

## From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



We come to the end of another year. We say farewell to all our leavers and wish them every success in the next stage of their lives. We especially congratulate and thank our year 13 leavers, as they set off for universities around the world, gap year experiences, and in some cases a spell of National Service in their home countries. We look forward to following their adventures.

A special mention of two of our students. Dion Lim Yong Ting and Philip Jacob Kiananthara have been at POWIIS since the day the school opened in September 2011. This year, of course, is seven years since that day, a complete senior education from year 7

to the end of year 13. These two foundation students occupy a unique place in the school's history, and one which can never be replicated.

The end of a school year inevitably also sees some staff changes, and our best wishes go to colleagues who are moving on to new challenges. I am delighted to say we are looking forward to excellent replacements to carry on their good work next year. I would take this opportunity to mention in particular and personally thank Mr Kirk Green, who has been Deputy Principal (Curriculum) and previously Head of Science. In his latter role, he has managed all our academic matters with confidence and great energy and has provided invaluable support and advice. I wish him well in his new role in Thailand. His senior position is being taken by Mrs Wendy Clarke, our former Head of mathematics.

It is the time of year when we reflect on what has gone well this year, and what we will do differently in the future. Schools enjoy an annual opportunity to refresh and renew; a cohort of new students joins the school as others leave, and those who continue are a year older, with new outlooks and new ambitions. I used to ask new year 9 classes in boys' schools in September to look around the room and tell me what they noticed. I would point out the space. By the following July, the people in the room were significantly larger and the space had evaporated! It



knowing they would fit by the time we got home. But beyond the physical growth we can clearly see, is personal growth - development of confidence, of independence and of character. Around the school we can see injured toes, twisted ankles and the occasional broken bone - they soon fix themselves with the right attention. Young people occasionally injure themselves in ways we can't see too; they knock and bruise their thought processes, their judgement, their common sense. In nearly all cases these things respond to treatment too. A new year offers a fresh start, and a different way of going about things - for everyone.

Next term we have our full inspection from COBIS (Council of British International Schools) as part of which they will be very interested in parent views about the school, and parent engagement with the life of the school. Our location, I know, adds a certain remoteness to our daily activity, and some schools would be delighted to receive so little input from parents! *(continued on pg2)*

## Photo Gallery - American Independence Day Celebration



However your views are very important to us. I am grateful for the small number of parents who responded to my invitation to comment on school policy on 'phone use, but more input would be welcome (useofphones@powiis.edu.my).

As our roll continues to grow, it has been a pleasure recently to award our merit scholarships for entry to years 7 and 9. All are aware that our scholarships are a

recognition of promise to add a lot to the school, and to a lesser extent a reflection of past achievements. While the number available will always exceed those who are considered, I am delighted with the quality of the young people we have selected.

I wish all our POWIIS families and students, and all my teaching colleagues, a restful, fulfilling and reinvigorating Summer break, and I look forward to us gathering once more

in late August. I remember a Headmaster early in my career welcomed the staff back at the start of the year by saying, 'If you are not pleased to be back and looking forward to the year ahead, I respectfully suggest you are in the wrong job and might want to look elsewhere.' Unfortunately a physics teacher I once hired who had re-trained from his previous work as a aircraft engineer wasn't there to hear it - but that's a story for next year. Enjoy the break. ☺

## American Independence Day Celebration

*Rei Onishi and Lim Jia Ying*

On the 4th of July, the POWIIS Humanitarian Committee teamed up with the Year 12 Mentors to organise a non-uniform day themed red, white and blue in conjunction with the American Independence Day. Food such as cupcakes, cookies, hotdogs and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were sold to commemorate American culture in

addition to a baseball hitting competition and an American football throwing competition, accompanied by live music. At lunch time there was a staff vs student basketball game (students won 31 to 26!). Teachers performed a spectacular halftime show, showing off their amazing cheerleading skills. All the money raised from the event will be going to charity. ☺



## Year 7 Artists Embrace Virtual Reality

*Miss Lucy Decoursey*



Ms Decoursey's year 7 students have been painting 360degree panoramas this term. These virtual reality artworks are now complete and uploaded for all to see on the website link below. To create them, students first needed to learn about drawing with both one and two point perspective. After developing their skills with vanishing

points and proportions, they then used an equirectangular projection grid to design their city in the style of Paul Klee. The colours are vibrant and messy but the buildings are brought back into shape and emphasised by the strong lines, just like Paul Klee's paintings of cities.



This is cutting edge technology and there are very few artists in the world doing this right now. Most of these artists are sharing their work alongside our students on [www.Kuula.co](http://www.Kuula.co). Understanding how to make 360degree 3D imagery in a 2D landscape gives students a solid understanding for a range of careers from architecture to games design. Real Estate and Tourist industries are becoming increasingly reliant on 360 degree panoramas as well.

