Dear Community,

I’m very happy to write a few words in way of introduction to the new school year book. We have decided to collate it during the first few weeks of the new academic year, because we believe that there is so much going on towards the end of the Summer, including productions and tournaments, that it would be a shame to miss them by publishing in July. As it is, the school has grown hugely during 2013-14. Numbers are rising, the new school building is going up floor by floor, and the school continues to offer more quality day by day. We remain devoted to educational research and continual professional development, and are changing our practice constantly in order to improve, reflecting best practice in the UK and overseas.

Our aim to become one of the best international schools in Penang is going well, and our developments planned for 2014-15 are exciting indeed, which includes the commencement of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, membership of key organisations internationally and an improvement in teaching and learning, which has resulted in the recruitment of even more excellent teachers from both Malaysia and overseas. We have streamed our Bahasa Melayu provision in order to raise standards and the staff and students are working very hard to give your children the best we have to offer. I hope you enjoy this year book, our first, and I would like to finish by thanking all the community for their hard work during the last year, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Charles Grayhurst

It has been an exciting year of development in the Primary School. We have grown in number and the children have been a delight for the whole year. Whilst the role of every school for children aged between three and eleven years old is to help children to develop their reading and writing skills, combined with basic numeracy and science knowledge, I feel that we go the extra mile at Straits and offer a truly unique curriculum, which children enjoy learning. As any teacher will tell you: when children enjoy coming to school, the rest is easy.

I love that we are able to engage children with books through our exciting Literacy programme and that we can offer children specialist teaching in Science, Music, Art and Languages. I am passionate that we are able to offer children cutting edge learning to children in Computing and that all of our students are able to experience sports and outdoor learning. I also enjoy the fact that we take a whole child approach to education, and in recognising the value of extra-curricular activities, school events, excursions and opportunities for service, we broaden the horizons of our children. I am particularly pleased that we are able to use our Straits Seven within our learning and that children are really taking on the meanings of the values that we try to encourage. I feel an equal amount of joy from seeing children engaged in simple situations, such as wearing their House shirts and eating together at lunch time or playing together on the field as I do from helping children to attain a good exam score or produce a great piece of writing. This is the key to success – both at Straits and in life.

I have seen each and every child in the Primary School grow and develop this year and look forward to helping them to continue their learning journey with us here at Straits. For those parents and children leaving us over the summer, I would like to offer my thanks and wish you luck in your future pursuits.

I would like to thank all the teachers, support staff, parents, guardians and children for helping to make 2013-14 a successful year in the Primary School at Straits and I already look forward to more excitement in 2014-15, which will see continued growth, more opportunity and a wealth of learning and enjoyment taking place in our proud school.

Wishing all of our community a thoroughly pleasant holiday.

Simon Greenhalgh
Last Row From Left: Mr. Dennis Lee, Mr. Shahrul Aftanizam, Ms. Serene Tan, Mr. Kam Yin Boey, Ms. Gilby Harland, Mr. Trevor Ferdy, Mr. Shahrul Hasfis, Mr. Alhaj Muhamed Shaik Daud

Middle Row From Left: Mr. Ali Q. Al-Faris, Mr. Tom Needham, Mr. Stephen, Ms. Elena Kathiraven, Ms. Veronica Yeoh, Mr. Wong Sze Ting, Ms. Nurin Najimina, Ms. Pavithra Sinnan, Ms. Yogeneswari Ambiga, Ms Dev Kumari

Seating Front Row From Left: Mr. Richard Power, Mr. T Narish Tamilarasan, Ms. Yogeswari Boghan, Mr. Simon Greenhalgh (Vice Principal), Mr. Charles Grayhurst (Principal) Ms. Vickneswari Raju, Ms. Soon Saw Imm, Ms. Pang Sook Yee, Ms. Rukhsana Zubaid

Standing Position From Left: Ms. Sheila Li Teh, Ms. Bee Hong Yoo, Ms. Tsang Pei Yin, Ms. Chan Li Lin
I learnt that teamwork is the most important thing for something to be a success. By working together closely and with some guidance from the teachers, we were able to produce the yearbook.

Carmen, Year Book Leader, Year 9

In future, our process might get faster so that we could make a yearbook before the end of year. It’s my first term joining year book club so I had no experience before, but now I have experience of how making a year book feels, so I would make everything faster if I joined next year. I've not seen the year book after completion so I hope it will be really nice and look very professional.

Brandon, Year 7

I felt like we worked as a team well and we were well organised in collaborating together to produce Straits International School's first yearbook. Thans to Mr Narish and Mr Ali who spent their time guiding us.

Chan, Year 9

I’m feel glad that I have learned how to be cooperative as a team. I need to thank this club for teaching me how to cooperate as a team to work for a purpose.

Thank you year book club!

Yang, Year 7

It is good to learn about leadership, and responsibility. I improved a lot with my typing skills and all the assessment had to completed by the end of the year. It was very challenging because time management is really important.

Jin Yao, Year 8

It was a good experience for being in Year Book club and I really enjoyed it and had good fun with my club mates. As the motto says:

by the students, for the students. I am proud to be a student of Straits involved in the creation of the yearbook.

