

# Regents CONNECT



*Issue 1, November 2016*



IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ  
1927 - 2016

FROM THE STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS OF  
REGENTS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PATTAYA

# FOREWORD



Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Connect*, our quarterly magazine that captures the energy and dynamism of our wonderful school. The title, *Connect*, reflects an international campus in which students and teachers connect with each other, the local community and the world beyond.

As I explored the magazine to find inspiration for my foreword, what shone through most strikingly was the diversity of our community – not only with regard to the extraordinary number of nationalities and backgrounds represented, but in our responses to what it means to be part of Regents. I see it in the selfless service to the local community provided by our Y12 students on their outdoor education expedition; in the excited faces of our IGCSE students, proudly clutching their results; in our youngest students, our Little Lions, I see their expressions of wonder as they challenge all their senses in hands-on play; in our music students and staff as they reap the rewards of our Juilliard collaboration; in our parents who attend workshops and tirelessly serve the school, and so-on.

It is clear in the pages of this magazine that Regents is an ideal environment for children to develop the transferable skills so vital to functioning successfully in our modern world. What a privilege it is to be part of such an international, forward looking, caring school.

Enjoy!

Iain Blaikie, Principal

**Regents Connect, Issue 1, 2016**

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# BREATHING NEW LIFE

This year Regents welcomes two new Heads of school into our family – Mr Grant Gillies, Head of Primary and Mr Michael Seaton, Head of Secondary. With impressive CVs, they both bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise, fresh ideas and a contemporary outlook.

Grant Gillies comes to us from Scotland, where he was Head Teacher at Dalry Primary School in Edinburgh which was named the ‘ Most Creative School in Scotland ’.

**Impressions of Thailand?** *My family and I have settled in quite quickly and are enjoying the rural setting, the beautiful countryside, the views and sunshine and sensory experience of it all. My wife and children have been a great support at home. It is a team effort and we are embracing new experiences and meeting other cultures.*

**First impressions of Regents?** *I have come from a setting where 75% of students were from outside Scotland, so I am enjoying the international diversity of our campus here too. The students are very well rounded and self-motivated. I eat with the children every day and am getting to know them. I was impressed that one third of students play a musical instrument - it is inspiring.*

**Your role models, and why?** *I was brought up on a farm where we enjoyed the outdoors and simple honest living. I was inspired to become a teacher after visiting a successful school for work experience and have been lucky enough to work with people I admire. Matt McIver the Headteacher at one of the first schools I taught at was a quiet, commanding presence who observed a lot of things and was well respected because of it.*

**Worst memory of school?** *I thought my first experience of being an acting head teacher was a disaster but it taught me what I needed to do this job. I went on to study my Masters and learn from my mentors around me. Choosing this career path has been my greatest achievement. You have to love teaching to do this job.*

**Best memory/what should excellent schools aim to do?** *I have always enjoyed learning and want to encourage children to be ambitious, inquisitive and self-reflective. We should teach children to have a sense of integrity – to try their best and care for each other and the world around them. They do this naturally as well.*

**Describe your leadership style in a tweet.** *Empowering. Everyone has a role to play in raising a Regents child.*

**What do you do for fun/relaxation?** *I have bought a guitar and am learning to play it. I love socialising, talking to people, travel, scuba diving and creative writing.*

**How have you found working with Michael?** *It's a marriage made in heaven! We have very different approaches – he is more meticulous at planning and detail – but we get along well. We meet weekly and are supporting each other's strengths, and we agree on a lot about how to take things forward.*



Mr Grant Gillies and Mr Michael Seaton

Originally from the UK, Michael Seaton was Head of Senior School at Brighton College Al Ain, where he was integral to building a start-up school into the highest ranked school in the United Arab Emirates in three years.

