



DCIS Newsletter

Celebrating
45
Years

Celebrating 45 Years in Singapore!

Two week long event highlighting our diversity and showcasing our legacy

This year Dover Court is celebrating 45 years of excellence in Singapore. The school has been providing high quality education since 1972 and to celebrate, a range of activities has been planned highlighting the unique diversity of the school and showcasing our legacy.

During the two week long celebrations, children and staff will be recording a 1972 classic, 'You've Got a Friend', which will be released on the school's website accompanied by a music video. A special birthday badge has also been designed by a Year 2 student, following a school wide competition, a badge which will be worn by children and staff throughout the event.

Children, parents and staff will be sharing their photographs and memories of Dover Court to be featured in our school display and online. Staff and students will also gather for an aerial 45 photograph which will be used to support our music video. In classes, children will be carrying out a range of activities including an art installation, radio broadcast and even a poetry recital.

Celebrations will culminate on Friday 12th May, where special guests will join children as they celebrate in school, looking back at Dover Court's 45 years and looking forward to the future. A special time capsule will be buried and birthday parties will take place across the school as children and staff celebrate in 70's costumes.

*2016-2017
Calendar Events and
Other School
Information*

[Schedule of Fees and Payment
2017-2018](#)

[Academic Calendar 2017-2018](#)

[Revised Academic Calendar
2016-2017](#)

[Lower Primary May Menu](#)

[Upper Primary/Secondary
May Menu](#)

Letter from the Principal: Start of Term 3

This busy term will include our 45 Year Anniversary, upcoming iGCSE exams, a visit from Juilliard's Kathryn Andersen and numerous Global Campus trips, all happening this month

Dear DCIS Parents and Guardians,

It has been a busy holiday with building work in the Year 1 corridor and the shading of the Single Basketball court completed, staff training day and an induction day where we welcomed over 50 families into the DCIS community. It was brilliant to have children back on the campus this morning as a school is really only a school when it has the buzz and enthusiasm of young enquiring minds on site.

Term 2 was an extremely eventful term and Term 3 will continue this trend. Please make sure you have the [updated list of calendar dates](#) as there have been some changes from the version printed in the Parent Handbook – we do understand that parents plan around the dates so we try to keep changes to a minimum and give plenty of notice when events do need to move. Please note that we had to change the Swimming Galas which are now towards the end of this term. We look forward to welcoming you to support your children in these fun and competitive events.

Term 3 is an important term for our Year 11 and 12 students as they complete their iGCSE examinations. This will be the culmination of many years of hard work that will give them the results to go onto the next stage of their education; either the IB Diploma with us or elsewhere. We wish all students sitting their external examinations all the best at this important time.

We are very pleased to celebrate our 45th anniversary this term. We are proud to have served the Singapore community for a significant amount of time while remaining a dynamic learning environment ensuring that we prepare students for the rest of the 21st Century. We continue to invest in this campus to ensure it supports our desire to offer the very best inclusive education in South East Asia. We welcome Jayne Bennion, our Director of Quality for NAE and Jane Egerton, a UK Special School Headteacher who will visit us next week to support us in the next stage of our development in ESL, DSE and mainstream education. A development away from the classroom is our continuing security arrangements: we will start the process to change the blue temporary parent passes into IDs showing the parent's photos.

We are very pleased to once again welcome Kathryn Anderson from Juilliard to the school. Kathryn has been a frequent visitor to the school and works closely with Mr. Dwyer and the Music team on the best implementation of the Juilliard programme for all our students. We are awaiting final confirmation but we plan to have another Juilliard alumnus with us also this term – please watch our communications for this. The DCIS proms concert will take place in June and is a fantastic opportunity to see a wide range of musical talent perform across the campus, further details will be available nearer the time.



The DCA continue to do a brilliant job of supporting the school community. Fresh from the success of the Secondary School disco last term, this term the DCA will organise discos for children in Years 3-6. In June we see the return of the the DCA Family Sports weekend.

We have three big trips for students through the Global Campus. Four students head off to MIT in Boston next week to represent DCIS at a STEAM (Science, technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) festival. Later in the term a group of students head to Les Martinets to explore the Swiss Alps. This is a very challenging expedition and the group have been getting in some serious training to ensure they are ready for the mountains. In the summer holiday two of our students are joining a group from the NAE South East Asia schools as UN Ambassadors to represent the region at a High Level Government meeting at the United Nations in New York.

All these events, as well as those of Term 1 and 2 will be captured in our Year Book. These will be issued to families at the end of term. We have removed the charge for this as we feel it is important that every family gets a memento of all the great activities that have taken place in 2016-17.

