A month passes so speedily…..

What an active, busy and fulfilling month September has turned out to be. It is really quite inspiring to see the children, whether four or fifteen moving around the school as it is the most natural thing for them to be doing despite the difference between the former campus and our new one.

In many ways this readiness to accept the new is one of the hallmarks of growing up but the parents and staff have also made the necessary adjustments to our new location and through their positive efforts a sense of community is developing. Schools should be vibrant learning communities willing to grow and change and from what I have observed over this first 4 weeks, Tenby International School is proving to be such a place.

All of these positives are directly linked to understanding, cooperation, patience and communication. There are the new facilities, which need time for the staff and children to be able to appreciate the learning opportunities they may present; the new staff to appreciate what has gone before and to contribute their own experience and expertise; the existing staff to respond to the new situation and colleagues; for new children to understand the culture of caring that we aim to engender amongst all; the existing children to welcome the new learning opportunities and new classmates. All of this will take time and of course, our parents who are such vitally important members of the community who will develop an appreciation of all of the above as time goes on.

So as we enter into the second month of the new school year we look forward to new achievements and successes and a desire to ensure that purposeful learning takes place with the backdrop of enjoyment and companionship.

Phillip Brisley

STUDENTS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Unless you went to a very progressive school or you are under about 35 years of age the idea of student power in schools conjured up dubious images of anarchy such as hinted at in the Pink Floyd anthem, “We don’t need no education…..”

However, I am pleased to note that increasingly schools and society realise that students have a voice and can take responsibilities and should be encouraged to do so. At Tenby we feel this is very important as did the head and staff at the Shell School in Piasau. Traditionally, responsibility was often in the form of prefects or monitors the time has moved on and so have we, therefore we will be having 3 strands of student responsibility as outlined below:

House Captains and Junior House Captains:
These posts are relatively self-explanatory - the House Captains, who will be selected from the secondary school student body and the Junior House Captains, who will be selected from the primary school student body (Years 5 or 6) will lead house activities which are often, though not exclusively, linked to sports and other competitive challenges. This will involve liaising with their teachers and communicating with their House students.

Student Council
The student council comprises of representatives from each class who sit at regular meetings to discuss pertinent issues brought to them by other students and also arranging social functions and activities for themselves and or others including supporting local or international charities.

Student Leaders
This is a new concept for TISM and its student body. Initially we will be introducing student leaders from Year 5 to Year 10 and the successful applicants will have to prove their sincerity in wishing to be considered for this position and be able to fulfill the qualities of leadership across the school and the exemplary members of our student community. As part of their responsibility they will be asked to take a lead in promoting good sense and a caring attitude as well as supporting other students and assisting staff. Some, in other schools, have taken on responsibilities in the library both as regards helping the library function but also reading stories to younger children and others have supervised lunchtime activities such as table tennis or badminton, etc.

To become a student leader they will need to complete an application form giving reasons why they should be considered and to be supported by 2 students and 2 teachers. The Senior Leadership Team and Senior Staff will interview the applicants and select the successful leaders.

The newly appointed Student Leaders will then propose 2 to 4 names to fulfil the roles of Head Student Leader and Deputy Head Student Leader to the School Principal.
RESPECT AND CARE

Through various aspects of the curriculum delivered at Tenby International School, we endeavour to raise the self-awareness of each individual student. This heightened awareness of self is developed through the ‘Personal Goals’ element of the IPC in the Early Years and Primary School classes and across the school through lessons on Citizenship and/or PSHE (personal, social and health education).

These issues are also approached on a day-to-day basis in general classroom activities when students are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect, which they can see modelled by classmates and staff interactions.

Outside the classroom it happens during snack time or lunchtime and through their play activities that, though supervised, should generally be self monitored. In school life there will inevitably be occasions when a member of staff or even a more responsible member of the student body will need to intervene and deal with incidents involving the foolish or mean acts of others.

More serious issues are dealt with in a fair but firm manner and parents will be informed immediately of such matters. Bullying, whether of a physical nature or of a more psychological manner or a combination, will not be tolerated and all students need to know that if they are found to be a bully there will be serious ramifications.