**Impressions of Thailand?** *It's a warm and hospitable country and it is wonderful to be surrounded by awe-inspiring natural beauty. My family and I have settled into our new home really well. It could not be more of a contrast to the desert sands of the UAE, although both are beautiful places to live.*

**First impressions of Regents?** *Aside from the world-class facilities, the strength of Regents is in its excellent teaching body and the students. The behaviour of our young people around the campus is exemplary and we value the quality of the relationships between the children and the adults who care for them. Schools are about relationships. Our school is unique in having some meaningful community ties and so many opportunities for personal as well as academic development.*

**Your role models, and why?** *My father, because he fused an incredible work ethic with love and compassion for his family. Like many doctors, he also had an excellent 'bedside manner': it could sometimes be difficult to work out what he was actually thinking! I also admire people who strive to change the world for the better.*

**Worst memory of school?** *Receiving a school report in Primary School, and the teacher spelt my first name wrong! Experiences like this have built my firm belief in individualisation – it is vital that teachers know their students incredibly well and school should cater for every child's abilities.*

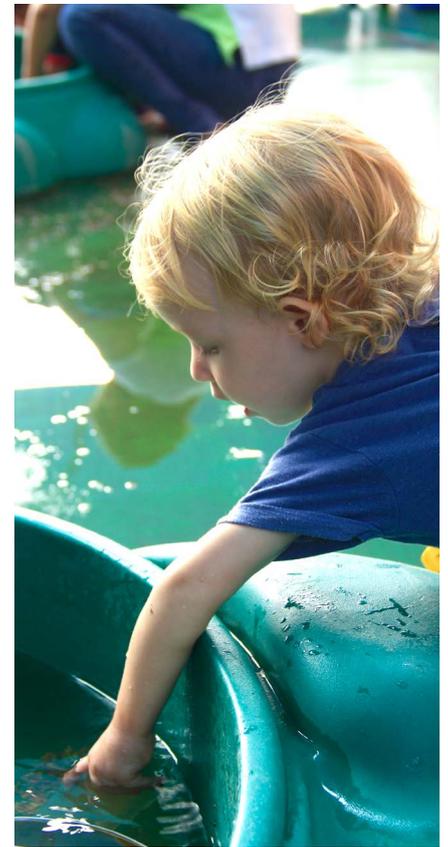
**Best memory/what excellent schools aim to do?** *I benefited from a wide arrange of co-curricular activities and the opportunity to explore drama and music – a premium school should cater for the whole child and should be about lifestyle as well as lessons.*

**Describe your leadership style in a tweet.**  
*Passionate school-improvement junkie.*

**What do you do for fun/relaxation?** *I am an avid reader and am a particular fan of the novels of Ian McEwan. He is a quintessentially English writer, so reading a McEwan novel is a wonderful way to keep in touch with my roots.*

**How have you found working with Grant?** *Mr Gillies is a highly creative educational leader and the Primary School is lucky to have him. We have a very positive working relationship and, although very different, share the same goals for Regents to become one of the best schools in the wider region.*





## MEETING DEMAND IN PRE-NURSERY

### REGENTS LITTLE LIONS

As our Little Lions programme evolved over the first half term, we received some wonderful feedback; “lots of equipment, messy play, space to run around in”; “the teacher is warm, welcoming and has an incredible talent to pass her positive energy on to people (and especially the children!)”.

To build on this momentum, we are delighted to announce an extension of the programme after Christmas to include swim confidence lessons, gymnastics for toddlers and toddler massage. This is in addition to the existing outdoor environment offering.

The massage component, which will be delivered by a professional reflexologist, is designed to enhance the children’s wellbeing through skinship and songs. It creates relaxing time to nurture the intimate relationship between the parent and the child which is essential for the child’s emotional, social, physical and language development

### REGENTS SEA LIONS

This is another new initiative where parents are invited to use the trainer pool with their children and receive early swimming tuition from qualified staff. Swimming is an integrative movement activity that is vital to the learning process. Swimming not only helps to develop muscle tone, coordination, balance and gravitational security, but also eye movement control for reading, fine motor skills for writing, spatial awareness needed for math, cross patterning movements needed for reading, writing, spelling and math.

### NAPPIES? NO PROBLEM!

Initiatives continue in our Pre-Nursery area as, also after Christmas, we will offer full time places to children from 2 years old who are still in nappies. (Some conditions do apply.)

For information on any of our Pre-Nursery programmes, please contact Joanne Smith – [joanne.smith@regents-pattaya.co.th](mailto:joanne.smith@regents-pattaya.co.th)

# FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR AN OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC YEAR

The 2016-17 academic year is off to a most promising start at Regents,  
with news of improved results at IB and IGCSE,  
as well as a number of outstanding achievements by individual students and their subject leaders.

