

AISS'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE ASPIRANT

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



CIRCLE TIME WITH PARENTS:

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD IN FORMING AN IDENTITY

INTRODUCTION

On June 28, 2024, our school hosted a circle time with parents to discuss the important topic of identity formation in adolescence. This subject was chosen because, during this stage, students normally begin to seek more independence from their families and find out who they are.

What Happened in Parent Circle Time?

Our parent circle time was an engaging and interactive session. Parents were invited to share their experiences and ideas openly. We started with a discussion on the concept of identity, followed by a reflective exercise where parents recalled how they formed their own identities as teenagers. It was a revealing moment. We concluded that identity is shaped not only by family and social influences but also through self-exploration and contemplation.

We then delved into various challenges of forming an identity and how we can support our children in navigating these challenges through trust-building and effective communication skills. We presented and discussed several relatable scenarios, sparking meaningful conversations. The entire session lasted one hour and concluded with an appreciation of the parents' active participation and feedback.

Key Takeaways from the Parent Circle Time

Our session presented several key strategies for parents to support their child's identity formation:

- **Show Genuine Interest:** Engage with your child's interests and passions.
- **Listen Without Judgment:** Hear them out without labeling their feelings as good or bad.
- **Validate Their Feelings:** Acknowledge their emotions, especially feelings of being lost or confused.
- **Respect Their Privacy:** Understand their need for personal space.
- **Use "I Statements":** Communicate about difficult topics using "I feel" statements to express your thoughts without sounding accusatory.
- **Celebrate Individuality:** Encourage them to embrace what makes them unique.

These foundational practices can significantly boost a child's self-esteem and overall development.

The Power of Group Sharing

One of the most inspiring aspects of the parent circle time was the collective wisdom and support shared among parents. The personal stories and practical advice exchanged reinforced the idea that no parent is alone in this journey. Together, we build a stronger community.

We eagerly anticipate hosting more events and providing additional resources to support our school community. Thank you to all the parents who participated in the parent circle time. Your engagement and dedication are truly appreciated.



*Ms Yong
Counsellor*



CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM - PERFORMANCE IN ALADDIN SHOW



*Jia Wei
[Year 9 Strength]*

Hello everyone, I am Fong Jia Wei of Year 9 Strength. On the 24th to 29th of July, I auditioned and participated in a culture exchange performing arts camp, organised through the collaboration of Bentley Music Academy and the TCX Culture Exchange program. The camp was 6 days long, the last day including two full shows for the public to watch. We only had five days to put up a show ready for the audience- which includes learning the scripts, music and choreography as well as blocking the entire show. Much like last year's Moana Jr. Camp, the camp and show was under the guidance of two professional stage and music directors from Australia- Ms. Nicole Pillhofer and Ms. Emma Goding. The goal was for us to experience working with people of another culture and getting to know each other better- while preparing for the show. The results of the show were fabulous and under the coaches' guidance, we successfully performed the musical of Aladdin Jr.

Although it may be exhausting for a continuous 6 hour per day programme, It was really a fun filled week of acting, singing and dancing. I enjoyed working with the cast and every moment of rehearsals. Alongside the fun, I also learned a lot regarding stage presence and stage directions. Playing the role of Princess Jasmine, wasn't easy as there were plenty of lines and music that I had to memorise- as well as choreography I had to learn! As a person who is interested in pursuing performing arts in the future, this was another amazing opportunity for me to practice and challenge myself to do better on stage as a performer. The performance was also enhanced by the staging, sound, lighting, costumes and props- all prepared by the directors and Bentley Music Academy. With all combined, the show was put together to give people the feel of the land and setting of Agrabah. I had so much fun putting together ideas and working with the other talented performers on stage. Throughout the experience, I also learned that in order to put on a successful and prepared show, communication and cooperation is important amongst the whole cast. If we hadn't put in our best efforts into rehearsals, the show wouldn't have been as wonderful and memorable for us as performers and the audience.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM - PERFORMANCE IN ALADDIN SHOW



Overall, the experience was fantastic and the memories gained were unforgettable. I loved having the chance to participate and perform which was what made it special.

A huge appreciation towards the directors for all they've taught me as well as the entire Aladdin Jr. Cast for being amazing people to work with. The opportunity to work with them had exposed me to the wonders of performing on stage.

Lastly, a special thanks to the school for showing their support for me as well.

After the experience, I am already looking forward to more in the future!



*Jia Wei
[Year 9 Strength]*

AISS END OF TERM CHOIR & BAND SHOWCASE



The long awaited end of term choir and band showcase happened on 15th July 2024 at the AISS Common Area. The end of term choir and band showcase is a time for students of the choir and band to showcase what they have learnt over the term. Choir students are graded on their performance. Students and teachers were encouraged to watch the spectacular performance.

