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# ST. MARK'S

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

2014-2015 Newsletter Vol. 1

Academically Aspiring - Caringly Christian - Experientially Enriching



Welcome to St. Mark's - a lovely, lively, thriving place where children excel academically as well as socially. As an enriching community of faculty, parents and students we strive to develop childrens' God-given talents and provide an environment that allows them to flourish. Recently recognized for Excellence in Education by the *Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment* we continue to stretch our students to become all they can be. Here are some of the latest goings-on here at St. Marks.

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### STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE

Our annual Student-Led Conference gave our students the chance to actively demonstrate to their parents what they have been learning this semester. It was a fun, relaxed day as parents watched their





children demonstrate what they have been learning in their various subject areas. They also had the chance to quiz their children on what they have been learning.





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#### **ANNUAL FUNCTION**

Our Annual Function is the time to celebrate all that has been done over the past year. From awards to performances, from food to friendship, this is the highlight of the year. This year we were pleased to award several students for exceptional behaviour in addition to their academic awards.





We continue to be thrilled with the progress of our students and celebrate that their abilities often exceed those of other international schools around the world, sometimes even ranking far above students of their own age levels.

From the teachers to the parents, from the students the to technical team. everyone worked together to ensure that this year's Annual event went smoothly. In the end, it was just as we had hoped - a day to remember!



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#### **ISA STARS**

Every year in February, students from Year 3 onwards take part in the annual International Schools' Assessment (ISA). This standardised examination from Australia is well-known among established international schools both in Thailand and overseas. This year, St. Mark's students have attained stellar results with the ISA, having surpassed all previous year's performances.

In Mathematics, **Jordan, Thananchai** and **Phaschapha** in Year 5 and **Thien** in Year 4 obtained scores of 609, 609, 553 and 510 respectively. Jordan and Thananchai are ranked among the top 1% and Phaschapha and Thien the top 10% of all participants.

In Reading comprehension, **Andrea** in Year 5 and **Jonty** in Year 3 obtained a score of 515, and 472 respectively, and their results are among the top 10%.













In Writing, **Andrea, Jordan, Gun**, and **Yoonjee** in Year 5 obtained scores of 564, 564, 544, 544 respectively which made them among the top 5% and 10%. **Georgina** and **Passaraporn** of Year 3 scored 478 and 452 respectively, and they ranked among the top 10% and 20%.

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#### **HSK STARS**

In March this year, our primary students from Year 2 took part in the HSK Chinese proficiency examination. Our students were among the youngest students taking this assessment at Chulalongkorn University. Congratulations to **Min Ju** from Year 2 who attained a **perfect score of 100%.** We also had other excellent performers in the HSK examination, including: **Yoonjee**, **Phaschapha**, **Thananchai** from Year 5, **Passaraporn** and **Jean** from Year 3. Congratulations to all!













We are pleased to announce that our school is in discussions to perhaps become an official test location for HSK, allowing St. Mark's students to be able to take HSK examination within the school.

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#### MATHS WORKSHOP



On Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, St. Mark's Parents had a rare opportunity to hear from Dr. Rosalind Phang, an expert on Mathematics from Singapore on the subject of "Making Mathematics Meaningful and Fun". From the lecture to the "hands-on" time, all were treated to a time of enlightenment in how to help children learn mathematics effectively – specifically the Singapore Mathematics taught here at St. Mark's.

Dr. Phang has taught mathematics and statistics at the National University of Singapore and Singapore's National Institute of Education/Nanyang Technological University for more than 20 years. She has trained mathematics teachers with a special focus on making mathematics content relevant for teachers. She is also a consultant for banks and other statutory boards. She founded **Add-venture Learning** and writes the "+Venture in Maths!" series with the belief that the learning of mathematics should be fun and meaningful for children.

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## DENTAL CHECK AND EDUCATIONAL VISIT FROM ENFAGROW

On Friday, September 5th, all of our students were treated to a thorough dental checkup in the school library and provided with written reports of their oral health for each parent's consideration. At the same time, we had Enfagrow, a well-known milk provider, come to do presentation for our Early Years and Year 1 students about how to be a genius. The presentation focused on a holistic approach to health and well-being. addition, students were encouraged to be diligent in their studies and to avoid laziness.







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#### WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN DOING?

#### **NURSERY**

In Ms. Waiana's Nursery class we learn to draw our letters correctly – both capital and small. Today we're practicing writing our letter F's. I like "F" because "F" stands for "Fun!". We make sure we write the lines in the correct order. Of course, it's hard work too, drawing the lines in the correct order.



