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# ST. MARK'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## 2015-2016 Newsletter Vol. 3

*Academically Aspiring*

*- Caringly Christian -*

*Experientially Enriching*



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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

St. Mark's is a unique international community where children learn about various cultures and languages. Last month we celebrated International Day, bringing joy through performance on the theme of "Unity and Diversity Amongst Small Nations". We are thankful for the effort and contributions of students, parents and teachers who helped make the event so successful. This newsletter will review these fond memories and educate each of us in how to teach kids about cultural diversity. Our hope is that each of our students enjoy learning and that they grow up socially to become adults who appreciate the various cultures of the world.

Blessings,  
St. Mark's Administration

## Upcoming Events of the St. Mark's Community



## Coffee Meeting with Parents



On Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's Administration held a Coffee Meeting for our parent community. The relationship between administration and the families of our students has always been fundamental to our philosophy and success. These open forums provide us an opportunity to keep our families involved in what's happening at our school, explore future developments and growth, as well as to continue to build the strong fundamental relationships that are the foundation of our valued institution.



## School's Open Day Activities



October 9th was Open Day where we welcomed prospective parents to view student's extra-curricular activities including Table Tennis and Robotics. In addition, we held a tour for them, taking them around the school to observe classes. After the tour, there was a Question And Answer session with Mr. Adam where prospective parents could ask their questions in a casual open setting.



# Celebrating Cultures & Diversity on International Day

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's celebrated our annual International Day. As a diverse community, we value the chance to teach our students about the diversity of cultures around the world and to help each one develop an appreciation of individual and cultural differences.

This year students learned about the smaller nations and cultures of the world, performing dance and drama related to their learning. The performance was a special time followed by an international potluck that was enjoyed by all.



*The finale was a rendition of the song by Donna Cruz, entitled "Yesterday's Dream".*



*Students decorating their classroom for International Day.*



*Parents served home-cooked international dishes.*



*Nursery students getting ready for the parade.*



*Year 1 in Estonian & Year 2 in Georgian costumes.*



*Year 3 presented a traditional Danish dance.*



*Jamaican Pre-Prep cheerleaders danced "OMI"!*



*Kindergarten presented an Icelandic Folk dance.*



*Folk dance "Kolo" by Year 4 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*



*Year 7 demonstrated traditional Mayan games.*



*Year 5 performed the folk dance "Plena de Puerto Rico"!*



*The Preparatory class danced Samoan style.*



*An Exhibition on Bhutan by Year 6.*

## Yesterday's Dream Lyrics

We are the children of yesterday's dream  
 We are the promise of the future we bring  
 Waving the banners of love to all  
 To every nation, the rich and the poor

Refrain:

We are the world of the restless and young  
 And we need a hand to guide us  
 Helping each other Build each other  
 As long as we're together you and me

Chorus:

For together we stand, divided we fall  
 Together we climb to the top of the world  
 We can be what we what for the world to see  
 We are the children of yesterday's dream

We have the yearning to do what is best  
 Be someone special from all the rest  
 Nation and brothers in unity  
 Building tomorrow for you and for me

# Class Activities Focus

## Let's Escape from the Crocodile



On a warm afternoon Kindergarten kids put on their swimming suits and get ready for a dip in the pool. They clung to the pool side while kicking water for their warm-up time. As soon as they got swimming boards, Ms. Tammy called them to come to her in the middle of the pool. Then she exclaimed, "Crocodile is coming!" and chased after the students. The only thing that each of them used for surviving in the water was a swimming board. They swam away so fast that water splashed out of the pool.



### Building and Counting Bricks

Our Year 1 students worked together in pairs to build architecture simulations using no more than 20 Lego bricks. They developed their numeric skills through role-playing as architectural designers, counting the numbers of bricks, discussing and presenting their works in class.

*"Childhood is but a moment in life where we unleash creative power, explore and discover new ideas that are connected to physical world in which we live."*

## MAZE-O-MAMIA CREATORS

Commonly we know of Microsoft Powerpoint as software for creating basic presentation for school, college, or workplace. But we can also use it to create something more interesting for both educational purposes and for fun.

After looking at the presentations of the Solar System from the previous week, our Year 4 students used the software to develop Maze-O-Mamia games in their own style. The games became more and more detailed as they constructed their game patterns. The big challenge was finding a way to win their own games.



## Year 7 Students Start a Marketing Project

In Entrepreneurship Studies class, Year 7 was assigned a group project to plan and play roles as business owners. They needed to use their creativity in coming up with product ideas, brand names, slogans, sales promotions and in choosing the types of media that they would like to use for their advertisements.

Mr. Mitchell Kuntz inspired the students about using visual aids for pitching the product ideas such as through magazine advertisement, YouTube videos, radio audio clips, or even through clay modeling and Legos.



The marketing project is interdisciplinary with persuasive oral presentation. In order to make their message convincing, they have to think about the factors that make people buy products.

Having worn the hats of consumers, they could view the business world from the consumers' perspectives. The students discussed prices, consumer trust, rights, and responsibilities as well as how copyright laws have different impact in different countries.



## Nursery Students Learn Thai Alphabets



At the colourful learning zone in Nursery class, the little children were clapping their hands and singing before Thai lessons began. Mrs. Siriporn (Khru Tuk) called each student by name, getting them ready for their energetic moves. She showed the Thai alphabet pictures while talking about what were in the pictures.

