



AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

The Leader

AIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue May 2021



An **inspired** school



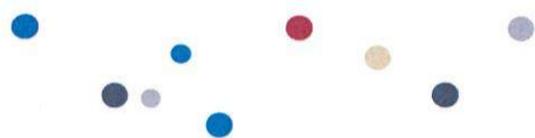
Cambridge Assessment
International Education





Letter from the CEO

Clarence van der Wel



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce some exciting new projects that we are planning to deliver over the coming months. These projects are a continuation of our ongoing investment to enhance the educational facilities across all the Australian International School campuses. They build on the projects completed last year at the Thu Thiem campus which included a major upgrade of the library, a new senior student centre and a boarding facility. All three are modern, inspiring spaces for students and designed by one of Vietnam's most eminent architects.

The Inspired Group is focussed on providing an attractive, student centred learning environment designed to ensure students are able to achieve excellence in all aspects of their education. The projects that are planned at AIS support Inspired's three pillars of education: Academics, Arts and Sports, and place students at the centre.

The projects include

- A shade cover for the sports field at the Thu Thiem campus. This project has been on hold as a result of the impact of the pandemic but we can now announce that it will proceed.
- Improvements to the cafeteria and the auditorium at the Thu Thiem campus.
- Upgrades of the entrances and reception areas of the Thu Thiem and Thao Dien campuses.
- General overall improvement of a range of facilities across all campuses.

We are currently working with our architect/designer on the detailed designs and work will commence as we head towards the summer break. Regular updates will be sent as the work progresses.

We appreciate the support you give the school by entrusting us with the education of your children. We look forward to the enhancements to our facilities and the benefits they will provide to our students.

Yours sincerely,

Clarence van der Wel

CEO Asia Pacific
Inspired



From the **Executive Principal**

Ms Davina McCarthy



Newsletter May 2021

"The shape and solutions of the future rely totally on the collective effort of people working together. We are all an integral part of the web of life." Jacque Fresco

It was a privilege to be present at the ceremony to unveil the Australian Mural at Cherry Blossom campus recently and so lovely to see so many parents coming to support the students on International Day. I know that we all look forward to the world returning to normal, as much as it can, so that we will be able to take our celebrations to the next level. Having said that, it was so good to see the community coming together, even in this small way but having a big impact.

As a school we are trying our best to keep to traditional calendar events while being conscious of limiting group sizes, but remaining hopeful that, once vaccinations are rolling out, our next academic year will see us being able to do things on a much larger scale, involving more people. We were fortunate that we were able to celebrate the Year 13 Graduation and run a camp trip recently but, as you know, due to covid we are now unable to come together for group events for the time being. I am very mindful when talking to colleagues around the world that we are, despite this latest outbreak here in Vietnam, very fortunate in having had something much closer to normal than many other communities and we should not take this for granted. Unfortunately, the government have instructed schools to go online only for the time being. We know, however, that our programmes for this are robust, live, interactive and ensure that academics and wellbeing for students is supported.

I had the pleasure of interviewing some Year 12 students for the roles of Head Girl and Head Boy for the next school year and I was completely bowled over by their responses, especially on what leadership meant to them. They are insightful and reflective students and show a maturity beyond their age. I also want to thank Tran Gia Bao and Nguyen Thai Nhu Quynh, who have done such a wonderful job as Head Boy and Head Girl this year. Our Year 13 graduation is looming, and I am really looking forward to being part of their celebration. I have been wishing students luck in their examinations and assessments and I also want to say thank you to parents for their support and encouragement. It has been a challenging time and think it is important to remind students that, along with their preparation they must remember to rest. If students are feeling any stress, they shouldn't forget that

we have a counsellor and caring teachers who will be happy to chat with them and provide strategies to ease worries and minimise that stress.

With parents thinking about re-enrolment and considering options for their children, I would encourage them to email me with any concerns or anxieties but also if they have suggestions. I welcome feedback and ideas and when there is the possibility to instigate good ideas, I will always welcome this. We are constantly looking to improve over time and ways forward are often inspired by our community.