Feel free to view the images using a Virtual Reality headset, and climb inside the imaginary worlds of year 7: <https://kuula.co/profile/powiisart>. ☺

# World Scholar's Cup

Mr Darren Lim



20 young minds from our POWIIS community represented Malaysia as part of its 500-strong delegation at the World Scholar's Cup Global Round 2018, held at Kuala Lumpur. For most of our scholars, this was their debut at the global stage of the tournament. Six of the teams consisted of Years 7 and 8. It is remarkable to see first-time scholars as young as 11 years old articulate insightful perspectives in front of a panel of judges, engage in a mind-bending quiz bowl and solve challenge questions that require participants to develop linkages between various topics in the annual syllabus.

Taking on the challenging annual theme, "An Entangled World", which focused on international and interpersonal relations, our scholars debated the importance of social media as a tool for global diplomacy, racked their brains to interpret the theme of an abstract art piece, and allowed their creative juices to flow on paper when writing about what constitutes true love. Giving up was never an option and every challenge was gamely tackled with wit, tenacity and enthusiasm. The end result- another successful run in the tournament, which includes emerging as OVERALL CHAMPIONS for the Junior Category Team Debate event!

Key achievements of our budding scholars include:

## UNDER-12 (SKITTLES) CATEGORY

### Champion Debate Individuals

Gold Medal

Kaya Mabel Sights

### Champion Scholars Bowl Teams

Gold Medal (Top 50)

Kaya Mabel Sights, Natalie Pushpa Dewi Gritsch, Afiq Lukman Amilka Nazim

## UNDER-12 (SKITTLES) CATEGORY

### Champion Writing Individuals

Gold Medal

Kaya Mabel Sights, Natalie Pushpa Dewi Gritsch, Bryan Lim, Afiq Lukman, Villace Chan

### Challenge (All Subjects)

Silver Medal

Kaya Mabel Sights, Villace Chan, Afiq Lukman

### Top Writing Teams

Gold Medal

Kaya Mabel Sights, Natalie Pushpa Dewi Gritsch, Afiq Lukman Amilka Nazim

Silver Medal

Muhamad Atif Yushri, Bryan Lim, Villace Chan

## JUNIOR CATEGORY

### 1st place Debate Team

Trophy and Gold Medal

Nicholas Low, Steven Xi, Dylan Yeo

### 5th place Debate Individual

Trophy and Gold Medal

Dylan Yeo

### 10th place Debate Individual

Trophy and Gold Medal

Nicholas Low

### Champion Debate Individuals

Gold Medal

Steven Xi

Silver Medal

Ao Tahara, Meyappan Karthikeyan, Ian Lim

### Champion Writing Individuals

Gold Medal

Jaena Velten

### Challenge

Gold Medal

Nicholas Low

Silver Medal

Primus Tan, Ian Lim, Ao Tahara

## JUNIOR CATEGORY

### Top Writing Teams

Silver Medal

Ao Tahara, Jaena Velten, Primus Tan

### Top Scholar's Bowl Team

Silver Medal

Xavier Charles Lacey, Meyappan Karthikeyan, Ian Lim

### Champion teams

Gold Medal (top 200 automatic qualifiers for the Tournament of Champions (TOC) at Yale University)

Nicholas Low, Steven Xi, Dylan Yeo, Ao Tahara, Jaena Velten, Primus Tan

### Invited teams for TOC Yale (top 20%)

Xavier Charles Lacey, Meyappan Karthikeyan, Ian Lim, Ruben Bahr (with MRSM Alor Gajah)

## SENIOR CATEGORY

### Champion Debate Individual

Gold Medal

Emir Kazim Yaran

Silver Medal

Saccindra Moorthy

### Challenge (All Subjects)

Silver Medal

Kaya Mabel Sights, Villace Chan, Afiq Lukman

### Champion Writing Individual

Gold Medal

Nikolay Kvitchenko

### Top Debate Teams

Gold Medal

Emir Kazim Yaran, Saccindra Moorthy, Nikolay Kvitchenko

### Invited teams for TOC Yale (top 20%)

Emir Kazim Yaran, Saccindra Moorthy, Nikolay Kvitchenko

On this occasion, we would like to thank the school leadership and management teams for their sincere support towards the WSC program, from coordinating the organisation of the Penang Round all the way to our participation and previous victories at the Tournament of Champions by Yale University. Everyone of you have played an important role in making our achievements today happen through your continued efforts in making our WSC Penang Round one of the most competitive and engaging rounds (the Penang Round also produced a large number of Champion Teams in all categories this year, including a Top 5 overall team).

