

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

The Year of the Monkey: Celebrating Chinese New Year



Chinese Lunar New Year is one of the most celebrated events at TSIS, involving an exhilarating festival of Chinese culture. This celebration, also known as the 'Spring Festival', marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese calendar. Our students annually prepare several performances, including dances, songs, plays and poems that colour the fête.

Each lunar year celebrates an adored animal in the Chinese zodiac, and according to Chinese traditions, this year's clever monkey symbolises good luck and fortune. This year our students and teachers put on an incredible show surrounded by the Chinese lanterns and other festival decorations which adorned the venue, the new Srinakarin Grand Hall.

Our guest of honour was Professor Han Xi, Director of the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, who was blown away by the breadth of Chinese culture that had been incorporated into the show, especially for a school outside of China!

On the day of the show, everyone, including guests, wore Chinese-style clothes that added to the celebratory mood of the event. The students with their varied costumes waited patiently for their turn in the programme. Younger students wore animal-inspired outfits while the older ones looked pretty and distinguished with their modern *cheongsam* or traditional *qipao*. The excitement and applause rang throughout the show as teachers and parents looked on proudly as their little ones stomped their feet, waved their hands, and sang and

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THAI-SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Transforming Learning for the 21st Century

In our commitment to continued professional development, on Saturday 12th March, all our TSIS teachers took part in a training day led by Mr. Gan Chin Huat. Mr. Gan has had a long and distinguished career as Director and Principal of international education institutes and teacher training colleges. The focus of the workshop was 'Transforming Learning for the 21st Century'.



Our students are growing up in a time of rapid changes and perpetual stimuli. As educators, we must constantly assess what skills our students need in order to survive and thrive in this globalised world. Mr. Gan discussed the theories and findings of several leaders in the field of education and highlighted the shift in importance from *what we know*, to *how we apply what we know*. This attests to the need for schools to cultivate pupils' critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration skills.

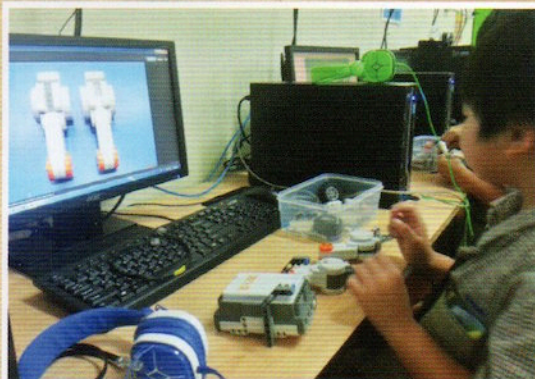
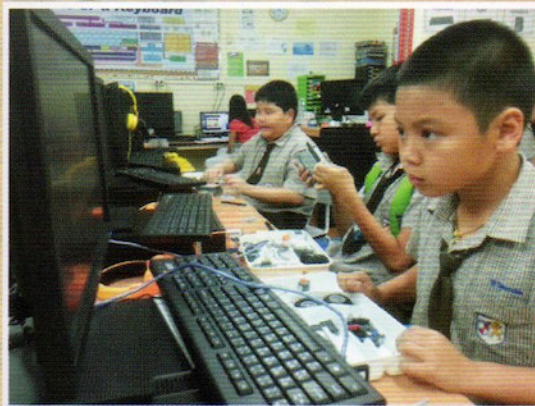


During the workshop, teachers learnt and participated in various learning structures that could be utilised in any subject to facilitate the development of students' aptitude in these crucial skills areas. It was an invaluable experience that further solidified our dedication to preparing our young people for life, work and citizenship in the 21st century.

By Melissa Rielly

Robotics ECA

Students spend their Monday afternoon learning about basic robot building instructions during the ECA time.



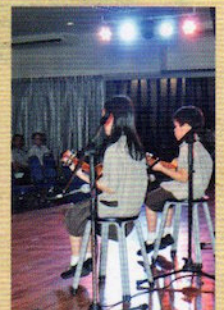
NEWS BRIEF

Music Recital Impresses

On 18 March 2016, we held our Term 2 music recital at the Srinakarin Grand Hall. The music recital once again featured our kindergarten and primary pupils who took ECA in singing, keyboard and ukulele this term.

It was another exciting activity that our music teachers – Teacher Giovanni, Teacher Hannah and Teacher Végie – organised for the benefit of our pupils and parents.

