

THE ASPIRANT



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



SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICES

In the counselling room, as I sit with my client, I often start with a simple question: "In your mind, what does counselling look like?" This question is important because many students mistakenly view counselling as a form of punishment. I must admit, I once held that belief too when I was a student. However, upon trying it out, you will discover that it is much like having a conversation with a new friend. The only difference is that it occurs within a safe, non-judgmental environment, and everything shared remains confidential unless there are serious safety concerns.

You may be wondering what typically happens during counselling sessions. In fact, there's no one-size-fits-all answer. It could be discussions focusing on expressing your thoughts and feelings. Some students visit my office simply to share about their day, finding comfort in the space and connection we establish together. Others come to celebrate their achievements. And for those interested in exploring their personality, we can engage in fun quizzes to help them learn more about themselves.

The main takeaway is that counselling does not necessitate a serious issue, and counsellors don't necessarily have all the answers. However, we can work together to navigate challenges and find solutions. Therefore, when we see our friends seeking counselling, it's not a sign that something is wrong with them. Instead, seeking support is a commitment to personal growth. So don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to listen and help.

To make an appointment, you may reach out in person to me or you may fill in the application form that can be found on the noticeboard and I will reach out to you.



*Ms Yong
School counsellor*

SELAMAT HARI RAYA



Hari Raya is a significant celebration in the Islamic calendar, marking the end of the month-long fasting period of Ramadan. It is also known as Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Hari Raya Puasa.

In Malaysia and Singapore, Hari Raya is a public holiday, and many people take time off work or school to celebrate with their loved ones. The celebration typically begins with a visit to the mosque for prayers, followed by a family gathering and a feast featuring traditional dishes such as rendang, ketupat, and dodol.

As a way to show our celebration for Hari Raya, Aspiration invited all students and staff to come to school in traditional Raya attire on Monday 29th of April. Our school's only requirement was to keep the attire decent and suitable for school. Our school's objective was for students to come together to celebrate diversity and unity.

On that day, although many students only stuck to the complete school uniform, others wore bright and fantastic colours of diverse designs which prettily popped in the crowd of black attires.



*Katrina
Year 10 Strength*

SELAMAT HARI RAYA - TRANSLATED ARTICLE



Hari Raya merupakan perayaan penting dalam kalendar Islam yang menandakan berakhirnya tempoh berpuasa sebulan sempena Ramadan. Ia juga dikenali sebagai Hari Raya Aidilfitri atau Hari Raya Puasa.

Di Malaysia dan Singapura, Hari Raya ialah cuti umum, dan ramai orang mengambil cuti dari kerja atau sekolah untuk meraikan bersama orang tersayang. Perayaan ini biasanya bermula dengan lawatan ke masjid untuk solat, diikuti dengan perhimpunan keluarga dan jamuan makan yang menghidangkan makanan tradisional seperti rendang, ketupat dan dodol.

Sebagai cara untuk menunjukkan perayaan kami untuk Hari Raya, sekolah Aspiration menjemput semua pelajar dan kakitangan untuk datang ke sekolah dengan pakaian tradisional Raya pada hari Isnin, 29 April. Satu-satunya keperluan sekolah kami adalah menjaga agar pakaian itu sopan dan sesuai untuk sekolah. Objektif sekolah kami adalah untuk pelajar-pelajar berkumpul bersama untuk meraikan kepelbagaian dan perpaduan.

Pada hari itu, walaupun ramai pelajar hanya mematuhi pakaian seragam sekolah lengkap, juga ada lain memakai warna-warna cerah dan pelbagai reka bentuk yang menonjol di kalangan pakaian sekolah.



*Marissa
Year 10 Proactive*

EASTER BREAK

The students have had a long break of 3 weeks to celebrate Easter festivities. Some students had a long holiday of rest, while others celebrated Easter or Hari Raya. The Easter holiday lasted for one week and included the end-of-term holiday which was the 2 extra weeks.

Breaks are mandatory for everyone because it help you to decompress and relieve stress. Working long hours can be unhealthy and could damage your mental health, so it is important to take breaks. Some students prefer to study over the breaks, so they also have some time to complete extra time to revise in order to prepare for the upcoming term.

