



Notes from the Heads of School

Guy Cassarchis, Head of Senior School

Welcome to the 2016/2017 Academic Year! As classes "rev up" and timetables, assignments and bells take control of your sons'/daughters' day, there are some things I hope that we teach your children as the year unfolds – even though they do not appear in any of the curriculum papers.

More Than The Curriculum

These are some of the life skills that we hope we can offer that might add to the successful and happy life we wish for your son/daughter:

- 1 It is okay to be yourself. Learning that it is okay to be you even when others do not see the world in the same way is one of your most valuable lessons. It is hard to love others when you cannot love yourself.
- 2 Learning to identify what you truly desire – and having the courage to honour it through effort and perseverance. The alternative is to let other tell you what you want and how you should be happy.
- 3 Learn to take control of yourself. Sleep well, eat well, exercise. Learning to practice effective self-care allows us to be able to reach our potential, follow our passions and be of service to others.
- 4 You do not get to win all the time and that's not only okay, it is necessary. Sometimes not getting exactly what you want is an important lesson. Learning that sometimes the world will not always work out for you is important. Accepting that you need to accept setbacks and keep on trying is one of the great lessons of life.
- 5 Learn to ask for help or support. This is undoubtedly a key success skill. We need to learn when and who to ask for help and accept that doing so is no a weakness but a strength.
- 6 Teaching who to listen to for guidance, wisdom and help. Whether it is online or in real life there are a lot of people who will give you bad advice, misinformation etc. You will go far learning to recognise those whose opinions and information are truly valuable.
- 7 Take some time in your day to stop thinking about the future and live now. Otherwise we can miss so much – the friendly silences, the silly jokes, the colours of the sunset, the smell of rain on hot concrete etc. If we don't learn how to appreciate the present moment and enjoy what life offers right now, it's unlikely that we ever will. One of the most worthwhile practices we can master is becoming thankful for what is.

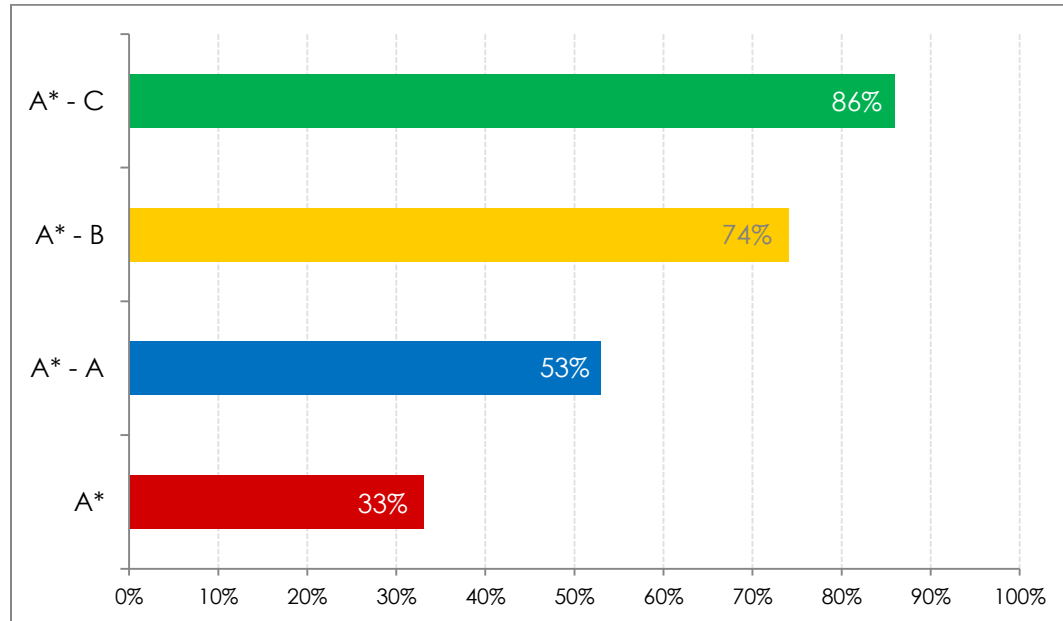
These and many other life lessons will creep into the days your child spends at MIGS, as they navigate their way through the formal curriculum. Sometimes the lessons will be learned by example or action. Sometimes they will be spoken of directly and sometimes they will more subtly insinuate themselves into the day and take root. It is these things that help develop character, resilience and a real but positive perspective on life.

And that is why a MIGS education will always be more than the sum of the examination results at the end of each year.