The audience was entertained with a variety of songs and musical pieces played on the keyboard and ukulele. It was delightful to see the musical development the children had made, especially knowing that some of them have only been learning for about three months.



Without a doubt, performing at a recital is a brilliant opportunity for children who participate in voice and instrumental lessons to show what hard work and perseverance can result in.

By Dave Jan Fabe



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The Manager's Report

Dear Parents,

The past few months have been quite exciting for all of us with the completion of the rainbow-inspired Srinakarin Grand Hall. Besides its colourful aspect, the decorative trees, shrubs and fishpond outside add a fresh and natural atmosphere to the building. The newly-furbished hall has a seating capacity for 900 people and has already proved to be the perfect venue for our Chinese New Year show, Teachers' Day, Sports Day, ECA classes, and training sessions.

The hall is equipped with state-of-the-art light and sound systems, as well as a 200-inch projector screen. There are three LED TV screens installed and strategically positioned to ensure audience satisfaction during school programmes and mini-concerts. The 3.5 million baht facility will also be used for the upcoming Recognition Ceremony this July 2016.

Further progress that I want to share with you is the nearly-constructed Victory Building which will house the Science laboratories, swimming pool, gymnasium, classrooms and cafeteria. The first batch of Secondary students and Primary 5 and 6 students will occupy this building with effect from Term 1 of academic year 2016-2017.

As the school has been approved to use the Cambridge Curriculum, the design of the four Science laboratories for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and General Science are patterned after the specification of the Cambridge Science Curriculum. Equipment and supplies will be provided by Design Alternative, a well-known supplier for international companies and schools in Asia. These are all in preparation for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examination our students will be taking in the near future.



Finally, with the ongoing expansion of our school, I assure you that the school board, management, teachers, and staff are committed to providing your children with a learning environment that meets the high standards of the international school community.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the years.

Yours sincerely,

Wanchai Karuensatit

Managing Director





This term for Parents' Corner, our Junior Student Council members interviewed their parents to find out how school has changed since they were young, and to gain some worldly wisdom. Here is a selection of their parents' responses.

How do you think schools have changed since you were a primary school student?

- Schools are more IT savvy now. Also, children learn more about world affairs and have more exposure to different cultures.
- When I was in primary school there were only a few foreign teachers, but nowadays there are a lot more.
- Parents have more choice about which school to send their child to now. Also, there's more technology to help children study.

What is your favourite place in Thailand, and why?

"Hua Hin because it is quiet, calm and serene."

"My favourite place is my home sweet home where I have precious times with my lovely family."

"Chiang Mai is one of my favourite places because I love the beauty of nature."

"Khao-Yai because it has good weather and is far from pollution."

What is the most important lesson you have learnt in your life?

- To be true and loyal to everyone.
- To be grateful and to value whatever you have.
- The most important lesson I have learnt is to keep learning endlessly.
- Every problem has a solution.
- Do your best and be honest.
- You can do or be anything with hard work!
- People deserve a second chance.
- Never give up and be responsible.

What was your favourite subject at school, and why?

"Science because it gives students the opportunity to explore, analyse and find solutions to different situations."

"My all-time favourite subject at school was Mathematics because I love playing with numbers."

"Art class because it doesn't need any rules and it's a good way to develop a person's attitude."

"My favourite subject was English because I loved to watch Hollywood movies and I wanted to know what the characters were saying."

If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

- ❖ If I could change one thing about the world, I'd have to say it would be global warming.
- ❖ I'd want the world to have more love and less violence.
- ❖ I wish every human had equal opportunities.
- ❖ I'd make the world a safer place filled with love, happiness and peace.
- ❖ I want every child in the world to have the same amount of happiness, access to medicine and no wars.
- ❖ I would end corruption.
- ❖ I want the world to have peace.
- ❖ I want to see people live together with love, kindness, peace and respect.
- ❖ The world is already perfect. We just need to learn how to live life.
- ❖ I would stop burning fossil fuels and save the planet.
- ❖ I would make the Earth peaceful with no selfish people or pollution.

Thank you to all the parents that contributed: the parents of Ishi, Garch, Aueng, Jenise, Minnie, Chin, Ikque, Hannah, Pink, Honey and Candy, Prue, Bua, Eoin, Hrishit, and Cha-aim.