However, we hope that by developing each individual child’s self-awareness and increasing the understanding of taking responsibility for their actions the number and regularity of antisocial activities will notably reduce.

This heightening of self-awareness starts from the Nursery Class, building on a young child’s awareness of what’s right and wrong, that they have learned from home or a playgroup, and continues until students leave the school: building on good actions and praising the positive.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP ZONES

Firstly may I say congratulations to all of our parents and/or your drivers, as we have benefited as a school from your willingness to adjust to the new environment and the unavoidable procedures needed to be in place for the safety of all concerned.

As I announced in the bulletin last week that we are encouraging parents of secondary school children to use the drop-off zone on the far side of the campus near the Auditorium. In addition to reducing congestion at Zone 2, parents who wish to park their car to come onto the campus then there are many additional spaces allowing for parents of younger children to be able to park closer to the primary buildings.

Similarly I mentioned the four spaces in the Zone 3 drop-off would be painted and have a sign identifying them as specifically for our youngest children in the Nursery Class and ask your cooperation in abiding by this.

In the next week or so there will be an additional crossing place linking the car park at the back of the sports hall to the primary ‘Blue’ building: please approach this area at low speed.

Finally, however, two grumbles:
- Firstly, that some older students are being dropped off behind the ‘Yellow’ building. This is not a designated stopping place and should not be used as such, thank you.
- Secondly, we continue to have some students dropped off extremely early, by this I mean just after 7:00am, and left on their own, which is 40 min before staff are expected to be on duty.

I shall be writing to the parents of these children individually but sincerely hope that before I have to do this the parents will be able to arrange a more suitable arrival time for their son or daughter or remain with them until duty starts as several parents currently do.

P.W.B

P.S. Monday saw our first secondary zone pick-up: hurrah!
THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Back to School — by our Librarian, Ms Cassandra

The school holidays are finished and the school year has started. Not only the new term but also a new school and new library. The students are very excited about the new environment and especially with our large and spacious library.

On the first day, students were given a tour of the new library. New library consists of four areas: the Reception, the Children’s Section, the Secondary Section and also our Multimedia Area.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The nucleus of the Parent Teacher Association have had to informal meetings represented by: parents, Sian, Jo and Yuni; SLT, Phillip, Nic and Peter. These meetings were to allow new members to contribute their views on the positives of a PTA and the functions that it can fulfil as several people were new members.

Two immediate outcomes of these meetings were the support of the PTA (parents) in arranging refreshments at the swimming gala and the hosting of the Coffee Morning of Thursday, 3rd October at 8 o’clock in the Auditorium.

We agreed on the need to ask for class parents from each class to step forward and to become involved not only as a parent of an individual in the class but also to encourage communality which can be so beneficial to the school. We are considering the existing PTA constitution so that it reflects accurately the reality ‘on the ground’. We also realised that many of the most active members of last year’s PTA were from established families in the school and that it was really important to encourage new families to become active in our community.

Later in October, the PTA will have their Annual General Meeting which will also provide a forum for new families to find out exactly what the PTA does and how they can support the activities. The more people who are willing to commit to supporting the PTA and becoming involved in arranging activities the fewer burdens it is, as the load is spread out further.

So don’t be shy and come along to the coffee morning on Thursday, 3rd October and learn more!

That’s this week: THURSDAY
Hallo allemaal,
Een nieuw schooljaar,
een nieuw schoolgebouw,
een nieuwe klas voor de
Nederlandse School Miri,
een paar nieuwe kinderen er
bij.

And before you know the start has been made and to-
gether with the youngest children we talk about friend-
ship and friends. I tell them with the help of a nice pic-
ture book, how good it is to have friends. And as an ex-
ample I tell them about one of the boys and how he likes
to play with another boy
in this group. Just be-
cause it is so nice and
because they are both
good friends.

I look around and ask
one of the other boys if
he also has a friend.

He looks at me and with
a very serious look on
his face he says:
‘No, I don’t have a
friend. I have a little brother’.

En dan ben je alweer snel helemaal begonnen en praat
je met de jongste kinderen over vriendchap en vriendj-
es. Dan vertel ik de kinderen met een prentenboek als
voorbeeld, dat het fijn is om vriendjes te hebben. Je
geeft een voorbeeld van de ene jongen die heel graag
bij de andere jongen in de groep komt spelen, gewoon
omdat het altijd heel gezellig is en omdat ze allebei
vriendjes zijn.