Leeroy, Year 8
Form Tutor: Ms. Yogeneswari Ambiga

Seating Position From Left: Erik James Sherman, Humna Gohar Saeed, Jarrell Khoo Yu Heng, Kim Ji Won, Ansley Ong ern Xi, Elisa Chan Zi Yinn

Form Tutor’s Message

The students were nice, energetic and eager to learn. I was happy with their work this year and they always gave me their best. I really loved our ‘Draw and Tell’ sessions.

- Ms. Yogi-
Class: Reception  2014

Form Tutor : Ms. Serene Tan
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Vickneswari Raju

Standing Position From Left: Keigo Iizuka, Hariharan Jayasugunthan, Alfred Low Kai Jen, Jashraj Singh,
Rashed Jaber Almarri, Chen Si Han , Li Ren Long, Chang, Maxime Vanderreyken, Jefferson Tan Jun Shen

Seating Position From Left: Han So Yul, Eneshah binti Shah Mahal Khan, Trisha Bhattacharyya,
Wynne Chin Yirui, Evangeline Mayuri Thomas, Mrittika Vijayanand, Zoe Florence Greenhalgh,
Frances Grayhurst

Form Tutor's Message

It has been a wonderful journey to see them grow so much this year. Their sincerity and loving spirit
has touched my heart. My wish for them is that they grow up to be a fine young lady and man.

-Ms. Serene-
It has been a tough and challenging year. But it was an awesome experience to teach Year 1. I hope they will have more fun in next academic year for 2014-2015 session.

By Ms. Veronica

I have many friends in school. – Ram
I like the my friends. - Jude
This school is awesome! – Irfan
I love this school. – Elyas
It has been a very challenging year. It was indeed an experience nurturing Year 2. Just as the students, I had my learning curves too. Looking forward to many more challenges next academic year. Till then..... keep smiling.

-Ms. Dev -

I have many friends in school. – Kevin
I most enjoyed Activities time. - Brendan
This school is awesome! – Irfan
I like the school because I have some friends. – Venus
I love this school. – Celinda
I like this school because I have friends and fun and also clubs. -Alyssa
It was fun. I had lots of good activities, lessons and friends. - loan
I loved the sports day! - Mahadevan
I loved Art lessons and I have a lot of friends. - Eeo Min
I love mental maths because I love numbers! - Mahadeva
I loved PSHE because it is fun and we have lots of drawing and funny jokes. - Jie Yuee

Form Tutor: Ms. Pavithra Sinnanan

Standing Position From Left: Kim Tae Hee, Gomez Bernard Alexander, Amos Khor Shao Shun, Mahadeva Mugunthan

Seating Position From Left: Kim Min Gyeom, Tammy Tan Shien, Eeo Min, Iloan Grayhurst, Mahadevan Jayasugunthan

Thank you so much Year 3 + 4. It has been a wonderful year teaching this group of students. I had an enjoyable year full of fun and learning throughout the year. All the best for Year 3 and 4 next year.

- Ms. Pavithra -
Form Tutor: Ms. Pavithra Sinnanan

Standing Position From Left: Jeffrey Ilhan, Muhammad Danish Bin Bahurdin,

Seating Position From Left: Sogo Lizuka, Satoyoshi Takahashi, Dominic Cheah Yan Xun, Mrinalini Parthiban Moodliar

Thank you so much Year 3 & 4. It has been a wonderful year teaching this group of students. I had an enjoyable year full of fun and learning throughout the year. All the best for Year 3 and 4 next year.

-Ms. Pavithra-

It was fun. I had lots of good activities, and friends. - Danish

I love my PE Lessons! - Geoffrey

I loved football in PE - Sato

I enjoyed football during break activity - Sogo
Form Tutor: Mr. Kam Yin Boey

Standing Position From Left: Lee Kon Nie, Matthew Joel Lee Zi Hao, Desmond Voon, Won Pui Ern, Mikhaila Syahirah Binti Rosli, Jayan Abdullah Alarifi, Soon Tien Ee, Praavineesh Kumar Ganesh, Goh Zhen Shen

Seating Position From Left: Nur Adriana Izzati Bt Azman, Ashvin Kathiraven, Justyn Cloie F.Sampang, Woo Yen Nee, Ayush Amish Patel, Indeshwararaj Vijayanand

The year was amazing! - Ashvin
The year was nice. - Tien Ee
This year is so cool. - Zhen Shen
The most nice year with our teacher Mr. Kam. - Jayan
This year is so awesome! - Justyn
This year is so fun and awesome! - Izzati

Form Tutor’s Message

Thank you to everyone in Class SK for making this academic year very enjoyable and entertaining. I have had a lot of fun teaching you and hope that all of you have learned something useful to take with you into year 6. Good luck next year!