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Sylvia Michael, who will have a special place in our hearts for her tireless efforts in mentoring our scholars' debate and presentation skills as well as for her motherly care for each of our young students. She would have been *(continued on pg4)*

extremely proud of our achievements in debate this year and we would like to dedicate the victory to her.

We look forward to more resounding successes at the Tournament of Champions at Yale University. If your child is interested to be part of this encouraging and intellectually stimulating global academic community, encourage them take part in the World Scholar's Cup team for the Penang Qualifying Round next year. Please contact Mr. Darren Lim (dljz@powiis.edu.my) for more details. 🌟

## LEO Club

*Mr Darren Lim*

At the recent 2018 Multiple District 308 Leo Club Conference in Alor Setar, the LEO Club of POWIIS was again rewarded for its high performance in community service and club administration. The club received the award of Top LEO Club for Multiple District 308 Region 1, while its Board of Directors received awards for their efforts, namely:

- Top LEO Club President: Marcus Chong
- Merit LEO Club Vice President: Jason Tan
- Top LEO Club Secretary: Leanne Goh
- Merit LEO Club Director: Carolyann Git, Hong Yi Toh
- Excellent Project Award: Halloween Scare to Care 4

My sincere congratulations goes out to the award recipients and also to all POWIIS LEOs who have collaborated conscientiously and actively towards making the club consistently one of the best in the region. 🌟

## Battle of the Bands



Well done to the 6 bands that got into the finals of Battle of The Bands 2018!

1st place  
Super Seven

1st Runner Up  
Mediocres

2nd Runner Up  
The 24 Sevens

Best Drummer  
Kanako Shimobuchi (Blue Summer)

Best Bassist  
Ammar AbdelRaheem (Super Seven)

Best Band Leader  
Alyssa Lee (Super Seven)

Best Vocalist  
Alyssa Lee (Super Seven)

Best Guitarist  
Tan Gui Fu (Super Seven)

Best Keyboardist  
Peter Foo and Tan Yi Jing (Super Seven)

Most Improved Musician  
Clarke Tu (Mediocres) 🌟



## PSHE Healthy Lunch

*Miss Khalifah Bennett*

The Year 8 PSHE Healthy Lunches were served in the canteen last week. There was excitement over particular foods, but it was up to the people who voted on Thursday to decide the winner. Congratulations to Dylan Yeo, Mahdi Sarmad Jassem Al-Abaichy, Kah Weai Hew and Steven Xi's group for being the group with the most votes! 🌟



# Council of British International Schools (COBIS) Student Achievement Awards

*Citations from Mr Kirk Green (Deputy Principal Curriculum)*



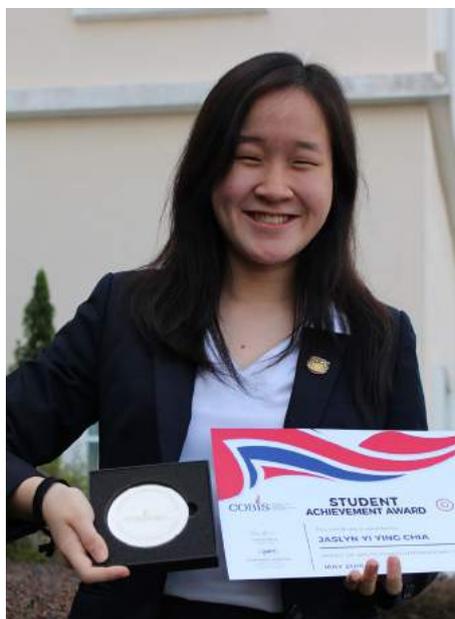
Chester Yeo

“Chester is an incredibly intelligent young man that performs at the top of his year group academically. However, he is also the epitome of the quiet, confident student leader who generates respect from his peers and teachers by the example he sets. As an excellent sportsman, he not only leads sports teams but also lends his talent to the coaching of younger students. Typically, he also played a pivotal role in the school production, not in the spot-light, but behind the scenes, ensuring the smooth running of a fantastic performance.”



Wei Yi Tee

“Wei Yi is simply the stand out academic performer at POWIIS. Despite following a particularly difficult course of 5 A levels (Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology), Wei Yi has scored the highest possible grade in every single examination she has taken, the majority of time achieving perfect scores of 100%. However, despite her innate intellectual ability and dedicated attitude to her studies, Wei Yi remains grounded and humble throughout, proving to be the perfect role model for her peers within the POWIIS community.”