การไหว้ครู

การไหว้ครู เป็นกิจกรรมหนึ่งที่สถาบันการศึกษาทุกระดับ ทุกแห่งจัดขึ้นในช่วงต้น ๆ ของปีการศึกษา สะท้อนถึงคุณค่าทางจิตใจของคนไทย ความผูกพันใกล้ชิดระหว่างครูกับศิษย์ ความกตัญญูรู้คุณของสังคมไทยที่มีต่อผู้มีพระคุณ ให้เห็นถึงความรัก ความเมตตาของครูต่อศิษย์ ถึงความละเอียดอ่อนทางจิตใจ เป็นโอกาสที่นักเรียนจะได้แสดงคุณธรรมในจิตใจ ความกตัญญูทวดที่ต่อครู อาจารย์ ซึ่งเป็นผู้ทำให้วิชาความรู้แก่เรา

สิ่งที่ต้องเตรียมในการไหว้ครู

การไหว้ครูมักจะใช้ หญ้าแพรก ข้าวตอก ดอกมะเขือ และดอกเข็ม เป็นองค์ประกอบในพานดอกไม้ ประโยชน์ของการไหว้ครู

ประโยชน์ของการไหว้ครู คือ ผู้ไหว้ได้รับความเมตตาจากผู้รับไหว้ ผู้ไหว้ได้รับความสบายใจ ช่วยให้ผู้รับไหว้หันมาสำรวจตรวจตราพัฒนาตนเอง อีกทั้งยังเป็นรักษาเอกลักษณ์วัฒนธรรมไทยไว้อีกด้วย

โบราณท่านกล่าวว่า "ศรัทธามีพิษ ศิษย์ต้องมีครู ศิษย์มีครูเหมือนงูมีพิษ ศิษย์ไม่มีครู เหมือนงูไม่มีพิษ" ไม่น่ากลัวอะไร ไม่ต่างอะไรกับปลาไหล รอเวลาให้เขากัดเผ็ดเท่านั้น "ศิษย์ดีต้องมีคุณธรรม ศิษย์ไม่ได้ความ คุณธรรมไม่มี" ข้าวรวงโตที่มีวิตามิน เวลามันออกรวง จะโน้มรวงถ่วงยอดแสดงอาการดูการระเห่แม่พระธรณี คนก็เหมือนกัน หากรู้จักอ่อนน้อมถ่อมตน แสดงว่าเป็นคนมีคุณภาพ เป็นผู้มีคุณธรรม

ประเพณีสงกรานต์

สงกรานต์ แปลว่า การย้ายที่ คือ เป็นวันที่พระอาทิตย์โคจรย้ายจากราศีมีนเข้าสู่ราศีเมษ เป็นวันเปลี่ยนจุลศักราชใหม่ แต่เดิมเราถือเอาวันสงกรานต์ เป็นวันปีใหม่ของไทย

ประเพณีสงกรานต์ ปกติมีทั้งหมด ๓ วัน คือเริ่มตั้งแต่วันที่ ๑๓ เมษายน ถึง ๑๕ เมษายน โดยถือเอาวันที่ ๑๓ เป็นวันต้น หรือวันมหาสงกรานต์ วันที่ ๑๔ เป็นวันเนาหรือวันกลาง และวันที่ ๑๕ เป็นวันเถลิงศก หรือวันสุดท้าย

คุณค่าและสาระของวันสงกรานต์

สงกรานต์เป็นประเพณีที่งดงาม อ่อนโยน เอื้ออาทร และเต็มไปด้วยบรรยากาศของความกตัญญู ความเคารพซึ่งกันและกัน เป็นประเพณีที่ให้ความสำคัญของความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างเพื่อนมนุษย์ในสังคม โดยใช้น้ำเป็นสื่อในการเชื่อมความสัมพันธ์

สงกรานต์-คุณค่าต่อครอบครัว

สงกรานต์เป็นประเพณีแห่งความรัก ความผูกพันในครอบครัว เมื่อถึงช่วงประเพณีสงกรานต์ ทุกคนจะหาโอกาสกลับบ้านไปหาพ่อแม่และญาติผู้ใหญ่ รดน้ำขอพรเพื่อเป็นสิริมงคลในการเริ่มต้นปีใหม่ และเป็นกำลังใจกันและกันในการดำรงชีวิตอยู่ต่อไป

สงกรานต์-คุณค่าต่อชุมชน

สงกรานต์เป็นประเพณีที่ก่อให้เกิดความสมัคสมานสามัคคีในชุมชน เช่น ได้พบปะสังสรรค์ ได้ทำบุญร่วมกัน และได้เล่นสนุกสนานรื่นเริงกันในยามบ่ายหลังจากการทำงาน

