



NETWORK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Network Newsletter T3

March 2023



A Busy Holiday

As we draw another term to a close, it is somewhat shocking to realise that we now only have nine weeks left in school (not including our current holiday). This term seems to have absolutely flown by.

It has been incredibly busy, with wonderful learning experiences taking place throughout the whole school and I think I have just about recovered from the lions visiting my office during Chinese New Year.

We have celebrated wellbeing, with the very welcome return of "Sports Days" to Network International School, and have been dazzled by the creativity and imagination of our students during "Book Week".

I'm sure that the school will eventually dry out after our Thingyan celebrations. Having had such a long time out of school, it was delightful to see our students enjoying the festivities and performing their roles so well.



We have started a number of developments on the Bahan campus, which will continue over the Thingyan break. These are due to be completed before the start of term 4, and include:

- a new KS1 playground
- a new Foundation Stage play area
- a redesigned library
- a new 3G astro pitch

We are also expecting a very exciting addition to the campus to be made early in Term 4. More news of this will follow shortly.

We also launched our new school website, which can be visited through the url below. This has taken a significant effort, and I am very thankful to Angus and Erin for all of their work in delivering this to the community.

I hope you all have a restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4

Principal Stephen





Staff Recruitment

We have had an incredibly busy few months with staff recruitment, and I am delighted to tell you that our recruitment season has been a successful one.

We have recruited high quality teachers from around the world, some of whom are returning to Network from a brief spell away!

I am very pleased to announce the following staff will be joining us for the academic year 2023-24:

Name	Nationality	Teaching Qualification
Jacob Rustlin	UK	PGCE
Ala Abed	Canda	PGCE
Carmela Mc Parland	Ireland	M.ED. Early Years Education
Glenn Kelly	Ireland	Professional Masters of Education
Sonia Watson-Delestree	UK	PGCE
Tom Davis	USA	Texas Educator
Charlie Karim	UK	PGCE
Melissa Conchie	UK	PGCE
Natasha Tereschenko	Greece	PGCE
Shubinoy Kapour	India	PGCE
Raoul Wijffels	Holland	Music Education 1st Degree
Dumbani Tunthuwa	UK	PGCE
Jane Riley	UK	PGCE
Joanne Davies	UK	PGCE
Adam Cooke	UK	PGCE
Volkan Durak	Turkey	PFD



It is always difficult to say farewell to existing members of staff, and there never does seem to be an ideal time to announce staff members who will be leaving at the end of the term 4.

The follow members of staff will be furthering their careers outside of Network International School:

Peter Cox, Hemant Rai, Janet Somogyi, Tom McAndrew, Yinka Badmus, Fionnuala Doherty, Darren Davis, Booki Alade, Tina Naidoo and Harriet White.

We thank them for their effort and support in making this year memorable and productive for the children, and for their continued effort in supporting the learning of the children for the remainder of the school year.

Please rest assured that we will carefully manage the transition towards our joining members of staff, so that the children are fully prepared for the changes next year.





Celebrations and Scholars

I want to take this time to welcome all of our parents, students, and teachers to our Term 3 newsletter. The highlight for me, for sure, was the wonderful celebration when we all came together to help celebrate my birthday. It was a day I will never ever forget! I have just recently seen on our Facebook page the very special poem the Year 6 students shared with us all.

Network is such a very special family, and I still have to remind myself how all those years ago, my husband U Kyaing agreed to let me convert our lounge into an Early Years Training Centre for young Myanmar teachers, with some still with us today! At that time, we had six 3 to 4-year-olds!

As you can imagine, during the birthday celebrations, looking out at the "sea" of students, my memories went back to those early days of Network. I was missing U Kyaing and wishing he was with us still. He would have been so proud of how we have grown into this beautiful school filled with fantastic students and faithful parents.



This has now led us to create a 'U Kyaing Scholarship Programme' for A Level students studying at Network Sixth Form. At present, Principal Stephen, Teacher Jon and myself are interviewing some incredible applicants for this prestigious recognition to complete their educational journey with us before flying the nest to their chosen universities.

I will just close this message with a heartfelt thank you to you all for the love and joy that together makes Network what it stands for today.

I end by wishing you all happy holidays and a blessed New Year.

Teacher Carole



Book Week

Book Week was a lovely event across the Whole School and students in the Secondary School certainly embraced the opportunities that were available for them during the week. Students had been competing in the previous fortnight to get through numerous preliminary rounds, so that they could participate in the Final. The finalists had clearly worked hard to get there, demonstrating phenomenal spelling abilities in front of the school audience.