This is what some students had to say about the break:

"It was really nice having time to relax and cleanse my mind after the term. I was able to relax and have my own schedule. I went out to the mall as well. I could also spend time with my friends and have an overall good time."

-Anabelle, Y10A.

"I had a great time during the break celebrating Hari Raya with my family. It was really fun spending time with my family and celebrating Raya together. I had family dinners, and I even played with firecrackers."

-Andrea, Y10S

"I was able to go to my tuition classes a bit more and it helped me prepare for the next term.

-Allie Y10P

In conclusion, we hope that everyone took some time off to relax.

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*Inaiya
Year 10 Strength*



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

As the long-term break comes to an end, we welcome the students of Aspiration International Secondary School back to learning. The Newsletter Society hopes that everyone has had a wonderful holiday over the break and is excited to come back to learning for the final term of this academic year.

Additionally, as the break was very long, it can be difficult for students to readjust again to their regular school-day routine. Therefore, I have asked some of my classmates how they adjust to waking up early, focusing in class, and getting to school in a timely manner.

Inaiya from Year 10 Strength has said that she starts getting up early about a week prior to school starting. She claims that this gets her 'in the rhythm' of waking up early.

Karyna from Year 10 Affection shared that she aims to get up early every day so that she doesn't need to readjust at all.

So in conclusion, The Newsletter Society wishes for another productive term of learning and studying. To all the students of Aspiration International Secondary School, ensure to study productively to earn high marks on your end-of-year exams.



*Nina
Year 10 Strength*

IB MYP AUTHORISATION

I am thrilled to share with you some fantastic news: Aspiration International Secondary School has officially been authorised as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School! After months of hard work, dedication, and collaboration from students, staff, parents, and the entire school community, we have achieved this significant milestone.

The journey towards MYP authorization has been a challenging yet immensely rewarding one. We embarked on this path with a shared commitment to providing our students with a holistic education that nurtures their intellectual, personal, emotional, and social growth. Every member of our community has played a vital role in shaping our MYP journey, from the initial stages of exploration to the rigorous evaluation process.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our diligent teachers, who have embraced the principles and practices of the MYP wholeheartedly, infusing our classrooms with inquiry-based learning, global perspectives, and a spirit of collaboration. Their unwavering dedication to our student's success is truly commendable.

I also want to recognise the resilience and enthusiasm of our students, who have embraced the challenges of the MYP with curiosity, creativity, and determination. Your hard work, open-mindedness, and willingness to take risks have been instrumental in making our MYP journey a resounding success.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents and guardians, who have stood by us every step of the way, offering encouragement, guidance, and invaluable feedback. Your partnership is invaluable, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our school's mission and vision.

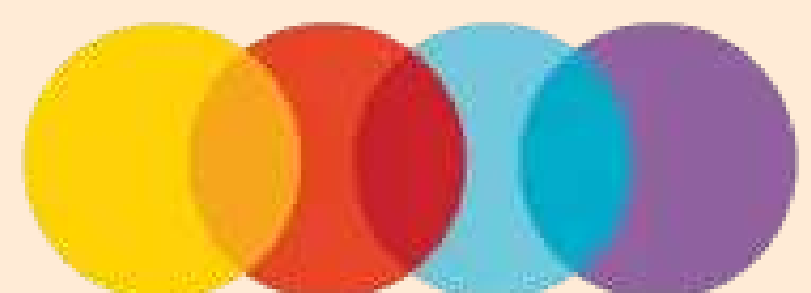
As we celebrate this momentous achievement, let us also remember that MYP authorisation is not the end of our journey but rather the beginning of a new chapter. It is an affirmation of our collective dedication to excellence in education and a testament to our commitment to nurturing future-ready learners who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to grow and evolve as an MYP school. Together, let us embark on this next phase of our journey with enthusiasm, passion, and a shared sense of purpose.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to our success. Your hard work, dedication, and belief in our shared vision have made this achievement possible. I look forward to celebrating our continued growth and success in the years to come.