爆竹声声辞旧岁 欢天喜地迎新年

TSIS 2016 品味中国年

中国新年是农历正月初一，也叫春节。春节承载着中国传统文化和民族灵魂寄托，是中华民族几千年来最隆重、最富有中国特色的传统节日，也是世界上所有华人心目中最重要日子。春节到了，意味着春天的来临，一年伊始，万象更新。在这辞旧迎新的美好时刻，伴随着吉祥喜悦，泰新加坡国际学校的所有领导、师生和家长欢聚一堂，欢声笑语迎新年！共同感受春天的气息，共同领略中国年的祥和氛围。

年是一抹风景。看啊，挂灯笼、贴春联、放鞭炮，整个校园张灯结彩，洋溢着节日的喜庆。同学们都穿上了新衣服，在春的舞台上翩跹起舞，每个人的脸上都挂着快乐的笑容。年是一盏灯，照亮游子回家的路；年是一道菜，家人聚在一起，其乐融融地品尝着美酒佳肴；年是一条彩带，维系着每个华人心中永恒的亲情；年是风，年是雪，年是吐着热气的呼吸，年是倒贴的福字，年是热腾腾的年夜饭，年是盛况的春节晚会，把问候和祝福捎给每一盏不眠的灯花，把温馨和感动注入每一个敞开的心扉；年是一首歌，歌声在校园的上空回荡，

带着生机，蕴含着希望！为了新的一年，努力！为了新的明天，奋斗！

年是一艘大船，硕果累累的 2015 即将过去，满怀希望的 2016 正向我们走来。值此新春来临之际，为了向长期以来支持和关心 TSIS 的各位家长致以美好的祝愿和真挚的感谢，学校隆重举行此次以爱为主题的节日庆典，并发放红包。感谢老师们的辛勤耕耘，祝福同学们的快乐成长。春节活动是一场盛宴，是一种文化的传承和情谊的积淀，每个成员都沐浴着这个大家庭温馨而不竭的力量，新的一年，新的企盼，让我们携手踏进崭新的春天，满载丰收喜悦，憧憬美好明天！



Science Fair and Environmental Education

On 25th February this term we had our annual Science Fair. Everyone had a fun and educational day visiting the various stations around school and taking part in different experiments. Highlights from Upper Primary included: the 'Red Cabbage Acid-based Test' in which students used red cabbage extract as a litmus test to explore the pH levels of different liquids and solids; the 'Heat Reaction Experiment' which involved measuring temperature changes of different objects after chemical reactions to determine whether exothermic or endothermic processes had taken place; and the 'Candle Carousel', which demonstrated how hot air can be used to create motion.



The highlight of the day was the environment workshop led by Teacher Shooka from the Ian Somerhalder Foundation, a charity that aims to empower and educate people to positively impact the planet and its creatures. She talked about where our plastic waste goes and we watched a video following the life of a plastic bottle as it made its way across the Pacific Ocean to join the 10 million tonnes of plastic dumped in our seas every year. She spoke about how important it is for us to reduce our plastic waste and gave us some great ways to do this:

- (1) Use reusable containers, bags, straws and bottles instead of single-use items;
- (2) Refuse plastic – say “No, thank you” when you are offered plastic bags that you don’t need; and
- (3) Recycle whatever you can.



Our Lower Primary students enjoyed 8 different activities, which were led by members of the Junior Student Council. One of the most popular experiments was the 'Lava Lamp' station which taught about the density of water with food colouring and oil and what magic can take place with the introduction of Alka-Seltzer tablets. And of course, no self-respecting science fair would be complete without the classic 'Volcano' station!

To help us reduce our plastic consumption, Teacher Shooka is judging a contest where students will design a bag highlighting the problems with plastic and the state of our world. She will award the winners with their very own bag.

By Melissa Rielly



K2 Assembly: Welcome aboard

TSIS Airlines!

The airways that strives to shine & broaden minds!



The TSIS Airways passengers boarded their flight on Tuesday, 15th March. They were shown to their seats by the very attentive and professional flight crew where they browsed through their inflight magazine to see what entertainment was on offer. The passengers fastened their seat belts, sat back and relaxed, ready to enjoy their around the world trip of a lifetime!