Celebrating Excellence

On behalf of the Directors, Board of Governors and the entire Mutiara International Grammar School staff, I would like our parents and well-wishers to join us in congratulating the Year 11 Class of 2015/2016 on achieving outstanding results in their 2016 IGCSE Examinations.

They have continued a fine tradition of outstanding results by achieving:



In addition to these fine results the following students were eligible to attain an ICE Award:

- Jordan Kit Seng Marks Distinction
- Tsai Min-Chieh Distinction
- William Lancaster McFarlane Distinction
- Ie Huan Chong Distinction
- Wahyu Aditya Tama Distinction
- Daffa Danendra Abhipraya Merit

The ICE (International Certificate of Education) award recognises the achievements of learners who pass examinations in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects from five different subject groups, including two different languages.

The Cambridge IGCSE subjects are grouped into five curriculum areas:

- Group I: Languages
- Group II: Humanities and Social Sciences
- Group III: Sciences
- Group IV: Mathematics
- Group V: Creative, Technical and Vocational

Learners must take two different languages from Group I, and one subject from each of Groups II, III, IV and V. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

Congratulations to the above six students on achieving this wonderful International recognition.

Wishing all of our students and their families an enjoyable and successful Academic Year.

Nancy Roch-Compan, Head of Junior School

Welcome to our first issue of the Newsletter for the Academic Year 2016/2017. A special welcome to our new students, new parents and new staff. We wish you all an enjoyable and successful Academic Year with us.

As a school, in many ways we have changed, yet in others, we remain the same. Our premises have grown more spacious and are looking refreshed but we continue our Mutiaran heritage – a holistic education and a strong family atmosphere.

The Academic Year has got off to a very positive and purposeful start. Lessons are well underway in the Junior School. Our teachers have successfully made students aware of the daily routines and worked through essential agreements with students about their behaviour in school and their approach to school work.

Recently, students have been led to set their learning targets using the GROW Model. This renders learning more purposeful and is an essential step in assessment for learning.

GROW MODEL
My Learning Odyssey using the GROW Model

My school Goals...

- What do I want to achieve this Term?
- What do I want to achieve by the end of this Academic Year?
- What type of person do I want to become this Academic Year?

Where I am Right now...

- How well did I perform last Academic Year?
- What caused it?
- How do I feel right now about my behaviour/academic performance last Academic Year?
- Where are my strengths and what areas do I need to improve?
- How far away am I from what I want to achieve?
- How far away am I from the type of person I want to become?

What are the Options/Obstacles in my path...

- What can I do to achieve what I want be/do?
- What are my options?
- Are there any obstacles that are in my way?
- Who can help me attain my goals?

Exercise the Will to grow

- What will I do to improve in my Academic Performance this Term?
- What are some other strategies I will undertake to score better grades in my next test/exam?
- What will I do to become a better person this Term?
- What will I do during this Academic Year to improve in how I am with my classmates, friends and teachers?
- What will I do to change the way I feel and think about my studies?

A great deal of active and engaged learning is also taking root during our weekly Student Potential Achievement Civic Enterprise (SPACE) lessons, which emphasises both group and self-directed learning, and is a great platform to develop the interpersonal, social and communication skills – otherwise known as ‘soft skills’ – much sought after in the professional world. More information on SPACE will come your way.

Much of all such rich teaching and learning that is experienced in our classrooms every day at MIGS will remain largely hidden from the view of families and the larger school community if not for our periodic Newsletter.

Often what parents get to see will be the progress report and communication books. These, although important, are rather weak representations of the depth, variety and complexity of the learning that happens within and outside the classroom walls.

Our MIGS newsletter is a vibrant platform where students and teachers share their stories, thoughts, opinions and snapshots. Parents too have contributed their thoughts on several school events. It is great link between the school and the home, helping to make student learning and their accomplishments visible through the quotes, sketches, reflections and photos. Sharing these artefacts of learning with the school community often provokes new understandings, curiosity, surprise and delight. Each story points to what goes on within and outside of our school walls that reveal who our students are and the nature of their learning.

What an important role the school Newsletter plays in bringing to the foreground what would otherwise remain largely invisible.

We hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter as much as we love putting it together. When you have read it, you might want to send it to grandparents and other loved ones far away. I take this opportunity to thank teachers, students and parents for the interesting articles, and the MIGS Communication Team for collating this kaleidoscope of articles and photos.

I wonder if we could perhaps call it “The Mutiaran Pride”.

Orientation Day

MIGS has always had a buddy system to help newcomers settle into their new environment and find their way around the school.

