceremony. Students promised each other they would work together to

end bullying in our school. As a sign of their commitment to the campaign, they dipped their hands in paint and 'signed' the pledge wall with their palm prints.

TSIS looks forward to fulfilling its commitment to the community by keeping TSIS a safe and happy place for every student to learn, grow, and excel.

By Patrick Myers





# Academic Competition 2015

This year's Academic Competition was a great success!

The competition began with the Impromptu Speech contest in which a student from every class battled it out to reign supreme over the lower (P1-P3) or upper (P4-P6) primary levels. Each of the six students drew topics from a bowl and chose the one that they were most comfortable speaking about. The students all performed very well, but it was Honey of P6 and Na of P5 Hope who shared the top spot in the upper primary competition, whilst Cassy of P3 Faith was triumphant for the lower primary level.

Following this, we had our Spelling Bee, which showcased our students' top-class spelling skills. The rounds began with the contestants tackling the same vocabulary from their English Class' weekly spelling words, though in the latter part of the contest, Teacher Jeremy gave them unfamiliar words to spell. Aydin came out on top in P1, Wawa in P2, Tonkla in P3, Adi in P4, Fontip in P5, and Elaine in P6. Aydin and Elaine beat all the other winners in the lower and upper primary levels, respectively.



The Storytelling competition was entered by students from P4-P6. In this contest, the students had to tell a story on stage to their classmates and the judges. They had chosen their own stories and dexterously used their hands, faces, and voices to make them come alive for the listeners. It was a thrilling sight and clearly a lot of hard work and preparation had been put in by each contestant. Eoin of P6 snatched the top spot in the contest.

The final leg of the competition was the General Information Quiz. Eighteen students from P4-P6 formed teams of two members each, and had to answer questions from each school subjects. All the teachers contributed 5 questions for each level. In the grand finale, Maddie and Andy Yu of P4 Faith were successful in winning the most points.

The Academic Competition flaunted the impeccable skills of our students in various academic areas and we are confident that we have the talent within our school to compete on a national scale.

By Kevin Ratcliffe





Not even the gloomy, wet weather that greeted us could dampen the palpable excitement that everyone felt as we touched down at Changi Airport last August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. We, seven chaperones and 38 primary students, were embarking on a grand adventure; a mixture of serious learning and new cultural experiences.

Our Singapore immersion led us to two schools: Jing Shan Primary School and Orchid Secondary School. We did a one-day visit to the latter, where our own Principal Low was the founding principal to hold office. We were given a first-class tour around the campus, looking into the different facilities like the visual arts and design areas, the physics, the biology, and the chemistry labs, and the outdoor open theater. One standout aspect of the school was its Arts Program, whose prolific turnout could be seen all across the school. It provided a visual buffet of colours and designs in different mediums, such as charcoal, pastels, ink, acrylic, clay, and tiles, and it depicted a kaleidoscopic array of drawings, paintings, collages and relief sculptures.

We spent the next two days at Jing Shan. Though the school was busy preparing for Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, the teachers and students were very welcoming and were excited to show us around and teach us about their school life. Our students made the most of this opportunity. They eagerly made friends, joined in various classes, helped build special commemorative Lego creations for SG50, and put their English skills to good use chatting with their new friends.

We teachers were also able to gain experience and ideas from an educator's perspective. As we observed the different classes, it was valuable to note the various teaching methodologies, class management strategies, educational apps and tools, and assessment techniques being used in another school.



## A Singapore Immersion Experience

Interspersed between our school visits were the tours. Time was like quicksilver as we zigzagged and fledged through some of the city's most popular places: a must-do photo-op with the Merlion, relaxation and reflection in the Garden by the Bay, drinking-in the panoramic view above the Singapore Flyer, feeling the jungle fever at the Amazon River Cruise, dropping our hearts in the dips and curves of the rollercoasters at Universal Studios, and arriving at the state of reading Nirvana at the National Library.