Jaslyn Chia

“As an outstanding student, Jaslyn is worthy of nomination for her academic results alone. However, as an outstanding person, Jaslyn consistently pushes herself to achieve in areas beyond simple academics and is a true leader within the POWIIS community. Her crowning glory this year has been the school production: Whilst it was always expected that she would take part as a performer, she took responsibility far above this and choreographed the entire production, receiving a grade 8 award at 98% from Trinity Drama in the process.”

## Year 7 Escape Trip

Miss Josephine Casaccio



During this term's Extended Project students learnt about sustainable living and environmental issues and how to work together as a team to achieve their goals.

As part of the experience our Year 7 and 8 students visited Wonder Wilderfarm in Relau where they learnt about organic farming and its contribution to sustainability. They also harvested their own crops and took part in a cooking competition.

The second part of their adventure featured a trip to the Escape theme park and students were challenged to work as a team to complete as many of the park's activities as possible. Students and staff enjoyed the two days of fun filled adventures immensely. 🕒

## Urban Jungle Challenge

Mr Oliver Roberts

After a significant amount of preparation, 35 of our students volunteered to marshal the Urban Jungle Challenge on Sunday 24th June.

Some had to take buses from 4.30am to ensure they were at school for marshal briefing at 5.30am. Armed with head torches, umbrellas and subway sandwiches, the students were dispersed throughout our surrounding area to prepare the substantial course.

After the set up, our marshals supervised the correct completion of obstacles such as the 8-foot wall climb, the balance beam, the monkey bars and the grenade throw (not a real one)! For every unsuccessful attempt, the students ensured that competitors completed 30 'belly burpees!' This was a rule that they particularly enjoyed enforcing on some of their tired teachers who attempted, but failed to complete the race with any dignity intact!

Despite struggling to hide their delight in making me complete so many burpees, I was extraordinarily proud of how our students conducted themselves throughout the morning. So many participants and warrior fitness leaders complemented me on our students being polite, professional and regularly showing remarkable initiative.

Warrior Fitness gave RM50 to each of the students for their work that morning and in the lead up during the week. A significant majority passed their cash to the humanitarian committee for distribution to our chosen charities.



Perhaps by repackaging Wednesday afternoon fitness into adventure race preparation, we can enter some successful student teams into the event next year! 🕒

## The Sylvia Michael Trophy

We recently held our first internal Junior Speaking Competition for the Sylvia Michael Trophy, given in her memory by her colleagues at POWIIS. Our first winner in this annual competition was Karthik Narayanan, in year 8. We look forward to this growing into a major focus for the school. 🕒



The inaugural winner in 2018  
Karthik Narayanan (Year8)

# Year 12 Futures Week

Miss Adele Bowden



Last week, the year 12's took part in Futures Week. The week was full of opportunities for the Sixth Formers from considering their options for next year, starting university applications, visits to local colleges, and participating in leadership opportunities and mock interviews.

The favorite day of the whole week seemed to be the day of 'health'. The day started with a trip to the local market to buy ingredients, a self-defence class with Warrior Fitness and it ended with a cooking extravaganza. The students all made 'easy

to cook' dishes which were judged by a team of four teachers including principal Mr Simon Leese. The overall winner was Aditya Muthurasu's team which made an Indian inspired dish. (The recipe which Aditya later shared with Mrs Leese!)

Comments from the students were: 'I really enjoyed the week as I learnt a lot of new things.' 'I found the week really helpful and beneficial whilst still being enjoyable.' 'I've never been to the wet market or cooked my own dish before so found it really interesting. I now have more confidence in doing this!' 🍷

# Oxford International AQA Examinations



POWIS has become the first school in Penang to become an Oxford International AQA Examinations Centre.

We have added Oxford examinations to our existing offering of Cambridge and Edexcel, choosing the best options for all our students.

Presenting our Centre plaque to the Principal, Caine Brown Chan (Qualifications Consultant, South East Asia) and Matthew Bennett (Regional Director, South East Asia) 🍷

## Important Dates for July to September 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

<b>13 July</b>	<b>End of Term Concert</b>
<b>14th July to 2nd September</b>	<b>Summer Holiday</b>
<b>3rd August</b>	<b>Late Entrance Assessment Day</b>
<b>27th to 30th August</b>	<b>New Teacher Induction</b>
<b>3rd September</b>	<b>Term 1 begins</b>
<b>7th September</b>	<b>Speech Day</b>
<b>11th September</b>	<b>Awal Muharam Holiday</b>
<b>17th September</b>	<b>Malaysia Day</b>
<b>20th to 23rd September</b>	<b>FOBISIA Drama Teachers JAWs</b>

Entrance assessments are still possible by special arrangement and subject to available spaces. Please mention to friends and contacts who may wish to be included. Contact Michelle Goh at [admissions@powis.edu.my](mailto:admissions@powis.edu.my)