Flight K2R departed on time at 9am and headed west towards its first destination, South America. Teacher Evelyn, Teacher Chambee and K2 Respectful enjoyed learning all about Argentina, a massive South American nation with terrain encompassing the Andes Mountains and glacial lakes. The students learnt about the country's famous dance – the tango – and the passion that South Americans have for their colourful festivals. A trip to Argentina wouldn't be complete without acknowledging the worldwide football success the country has enjoyed over the years.

The onward flight K2G departed Argentina and headed north to the

United States of America. Teacher Richelle and Teacher Ann took K2 Gracious on a journey to learn all about Teacher Richelle's home country, which is made up of 50 states with Alaska in the extreme Northwest and Hawaii extending the nation's presence into the Pacific Ocean. K2 Gracious enjoyed performing to global pop hits and hula dancing to the sounds of Hawaii.



Next stop, Europe! Flight K2CH left the USA and flew east towards Europe, heading for its third destination, Greece. Teacher Loretta, Teacher Edcel and K2 Cheerful enjoyed going back in time and learning about the country that is often called 'the birthplace of Western civilisation'. Athens remains the capital and still retains ancient landmarks. The students gained an understanding of the different clothing worn in ancient times and where the leading international sporting event – The Olympics – was born.



The fourth destination was Egypt, a Middle Eastern country in northeast Africa. Flight K2S landed after a smooth flight and Teacher Marcel,

Teacher Lois and K2 Sincere had fun learning all about a beautiful country dating back to the time of the pharaohs. They went back in time to when the colossal pyramids were built and had fun learning to walk like Egyptians and camels.

The onward journey took the well-travelled passengers to India. Flight K2L flew over the Himalayan peaks and had a smooth landing in the vast South Asian country, with a beautiful coastline and history reaching back five millennia. Teacher Kaye, Teacher Glenda and K2 Loving learnt all about India's rich heritage and culture, including Agra's iconic Taj Mahal mausoleum, the colourful textile industry and famous spicy cuisine.



Flight K2C flew their passengers to their final destination in Eastern Asia, South Korea. Teacher Lauren, Teacher Carmie and K2 Caring had lots of fun learning all about South Korea's green, hilly countryside that is dotted with cherry trees and centuries-old Buddhist temples. K2 Caring explored the diverse music Korea has to offer, from traditional dance to modern pop and learnt how to dance Gangnam style!

What a fantastic journey K2 went on. TSIS Airways truly enjoyed taking their passengers on this trip and they are looking forward to their next adventure.

By Lauren Welbourne



In the new gymnasium there were a variety of games for students to try their hands at and test their skills. However, the main event was outside. Here everybody got their chance to display their talents in football and basketball, and the competition was fierce! We also had teams battle it out in the *Tug o' War*, where strength and determination are key attributes. At the end of the day everybody was presented with ribbons as a token of their achievements and the winning team from each year group received a trophy. For those who didn't win, there's always next year!



The following day, Primary also began with a parade of team colours and a special dance performance by Primary 6. This helped get everybody geared up for the games and Principal Low gave some valuable advice about the meaning of competitiveness and being a good team player.



TSIS would like to thank Teachers Matt, Tin and Ake for organising such a successful event and also thank you to the parents who came to lend their support. Finally, congratulations to all the students who showed great competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

By John Thomson



Sportsmanship in Action!

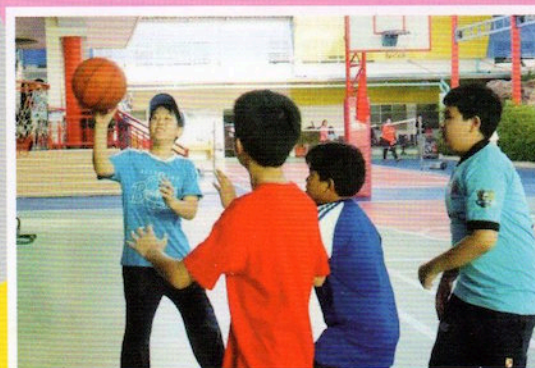
A great sports day was enjoyed by all on a warm January day this term. Nursery and Kindergarten enjoyed their day on Thursday, the 28th and Primary students competed on Friday, the 29th.



Our Nursery students enjoyed some special games in the morning with their parents invited to join in, and a fun time was had by all. They all got to try the Hula Hoop Race, a *Straw Relay* and later a *Piñata*! The purpose of the day was for everyone to have a great time and encourage physical exercise, so in the spirit of the games everyone received a ribbon recognising their efforts.