For the third consecutive year, our graduating IB class gained an average point score of 33, comfortably exceeding the world average of 30. Our top individual score was 43, an outstanding achievement for Kyoung Wan Min (Tony) who had been at Regents since Year 8. He has been accepted into KAIST, South Korea's most prestigious university for the study of Science and Technology, to study Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

As a school, we offer a considerable number of options, and this year students were entered for 36 different subjects. In all but five of those, our students outperformed the world average, gaining a very creditable average point score of 5.2. There were, without exception, some really encouraging results in those subject areas working with a new syllabus this year. One area of particular improvement was undoubtedly the Core (Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, CAS), where over 80% of students gained at least two out of a possible three bonus points. This year's graduates have since scattered around the globe to study at some of the world's leading universities; from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia to the US, the UK, and the Netherlands, students are studying courses ranging from Economics to Graphic Design, Acting to Events Management, and Finance with Business Administration to Biomedical Science.

The Cambridge IGCSE results were also outstanding, with 90% of our students achieving A\* - C grades grade outcomes, defying the trend of declining results in the UK. This year Regents also celebrates the achievements of three students who enjoyed

phenomenal success in individual subjects. Dong Hyun Kim was recognised for high achievement in First Language Korean; Leonie Hoffman achieved the top Drama result in Thailand; and Luke Daly was awarded for being the top in the world for Design and Technology (photograph opposite page, top).

Principal Iain Blaikie is delighted with these results: "Of course we applaud the very highest achievers, but so too do we applaud those students who achieved beyond their own expectations through sheer hard work and a determination to make the most of the wide variety of learning opportunities available to them here at Regents."

Meanwhile, after a year of preparation involving both staff and students, the Geography Department was awarded the prestigious Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) from the Geographical Association (GA) in the United Kingdom. Regents is one of only six international schools to attain the award this year, and the only school in Thailand to be globally recognised in this way. The SGQM, now into its 10th year, recognises student attainment, progress and achievement in areas such as geographical knowledge, understanding, values, skills and concepts, and sets expectations about the quality of teaching in geography. It also aims to promote effective subject leadership and management, helping subject leaders raise the standards of Geography in their schools. This ensures a continuing high standard of education in the subject area. Congratulations to Head of Department, Tim Spears, and his team.





**1)** Y5 and Y6 athletes are preparing to participate in the Nord Anglia Education Games to be held at Regents from November 24-26. Go Lions!  
**2)** Our two South African Gap staff, Kelebogile Sediane and Tlotlano Kgosieng were interviewed by Y1 pupils about life in Africa. **3)** Each week the lucky holders of Golden Tickets get to eat with either Mr Grant or Ms Karyn at the beautifully set Golden Table. Tickets are earned through demonstrating exemplary behaviour in the canteen. **4)** Our Y6 pupils and teachers can be proud of their efforts in turning waste to works of art while strutting their stuff as part of a bright, zany eco-fashion show. **5)** Joy radiated through the Early Primary building as Y6 pupils shared stories they had written with Y1 pupils. Peer learning at its best! **6)** Primary boarders enjoyed chatting with Principal, Iain Blaikie in his office and being treated to squash and delicious biscuits.





A SECONDARY SCHOOL PRODUCTION INSPIRED BY GRIMM TALES BY PHILIP PULLMAN

# ONCE

NEW DATES - 7TH & 8TH FEBRUARY 2017

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## OUR JUILLIARD COLLABORATION

It was with the greatest pleasure that we welcomed back to Regents, violinist Kathryn Andersen, for the start of the second year of her visits as part of our unique Juilliard-Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme. Kathryn received her Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University. Kathryn is now a member of the Curriculum Specialist Team at The Juilliard School.

We remembered well from her first visit, the energy and passion that Kathryn demonstrates when she works with students, and so for this visit we were eager to have her work with as many students as possible across the whole school, working on developing key transferable skills.

Indeed, according to *The Future of Jobs: Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, a report released by the World Economic Forum earlier this year, the fast-paced technological advances will change the way we work, live and interact with each other forever. Some of the top skills needed in 2020 include complex problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity.\* This is where the Juilliard collaboration can reward all of our students – not only those with an interest in performing arts.

One of the many highlights of Kathryn's visit was a collaborative performance in the Globe Theatre – the first performance since our sound and light upgrade. Kathryn was joined by Mr Clement (piano) and Mr Kaz (double bass) and they performed the first movement of Dvorak's *Sonatina op.100*, much to the delight of the student and staff audience.

As part of her programme, Kathryn spent some quality time with our secondary and primary music staff, observing their teaching and demonstrating the use of the Juilliard Creative Classroom (online resources). She was also a guest performer at the Secondary School Speech Competition finals and taught lessons in both the Secondary and Primary schools.