- Mr. Kam Yin Boey-
It’s been an exhausting year!  - Patrick
I have had fun this year!  - Karun K.
Wonderful year!  - Sean
Fun, awesome year.  - Lonnie
Have a nice year everybody.  - Charlotte P.
Super awesome year! Woohoo!  - Firdaus

Form Tutor’s Message

It’s been an exhausting year!
Good luck to the Year Six for the future
-Mr. Simon Greenhalgh -
Form Tutor: Ms. Gilly Harland
Co Tutor: Mr. Shahrul Hasfis

Standing Position From Left: Lee Do Hyung, Hannah Rose Lee Shu Wei, Ryan PuahZhi Yuan, Luvlynn Kaur, Sae Takahashi, Daphne Yap Junyi, Ayumi Watanabe, Eugenia Cheah Nian Jie

Seating Position From Left: Hew Zheng Yang, Danny Yeoh Chuin Chen, Brandon Lim Ee Zhung, Chuah Wei Yang

Year 7 are a challenging class. There are so many different characters and they have grown a lot since the beginning of the year. I’ve noticed they have become more collaborative. A great class.

- Ms. Gilly-

My message for my 13 to keep studying and have a good moment to the teacher. As a student you should have a good attitude with you and show your interest in any classes you attempt.

- Mr. Mohd Shahrul-

This school year is awesome! - Eugenia
This school year was very fun! - Luvlynn
I really enjoy myself and Ms Gilly is a good teacher. - Brandon
I enjoyed this school year. - Wayne
Nice school year. Enjoyed myself. - Ryan
I really enjoy this school year. - Yang
Our teachers are all very nice and this class is awesome. - Carmen

The teachers are very nice, they use different techniques to teach us and my school life is awesome. - Wei Ki

The teachers are friendly and this is the best school life in my entire life! - Leeroy

This school is very nice and the teachers are very friendly. I enjoyed studying in this school. - Jin Yao

This school is awesome, the teachers and students here care for each other and they are always willing to help others when they are in need. I love this school so much! - Thievya

Year 8 have been a bunch of charming, lovely and gossipy individuals who are now ready for all the fun of Year 9. Good luck and all the best. - Mr. Trevor

Year 8 were a nice group of students this year. I wish them all the best for the future. - Mr. Shahrul
This year is an awesome year with my little Year 9 studies. We had fun in Thailand, and they did well in their studies and performance. Well done, year 9! You are the best!

- Ms. Pang-

It has been a fun year with Year 9. They all have unique personalities and they made my days at school very enjoyable. Bon Chance!

- Mr. Stephen-

Not bad. - Daniel

Fun school life, not that boring. - Dave

Get to experience new things! - Derrick

Very cool, I love to study and have fun at Straits! - Chan

A rapidly growing community. - Brian

Exquisite people. - Yee

Awesome time in Thailand, learnt many things. Awesome! - Myra

I like all the new experiences, it is so fun! - Tun

Learnt many new things that I never learn before. - Sheng
A year of new beginnings, a year of new challenges: Year Ten have worked hard and achieved much over the last three terms. Now over half way through their iGCSE courses, the final push towards the end begins. But let’s not get ahead of ourselves; let’s not forget their memorable first year in Key Stage 4.

The start of the year saw the group almost double in size as we welcomed Cher Ryn, Jason, Lynette, Jun and Victor into year 10. After the end of the second term, Sean and Clarissa joined to complete the group. After speaking to them all, it seems that challenge week was the highlight. Although I couldn’t attend, I have heard hilarious stories of capsizing rafts and water-based chaos; swarms of ravenous, flesh eating mosquitos and teachers losing both their footing and their dignity! I know that they all returned wiser, stronger and more willing to overcome adversity than before.

As the top year in the school, they have been great role models for the younger students and have really shown themselves to be conscientious, diligent and well-mannered young adults. They should all be proud of the way that they behave around the building and the many ways that they help the years below them.

As the year ends and they move into year 11, I wish them the best of luck in what will be the most important year of their education so far.

-Mr. Tom & Ms. Yogeswari Boghan-
We held the Inter-House Football competition in September. What a way to kick-off the year! Many new students had joined the school which made for an exciting atmosphere around the field as the Houses battled it out for an early lead in the House Competition.

Nervous but brave, we fought strong and hard and when it ended, we were tired and satisfied. We were competitive but remembered to be friendly towards the opposition. By the end, we were all laughing and smiling and lay exhausted on the floor.

A glorious day. Never to be forgotten.

By Justyn Cloie F. Sampang, Year 5
The U11 football tournament took place at Uplands International School, Batu Ferringhi. The team members were Indesh, Ashvin, Karun, Zhen Shen, Nicholas, Sean, Patrick, Tristan, Pravinesh and Lonnie. In the first match of this tournament, SIS took on the hosts of the match, Uplands with strong attack from Patrick, Karun, Ashvin and Lonnie and great defence from Indesh and Tristan lead the team to a 1-0 victory.

Following a short break, the next match was against SCIPS B team. It was challenging but the team kept their pride and started to gain more and more chances of shooting. Finally the team’s victory was confirmed when the winning goal was kicked by Lonnie and the whistle blew for the end of the match.

After a super long wait of 2 hours the team finally got onto the field and took on the final match of the tournament. It was the one to decide first and second place. In this match was against Dalat. The match was very tough for the team but they did not lose hope. The team tried their very best on this match but sadly with final shot Dalat scored, placing them first and second. This was a tournament to remember.

