



From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



Our Ministry of Education inspection last week went well, with some constructive conversations with the Ministry team; they seemed particularly interested in some of our approaches which do not follow typical government school models. I was able to emphasise that our pastoral culture in the school reflects the uniqueness of the individual, and their specific circumstances, and is not one based on formulaic responses. Not everything which makes a good school exceptional can easily be evaluated with a 'tick in the box' approach, and it was good to go beyond that, to illuminate the special aspects of our school.

On Saturday, our latest Open Day was busy,

and it was good to see our existing parents who came in to meet their son's or daughter's tutor. The Over 15s PSAC football tournament went ahead despite the heavy early morning rain creating problems for the players, and of course the POWIIS team coming out the victors on the day was a special moment for all. Meanwhile the first Penang Piano Festival ran throughout the day in the auditorium, and included pianists who had come from as far as Vietnam and Taiwan to take part. I was taken by one of the adjudicators' comments at the end; he complimented those who had taken full advantage of our beautiful Steinway to bring out colour and emotion in their playing, but said some had not risen quite so well to a unique opportunity. The organisers were very grateful to the school for making our auditorium, and very special instrument, available and we will certainly be doing so again in the future.

Now I would like to ask for your help. We are not making best use of our social and digital media opportunities at present. Commenting on social media is very easy, and makes what has always been the case more stark - negativity is typically more conspicuous than positive reactions, because those who are happy with a situation seldom feel the need to report it. If you Google POWIIS there is a 'star' rating based on comments posted; we have a couple of offensive posts there which we can not remove, but which should not be dignified with a 'reply' however frustrating they may be (and however well we know the



authors....!) The way to neutralise negative comments is with a bigger volume of positive ones. If you have a few moments, and would like to comment on the Google site, please do so.

Some of our Facebook posts attract many 'likes' - the football team's success comfortably over 3000 by Monday - but the secret to a wider exposure for the school is 'shares'. 'Sharing' an item with your own friends, extends it to their friends - and of course if they share it.....It is the modern equivalent of putting one grain of rice on the first square of a chessboard, 2 on the next, 4 on the next etc. I remember being incredulous when my primary school teacher told us the last square would have more rice than exists in the whole world; he also said the same for grains of sand and the Sahara dessert. I didn't believe him - but I had to give up trying to prove him wrong when my mother objected to the mess on the kitchen table. As the item spreads, it is possible it might attract the interest of someone who then looks into the school (*continued on pg2*)

Photo Gallery - Penang Piano Festival & Open Day

[Click here for full gallery](#)



(From the Principal Cont.) itself. So you can help us by sharing.

Word of mouth has always been, and will always be, a school's best publicity - or its worst! I was however delighted to have reported this week a detailed conversation overheard in a cafe last weekend between a number of 'ex-pats' (not current parents) who were talking very positively about our school. POWIIS does not seek to manipulate our intake, but the conversation referred to the balance of the school population is developing. Once seen as primarily a school for local families, our community is indeed becoming more diverse, and even more 'international' as time goes on.

We think about how 'English' we want to POWIIS to be, but there is no real answer to that question. POWIIS should be whatever it grows into naturally, without any contrivance or influence. What we are growing into is a community where all mix together, work together and succeed together, each bringing their unique background and heritage to the mix. The more globally diverse those backgrounds, the more we all have to learn from each other. ☺

Penang Piano Festival

Mr Victor Kam



The Penang Piano Festival, organised by Euroasia that was held on the 6th of October at POWIIS was a huge success. It was attended by 70 participants from around this region with some from as far as Indonesia and Taiwan. An international competition of this status brought some outstanding pianists with a high level of musicality and technical refinement. Six of our students competed and managed to gain valuable



performing experience and exposure. Joshua Lau (Year 10) managed to secure the gold medal and the Best Performer Award. Ping Er Loh (Year 7), Alicia H'ng (Year 8), Zuo Kern Lim (Year 9) and Maegan Ang (Year 11) performed admirably and obtained the bronze. Joshua's outstanding performance earned him an opportunity to compete at the Malaysian Piano Competition on the 14th of October in Kuala Lumpur. ☺

Baking Club

Ms Adele Bowden

24 students meet every Monday to plan and bake delicious sweet treats. Baking club teaches the students a variety of different life skills from how to work cohesively in a group, health and safety in a kitchen through to piping cupcakes! This week, the

students made 'candy inspired cupcakes', we had lemon, chocolate and caramel flavours decorated with marshmallows, strawberries and popcorn! Mrs Clarke, Ms Allen and Ms Bowden were all hand to taste test any that needed it and declared them all delicious! ☺



PSAC senior boys football tournament

Mr Liam Streat



On Saturday 6th October we hosted the Penang Schools Athletic Conference (PSAC) senior boys football tournament. Five teams took part in what was a fantastic day where we saw some terrific football played in some quite tough conditions in the early morning.