It was not all work, however, and Kathryn took some time over a weekend to visit Koh Samet - a much-deserved break from a busy and wonderfully rewarding 4 day programme with us. We look forward to welcoming Kathryn back in May.

*\*Report from Nord Anglia Education - The Juilliard-Nord Anglia Performing Arts Programme*



## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

This half term has seen our facilities continue to be enhanced with the renovation of the main school pool, (the Early Primary pool was built over the summer), the opening of refurbished Science labs, an Early Primary free flow area, the upgrade of sound and lighting in the Globe Theatre, as well as continued investment in our IT infrastructure.







## SELF-DISCOVERY IN THE WIDER WORLD

“ *The best thing was getting to know my year group better and making some new friendships that will last for a lifetime.* ”  
*Angie*

As the first half of the term drew to a close, our Year 12 students ventured into the scenic Khao Yai National Park for a week long adventure. The trip is an important part of introducing students to the rigours of the IB programme.

Students took part in a series of outdoor activities over the week including white water rafting, archery, cycling and raft building - all to support the CAS element of the IB Diploma. They also completed several Service activities over the week, including teaching English in a local Thai school, painting the school itself

and helping to revive the school’s vegetable garden. Meanwhile, visits to an ancient Hindu temple and the famous Rong Kluea Market provided inspiration for more creative activities in the shape of songs, videos and poetry. To complete the experience, in the evenings, the students also had a chance to try Thai weaving and cooking at the Wangtaparb Resort.

The combination of physical challenges, creativity and team work encouraged the students to explore their own potential as well as to push beyond their individual comfort zones.

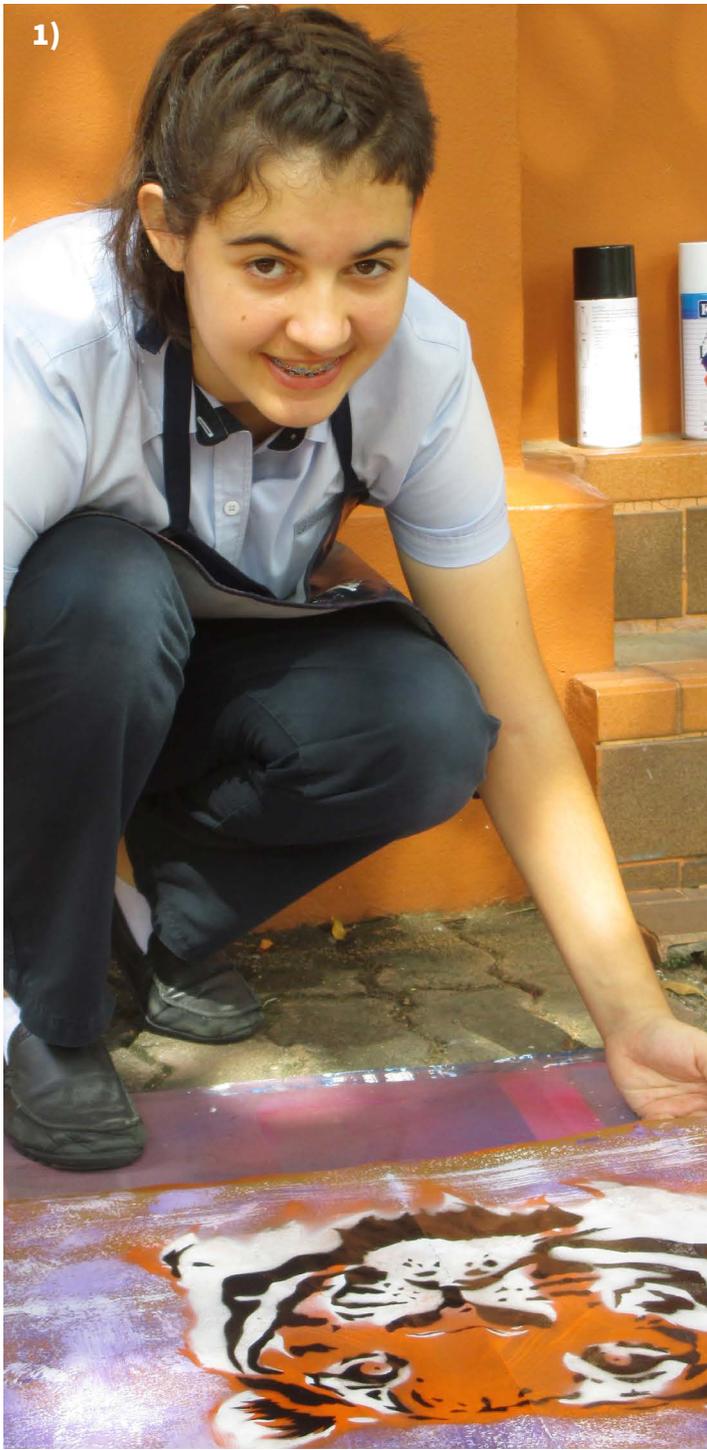
“ *I enjoyed learning in a different environment with familiar people.* ”  
*Eddy*