You will have read the letter from our Inspired Group Asia Pacific CEO, Mr Clarence Van Der Wel, outlining the developments at AIS we are putting in place for the next academic year and I'm sure you will agree, these initiatives will help the school to create a better environment for our students and parents and offer students new opportunities to challenge themselves and interact creatively, as well as academically. I'm really excited and it is really great to have some student input into the ideas as well. I hope to be in a position to share some designs before too long. I will be updating the community regularly and hopefully, in the new academic year, we will be able to celebrate the opening of some of these new spaces.

In our next newsletter I hope to be able to share with you some news about our partnership projects with some other Inspired schools around the world – we are currently creating contacts and talking about ways in which we can work together.



To finish, I want to tell you about an initiative that has been happening this month called the Inspired Student Conference which allows our students and others in the Inspired group to be involved in a fantastic network. Our student, Samadhi Kasthur Javampathige is part of the steering committee and at a recent assembly we watched a film which the students put together very quickly to introduce themselves and what they are working on together.

All in all, a great opportunity for our students to connect with others around the world and something we hope to do more of in the future. Here's Samadhi introducing herself in the video. The conference focussed on celebrating Earth Day and you can learn more about this at <https://www.earthday.org/> celebrate, please stay safe.

Working towards a brighter future, **Ms Davina McCarthy**



HELP YOUR CHILD TO BE INTERNET SAFE UPDATE

Mark Vella - Deputy Executive and Secondary Principal



One aspect of equipping our students with 21st century skills and dispositions involves preparing them to live and work in the digital age and, in particular, fostering what is called 'digital citizenship'. There are several important strands to digital citizenship including digital literacy (how to use digital devices and the internet effectively), being internet safe and internet smart, and online rights and responsibilities.

The need for children to know how to stay safe on the internet has been highlighted in recent weeks because of the concerning activities of a 19 year-old male who has been contacting young girls from a number of schools in HCMC, including AIS, online. He flatters and tries to befriend them and then asks to meet them in

person. His behaviour, known as grooming, is completely inappropriate. The goal of grooming is to build up a child's trust to take advantage of them and cause them harm by developing an inappropriate emotional and/or sexual relationship. This issue was highlighted to the secondary school at a recent assembly.

We address the issue of how to safely engage with other people on the internet, particularly via social media, as a part of our pastoral care programme. But as a parent it is important that you regularly talk to your children about their online behaviour. Remind them that sometimes people aren't who they say they are online. They should be very wary of someone who they don't know, contacting them and trying to befriend or establish a relationship with them, especially if they ask that the relationship is kept secret. In particular, they should not agree to requests to meet in

person. This is all classic grooming behaviour. Reassure them that if at any stage they are concerned or unsure about someone who approaches them online, they should speak to you or a teacher or another trusted adult.



For further information and advice about internet security and safety a good resource is: www.netsafe.org.nz



Message from the Primary & Kindergarten Principal

Julian Carroll - Primary and Kindergarten Principal

ANZAC DAY

Each year on 25th April services are held across Australia and New Zealand to acknowledge and commemorate the service and sacrifice that the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp) men and women made for their respective countries. The tradition commenced in 1916 after the disastrous Gallipoli campaign of 1915 when approximately 32 000 ANZACs lost their lives. It was very early in the morning on 25th April 1915 when large rowing boats full of Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed in Gallipoli, Turkey at a place we know today as Anzac Cove. When the soldiers arrived and jumped off their boats, they were faced with steep rocks and hills. They attempted to scramble to shore to find safety, however the enemy was ready for them and began firing. The battle lasted for ten months and the conditions that the soldiers endured on both sides were terrible. To commemorate this first campaign and other wars, dawn services are held in local areas in Australia and New Zealand. At the service, there are usually guest speakers, the laying of wreaths, a prayer, playing of The Last Post and a minute's silence to honour the ANZACS. Marches are also held in towns and cities across both nations. In the afternoon many people relax, spend time with loved ones and reflect. This year at AIS at the Thu Thiem and Cherry Blossom campuses, ANZAC assemblies were held and the students learnt about the significance of this day for the Australian and New Zealander people. One of our Year 7 students, Angus Wong, performed The Last Post at Cherry Blossom and Mr Colin Burstow performed the tune at the Thu Thiem Campus. Their performances were stunning. At Thu Thiem, our Year 2 teacher, Mr Taylor Oughton, spoke about his connection to ANZAC Day with stories about his grandfather, who was an ANZAC and is pictured on the moto guzzi motorcycle in Egypt. The character traits of mateship, service, sacrifice and friendship embody the ANZAC spirit and were also highlighted at both assemblies. Lest we forget.

