



THE **A** SPIRANT

AISS'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

**"THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENTS,
BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS"**



START OF TERM 2

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

JANUARY 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT



**Mr Oon,
Chairman**



A very Happy New Year 2022 and Happy Chinese New Year of the Water Tiger to those who are celebrating!

The tiger is generally associated with strength, bravery, competitiveness and confidence. Like the tiger, AISS is constantly moving towards better things courageously and the year 2022 will see many meaningful measures to elevate the quality of education here. For instance, the school will focus on onboarding and academic support.

Onboarding refers to the integration of new students into our school ecosystem. We want our students to feel a sense of belonging, acceptance and ownership. The Homeroom Teachers and Student Progress Manager, Ms Thong, are paying careful attention to our new friends. Buddies are also assigned to new students as peers to help them with school matters from showing them where the washrooms are to guiding them on how to register for the CCAs.

Academic support refers to measures taken to help students improve in their studies and grades. During their free slots, upper secondary students are now gathered in the library for tutorial sessions. For the lower secondary students, English, Mathematics and Science

tutorials are arranged before or after school on some weekdays. During these sessions, students complete their assignments and get help from teachers with the relevant expertise.

To remain competitive like the tiger, a broader view of education is necessary. During this term's Initiation Friday, the students were encouraged to not only participate in CCAs of their interests, but to explore other CCAs from our wide selection for the purpose of exposure. Students were also recommended to participate in student-led school societies so they can contribute to the school and student-body. At the same time, they will be developing their leadership and soft skills. All these require the strength and bravery of the tiger. Students were also taught how to record their experiences in these extra-curricular activities so the documentation can help them boost their curriculum vitae in the future.

With all these opportunities, we aim to give students an environment in which they can reach their full potential.

We hope everyone had a Happy CNY and holidays.

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL



**Alex Cane,
President**



Hello everyone my name is Alexandre Cane and I am your new student council president. I hope this term will be great for everyone! I became president of the Student Council after Evan, the former president, stepped down as one.

Many challenges come with the role of a president. However, thanks to all societies and all my fellow student council members, these challenges can easily be overcome. The people I work with are all helpful and kind. As a president, I truly feel honoured to be working with everyone.

I wish to accomplish a lot of things with my fellow student council classmates. We want to communicate more with the Philippine student council, and maybe even visit their school and vice-versa. I want to make this school stronger on the sporting side as well. As sports CCA now take place in this term, this can move forwards future plans on having a sports day and interhouse tournaments. We plan to make school more interesting because we all know how hard it has been with the whole pandemic situation. We want to achieve great things, and even organize a festival at the end of the year. Other ideas will be well welcomed and taken seriously.

In the past, the communication wasn't that great between societies and our student council members. I will try my best to make it this better this term. I hope I can communicate with everyone.

We, at The Student Council, wish everyone a great term ahead. If any problems come up, please do not hesitate to come forward to any student council members. We welcome anyone who wishes to work with the student council or other societies. We hope all new students feel welcomed in this school!



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL, TERM 2, 2021-2022



Fong Jia Wei,
Year 7



A new term has started and welcome back to school to all new or old students! How has the last term been? Even if it was bad, let's look forward to a better one this term! The past term(s) was online and there were fewer interactions between students and teachers. As all of you may know, AISS has decided to reopen the school, allowing students to come to school onsite.

The classes are splitted into halves, through a rotational basis. The students take turns to go to school. That means, half of the class will be online while the other half is onsite. Students that are coming onsite are required to bring their own devices to take the classes with the students at home. Even though it is a challenge for the teachers, having to teach the class in both ways, students and teachers still enjoy being at school physically.

We've interviewed students about their thoughts of being back at school physically, after months of having classes online.

'Being in school physically is really great because it allows us to have a better studying environment and experience. I feel very good being at school and seeing my friends after a long period of time being online.' - *Roanne, Year 7 Strength.*

'I'm excited and relieved to be able to go back to school physically, especially since it's my exam year.' - *Claire, Year 11*

AISS also welcomed new students joining us this term.

'I think the school is very amazing because I notice myself participating more in class and actually completing my work while having fun!' - *Renee, Year 7 Affection.*

Thank you for reading and I wish you all a happy term!