As our sneakers squeaked on the tiled floor of Suvarnabhumi airport, I couldn't help but think, "if only we could have stayed a bit longer..." And yet, as I looked on the teary reunions in front of me, I couldn't help but feel satisfied with the taste of Singapore we had been given.

By Nat Pueblos







## 一年月色最明夜 千里人心共赏识

农历八月十五日是中国传统节日——中秋节，这一天的月亮最亮最圆，寄托着人们对美好生活的无限向往。

在中秋佳节来临之际，我校开展了一系列庆祝活动。全校师生欢聚一堂，说着中秋节的故事、唱着中秋节的儿歌。

幼儿园开展的“庆中秋”活动，主要以“快乐”为出发点，小朋友们用童声唱出中秋的特色，用心语迎接中秋的到来。“月亮代表我的心”“月姑娘”“Kiss Baby 月亮对着你微笑”三首儿歌，带给大家一场视觉盛宴，也激发了幼儿的美好情怀！

小学部“知中秋，话传统”活动的开展，刘校长致以中秋最美好的祝福，老师们巧妙地将有关中秋节的来历、风俗、灯谜等传统文化以抢答的形式呈现给学生，同学们品尝着甜甜的月饼，分享着节日的祝福。除此之外，各个班级通过歌舞、合唱、诗朗诵、小品等活动，感受着节日的温暖。

总之，通过本次活动的开展，同学们在欣赏故事的同时丰富了科学知识，也感受到了传统节日的熏陶，更加了解中国，更加热爱中文。





# มารยาททักทายที่ควรสืบทอด

“การไหว้” เป็นการแสดงถึงความมีสัมมาคารวะ และการให้เกียรติซึ่งกันและกัน นอกเหนือจากการกล่าวคำว่า “สวัสดี” การไหว้ทำให้ผู้ใหญ่รักและเอ็นดู คนที่พบเห็นก็ชื่นชม

“การไหว้” เป็นภาษาท่าทางที่ใช้แสดงความเคารพ ทักทาย โดยการยกมือสองข้างประนม พร้อมกับยกขึ้นไหว้ในระดับต่างๆ นอกจากนี้ยังแสดงออกถึงความหมายของ การขอบคุณ การขอโทษ การขอยกย่อง การระลึกถึง และอีกหลาย ความหมายสุดแต่โอกาส เป็นขนบธรรมเนียมประเพณี เป็นวัฒนธรรมที่งดงาม รวมทั้งเป็นสิ่งที่แสดงถึงเอกลักษณ์ และเป็นมรดกทางวัฒนธรรมของคนไทย ที่ปัจจุบันกำลังเลือนหายและถูกละเลยอย่างน่าเสียดาย ประเทศไทยซึ่งเคยได้ชื่อว่า มีวัฒนธรรมที่งดงามเป็นดินแดนแห่งรอยยิ้ม (Land of Smile) ที่ผู้คนรู้จักไปทั่วโลก กำลังสูญเสียสิ่งเหล่านี้ไป ทั้งที่การไหว้ เป็นมารยาทแบบไทยๆ ที่เรากันเคยกันมาตั้งแต่เด็ก

การแสดงความเคารพและบูชา ด้วยการไหว้ของไทยเราน่าจะรับวัฒนธรรมนี้มาจากอินเดีย นำมาปรับเปลี่ยนให้ เหมาะกับวิถีชีวิตของคนไทยจึงเกิดเป็นวัฒนธรรมการไหว้ที่แบ่งเป็นระดับต่างๆ ขึ้นมา โดยใช้มือกับใบหน้าเป็นตัวแบ่ง ระดับ ซึ่งแบ่งออกเป็น ๓ ระดับ ดังนี้

การไหว้ระดับที่ ๑ ใช้สำหรับไหว้พระรัตนตรัย ได้แก่ พระพุทธรูป พระธรรม พระสงฆ์ รวมถึงโบราณสถาน โบราณวัตถุทางพุทธศาสนา โดยให้นิ้วหัวแม่มือจรดระหว่างคิ้ว นิ้วชี้สัมผัสส่วนบนของหน้าผาก ประนมมือขึ้นให้ นิ้วหัวแม่มืออยู่ระหว่างคิ้วทั้งสองข้างนั่นเอง