Dan vraag je na dat voorbeeld aan een van de kinderen

And then you know the school year has started
again. Welcome back!!
Daarbij zijn onze persoonlijke doelstellingen altijd erg belangrijk en zullen we met z’n allen nooit vergeten hoe fijn het is om daar in de groep aan te werken. Aan de muur hangen nu nieuwe platen, maar met de ons bekende doelstellingen er bij. Hier zijn er een paar.

AANPASSINGSVERMOGEN

ADAPTIBILITY

LEERGIERIGHEID

ENQUIRY

And whatever we are working on, we will not forget our personal goals and how important it is to work together on them. In our group we have new pictures, but the personal goals are of course the same. Above are a few.

HOME LANGUAGE TEACHING AND ROOM USAGE

Last Monday saw the start of our CCA programme and the first of our home language teaching groups, Japanese. This first session in Japanese was well-attended and taking place on an afternoon when there were no school-operated CCA meant that the children, who remained in school, continued to their Japanese activity as in the CCA. Being in school in a classroom which is their accepted learning environment should make the delivery of their additional lessons in Japanese more acceptable and enjoyable as it is not ‘Mum or Dad at home…”

In the coming weeks we will also be making one of our smaller rooms available for Sian Jorgensen, of ‘Small Steps Therapy’. Being a fully qualified Play and Creative Art Therapist, she will also be to work in an appropriate environment for any children that have been referred to her; several of whom may well be students at Tenby. The exact location is to be finalised and furnished: watch this space!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

Though we are still waiting on some of the sports facilities to be completely finished and/or safe to use, Ms Gaida has introduced a programme of physical activities utilising the spaces that are ready for use. For some of our new students who have transferred from local private schools as well as some others from overseas, especially with the transition from primary to secondary, sports life at Tenby might be of a different style.

One key difference is that we expect all children secondary classes to clothing: school T-shirts Early Years) and/or swim-

The need to get changed during the PE sessions also applies to boys or girls who, for legitimate reasons, may not be able to participate in the lesson but can join in the explanation of the activity as well as possibly assisting the teacher in such tasks as keeping score, offering suggestions to classmates to improve their performance, or even – as the term progresses – in taking on some fundamental assessment.

Therefore please remind your son/daughter to bring their kit to school even if they cannot actively participate, thank you.

A Note of Appreciation:

I would like to thank Emily Cranfield and Aqilah Norazwa from Year 10 for giving up their Saturday to attend the Curtin University Open Day and represent our student community; just the attitude we are promoting for all of our students. Well done and thank you.

PWB and Mr Peter
Dear Parents,

In our fourth week of school it is great to see the children settling in so well. Getting used to new routines and making new friends is exhausting business and all students have adapted incredibly well. I see some great friendship groups developing and the sense of ‘camaraderie’ amongst the children is admirable. Class cohesiveness is a powerful component in school learning.

As you will have noticed, we have new play equipment outside our classroom. We have ‘watched this space’ develop and engaged in a lot of ‘wondering’ about the pieces, identifying shapes and discussing how it all might go together. Experiencing it in its finished state saw it transformed into a pirate ship, castle and race track all in the first 15 minutes! Climbing equipment is an exciting and essential part of Nursery learning. Fingers crossed for a sandpit next!

BR Jennifer and Shirley.
The Reception Class is learning about things that go ‘Up and Away’ in their IPC theme. We have been learning about birds as part of this topic and on Friday 27th September we went to Curtin University to do some bird watching.

Some of our class Mums came along to help us. Mr Musa of the Miri Nature Society and Mr Erwin (Bruno’s Dad) led the group. The provided telescopes which helped us to see the birds clearly. We had made our own ‘binoculars’ and enjoyed looing through them too. We saw five species of birds:

- Asian Glossy Starling
- Oriental Tree-Sparrow
- Collared Kingfisher
- Whitebreasted Woodswallow
- Chestnut Munia

We did have fun!