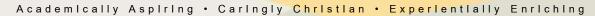
#### **KINDERGARTEN**



Even though we're well into our ABC's and I-2-3's, we continue to practice our hand-washing. We also learn to sit quietly, follow the teacher, raise our hands when we have a question and keep the toilets clean. Teacher Caterina says were developing "life skills". I'm not sure what a skill is but I think it's something really good!

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#### PRE-PREPARATORY

Hi! I'm in Pre-Prep! My teacher's name is Ms. Donna and she loves me very much. Our class loves to read. When we read, we have fun doing it. We talk about the parts of the book and what's happening in the pictures. That way we can learn new words that we can use in our activity time.



#### <u>PREPARATORY</u>



Ms. Karen is really cool, but mostly just fun. Today she made some bookmarks for us to help us remember how to read. Stretchy Snakes show us how to streeeeeeetch words (I love to say that!), Eagle Eye shows us how to observe and Chunky Monkey teaches us to remember to break our words into pieces so that we can remember how to spell and say them.



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#### YEAR 1

Ms. Maria is awesome. In English class she teaches us about synonyms. At first I didn't understand what that word meant, but now I know. Now we practice substituting new words into sentences. I use to tell my brother he's "really smart". Now, I say he's "really intelligent". I guess I'm getting more intelligent too. Yeah!





#### YEAR 2

I actually like Maths! That's because I know how to do it. Using an Abacus helps me to calculate number fast but mostly I use it to check my answers. Today, we're competing in teams to see which team can calculate the fastest. I'm not sure which team will win yet, but we're getting faster and having fun for sure!

#### YEAR 3

Today we talked about different occupations. For example, Tailor, Professor, IT Professional. Of course we learned them all in Thai. The funniest job was Pirate. It kind of sounds like a fun occupation but I get seasick easily. Also, I'm not very good with a sword. But I like treasure and I really like wearing an eye-patch and saying "Thar she blows, mate"!



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#### YEAR 4

Call me a geek, 'cause that's what I am. I love to experiment with elements and compounds, hot and cold, electricity, magnetism and so many other fun things. Someday I want to be a scientist, or maybe an engineer – I haven't decided that yet. Ms. Gigi has taught me many things. She always has new things to try out and sometimes she surprises us with what happens. Maybe she's a geek too. To me she's just a wonderful teacher that I love.



#### YEAR 5

Here we are practicing our reading in front of the class. Mr Aky says that if we make a mistake we should just keep on going and there's no need to stop or start over. I guess making mistakes is part of life. Oh, can you guess what we're reading about? We're reading about "Ten Going On Twenty-Five". If you don't know what that means, just ask one of our Year 5 students!

#### YEAR 6

You know... computers are all about Maths. Here, my Year 6 class is learning how to use a Computer Aided Design (CAD) program to create parabolic figures. Not only can we learn a lot about Maths, but they're very beautiful as well. Perhaps the next step is fractal images. That'd be really cool. We'll see if Ms. Gigi assigns it for homework.

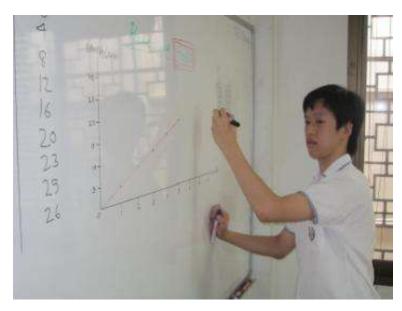




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#### **YEAR 10**

Our secondary program focuses on active learning and our program encourages students to become an active learner through making of their own notes and participating in the weekly presentation on their reading, prior to the teaching of the lessons. We believe that through active learning, difficult science concepts will be understood at a deeper level and students will be able to retain their knowledge longer.



Here a Year 10 student is graphing

and explaining to his classmates on what he has discovered about Hooke's Law, during the weekly presentation. Hookes' Law is a law of elasticity related to springs which states that the displacement of a spring is directly proportional to the force applied. Hookes formula: Force F = k.x is a straight line graph, where k (the sping's stiffness) is the gradient of the slope.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECAs)**



**Ball Games** 



**Creative Arts** 

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<u>Robotics</u> <u>Debate</u>



**Swimming** 



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## **FACILITIES UPDATE**



St. Mark's has recently purchased the property next to the school for future development. Further information will be announced as it becomes available.