By Indeshwararaj, Year 5
Horse Riding

As we all know on Saturday, November 30, 2013, we all went to the countryside stables, for our 2nd Social Event. Everyone had a great time there, watching the horses and riding the horses. I had a great time there and had lots of fun with everyone else. We all gathered at the school at 9:30 and left for the stables at 10:00 am.

The ride was very long and very bumpy. But still I thought everyone had fun on the ride. We arrived at the stables at 11:00 am. The guide there gave us some tips around the stable. He also gave us some warning tips like never walk behind a horse. Besides horses, there were deer and goats. There were snakes there too. The horse riding events were very enjoyable and there was a big queue.

Everyone wanted to feed the horses carrots. There were many horses at the stable, from different places and different cross breeds too. The people there showed us how to take care of a horse, groom it, and brush it. The snacks were very nice, and everyone had to stop and eat. Then it began to rain.

Quickly everyone ran to the stables area. We spent the rest of the day looking at the horse, talking and playing games. Soon it was time to leave, but no one wanted to, but after feeding the horses one more time we all got into the bus and went back to school. We thank Mr.Stephan for arranging this event.

By Indeshwararaj, Year 5

Rising Star

A month after moving to Malaysia to train at the Nicol David Squash Centre and pursue my dream of being one of the world’s best squash players whilst living with my coach and mentor, Aaron Soyza, I have now been given the status as being the number one in Papua New Guinea.

This has given squash some popularity in PNG and somewhat popularity to my name back home. Achieving one goal of being number one in my country has pushed me to become a better squash player, professionally on the world stage. Making the Commonwealth team and being the youngest athlete in the PNG contingent was truly astounding. It was an honour to represent my country at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014, which commenced from July 18th-28th. My first match was against the World number two, Laura Massaro of England, who was also one of my favourite players on circuit, second to Nicol David.

My parents were always by my side coaching and supporting me because they understood the amount of pressure and nerves I was under. Having the opportunity to play on the centre court with a huge crowd, and mixing around with the world’s best was an experience that I will never forget at the Commonwealth Games. After the Games, I went for my first World Junior Championships in Namibia, Africa where I got to be recognised and meet other highly ranked talented squash players from Egypt, England, Peru and many more- there were 17 other countries that participated in the Championship.

I am very grateful of the support and encouragement I got from my friends and teachers in school, very keen to know about the tournaments I had coming up. Mr. Charlie was very kind, keeping in touch with my parents wanting to know what day my competition would start, also offering to come down to watch me play in Glasgow, where he also having his holidays in Scotland. Straits have definitely shown how committed and supportive and also how much they care about students’ performances in school or outside of school, and I’m glad that I am a part of this community.

By Lynette, Year 10
What is Cricket? Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players each on a field. Each team takes its turn to bat, attempting to score runs, while the other team try to get the ball. Cricket was first played in southern England in the 16th century and by the end of the 18th century, it had developed to be the national sport of England. SIS (Straits International School) had held a House cricket competition on 21st of February, Friday at the PDC Field next to our school. Students competed together against other House Teams in 2 divisions (Years 3-6 and Years 7-10). The teams were Harimau, Naga, Burung Kenyalang and Rusa.

The first set of games began at approximately 1:30pm and we were expected to be finished at 3:30pm. All House teams had their own house T-shirts, Harimau-white, Naga-red, Burung Kenyalang-yellow and Rusa-blue. After all the competition between all Houses had finished, Mr Kam (house Co-ordinator) announced the results. The winners in the Primary were Naga and followed by Harimau, Burung Kenyalang and Rusa. In the secondary section, Harimau was first and followed by Rusa, Burung Kenyalang and Naga.

For the total of house points, Harimau got 70 house points in total, Naga with a total of 60 house points, followed by Burung Kenyalang and Rusa who both received 50 house points each. Parents were invited to the competition. The Students went back to school before they were signed out by their form tutors and taken home at 3:45pm. Nursery to Year 2 students watched the competition from 2:30 – 3:30pm and were picked up from SIS at the usual time.

By: Jasper , Year 8
School is a great place to try new things—joining clubs available in our school and get involved in planning. In Straits International School, we are offering the opportunity for our students to shine and take that step in becoming the future leaders of the world in our Student Council team.

A student council takes on the responsibility of representing the whole student body. The Strait Student Council voices the needs, wants, and concerns of the student body to the administration (i.e., principals and teachers). They are also responsible for encouraging school spirit through initiating school spirit events such as a school carnival or spirit week (a week filled with events that students could take part in like a jello eating contest, a dance competition, SIS idol, etc).

Their first project will be a fund raising event run entirely by the student council members in May to benefit those who are in need.

The Student Council managed two games stalls at the Charity Fair, “Hotshot” and “Roll and Win.” There were also still a lot of stores and all the coupons used were donated to the fair.

All the money collected was donated to the Eden Handicapped Centre for their free services in order to aid for handicapped people all around Penang.

Eden Handicapped Centre is a non-profit organization which was founded in 1991.

