2015 YEAR BOOK

by the students
for the students
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Dear SIS Community,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2014/2015 annual year book. It is the culmination of a lot of effort and I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has worked on it. You’ve done a great job.

The year has just flown by, and I cannot believe that the school is now three years old. When we arrived, the school was a blank canvas, and I’m very proud of the progress we have made. Most of all, the happy faces on students are what lighten my day, particularly on those occasions when we can be overwhelmed with the amount of work to be done. It truly appears that the school is a place where children want to be, where learning takes place in a warm, caring and secure environment. I hope this is what you notice too, and it’s an atmosphere that many schools struggle to nurture. We should be proud of what we have achieved, but also determined not to rest on our laurels, as there is still much more to be done. With your help, the future is bright for Straits.

So please enjoy the year book. It reflects the spirit of our school and all that has been done this year. It is jam packed with events and news and is a timely reminder of all the hard work that has been put in. I look forward to seeing you in September and encourage all parents to pop into the school to say ‘hello’ when you can. All the best and I hope you enjoy the break.

Principal’s Message

Mr. Charles Grayhurst
Dear SIS Community,

It has been an exhilarating year in the Primary School this year. I feel confident that we have greatly improved on the previous two years and have grown into an even more friendly, caring and happy school with the help and hard work of our staff, students and parents. For me, a school should be a place where everyone comes together to create a positive and creative environment and atmosphere. It sometimes means giving up some time or putting in some extra effort, even when you are at your most exhausted but our teachers, like all good teachers, are always willing to go the extra mile for the children.

We have had some exciting trips and events this year and I remember the trips to the theatre, the Challenge Week outings and our football team games with fond memories. It has been a pleasure to work with some excellent teachers and to see the children grow up before my eyes. It’s amazing how quickly it all goes by and another year is almost done. The development across the school of both academic and non-academic areas has been going ahead at a rapid pace but, importantly, we have never lost sight of the importance of children enjoying their time at school and learning, socialising and playing are all just as important as reading, writing and completing lots of homework.

The children’s progress and development has been a joy to watch and I truly feel that we are in an excellent place to move forward. As the school moves to our new campus, it brings a fresh challenge and a breath of excitement into the development of Straits International School. I, too, will be moving on and it is with sadness that I bid farewell to Penang and to the community of Straits. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who supported me for their help over the last two years and hope that you feel I did something to help the school to improve. I wish all involved with Straits International School the best of luck in the future.

Vice Principal’s Message

Mr. Simon Greenhalgh
Standing Position 1st row From Left | Mr. Uvarajan Ganesbaran, Ms. Sharleni A/P Madesudadass, Ms. Yogeswari Boghan, Mr. Muzaid Mukhtar, Ms. Rabiahtul Bazariah, Ms. Soon Saw Imm, Ms. Serene Tan, Ms. Ellie Saunders, Ms. Emily Lans, Ms. Aysha Wheeler

Standing Position 2nd row From Left | Mr. Woon Sze Ting, Ms. Gilly Harland, Mrs. Elena Kathiraven, Ms. Emily Hyde, Ms. Nellie Wong, Ms. Pavithra Sinnanan, Ms. Rukhsana Zubaid, Ms. Chia Hui Poh, Ms. Dev Krishnan, Ms. Harriet Glover, Mr. Ali Al-Faris

Seating Position From Left | Mr. Dennis Lee, Mr. Mohd Sharul Hasfis, Mr. Kam Yin Boey, Mr. Richard Power, Mr. Simon Greenhalgh, Mr. Charles Grahurst, Mr. Mike Hayes, Mr. Shahrul Nizam, Ms. Nurin Najmina Binti Fauzi, Mr. Tomas Needham

Academic Staff
Administration Staff

Standing Position From Left | Ms. Bee Hong Ho, Mr. Kin Cheong Wee, Ms. Shamini Linggam, Mr. Narinder Singh, Ms. Chan Li Lin

Seating Position From Left | Ms. Tuang Pei Yun, Ms. Eileen Teh Hui Ping, Mr. Charles Grayhurst, Ms. Emily Hyde, Ms. Joanne Koay
On the 27th of February, Straits International School celebrated Chinese New Year, or as it is also known: the Lunar New Year. It was celebrated with an assembly featuring performances and speeches.

The assembly was presented by two secondary students: Oliver Chee and Fariheen Sheika. The assembly started with a performance of a Chinese New Year themed song by the Early Years pupils. It then continued with a performance by the Year 8 First Language Mandarin Class, which included rapping (also Chinese New Year themed). The presenters then proceeded to state some interesting facts about Chinese New Year.

The event continued with a speech (in Chinese) by Mr. Simon. The event ended with a Lion Dance performance; the audience participated in the dance by feeding the lions with mandarin oranges as the lions performed. The event concluded with the lions jumping to the ceiling to collect red packets.

The audience were amazed at the lion dance and presentations. It was a very exciting and interesting assembly.
The day of Jesus’ humble birth began with Ms. Serene inviting Mr. Charlie for an informative speech about the celebration. The school was filled with students and teachers in red, white or green to celebrate the primary colours of Christmas. Following that was a presentation based on the history behind the celebration.

The school choir, conducted by Ms. Ellie and the guitar club and guided by Mr. Dennis, collaborated to perform ‘Let Her Go’ by Passenger. The school choir consisted of Hannah (Year 8), Fariheen (Year 8), Nikitha (Year 7), Oliver (Year 10), Coco (Year 10), Chan (Year 10), Yee (Year 10), Thievya (Year 9) and Elly (Year 7). The guitar club included Dave (Year 10), Daniel (Year 10), Brian (Year 10), Tricia (Year 9) and Carmen (Year 9).

Next on the list was a vibrant performance by the school Dance club, as they danced to three different songs, one at a time. Elly (Year 7), Valerie (Year 9), Coco (Year 10), Yee (Year 10), Nikitha (Year 7) and Oliver (Year 10) contributed to the performance.
Hari Merdeka or Independence Day is one of the important days in Malaysian history; on 31st August 1957 our country declared independence from the British colonial empire. It was truly meaningful for all of the Malaysian people to feel free after more than 400 years under colonisation.

This freedom cannot be enjoyed without the efforts of all parties to help this nation become free and to progressively develop in the future. Without the efforts of Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Tan Cheng Lock and representatives of other ethnic groups, the freedom we enjoy today would certainly have been difficult to implement.

As a tradition, every year all schools in Malaysia will celebrate Merdeka day. On 31st August every year, we as Malaysians celebrate the National Day. A lot of people enjoy celebrating the National Day. We enjoy singing the National Songs, decorating our classroom, watching the countdown concert, counting down the time to midnight and watching the parade on National Day.

We should celebrate this every year, because this is history and culture for Malaysia. So that our next generation will know the history of Merdeka, every 31st of August is Merdeka day, we will shout ‘merdeka’ seven times with the crowd.
Our Wesak Day celebration was on 5 May 2015. The event started at 8:00am. The MCs were Zac Lee Kuan Hong and Koay Jia Wei from Year 7. Zac and Jia Wei had already invited Mr. Charlie to give an opening speech; Mr. Charlie described what Wesak Day is about and how it had been celebrated in previous years. The MCs gave the history of Wesak Day: it is actually the day when the Buddha received enlightenment. The MCs also said that Buddhism teaches everyone to be kind to people and be kind to animals as well. After that, the MCs invited everyone to watch a short video clip about Buddha. The video described that the person was a prince before and he wanted to seek a way to end human pain and sorrow, so he left the palace and went to a very faraway place, meditating until he became Buddha.

Then, the MCs invited Year 9 for their presentation of a role play about Buddhism. Year 9 acted about being kind to poor people and animals. They also acted about being vegetarian on Wesak Day and avoiding killing animals. Students and teachers gave them a loud applause for such a meaningful performance.

The MCs then invited Mr. Charlie to light the lotus candle. After that Mr. Charlie gave a closing ceremony speech and the celebration ended at 8:30am.

