



## Notes from the Heads of School

### MR GUY CASSARCHIS, CO-PRINCIPAL / HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Our School has come to the end of another academic year. For teachers this means the completion of Student Reports and evaluating the educational programmes that they have been delivering to students during the year. This deliberate reflection on the work they have done is the basis of potential improvement in the future.

It is also the time of the year when we each reflect on what we have achieved, what we have not achieved and for some of us, we reflect on the mistakes we have made during the year, and how we would like to have done some things differently. That is not a bad thing, and indeed a healthy and positive thing to do. No one is perfect and it is through our errors and mistakes that we learn and grow.

### **The school is growing; our children are growing....some insights**

As parents we are often surprised just how quickly our children grow up and the adjustments to the way we parent our children has to change as the children move from childhood and into the adolescent years, as is the case for a significant number of our MIGS families.

The rate of change for early adolescence is usually pretty obvious and whilst we welcome the changes as our children start to grow up, parents sometimes find these changes a little disturbing. To some extent parents have a level of control over younger children but by the time their child is about 13 or 14 years of age so many other factors influence the young person who is almost an adult.

The physical changes are but one change. With early adolescence new concerns come to the fore, including body image and appearance, and simultaneously adolescents may be more clumsy and awkward due to rapid growth changes too. Then there are the emotional changes that the young teen experiences which can include mood swings, sulking, and a desire for privacy and short tempers. As a teen's capacity for thinking ahead develops so too does their tendency to worry about the future. Some may worry excessively about:

- their school performance
- their appearance, physical development and popularity
- being bullied at school
- not having friends
- their ability to get a good job
- violence

Quite often it is not the parent to whom the adolescent turns in dealing with their personal issues and worries. Some may waver from wanting parent's support to excluding them from their world. One minute they want to be treated like a small child; the next they will want no help from adults. On some occasions a teenager will appear to have withdrawn from family life altogether but they will come back eventually when they are ready and have the need. This can be a matter of minutes, hours, days, weeks and even sometimes many months before you connect again.

The cognitive or mental changes that take place in early adolescence may be less easy to see, but they can be just as dramatic as the physical and emotional changes. During adolescence, most teens make large leaps in the way they think, reason and learn. The cognitive changes allow young teens to learn more advanced and complicated material in school. They become eager to gain and apply knowledge and to consider a range of ideas or options. They may not necessarily accept their parent's viewpoint and they may challenge the reasons behind parent's instructions as well.

The changes for our children are exciting and it takes time for both the young teens and their parents to adjust to all these changes. I hope these insights are of some help to parents whose children have begun, or are about to start this new phase in their lives. Be patient, and demonstrate your love for your children through your ongoing support, acceptance and understanding of them.

As usual, Term 3 has been another busy and eventful time within the life of the school. When we reflect on the number of events that have been held throughout this session, it is wonderful to see what we have all taken part in shaping various parts of our lives. Some of the events that took place include:

- The School production – Caucasian Chalk Circle
- Year 9 CAT4 Test (IGCSE Grade Predictors)
- Year 9 to Year 10 Parent and student information evening
- Monitors Camp (Year 10 School Leaders)
- Whole School Counselling Week programmes
- Teacher's Day Celebration
- World Environment Day
- Year 9 Market Day
- Year 11 Graduation morning
- Year 11 Prom Night
- International PE Geek CPD
- Year 7 – 10 End of Year Examinations
- The MIGS Talent Show
- Issuing of new Academic Reports
- Year 6 to Year 7 2017/2018 Transition Day
- Speech Day
- End of Term 3 Parent/Teacher conferences

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and bid farewell to three staff members who have been working tirelessly for the Senior School students in their own special way. Firstly we bid farewell to Ms. Sybille from the Modern Foreign Languages Department, who will be setting off on an adventure to Lagos in Nigeria to take up a teaching appointment as the French teacher in the Middle School @ The prestigious American School in Lagos.

Secondly, we come to Mr. Ivan in the Mathematics Department. After many years at MIGS the time has come for him to head up the road to one of our competitors.

And thirdly to Mr. Ajesh, who is venturing off in his new found multi-coloured Jeep to the Island of Penang and a new establishing school who requires his energy, crazy ideas and positive attitude to teaching and life in general.