Throughout these two years, I have found myself a changed person. I am no longer the same quiet, reserved girl that shies away from responsibilities and people. Take a good look at the teachers and the Principal before you, for these are the people—needless to say, in addition to my family—with their unwavering support—who have transformed and shaped me into a confident young woman that you see now. Without whom I wouldn’t have the courage to stand before you today. Now, I am capable of speaking my mind and expressing my opinions; I have changed and it is a change for the better.

During my time in the Student Council, I am proud to say that we have organized and executed events successfully, naturally there are always some minor setbacks that need dealing with but otherwise it was a success nonetheless. I’ve learned to lead people; I’ve learned to deal with people, I’ve learned to plan and execute events, and most importantly I’ve learned that it does not matter how many times or how hard you fall, what matters is how well and how fast you can recover, to once again take your rightful place among winners to face life again.

Being a pioneer in this school, I have been fortunate enough to witness the gradual transformation and growth of the school. From silent classrooms to busy corridors, I have seen it all. Although now and then I miss the tranquil atmosphere of before, I still treasure the daily buzz of excitement that seems to accompany each day. I love to see students and teachers alike interacting well with one another, as a school, as a community. Before I leave you, I hope that Straits International School would carry on promoting the idea of community and solidarity, each time larger and grander than before, for it is truly an ideal worth living by.

By Brandon, Year 7

By Tricia Ho, Year 10
President of Student Council
SIS is firmly committed to our students learning about the idea of service. During the past term, students were given a chance to help out at a local recycling centre. They not only managed to help sort out recycling materials, but they found out along the way about how each of the items were transformed from rubbish to something useful. Students were very impressed to see how the centre is able to make shirts out of normal plastic bottles, tissue paper from old newspapers and letters and blankets from old cassette tapes. Not only were these items produced from old unwanted materials, but the centre helps out the community that is in need by providing these items to natural disaster victims. They certainly feel very proud of themselves for helping to provide for the local community, even though it is only the beginning of the process. Already our help is stretching out across the wider world.

March 15th was a magical day for Straits with our second International Day. The international atmosphere at the school resembled the World’s Fair as children and adults alike partook of the food and activities from a myriad of countries within our own humble campus. Sorting out the decorations, organizing the stalls, classrooms, activities and arranging the schedule were all put into place by our students. With the teachers guiding them, each country was beautifully set up and the food was scrumptious. Of course, a huge thanks to all parents who had contributed to this event and it was the food that made the day possible. Overall, we collected a total of RM5000 as a donation towards Rumah Charis Home for the Aged in Relau. We had our formal cheque presentation in front of Penang’s Chief Minister, Lim Guan Eng, together with a representative from Rumah Charis, Ms. Janette, as well as our Principal, Charles Grayhurst, some members of our SIS Board of Directors and our Student Council representatives.

The Student Council is currently in the midst of finalising their games booth for their next service activity. Eden Handicap Annual Food Fair happening right after our Easter Holiday on the 26th of April. They have managed to set-up two games stalls and are looking for sponsors for a food stall. They are definitely excited to run this event and hope to raise as much as they can to help out the needy.

Future plans include a monthly visit to Rumah Charis Home for the Aged, Eden Handicap Children’s Centre and their recycling centre. Visits will be conducted on a schedule basis where as many students as possible will experience the joy of giving and making their lives count in every soul they touched through our service-based learning.

By Mr. Dennis
SPOR_THS
HOUSES
Harimau

As a house, Harimau have improved on their team working skills and independence. At the beginning of the academic year in 2013, Harimau were a bit disjointed, as they struggled to unite as a team and lacked confidence to speak out. Over time, through meetings and encouragement, the students of Harimau united together and began chanting for their own house mates during competitions.

The first in-house competition, football, didn’t quite go as planned as we lost, but they weren’t sore losers. It seemed that this gave them the ammunition to improve for the next competition. When ‘kwik cricket’ came along, Harimau were all fired up and ready to go.

There were plenty of cheers and as a team we came first. The last competition, which involved a sports day with lots of different challenging activities, we were the top dog!! I know, we are actually cats, but you know what I mean.

This gave Harimau bundles of confidence, and even though we have not won an end of term pizza party for the most house points, we are certainly on the right track.

Go Harimau!!!

By Ms. Gilly, Harimau House Leader

Naga

“Together we fall, together we stand, together we win, and winners take all.” The Naga Team has sweet and collaborative members. They can achieve more because they always cheer for other members during any competitions. They don’t have a “super hero” in NAGA but they always work together to complete any competition.

During the sports day, they worked very well as a team to achieve second place in the House relay. Secondary students took care of primary students, there was no pushing and no complaints during the competition. Primary NAGA also did well in the house cricket taking first place in the tournament. Despite some players being injured, NAGA members still completed all the games, showing great commitment and resilience.

NAGA also got the highest House Point award during the house football competition. They enjoyed playing football very much, getting great pleasure from running, passing and catching the ball on the field.

In the coming year, they will improve their academic performance to get more house points from all subject teachers. As well as maintaining their performance in the sport arena.

By Ms. Pang, Naga House Leader
Rusa

I have always thought of Rusa as being a family, and it’s been two years since I first walked into a Rusa’s house meeting – full of energetic students and teachers. For me, the last two years have been the best that I could ever have had at school and Rusa has been more than a big part of that.