By Koay Jia Wei, Year 7
In the early morning, the assembly started with two MCs- Brian and Yee. After a short speech about today’s celebration, there was Mr. Simon’s opening speech. With two quick-witted MCs, the presentation went on. We sat down to watch a video, which was about the legends of the Mooncake. Yes, you’re right! That day was Mooncake Festival, when the full moon rises. To soothe some bored students, a quiz competition was held. Based on the topic of the ‘Mooncake Festival’, the first question was asked to KS1 students. The competition heated up; all the students raised their hands for the chance to answer – all of them were clever enough to answer all the questions. There were also questions for Secondary students. The teachers were also involved. Many of us won a prize – fish shaped lanterns and delicious mooncakes. For those who didn’t win any prizes, our school had prepared mooncakes. It ended nicely; it was an exciting and amusing assembly.
Deepavali, also known as Diwali, is the Festival of Lights celebrated throughout the world. Deepavali is celebrated by Indians and is part of Hindu culture. It is known to dazzle and light up peoples’ lives with joy and happiness. Known as the “Festival of Lights,” Diwali commemorates the time when the Lord Rama returned to his hometown Ayodhya after defeating the evil demon king of Lanka, Ravana. Lord Rama was the king of Ayodhya who had, by his father’s orders, went away from his country to live in the forest for fourteen years. But the people of Ayodhya loved their king very much and waited for years to meet with him again. And so, when news of Lord Rama’s return came to them again, the people of Ayodhya, in the honour of their king and to celebrate his victory, burst crackers, lit up their houses with earthen lamps, and decorated the entire city in the grandest manner. Year after year this homecoming of Lord Rama is commemorated on Diwali with lights, fireworks, bursting of crackers and merriment. The festival gets its name Deepavali, or Diwali, from the rows (avalii) of lamps (deepa) that the people of Ayodhya lit to welcome their King.

We celebrated Deepavali in our school in order to respect the cultures of the Indian students in our school. We had a presentation, some quizzes and the lighting of candles at the end of the ceremony.
Celebrating Mother’s Day has been an important matter to the Straits Community. We take this opportunity to allow the children to show their appreciation to their mothers. It is also a day where the children can perform what they have learned in school. It’s always pleasing to see the joy in a mother’s face when they see their child performing for them.

This year, the Mothers’ Day Tea Party was held on 8th May 2015 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The event started with Mr. Simon giving a welcome speech to the Mothers thanking them for their continuous support in working with the teachers. Then we had the students from EYFS performing a musical number called ‘The Clock Goes Tick Tock’. The song talks about how Mothers prepare their children for school. They also recited a poem entitled “Forever Bouquet”.

Then we had Year 1 students performing a song called “You Are My Sunshine” and a poem. Some of the students gave out cards to their mothers with adjectives describing their Mother. It was amazing to hear children coming out with adjectives that touch the heart. I am sure their mothers would be pleased by what they have learned.

Then each of the Year 2 students expressed their love for their mothers by saying “I love my mother because...” to them. After the performance, mothers went to their respective child’s class and shared a craft activity together with their child. Then they went to the canteen to have a delicious tea party. It was indeed a fun and memorable day for both mother and child.

By Ms. Serene Tan, Reception Form Tutor
Teachers’ Day

By Nelson Yeoh, Year 9

Teachers’ Day in Malaysia is held annually on May 16th. Although it is not an official school holiday, celebrations are typically held in schools throughout the country. If May 16th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it is observed on the preceding Friday.

This year, Teachers’ Day began with a school assembly in the hall where Mr Simon, the Vice Principal delivered a speech. After that, we were treated to a live band performance from Year 8. They gave a good performance by singing a nice song for everyone. Next, students from Year 4 and 5 did a beautiful poetry recitation for the teachers. The last performance was delivered by the Year 10 students, who performed a good dance.

Malaysian Teachers’ Day commemorates the endorsement of the Razak Report, an educational proposal aimed at reforming the educational system in Malaya (now Malaysia). This document has been the basis of the educational system in Malaya and eventually Malaysia ever since.

We enjoyed all the shows and felt so happy. After that me and my friends went to give presents to teachers and thanked them for being such good teachers to us. Thank you!
‘Teamwork makes the dream work’. With keeping our motto in our mind, we tried to trust each other and this made us to rely on each other. During the first term of this year, there were a lot of difficulties as our previous leaders left our school. Due to unfavorable conditions-no house captain and injured people during house competition, we took last place for our first term—we needed capable captains. Fortunately, starting from second term, there were two selected leaders-Dave and Fariheen. Good news is we were able to see the definite improvement compared to last term’s result. We started off very weak, but managed to finally win the secondary house rounders competition.

The second term was more positive. We had successful house meetings, led by house captains and sometimes teachers. We played games, which enhanced our teamwork. As the captains of Rusa, we have acquired leadership skills and we are proud of it. It is an honour to be the head of Rusa. We’ve tried harder to get more house-points. Both the leaders of the house worked well with each other. We love our team. Thank you! Well done Rusa! Let’s rock, Rusa!
By Ms. Ellie Saunders, House Leader

As Harimau house leader, I have thoroughly enjoyed this academic year. We have had a successful year not only in terms of house points, and therefore our wins for both term 1 and term 2, but also academically and personally. Many of Harimau house have worked extremely hard within school and outside of school. Hannah Lee (year 8) and Jasper Khor (year 9) have been our house captains, and they have both led by example. For me, one of the moments that showed me how well Harimau house work together, was during our second house party which was held at the beginning of term 3. All pupils worked together in groups of mixed ages to draw tiger cubs for display. To see the older pupils from year 11 supporting the youngest pupils from EYFS and Reception and everyone in between, really showed me how supportive pupils at Straits International School are.

This term the Early Years and Key Stage 1 had a fantastic Mini Olympics event held during Challenge week. All houses worked really hard to get the most points for their team, but Harimau managed to come first. Well done to all lower primary members of Harimau house on their achievement: Gobi Naraine, Elisa Chan, Thulasi Lingam, Evangeline Thomas, Han So Yul, Li Ren Long, Rashed Almarri, Lieschken Dowling, Ryan Lim, Brenda Ong, Kong Jeong Bae, Jude Zaid Shaker and Chauthi Panchakshari.

For Key Stage 2, Kevin Kim Seyhun in Year 3, entered a very strong design for the school production poster competition, and came third. Congratulations! Secondary pupils also managed second place in the Darts club activity, gaining us even more valuable house points.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all members of Harimau for their hard work, dedication and team work throughout the year. It’s been extremely successful and that is because of the efforts of all members. Well done!

By Jasper Khor, House Captain

It has been a fantastic and awesome year for us. I think, to be a member of Harimau House, is great as the Harimau members are friendly, caring and collaborative. I think all of us have done a great job as we have won two times in Term 1 and Term 2. We should also win this term too because all the members of Harimau have been working hard to achieve house points for their own house. Both primary and secondary students have given the best they can do in every house competition like tee-ball, rounders and football. We also created a chant for ourselves which was “hey ho, let’s go Harimau”. Even though we did fall down in the house competitions, we didn't give up and still give the best we can. I am very proud to be a member of Harimau.
Burung Kenyalang is again on the rise, and after coming second last term we have had a big push on house points to start the new term. We currently lie first in the table due to some amazing house point totals and hard work from all members. I feel that the house is working hard for themselves, each other and the school. We have a lot of positivity. The Burung Kenyalang team is on track to regain our crown that eluded us last term and I'm very proud to say it is due to everyone working together.

In the Tee Ball and Rounders competition some brilliant performances brought us first place and it was great to see people cheering and supporting each other. This has all added to a great summer term.

Some notable achievements from Burung Kenyalang this term are:

Thievya came second in the U18 tennis tournament in Merbok. This places her second, in the second league for U18s Malaysia and Thailand currently. Next meet is in August for the second league. She goes to Thailand soon for a different competition called "To be Number One". Well done Thievya!

Keneath showed the values of compassion, caring and collaboration during Challenge Week. He was always willing to help others and he has been commended by the teachers who were there. Bravo Keneath!

B.K. has been outstanding this year. Our best year yet! From earning house points to playing sports, as a house, we have achieved and accomplished as many things as we could, from winning the football house competition to winning other academic-based competitions. I think, overall, both primary and secondary students have given their best at doing what they can. We did fall down quite a few times but as birds I think we soared back up again. We might not have won the overall house points for the last two terms but after all we’ve accomplished together, I think we still deserve it. So, as a house captain, I think our house has continuously been showing how hard we’re working and how cooperative we are as a team. I hope we can lift that trophy this term as a house!