การไหว้ระดับที่ ๒ ใช้สำหรับไหว้ บิดา มารดา ปู่ ย่า ตา ยาย ครู อาจารย์และผู้ที่มีเราเคารพนับถืออย่างสูง โดยให้ นิ้วหัวแม่มือจรดปลายจมูก นิ้วชี้สัมผัสระหว่างคิ้ว ประนมมือขึ้นให้นิ้วหัวแม่มืออยู่บริเวณปลายจมูก

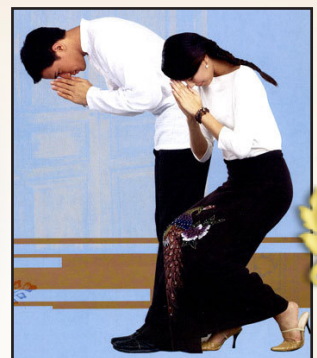
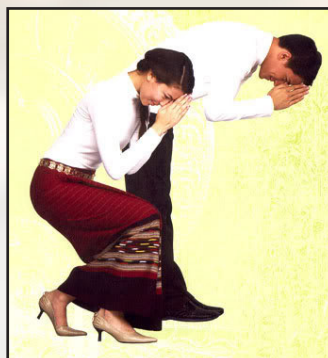
การไหว้ระดับที่ ๓ ใช้สำหรับไหว้บุคคลทั่วไป ที่มีวัยวุฒิสูงกว่าเราไม่มากนัก รวมถึงใช้แสดงความเคารพผู้ที่ เสมอกันหรือเป็นเพื่อนกันได้ด้วย โดยให้นิ้วหัวแม่มือจรดปลายคาง นิ้วชี้ สัมผัสบริเวณปลายจมูก ประนมมือขึ้นให้ นิ้วหัวแม่มืออยู่บริเวณปลายคาง

ในการยืนไหว้นั้น ชายให้ยืนตัวตรง ค้อมตัวลงพร้อมกับยกมือขึ้นไหว้ ตำแหน่งของนิ้วหัวแม่มือให้ถูกต้องตาม ระดับของบุคคลที่เราแสดงความเคารพ จากนั้นลดมือลงพร้อมกับยืดตัวขึ้นกลับมาในท่ายืนตรงตามเดิม

สำหรับหญิงนั้น เมื่อยืนไหว้ ให้ถอยเท้าใดเท้าหนึ่งทีละนิดไปข้างหลังเล็กน้อย พร้อมกับย่อตัวยกมือขึ้นไหว้ ตำแหน่งของนิ้วหัวแม่มือให้ถูกต้องตามระดับของบุคคลที่เราแสดงความเคารพ จากนั้นจึงลดมือลงพร้อมกับชักเท้าที่ถอย ไปกลับมาอยู่ในท่ายืนตรงตามเดิม หรือจะใช้การยืนตรงไหว้แบบชายก็ได้

ส่วนการประนมมือไว้ที่ระดับอกนั้น เป็นการแสดงอาการรับไหว้ คือ เมื่อมีผู้น้อยมาแสดงความเคารพเราด้วยการ กราบหรือไหว้ เราต้องแสดงอาการรับไหว้ตอบ

แหล่งที่มา กลุ่มงานประชาสัมพันธ์ กรมส่งเสริมวัฒนธรรม





# Parent's Corner

We had lived in Singapore since Tatar was 4 months old, and when he turned 18 months, we entered him into the Singapore school system. We realised that this style of education would be very intensive and practical.

When we moved back to Thailand, we looked for a school that would provide a similar academic system to ensure his continued development. TSIS was among the top schools in our list in terms of academic curriculum, languages taught and distance from home.

In the beginning of Tatar's journey at TSIS, everything seemed hard to us as we needed to adapt to new things, new rules and even new people. Luckily, our Home Room Teacher and Teaching Assistant were very attentive and caring, so Tatar acclimatised to his new class very quickly.