Finally, if you are leaving Singapore or your child needs to leave DCIS for any other reason we do require you to fill in a formal Withdrawal Form and submit it before the deadline (Monday 1 May). This is to allow us to plan for student recruitment (and the required resources for this) for the next academic year. To ensure we treat all family the same we are very strict on this deadline and we will be forced to apply the Term 1 fees for next year for parents who miss this deadline.

Best regards,

Christopher Short
Principal



Primary School April Highlights

45th celebration festivities, bullying awareness week and educational visits are all part of the start of Term 3

Many of the students have told me about their lovely restful breaks, it is good to see everybody back at school. Having said goodbye to some old friends at the end of Term 2, we have been delighted to welcome some new families to our community for Term 3. We hope our new students are happy and settling in well to the new routines at DCIS.

Already, the school is busy with many exciting activities happening over the next few weeks. The big one is, without a shadow of a doubt, the 45th Year of the school. This is lovely celebration to be taking part in and so far the children have been involved in the makings of the 45th celebration video. It has been lovely to see (and hear!) many renditions of 'You've Got a Friend' as I have walked around the school. We look forward to seeing the finished video and spotting ourselves joining in with the fun. Friday 12th May is also our 70's dress up day here in school, so do have a think about your child's fun costume if you have not already.

An important day for us will be our anti-bullying awareness day, which will see the children coming to school in non-uniform. Over the course of the week the children will take part in an activity that will not only raise the awareness of bullying but also empower the children to take action in an appropriate way should they spot bullying or feel bullied themselves.

We also have a number of exciting educational visits taking place this term. Year 2 are busy planning their trip to Snow City, Year 4 and Year 2 will be visiting Centre Stage on two different dates, Nursery are shortly going to the Farmart Centre and we are looking forward to Year 1's Duck Tour of Singapore landmarks. More information will follow if you have not received this already.

As some of our families have recently left us, we are currently looking to recruit some additional parent reader volunteers. If you are interested in taking part then please contact Mr. Marshall directly on: Andrew.Marshall@dovertcourt.edu.sg Training will



of course be provided for our volunteers. We are also looking for library volunteers to support Mrs. Sawhney. Do contact Mrs. Sawhney on Rachna.Sawhney@dovertcourt.edu.sg if you would like to get involved. We would be delighted to have you on board even if you can only offer half an hour per week.

As ever, if you have any questions about the Primary School, do talk to the class teacher, Year Group Leader or myself.

Wishing you a pleasant beginning of Term 3.

Best regards,

Kara Lebihan
Head of Primary School



Secondary School April Highlights

The term will include Global Campus Expeditions to the Swiss Alps and MIT in Boston as well as the start of iGCSE examinations for Year 10 and 11 students

The year seems to have passed very quickly as we welcomed the students back for Term 3. They all looked rested from the break as we all are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

This term will continue to bring some more exciting opportunities. We will have a group of students participating in the NAE Global Campus Les Martinets expedition in Switzerland. They have been working hard in the training sessions to make sure they are prepared for the rigours of this alpine adventure. Our NYAA (Duke of Edinburgh International Award) students will take part in their preparation and assessment expeditions for the Bronze Award. In addition to this we will have students attending MIT in Boston and visiting the United Nations in New York.

Our Year 6 and Year 9 students will be concentrating on their important transition points. Year 6 will be getting ready to join the Secondary School and Year 9 will be finalising their iGCSE options for the next academic year.



Finally, our Year 11 (and some Year 10) students will begin their iGCSE examinations in May. This will give them the opportunity to be rewarded for the hard work they have put in for the last 2 years. We wish them all the very best of luck.

We are expecting this to be a very productive term and I look forward to updating you on our progress.

Kind regards,

John Smith
Head of Secondary



STEAMFest at MIT in Boston: Day 1

First day includes mixing tracks at a sound studio, learning the history of robotics and creating mechanical fish prototypes to understand water dynamics

Day 1 began for 104 students from 26 Nord Anglia Education (NAE) schools attending the special week long STEAMFest in Boston, USA.

With a whole variety of activities and workshops set up, the students were kept quite busy by the professors and university students from MIT.

Students took a field trip at MMMMaven, an Electronic Music Production and DJ School in Boston where they learned the arts of DJing and Music Production in a state-of-the-art studio under the guidance of award-winning producers and DJs.

They then went to the MIT Museum, an exhibition hall documenting MIT's role in 19th- and 20th- century science and technology. At the museum they saw a demonstration on robotics using the latest advances in robot mechanics.