This year was quite a big success for Burung Kenyalang because we always have our eyes on an important target to achieve: teamwork. We always try our best no matter what stands in front of us and we work hard as a well-built team. To us, teamwork is vital because it makes the job quicker and easier to complete. For me, personally, I think that Burung Kenyalang is a winner, not just academically but also physically based on how much effort the members have put in to make the team stand tall. To be at this level isn't always straightforward and there have been many ups and downs so far. As a captain of Burung Kenyalang, I would like to congratulate the members of Burung Kenyalang for what we have achieved so far and let’s push forward even further next year!
The Naga team is made up of young players with great team spirit. It was fantastic to see the members get together and work hard until the very end of the term. At our house meeting, we chose Nicholas (Y10) and Charlotte (Y7) as the team captains to lead the Naga team this school term. They encouraged the team to put in all their efforts and determination to collect as many house points as they could. It was certainly great to see their enthusiasm.

A look back, our secondary did wonderfully well in the origami contest on Creativity Day. In the Beat the Clock – a Maths game, Naga secondary students also came in first. Although we may not have won in the tee ball/rounders competition during Sports Day, we still had great fun.

Coming together as a team sees encouragement and support from all levels. This surely helped to build a healthy relationship between the members. What we know is that we will never give up and will definitely strive harder and do our best in all upcoming challenges.
On the 21st of November 2015, Straits International School Penang celebrated its third Science Day as one of the school annual activities arranged for the benefit of the students. A host of activities were prepared for all the students of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. As usual, these hands-on experiments and investigations plus, a quiz competitions which really drew serious attention from the students. They were very excited to participate in the activities.

The objective of this celebration was to ensure that the students are exposed to and made aware of the importance of science, not only in the classroom, but also in their daily lives. It is amazing to know that the world nowadays is running entirely on science and its applications in the form of technology.

The activities:
For Key Stage 1, one activity was provided for them. The activity was about how to make ice-cream the traditional way using milk, sugar, vanilla essence, salt and some ice cubes. They learned how salt, known as the impurities, could bring the temperature down to below 0°C.

For Key Stage 2, half the students took part in a Science Quiz while the other half took part in a hands-on investigation on Speed of an Object. The quiz tested mainly on the general knowledge of Science and the contents from the students’ course book. Key Stage 3 students were also taking part in a Science Quiz handled by Ms. Gilly. All programmes started at 2:00pm and finished at 3:30pm.

The students took part in every activity enthusiastically and the winning team of the quizzes contributed some house points to their house. The programme ended with a thank you speech from Ms Gilly Harland, our Science Teacher.
We celebrated World Maths Day on 14th March 2015. A house competition was run called ‘Beat the Clock’. The students took part by playing at home. They submitted screen shots showing their final scores onto an Edmodo group, winning one house point each. The top 5 students then played a final ‘live’ round in the Maths room during break time. The prizes were of course, house points! 1st place won 20 points, 2nd place won 15 points, 3rd place won 10 points.

The top 5 finalists competed in the maths room during break time and the winner was decided based on average scores.

In 1st place was Brandon with a score of 109.5. In 2nd place, Brian with a score of 108, and in 3rd place was Emmanuel with a score of 90.
The International Day of Peace is an annual event that is observed worldwide on the 21st of September. In 1991, Jeremy Gilley, an actor and a filmmaker, founded a non-profit organisation known as the Peace One Day that had, for many years, strived to establish a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Finally, in 2001, it was established with a unanimous vote from the United Nations. This one day has lead many organisations to perform life saving activities in areas of conflict around the world, saving millions of lives.

With that in mind, we (the Year 11s) decided to conduct an assembly to raise awareness of the International Day of Peace, Armistice and Non-violence. Not only did we conduct an informational and fun-filled half an hour presentation, we also created posters, put up peace signs and quotes on pillars, and videos that helped promote and strengthen the Peace Day ideals. We covered several topics relating to peace, including wars waged, the inequalities that shape social policies, and the international as well as local symbols of peace. Moreover, we too encourage our fellow students and teachers to contemplate on the ways that peace can be achieved, both globally and also within our own community, and through our research, we’ve come to a conclusion that;

“Peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”
- Ronald Reagan
Book Week

By Ms. Vikki Gale, Art Teacher

In March, we celebrated Book Week with the theme of ‘Animals’. The students were involved in a number of fun activities to promote reading and a love of books, as well as to learn about our responsibility to protect the animals with whom we share our planet.

The Primary students were spotted searching the library in groups, looking for the answers to a quiz about animal-themed books. The youngest students spent their English lessons reading and writing poems and stories with animals as main characters and created their own story books about animals, while the older Primary students made information books about endangered species. The Year Three students made a beautiful book about the plight of polar bears!

Mr. Charlie blew a whistle once a day to signal the start of DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) and both students and staff enjoyed spending ten minutes reading for pleasure. We ran an ‘Extreme Reading’ photo competition on Edmodo in which students submitted a photo of themselves reading in an unusual place or position. Students enjoyed our two whole-school assemblies, and many dressed up as a book character on the Friday; we saw some wonderful home-made costumes which showed creativity and resourcefulness.

Some of the Secondary students enjoyed the ‘Classic Novels’ competition, where they had to hunt for book covers of famous novels around school, find out their title and author and write a summary of the plot. Mr. Tom also ran an animal-themed short story competition.

Finally, we encouraged students and staff to bring in all their used books and magazines. We then organised a used book sale to raise money to help WWF in their mission to protect endangered species. Thanks to the generosity and effort of many parents and students, we managed to raise RM 1841 for WWF!
Our Creativity Day this year allowed children to push the boundaries on creativity and experience one-off lessons that needn't be linked to the curriculum. It is a fantastic opportunity for children to really explore new skills. There were many exciting events on offer such as origami, drama, music, storytelling, sewing, computer programming and many artistic activities that would hopefully bring the children a chance to try something they wouldn’t normally do, or perhaps bring them out of their shells a little bit.

I think that one of the main purposes of a school is to allow children to pursue creative activities without the fear of failure. Sometimes unstructured learning or activities can work as well as structured ones. With no specific target or goal, there can be no failure and children respond to that by acting in a more brave way which can lead to new learning. In current educational climates, we are often worried about grades or ability in academic subjects and, sadly, creative pursuits can take a back seat. However, by encouraging both areas, I think that we help to create more balanced individuals who are able to use their creative thinking to help them to solve problems or create ideas for more traditional areas of learning.

Overall, children had fun and when it’s fun and children feel relaxed, they will be more creative. As Albert Einstein said, “Creativity is intelligence having fun.”
International Day
Challenge Week - EYFS and KS 1

Ms. Dev Krishnan, Head of EYFS

On the first day, Key Stage 1 visited the Organic Farm and Saanen Goat Farm in Balik Pulau and had a lot of fun. Then, they were practicing and making ‘Thank You’ cards for The Penang Old Folks Home. Day 2 was all about challenges at the Urban Playground. Students had loads of fun bouncing and climbing. It was indeed a tiring day for the little ones, but nevertheless they did enjoy every moment spent there. On Day 3, as part of our Service Learning ethos, students and teachers made a trip to see our partners at The Penang Home for the Elderly. It was an experience for both students and teachers. Students were so pleased to see the joy and happiness they brought through their short presentations. Mr. Tan who is in charge of the home gave a brief introduction about our school and welcomed the students and teachers with open arms. After the presentations, students gave out some goody bags to the elderly of the home. We were then taken on a tour to meet and give out more goody bags to some bedridden elderly. In the afternoon, students spent some quality time doing some Creative Carousel Activities in school. Students had the chance to take part in various activities and collaborate with others creatively.

On Day 4, students enjoyed a frenetically charged visit to the National Science Centre in Alor Star. After a long but scenic bus journey, students were excited about getting their hands on the excellent interactive exhibitions in the centre. Learning about energy in all its forms, the students saw through display that renewable sustainable energy can be supplied in many ways. Light, sound and motion were also demonstrated through the interactive stations and the students played energetically with these. There is a lot of supporting evidence to suggest the validity of learning through play, which our students thoroughly tested today. Students were also able to experience some hands-on paper-making activity and learnt to make a glider too. We wished we had more time to explore the National Science Centre and enjoy all the stations set for kids. Our final day of challenge week began with the children being challenged physically in the Mini Olympics. Everybody tried their best and put in some great displays of teamwork and sportsmanship. In the afternoon, they regrouped to take on team building tasks.
Enthusiasm can understandably be found in all young people as the world is both exciting and beautiful; Pangkor Island thrilled and delighted the students who travelled there for Challenge Week. Filled with lush virgin rainforests, beautiful seascapes and peaceful beaches, what a joy it was for us to be able to bring the students adventuring there to appreciatively learn about the island and themselves.