On 5th September, at the start of the 2016/2017 Academic Year, another special session was added to compliment the buddy programme. It was an orientation session filled with fun activities based on several concepts: getting to know each other, teamwork, trust and a role play on bullying.

The idea was for new students to have a positive perception of the School and the presence of friendly peers and adults during the first few days of School. It also helped them to understand different backgrounds and culture and gave them an opportunity to talk about local food.

This session initiated positive social interactions and helped the little ones become familiar with the School setting.

Ms Rajani Vidyasagar, School Counsellor

On the first day of School, all of the Year 5 students were charged with taking care of the Year 1 students.

Each one of us had ta 'buddy' to look after for two whole weeks.

My buddy was Abid.

Every time it was break time, we had to go downstairs to pick up our buddies. Then we had to walk with them to the Dining Hall. After our buddies had finished eating, we had to take care of them while they played.

Once break time was over, we had to line up with our buddies and take them back to their respective classrooms. I would walk with Abid to his class in Year 1S. Then we would go straight back to our classes.

After a few days, all the Year 5 students got used to our responsibilities.

I had a good time taking care of Abid and being his buddy.

Anggia Rachmadyanti, Year 5S



Junior School Curriculum Evening

Rarely does a school or establishment offer a greater opportunity for staff and parents to come together in a spirit of community to view the future plans, predictions and prospects of its school for the forthcoming year.

Opening address made by the Head of Junior School to welcome and thank all those in attendance; to outline the successes of the previous year and the changes to the school in terms of physicality with the new building and all the future opportunities which that will create in the facilitation of a 21st century UK curriculum.

This was followed Heads of Departments (HoDs) were invited to the floor to present their prospective plans and actions for the future.

For my own part, English had to drive through a new syllabus and scheme of work specific to the modern approaches and the requirements of the new Primary Curriculum. Not only is it more challenging, it also seeks to prioritise aspects of teaching English. Word reading before Comprehension. Transcription comes before Composition. Grammar and Punctuation to be given an increased importance, as is Spelling.

In each case all HoDs were afforded the opportunity to explain how they intended to develop children as enthusiastic, perceptive readers and persuasive, energetic writers, itself a challenge indeed in today's world, with so many alternative demands on children's time.

So how do we do it? Here HoDs were able to outline their strategies, approaches and methods for facilitating a modern and engaging curriculum. Classroom strategies applied to meet the requirements of a creative curriculum, which has clear educational purpose. Is delivered above all else with imagination, applying all the technology of a 21st Century classroom.



In the English department regardless of all the success gone before (above the expected pass rate in the GL assessment), we still progress by applying changes with the adoption of an inspirational language and literacy course, 'Oxford English for Cambridge Primary.' OECP recognises that our students are a diverse mixture of nationalities with different languages and mother tongues and to use this diversity as a learning tool so that students learn from each other as well as with each other.

Thematic units featuring texts from around the world provide a fantastic foundation to motivate students especially those of an International nature in a modern multicultural environment keeping them engaged and building their confidence.

Test Practice Book ensures your Cambridge students are prepared for GL Assessment.

At this point HoDs were also given the opportunity to explain the assessment process both summative (assessment of learning) where formal termly assessment tests and end of year traditional tests. Additional to that the application of a formative (assessment for learning) approach, ongoing as a classroom methodology and how modern 21st Century strategies will allow for pupils to assess each other and themselves in a constructive and positive classroom environment.

Mr Gary True, Head of English – Junior School

Roald Dahl Day

If the popular UK author Roald Dahl were still alive, he would have turned 100 on 13th September. His books such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, *The BFG*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Fantastic Mr Fox* have remained popular over many generations and many have been made into movies.

The School celebrated this special day with Library displays, readings from *Revolting Rhymes*, book promotions and interesting activities.

Roald Dahl books were given as prizes to the following winners for the activities.

Junior School

Varshaayinie Yogananga
Jun Mo Lee
Zahra Chaudhary

Ziad Ausama
Nadadhia Ramadhani
Koh Lee Ann

Rauf Roshamsul
Muhammad Azhar Kurniadi
Sheikh Abid Sulaiman

Senior School

Suleman Chaudhary
Ian Romeo

Mohamad Shafiq Mohamad Najeb
Adam Ebihara Siddiqui

Prizes for best dressed were won by:

Dylan True as *Mr Twit*
Yuba Boukendoul as *Mr Willy Wonka*

Jaden Pereira as *The Giant Peach*
Nik Sofia Kosai as *The Witch*

Deborah Clohesy, Teacher Librarian



13th September was Roald Day Day in school. It was organised to celebrate the life of Roald Dahl.