POWIIS had never won this tournament but looked very determined from the very first kick. After 4 tough games POWIIS came through undefeated and were crowned champions with one toughly contested draw and three excellent wins. We would like to

thank all of the parents, coaches, staff and the maintenance team for making it happen and a huge thank you to the team for their outstanding efforts on the day. A very proud day for myself and POWIIS! A big shout out to Mr Eccles also who is coaching our junior football team and is feeding the senior team excellently with boys who are keen, eager and wanting to play football the right way.

As a proud captain, Chester Yeo was amazed how far this team has progressed with very little training time together. All their matches were closely fought but it was their drive and determination that set them apart from the other teams. He praised his teammates for their efforts, but notably Angad Singh Khalsa for his determination to win and Faiq Soudagar as their vice-captain. On a personal note, this was very special to Chester as it was POWIIS's first time winning this tournament, and it happened in his final year. Thank you to everyone involved for making this event a major success. 🍀

MSSPP Chess Tournament

Mr Lai Hock Lim



POWIIS was well represented at the MSSPP Chess Tournament which was held in SMK Phor Tay back in July, 2018.

Zone, Balik Pulau.

Several junior students had quite recently taken up chess and thrived under the wise tutoring of our Year 13 student Teh De Juan, who has himself been incredibly successful in the past.

De Juan was ranked 3rd in the under 18 boys category and was chosen to represent Penang State at National level. Despite his hectic academic and co-curricular timetable, his team managed to win the under 18 boys category.

Bernice Ooi and Adam Kumar played well and both won the first prize for the under 15

We are very proud of our chess players and hope that this is a sign of successes to come. 🍀

Poster Competition

Macbeth Marketing team

This year, as is tradition, we once again invite our students to design a poster for the annual school production. This year's play is Macbeth by Shakespeare.

The design has to be in A3 or A4, it can be in colour or black and white and in any medium — including digital — as long as it's printable (so no 3D art). Unlike past years, in conjunction with this being Shakespeare, there is no restriction against using a text based poster. Note that slapping "Macbeth" with a font onto a piece of paper does not qualify as a design. Once you're ready to submit your design, write your name, year group and house, and hand it in to the art department to either of the teachers - Miss Decoursey or Miss Khan Evans. There is a limit of one submission per student and the deadline is the 2nd of November, Friday the first week back after half term. 🍀

Meet Our People



Ms Laura Richardson

Having been interested in the natural world for most of her life, after completing her A levels Ms Richardson went on to study for her BSc Hons. in Genetics at the University of Wales, Swansea. After gaining her bachelors, she decided she wanted to enthuse biology and science to other

people and went on to be awarded her PGCE at Bristol University. After teaching in Somerset, for several years an urge to travel prompted her to teach in Miami, USA and Kuwait before making her way to POWIIS.

Miss Richardson started at POWIIS in 2015 as the Head of Biology, she has gone on to

become the Head of Science. She loves the challenges that not only being a teacher brings but also the head of department. She says the best part of her job is seeing the students excited and amazed by all things scientific. She is looking forward to seeing the science department develop in the next few years and having an even bigger Science cohort in the 6th form. Since she has arrived, the take up in Biology A level has more tripled.

Miss Richardson loves the diversity she gets to experience teaching at POWIIS and living in Penang, enjoying eating at all the different types of restaurants and sampling the great assortment of food.

When she's not eating, she loves to keep fit, having participated in the Jungle run in Botanica recently. She also loves to explore parts of Asia, photographing the abundance of nature this part of the world has to offer.