Rusa House sport was absolutely phenomenal this year – and nothing could have made me happier as a sports enthusiast than seeing the Rusa team come good on so many different occasions. More though, the effort put in by each house member amazed me throughout the year. Rusa’s overall point collection was 4418 points by the end of Academic Year 2013/2014. Our best achievement last year was to be able to collect 250 points during the Sports Day.

We also managed to collect more points from Book Week Competition (96), Science Day Competition (50), Football Competition (30) and House Kwik Cricket (80).

The member of Rusa continued its impressive successes, with outstanding members performances from all those involved and a huge amount raised for charity – in no small part, due to the fundraising and organisational efforts of our charity committee members during International Day celebrated by the school community.

By Mr. Shahrul Afzanizam, House Leader

Burung Kenyalang

The year 2014 marks an important date for the Burung Kenyalang team as the team celebrates most House Points for Terms 2 and 3 and overall champions for the 2013-2014 academic year. I am particularly happy and impressed with the students, not because of the winning, but most importantly the level of commitment and hard work put up by the students in various competition and class participation. Having spoken to individually of the house member, I concluded that most of the members have a better sense of belonging to the group and have enjoyed the fun and excitement of various house house tournament held. Having said that, I believe that the House’s Team building Day held earlier last year set a correct tone for the year.

Through the House’s Team Building Day I could see a stronger bond and trust between the Secondary and Primary school students. I would also like to thank the constant support and encouragement given by teachers to the Burung Kenyalang team, and I would say that that made a big difference in building confidence among the teammates. Through observation, I could sense that halfway through the academic year, students were starting to believe more in themselves and that actually impels them to commit more in lesson and competition. I believe that our role as a mentor is to harness goodwill of commitment from the students and we felt that our community are doing a good job on it. I would like to conclude that the whole idea of working to create a community is very exciting to me and I look forward to seeing what happens in the coming terms.

By Mr. Woon, House Leader
During the 2013-14 academic year, Straits continued to develop the U9s and U11s Boys Football teams through a number of friendly local tournaments, playing games against Tenby, Dalat, SCIPS and Uplands. The U11s Boys Football team, in particular, progressed throughout the year after a disappointing result in their first tournament of the year. Considering the amount of time and the limited number of players available, both teams did an excellent job in representing the school whenever they played, showing great determination and dedication to the team.

Under the guidance of Mr. Tom, Straits also formed a Secondary Boys Football team for the very first time and they participated in a hard fought friendly game against POWIIS. Even though students were disappointed with the final result, they thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of competitive football against another school team.

Sports teams at Straits are now known as ‘Straits Dragons’ and will have their own dedicated page on our school website this academic year. This follows other International school traditions in Penang, for example, SCIPS Scorpions and Tenby Tigers.

Although some PE lessons were affected by the weather, students were able to go outside on most occasions to get some much needed time away from the classroom environment. Each year group took part in a range of exciting sports including Touch Rugby, Netball, Rounders, Kwik Cricket, Basketball and Athletics (running events). Unfortunately, Year 10 was only able to participate in PE once a week due to their increased timetable after choosing IGCSE subjects for year. Key Stage 1 students also enjoyed some Free Play at the PDC field during their shorter PE lessons as it was the only time that they had the opportunity to be outside and explore the natural environment.

Looking to the future, Straits Dragons will be represented by a number of different teams that will compete in friendly games and competitions against teams from other International schools in and out of Penang. This year, students will compete in U11s, U13s and U15s Boys Football, U13s Girls Netball and U15s Boys Basketball. This is an exciting time for the Straits Dragons teams as a new school kit has just arrived for our U11s, U13s and U15s Football teams. I am looking forward to a year packed full of sports fixtures for our students.

By Mr. Kam
Sports Coordinator & Head of Activities
Early Years and KS1 students experienced yet another exciting and informative Challenge Week this year. Challenge Week is one of the core programmes at Straits International. It encourages students to experience and learn from independent and group activities in and out of the normal school environment.

Day 1 of the Challenge Week was an exciting trip to Bukit Merah Eco Park. Students travelled in a chartered bus to Bukit Merah. Bukit Merah Eco Park is rich in information about the environment and wildlife. The most interesting part of this trip was visiting the Orang Utan Island. To get there, students were taken in a boat. Students learnt about the natural Habitat and the survival skills of an Orang Utan. A walk around the Eco Park allowed the students to experience hands-on experience in feeding animals.

For the second day, the students of KS1 visited the Charis Home for The Aged. The students had a great time taking care of the elderly there. The activity; colouring with the elderly was enjoyed both by the students and the elders. The elders stated that they had fun spending time with little children as it helps them to relax better. To top the visit there, the students performed a play – Jack and the Beanstalks. The Early Years students spent their day with their teachers and parents creating posters based on Straits 7. This allowed them to express their creativity and had bonding time with their parents.

Kidland was our destination on our third day. Both Early Years and KS1 students boarded two buses to the destination, Perangin Mall, Penang. Students had fabulous fun there as they were able to experience various job-skills such as, police, army, fireman, musician, magician and many others. At the end of the day, students were able to proudly tell one another what they have learnt and experienced.