The students have seen some real objects at home or school related to the pictures. Talking about the things that they know, acting, and singing simple songs made this lesson fun for them. Nursery's Thai class is a fun-filled time in a rainbow room where little ones gather and share pure smiles.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Hearing Melodies From The White Door



St. Mark's is a place where our students learn different languages and interact with friends who have a variety of cultural backgrounds. Music is another method for expressing feelings and is well-supported at our school.

Some days we can hear classical tinkling sounds in the hallway as children learning the language of music. In the Piano Room, behind the white door, the members of the Piano ECA practice the art of melodies and experience joy through it.

### The Traditional Rhythm of the Kim

Ms. Apat (Kru Ae) trains the members of our Kim ECA to play this unique musical instrument.

Not only does Thai music have remarkable rhythm and sound, but there are also a traditional set of manners that Thai musicians have to follow in order to present to the best of their character.



## Special Football Training



On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Andrew Oakley hosted special football training for students in Preparatory to Year 2 classes.

He taught many techniques and there were many footballs available for the practice. Both girls and boys developed their physical capabilities and teamwork skills through participating in this activity.



## Unna on Kidzaaa The Audition



Congratulations to Unna Athikomchakorn for passing the first audition which enabled her to join in the children's competition on Kidzaaa The Audition, a television show on Channel 3. She showed her talents in singing as well as dancing on stage to audiences across the nation.

"I felt really good and it was a fun experience to be on the TV show. When I grow up I want to become a dancer," Unna said smilingly.

[To watch the show please click here](#)

# Exam Preparation

Helping your students to feel confident and ready as they go into their exams will give them the best chance of success. Here, principals and teachers share their tips and experiences for that crucial preparation time.

## Tip 1: Make sure students master the topics they like most

While it is obviously important to cover the entire exam syllabus when revising, help make sure students get the best marks they can in their favourite topics.

## Tip 2: Simulate examination conditions at home

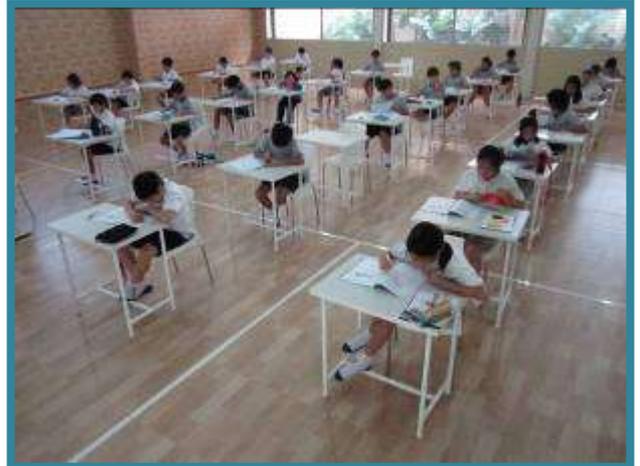
Try doing this once at home before students take their actual exams, to help them with anxiety and timing issues.

## Tip 3: Before the examination revision session begins, give each student an envelope containing items of encouragement

This could be words of wisdom, an herbal tea bag to aid relaxation or chocolate to help with nerves. The students will appreciate the thought.

## Tip 4: Remind students to use a relevant, original idea or their own in writing questions

This will show independent thought in addition to the themes and ideas already present in the passage they are analysing.



## Tip 5: Ensure that students understand keywords

Being familiar with words such as 'describe', 'discuss', 'compare', and 'summarise' is essential.

## Tip 6: Start your revision early to avoid last minute cramming

Spreading out their revision schedule and working consistently over a longer period, will help students to have less anxiety and have better memory.

## Tip 7: Wake up and sleep at nearly the same time daily during the examination week

By having a consistent waking-up and sleeping pattern, students will feel less tired during their examinations.

*Part of this Article is extracted from Outlook: The Magazine for Cambridge Schools Worldwide, Issue 19, 2015, P. 17*

# How To Teach Kids About Cultural Diversity

If your kids start to wonder why some people look different, talk with an accent, or celebrate different holidays, it may be a good time to teach them about cultural diversity. Thailand, and St. Mark's in particular, are fitting places to learn about and develop an appreciation of different cultures - all without having to board an airplane. Here are several ways you can teach your kids about cultural diversity.



## Examine Your Own Cultural Beliefs

The best way to teach your child about cultural diversity is to let them see you as accepting of other cultures. Our children imitate us, so in order to teach our children about cultural diversity, we as parents need to figure out what our beliefs are.

**Ask yourself: How open are you to people from other cultures or races?**

In introducing children to the different ways people live, we should avoid clouding their judgment or introducing our own biases. Sometimes it's best to hold our thoughts to ourselves so that our children can be open to new experiences and people.

## Purchase a Globe or a World Map

A great place to start is by having a globe or a world map available in your home. When something globally newsworthy happens, the kids can go right to the map and physically see that area of the world. This allows them opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussion, and creates teachable moments for the whole family.

*"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14*



## Sample Cuisine From Other Countries

St. Mark's is blessed with families from all over the world, including Australia, China, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea and Spain. During our International Day celebration, our school community organizes a lunch where everyone brings a dish from their own country. Some of us even get an instant foreign language lesson.

## ★ Encourage Questions

If your child has questions about differences in cultural practices, discuss them openly. This teaches your child that it is fine to notice differences, and more importantly, it teaches him that it is good to talk about them. Learning to appreciate all kinds of differences—not just racial and cultural differences but also differences in socioeconomic levels and gender – is an important skill in today's diverse society.



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