Ms Aoife Stranney

Ms Aoife Stranney originally from Ireland joined the POWIIS chemistry department in September 2015. She has a degree in Medicinal Chemistry and a Masters degree in Chemical Enzymology from Queens University Belfast. After spending some time teaching English in Paris, Aoife returned to university to complete a PGCE at the University of Manchester. After graduation she took a post as a teacher of chemistry at a state school in Birmingham where she stayed until moving to Penang. Here at POWIIS she is Head of Chemistry and Head of PSHE and a member of the Durham tutor team.

In her spare time she trains as a member of a local Dragon Boat team, Disoarder. They compete in the Penang Dragon Boat festival every year. Aoife is also a committee



member for the Penang Irish Association who organise an annual street festival for Saint Patricks Day at Straits Quay. Aoife says she loves the many festivals held in Penang,

it provides a great opportunity to discover and learn about different food, religions and cultures.



Rutland VS Durham

Mr Peter Kee

Support for Rutland House during the Senior House Cup football fixture against Durham! ☺





Halloween Scare to Care 5 - Coupon Sales and Call for Food/Souvenir Vendors

Mr Darren Lim

Coupons for the Halloween Scare to Care 5 'A Night of Sinisters' are on sale! Organised by the LEO Club in aid of the POWIIS Humanitarian Fund and Rumah Seri Cahaya, this year's festival falls on November 2 at 6.00 pm. This year, it is going to be even more attractive with a wide range of delicious local and international favorites by some of Penang's renowned food outlets, the mind-blowing House of Sinisters, the adrenaline-pumping Zombie Run! and an exciting Social Night.

The coupons are priced at RM 10, 30 and

50 and are sold at the school canteen every lunch time until October 29. Please ensure you have the appropriate amount of cash for your coupon payment.

On the same note, we welcome any parent who would like to come on board as part of our team of vendors, which now include some relatively well-known brand names. If you are interested to contribute food items, beverages or souvenirs for sale, please contact Mr. Darren Lim (dljz@powiis.edu.my). ☺

FOBISIA Drama Festival

Mrs April Boyd



There is an exciting opportunity for year 9 and year 10 drama students to perform drama at POWIIS as part of the FOBISIA Drama Festival, which we are proud to host. This year's theme is: 'It's All Greek to Me'; students will perform the stories of five classical Greek plays using selected extracts of Ancient Greek texts where they will use the plot and storyline, themes and ideas to deliver a moral message. Performances will include the use of a Greek chorus and masks along with incorporating ideas from renowned theatre and drama practitioners to a modern audience.

We are looking for eager year 9 and 10

drama students; this is on a first come, first serve basis, with a limited number of places; so do book early. The dates of the festival are between Wednesday, 27th February to Saturday, 2nd March 2019. The drama festival will bring people together from different countries and cultures and will include approximately ten other Fobisia schools. The participants will interact and work together on shared interests to achieve a collective goal.

For further information regarding costing and deadlines, please contact Ms April Boyd, Head of Drama at alb@powiis.edu.my ☺



Pictures are from the FOBISIA Drama Festival Feb/ March 2018 held at Garden International School, KL.

POWIIS Volleyball

Mr Alan Reeves



POWIIS' Monday Volleyball Activity has produced a Girls' volleyball team to be reckoned with. They played their first ever game last month during a national tournament, which included teams such as Dalat, ISKL A and B ISKL. POWIIS entered

expecting nothing more than experience, however, they came away with a highly commendable second place. Yesterday saw the girls hit the courts again at Dalat. POWIIS fielded an 'A' and a 'B' team. After a hard day at school and a long bus journey, both 'A'

and 'B' teams got off to a shaky start, losing their first games. All was not lost though as the girls warmed up and got into the groove, they both won their second game. A big well done to the girls from the Monday Volleyball Activity. 🕒

Important Dates for October 2018

[Click here for full school calendar](#)

13th October	PSAC U13 Boys Football Tournament @ Uplands
15th – 17th October	COBIS Patron's Accreditation Visit
17th October	U13 Boys & Girls Football @ POWIIS V Dalat
17th October	U15 Boys Basketball 'B' v SIS @ POWIIS
18th October	Second University Fair
20th – 28th October	Half Term Break
28th October – 1st November	FOBISIA Games in Phuket, Thailand
8th October – 16th November	Edexcel and CIE External Exams

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@powiis.edu.my

Watch for future Pulse editions!