

Monthly Newsletter: March 2016

IMPORTANT DATES:

March – mid-April 2016

24 Mar.	Easter Activities (K)
25 Mar.	Good Friday Public Holiday
28 Mar. – 1 Apr.	Easter Holidays
11 Apr.	Study leave G12
11 – 15 Apr.	Mid-Semester Assessments G7 – G12
18 – 22 Apr.	K2 & G6 Exhibition
22 Apr.	Annual Uni. Workshop G10 & G11



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

Principal's message, Welcome Ms Hannie Rose, PSG meeting invitation, Science week, Collaborative learning, UOI Exhibit, HWA welcomes Huijia, Field trips and Visits, Grade 12 Art Exhibition, Cultural Hour, and TED Talk.

Principal's message

It is my sixth week at Hillside World Academy and I am starting to get to know the school. I would like to thank students and teachers for their warm welcome and assistance during by orientation period.

Walking around the school, I am struck by the many activities undertaken by the teachers and students at our small vibrant campus. Many of the activities include collaborative teaching and learning, not just within and between classes, but between schools. It is a great advantage of a small school to be able to encourage collaborative learning between students of all ages.

It is encouraging to hear the students speak in both English and Chinese. Bilingualism is close to my heart and I hope to strengthen the school's already strong emphasis on language. We encourage students in the school to communicate with each other to practice their language skills and to develop more of a school spirit.

Linked to developing a HWA school spirit, we have introduced a Monday morning assembly. This is a great opportunity for the students to come together, get to know each other better, hear announcements and recognize fellow students' achievements. We would like to see the students, through the Student Council, become more involved in the morning assembly and school life as a whole.

I have more or less completed my school orientation and I now look forward to getting to know parents and guardians. Please look for more details about the 8 April Parents Support Group (PSG) meeting in the newsletter. It will be a chance for me to meet parents who are keen to get involved in the life of the school.

Seah Poh Chua
Principal

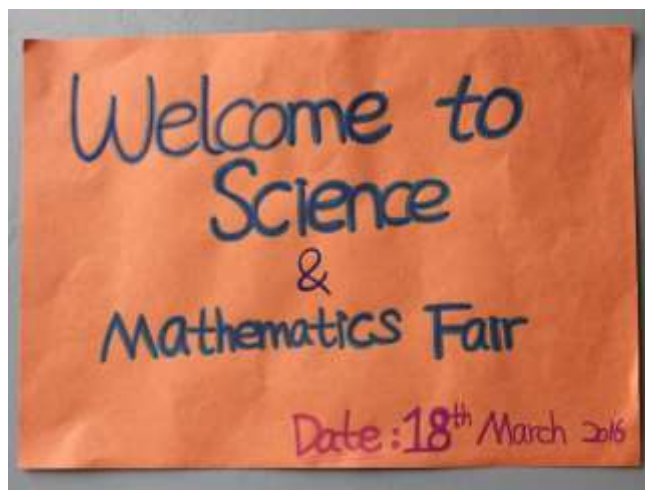
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HWA Welcomes Ms. Hannie Rose

Welcome Ms Hannie Rose to Hillside World Academy! Ms Hannie Rose comes to our school from a day care centre for the elderly here in Singapore. She has a background in nursing from the Philippines and is a registered nurse in Singapore. Ms Hannie Rose will replace Ms Katrina Pobre who recently moved to London.

PSG meeting on 8 April at 8.15 am

The Parents Support Group will hold its next meeting on 8 April. All parents are invited to attend the meeting. It is a great opportunity for parents to get more involved in the life and culture of the school. The PSG has purposefully changed the meeting time to the morning in the hope that more parents are available and able to get involved. If you are interested in joining the Parents Support Group or would like more information, please contact Ellen at ellen@novusasia.com



Science, Science, Science

Last week, students of Middle and High school were able to participate in a variety of activities, exhibitions, field trips and other learning opportunities. Some of the highlights included a visit to Singapore Zoo on the Monday, followed by a visit to the Art Science Museum on Tuesday and a Science and Mathematics Fair on Friday.



Over the last few weeks, the students of primary, middle and high school have been able to benefit from several science related learning opportunities whether it has been through collaborative learning, field trips, visitor speakers at the school or simply enjoying the partial solar eclipse.