Ms Bhwana
IBMYP Coordinator & Vice Principal of AISS



IB CONTINUUM
CONTINUUM DE L'IB
CONTINUO DEL IB

INITIATION FRIDAY

AISS hosts a major event called Initiation Friday, which serves as a gateway to our varied array of CCAs (co-curricular activities) and a way to greet new students. Our student council set out to reinvent this custom this year with the goal of making it more interesting and informative.

This event took place on the 26th of April 2024.

The planning phase for initiation Friday was no simple task. We explored various presentation methods to ensure the event would be both informative and enjoyable. Initially, we considered traditional formats like skits, formal presentations, and static booths. However, we soon realized that these methods might not fully capture the energy and diversity of our CCAs.

So, after much deliberation, we decided to make the event interactive. The goal was to create an environment where new students could actively engage with each CCA, ask questions, and get a real feel for what each group has to offer. With this approach, we hoped, we would be able to provide a more immersive and memorable introduction to school life at AISS.

Not only that but assigning roles within the student council was straightforward, thanks to our team's enthusiasm and willingness to contribute. However, gathering detailed information from each CCA was quite challenging. It was pretty rushed and the event was scheduled immediately after the very 1st week of school. Despite this, everyone pulled together, demonstrating commendable dedication.

Each council member liaised with CCA leaders to collect essential details, ensuring that our presentations would be comprehensive and accurate.

On the day of initiation Friday, the atmosphere was electric. As we implemented our interactive approach, we quickly noticed areas for improvement. Some activities were more popular than others, and we identified a need for better crowd management and clearer instructions at some stations.

Of course, we also recognized that while the interactive format was a success in many ways but there were definitely aspects that needed refining. To systematically gather feedback, we decided to create an initiation Friday feedback form. This form, distributed to all participating students, aimed to collect insights on what worked well and what could be improved.

Overall, Initiation Friday remains an important tradition at AISS, and our Student Council is committed to continually improving how and what we present.



*Student Council
Mia Tan*

NEW CAMPUS



Change can be unfamiliar and scary for most. However, it can also teach us things and open new possibilities and opportunities to us. The coming academic year, Aspiration International Secondary School students will be moving to a new school campus. This big change will have an impact on all of us, it is something we are all truly looking forward to.



This new school campus is larger and it has a big field for students to be active in during lunch time and break time. Students will have more freedom to roam around and explore the new school. It's a great chance to create innovative learning spaces and enhance educational



experiences. It's a place where studying feels inspiring and refreshing.



The new campus is all about creating the best possible environment for students to thrive in. It has everything we need to do well in our studies and to enjoy our time there. In addition, our new campus has really cool amenities like sports facilities and outdoor



spaces to hang out with our friends. It's not just a place to learn but it's also a place to make memories and build lifelong friendships.



In conclusion, we can't wait for everyone to experience all the amazing things our new campus has to offer. Get ready for a fresh start and endless possibilities!



*Karyna
Year 10 Affection*

PARENT TEACHER DAY



On Saturday, 11 May 2024, Aspiration International Primary School hosted Parent-Teacher Day (PTD), bringing together parents, students, and teachers for a day of meaningful engagement. The event, held from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm across Levels 3 and 4 at Plaza Damansara Utama, saw a robust turnout and fostered productive discussions about student progress and development.

Naturally, the PTD provided parents with the opportunity to review their child's Term 2 Exam results and discuss their overall academic performance and classroom behaviour. The presence of the students alongside their parents facilitated more comprehensive and fruitful conversations, underscoring the importance of a collaborative approach to education.

To ensure that every parent had the opportunity to meet with their child's teachers, consultations were held on a first-come, first-served basis, with each session limited to 10 minutes. This structured approach allowed for efficient time management and ensured that all attendees received the attention they needed.

On top of that, there was a special booth hosted by our school counsellor on Level 4- where students filled out well-being surveys and received self-care bookmarks. Parents also benefited from a variety of self-care resources available at the booth.

AISS thanks all Parents, Students, and Teachers who participated in this year's PTD, making it a truly impactful event. AISS looks forward to continuing this tradition of open communication with our students' Parents.