There were colouring contests based on his books and work. There was also an invitation to dress up as some of his famous book characters.

Some people dressed up as witches from the book *The Witches*. There were also a few Willy Wonkas but I was the only Mr Twit.

I wore a white T-shirt with coloured spots and stains for them to look like food stains made by Mr Twit as he was such an untidy eater.

I had a wild woolly black wig on and a beard with bits of blu-tac on it to resemble bits of food. I also wore a pair of long black suit pants rolled up at the ankles as part of what Mrs Twit did to make Mr Twit think he was shrinking.

It was great fun for everyone.

Dylan True, Year 6S

Wellness Week

Wellness Week at MIGS was a week-long event from 19th-23rd September 2016. It kicked off with an energetic Zumba dance during Junior School Assembly on Monday. Senior students had their dance during their Assembly on Friday. The objective was not only to ensure that the students got a great workout but also had immense fun doing it. Both Schools clamored for more and many now want Zumba to be part of their Physical Education lesson in school.



The *Worry Box* at the foyer filled up quickly and had to be emptied at the end of each school day. Children always have some form of anxiety and worry and this gave them an opportunity to shoot arrows of worry into the box. They needed good eye-hand co-ordination to do this and there was plenty of laughter and bustle around the *Worry Box* during break time.

It was also lovely to see the Junior School girls competing with each other at the basketball court to finish three sets of hopscotch at one go. In an era of gadgets and technology it was good to see that traditional outdoor games still brought cheer to young students.

Overall it was a wonderful week of ongoing activities that centered on physical and mental well-being.

Ms Rajani Vidyasagar, School Counsellor

Many students enjoyed Wellness Week.

We had a blast doing Zumba with a professional Zumba instructor. There were many awesome activities other than Zumba such as *Breathing Circles* which were placed around the school. Then there was the stress ball activity which helped to get rid of your stress.

Most of us liked the *Worry Box* where students wrote their worries on paper rocket launchers and launched them into the box. It was loads of fun. The hopscotch activity was amazing too. Many of us liked that best.

Aysha Rais, Year 4S

I was amazed that we were going to have Zumba during Wellness Week. Zumba is the most awesome workout ever. You get to dance to great music, with people, and burn a ton of calories without any discomfort.

I was called on stage to dance. I was excited about the idea of this fitness activity. My energy level was high and soaring. Many of us found Zumba fun and energising.

The next day, we were given paper planes. On the paper planes we must write our biggest worries. After that we were to launch the paper planes into colourful boxes placed at the school porch. What a creative idea!

It was a mood-boosting and wonderful week. I hope we can do this more often.

Gurdeetaa Kaur, Year 5S

“Cassini Scientist for a Day” Winner

As the sun beat down on the National Space Agency, we awaited the arrival of the Minister of Science Technology and Innovation, Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau. Students and parents were gathered at the Agency to find out their results of a much-anticipated competition.

A few short speeches were given by the VIPs after which students were lined up beside the stage. My heart thumped with excitement. And then it was announced.

“Maryam Nazir Chaudhary of Mutiara International Grammar School, winner of the Best Essay Award, Secondary School!”



Around two months ago, Ms Josebell had informed the Year 9s about a competition called “Cassini Scientist for a Day”. The competition required students to conduct research on three targets: Saturn’s Rings and Moons (Tethys, Enceladus and Mimas), Jupiter, and Rhea and Tethys.

Students then had to choose a target each and explain what scientific discoveries could be made if the Cassini spacecraft was directed to their chosen target. The essay was not to be more than 500 words.

Being a fan of space and the many mysteries it contains, I decided to enter. The more I researched on the said targets, the more immersed I became with anonymities each target enclosed. Finally, I decided to write on Saturn’s Rings and Moons (Tethys, Enceladus and Mimas).

My heart leaped with joy when I found out I had won the Best Essay Award. All in all, it was an amazing experience being part of this competition and I hope to enter again.

Maryam Nazir Chaudhary, Year 10T

On My Way to the Olympics

This summer I had the opportunity to attend fencing training and camp with Olympic gold medalists and world champion fencers from Italy. My training took place at the prestigious Fencing Academy Marche in Jesi, Ancona. The training took one week to complete. I was taught an array of techniques which helped me hone my skills. The training was rigorous and tiring but was well worth it.

My life has revolved around clashing blades with skilled opponents for seven years now. Decked out in a white gear and mask, I have become so accustomed to the feel of a sword in my hand.

Fencing is and will always be my sport and passion. This training and camp has opened the opportunity for me to fence at international level and participate in the world ranking.