There were also activities in and out of lessons and across all faculties, from extracting Perfume in Science to taking on literary journeys in maths and PE. On the final day of week, students and staff celebrated their love of books through dressing up as all sorts of characters from both fiction and non-fiction. The week was most definitely a literary splendour.



Term 3 Sports

Both U19 Basketball and U14 Football were much anticipated sports seasons this year and our teams certainly hit the ground running at the beginning of the term. However, they have managed to go from strength to strength, which culminated in absolutely brilliant performances in the MISAC Tournaments at the end of Term 3. In U14 Football, the girls came 2nd in the league and 3rd in the tournament and the boys won both the league and tournament. While in U19 Basketball, our boys came third in the tournament and the girls won both the League and the tournament.

In the Inter-House competition, the finals were held on the final week of the term. Diamond beat Sapphire on penalties in the U14 Football final, while Emerald beat Ruby to win the U19 Basketball tournament.

It was also lovely to host our first ever Secondary Swimming Gala and our students were fantastic in their performances against four other schools in total.

The list of Term 4 ECAs can be found [here](http://www.networkinternationalschool.com).
www.networkinternationalschool.com

Exams

During the course of Term 3, we welcomed parents into the school for Parent-Teacher Meetings for students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. With the latter three year groups, these were all crucial meetings due to the proximity to the summer exams for these students.

Time to these exams has been rapidly counting down over the course of this term and so while teachers have been finishing off specifications, there has also been a focus on ongoing revision for students. At the end of Term 3, revision is very much the focus for these students. While we talk about the upcoming holidays, for these students, it is important that students in Years 11-13 do ensure that they prepare for the exams.

They need a rest if they are to perform at their best next term, and so of the three weeks of holiday, they should revise for two of the three weeks, but they should completely switch off and relax for one of the weeks. For the two working weeks, they should split up the day into morning, afternoon and evening, and work for two thirds of each day. They should each carefully follow a timetable and it is important that parents support their children to follow these timetables. That way, they can come back to school in Term 3, having had some rest to reenergise them, but also ready for the weeks ahead.



University Offers

With the deadline for many university applications being at the start of Term 3, over the course of the term, a number of offers have been coming in over the course of the term.

These have been for UK, US and Japanese universities so far, with some particularly pleasing offers from University of Bristol, Durham University, University of Edinburgh and University of Manchester to name just a few. Special mention must go to Kate (13A1) who has been awarded an Unconditional Offer to Aberystwyth University, along with a financial award, after completing their entrance exam.



Curriculum Review

Over the course of Term 3, teachers in the Secondary School have been meeting both within and between faculties to review the curriculum within Key Stage 3.

As a British International School, we prepare our students for IGCSEs and A Levels, and this is a key feature for our KS3 curriculum. However, we are also able to tweak the KS3 curriculum to allow for the development of particular skills and coverage of particular topics that we feel are important. This has been a fundamental focus of the recent reviews, as well as considering where topics compliment one another across subjects.



Celebrating Our Local Culture and Heritage

A term packed full of learning, growth, and fun!



Tr Jay
Head Of Primary

Term 3 is always an exciting time in Primary, as we have two of our favourite theme weeks to celebrate. Book week was a huge success, with students igniting their passion for reading and learning the power of a good book. Reading is such an incredibly important skill for students to develop, and is the cornerstone of every subject we teach. Students who regularly read for pleasure, not only have a larger vocabulary, but tend to have improved speaking skills, think more creatively and have better academic and emotional development. As Neil Gaiman, a well-known English author, once said "A book is a dream that you hold in your hand", and we want all of our students to be able dream big and aim for the stars.

Community week was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to celebrate our local Myanmar culture and heritage. Our student performances were outstanding, paying homage to all of the different ethnic groups that make up Myanmar. We also looked at local art, food and of course celebrated Thingyan with the return of our annual water play event. It is always heart warming to see the smiles and joy of our community as we come together to celebrate our wonderful country and home.

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PE & Sports Update

What a term it has been for PE and Wellbeing at primary! Wellbeing week was a roaring success that saw students making artwork using natural materials, planting and caring for flowers along our balconies and competing for their house in a wide range of sporting competitions. Our Sports Day champions this year were Diamonds in Year 1-3 and Sapphires in the Year 4-6 competition! The action didn't end there though as plenty of medals were won by our amazing footballers and swimmers in several MISAC sports events.