At the start of N1, Tatar was only 2 years old, so we did not expect that much. However, at the end of each term we saw improvement in every area. Some days he came back home and sang songs in English and Chinese, and showed us some dancing steps. We were quite surprised at what he could do, and very proud, of course. Aside from his regular school days, Tatar likes the field trips very much. It is good for him to explore new things outside the school.

Now he is in N2, Tatar can do a lot of things by himself, for instance, going to the toilet, unpacking things from his school bag, getting dressed and writing the English alphabet and Chinese characters. Tatar has learnt a lot from school, and always shows us what he has learnt at home, especially singing songs and pretending to have a speech on stage. Even though there is a lot of homework, Tatar really enjoys completing it at home.

Overall, we believe that TSIS will keep up good standards in student care and academic activities. We trust the school to continue producing quality education for its students, who are our future, and will grow up to serve their communities.

By Mr Tawee & Mrs Supornpat Sujisakulwong



## A quick GLIMPSE into the FUTURE.



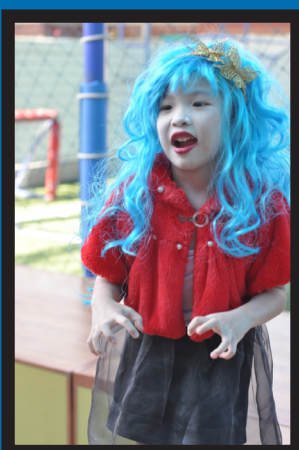
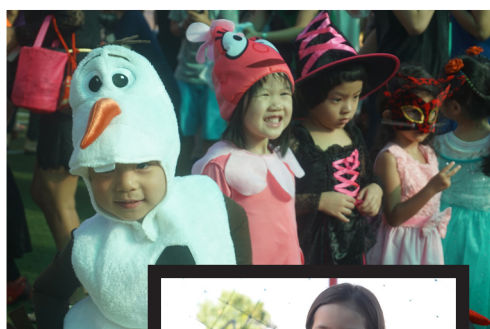
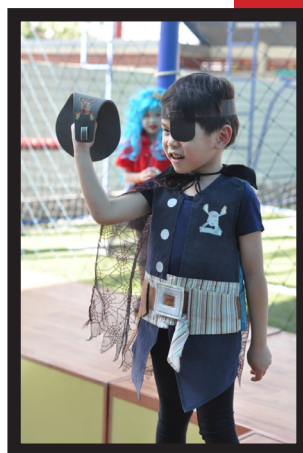


# FANCY COSTUME DAY

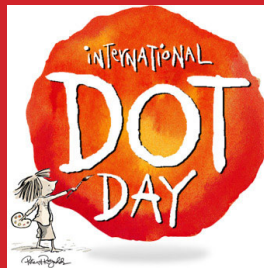
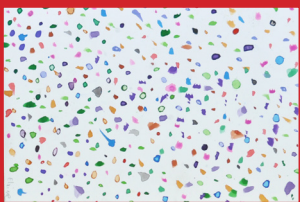


Students enjoyed portraying their favourite characters during the Fancy Costume Day last 30 October, 2015.

Instead of their regular uniforms, students attended their classes as Harry Potter, Batman, Spiderman, Snow White, and Frozen's Anna, among others. It was a day of fun and excitement.







The Dot Day is celebrated in 115 countries (and counting) every 15<sup>th</sup> of September by doing classroom and outdoor activities, creating dot artworks, and reading stories written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. One of his stories, entitled "The Dot," started and inspired this celebration with the saying, "Make Your Mark and See Where It Takes You."

Two weeks before the event, the students watched the animated version of the story on Youtube in their art classes and painted their dots. The students also learned about Georges Seurat, the Pointillism, and the Impressionism Art Movement. Then on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, they greeted together "Happy International Dot Day" and displayed their artworks to officially join their first celebration of creativity with more than 3 million creativity champions in 115 countries around the world.

*Make Your Mark...*



*And See Where It Takes You*  
Peter Reynolds

