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ST. MARK'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

2015-2016 Newsletter Vol. 2



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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 children's God-given talents and provide an environment that allows them to flourish.

St. Mark's News



On 8 September St. Mark's arranged dental exams for all of our Year 1 to 7 students. The exams were conducted in the library and all parents were provided with written reports of their children's oral health.

St. Mark's encourages children to explore their talents and potential through real-life experience. We are delighted to share stories of their hands-on experiences such as in fire-drill training with the local fire department, or in getting involved with democracy in school through participating in Student Council's election activities.

In these pages you will find singing and dancing, methods for helping youngsters learn Mandarin, and a review of how our Year 6 students are developing their public speaking skills. Further, this newsletter features ideas for making autumn crafts as our Creative Arts Club members are doing. There is also a special article entitled "Understanding Your Child's Learning Style".

Our hope is to provide useful ideas and inspiration for supporting your children's learning experience.

Best wishes,

St. Mark's Administration



On 9 September St. Mark's conducted our first fire drill of the year. Not only did our students get to go up high on the fire truck ladder but they also received important guidance in how to deal with fires, presented by the firemen themselves.



On 15 September Enfagrow came to St. Mark's for a performance entitled "360* Genius - A Pirate Fairy Tale". All of our Early Years and Year 1 students joined in the performance learning about the importance of reading.

Student Council Election



This year St. Mark's Thai Department introduced our students to Student Council activities for the first time. The purpose was to educate students about their roles in democracy as Thai citizens. Students from various years grouped themselves into three parties and came up with their own policies. They spent time during morning assembly presenting the projects they had planned. Afterward, the three parties posted their campaign posters around the school.



Then, on 17 September, Year 2 to Year 7 students as well as St. Mark's staff participated in the Student Council election by voting for their favourite parties. Party number 1 won with 32 votes. Melanie Pepyat from party 1 was chosen to be a student president and the members of all three parties now comprise our Student Council representing our school pupils. Melanie explained her motivation in participating in Student Council by saying, "I believe that the school needed a student role-model and I wanted to have that experience." She added that...

"I want to make the school better by being good role-models to the students so they can follow us and be good students in the future" – Melanie Pepyat, President, Student Council



Staff Professional Development Day



On Friday, September 25th, St. Mark's International School held our annual Professional Development Workshop for all of our teachers. In addition to hearing from administration, our teachers enjoyed a challenging and thought-provoking session with Ashley and Kim Hood, professional teacher trainers from Australia, who are also part of our school parent community. We are grateful for their expertise, perspective and enthusiasm in assisting us in our pursuit of excellence in education.

School Expansion



Construction of our new Early Years Centre commenced in May of this year. After 4 months of continuous work, our Early Years Centre building is taking shape. The new development will accommodate four large classrooms, three activity rooms, a new kitchen, a store room, more restrooms and a larger canteen area. The school expects the facilities to be operational by August 2016, adding about 500 square metres of classroom and public spaces for our growing student body.

Class Activities Focus

Learning Mandarin In Early Years



Young kids enjoy learning when they get to act, move and draw pictures. In Pre-Prep Mandarin class, Ms. Xiaoqing asked each student to do facial expression of different moods while learning Chinese vocabularies about emotions. Gāoxìng (高兴) or happy is the easiest act for these children. They are joyful in dance and learn new Mandarin words from the lyrics of fun music rhythms. Chinese words originate from pictures, so our youngsters learn to write the language by remembering symbols and practicing in drawing words.

St. Mark's students are encouraged to have a "Can-Do" attitude in front of the classroom without fear of making mistakes. Practice makes perfect!



How Long Is Your Palm?

Our Year 2 students used rulers to measure the lengths of their palms in Mathematics class. They were enthusiastic when Ms. Karen asked them to estimate the lengths of pencils, notebooks, and cubby holes. They learned that sometimes they need to use a centimetre ruler, but if the objects are very long they must use a long metre stick for measurement.



Exploring Nigeria The Oil-Rich Nation of West Africa

The group of students from Year 3 and Year 4 had a skim reading time about Nigeria. They helped each other to find out about its climates, population, and resources that the country has such as oil, natural gas or coal. They also pointed out on the critical issues that people in the nation experience and thought about everyday lives in Nigeria.



Year 3 and Year 4 in Social Studies class.



Students helping each other do class activities on Nigeria.

Telling About The Lives of Famous People



Mr. Aky, our English 2 teacher, spoke about special techniques for presenting a good speech. Year 6 students learned that they can use tone, hand movement and pauses to grab the audience's attention. In addition, they utilised their time at home, practising making their speeches flow smoothly from beginning to end. Then, they presented speeches about people that are inspiring and well-known in front of the classroom.