Our PE lessons have also been action-packed and full of learning. Key stage 1 has been improving their balance and problem solving skills using their cognitive cogs as well as enjoying weekly swimming lessons. Year 3 and 4 have been using their physical cogs to improve their striking skills when many students have been introduced to games like tennis and badminton for the first time!

The creative cogs have been whirring in Year 5 when having to invent their own rules and tactics in games like seated volleyball. Lastly, social cogs have been shown in Year 6 who had to use teamwork and communication when playing invasion games like rugby and hockey.





Year 1 - Ready, Steady, Grow!

Year 1 have been super scientists this term, exploring our unit 'Ready, Steady, Grow!'. Students engaged in their learning by planting their own seeds, learning how to care for various types of plants and developing a deeper understanding of what plants need to survive through a real life, hands-on experiences.

In English, we have been learning to write more complex sentences using noun phrases, adjectives and verbs. They have also explored writing for different purposes, including leaflets, letters and short stories.

In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction problems, with students learning

about length, height, weight and volume. We have also been comparing objects and counting in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's.

Students are now looking to take their learning to the next level by applying what they have learnt in their home environment. We encourage everyone to use their hand made clay coil pots to plant and care for their own seeds at home.

Art saw us connect to nature by using natural elements and creating nature inspired art like mandalas, nature self portraits and leaf printing. We hope Year 1 feel more connected to their environment and know how to care for it.



Year 2 - Eco Warriors

Year 2 have been exploring the topic of 'Eco Warriors' this term, with a focus on understanding the natural world. Students investigated micro-habitats and mini-beasts and even developed their own bug hotels to demonstrate their understanding of insects. Linking to humanities, students made predictions about the future, using timelines to compare and contrast the world we live in now to the world that existed in the past. Students then widened their understanding of the world around them by exploring the features of a world map and drawing inferences about the natural world.

In English, students continued to explore the concept of nature by reading 'The House Held up by Trees', by Ted Kooser, 'There's a Rang-Tan in my Room' by James Sellick and 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon. Using these shared themes as inspiration, students then created their own fantastic pieces of writing.

Finally in maths, Year 2 learnt about halving and doubling, touching on the wider concept of fractions. Students also had an opportunity to collect and interpret data and visualise them in tables, tally charts and pictograms.





Year 3 - Our Community

This term, our inquiry unit 'Our Community' considered the importance of community in our lives and the impact humans have on sustainability. We did this through our English texts 'The Tin Forest' and 'The Last Garden', where students explored the concepts of recycling, preserving nature and community support.

In humanities, we developed our map reading skills, applying them to the creation of school floor plans and giving coordinates. While in science we studied the topic of light, investigating reflective materials, conducted experiments using mirrors and exploring how shadows are formed. Students were then able to use their new found knowledge to create their very own sundials.

During this term, our maths focus has been on measurement. Students learned how to calculate the mass and capacity of items using measuring scales and measuring cylinders, as well as touching on the concept of time. Using mini clocks, we were able to develop our skills in reading and telling time, and apply these skills to our everyday lives.



Year 4 - What A Discovery!

This term our inquiry unit 'What a discovery', saw students exploring the impact of different discoveries on individuals and their communities. In science, discovery took the form of exploring living things, with students learning about different types of animals and how they are classified, as well as how the human body and digestive system works.

In English, students delved into the world of 'Weslandia', where a young boy creates a civilization of his own and discovers both inventions and friendships along the way. Students were able to connect their reading to our humanities and art units

by creating their own civilizations, and expanding their writing skills designing leaflets to invite people to visit.

Our final weeks have been spent following Ernest Shackleton on his epic expedition to Antarctica. The students have loved reading about the challenges and hardships faced by the team, creating timelines for the different events and role playing the parts of our adventurers as they face difficult decisions and terrifying conditions. Students also developed their questioning skills as journalists, learning how to map out and create newspapers from our storylines.





Year 5 - Climate Crisis

Year 5 has had a fantastic and enriching Term 3, exploring an array of fascinating topics across our theme of 'Climate Crisis'. In English, the class has been engrossed in reading "The Last Bear" by Hannah Gold, a story that not only helped to enhance their reading skills, but also enabled them to develop their literary techniques. In addition, the students have had the opportunity to practise their newspaper reporting skills, improving their writing abilities significantly.

In maths, the class has covered a range of topics, including fractions, decimals, and measurement. The interactive and engaging lessons have made learning fun and accessible for all students.