*Natalie
Year 10 Strength*

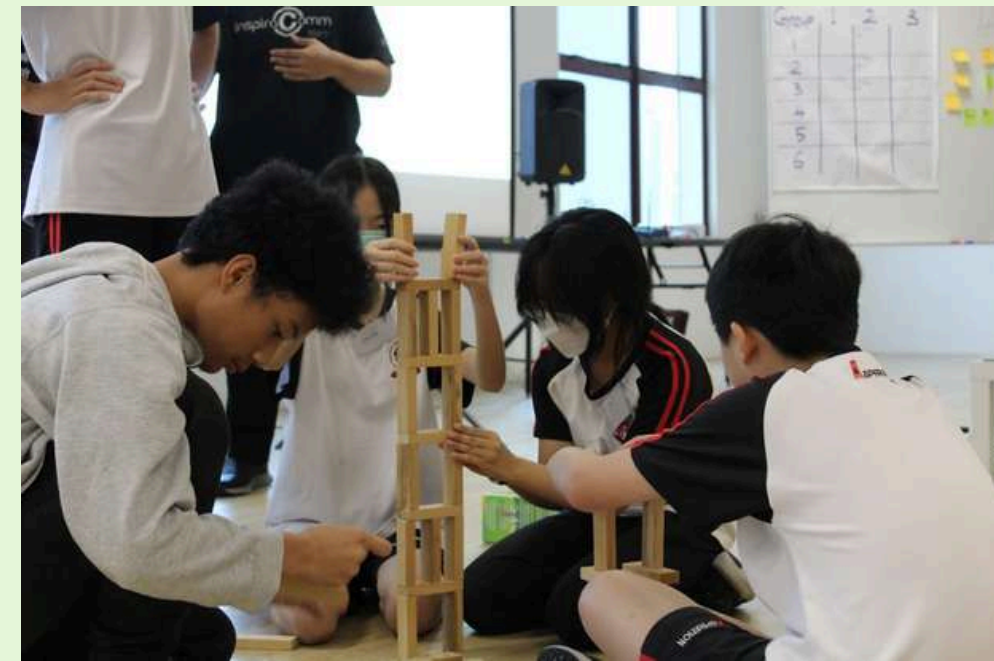
LEADERSHIP CAMP



The Student Leadership Camp, hosted by our school, was meant to bring student leaders who were in their societies together and learn more about how a student leader should be. The camp taught the students what traits they should have to fulfil their position as a student leaders for the school.

Throughout the camp, team-building activities were held; Building the tallest tower with Jenga blocks, making giant slippers out of Mahjong paper, making a 'Da Vinci' bridge, etc. Based on a short interview held with a student who attended (Khaliq), the camp was lively and fun. The camp gave the students a first-time experience of things which made it memorable. However, based on this student, the camp did seem to have fewer people than they had expected.

Whilst participating in the camp, leadership talks were also included for the students who attended; The talk included knowing more about leaders around the world, their characteristics, and personality traits which made them leaders.



Zi Rong
Year 9 Strength



SWIMMING GALA TRAINING



Our school is very passionate about sports and extracurricular activities. As a result of this many sports events are held every year like the badminton tournament and sports day. This academic term, our school has decided to hold the swimming gala at the University Malaya swimming pool. In the swimming gala, there are multiple events that students can participate in. For example, freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. There will also be water polo.



In preparation for the swimming gala, our school has decided to host swimming training. Each sports house will get two training sessions each, one for regular swimming and one for water polo. These training sessions are held at the University Malaya pool as well. There is a lot of anxiety surrounding the swimming gala as the Red House won the last two sports events. Red, Yellow, Green and Blue houses are looking to gain the exceptional title of champion for the swimming gala.

Clodagh O'Carroll from Year 7 said this:



"It was tiring to wake up so early but it was rewarding because I learned new swimming skills. I am super nervous about competing in the swimming gala because I am not confident that I can beat the other swimmers. Also, I am really hoping to make my sports house proud, and I want to get lots of medals, too."

