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#### **A Message from the Principal**

We are finally approaching the end of Semester One for 2015. Students and teachers are preparing for the coming examinations. I would like to wish all our students luck for their upcoming exams. You all have worked very hard this semester. We are all very proud of your efforts.

In this newsletter, we will focus on some of the critical events that are coming up for May including the report card and Semester One exams. We at PIS want to be sure parents and students understand the criteria for assessment and grading. Parents are more than welcome to visit my office if they have any questions regarding examinations or report cards.

#### **Tables of Specification**

This month, students received a document known as a "Table of Specification" (TOS). The TOS is a useful tool to help both parents and students understand the curriculum content that is taught throughout the academic year.

There is a TOS for each year level from Primary One to Secondary Two. The first section of the TOS indicates the times and dates for examinations for Semester One and Two in the tested areas of Science, English and Mathematics. Please review the times and dates for the examinations carefully.

The second section of each TOS contains specific information on the units and chapters covered throughout the year. This is important as this specifies all the content that will be assessed on the Semester One and Semester Two exams respectively.

Please refer to this document to keep yourself updated on what your student will be learning over the course of the year. If you have any questions about the information in the table of specification, please speak with your child's teacher.



### Semester One Exam Information

The PIS Semester One examination period will be held during the week of from 18 May-22 May 2015. The specific days for each examination are detailed in your child's TOS. These formal examinations will be for the subject areas of English, Mathematics, and Science. All other subjects will be assessed separately from this examination period.

Students will be provided with a timetable in the first week of May with the specific times for each examination. In addition, the master schedule will be posted in school and outside the examination rooms for student reference. It is important that students review this information carefully as they are responsible to be on time for examination.

Primary One and IGCSE1 students will not sit for formal examinations in Semester One. They will, however, sit for examinations in Semester Two. Primary One and IGCSE1 students will be assessed by means of in-class assessments and examinations for Semester One. A note to IGCSE1 parents and students; examinations for Semester Two will be mock examinations simulating the real IGCSE exams which will be held next year.



### Report Cards for Semester One

Students will receive their report cards before summer break in June. It is important to understand how grades are determined for your child's performance. First and foremost, it is important to understand that grades are indicators of academic performance. It is data that we use to help us understand what will be the appropriate steps in helping a child in his or her academic progress. Whether a child's grade is high or low, we use this information to find the best support for your child.

Primary Two to Secondary Two grades for Semester One for the subject areas of English, Mathematics and Science will be solely based on their performance on the Semester One examinations respectively. So it is very important that students make every effort to prepare thoroughly for the exams.

All other grades for the remaining subject areas will be based on the culmination of assessments and exams that students have been engaged with since the beginning of the year. In particular, grades for IGCSE1 and Primary 1 will be based on



assessment work conducted throughout the Semester. However, for Semester Two, Primary One will have exams for English, Mathematics, and Science. The exam grades will count for their entire grade for Semester Two in those subject areas.

### Cooking With Kindy

One of the best parts of being a part of the Kindergarten class is the many opportunities to experience different cultures that the children bring with them. It is also important for the children to learn about what makes our host country, Malaysia, very special.

During Circle Time, one of the children mentioned that she loved eating Cendol. Some did not know what Cendol was and so the class decided to research the ingredients and re-create Cendol in school. We named the experience the Cendol Party (with some added fresh fruits and all of us dressed in green like Cendol!).

New ingredients were discovered... Cendol jelly (made from flour & pandan leaves), gula Melaka, coconut milk, sweet corn and red kidney beans. Not forgetting the best part, grinding shaved ice! Nothing like a nice cold bowl of Cendol with good friends!

By Ms. Nadiah (Nursery / Kindergarten)





### Johor International Student Leadership Conference

On 27 April, selected students from our secondary classes had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Johor International Student Leadership Conference. Here are some reflections on the day's events.

#### Reflection on Johor International Student Leadership Conference

Great enthusiasm was in the air when my friends and I were chosen to participate in the Johor 3<sup>rd</sup> International School Leadership Conference. Personally, the opportunity to be involved in the conference you have only heard about and imagined is precious and there were 'golden moments' stored in my mind. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by students from other schools wearing their unique uniforms in a spectrum of colors ranging from white to grey. Schools from 20 different countries including Malaysia have travelled to Johor, KSL Resort to attend this conference which exposes youth to leadership skills. The amiable organizers greeted us with friendly smiles and briefed us on the day's programmes which include lectures and interaction time. We registered for Track 4 which mainly focused on 'Youth and Empowerment', 'World Leaders' and 'Leadership and Change Agents' by talented and confident presenters. From all of the presentations, I really like the quote, "The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves." The most interesting part was when three of the most prominent keynoter speakers showed up and presented their views on various types of leadership styles. Valuable knowledge we have gained from them and we are more aware of how we will play an important part in future decisions.

By Aashika from IGCSE1