PYP NEWS

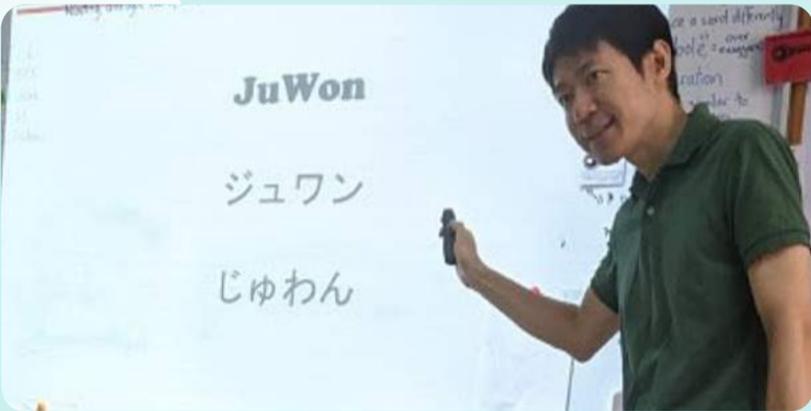
INTERNATIONAL DAY AT AIS

Leanne Raeside - PYP Coordinator

On April the 26th the AIS community celebrated International Day. International Day is an important event to celebrate all different nationalities within our AIS community. It also provides opportunities for students to learn more about other countries in the world, and help us develop internationally minded children in the aim of building global citizens that strive for a more understanding and peaceful world. As stated by the International Baccalaureate “We encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

The children at AIS participated in a variety of activities. They visited stalls created by teachers and parents to learn about our home countries, each class organised a shared snack, tasting foods from around the world, parents visited classes to teach the children about their countries and the children dressed up into their traditional clothing. It was a fun day had by all.





Thank you to all our parent helpers



Shared Snack





YEAR 13 GRADUATION & PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY 2021

Mark Beales - IBDP Coordinator

Friday 23 April 2021, marked the official graduation of the class of 2020-2021 at a formal school assembly attended by their fellow students, family and friends.

Graduation is one of life's great rites of passage – it marks the end of a thirteen-year journey through primary, middle and secondary school and the beginning of tertiary study or work. Like most rites of passage, there were elements of ritual and celebration in what has become AIS tradition: the students processing into the Auditorium; the series of speeches, farewell messages, and musical items; and their departure to a standing ovation from their schoolmates and teachers.

The emcee for the event was Mr Mark Vella, Deputy Executive Principal and Head of Secondary. Proceedings commenced with an address from the Executive Principal, Ms Davina McCarthy. Following the presentation of awards in the prize-giving phase of the ceremony, Eric Cho spoke on behalf of the graduating class. The musical item was a performance featuring the virtuoso electric bass guitar skills of AIS Musician of the Year, Tyler Kim. Head of Senior School and IB Coordinator, Mr Mark Beales, then delivered an ode to Year 13. Mr Beales remarkably managed to mention the name of every single Year 13 student - and all in rhyming verse. He was followed by Head Boy, Gia Bao Tran, and Head Girl, Thai Nhu Quynh Nguyen, who gave heartfelt tributes to their parents and teachers.

Then came the highlight of the ceremony; the presentation of graduation certificates, followed by the traditional 'turning of the tassel' and hat toss. This moment signified the successful culmination of many years of hard work. The Year 13 class of 2020-2021 are no longer school students. Rather, they are young men and women about to embark on a new and exciting phase in their life, whether here in Vietnam or at an overseas university. We wish them all the best for their upcoming IB examinations and trust that their time at AIS has prepared them well and that their futures are indeed bright.