Ms Jackie
Dear Parents,

We have had a super start to our school year! It is good to see our new students, settling down so well to life at TIS. It is also very rewarding to see how our ‘old’ students are embracing the changes too – enjoying all the facilities that the new school location has to offer, as well as being taught by new teachers and most importantly welcoming and making new friends.

I would like to welcome Miss Jennifer who has joined us in Nursery, Miss Sheree in Year 3 and Mr Stan in Year 2, I hope you all have an enjoyable time working here in Miri at TIS Miri.

It was good to see so many parents come to our "Meet the Teacher" sessions. It is really important that you come to these events because it will help you understand our approaches to learning. When your children come home from school, please ask them what they have been learning today! We will keep you informed of future coming events in our weekly bulletin.

Primary Parents’ Evening

Parents’ Evening is an opportunity for you to speak individually with your child’s class teacher for up to 10 minutes. At this meeting, you will discuss your child’s progress with learning and how you can help support them in the future.

Primary Parents’ Evening will be held on:
Tuesday 22nd October from 3.30 - 5.30pm
Thursday 24th October from 5.30 - 7.30pm

The Primary Teachers (Nursery-Year 6) will be available for you to sign up for a 10 minute appointment on these two afternoons.

To choose your time, you will need to visit the office, please, and open the file for the teacher you wish to see. You then write your name next to an available slot. The files will be placed outside the office on Thursday 17th October.

Please note there will be no after school Co-Curricular Clubs on Tues 22nd or Thurs 24th for Primary children

We have had a very successful start to our Culture Topic this term. The first country the children have been learning about has been 'South Africa.' After half term we will be learning more about 'The Netherlands.'

As ever, our doors are always open to you. If you have any questions, concerns or queries regarding activities in school or items in this newsletter, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nic Roe
Head of TISM Primary School

Our ‘Nation of Culture’ Display Board: South Africa

Our new climbing frame: now we’re awaiting the shades to arrive!
Our Inaugural Swimming Gala

Tenby International School Miri held its inaugural school Swimming Gala on Saturday September 28. The TISM pool was littered by Lion paw prints, red heat of the Dragons and slithers of the green Cobras. The day produced performances from our kick-boarding starfish swimming groups and was finished by the invitational butterfly event where spectators witnessed an outstanding swimming performance by Syazmin Shahasir (Year 5) who upset two of our year 10 swimmers. Whilst in the boys section, Arturo Alonso Van Alebeek and Yutaro Kosuge both from the Dragon house battled it out all day building a healthy rivalry for years to come. A very big ‘Thank you’ all the staff, students and parents who helped the TISM community showcase its sporting brilliance in the pool and launch our House system.

A special mention go to our three house patrons of Mr Dean (Lion) who was on the drums all day; Mr Craig and Ms Julie for rallying their troops and getting their athletes ready.

Here are the Swimming Gala Age Champions for 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Thaneesh Prakash (Dragon)</td>
<td>Ayesha Johansyah (Dragon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>Hana Kosuge (Dragon)</td>
<td>Nicholas Edwards (Dragon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Sheng Xuan (Lion)</td>
<td>Norah Indrelid (Lion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>Thibaut Stevens (Dragon)</td>
<td>Ilona Wood (Dragon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Nonso Anochie (Cobra)</td>
<td>Syazmin Shahasir (Lion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Zugs Hirse (Cobra)</td>
<td>Chloe Stevens (Dragon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>Joshua Davey (Cobra)</td>
<td>Reina Sakuma (Lion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>1st Arturo Alonso Van Alebeek (Dragon) 2nd Yutaro Kosuge (Dragon)</td>
<td>No swimmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Joshua Tan (Lion)</td>
<td>Tiffany Lau (Lion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>A three way tie between:</td>
<td>Deborah Lau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abdulhakeem Al-Abri (Lion)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Terrance Tan (Dragon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sai Vijapurapu (Cobra)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Highest points scorer:</td>
<td>Emily Cranfield (Dragon)</td>
</tr>
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Well done to all the swimmers and spectators!