“ I loved the trip - I got to make friends with people in my year who I hadn't talked to much before, ”  
and I was able to really challenge myself and have fun outside school.

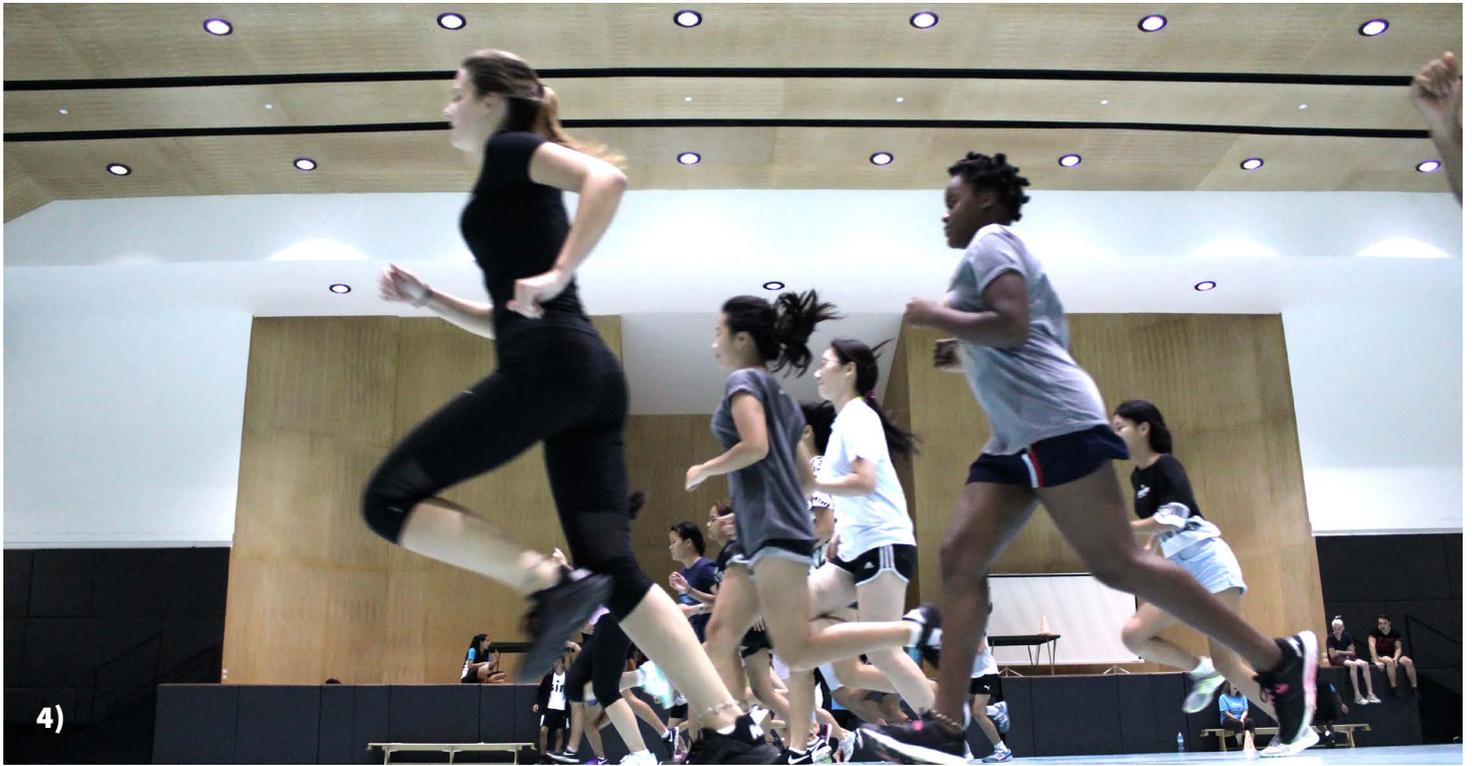
Tara





**1)** Y 11 student, Laura Martinelli with her Tiger print, the end result of many hours of cutting stencils for her IGCSE Coursework **2)** The first of four planned large scale mural paintings has begun in the Art Department, with Y 9 and RISE students lending their talents. **3)** Led by Head of Drama, Claire Hullock, members of this year's drama production, *Once*, treated students and staff to an impromptu song and dance number during a Break time outside the cafeteria. **4)** Never a dull moment as a boarder at Regents – Secondary School boarders test their fitness in the Sports Hall. **5)** Years 8 and 9 took part in team-building activities to kick start their Problem Solving module in Growing Minds. **6)** The Secondary School Speech Competition was fiercely contested with eventual winners announced as Stephanie (Y9) and Reese (Y10). Congratulations to all the finalists including Maxi, Eduard, Wile, Jarin, and Josh.







## HEAD BOY AND GIRL

Our Boarding community is celebrating the fact that this year's Head Girl and Boy, Saliha Rehanaz and Osman Tatrokov, are both Boarders.

Saliha, originally from Bangladesh, but brought up in Pakistan before moving to Laos with her parents, is now enjoying what she describes as the friendly fellowship of the Boarding community at Regents. Asked why she chose Regents Pattaya from a whole host of international boarding schools, she responds: "Because of the diversity it offers. Regents is a place where smiles are abundant. There is a place for everyone here, and no one ever feels left out. It is a beautiful school and I feel immensely lucky to be part of it."

Osman moved to Thailand from Russia four years ago with very little English language ability, but through his own diligence and determination, along with the support of Regents' dedicated staff, he became fluent by the end of his first year. He, too, is very grateful to the school and offers a piece of advice to younger Regents' students: "Take all the opportunities presented to you and really try to make the most of them."