The band and the lead singer Shayn was the first to perform. They started with the song 'Just the Two of Us' by Bill Withers and Grover Washington, Jr. followed by 'Duvet' by Boa and 'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz. Finally, the song 'Saya Anak Malaysia' concluded the performance.



After the band's amazing performance, it was up to the choir to close with a flourish. They started their performance with the song 'When You Believe' from the Prince of Egypt by Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. Next, they sang 'See You Again' from the Fast and Furious movies by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth. To close on a strong note, the music teacher chose the song 'Viva la Vida' by Coldplay knowing the students and teachers who came to watch the performance would enjoy it.



*Clodagh
Year 7 Affection*

MSSD PING PONG



Here at Aspirational International Secondary School, the MSSD (Majlis Sukan Sekolah-sekolah Daerah) Ping Pong Competition is an eagerly awaited annual event that gathers the finest young players from schools across the district. This competition not only highlights exceptional skills but also promotes sportsmanship, discipline, and fellowship among participants.

Held over several days in a well-equipped sports hall, the competition features singles and doubles matches for both boys and girls. Schools sent their top players, ensuring a high level of competition. The knockout format, with best-of-five sets, tests the endurance and skill of these young athletes.

Beyond individual performances, the competition was a witness to sportsmanship and team spirit. Players were often seen encouraging each other, regardless of match outcomes, and encouraging a positive and supportive environment. This fellowship is a core value of MSSD competitions.

Coaches played a crucial role, with many athletes attributing their success to the guidance and support of their mentors. The presence of dedicated teachers and parents added to the atmosphere, providing moral support to the players.

For many, the MSSD Ping Pong Competition is a stepping stone towards greater achievements. Top performers often advance to state-level and national competitions, furthering their development. The experience gained here is invaluable, offering lessons in both victory and defeat.



*Josephine
Year 7 Strength*

MSSD PING PONG -TRANSLATION-



Di Sekolah Antarabangsa Aspirational, Pertandingan Pingpong MSSD (Majlis Sukan Sekolah-sekolah Daerah) merupakan acara tahunan yang ditunggu-tunggu yang mengumpulkan bakat-bakat pingpong muda terbaik dari sekolah-sekolah di seluruh daerah. Pertandingan ini bukan sahaja menyerlahkan kemahiran yang luar biasa tetapi juga menggalakkan semangat kesukanan, disiplin, dan persahabatan di kalangan peserta.

Diadakan selama beberapa hari di dewan sukan yang serba lengkap, pertandingan ini menampilkan perlawanan perseorangan dan beregu untuk lelaki dan perempuan. Sekolah menghantar pemain terbaik mereka, memastikan tahap persaingan yang tinggi. Format kalah mati, dengan set terbaik lima, menguji ketahanan dan kemahiran atlet muda ini.

Di sebalik persembahan individu, pertandingan itu menjadi saksi kepada semangat kesukanan dan semangat berpasukan. Pemain sering dilihat menggalakkan satu sama lain, tanpa mengira keputusan perlawanan, dan menggalakkan persekitaran yang positif dan menyokong. Persahabatan ini adalah nilai teras pertandingan MSSD.

Jurulatih memainkan peranan penting, dengan ramai atlet mengaitkan kejayaan mereka dengan bimbingan dan sokongan mentor mereka. Kehadiran guru dan ibu bapa yang berdedikasi menambahkan lagi suasana, memberikan sokongan moral kepada para pemain. Bagi kebanyakan orang, Pertandingan Pingpong MSSD adalah batu loncatan ke arah pencapaian yang lebih besar. Pemain berprestasi tinggi sering mara ke pertandingan peringkat negeri dan kebangsaan, memajukan pembangunan mereka. Pengalaman yang diperoleh di sini sangat berharga, menawarkan pengajaran dalam kedua-dua kemenangan dan kekalahan.



*Marissa
Year 10 Proactive*

MSSD BADMINTON



From July 1st to 4th, the AISS Badminton School Team participated in the Majlis Sukan Sekolah Daerah (MSSD) Badminton Tournament for Zone Bangsar.

Students competed against players from various government and international schools, facing a series of formidable challenges as the tournament progressed. These challenges provided them with a greater learning platform, enhancing their skills and refining their strategies, giving them a boost in winning future competitions.

AISS is immensely proud that, following extensive training and invaluable guidance from our coaches, the team showcased an impressive performance throughout the tournament as well as gaining valuable insights from their peers on the court.

We believe that the AISS school team had an enriching experience interacting with players from other schools and thoroughly enjoyed their participation in the MSSD.

Well done to the badminton team for reaching your fullest potential and maintaining positivity throughout the tournament despite not winning. Towards better things!