INITIATION FRIDAY



**Rania Yasmin,
Year 10**

Confidence, character building and leadership are skills that cannot be learnt in a classroom. This is why it is important to participate in a variety of CCAs. This term's Initiation Friday was held on Friday 14th January to brief students about the new CCAs and the societies that AISS offers.

The Student Council began the ceremony by giving a short speech welcoming the teachers and students. Students and teachers of several CCAs such as Mandarin, Chess, MUN, Cheer and more were then invited to share their views on their selected CCAs and encouraged others to join. Students are particularly encouraged to join newer CCAs like Cheer, Engineering and Outdoor Sports.

After the CCA speeches, the students got to participate in a round of skribble. It was hosted by the Student Council and Librarians. It was an enjoyable and relaxing time for everyone to bond and play together.

Followed by that, representatives of the societies (Student Council, Librarians, The Aspirant and the Choir) filled everyone in on the objectives and roles of being a member of the societies and the responsibilities that members are expected to carry out.

'As a Student Council member and a student, I highly recommend taking CCAs! In AISS, we offer a wide variety of choices for everyone to choose from! All the CCA organisers and teachers are also extremely kind! CCAs are the perfect time to make new friends and have more social interactions!' - *Alex Cane, AISS President.*

To conclude, students are all encouraged to choose different CCAs to open a new way of thinking and unlock new experiences.



SPORTS CAMP



**Cheng Lindsay,
Year 7**

Last term's sports camp arrived with many enthusiastic and energetic activities. Starting with a refreshing round of an agility test of flag football and frisbee as a starter for day one, continuing with an strategic lesson of Rounders for day two, then going on with a lesson of companionship and teamwork for a day of football on day 3. Next a round of coordination for the entire camp with volleyball! And lastly, to finish off this exciting camp was football, a round of endurance.

To ensure and review the entirety of this camp we interviewed three students from the lower secondary. We are extremely glad to receive these very honest and great opinions from these students.

"Alright so the sports camp was extremely fun as we got to know each other more, making it definitely worth the RM50 paid" -Carmen Choo Y7 Affection

"Overall, I enjoyed my experience in the camp. The coaches were good, they were strict when needed but did not overly exercise their power. I also noticed that the coaches were also very patient with students who were not familiar with the sport, and took the time to educate them about how the sport is played. The attitude of the coaches in charge played a big role in my experience of this camp. I acknowledge the fact that the camp was not perfect, there were still rough patches. However, I believe that the coaches will bear these mistakes in mind while planning any future sports camps. I look forward to hearing news of any future sports camps getting planned."

-Ryan Y8 Affection

"Very good and funny, Basketball was my favourite and the others besides Rugby. I rate the sports camp a 5 out of 5." -Rio Y8 Strength

Based on all these reviews it is highly encouraged to try out the sports camp or some school activities such as basketball or the sports co-curricular activities to grow your bond with the fellow students of this school and to strengthen your skills .

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Natalie Chew,
Year 8**



Christmas is the time of year when our family gets together to dine, unwrap presents, and do so much more.

We've interviewed a few people on how they've spent their Christmas/New Year.

'I spent my Christmas/New Year with my family, and I also went to Cameron Highlands for 3 days, but mainly I just rested and took a break from academics for a while.' - *Marissa, Year 8 Strength.*

'Well I spent my Christmas decorating my house, with joy and laughter; alongside babysitting my cousins... Which was honestly quite a pain. I have two cousins, both about 1 and under. My first cousin, Liam is 1 year old and he is a super hyper-active kid. So you could guess I got a ton of exercise crawling with him or something. It was pretty fun. My second cousin, Journ (pronounced 'Jern') is about 6 months old and he is just the chubbiest, cutest baby ever. He loves to smile a lot and I find it really funny. So you can probably guess how most of my December was spent. After that, I was mainly helping out with decorating the house. I climbed to the roof to hang fairy lights. The rest of my family freaked out. Yeah, no. Overprotective parents and grandparents. Anyway, I actually haven't done much for the new year yet... So that's a story for another day! What about you, Natalie?' - *Chelsea, Year 8 Strength.*

Thank you very much, Chelsea and Marissa, for your kind replies; we really appreciate it!

Aside from that, here's my response to Chelsea's question.

