

Principals' Newsletter

Term 1 Week 9

Dear parents, staff, students and interested community members.

This Friday your child will bring home their first reports for this school year. They will also bring their portfolios home. Both documents are a reflection of how your child has progressed so far this year. They are very important documents and we stress the value they hold for your child.

The reports have a letter from myself included that explains the way we have assessed your child's performance and the areas to be aware of. In particular I wish to stress to all parents that as this is the first of the reports (you will receive 2 more over the school year), the grade itself is not the critical feature. The effort mark and general comments are very important and need to be focussed on as this is where your child will be able to improve their grades for next term.

The portfolios have a letter from myself as well which explains the way portfolios are developed with the child and how they become a visual representation of the child's progression over the year. Included in the letter is suggested ways you can view the portfolio with your child including questions to ask and how to praise the work with your child.

WE hope you are very proud of your child's achievements so far this year.

EAL News

I would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who participated in our last EAL parent information session – the students really enjoyed having their Mums and Dads join in with the language games!

The EAL program now consists of four different types of support:

1. *In-class support* – This support offers all students in the class more 'teacher' time because two teachers are in the class at the one time. The class teacher works very closely with myself to plan appropriate learning experiences to cater for different English proficiency levels in the class.
2. *'Survival English'* – This is a daily 35 minute withdrawal lesson, where students who are very new to English are taught new vocabulary and basic conversational English. At the moment, these students are completing a unit called 'My body' where they are learning about body parts and actions.
3. *Phonics* – This is a daily 15 minute withdrawal lesson for students from Year 4 upwards. Students participate in games and activities to develop their phonemic awareness. All the students have made huge improvements since the program began and are enjoying more reading success as a result.
4. *After School EAL Program* – This is a 1 hour session that runs on Wednesday afternoons as part of the ECA program. Students participate in games and activities to develop their oral language skills (speaking and listening).

We thank you for your continued support of the EAL program and look forward to keeping you updated about the improvements we are making as we progress through the year.

Below are a series of pictures that show our EAL students tracing their body and then labeling the body parts as part of extending their English vocabulary.



Happy English learning!

ECA and EAL News

A reminder that both ECA and EAL will resume the week beginning Monday 23rd.

Teacher Led Conferences

Letters regarding when you can book into a Teacher Led conference have been sent home. A reminder of when these conferences will be held:

Nursery and Reception – Friday 20th November from 9.00am until 12.00pm

Year 1 – Tuesday 17th November from 9.00am until 4.00pm

Year 2 – Monday 16th November from 11.00am until 4.00pm

Year 3 - Tuesday 17th November from 1.00pm until 4.00pm
 Year 4 and 5 – Monday 16th November from 9.00am until 12.00pm.

The IB Learner Profile is a series of 10 qualities that embody the ideal of an internationally minded person. Each week for the next 10 weeks, we will be running a Learner Profile theme of the week. This week's profile is;

Inquirers

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Have a fantastic week and keep smiling ☺

Yours Sincerely



Rob Stewart

Principal

Fortnightly Calendar

<i>Monday 2009/11/016</i>	<i>Tuesday 2009/11/17</i>	<i>Wed 2009/11/18</i>	<i>Thursday 2009/11/19</i>	<i>Friday 2009/11/20</i>
Term 2 commences Year 2 and 4/5 Teacher led conferences	Year 1 and 3 Teacher led Conferences Yoga class 9.30am Football Carnival at TIS		MYP to Suzhou	Nursery and Reception Teacher Led Conferences
<i>Monday 2009/11/23</i>	<i>Tuesday 2009/11/24</i>	<i>Wed 2009/11/25</i>	<i>Thursday 2009/11/26</i>	<i>Friday 2009/11/27</i>
ECA Resumes	Yoga class 9.30am	Teacher Led Conferences EAL Resumes	MYP to Suzhou ECA Resumes	