Challenge Week afforded the students a new learning experience in a wonderfully stimulating environment. Years 3 & 4, for the most part of Challenge Week, spent their time learning to work collaboratively, and to strategically overcome obstacles. Whether these obstacles were mental or physical, they needed to learn new techniques for dealing with challenges they had never faced before, such as, jungle trekking, kayaking, swimming in the sea, sharing accommodation and travelling great distances. In these miniature life lessons, the students were prepared for coping with the unknown and facing new problems that they may encounter later in life.

There is wide support of a teaching theory called positive education which teaches resilience training by instilling good mental practice and positive attitudes in young people by helping them to become resilient in the face of adversity. I can think of no better positive reinforcement than experiencing accomplishment and gratification through overcoming obstacles under the supervision of trained experts.

During Challenge Week, their comfort circles expanded, their confidence grew, their motor skills were tested and developed, and socially they learned how to work both collaboratively and independently. The opportunities afforded there for learning and development cannot be matched elsewhere. For that reason, this year’s Challenge Week, as always, was a unique learning experience that the students were privileged to have been able to experience.
DAY ONE

All staff and students arrived at Gopeng Earth Camp following an exciting journey along a long and winding road. The Earth Camp is well equipped and accommodation and lunch were both good. We separated into two teams and enjoyed learning about the Total Values Challenge with our leaders.

The afternoon was spent on a Kampung Adventure around Earth Camp, including learning about local flora and fauna, the Kampung housing and panning for tin. A debriefing on what we saw and heard and a well-earned drink of water followed before we retired to our dorms for a rest – though some opted for a game of football.

We had a good night’s rest next to nature in our dormitory and tree houses and prepared for a full day of excitement the next day.

DAY TWO

An exhilarating day to follow a relatively peaceful night. All the children were in bed by 9.30pm, though some slept a little later than that. Others were less pleased to be awoken at around 6am by various noise makers – from both Straits and our fellow campers from the British International School Ho Chi Minh.

However, following a hearty breakfast and briefing we were ready for adventure once more. We donned helmets and life jackets and following a ride in the Nomad ‘limousine’ – a truck – we headed for the splendour of the River Kampur. We enjoyed learning how to swim in the rapids and then we broke into three groups to further improve our skills in river walking, rope-bagging and swimming in currents.

Following a riverside lunch, we learned more about the fine art of river rafting before being thrown in at the deep end and taking our six dinghies down the river, steering through the rapids and even finding time to collect rubbish on the way, as part of our community service. We even had the opportunity for a lazy float in the river at the other end of the trail.
DAY THREE

A more restful night thanks to our exertions the day before and after a hearty breakfast of roti canai, we headed off to Gopeng town for a Heritage Hunt and Market Mayhem morning. We broke into groups to explore some of Gopeng’s more interesting places and learnt that it was once a powerful player in the tin industry. Following that, the children headed to the market to bargain for their own food so that they could prepare a meal later.

After a brief fruit snack and a rest, we were once again on the road. This time, we headed up into the mountains and lunched at a local village, who had prepared for us a meal of fried chicken, rice and vegetables.

Suitably nourished, we set off into the depths of the Malaysian jungle in search of the elusive rafflesia flower. Alas, despite our efforts and much sweating, slipping and tramping through undergrowth, we were only able to see the remnants of a flower that had died a few days earlier. An adventure all the same.

On returning to Earth Camp, we prepared our food for later. The children prepared a vegetable soup and a baked banana that will accompany our main meal.

DAY FOUR

A busy day at the Mountain School where children had a full day of roping, climbing, abseiling, ziplining and all manner of mountain-based excitement. There was some great bravery and determination shown by many students, all of whom gave their heart and soul to the challenge.

Following that we made a stop at a local orphanage where we played football and traditional games, met some of the children and enjoyed a fried banana and juice treat. Straits International School made a donation towards the upkeep of the school.

Many of the children were both pleased and saddened to discover that the next day was our final day!
DAY FIVE

It was an eventful and emotional final day as the Year Fives and Sixes completed their Challenge Week trip to Earth Camp. The morning was busy as we wolfed down our breakfasts and made our way to the caves for a walk and introduction to the formation and history of the limestone caves, before heading down into the foot of the cave for a caving trip through the underground chamber complete with narrow, water-filled spaces to crawl through on our hands and knees with only a torch to guide us.

After changing out of our wet clothes and packing our cases, we enjoyed our final lunch and a farewell gift and speech from the crew at Nomad. Once we were all safely on the bus, we bid goodbye to the Earth Camp and held with us our treasured memories of the ups and downs of the week.

A fine week from the children who truly blossomed in the challenging outdoor environment.

Many thanks to Mr Kam and Miss Nellie for their help and dedication in leading the trip and to the Nomad staff for their hard effort.

A big thank you to parents for their trust and support.
We set off for challenge week early in the morning on the Monday, arriving at Selangor Eco Tourist Centre at 13:00. We were immediately greeted by a bunch of extremely friendly people from Nomad Adventures Group. They lead us straight for some excellent food, a briefing and then into some fun warm up games.

The students were divided into mixed groups, created by Nomad to make it fair.

We had 5 groups: wolves, bears, racoons, eagles and owls. They completed all their activities with these groups, to ensure that their Nomad group leaders could get to know them so that the students could gain the most from the week.

They completed many types of activities, including abseiling, trekking, camping skills, climbing and den building.

The key main focus was leadership and teamwork, which was consistently reflected upon at the end of every day.

Alongside doing the main activities, the students also played lots of different games, which they all found fun and humorous. Singing songs also played a big part of the week, with songs about crazy moose and pirates.

The main objective for the secondary Challenge Week was to prepare them for the Duke of Edinburgh Inter-national Award, which involves a section called Adventurous Journey. This requires the students to go trekking and camping in the wild, so the opportunity for Year 7s and 8s to again some vital skills that they can later use is priceless.

By Ms. Gilly Harland, Teacher of Science and Head of Pastoral Care
Challenge Week-Year 11

By Ms. Gilly Harland, Teacher of Science and Head of Pastoral Care

For our Year 11 Challenge Week, we went to Gopeng in Perak, our hospitable hosts being Nomad Adventure. Highlights of the trip included caving in Gua Kandu, white water rafting a high ropes course in Mountain School, camping and, of course, meeting new people. Leadership opportunities also came our way, and while some were not as eager to take up the difficult role, others were more keen to play the part.

We were also encouraged to reflect on our performances as well as to ask feedback from others, and this definitely serves as a mirror which portrays the trials we face in our daily lives and how to face them. A common pattern of this experience was how the challenges we were presented with - though it would be unlike the challenges we would face in our actual lives - were metaphors for the obstacles we would encounter moving forward.

Besides this, we also learnt some basic knots and these skills were put to the test when we were assigned in pairs to build a gadget of our choosing using bamboo and ropes. This took us several days to complete. Also, we were given the chance to help the environment by cleaning up the river in the famous Gua Tempurung. Even though at first, upon arriving at Earth Camp, we were neither very energetic nor enthusiastic, by the end of it, we were more aware of our potentials and shortcomings and we understood each other in more depth.
During this academic year, Straits has continued to develop the U10s and U11s Boys Football teams through a number of friendly local games and tournaments, playing games against Tenby, Dalat, SCIPS and Uplands. The U11s Boys Football team, in particular, has progressed throughout the year after some disappointing results in Term 1. Considering the amount of time and the limited number of players available, both teams have performed admirably when representing the school, showing great determination and dedication to the team. A few players to watch out for next year include Satoyoshi, Ioan and Mahadevan. Good luck to the boys in Year 6 who will be making the big step into the Secondary football team for the U13s next year.

Under the guidance of Mr. Tom, the U13s and U15s Boys Football teams joined the PSAC league for the first time, competing against POWIIS, Uplands, Tenby and Dalat. Playing competitive games this year has helped motivate the students into training with more commitment and they have also worked particularly hard on their fitness in order to cope with the physical demands of the sport. Both teams faced tough opposition in their leagues and hopefully, students will take forward all of the positives achieved for next year.

With Ms. Gilly behind the U13s Girls Netball team, they have gone from strength to strength this academic year. Even though most of their games were friendlies, against Uplands and POWIIS, everyone still worked extremely hard in training and games so that they could compete with their opposition.

With a few wins under their belt, I look forward to watching them develop further next year. 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.