In science and humanities, students have been studying climate change: its causes and effects, and potential solutions to global issues. Our culminating task for this unit was an eco film festival,

where students showcased their documentaries to the school, raising awareness about environmental sustainability and the impact of human activities on the planet. Our students put a tremendous effort into making these films, and we hope you enjoy watching them as well.



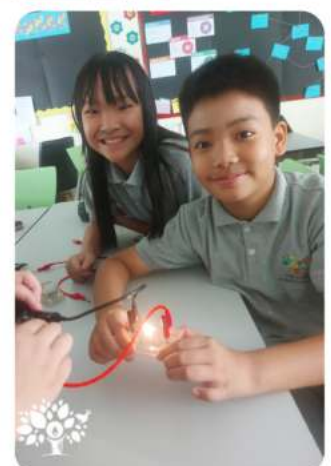
Year 6 - Trash

Who knew trash could be so interesting! Our overarching theme of 'Trash' saw students explore the concept of pollution, looking at the causes and effects. Our research then enabled us to identify possible solutions to counter the negative impact of humans. Our culminating task challenged students to create Ted Talks, where they informed audiences of the issues and pioneered innovative approaches to reduce waste.

Our theme is closely linked to our English book, 'Trash' by Andy Mulligan. The students have been hooked on this book and have enjoyed following the journey of three young boys who live on a landfill site. Using the book, students practised their grammar skills through writing newspaper reports, diary entries, letters and setting descriptions. In addition, they have developed their reading comprehension skills focusing on using the text to justify their answers.

In maths, we continued building our understanding of number, in particular ratio and algebra. We also developed our knowledge of fractions and related this to equivalent decimals and percentages. During every lesson, students are presented with opportunities to apply their knowledge through problem based questions.

We wish everyone a wonderful Thingyan break.





Foundation 1 – Transport

Our youngest students learnt all about different modes of transport used around the world, from space rockets to buses and boats.



Each type of vehicle was explored and the children discovered how they moved and what was their purposes. Lots of role play areas were set up in the environment and everyone enjoyed acting out driving the vehicles. The F1 space station ensured there were many successful space missions.



Foundation 2 – Wild Animals

It was a wild term in Foundation 2 as the children explored 3 different habitats; the ocean, the Savannah and Australasia, to discover animals that live in them. They used books to support their journey as they read about mischievous animals in 'Handa's Surprise,' animals making a 'Commotion in the Ocean' and learnt about marsupials, insects and birds using Teacher Marama's experiences from New Zealand. Safari journeys were enjoyed and splashes made with wax crayon pictures and creating their own jellyfish



Foundation 3 – Dinosaurs

There was no mistaking Foundation 3's topic this term as they had the very important task of looking after a huge egg that a mummy dinosaur had left behind. With the help of the children's wanted posters, mummy dinosaur luckily came back for its baby. The children delved deep into discovering fascinating dinosaur facts and it was wonderful to hear them share their existing knowledge with each other. All children became archeologists as they learnt about dinosaur fossils and how scientists have learnt about the creatures from 65 million years ago.





Wonderful Theme Weeks

It was wonderful to welcome back parents to campus for so many different events and activities during themed weeks. Thank you to all adults who came to help these core memories with the children and teachers be even more special.

During Well Being Week we all took a very active interest in how to keep our bodies healthy and fit. We had ballet classes to strengthen our whole bodies. Sports days (including our first ever parent race!) where the children used a host of skills learnt over the year, and a healthy eating challenge where many different fruit and veg were happily eaten.



Book Week brought many parent readers to school keen to share stories from different countries. The children acted out a range of familiar stories with puppets, toys and masks. It was fantastic to see the children eagerly choosing books at the book fair. The week finished with an inspiring book week parade attended by characters from a library's worth of books.



Thingyan

It was fantastic to finish the term learning about Thingyan; Myanmar's New Year. The children enjoyed creating different art inspired by the padauk tree and cooking the famous snack - mont lone yay baw (do not worry, there were no chillies in ours!)

Network's youngest children made sure to put on a marvellous performance as they danced to different traditional Myanmar songs. It was wonderful to see a variety of traditional costumes and ethnicities represented.

We finished off the whole term with the traditional water play day where the children enjoyed the chance to even throw water at their teachers to help wash away the last year.



Everyone at Early Years Foundation Stage wishes all Network International School families a safe holiday and a happy Thingyan.