We thank all 3 teachers for being loyal and hardworking members of the MIGS Senior School Academic Team, they would always think of our students first and foremost. We all have enjoyed your friendship, loyalty and commitment to our wonderful students and the school. We wish you well with your new appointments and may you all continue to prosper as outstanding educators well into the future.

### HELPING OUT A STRESSED CHILD

Many parents feel powerless to help when their child is stressed and overwhelmed about their schoolwork. It is not just senior students who experience this level of stress, research indicates that for some students this starts as early as Year 7. If your child is experiencing stress and anxiety related to their schoolwork, here are some strategies you can try.

1. **FIND OUT MORE:** Try and discover what it is that is causing the most anxiety. Does your student feel anxious about tests or assignments? Are they struggling to plan and manage their workload? Are they finding a particular subject difficult? It is very difficult to address the issue until you really uncover what the issue is. If they do not want to discuss with mum and dad, you may find asking a teacher who they like and respect to talk to them may lead to a better outcome.
2. **LET THE SCHOOL KNOW:** Next talk to your child's tutor or a teacher that is responsible for your child's year group. You can either ask the school to investigate further and even take action to address the issue, or you can ask them to keep it confidential, as you are just wanting to make them aware of the issue.
3. **DECIDE STRATEGIES:** Once the problem is clear, next step is to decide what strategies to try (and you may need to try multiple strategies over time). You may have some ideas of things your child could try, you may find some ideas on the Study Skills Handbook site, or you may need to talk to teachers to learn from their expertise.
4. **DON'T GIVE UP:** If a strategy doesn't work, then try something different. Different people will have different suggestions so google or talk to lots of teachers or other parents about the issue and see if they have other ideas you could try.
5. **CONSIDER EXTRA SUPPORT:** Your child may need additional support. For example from a school counsellor, or a psychologist or a tutor. Make sure you are clear about the issue so you can find the right person to provide the additional support your child needs.

As I too will be leaving MIGS in early August this year, this will be my final newsletter item. I would like to thank the entire student body for embracing me when I first started at the School in late August 2015, and for working with me through the various projects that the staff and I have implemented for the betterment of the School and student body. I would like to thank the Year 11 students for sharing their final year at the School with me as their Head of Senior School; I wish them all the best for the upcoming IGCSE results in early August and their future.

I could not be more pleased with the work that the staff and students have accomplished over the past two years. We have had lots to celebrate in my time at MIGS, and I will cherish the memories of this place for a long time.

Thank you all for the warmth, kindness, understanding, support and at times patience throughout my past two years as the Head of Senior School, they will be cherished and remembered. Have a safe and happy holiday break, and the staff is looking forward to seeing you all rejuvenated and ready for the 2017 – 2018 Academic Year.

**Quote:**

"Some say opportunity knocks only once. This is not true.  
Opportunity knocks all the time, but you have to be ready for it."  
Louis L'Amour

**New Academic Year: Term 1 – 2017/2018**

- Thursday 24 August – **New Teacher Induction Day 1**
- Friday 25 August – **New Teacher Induction Day 2**
- Monday 28 August – Teacher Inset 1 CPD
- Tuesday 29 August – Teacher Inset 2 CPD
- Wednesday 30 August – Teacher Inset 3 CPD
- **Thursday 31 August – National Day Public Holiday**
- **Friday 1 September – Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday**
- Monday 4 September – Term 1 Begins for Staff & Students

**MS NANCY ROCH-COMPAN, CO-PRINCIPAL / HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL**

The last week of School was a frenzy of meaningful activities and events by and for the whole School Community. It was heartwarming indeed to see students, teachers and parents all deeply involved in one way or other at School.

I personally would like to thank you too for the kind thoughts and gestures extended to me throughout the year, not to mention the collaboration and understanding accorded as partners in educating your child(ren), as we recall the following highlights ...

**GL Assessments**

This Year saw the full introduction of the suite of Progress Tests (PTs) in English, Mathematics and Science from the UK-based GL Assessments in the Junior School as part of the Assessment of Learning.

Benchmarking assessments such as the PTs can be useful to evaluate the level of acquisition of most curriculum-related learning outcomes, and communicate a strong message to students, teachers, and parents about what knowledge and which skills are important to learn. However, more complex competencies, values and attitudes are assessed through teacher-based Continuous Assessments carried out throughout the Year via mini tests, performance tasks and SPACE/STEAM projects.