Next year, students will compete in U11s, U13s and U15s Boys Football, U14s and U16s Girls Netball and U13s Girls Football. The secondary teams have all been entered into PSAC leagues for their respective age group, providing them with much needed competitive games against challenging opposition. I am looking forward to another year packed full of sports fixtures for our students.
U13s Netball Team

U11s Football Team

U13s Football Team

U15s Football Team
Our under 11s team has ten players in total. We have two goalkeepers, Praavin and Jonathan. Their job is to make sure that no ball gets in the goal posts. We have three defenders: Ioan, Mahadevan and Zhen Shen. Their job is to clear the ball, and not let the opponent score a goal. The team also has three midfielders; Indesh, Mahadeva and myself. We are working up and down the pitch trying to pass a ball to our strikers. So our awesome strikers are Sato, Ayush and Matthew who are trying their best to score goals. I am the captain of the team. Our PE teacher, Mr. Kam is our coach.

We played against number of international schools and we drew, lost and won the matches in our last tournament. The point of playing football is to have fun and take part in teamwork.

By Ashvin Kathiraven, Year 6
The captain of the U13 Straits Dragon Football Team is Danny. This year they have won seven matches. Even though they had lost their first few games, they trained harder and in the end they won more and more games. There are nine players in the team. The goalkeeper is Sean Ho. The defenders are Yang, Patrick and Wayne. The midfielders are Zac, Danny and Karun. The strikers are Karun, Brandon and Danny. Our coaches are Mr. Tom, the secondary English first language teacher, and Mr. Kam, the Year 5 form tutor and also the PE teacher.

By Zac Lee Kuan Hong, Year 7
The U15 Football Team is one of the Straits Dragons’ school teams. The founder of the U15 Football Team is Mr. Tom, also the secondary English teacher. The U15 Football Team Captain is Brian. The Football Team Squad have goalkeepers, Leeroy and Jack, and the defenders are Jin Yao, Dave, Keneath and Mikhail. The midfielders are Sean Tan, Agilesh and Brian and the only forward is Jun. They have learned from mistakes and even though they lost some of their games, they still train hard. On Mondays and Fridays, Mr. Tom will choose one of the days for fitness training, and we do bleep tests.
Straits Dragons Netball under 15s have been playing for about a year now and this year has captured memorable experiences and great values for the team. Playing in the netball team is a great gift to us as we have learned many new skills. Mainly we have been motivated to take up a new sport even knowing that some of us are not really interested in sports, but still we were ready to take up the challenge in order to improve ourselves. With the help of our coach Ms. Gilly, we became stronger and tougher mentally and physically. She has been a wonderful and amazing coach to us even through hard times she has always been supporting us and is always happy no matter what the results are. Netball has become part of our identity and it shall always remain one. The tournaments that we played have improved our confidence levels so that now we are not afraid to face anyone anymore.

By Thievya Munusamy, Year 9
On Tuesday 30th June, Straits International School held its annual Sports Day for students from Nursery to Year 11 at the PDC field. As with previous years, the structure of the competition was changed slightly in order to accommodate the increase in student numbers and to make it a bit different than usual.

Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) competed as Houses in a variety of station games, which included the Standing Long Jump, Beanbag Balance and dribbling with different balls. Unfortunately, there was not enough time for them to compete in the planned 15m Sprint. Each House enjoyed some success in the events and the results were pretty close, with Naga coming out on top with 66 House Points (HP) won. They were closely followed by Burung Kenyalang (58HP), Rusa (54HP) and Harimau (46HP).

Students in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) competed in either a Football or Tee Ball competition. New this year, was the students’ ability to choose the event that they wanted to compete in, depending on their interests or skills. In Football, some unexpected results saw Naga come out on top again with 40HP, followed by Harimau (30HP) and then Burung Kenyalang and Rusa (15HP each). In Tee Ball, some good striking but questionable fielding allowed a high amount of runs to be scored in each game, almost maximum points in each game. However, due to the total amount of points scored over 2 games and whether or not teams won a particular game, the team to come out on top this time was Rusa with 40HP, Burung Kenyalang (30HP), Harimau (20HP) and Naga (10HP) made up the rest of the ranking.

Key Stage 3 and 4 (Years 7 to 11) students competed in either a Football or Netball competition. Unfortunately, due to most of Year 11 already finishing school and a few random absences, some students had to compete in both competitions in order for their House to have enough players in the team. Strangely, the overall results in Football and Netball were actually the same meaning that Rusa ran away with 80HP, followed by Harimau (60HP), Burung Kenyalang (40HP) and Naga (20HP).

After dominating in the Key Stage 3 and 4 competitions, Rusa came away as overall winners of Sports Day 2014-15 with a total of 189HP won. In second place was Harimau with 156HP. Burung Kenyalang could only manage third place with 143HP and Naga, hot on their heels, finished in fourth place with 136HP. It was another fun and enjoyable Sports Day, in the heat, and hopefully the events and venue can be updated and progress made for next year’s Sports Day. Thanks to everyone who participated and those helping out with the station games, refereeing or general support and organisation of their Houses.
Teaching has always been a fulfilling experience for me. Being an Early Years Teacher has given me the opportunity to nurture young learners and at the same time learn endlessly from them. Each day that passes by is filled with the surprises students show through their learning. On top of all the fun and excitement teaching, being a teacher at SIS has expanded my learning over the years by providing CPD training with the school community. I am proud to be in the SIS family.

by Ms. Dev Krishnan
Students’ MESSAGES

by Andrew
Yes! Yes! Yes!

by Gobi
So I will like to eat cake!

by Roa
I get to work.

by Ahmed
I like school.

by Ansley
I like school.
Teaching the early years is a dream come true for me. Seeing them grow and learning new things each day gives me a sense of satisfaction that I have done something right. Their sincerity is what keeps me going and giving my best to them each day. It is a joy to see them coming to school with a smile on their face knowing that they enjoy coming to school. Teaching at SIS has taught me many things; I have learnt to step out of my comfort zone and to go the extra mile in everything that we do. Last but not least, it has been a great journey at SIS and I am looking forward to more great things happening.

by Ms. Serene Tan
Students’ MESSAGES

by To Uyen
I feel happy in school.

by Hashi
Every teacher takes care of me and everyone.

by Elisa
I like to play with my friends.

by Zhi Hong
I like my school.

by Jarrell
I love to study

by Humna
I like to colour.

by Khanh An
I love to do my work.

by Ong Kae Lyn
I like to play with my friends.

by Lucas
I got friends to play.
Year 1

Form Tutor | Ms. Linh Dang
Standing Position 1st row From Left | Ms. Sharleni A/P Madesudadass, Leonardo Lam Keng Yaik, Evangeline Mayuri Thomas, Jashraj Singh, Lieszchen Dowling, Alfred Low Kai Jen, Lee Wern Han, Ms. Rukhsana Zubaid
Standing Position 2nd row From Left | Wynne Chin Yirui, Dhanasekaran Dheekshidhan, Hariharan Jayasungthan, Brenda Ong Xuan Jin, Rashed Jaber Rashed Almarri, Isabelle Heng Zhen Yee, Ryan Rendra Lim, Frances Tien Karen En Grayhurst, Vedika Parthiban Moodliar, Eleana Gan Elynn, Chen Sihan, Li Ren Long, Daemirtra Maheshan
Seating Position From Left | Muhd. Ummar Adam B.Sazali, Maja Justyna Plazieryska, Mrittika Vijayanand, Zoe Florence Greenhalgh, Vishal VK Sivakumar, Keigo Iizuka, Trisha Bhattacharyya, Han Soyul

BIG! That just about sums up the year we have had in Year One. Big personalities, bigger birthday parties, and the biggest snacks a teacher could ever ask for! It has been one crazy ride and I hope that the children have had as much fun as their teacher. The outstanding memory I have is how everybody remained positive during Challenge Week. Their independence at sorting themselves out at the sleepover - working together to change into their pyjamas, brushing their teeth and making their beds - made me truly proud. I wish everybody the best for the next school year and hope they make their new teacher laugh as much as they have made me laugh this year! Have a great break!

by Ms. Linh Dang
by Wynne
I love Straits International School, school is fun.

by Trisha
I liked book week because I dressed up as Little Red Riding Hood.

by Zoe
In Book week, I was Elsa and ate some fried rice.

by Frances
In Book week, I dressed up as Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt.

by Mrittika
In book week, I came as Ariel from The Little Mermaid.

by Adam
I was a good singer in Ms Ellie’s International Songs club.

by Jashraj
In ICT club, we played games to learn about design different things.

by Vishal
In Construction club with Ms Aysha, we built lots of boxes with materials.