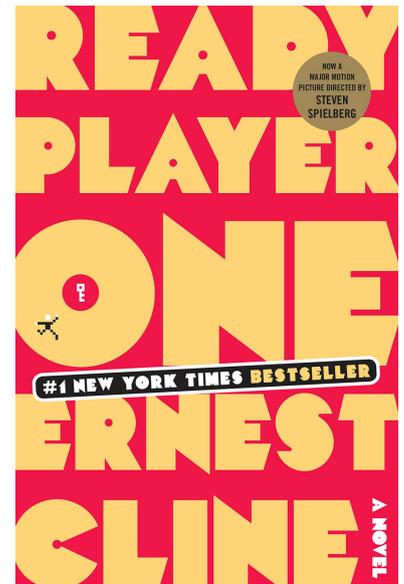
My Christmas and New Year's celebrations were spent with my family. We had a Christmas dinner, and my siblings and I assisted my mother in the preparation of several delectable dishes. Apart from that, I spent the remainder of Christmas and New Year's Eve playing games with my siblings.

EVAN'S BOOK REVIEW

READY PLAYER ONE



Evan Au-Yong
Year 10



Greetings and welcome to Evan's Book Review. I am Evan, and here's the book review. Today I'll be reviewing Ready Player One, the smash-hit blockbuster sci-fi novel written by author Ernest Cline.

Ready Player One takes place from the point of view of Wade Watts, a poor but highly intelligent and knowledgeable 18-year-old teenager in a dystopian 2045, where the world is in a state of ruin as a result of an energy crisis, global warming, and overall neglect from the people. The only thing making life bearable is the OASIS, a hyper-realistic and near-perfect video game / virtual reality simulation used by the vast majority of people in the world.

When its creator, the legendary James Halliday dies, he starts a worldwide contest, where whoever finds his very own Easter Egg is hidden inside the OASIS's massive simulation, will inherit his entire fortune and have control of the OASIS. It is a fun and engaging story filled with likeable characters, 1980s pop culture, and slick writing.

What I liked most about Ready Player One is its fantastic worldbuilding and how the book was written from Wade Watt's first-person perspective. The worldbuilding of Ready Player One is phenomenal, every detail of the OASIS is beautifully described and paints a visual picture in your imagination as you read. The book is filled to the brim with interesting expositions about the

OASIS and its world, but it all feels natural as it's told through Wade Watt's point of view. It's so well done that I even look forward to the exposition parts.

However, this all wouldn't be possible without the well-written Wade Watts. He is relatable personality-wise but you can heavily respect him for his excessive knowledge, ability to solve problems on his own, and his sheer will and determination to achieve his goals.

I did not dislike anything about Ready Player One. It is a well-written, well-structured, well-paced novel and I enjoyed reading it from start to finish. Having read the book a year before its movie adaptation and witnessing the ever-increasing popularity of the VR 'Metaverse' these past few months, Ready Player One paints a vividly incredible yet somehow bleak picture of the potential consequences of such a technology.

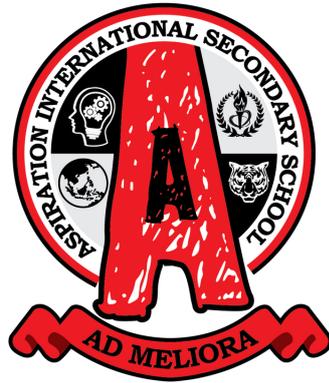
I would definitely recommend this book to teenagers and adults, especially those who play video games or consider themselves nerdy or geeky. I highly recommend this book, it's a fun ride all the way through. Thank you for reading and I'll see you in the next book review.

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY!

On behalf of the Editorial Team, we wish all in February a very Happy Birthday!

Cheng Lindsay	01-Feb-2010
Celine Khoo Hui Wen	07-Feb-2008
Chen Zhao Ryun	12-Feb-2007
Laura Jayne Jalleh	13-Feb-2007
Lara Ooi Jen Lynn	15-Feb-2007
Ching Shi Ying	21-Feb-2005
Dhivyasree Lakshmi	22-Feb-2008
Miray Alkoc	24-Feb-2010
Onn Zia Zen	28-Feb-2009

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



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Rania Yasmin (Year 10)
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