Clodagh summarises what most students feel about the upcoming event and its training. Most students are on the edge of their seats awaiting the upcoming event and the swimming training is fairly well received.



*Gabrielle
Year 10 Strength*

HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY

Here at AISS, on May 16th 2024. The Newsletter Society honoured the hardworking **Administrators, Teachers, and Staff members** with special goodie bags in celebration of Teachers' Day, which was held with much passion and gratitude. This kind act was a little way for them to show their appreciation for all of their hard work and devotion to influencing our futures, and to thank them for giving us a clean environment.

Before we gave out the goodie bags, we had to present what we were going to do during the Monday Assembly. Before all of that, we had to plan.

A few weeks before we presented, we had to plan on what we would do for Teacher's Day. Then we settled on giving goodie bags for all the Admins, Teachers, and Staff with essentials that can help them educate us like some pens and a few more items. The entire society came together to make the day special for those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the organisation.

Giving out goodie bags was a small but meaningful way for the Newsletter Society to show its appreciation and thanks to the staff, teachers, and administration. It served as a reminder of how their work advances the general well-being of the community.

Again, a special thanks to all the **Teachers, Staff, Admins** and the Newsletter Society for making this celebration possible.



Josephine
Year 7 Strength

BIRTHDAYS IN

May

Ishvr Sidharth Vikram

04-May-2009

Fhang Juliet

04-May-2009

Chiew Jensen

04-May-2010

Chin D Wei

6-May-2007

Sean Gabriel Kumar

7-May-2007

Natalie Chew E Vonne

7-May-2009

Hayden Chew E Sean

7-May-2009

Eli Yeoh Bui Yee

10-May-2012

Alyson Pang Jing Han

11-May-2011

Yuvan A/L Letchumanan

12-May-2011

Chloe Ooi Jing Xuan

14-May-2010

Cody Teoh PingWei

15-May-2010

Aaron Omar Chan

16-May-2013

Liew Ye Tzer

18-May-2007



BIRTHDAYS IN

May

Mya Rania Binti Rezal Fahmi

18-May-2011

Kaeden Chan Wei Jien

24-May-2010

Shayne Wong Yin Bo

26-May-2010

Ryan Goh Shen Wei

30-May-2008

Gene Chong

30-May-2008



BIRTHDAYS IN

June

Yong Hoong Xu

04-June-2012

Safira Sajjal

08-June-2009

Dawn Low Mun Chern

09-June-2007

Gabrielle Anne O'Carroll

10-June-2009

Cheyelle Cheah Xin Yuean

11-June-2011

Julian Chew Jin Min

13-June-2007

Syed Zaheed Alwee bin Syed Alman

24-June-2008

Zain (Louie)

Janelle Wong Zheng Mun

25-June-2008

Yong Hoong Qian

25-June-2010

David Lim Kai Yang

26-June-2007

Chloe Goay Deshen

30-June-2009





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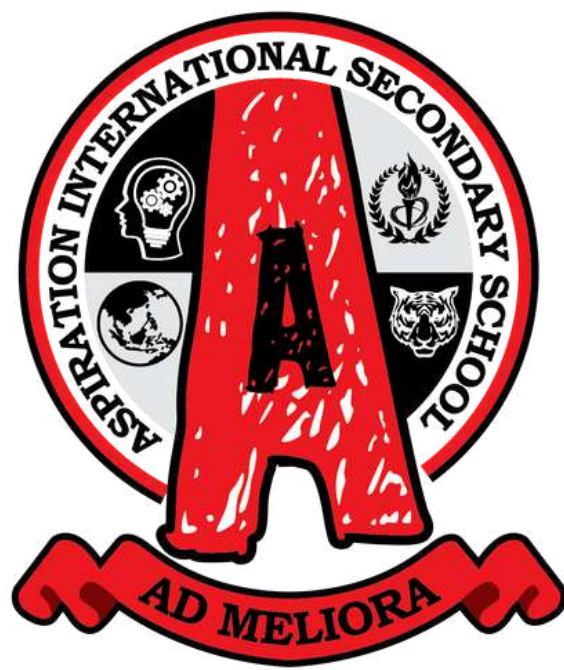
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