TISM House Swimming Gala Results

Equal 1st Place with 402 points:
- **Cobra House** and **Dragon House**

3rd Place: **Lion House** (313 points)
THE SCHOOL SHOP

I would like to thank our students and parents for their forbearance when waiting for ‘out-of-stock’ items, especially elements of the uniform. I believe I’m right in now saying that outstanding requests have been fulfilled and we have stock of most items. Unfortunately it is one of the unavoidable realities of being in Miri that we sometimes have to wait longer for deliveries. Diana, who operates the sales in the shop, is in regular contact with the operator of the shops across Tenby Schools, Tek Industries, who try their best to meet the concerns of customers.

You will notice that the school shop now has certain opening closing times as Diana has a shared employment contract and will be spending around two thirds of the week as administration assistant to the Head of Secondary, Mr Peter Shearer.

Tenby International School Miri @ Curtin

Event : Curtin Sarawak Open Day 2013
Venue : Curtin University, Miri Campus
Date : 14th September 2013, Saturday
Time : 10am – 5.00pm
Objective : Awareness raising: local community

The main highlights of the University Open Day were an innovation expo, academic talks, future students’ booth, student support showcases, charity and community corner, environmental corner, stage performances, kiddies’ corner, free health checks, mobile dental clinic, food and product sales, photography exhibition, attractive door gifts and luck draw prizes.

There were six special showcases for the day including a Fishing Competition, the John Curtin Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, a Newspaper Bag Design & Break Competition, etc.

The Chairman of Curtin Sarawak Council Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr George Chan officiated at the Open Day.

In the lead up the Head of Secondary, Mr Peter and Head of Primary, Mr Nicholas wanted to promote their schools by displaying some student work on Science, Art, Literacy and Music.

Flyers/Leaflet were prepared for distribution and to booth visitors and promotional materials including note pads, diary & ballpoint pens with the Tenby School logo, were prepared to offer to potential parents & students. Balloons with Tenby logo were also prepared as gifts for children.

Our TISM booth was located just outside the Kiddies Corner entrance and we were given permission from Curtin to distribute TISM flyers in the Kiddies Corner.

Throughout the event day, visitors to TISM booth were excited to see the school campus model and student work displayed on the boards. We also showed our corporate video of SEP school on projector which attracted some visitors to stop by and watch the video. A very worthwhile promotion and we must extend our thanks to the staff, interns and students who contributed to the day’s success.

Ms Esther – Marketing Executive, TISM

Mr Shearer assisting with a Secondary School enquiry
NEW OFFICE FOR THE HEAD OF SECONDARY TO BE OPENED

Since arriving in Miri, Mr Peter Shearer, our Head of Secondary School, has been using an office in the Administration Building as his base, as his original office space was rather inappropriate after the redistribution of the ground floor teaching areas in the Yellow Building.

This placement has been very useful as he has been able to meet parents and students in this area as well as getting to understand the operational systems of our administration. However, it was also at some disadvantage as he was dislocated from his main teaching areas, the staff and, most importantly, the students.

We have rectified this anomaly by converting one of the class-rooms into an office and staff workroom, which can be found on the first floor of the ‘Yellow’ building. When Mr Peter occupies this new space signage will indicate its location one the first floor opposite of the stairs, which face the Blue building: see photo for details.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

As noted in the Bulletin we have arranged for Typhoon Photographers to come to school on Monday and Tuesday next week to take pictures of your children; after their successful visit of last year.

Today you will be receiving a letter and request form to plan for the photographer’s sessions. This does not obligate you to pay for the photographs it is a request to have them taken. Once completed you will be sent a proof copy which will allow you to decide whether you wish to purchase or not the various packages available as detailed in the letter you will receive today.

If your son/daughter is absent or has swimming or PE we will endeavour to arrange their photograph before these activities or on the following day when, if absent, we hope your son/daughter will be back at school.

Please note: so that we have up-to-date photographs of your children to be entered into the register pages of our Data Management System, I will be asking the photographer to take a picture of other children whose parents have not submitted a request.

We will also ask for a simple class photograph to be taken for although we are anticipating more new arrivals, we may also sadly have some departures in the coming-months and they might like to have a reminder of their current classmates to take with them. These will be displayed on a Board— location to be confirmed.

Lost Watch!

Did you misplace your watch during the Gala on Saturday? If so it is in the safe hands of the Principal, Mr Phillip, so if you can describe it you may have it returned to you.