**20th Speech Day**

Our Annual Speech Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our students at the end of each Academic Year, to acknowledge the contribution of our teachers, leaders and support staff towards the success of all our students, and to thank the directors of our School for having actively been supporting the development of MIGS to what it has become today. It is also a day for parents to be proud of their children's achievements and realise how much their own involvement in the lives of their children have come to fruition.

An all-rounded development and achievement is what students should be aiming for. This is the reason why we have added a new award this year called the Holistic Achievement Award. I urge all students to continue working hard next academic year and each time ask, "How can I be more... not only in my mind, but also in my heart?"

## **STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) Convention**

We know that good grades are not enough, and we increasingly need to connect academic knowledge and skills with the real world, and more importantly with the demands of a VUCA<sup>1</sup> (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity) environment. Attributes such as adaptability, confidence and creativity are desirable and critical to student learning right from the early years in School. Such was the underlying motivation for the S.P.A.C.E. (Student Potential Achievement Civic Enterprise) in Terms 1 and 2, and the STEAM sessions in Term 3.

The weekly STEAM sessions culminated with a STEAM Convention that showcased worthwhile forms of young students' wonderment and accomplishments. It proved to be a hub of innovation where students built and tested their prototypes of boats, toys and other gadgets.

## **Bug Club Online Reading Programme**

Our school has recently acquired an online reading programme called the Bug Club that we have started as part of our Holiday Enrichment Programme. Bug Club is a whole-school reading programme that hooks children into a lifelong love of reading through stunning books and an incredible online reading world filled to the brim with popular characters. Students enjoy collecting the "Active Learn Coins" as they read more and answer the quiz questions that follow. Login procedures have already been shared with all in a previous email.

## **Transition Day for Reception and Year 6 students**

A traditional rite of passage for students as they move to a new Year Group, Transition Day is when our Reception and Year 6 students experience in a formal way, a taste of the routines and procedures and life in the Junior and Senior sections respectively. However, continuous efforts throughout the new Academic Year by both parents and teachers will be necessary to ensure a smooth transition into the higher Year Group.

## **MIGS Talent Show**

The Junior School is indeed fortunate to have an enthusiastic team of teachers and students in the Senior School who always include our Junior students in the events that they organise. The MIGS Talent Show was a huge MIGS family endeavour that treated us to a showbiz experience filled with upbeat skills in dancing and singing and expressive poetry renditions.

<sup>1</sup> *An idea originally mooted by the US Army War College*

What energy and excitement and enthusiasm! Believe me, I know how difficult it is to memorise a simple dance routine, let alone the complicated choreography our students are capable of. Well done MIGS!

I would like to end the Academic year by once again thanking each of you who volunteered or who have helped the school in any way this year! Every School relies upon its entire Community for support, and, without the various support efforts of each and every one of you, we would not have been able to continue to offer our students the myriad of opportunities that we have this year. I have often said, our children continue to be academically, socially and emotionally richer because of the efforts of so many of you.

Thank you so very much.

I wish all our students and their families a great End-of-Year break, and I look forward to welcoming all of you back when School reopens on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for another exhilarating Year of Learning.

## Reception Assembly

The Reception children worked hard and rehearsed tirelessly for their play, "We're going on a Bear Hunt". The play was about a brave young family that went on an adventure to find a bear but faced numerous obstacles before arriving at their destination.

They crossed many hurdles on their way to finally find a bear in a narrow, gloomy cave. The family crossed a field of a long wavy grass, a deep cold river, thick oozy mud, a big dark forest, a swirling, whirling snowstorm and arrived at the cave. On seeing the bear, they panicked and immediately ran back home.

The children performed enthusiastically and exceptionally well in front of their parents. We had a few nervous ones but they did not let the audience know. The energy and synergy of the little actors were remarkable. It was an amazing experience for the children as they show-cased their talents in singing, dancing and acting.

Wow! What a brilliant stage performance put up by the children for their parents and school mates. Well done children!

Reception Teachers: Ms. Sheena and Ms. Mona





## Year 4 S.T.E.A.M. Exhibition

### Year 4R and Year 4S

My team and I visited both the Year 4S and 4R classes to ask them some questions. When we arrived at the Year 4S classroom, we saw them working hard.