On the fourth day, both EYFS and KS1 students gathered at the PDC field in the morning for a good session of Mini-Olympics. Activities such as sprinting, long jump, balancing walk, obstacle run and dribbling were prepared for the children. Team work was the key focus for the day is to encourages students to work as a team. The days events taught students that winning and losing is a part of a game.

The final day of Challenge Week, took the EYFS and KS1 students to Metropolitan Park – a team building day. Various challenging activities were organized for the students to perk up their team work spirit. Activities such as passing the hula-hoop while holding hands, the monkey and the ball and various others helped students to work along one another. Students also enjoyed a picnic lunch that day by sitting as a group and exchanging funny incidents and lessons. As for the final day night, the students of KS1 had a sleepover in school. After a pizza party and a movie, students returned to their classroom. The girls had some time for their pillow talk discussing from fashion to their favourite cartoon while the boys were busy comparing their favourite superheroes.

As a conclusion, the Challenge Week 2013/14 was indeed a great experience for students and teachers. Learning to work along with one another and compromise with the needs and wants of peers was present for the whole week. Though it was a very energy draining week, students did have fun and went home with bigger experiences and memories.

By Ms. Yogeneswari & Ms. Dev Kumari
CHALLENGE WEEK

Year 5 & 6

BORNEO

Students Diary entry- Patrick-Monday (26/05/2014)

I woke up today at 6.30am and got ready, brushed my teeth and put on my house shirt and waited until loan and Frances got ready. I got my luggage ready the day before. My mom, dad and I got ready and left before the traffic got worse. My mom and I went inside the airport and the first thing that came to my head was, “I am going to be alone”. I just consoled myself by saying that as a boy I shouldn’t have to worry and I will be surrounded by some other boys as well. There were about 5 to 10 students and most of them were on their phones and Mathew was there for welcoming me. We took group pictures and checked-in the luggages. We got onto the plane. Sean was on my left and Charlotte on my right.

Students Diary entry- Nikitha -Tuesday (27/05/2014)

Today we did project work. After breakfast we walked to the tip of Borneo to see the white sandy beach where the sea water there was unpolluted and as clear as crystal. We took some pictures. After that we went to the beach and built some sand castles. We were not allowed to swim in the beach. I dug a big hole in the sand and put all the crabs inside just like to make home for them. I had fun by catching the crabs. After that we went back to the camp to have our lunch. We went to the gong making factory after lunch and we experienced how the gongs were made. I bought some souvenirs. After that we went back to the camp and played volleyball. At night we prepared for the performance. The girls sang Frozen song and we performed the Harlem Shake dance.

Students Diary entry- Mikhaila-Wednesday (28/5/2014)

Matthew woke me up today. I brushed my teeth and took a bath before having my breakfast. Today we went to the tip of Borneo to see the white sandy beach where the sea water there was unpolluted and as clear as crystal. We took some pictures. After that we went to the beach and built some sand castles. We were not allowed to swim in the beach. I dug a big hole in the sand and put all the crabs inside just like to make home for them. I had fun by catching the crabs. After that we went back to the camp to have our lunch. We went to the gong making factory after lunch and we experienced how the gongs were made. I bought some souvenirs. After that we went back to the camp and played volleyball. At night we prepared for the performance. The girls sang Frozen song and we performed the Harlem Shake dance.

Students Diary Entry- Nikitha -Friday (30/5/2014)

Today was our last day in Borneo. We had a bus ride to the city of Kota Kinabalu. It was a long bus ride. We had our lunch at a very nice restaurant. Later we did some shopping in some small shops. I bought a few items. Later we went to the mall. We did some shopping there as well. Finally, we reached the airport to go back to Penang. We had our dinner on the flight. That was the end of our Challenge Week.
In June 2013, once again, Straits International School celebrated its Challenge Week for the second time. With enthusiasm and high spirits, 14 students from Year 7 and 11 students from Year 8, accompanied by two teachers, gathered on Bintan Island, Indonesia, ready to be challenged through a host of activities arranged for them by a resort known as Loola Adventure Resort. These students were challenged mentally and physically for five consecutive days. The objectives of this year’s Challenge Week were:

1. Develop attitude and teamwork
2. Enhancement of communication and co-operation
3. Increase commitment in leadership
4. Build trust amongst team member.
5. Create harmonious working relationship and accelerate integration.

One of the teams is preparing for the Dragon Boat race.

Challenge Week 2014 - Bintan Island: The students of Year 7 and Year 8.

The competition is on. Everyone really put the effort to win this challenge.

This was one of the activities that the students had to participate in energetic teams of students racing dragons on Loola shore – that sounds pretty cool. Even though they were not real dragons when you’re caught up in the thrill of the competition, you could feel the vibration. The objectives of this activity were to present a realistic problem solving situation, to be able to set and meet realistic and common goals, and to also highlight the importance of effective communication and leadership. We have video evidence of them being pretty uncoordinated at the start of a race.

The task for this community service was to help a local business to install a proper underground water piping system in some of the locals backyards. The briefing and duty delegation were conducted by one of the facilitators. Our students managed to carry out their duties as instructed without complaint. The teamwork shown by the students was highly commendable.