Elvyna
Year 10 Affection

CULTURAL CARNIVAL DAY



Aspiration International School recently hosted the vibrant and much-anticipated World Cultural Carnival Day 2024 on Saturday, 20th July 2024. Held at the school's new location, the event was a resounding success, bringing together the entire Aspiration community and the public for a day of cultural celebration and camaraderie.

The carnival's primary objectives were to raise funds for the new school facilities, including science labs, a hall, and a field/sports platform, develop student skills, and build camaraderie among participants. The event truly embodied these goals, showcasing the hard work and creativity of Aspiration students.

One of the main attractions was the diverse array of food stalls representing various countries, including Vietnam, Pakistan, Yemen, Italy, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Maldives, and Turkey. Each stall offered a taste of authentic cuisine, allowing attendees to embark on a culinary journey around the world without leaving the carnival grounds.

In addition to the delicious food, the carnival featured numerous game booths that provided fun and entertainment for all ages. These booths, along with an impressive art exhibition, were created and decorated by the talented students of Aspiration. The art exhibition, in particular, highlighted the artistic abilities of the students, showcasing a variety of artworks that reflected the rich cultural heritage of their respective countries.

Adding to the excitement, there was a lucky draw held every hour between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm, giving attendees the chance to win fantastic prizes. The carnival officially started at 10:00 am, but students and teachers arrived earlier to set up and prepare for the day's festivities. The event concluded at 5:00 pm, after which the students took the initiative to clean up, ensuring that the school grounds were left in pristine condition.



Katrina
Year 10 Strength

CULTURAL CARNIVAL DAY



The sale of coupon booklets, essential for participating in the carnival activities, was a significant aspect of the event's fundraising efforts. Each booklet was sold for RM 50, with sales beginning on 4th July 2024 at the primary and secondary campuses. The booklets were also available for purchase during the carnival, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to join in the fun and support the school's development.

Aspiration's World Cultural Carnival Day 2024 was not only a day of celebration but also a testament to the school's commitment to fostering a sense of unity and cultural appreciation among its students and the broader community. The event's success in achieving its objectives sets a promising precedent for future carnivals, promising even more excitement and cultural enrichment in the years to come.



Katrina
Year 10 Strength

YEAR 9 STRENGTH SERVICE AS ACTION: SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SOCIETY



A 'Service As Action' held by a group of year 9 students; Leanne, Ezra Lye, Zia Zen, and Heaven, was taken place this month!

Their SAA, took place all the way in Hulu Langat; Helping out a dog shelter(Second Chance Animal Shelter) and also donating a total of RM250 towards the organization.

The process towards the success of this project of theirs was not easy, from the lack of communication between the students and the organization, to not being able to find an organization to help in

Despite the challenges, they managed to complete their SAA which includes cleaning, washing and esuring the place is clean.

Special thanks to Ms Bhuvana, Ms Adelaide, Second Chance Animal Shelter, and all the parents who supported this SAA!!!



*Zi Rong
Year 9 Strength*



PDU MENTORING SESSIONS - PERFORMING ARTS



Aspiration's Primary School recently added drama as one of the CCA options for the students. The goal was to sprout interest amongst the younger students regarding performing arts. At the end of the term, in order to showcase the progression of the students, a show would be put together for parents and friends to enjoy. The show was a remake of the movie – Frozen. In order to make sure the preparation for the mini showcase show went well, five members from the performing arts society of the secondary school volunteered as mentors to assist the drama teacher, Mr. Ali. With the experience and knowledge from the rehearsals of our successful charity show– Alice through the Looking Glass, it was the perfect opportunity to help these primary students to bring the best of themselves forward on stage as a new performer. The team includes myself, Fong Jia Wei, Eiji Zachary Lye, Heaven Daine Roque, Leanne Yeoh and Mya Rania.

The practice and rehearsals were a mix of fun, laughter and chaos. Characters were carefully picked out by the teacher, through the student's performance throughout the first few sessions. Each session, there were new skills introduced to the students, including movement on stage, stage presence, communicating and dialogue. There were of course challenges for us as mentors to properly teach these energetic groups of children the basic skills, as well as to ensure the interest and attention were there. I would say from the extra rehearsals and the show that the biggest challenge for the students was script memorisation and remembering the actions and positions. This was of course reflected on the end show product– which showed that there was indeed much more room for improvement. The experience as mentors or directors helped me realize that putting a show together is no easy thing to do, along with every good memory made, there were hardships and obstacles that we had to face together.

Throughout the term, I would say that communication amongst the mentors needed to be improved. This includes distribution of tasks, messages to the children, and reflecting after each session. We learned that planning is essential in order to keep the agenda and program running smoothly.



*Jia Wei
Year 9 Strength*

PDU MENTORING SESSIONS - PERFORMING ARTS



Despite everything we had to go through, the experiences and mistakes have helped us to grow further as mentors and as performers in general.