Kindergarten sports day kicked off with a Parade of Colours. Outside the students raced in both *Egg n' Spoon* and *Sack Race* competitions. They also showed off their skills with some *Bean Bag Tossing*. Inside there was a variety of fun activities from Bowling to Tower Building, through *Angry Birds* catapult to Ping Pong Ball Maze. It was a great chance for everyone to see the new gymnasium in the Grand Srinakarin Hall.





Celebrating Teachers' Day at TSIS

On Thursday 21st January 2016, we were introduced to Thai-Singapore International School's superb new facility – the Srinakarin Grand Hall. The event was the Wai Kru ceremony, internationally recognised as "Teachers' Day". Teacher Nathalie from N1 presented the NK ceremony and the Primary level celebration was hosted by Teacher Patrick from P3 Love.

After some welcoming words from Principal Low, management, administrative staff and teachers took to the stage to be greeted by students with flowers and the traditional bow. Our Nursery and

Kindergarten students beautifully chanted the 'Pleng Wan Wai Kru' then gave flowers to their teachers.

The Primary ceremony was very similar but also involved some individual performances from students. After the traditional ritual of the 'Wai' to all the primary teachers, Bua from P4 Faith bravely recited the traditional 'Pleng Wan Wai Kru', for the children to repeat, with real grace and expertise. All the teachers returned to the stage to hear 'Glowing Inside', led beautifully by Fruity and Tonnam from P4 Hope. They were trained by Teacher Giovanni from the fabulous TSIS music department. Finally, the

part the teachers love so much came, the receiving of the flowers! This year there were more than ever!

On behalf of all the teachers, thank you so much to all the parents and students for the beautiful tokens. It is a day that only Thailand observes in such a special and unique way. From the perspective of a foreign teacher living in Thailand, Wai Kru Day is an unforgettable experience which we will cherish in our memories forever.

By Francois Leopoldi



A Message from the Principal

2016 is going to be an exciting year.

We welcome the latest addition to our growing school facilities; the newly remodeled multiple-use hall. It has been tastefully converted to meet the ever-increasing demand for space at TSIS. Gone are the days when we had to celebrate some school functions in the open-air in front of the Amazing Grace Building. The hall is appropriately named the 'Srinakarin Grand Hall' as it is situated right beside the road of the same name.

On 5th February, we celebrated Chinese New Year in the Hall. I am pleased with the effort our Chinese Language teachers and students put in to create and perfect a variety of performances to celebrate the occasion. I am sure parents enjoyed watching the show in such a conducive environment.

In the future, the hall will be a venue for ECAs such as, Dance, Gymnastics and Table Tennis, amongst others. It will also provide the ideal setting for holding assemblies, conducting teacher training and staff meetings and for staging performances and other events.

At the beginning of Term 2, we recognized students who excelled in the Term 1 Final Examinations. The top 3 achievers from each class were presented with a certificate to reward their hard work. We encourage all our students to continue to strive to do their best in their studies.

Also, in Term 2, we have continued to focus on the values we wish to instill in the young people of TSIS. Teacher Dexter has been conducting the Character Development Program with every class to give students a more thorough understanding of the school values – Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Care and Harmony. It is our hope that students will reflect upon the values taught and embody them in their daily behaviour.

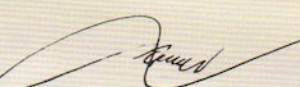
From 11th – 24th July this year, our pioneer batch of students in Primary 6 will be taking the International Primary School Leaving Examination (iPSLE). This is a bench-mark examination as it is authorised by the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board (SEAB) under the Ministry of Education, Singapore. All question papers are set and marked by SEAB and each candidate will receive a

certificate roughly 4 months after the examination. It is note-worthy that the school is sponsoring all fees related to the IPSLE. In addition, there will be free tuition given to the P6 students in EL, CL, Maths and Science.

Last but not least, I am pleased with the construction progress of our new three-level building, where soon, four Science laboratories, a canteen, hall, swimming pool and classrooms will be housed. With these additions, the school is well-placed to cater for our first batch of secondary students and the expanding primary. The building is expected to be completed by August 2016.

Thank you for your continued trust in us.

Yours in TSIS' service


Eng Kee Low (Mr.)

Principal



The Year of the Monkey on p. 1

danced to the music. There was non-stop action and the taking of photos and videos wore on as the happy audience tried to capture every moment of the celebration. It was an exciting beginning to another year ahead.

By Ves Tayco