by Keigo
I like the school and I loved Jump Street trip.

by Rashed
I liked it because it was so nice.

by Hariharan
I like beeing in the school and I enjoyed Jump Street

by Ryan
I like the school and The Snail and the Whale

by Ren Long
I liked when I carried the French flag next to Ms Harriet in the International day.

by Evangeline
I liked International Day because we got to dress up nicely and buy things

by Dheekshidhan
I like when we made traditional dot patterns on an emu.

by Alfred
I liked making graphs in Maths

by Vedika
In Art lessons, we got to draw the animal characters from the storybook.

by Wern Han
In the Leopard’s Drum, the Sky God has magic!

by Maja
I liked making the patterns in Art because it was super fun!

by Daemirtra
I liked when we went to The Snail and the Whale show and they sprayed water onto us from the water guns!

by Lieschken
I like when we went to The Snail and the Whale show

by Brenda
School was good because I had fun with my friends.

by Keigo
I like the school and I loved Jump Street trip.

by Rashed
I liked it because it was so nice.

by Hariharan
I like beeing in the school and I enjoyed Jump Street

by Ryan
I like the school and The Snail and the Whale

by Ren Long
I liked when I carried the French flag next to Ms Harriet in the International day.
Year 2

Form Tutor | Ms. Aysha Wheeler
Standing Position From Left | Alex Xie Si Chen, Saw Sheng Yang, Kong Jeong Bae, Mohamad Abdul Rohman, Ram Karthiegeyan
Seating Position 1st row From Left | Fredrich Khow Wai Weng, Lok Ruey Xuan, Justin Cho Jia Ting, Masato Inada, Chauthi Pratham Panchakshari
Seating Position 2nd row From Left | Irfan Daniel Srichai, Jude Zaid Shaker, Aarushi Srivastava, Tan Yi Lingg, Alyssa Tan Khai Ying, Tan Yong Sen

Teaching Year 2 has been fantastic. They are a fun and lively bunch who have kept me on my toes all year!

by Ms. Aysha Wheeler
I like my friends in school. My favourite subject is Art because I can do lots of paintings.

by Aarushi

I like being in school because I like my friends and teachers.

by Chauthi

I like school because they have PE and PE is exciting. My favourite subject is Science because.

by Daniel

I am new to this school and I like school because of my friends. My favourite subject is Art.

by Alyssa

I like coming to school because of Science and Robots 2U Club. I like the Robots 2U club.

by Jeong Bae

I love coming to school because I get to see my friends and teachers.

by Jude

I like school because I like my friends and teachers. My favourite subjects are Maths and Art.

by Masato

I like coming to school because I get to see all my friends.

by Ram

I love coming to school because school is fun and my favourite subjects are Maths and Art.

by Ruey Xuan

I like school and the teachers. My favourite subject is Science and the volcano experiment.

by Yi Ling

I like coming to school because there is PE which is my favourite subject.

by Yong Sen

I like coming to school because I have lots of work to do. My favourite subject is Art.

by Fredrich

Students’ MESSAGES

by Chauthi

I like being in school because I like my friends and teachers.

by Daniel

I like school because they have PE and PE is exciting. My favourite subject is Science because.

by Jeong Bae

I am new to this school and I like school because of my friends. My favourite subject is Art.

by Alyssa

I like coming to school because of Science and Robots 2U Club. I like the Robots 2U club.

by Jude

I love coming to school because I get to see my friends and teachers.

by Masato

I love coming to school because school is fun and my favourite subjects are Maths and Art.

by Ram

I like school because I learn more and learn moral values. My favourite subjects are English & Science.

by Mohamad

I like school because I get to see all my friends.

by Ram

I like school because I like my friends and teachers. My favourite subject is Art.

by Fredrich
Thank you for a fantastic year! I have enjoyed getting to know all the students in Year 3 and am very proud of the progress they have made this year. The Year 3 students continued to surprise me throughout the year with their positive attitude and willingness to take on challenges. From science investigations to assembly performances they were always willing to try their best. During Challenge Week they proved just how much they had matured throughout the year, independently taking care of their belongings and themselves and caring for others during our jungle trek and kayaking activities. I wish everybody all the best for Year 4!

by Ms. Emily Lans
by Venus
This year I loved No bake club and Maths because it is fun. We got to make clocks!

by Tamem
I loved how I did my journal and I loved to paint.

by Brendan
I loved doing Maths because Ms Emily taught amazing things in Maths. I also loved handball. Mr Kam taught us and it was so much fun.

by Nicholas
I loved making the Marco Polo journal and I also loved when we planted our bean plant in

by Alyssa
This year I loved No bake club, I got to make cookies. I also loved Art.

by Laavanya
I loved the Art lessons and I loved making the Marco Polo journal. I also really loved dance club.

by Elvin
I liked painting in Art and I liked practicing my spelling in English.

by Sasheni
This year I enjoyed Maths and Art. I liked learning my times tables and making the Marco Polo journal.

by Se Hyun
This year I liked learning to play T-ball in P.E.

by Thinash
I liked learning about insects, reptiles, birds, mammals, fish and arthropods because it is cool.
Year 4

Form Tutor | Mr. Richard Power
Standing Position From Left | Abedalaziz Samer Naim Matalkah, Ioan Grayhurst, Tammy Tan Shien, Amos Khor Shao Shun, Eeo Min, Isaac Heng Zhen Wei, Mahadeva Mugunthan, Gomez Bernard Alexander, Tan Jing Xuan, Teresa Guan Wan Jing
Seating Position From Left | Loh Yike, Jeselyn Pang Jia Xuan, Mahadevan Jayasugunthan, Ooi Jie Yuee, Ruvendaslu Naidu, Alvina Khor Jia En

Form Tutor MESSAGE

Year 4 is a collaborative, hardworking class who value challenges. Their positive, fun loving nature has helped me to thoroughly enjoy teaching them, and I consider the students to be the best class I’ve taught!

by Mr. Richard Power
Life here at SIS is very nice and fun and it teaches you good things to learn.

by Abdelaziz

This school is really great because I have a lot of best friends and I know how to spell some very hard words. cool stuff to learn.

by Ruven

I have fun, I learn more, I have more friends, my life is great!

by Gomez

This school is better than my last school because I have lots of friends and my teacher Mr. Power is funny.

by Teresa

People here are very friendly.

by Jie Yuee

The work here is competitive and teaches me stuff I don’t know.

by Ioan

People here are very friendly.

by Jie Yuee

I came to this school and found it to be very fun because I don’t need to beaten at school.

by Jeselyn
Year 5

Form Tutor | Mr. Kam Yin Boey
Seating Position From Left | Mrinalini Parthiban Moodliar, Dominic Cheah Yan Xun, Wong Dick Son, Jonathan Tan Kai Yang, Satoyoshi Takahashi, Sogo Ilzuka.
Absent: Jeffrey Ilhan.

MESSAGE

It has been wonderful to see a class of eight, at the start of the school year, grow and develop into a class of thirteen by the start of term two. The new students have been a welcome addition to the class and received a warm welcome from the other students, quickly forming friendships with them. Most students have transitioned well from Year 4, whilst others still need to display a more mature attitude in lessons. Overall though, it has been an enjoyable year for me and I thank everyone in my current Year 5 class for their hard work and commitment towards learning. Best of luck next year!

by Mr. Kam Yin Boey
I had enjoyed all the lessons that I learned. My favourite are Maths, Humanities, ICT and English.

by Danish

I enjoyed speaking English, I was good at Maths. My favourite lesson is PE.

by Sato

I enjoyed a lot of subjects and I learned a lot of things, like Maths, English and PE.

by Sogo

Life in Year 5 has been great. My favourite activity is Robots 2U. We usually build and program stuff.

by Jonathan

Life in Year 5 is fun, when I joined SIS I felt so excited, I was so happy that Mr. Kam let me join Football.

by Victor

My life in Year 5 is good. I like learning English and reading books. I like all the subjects.

by Yi Chen

I am happy with my new friends and also I enjoy Mandarin, Maths, PSHE and English.

by Ryan

Life in Year 5 feels great and nice because I get to read books and play Maths games.

by Jeffrey

I like English the most. Varjak Paw was the most exciting story. I like Year 5.

by Misha

My life is Year 5 was very good, I got a lot of friends. We learned about Varjak Paw and flood.

by Dominic

I like Year 5 class because there are lots of friendly students and teachers.

by Dick Son

My life in Year 5 is awesome, because I have lots of friends and I like the story Floodland.

by Deborah

I was learning French and Mandarin. So I’m Happy. I want to learn more.

by Do Hye
Year 6

Form Tutor | Mr. Simon Greenhalgh
Seating Position From Left | Praavineesh Kumar Ganesh, Tina Guan Wan Ting, Desmond Voon Yan Min, Ayush Amish Patel, Matthew Joel Lee Zi Hao, Woo Yen Nee.
Absent: Ashvin Kathiraven.