MODEL UN CONFERENCE

By James Bourke IGCSE & IBDP Business Teacher

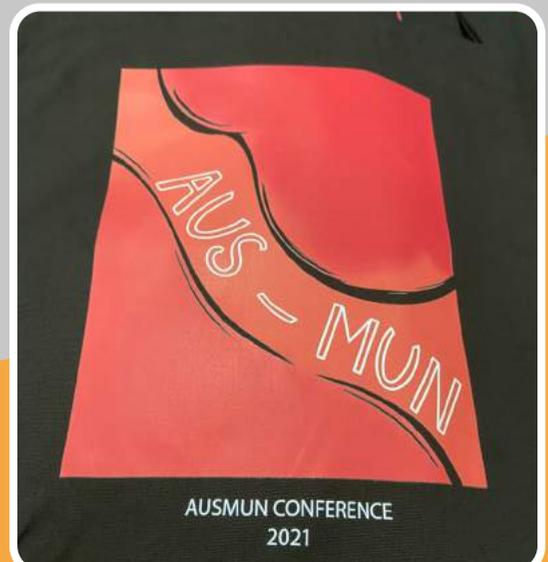


This year marks an important milestone for the Model United Nations Club at the Australian International School – a student-led conference hosted on-site, initiated and run by a team of dedicated senior students. With just over one hundred attendees, the cozy atmosphere amongst participants represents a hopeful beginning for the future of MUN as part of AIS passion and identity.

AUSMUN'21 embodies its theme of Adaptive Resilience following its recovery from numerous unexpected events; a pandemic-induced national lockdown in February, technical and financial difficulties, all while proving that it is not the magnitude of adversity that is of importance to the stability of a system, but the capacity to respond to such adversities, and still thrive.

Over the course the three-day conference, the AUSMUN Team has witnessed extraordinary accomplishment from our participants. Even though it is the first time some of our school's students were joining a MUN Conference, two of them were awarded the awards of top performers in their respective committees. In addition, the Environment Programme and Development Programme Committees' excellent maneuvering, despite a delay, allowed them to create an exclusive joint Crisis Committee on Day 3, which has proven to be one of the most memorable experiences for its participants.

As the 2020-2021 school year is coming to an end, we would like to give our MUN Coordinators, Mr James Bourke, Mr Mark Vella, our members of the Organising Team, Admin Team and every participant our most sincere appreciation for devoting their time and effort to make this year the most enjoyable and memorable year we have ever had.



AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S 2021 BACCALAUREATE VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

By Nigel Hall - Art Teacher (Secondary)

Australian International School's annual exhibition showcasing artwork created by International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Visual Arts students was held recently.

We live in an age of visual communication, bombarded daily by a myriad of images. The role of the artist has rarely been more important. We also live in an age of constant change, and that brings uncertainty. As we progress and move on we face challenges and unknowns, both as individuals and society. Again it is the artist who can visualize and communicate this through observation, symbol and metaphor. They have the skills to shape and fire our dreams.

On Friday, April 2nd, the third floor of the international school was transformed into an art gallery that featured visual pieces from 11 graduating students. The IB Visual Arts program requires students to curate an exhibition drawn from work they have produced during the two-year course. This year they created projects of thematically linked pieces that spanned mediums from paintings to sculptures to photographs and mixed media installations.

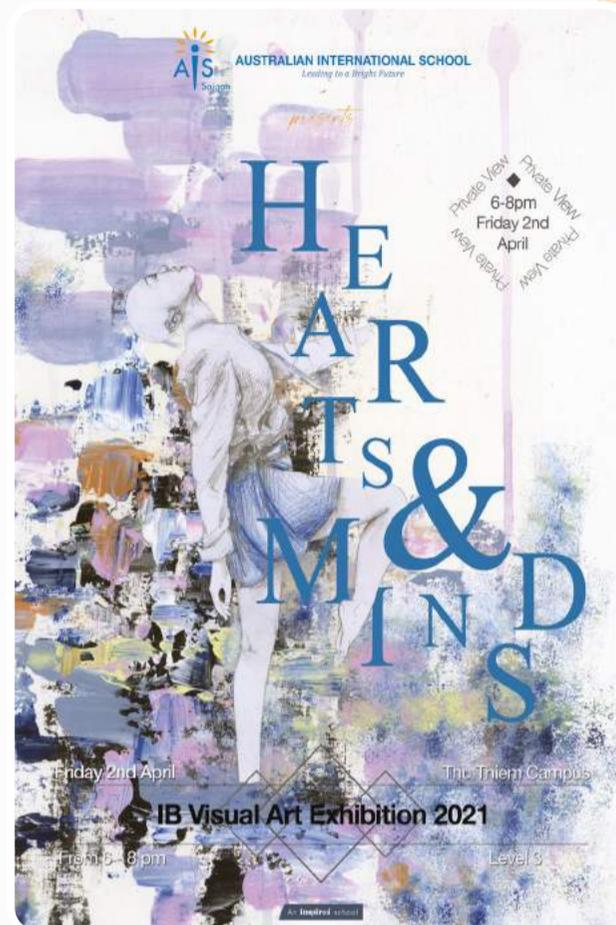
The gallery of featured works offered students an opportunity to show their peers, teachers and parents what they had been working on and explain their process and motivations. The diverse works touched on topics such as migration, social media personas, beauty standards, and family bonds. Thanh Thao, for example, explained that she chose to focus on the effects of the American War in her project "Emotion," in part to honor her aunt who was killed during strategic bombings in Northern Vietnam. Thao hadn't originally planned to pursue art, but found the program to be a nice balance with her academic coursework. She will study medicine in Australia next year.