This was a photo of two boys working together.



### Interview time!

We started asking the children to tell us about their projects and how they did it. Most of them responded really well and some of their models were pretty fascinating. One of the groups had presented a story to us in which a group of children were stuck in a garage. They had to build things to entertain themselves and some of them were decorations or even toys! They had worked hard on completing the model.

One group had made an electrical circuit or light bulb while another had made a cardboard spinner. Yet another group made a robotic arm using some cardboard, straw and some string. It seems that when you pull the straw backwards, it will pull the fingers back.

One other team made a boat which could be built with materials available from our own houses.

All groups took notes. Many of them could easily make their project because most materials used were from home.

These are photos of student's work



By: Shubham, Adam, Ayesha, Umar, Nada  
04.07.2017

## Best Essay Award

It was the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2016. The sun beat down on the National Space Agency, as the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau arrived. 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 involved students to research on three targets: Saturn's Rings and Moons (Tethys, Enceladus and Mimas), Jupiter, and Rhea and Tethys. Students then had to choose one 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).

The results were declared on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. 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**  
**(10T)**

## ASMO & SASMO

### Discovering our Competitive Edge in Mathematics and Science

To provide more exposure for our students in MIGS on an international platform so that they can discover their true potential has always been a long standing guiding statement of our school. In late March and mid-April, some of our students participated in Singapore and Asian Schools Mathematics Olympiad (SASMO) and Asian Science and Math Olympiad (ASMO).

The Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO), one of the largest Math Contests in Asia, is organised by Singapore International Math Contests Centre. With high but realistic standards, SASMO aims to stretch the untapped thinking potential of the student potential of our students. Students' participation in the SASMO will help them improve in school Mathematics as well as higher order thinking skills. This year, there were over 22,000 contestants from 19 countries including Singapore and Malaysia. Around 10,000 awards were awarded globally to outstanding contestants.

### 2017 Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO)

In the SASMO, the top 40% of the participants will receive an Award Certificate. Of these awardees, the top 8% will receive the Gold certification, and the next 12% will be awarded Silver and finally the last 20% will be awarded Bronze.

Given below is a list of participants and award winner from MIGS:

Bronze Award:

- CHO JEONG KYU Year 5

Certificate of participation:

- AISHATH ZARA MOHAMED MOOMIN Year 4
- AAISH ABDULLA DIDI Year 5
- DANIEL ROBERT MAGTAL MANTZ Year 5
- RYAN ADAM SARDELICH Year 5
- CHANG YI Year 6
- SHUBHAM KUMAR Year 6



### 2017 Asian Science and Math Olympiad

To provide recognition to outstanding students in Science and Mathematics, winners of the ASMO 2017 will be eligible to apply for selection to represent Malaysia in other international competitions such as ASMO International, ASMOPS (Asian Science and Mathematics Olympiad for Primary School) and WMO (World Math Olympiad).

Below is a list of award winners from MIGS:

Gold award (Science): RYAN ADAM SARDELICH Year 5

Silver award (Science): AISHATH ZARA MOHAMED MOOMIN Year 4

Bronze award (Math): JION LEE Year 6

Merit Awards:

- RAFIF JANUAR ARDIAN Year 3
- MARISSA BINTI HALIM Year 3
- YOOSUF AKIL MOHAMMED Year 4
- MUHAMMAD MIKHAEL AHMAD BAQI Year 4 (Science)
- AAISH ABDULLA DIDI Year 5
- HWANG SUNWOO Year 5
- LAUREN SHIREEN OLIAEI Year 5
- CHO JEONG KYU Year 5
- IPUTU SHIVNA NANDANA Year 5
- CHIEW QIAN TUNG Year 5 (Science)
- ZIAD AUSAMA Year 6 (Science)

### Ms Esther Nip

Head of Mathematics and Science

Teacher of Mathematics and Science



## Speech Day

Speech day is a very significant day for students and parents at Mutiara. It is a special day to celebrate students' academic and sports achievement throughout the year. Top students are honoured with prizes, prefects with badges and certificates. It also showcased the top 3 winners of this year's Talent Show proudly performing for parents and students. This year's Speech day was held in the school hall on 6 July, 2017 at 8 am.