It has been a pleasure to teach Year Six this year. They are an amazing group of students and each and every one brought their own personality to our mixture and made it all the more delicious. I will remember them all in the future and I wish them all the best of luck as the head off on their collective or individual journeys next year and in the future. I wish Straits International School all the best as they grow and develop. My family and I have fond memories of Penang and will treasure them forever.

by Mr. Simon Greenhalgh
by Jason Pang
I like Year 6 because Mr. Simon is the best. And I like his book week costume.

by Praavineesh
Year 6 was fun and I had a good time with my teacher and friend. We were a group of coolness.

by Kon Nie
I love Year 6 because I learn many things and Mr. Simon is a good teacher.

by Tien Ee
I like Year 6 because everything was fun and interesting when Mr. Simon taught us.

by Ayush
This Year Grade 6 was very tense and stressful. We had learned a lot of new things.

by Ashvin
I like Year Six because Mr. Simon is a good teacher and I like all my friend and lessons.

by Daniel
I like Year 6 because my old school was so boring but SIS Year 6 Group is fun.

by Jayan
I liked Year 6, it’s interesting, we are the biggest in Primary. The teaching is great.

by Yu-Ming
Year 6 is very fun. Friends are very kind. Mr. Simon makes us happy. All teachers are kind.

by Zhen Shen
I like Year 6 because it has the best teacher.

by Tien Ee
I like Year 6 because it has the best teacher.

by Yen Nee
I like Year 6 because Mr. Simon is very good teacher. Year 6 is a challenge.

by Pui Ern
I love Year 6 because I learned many things.

by Alexis
Year 6 was a nice year because it is the last year in Primary. It is also because we have exams.

by Matthew
It was awesome because the topics were very fun and felt like home. Mr. Simon is very funny.

by Tina
I enjoy studying in Year 6 very much, all here are friendly and kind.

by Indeshwararaj
I like Year 6 because Mr. Simon is an awesome and funny teacher. I also learnt a lot of new things.

by Mikhaila
I think that some days are hard but it’s mostly fun and exciting.

by Desmond
I like Year 6 because Mr. Simon is awesome and I have learnt a lot of fun and amazing things.
Teaching at Straits is fantastic with such a wide range of cultures and personalities. I think the ethos of the school is perfect and we are teaching the pupils to become citizens of the world who can adapt to any situation.

by Mr. Mike Hayes
by Charlote
I like school because we have lots of fun and a great education.

by Nicholas
I like school because it has good priorities for kids compared to other schools.

by Sean
I like sports and being with my mates because they make me laugh.

by Firdaus
I like the teachers because they are all friendly.

by Terence
I like the school food because it is delicious.

by Zac
I like the atmosphere in the school.

by Nikitha
I like being with my friends at school.

by Koay Jia Wei
I like my friends.

by Elly
I like my friends and teachers because some of them are friendly.

by Karun
This year I’m having fun learning with my friends at Straits like.

by Patrick
I enjoy most of my lessons in school because the teachers make learning fun.

by Ivan
I like all the teachers because they are kind and helpful.
Well, what can I say about my Year 8s. They have all challenged so much since being the ‘little’ Year 7s I knew last year. They have all grown from strength, supporting each other, having fun together and working well together, without as much a snigger or typical ‘I’m not working with him or her’- shrug and crossed arms, with bottom lip sticking out!!

Miss Yoges has said that in PSHE they are discussing much more than last year and have some interesting ideas to put forward. During Challenge Week many of them showed maturity, intrigue, compassion and dedication. I am very proud of their achievements this year and hope they carry on confiding in each other, working as a team and enjoying each other’s company. I will miss them dearly.
by Danny
They called school a community. I call school my second favourite house.

by Brandon
SIS inspires me a lot, to not just be a better student, but a better person in all expects and areas in my life.

by Ranice
I hate exams but I really like the school because the teachers are so kind and our friends are so friendly.

by Hannah
I like school. It’s pretty cool.

by Luvlynn
Being educated here is fun.

by Wayne
I like this school because all the teachers are kind.

by Fariheen
The school thought me to chase after your dreams and believe I can do it that’s why I’m the queen.

by Cheng Jun
School is awesome.

by Yang
Very good because I got lots of awesome friends and the education here is very good.

by Andrew
You can only go as far as you push.

by Sae
Good friends are like stars, you don’t always see them but you know they are always there.

by Jack
The football team is good, we work together to be Straits Dragons.

by Daphne
SIS inspires me to do things I like.

by Ayumi
True friendship never ends, we are friends forever.

by Eugenia
I love this school because the students and teachers are nice.

by Emmanuel
School is basically the most important part of my life.
Joining Straits International School in August last year was a big move for me from the UK, but all the staff and pupils have been so welcoming – especially my Year 9s. Right from the beginning they have been friendly and helpful, and always ready to help me out. I like their funny jokes and stories. I’ve also enjoyed being Harimau House leader in a very successful year for us. I think we’ve all proved we’ve got what it takes to win the fight. Finally – putting the whole school production together has been well worth the hard work. I’m proud of all the performers and their efforts. Well done everyone!

by Ms. Ellie Saunders
This school is awesome! The teachers are awesome! My friends are awesome!

by Keneath Willer

I love this school because it is awesome and it is better than my previous school.

by Jasper Khor

I love to play football with my friends in the school.

by Mikhail

I like this school because my friends here are friendly.

by Valerie

School is awesome! Netball is the BEST!

by Siow Wei Ki

This is a good place where I can know more friends and learn more.

by Zhi Cong

I enjoyed playing football matches against other schools even though we lost.

by Agileshwaran

I like this school because it has better facilities.

by Koay Jin Yao

I enjoy the activities and the variety of choices provided for it.

by Nelson

School life is awesome!

by Lim Jia Wen

I’m looking forward to the challenge week!

by Tan Ye Qian

School is awesome and my friends are awesome too!!!! Love school and my friends.

by Thievya
Year 10

Form Tutor | Ms. Harriet Glover, Ms. Pang Sook Yee & Ms. Chia Hui Poh
Standing Position From Left | Nicholas Kong Yi Fan, Daniel Lim Ee Hau, Oliver Fenelon Chee, Kim Chi Sung,
Derrick Loo Zheng-Yang, Yee Heng Zeh.
Seating Position From Left | Myra Tai Sy Yuin, Timothy Chow Yong Le, Ong Jia Sheng, Yap Yi Tong.

Absent: Ms Pang Sook Yee, Chan Waine Yue.

**MESSAGE**

It’s a pleasure teaching at SIS. All of the students have such wonderful enthusiasm and I am always learning from them. Year 10 is full of amazing and diverse personalities and watching them work together as one is truly inspirational.

by Ms. Harriet Glover
I enjoy school because I feel comfortable taking risks in my lessons to further my learning.

by Ong Jia Sheng

Amazingly positive staff for the students.

by Chan Waine Yue

This school provides varieties of reasonable challenges for each and every student both physically and mentally.

by Daniel Lim Ee Hau

I love this school because the teachers are really cool, especially my form teacher, Ms Harriet.

by Kim Chi Sung

I love this school because everyone works together as a community.

by Park Min Seong

I like this school because there are lots of subjects to explore.

by Yee Heng Zeh

I like art.

by Oliver Fenelon Chee

I like this school because I have made some really good friends.

by Timothy Chow Yong Le

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by Yee Heng Zeh

I like this school because I have made some really good friends.

by Timothy Chow Yong Le
While we could talk in terms of endings, perhaps a more fitting perspective is one of new beginnings. As Year 11 leave to pursue the next stage in their lives—whether that be employment or further study—I know that all of their teachers are immensely proud of their hard work. It has been a busy year: the students have demonstrated responsibility and commitment, working hard and working independently in order to maximise their chances of success. I wish them all the best for results day and for their futures.

by Mr. Tomas Needham
I wish there was a school field because I love football.

by Park Jun Hyoong

There is neither little uncertainties nor the slightest doubt that I should break down these closet doors and be free.

by Tricia Ho Sze Mei

Straits International School allowed me to discover my inner potential that I never knew I had. Caring, compassionate and collaborative, the teachers are passionate about teaching and have brought the best out of me. I had a meaningful, fruitful, learning experience in Straits International School.

by Kuan Ta Hoong

“If you are born poor, it’s not your mistake. If you die poor, then it’s your mistake.”