Collaborative Learning

There have been several instances of collaborative inter-school learning over the last few weeks. This is a great experience for both primary and middle students. So far, students have been able to work together in Individuals and Society, Design and Technology and Science. Grade 1 listened to presentations by Grade 9 on the role of wetlands within the ecosystem, and worked with Grade 10 on designing and making soft toys. Meanwhile, Grade 5 spent a session with Grade 10 in the science lab carrying out experiments.

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Grade 3, 4 and 5 UOI Exhibit

Grades 3, 4, & 5 held their unit of inquiry exhibition in the Town Hall in early March. The students chose what specific work samples they wanted displayed and the work samples were from the first three units of inquiry. Parents and students came to see their work which engaged the students in conversations about their learning.

HWA welcomes Huijia

Two weeks ago, HWA welcomed the first class from the Beijing Huijia Private School to Singapore in 2016. Each class typically stays in the school for a month and HWA hosts seven classes per year. HWA students, especially in primary school, get plenty of opportunities to engage with the students from China, practice their Chinese. Likewise, students from Beijing get to interact with children from all over the world, learning about new countries and cultures.



Field Trips & HWA in the community

The school continues to engage students in the community through field trips in the community and visits by guest speakers. The trips are linked to the unit focus, whether it be in nursery or High School.

Nursery visits a nursery

In late February; Nursery visited a local nursery garden shop to explore all the colours and shapes that can be found in nature. The kids had a great time exploring the nursery and the focus linked to the unit 'Colour and shapes are all around us'.



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Primary field trips

Grade 1 and Grade 2 spent 11 March visiting the Singapore Science Centre. The purpose of the trip was to explore a new unit 'Understanding the way materials behave and interact determines how people use them'. A week earlier Grade 2 visited Gardens by the Bay as part of their unit on the environment.



Primary guest speakers

There have also been a fair few visits to the school over the last few weeks. Grade 4 recently received guest speakers linked to its units of inquiry. First, Enoku Tay, CEO of Kara Santan Pertama (Coconut Company) who jumpstarted the unit on 'Food' and talked about the processing of coconuts. He was followed by Xu ChenJie, assistant professor at NTU who talked to students about the Scientific Inquiry Cycle. He conducted an experiment on light absorption and showed students how to use mean, median, and mode in gathering data as young scientists.

On 14 March, primary students enjoyed a talk by Singapore scientist/cartoonist Sir Fong. The students really appreciated the session which made science both fun and informative. All the teachers were impressed with the students who answered Sir Fong's questions with so much clarity and knowledge.



Middle School field trips

Individuals & Society students explored Singapore in February and March. Grade 9 visited Sungei Buloh to witness and explore best practices in the conservation of wetlands. Meanwhile, Grade 10 visited NEWater in February to see how Singapore addressed its water scarcity and become a water sufficient nation through the 'Every Drop Counts' campaign.



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Contributing to the community

The old CNIS school uniforms have come to good use after having been donated to an indigenous tribe in the Philippines called Mangyan of Mindoro. The uniforms reached the remote area last month, where people are living below the poverty line.



Grade 12 Art Exhibition

Visual Arts students of Grade 12 are holding their final art exhibition for the IB diploma. Hillside students and parents have been able to enjoy the exhibition for the last few weeks. Opening the exhibition, Principal Seah expressed his appreciation for the effort made by the students in their work. Other students were later able to look at the work and speak to the artists about their work and vision.



Cultural Hour

In February, the school held its first Cultural Hour. The event was initiated by High School and aims to present various aspects of cultures represented by our students and teachers. Grade 12 student Movses Makaryan presented the Armenia *khachqars* or cross stones, which are a unique part of Armenian culture and have been used as tombstones and commemorative monuments. Additional Cultural Hours are planned for the next week and the events are open to the school community.



TED Talk for IB Diploma Students

Congratulations to Li Ming (William) from G12 who has been offered an opportunity to present a TED Talk organised by the IB Diploma Programme students on 8 April. Six students were interviewed from whom three students were nominated and eventually one proposal chosen.

For more photos, follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/HillsideWorldAcademy