Service learning benefits numerous parties, from the schools to the agencies to the communities and society but overall, it is the students who need and receive the most gain. Service learning was introduced into schools on the premise that students would evince academic gains from their volunteering efforts. Indeed, current research indicates that much can be derived from using volunteer work for educational purposes.

By Mr. Shahrul & Ms. Gilly
The ‘out of school’ educational programme offered was extensive, with the key elements being outdoor activities and academic fieldwork. Students also went to Banluang School as part of the service-related community project, to assist in building their new library.

The aim of the trip was the ‘5Cs’: Challenge, Collaboration, Community service, Confidence and Caring.

CHALLENGE
I found out that I was great at climbing and that I held the fastest record among our school. -Daniel, Year 9-

During the confidence course, even though I fell into the water, I never gave up and finished the course. -Sean, Year 10-

The archery activity was the most challenging for me because the bow was different from my previous experience, and it was quite hard to shoot. -Dave, Year 9-

COLLABORATION
I learned to collaborate with a group when doing the water quality research activity. -Chan, Year 9-

During raft building and rafting, I learned to listen to other people’s ideas. -Daniel, Year 9-

I collaborated with my teammates to steer the raft in various directions. -Derrick, Year 9-

We passed on messages through actions and worked well as a team during the Sala games. -Brian, Year 9-

COMMUNITY SERVICE
The community project helped me to understand and appreciate the hard work put in to provide facilities like a library. It was an experience that made me realise many things and made me more appreciative of what I have. -Cher Ryn, Year 10-

The community project was the most interesting activity for me. We helped to build the new library and played football with the primary students after the project was finished. -Jason, Year 10-

CONFIDENCE
I kept trying to jump and grab the rope to go to the other side, even though I fell down into the water. -Aeem, Year 10-

Although it was frightening on the high ropes course, when I completed it, I felt very happy and gained more confidence. -Cher Ryn, Year 10-

The most successful activity was kayaking because I could work my muscles and control the kayak well. -Jason, Year 10-

I finished the confidence course twice without getting wet. -Yee, Year 9-

CARING
When I fell down, my friends helped to pull me out of the water. -Tun, Year 9-

We clapped for those who failed, and helped anyone who was injured. -Jun, Year 10-

During rock climbing, I learned how to be more caring towards people. -Sean, Year 10-

We tried to care for friends who were on the course and cheered them on. -Myra, Year 9-
FANTASTIC MR. FOX

SIS Production

Roald Dahl is the UK’s most famous children’s author whose books have been enjoyed by children and adults alike for more than thirty years. Our light-hearted play version of “Fantastic Mr. Fox”, one of his most popular works, tells the tale of a community of underground animals who finds their very existence threatened by three greedy evil farmers!

Please feel free to cheer and boo the characters as you might in British pantomime!

The young animals at the front of the stage will help guide your reactions!

Narrator: Saad Abdullah Alarifi
Mr. Fox: Yee Heng Zeh
Mrs. Fox: Tiew Ya Meng
Fox Children: Danny Yeoh Guan Chen, Farheen Nur, Shekha, Hannah Rose Lee Shui Wei, Ryan Pung Lizhe Tian
Badger: Derick Loo Zhong Yang
Boggis: Daniel Lim Hau
Runcie: Brian Seow Kovan Sern
Rat: Myra Jayst Yuen
Mabel: Le Pearlyn Kaur

Young Animals Year 1: Amos Khoe Ille, Min. Joyn Grayhurst
Young Animals Year 2: Dominc Cheah Yan Xin, Soo Rizuka, Arinalini
Young Animals Year 4: Dominik Cheah Yan Xin, Soo Rizuka, Arinalini
Young Animals Year 5: Dominic Cheah Yan Xin, Soo Rizuka, Arinalini

Chicken: Rais: Patrick Grayhurst, Karlin Kathiraven, Nikitha
Farm Workers: Saivarinathan, Sean Ho Wei Wen, Nicholas Wong, Tian Quan, Lapawadee Huang - Fooloy
We were extremely fortunate to be able to have our whole school community attend the End of Year Gala event at Penang Performing Arts Centre in June.

We witnessed the children from the school being given their graduation certificates and for those students who had performed exceptionally in certain areas, there were rewards as part of the Annual Prize Giving Ceremony. I would like to thank our distinguished board members for their attendance at the show and their help in handing out prizes to the students.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many children and staff, we were treated to an amazing musical performance of Roald Dahl’s Fantastic Mr Fox, which was performed immaculately by all the young actors and actresses involved.

We also enjoyed performances from the EYFS children and songs by Key Stage One and the school choir.

It was a truly magnificent event that we hope to build upon year by year.

A huge thank-you to all of our community for supporting this event and to the students and staff who helped to make the day possible. We look forward to more from next year’s gala event.

By Mr. Simon Greenhalgh
Straits International School

1-Square, Tingkat Mahsuri 1, Penang Cybercity, 11950 Bayan Lepas, Penang Malaysia

T: +604 643 1815
F: +604 611 5969
E: info@sisgroup.edu.my
W: www.straitsschool.edu.my