Muhammad Alif Jadden, Year 8T



Career Guidance & Counselling

A new feature in the Senior School is its career guidance and counselling programme.

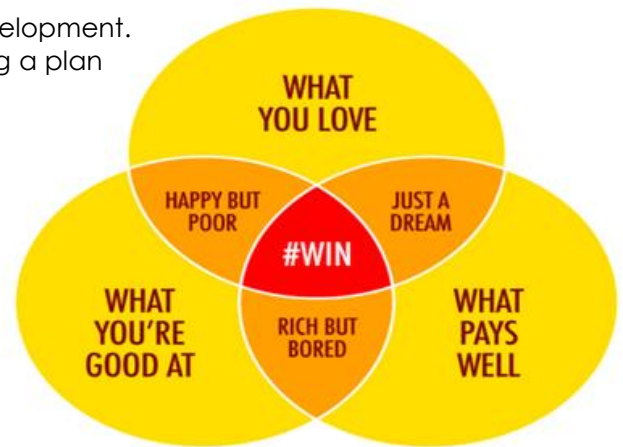
Aimed at helping Senior students explore viable education and career option, there will be a provision of comprehensive information available at the new career guidance and counselling unit located at the Main Wing of the school.

Among the areas students can expect to receive help with include:

- figuring out who they are and what they want out of their education, their career and their life.
- having someone to talk to about their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and concerns about their career and educational choices, which will help them sort out, organise and make sense of their thoughts and feelings.
- identifying the factors influencing their career development.
- determining the next steps to take and developing a plan to achieve their goals.

Since career development is a lifelong process, career guidance and counselling can be appropriate for students from Year 7 to Year 11, including our alumni.

The earlier you get started making intentional decisions about your future, the better prepared you will be. So students, drop by for a visit whenever you can.



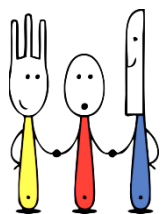
Mr Jehabar Sadiq, Accounting & Business Studies Teacher

Food Hygiene

Food is a common way for illness to spread, especially among children. Food contaminated with harmful bacteria and viruses causes illness to spread quickly among children, commonly known as food poisoning or Acute Gastroenteritis (AGE). This happens when children share toys, food and toilet facilities.

Food poisoning is an illness children can get after eating food that contains a toxin (poison) made by some germs. If you have food poisoning, you will feel sick, vomit, abdominal (tummy) pains and diarrhea (runny poo). This can start a couple of hours to a day or so after eating the contaminated food.

Correct principles of hygiene should always be practiced. It will help to prevent the spread of infections and diseases that can damage the digestive tract.



- Wash hands before and after meals and snacks
- Cover your hand/finger with plaster if you have a cut or wound before eating
- Trim your nails properly every week
- Avoid eating off the floor wherever you are
- Use cutlery to lessen the transmission of germs from the hands to the mouth
- Avoid sharing food with friends
- Wash hands frequently after activities (playing, reading, after using the toilet)

Reka Ramakrishnan, School Nurse

Thank you...

We would like to thank **you**, the Mutiaran community, for your generosity in donating books to the School during our book collection project in Term 3, Academic Year 2015/2016.

We channelled some of the books to underprivileged children in Namibia.

It was sent through a representative who is on a mission to change and improve the lives of the less fortunate in Namibia.

Her touching response follows.

“ The 1st of September marked a great joy for many children in Onangombe Combined School and Ambrosius Amutenya Private School when they received their books.

A big thank you to all the students who donated their books... thank you to all who contributed. ”

We have reached out a helping hand to fellow students halfway across the globe who are also on the path to a brighter future.

We cannot thank you enough, Mutiaran students and parents.

Book Collection Project

The Year 10 Community Arts group held a charity book donation recently to collect books from Mutiaran students. We received over 500 books which have already been donated to underprivileged children in Namibia and Cambodia. Through the donation of these books, we hope to provide the children with the opportunity to read as well as to acquire knowledge about the world around them.



The aim of this project for the Community Arts group was to educate students on the importance of giving back to society, and to familiarise students with happenings in the world outside. For instance, we highlighted the issue of illiteracy and a lack of education and resources.

Many students donated their books to aid us in our cause. Donation boxes were placed around the School for students to place the books in. Overall, we had collected more books than what we had expected.

This project taught us that instead of wasting resources that could be highly valuable to others, we must give them away to people who are in need of them. We would like to thank all the students and parents who have spent their money and resources to support this cause.

Abdullah Khalid
Student, Year 10T

Ian Romeo
Student, Year 10E



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