“When you get a glimpse of your potential, that’s when passion is born.”

Straits gave me the platform, they gave me the gateway to my future. They gave me passion, they gave me guidance. They are the base of a skyscraper, something that brought the future in front of me to walk.

by Tan Zan Huan
Dear Parents and wider community,

On behalf of Eden Handicap, I would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to all the parents who supported the 2015 Eden charity food fair and contributed to making it such a successful and enjoyable event.

The fair which began at 10am, just after a rainy spell, opened to an already eager crowd, there to enjoy the home cooking, international fare and familiar hawker food, enjoyed by more than just Penangites. Whilst other stalls sold clothing, gifts, accessories, souvenirs, sweet treats and services, the main stage rocked with entertainers performing throughout the event.

With your help, we were able to raise over RM1200, which will go towards assisting Eden in providing their free services to people with disabilities. Our food stall which sold RM619 worth of food and was manned by students Ioan Grayhurst Yr 4, Alexis Lynn Yr 6, Patrick Grayhurst Yr 7, Luvlynn Kaur Yr 8, Thievya Munusamy Yr 9; with parents; Oh Hoon, Mr. Charlie and Tien Grayhurst, and Cynthia Gooi, who all worked tirelessly to provide the thronging crowd with curry puffs, Nyonya pumpkin & yam pudding, and freshly hand-made Vietnamese spring rolls.

It was an enjoyable and valuable service learning experience for the attending school council members. Their presence provided some of the much-needed support that Eden Handicap requires. They witnessed first hand how a community comes together to give support through hard work for noble causes. And a noble cause it was, as Eden Handicap performs an irreplaceable community service in Penang by arranging for home visits of the disabled, organising transport for wheelchair users to hospital, and job placement. In their effort to lessen the burden of people with a disability and the lives of the families it affects, Eden Handicap also run a sheltered workshop and hostel for women with intellectual disabilities and three children’s day cares and hostels.

By Mr. Richard Power, Service Co-ordinator

Eden Handicapped Food Fair
After the events of the 25th April and the overwhelming messages of support, The British School (TBS), Kathmandu set up an earthquake relief fund to support a number of communities in Nepal that were severely impacted by the earthquakes. We are very thankful that this included an RM8,426 donation from the SIS community. To date the TBS earthquake relief fund stands at just over £135,000. This is an incredible amount which means that we will be able to build more schools and ensure that the rights of students to have safe and secure buildings is assured in more communities than we had initially hoped.

Our immediate relief efforts were concentrated upon the school communities in Dhading that we are involved with. On 8th May, a team from TBS travelled to Dhading to conduct site visits. We distributed sanitation kits, food and temporary shelters. We also visited the three schools that we have pledged to rebuild to understand what the devastation was like and to ensure that our rebuilding efforts would be concentrated. We are now looking in ways that we can rebuild other schools in the Dhading province as well as other community projects that TBS is involved in. The rebuilding of Gayatri Devi Primary School, Khanigau Primary School and Rudrakanya Primary School has passed initial planning stages.

We hope that students of these schools will be able to move back into their new permanent earthquake resistant classrooms within the next 3 to 6 months. We have also committed funds to the completion of a hostel and training centre at Sungava, another TBS community project within the Kathmandu Valley. Sungava is a day school for girls with learning disabilities, predominantly Down’s Syndrome.

Again we would like to reaffirm to you that all the funds that you have entrusted to us will be spent on our charitable causes and not a penny will be wasted on administration costs. The British School can bear these and TBS students and staff will visit our charities in our own time at our own expense.

We wish to thank you for donating to our appeal; as you can see your support has had a huge impact in what we have been able to achieve in the last 2 months. We have been able to reach more communities in the immediate aftermath and now we can look to the longer term by rebuilding the schools and getting as many students as possible back into permanent classrooms.

Thank you once again and best wishes from all at TBS!

By Dr. John Moore,
Headmaster,
The British School of Kathmandu
These are truly exciting times for Straits International School!

The School is now transforming the future of the Penang Campus by developing an effective learning environment and innovative facilities as part of a permanent campus. Strategically located in the development of IDEAL Slow City, the campus will be located in proximity to Penang International Airport as well as the Second Penang Bridge.

We have been busy for the last two years working out a strategy for our new campus—striving to ensure that the needs of the school and its programs, mission, and vision are supported by the facilities. The opening of the new school, which will house up to 600 students, is set for October 2015.

The permanent campus is being built on 90,000sqft with 6 floors. The classrooms have been designed with regard to the latest pedagogical research on children’s learning styles. Students get to enjoy a lifestyle experience through the state-of-the-art facilities which include:

• Visual and performing arts are catered for in state-of-the-art Music Practice Rooms and a Drama Studio
• Science Laboratories for Chemistry, Physics and Biology
• Impresssive sports facilities, including a Futsal Pitch, Basketball Court, Fitness Suite and an outdoor Swimming Pool
• Well-equipped student Library
• Two large ICT suites
• Multi-purpose hall of 6103sqft with a performing stage
• A large Dining Hall

The foundation pilings have been laid, steel and concrete pillars have been put up and the main structure was completed months ago. The handover of the building is due any day now, however, the authorities have determined to inform us that certain utilities shall not be online until later in the year. We now plan to move in in October, granted that the utilities have been turned on.
Trip to Jump Street

By Indeshwararaj Vijayanand, Year 6

One day, the primary school went to Jump Street as a social event. We had to walk all the way to the theme park, (which was a challenge in itself), and when we arrived, we were greeted by the friendly crew members of Jump Street. Before we started jumping, the crew members split us up into groups and then we did some warm up exercises before they taught us the basic jumps, how to jump higher, how to stop jumping, how to jump on our knees, etc.

There were many activities at Jump Street for us to do varying from the ever-popular battle beam to the awesome jump dodgeball game. I bet that all of the students who went had great fun there and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Finally, after loads of activities, we had to walk all the way back to school again. I must give a special thanks to Mr. Simon, who organised this trip and to all the staff that came along with us. And thanks to the Jump Street crew who did the hard work in preparing the entire trip for us.
This year’s school production was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs as told by Roald Dahl. It was showcased on Saturday 20th June at the huge venue of Dewan Sri Pinang, Georgetown. All pupils from Nursery up to Year 11 were involved in some way, whether on stage or backstage. The pupils had been rehearsing during their drama lessons for many months and all the effort definitely paid off. Their professionalism, organisation and enthusiasm made for a fantastic show. Of course I would say that, but the audience thought so too. So well done everyone for your fantastic effort.

Nursery and Early Years started off the whole production with a dance to Heigh Ho. Choreographed by Ms Dev and Ms Serene, the children danced and skipped their way through the cheerful number. Complete with picks and belts, the children definitely looked the part.

Key Stage One were the very lucky invited guests at the masquerade ball. They certainly were ready for the ball in their shirts and party dresses, including their own handmade masks. Their paired dance certainly was not easy, but they showed all the audience how well they could synchronise their moves. The Year 2 narrators pulled the scenes altogether and the King was protected by his very own guards.

Key Stage Two had lots of scenes to cover. Year 3 were the forest wild, which threatened to help the huntsman kill Snow White. Year 4 were the dinner guests at the palace who enjoyed eating in an extremely uncivilised manner and Year 5 were the horses for the two racecourse scenes. Perhaps my favourite part of the show, was when we had props mishaps. One of the horse’s heads fell off during a race, and all the pupils continued on regardless. Not only was it pretty funny, but it showed me just how professional the cast were. Year 6 took a singing role, as they all performed the first racecourse song. You all sounded great.

Key Stage Three brought the show to an end, tying all the loose ends of the story together. After performing Go Mistletoe Go, they then had to sing Snow White’s Scheme. This song had an amazing amount of words to remember and it had to be clear, not only the diction but with the actions as well. What could have been farcical, was instead amusing and well-executed.

Finally, a huge thanks must go to the backstage crew of students and staff. As always with a show, there’s a lot of running around backstage ensuring everything is running smoothly. Props needed to be brought on, the set moved and children put into position. The lighting needed to be changed and the music cued.

Congratulations to all cast and crew of the Straits International School production 2015. I’m looking forward to the next one already!
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