For some of the AIS students, the exhibition is the first of likely many in their artistic careers. Hoang Nhat Anh, for example, will attend the highly regarded Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in the fall after being predicted to score 44 out of 45 on the IB examinations. Her work focuses on modernization and the evolution of culture amidst urbanization. When discussing her artwork she admitted that it was probably more challenging to work on the projects than in past years because of COVID-19, but the dedication of her teachers and the support of her peers made it a successful year.

Jiyeon Lee exhibited complex work inspired by the idea of 'Migration', as she explains: "Many people, including myself, have moved from their hometown to other countries due to personal reasons-studying, working, or following their dream. My exhibition deals with various cultures, unique experiences, unexpected situations, unusual emotions, and cultural barriers that migrants of all sorts face while they are moving." Jiyeon has been offered a place at New York's Prestigious Parsons School of Design to study Fashion



The exhibition is a perfect example of the school's emphasis on providing a well-rounded education that encourages creative development and leadership skills alongside academic success.





MUSIC

By Suzette Bradfield - Music Teacher (Primary)



Performing Arts

Music is a very important part of AIS school culture enjoyed by all. This was evident in the outstanding performances of both Primary School campuses where every student from KG-Y6 took part in our Christmas concert. Students also showed of their talents at the annual AIS Got Talent show where the audience was In awe due to the high standard of performances. There were dance pieces and piano solos, traditional dances, singing solos and clarinet solos, to name but a few.

Music Class Activities

Weekly music lessons contribute towards the overall outcomes of the learner profiles and concepts in collaboration with every year group. This Includes developing keyboard skills, the use of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, recorders, ukuleles and guitars. Then Y1 students experimented with untuned percussion Instruments and made their own untuned percussion instruments using recyclable materials. The Y2 and Y3 students were introduced to glockenspiels, xylophones and boom whackers. The Y4 students mastered playing the recorder while the Y5 students became skilled ukulele players. The Y6 students were introduced to basic chords on the guitar, learnt to play riff patterns and formed their own bands.



AT AIS, WE LOVE BOOKS!

Lynette Hutting - English Teacher (Secondary)

On Thursday, April 20th, Year 7 students celebrated their love for stories, books and reading at the Third Annual Virtual Book Sale. The Sale didn't involve selling real books or making real money. It originated as an innovative idea for assessing and improving students' English-speaking and reading comprehension skills. Students in 7.1 English showcased the books they individually chose to read in Term 3 with the aim to convince students in English 7.2 to read the books, too.

Parents, teachers, students and staff attended the Book Sale, which was generously catered by the AIS Parents and Friends Group. Shoppers were treated to refreshments while they strolled through the book stalls in the IB Centre, listening to enthusiastic sales pitches, learning about popular Young Adult Fiction authors, and admiring original book-themed artworks. At the end of the sale, a raffle was held which added to the event's excitement.

This year, the Virtual Book Sale grew out of the novel study on *A Monster Calls*. Students were introduced to the concept of stories as powerful, living, wild creatures. This term, they went in search of their own powerful stories in the AIS Library. The Book Sale allowed these students to share their favourite discoveries with an authentic audience. It also allowed them to develop confidence in their ability to hold a conversation with peers and adults alike in English.





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Thao Dien Campus (*Kindergarten - Year 6*)

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Lotus Campus (*Kindergarten - Year 1*) | Lotus Road

Cherry Blossom Campus (*Year 2 - Year 6*) | Cherry Blossom Road

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