Tampraphon Lohrattanasaneih was proud to present about Albert Einstein, the most famous scientist of the 20th century.



Thien Buathong pointed out that Thomas Edison did not invent a light bulb but he developed it.



Matthew Ngan told the biography of Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft.



Jonty Hood talked about Malala Yousafzai, an important person in the fight for women's rights in education.



Tanatpong Anantawittayanon presented about the brilliant Steve Jobs who founded Apple.



Sarah Rowan was curious about the life of Albert Einstein, so she did some research about him.

Extra-Curricular Activities



Bible Study Group at Alive Club

Alive club is a community of pupils who are interested in knowing more about Christianity and how to enjoy their relationships with God. Members come together and pray, read the Bible, and discuss how they can apply what they learn to their daily lives. Time well-spent with peers who encourage their spiritual growth helps brighten their school day.



Suttida Schofield was inspired by a man with no arms and legs, Nick Vujicic, and his optimistic personality.



The Arts of Self-Protection

Taekwondo helps in developing the mental clarity and focus necessary to excel academically and in all the endeavours of life.

Creative Autumn Leaf Prints

The leaves are falling in other parts of the world. Our Creative Arts Club members made the feelings of autumn happen by making leaf print crafts.

First, they cut out paper leaves and attached them to larger sheets. Then, they dipped sponges into their favourite colours and splashed the colours all over the papers. After that, Ms. Emily helped them in using a hair dryer to dry the pieces of artwork. Finally, they took the leaf print papers off, and their art work was finished. What a messy and fun Friday, letting their imaginations shine!



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING STYLE

At the recent Teachers' Professional Development Workshop, St. Mark's teachers had the opportunity to learn more about teaching methods that can be used to meet the different learning styles of our students. As parents, knowing your child's own learning style can help assure your child's academic success. Let's now take a look at these learning styles to understand which type of learner your child is more inclined to be.

AUDITORY

Auditory learners learn by hearing and listening. They understand and remember things they have heard. They store information by the way it sounds, and they have an easier time understanding spoken instructions than written ones. They often learn by reading out loud because they have to hear it or speak it in order to grasp it.

As an auditory learner, they probably hum or talk to themselves or others if they become bored. People may think they are not paying attention, even though they may be hearing and understanding everything being said.

Here are some things that auditory learners can do to learn better.

- Sit where they can hear.
- Have their hearing checked on a regular basis.
- Use flashcards to learn new words; read them out loud.
- Read stories, assignments, or directions out loud.
- Record themselves spelling words and then listen to the recording.
- Have test questions read to them out loud.
- Study new material by reading it out loud.

Remember that in order to learn well they need to hear things, not just see things.





VISUAL

Visual learners learn by reading or seeing pictures. They understand and remember things by sight. They can picture what they are learning in their head, and they learn best by using methods that are primarily visual. They like to see what they are learning.

As a visual learner, they are usually neat and clean. They often close their eyes to visualize or remember something, and they will find something to watch if they become bored. They may have difficulty with spoken directions and may be easily distracted by sounds. They are attracted to colour and to spoken language (like stories) that is rich in imagery.

Here are some things that can help visual learners learn:

- Have them sit near the front of the classroom
- Have their eyesight checked on a regular basis.
- Use flashcards in learning new words.
- Have them visualize things that they hear or things that are read to them.
- Have them write down key words, ideas, and instructions.
- Draw pictures to help explain new concepts and then explain the pictures.
- Colour code things.
- Avoid distractions during study times

KINESTHETIC

Kinesthetic learners learn by touching and doing. They understand and remember things through physical movement. They are a "hands-on" learner who prefers to touch, move, build, or draw what they learn, and they tend to learn better when some type of physical activity is involved. They need to be active and take frequent breaks, they often speak with their hands and with gestures, and they may have difficulty sitting still.

Kinesthetic learners often communicate by touching, and they appreciate physically expressed forms of encouragement, such as a pat on the back.

Here are some things that kinesthetic learners can do to learn better:

- Participate in activities that involve touching, building, moving, or drawing.
- Do lots of hands-on activities like completing art projects, taking walks, or acting out stories.
- It's fine to chew gum, walk around, or rock in a chair while reading or studying.
- Use flashcards and arrange them in groups to show relationships between ideas.
- Trace words with their finger to learn spelling (finger spelling).
- Take frequent breaks during reading or studying periods (frequent, but not long).
- It's fine to tap a pencil, shake their feet, or hold on to something while learning.
- Use a computer to reinforce learning through the sense of touch.



If your child is a combination of two or all three learning styles, they learn best by doing the things suggested in each of the above-mentioned categories. Have fun discovering your child's learning style!

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**He has filled him with the Spirit
of God, with skill, with
intelligence, with knowledge, and
with all craftsmanship.**

Exodus 35:31



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