It was wonderful and fabulous to see the progression and growth in each and every student in the drama club. They had grown from having little voices on stage, into a better person with the confidence to speak in the crowd. Each student has their own potential and strength, that was what made them unique. With improvements, I'm looking forward to working with these children again and making the next show a better one!



*Jia Wei
Year 9 Strength*

AISS INBOUND TRIP - TAMAN NEGARA, PAHANG



Nestled in the heart of Pahang, Malaysia, Taman Negara stands strong as an untouched natural beauty. This 130-million-year-old rainforest had offered an unforgettable experience for the Aspiration Secondary School students. It was a four day, three nights adventure filled with thrilling activities and opportunities to connect with nature.



One the first day, the Aspirants spent most of the day traveling. The bus ride took about three hours and an additional four hours by boat. We were divided into three groups as the luggages were too heavy to be carried in one trip. Unfortunately, two of the three boats got stuck on the sand bed on the way to the jetty. But all is well as the teachers and students were happy to help the guides to get the boat unstuck. We managed to check in the resort officially at 5.30PM.



As the sun set, our adventure began with a night jungle walk. Equipped with torches and guided by experienced rangers, we delved into the dense forest. The sounds of nocturnal creatures filled the air, creating an eerie yet exciting atmosphere.

We spotted various night insects, including Timber ants about 5cm long, spiders as wide as your palm and scorpions that glows under UV lights. The highlight was witnessing the fascinating behaviors of these creatures up close, a rare opportunity to observe the hidden life of the jungle.

The next morning, we embarked on the famous canopy walk. Suspended 40 meters above the ground, the walkway offered breathtaking views of the lush treetops. The thrill of walking amidst the towering trees was an experience like no other. Following the canopy walk, we set off on a jungle trek, navigating through dense foliage and encountering exotic flora and fauna.



Ms Adel

AISS INBOUND TRIP - TAMAN NEGARA, PAHANG



Our guide shared insights about the diverse ecosystem, making the trek both educational and exhilarating. We were also allowed to cool off with a refreshing swim in the rivers, a perfect way to rejuvenate to end our day.

On the third day, the visit to the Orang Asli settlement was a humbling experience. We learned about their sustainable living practices and even tried our hand at using the blow pipe, a tool the Orang Asli used for hunting. After that, we were given a challenge to cook our lunch with the natural resources. Each group were given two bamboo stalks, some banana leaves, a bag of uncooked rice and raw chicken. We had to cook these items over an open fire. Some meals were more successful compared to the rest. This cultural exchange provided a deeper appreciation for their harmonious relationship with nature.

After visiting the settlement, we get to experience the exciting thrill of rapid shooting and water rafting in the Tembeling River. We had to paddle for about an hour as we navigated from the settlement to the jetty through turbulent waters and the splashes and laughter created memories that will last a lifetime. It was a perfect blend of excitement and teamwork, showcasing the adventurous spirit of our group.

On the last day, before we depart for home, we visited the National Elephant Conservation Centre in Kuala Gandah. Here, we learned about the efforts to protect and rehabilitate Malaysia's elephants. Interacting with these gentle giants was a heartwarming experience. We fed them, watched them bathe, and understood the importance of conservation efforts to ensure their survival. We teachers absolutely adored the baby elephants, named Eli, Gandah and Metlah. We learners that Eli was rescued from a snare trap hence why she has a prosthetic leg and Gandah was named after the conservation centre because she was the only elephant borned here. The inbound trip to Taman Negara was more than just an outdoor excursion; it was an immersive experience that connected us with nature, culture, and adventure. Each activity offered a unique perspective of this ancient rainforest, leaving us with a profound respect for its beauty and significance.



Ms Adel



Katrina (Year 10S)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



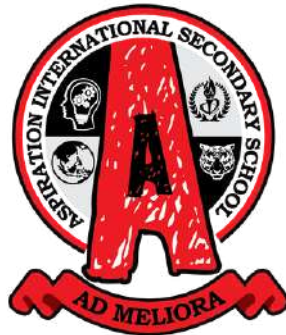
Zi Rong (Year 9S)
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF



Anabelle (Year 10A)
DESIGNER



Gene (Year 10S)
DESIGNER / TABLE OF
CONTENT MANAGER



EDITORIAL TEAM & MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS



Josephine (Year 7S)
REPORTER



Elvyna Yeoh (Year 10A)
REPORTER



Clodagh (Year 7A)
REPORTER



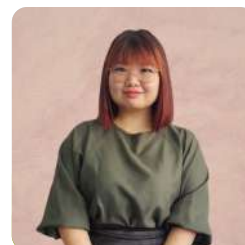
Marissa (Year 10P)
TRANSLATOR



Ms Yong
COUNSELLOR



Jia Wei
CONTRIBUTOR



Ms Adel
CONTRIBUTOR