## FULL HOUSE

Boarding at Regents is defying global trends and enjoying a resurgence. As a result, students and staff alike have been enjoying the vibrant community spirit and making the most of all the benefits that being members of an extended family on an outstanding campus provides.

Some of the highlights for Boarders so far this term have included meeting Mr Blaikie, Mr Gillies and Mr Seaton and asking them questions about the important jobs they do. Some of our younger Boarders also visited Mr Blaikie in his office, tempted by the offer of chocolate biscuits! Off-site activities have included a Hard Rock Hotel pool day, Go Kart racing, Paintball competition and a visit to Jatujak Market. Pattaya Orphanage is a valued community partner and the Boarding community were pleased to, once again, spend some time there and deliver donated items.

As part of the special Primary Adventures in Boarding initiative, both day and boarding pupils enjoyed an exclusive show called Tuxedo Magic, along with an Art in Paradise programme. Look out for the next joint event – a visit to the Science Museum in Bangkok on 26 November.





## OUR PARENT COMMUNITY

Regents is very fortunate to be supported by such a positive and proactive parent community, and their contributions to the life of the school can be felt on a daily basis. Parent-led projects this half term have included the Green Grubs canteen which serves healthy snacks on Fridays to our Primary children, and cooking classes which celebrate the culinary highlights of our international community. We are delighted to share one of the recipes from those classes with our readers.



**RECIPE** Thailand's delicious Green Papaya Salad is traditionally made using a clay mortar and wooden pestle and contains either dried shrimp (Som Tum Thai) or salted crab (Som Tum Pooh).

**INGREDIENTS** (serves 2): 1 ½ cups shredded green papaya, ½ cup shredded carrot, 5 halved cherry tomatoes, 1 tbsp dried shrimp or salted crab, 2 cloves garlic, 2 Thai chillies, 2 tbsp fish sauce, 5 green beans or 3 Chinese long beans, 1 lime and/or 2 tbsp tamarind juice, 1 ½ tbsp palm sugar, 2 tbsp roasted peanuts

**METHOD:** In a mortar, crush the garlic, then add green beans and cherry tomatoes. Pound a few times just to bruise the beans and squeeze the juice out of the tomatoes. Add chillies and crush them just enough to release the spice. Add the remaining ingredients. Mix well. Serve with sticky rice, cabbage leaves and green beans.

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