Students also took part in a Fish and Ships workshop where they discovered the physics behind water mechanics. They built their own mechanical prototypes of flapping fish to observe how marine animals generate thrust. Their challenge? To develop a more efficient mechanism to maximise thrust in ships.

Lots more awaits the students on Day 2!

Jennifer Smith
STEAMFest MIT Group Leader
Subject Leader Science

Check out the STEAMFest MIT videos here: <http://bit.ly/DCISMIT2017>



104 students from 26 NAE schools



Visiting the Robotics wing of the MIT Museum

Mini-Triathlete Winners at East Coast Competition

Boys and girls ranging from Year 2-6 competed as a 3 person team with medals all around



12 pupils from DCIS competed in a mini triathlon at East Coast Park this past weekend. The boys and girls ranging from Year 2-6 competed as a 3 person team, with 1 member swimming 150m in the sea first! Followed by another member cycling for 6km, before the final team member finishing with a 1.5KM run.

Congratulations to the following pupils for a superb team effort:

- Shinji / Zac / Alfonso Year 5 - 1st Place
- Diego - Year 2 / Lucas Year 6 / Oscar Year 3 - 2nd Place
- Sophie - Year 3 / Emily Year 4 / Ellie Year 4 - 4th Place
- Fillipo / Bertie / Alfie Year 4 - 5th Place

Mark Holmes
Head of Physical Education

DCTV's The Papers

Watch DCTV's latest show "The Papers". Every fortnight DCTV bring you news from around the globe and in school.

Check out the First Edition here: <http://bit.ly/DCISPapers25Apr>



Shall We Play?

Play as Stepping Stone towards Language Acquisition

An important component of language development, play helps children learn verbal skills around activities that are motivating

The simple act of playing for children is essential for their development, both physically and mentally.

Play enables children to do a variety of things, for example:

- To make sense of the world through interactive and fun games
- To develop social interaction and social rules
- To develop problem solving skills while cooperating with others
- To express their ideas and feelings

Play is also an important component of language development. It helps children learn verbal skills around activities that are motivating. While children play, they have opportunities to listen and speak to others, both learning from and teaching those around them. The adults have an opportunity to provide rich and meaningful vocabulary while engaged in tasks that are equally more appealing and place fewer demands on children. The ability to offer a varied commentary about activities that are occurring familiarises children with contextual language.

Vocabulary, in particular, is a crucial element in language development. Children, predominantly, learn language through social interactions. When they are motivated to interact and listen, they have more opportunities to absorb what they hear. Lorraine, S. (2008) suggested that 6 year olds may have approximately 2,600 words of expressive vocabulary and 20,000–24,000 words of receptive vocabulary, while Bloom & Markson (1998) suggested that 6 to 8 year olds may learn 6–7 words per day, increasing to 12 words per day for 8 to 12 years olds.

Below are a few strategies that can be put in place during familiar games and that encourage language development:

Games	Tips
Pop Up Pirate	Following instructions: "Can you get a blue sword?" / "Put in the red sword before you put in the blue sword" Categorisation: "Shall we divide the swords into colours?" / "What else in the room is red?" Verbal model: "I'd like a green sword please" / "It didn't pop. Maybe the pirate is asleep!" Inferences/ Problem solving: "What would happen if the sword broke inside the barrel?" / "What could you do to fix it?"
Go Fishing	Following instructions: "Can you find the pictures that have riding, reading and talking on the phone?" Categorisation: "Which of these actions can you do outside?" / "What do you need to be careful with?" Verbal model: "I see a big boy riding an awesome blue bike. What about you?" Inferences/ Problem solving: "What would happen if the boy fell from his bike?" / "How would his parents feel?"
Jenga	Following instructions: "Take out the red block in the middle" / Put the yellow block next to/ on top/ under the blue block" / Categorisation: "Shall we build shapes/ numbers / letters?" Verbal model: "I'm going to pull out the blue block from under the red block" Inferences/ Problem solving: "What will happen if I take this block?" / "How can we make this game more difficult?"
Zingo	Following instructions: "Show me the cat, the foot and the tree" Categorisation: "What animals can you see?" / "Which ones are soft?" Verbal model: "I only have three more pictures left. What about you?" / "I love chocolate cake because it is delicious. What is your favourite cake?" Inferences/ Problem solving: "What could you do if you saw a snake on the road?" / "What would happen if you ate too much cake?"
HedBanz	Following instructions: "Can you give me the cat, the car, the fork and the book?" Categorisation: "Which ones are big?" / "What can we buy?" Verbal model: "Am I something that is soft when I touch it?" / "Do I like to jump around outside on the soft green grass?" Inferences/ Problem solving: "What would happen if you kicked a ball against a window?" / "What should you do if you break a glass?"