Prize winners, new prefects, certificate receivers and trophy winners were guided to the senior ICT lab to be seated accordingly. Thereafter, everyone took their books out and started reading for a while. I saw parents walking into the hall, with a grin from ear to ear. They took their seats, and meanwhile I could feel my heart pumping through my chest like a drum.

The day began with the singing of the National Anthem and the School song by the Junior School Choir. The choir then gave a special song entitled "Fight Song" which was conducted by their vocal coach, Ms Debra Abraham.

Next came Mr. Gary's opening speech followed by Ms. Nancy's speech. She talked to us about the prizes, what they mean, and other achievements in the Junior School. After that Dr. Hocine came on stage to give out the new prefect badges to the new prefects. Then we went backstage again to wait for the main event which was the Prize Giving Ceremony!

The Prize Giving Ceremony started with Year 1 right up to Year 6 awards. The prizes were given to the Most Improved Student, followed by third, second and first place winners for each Year Group. This year a new award called Holistic Award was given to a student who was good in both sports and studies. I received the first prize for Year 5. When I stepped on stage, my mum had a big smile on her face. I was elated.

I quickly rushed to the changing room to change into my talent show costume. Then, I took a seat and waited for our performance. When it was time, we got onto the stage and performed with style.

Finally our Speech Day ended with the Closing Speech by Ms. Stella. This year's Speech Day was simply amazing.

**Lauren Shireen Oliaei**  
**Year 5S**



## Screen Workout for Young Brains

Hard to keep your little ones away from the small screen? Here's a suggestion from the web.

Handheld devices can be mobile classrooms as long as parents are around to monitor what children consume on their little screens, and limit the time they spend glued to them.

There are several educational apps out there, with some even being designed to help parents manage the holiday learning void.

Fun apps like Officeworks' **Growing Minds**, for instance, aim to provide 6-13 year-olds with challenging games to give their brain a workout by improving memory and attention spans, as well as some simple exercises across key study areas of Mathematics, English and Science. The games are designed to maximise player engagement and enjoyment as they learn and grow.

Downloadable from

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.au.com.officeworks.growingminds&hl=en>



**Nancy Roch-Compan**

Co-Principal/Head of Junior School



## Tips on First Aid & CPR

### First Aid & Basic Life Support (BLS)

**First aid** is the assistance given to any person suffering a sudden illness or injury, with care provided to preserve life, prevent the condition from worsening, and/or promote recovery. Help is given to a sick or injured person until full medical treatment is available.

By performing simple procedures, it may be possible to save lives by giving basic treatment until professional medical help arrives. There are 3 basic reasons to help others in emergency/injury:

- Reduce patient's recovery time either in a hospital or at home.
- Make the difference between a patient having a temporary or lifelong disability
- Save and restore a patient's life

**Basic life support (BLS)** is a level of medical care which is used for victims of life-threatening illnesses or injuries until they can be given full medical care at a hospital. BLS includes Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for adults and pediatric, relieve choking and the use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

This training was held for staff at MIGS in August 2017. The purpose of this training is to provide all staff medical knowledge and skills to recognise injuries and save a life in an event of emergency. Every trained staff will be able to act as an Emergency First Aider in the school and where ever they are.



## Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for adults

**CPR** is an emergency procedure in which a person presses on the victim's chest (chest compressions) and gives them a series of rescue breaths to help save their life when they are in cardiac arrest.

**D.R.C.A.B** - is a sequence of action to perform CPR in a most effective way.

**D** – Danger (ensure both victim and responder are away from danger)

**R** – Response (check for response)

**C** – Compression (start chest compression if there is no pulse and response, perform 5 cycles of chest compression and breaths, 30:2 ratio)

**A** – Airway (Head Tilt – Chin Lift to open airway)

**B** – Breathing (2 Breaths: Take 1 second to deliver each breath. Deliver air until you make the victim's chest rise)

## Adult Rescue Breathing

If an adult victim has a definite pulse, but not breathing: Give 1 breath every 5-6 seconds (about 10-12 breaths per minute). Give each breath in 1 second, each breath should result in visible chest rise & check pulse about every 2 minutes (normal pulse/ heart rate is 60-100 beats per minute).



**Ms Reka**  
School Nurse

- End -