IMPORTANT DATES

11 - 15 Jan.  Parent Teacher meetings
20 Jan.       PSG meeting
23 Jan.       HWA BBQ
29 Jan.       Chinese New Year celebration
29 Jan.       End of CCA (Season 2)
30 - 31 Jan. In-School Workshop PYP Staff
1 - 11 Feb.   School Holiday
8 - 9 Feb.    Chinese New Year
16 Feb.       CCA Open House
22 Feb.       CCA Season 3 begins
29 - 4 Mar.   G3, G4, G5 UOI Exhibition

In this newsletter:
HWA BBQ, PSG meeting, Chinese New Year celebrations, UOI Exhibitions for G3, G4, and G5, Wonderful Christmas celebrations at HWA, Red Dot PYP Network, English Week, Field trips, Keys Academy externships, and Hillside on Facebook.

Help needed
We would like to add a Swimming CCA for Season 3. While we would hire a coach and have a teacher on hand, as well as lifeguards, we would also need some parent volunteers. If interested, please contact RG Villanueva rgv@hwa.edu.sg

Message from the Principal
A new year, a new semester and forty-one new students to Hillside World Academy. Welcome back to the 'old' families and a very wholehearted welcome to our new community members. Forty-one new students represent an increase in enrolment of over 15%. Soon we will be such a big school we will not be able to call ourselves small.

The timing is perfect: next Wednesday evening’s Parent Support Group meeting, closely followed by the PSG barbecue on Saturday 23 January, represent just the right ways for the old and the new to blend and to get to know each other. The barbecue continues a very successful tradition of the school over the last three years, and I am expecting to demonstrate my sporting prowess through the afternoon. Perhaps a softball hit out of the campus, or a back-handed frisbee flicked into a sausage sandwich.

By now, all reports should have been received, and most parent-teacher interviews will have been conducted. Students should know what their strengths and areas for improvement are, based on semester 1’s results.

Time now to move on and build on the learning of 2015. Action plans should be created, to ensure that we all strive to satisfy our potential through 2016 and into the year of the monkey.

Stephen Keegan
Principal
HWA BBQ
The hazy conditions are now well and truly over, so please join us for a BBQ on 23 January. It is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with other parents as well as staff in a fun and friendly way. Any parents you know who are seeking schools for their children are also welcome to come along and find out more about us.

As well as a delicious spread of juicy burgers, hotdogs and homemade salads prepared by the Parent Support Group, there will be plenty of fun and games for the kids to enjoy. Please sign up on our website. We look forward to seeing you!

Parents Support Group (PSG) meeting
The next PSG meeting will be held on 20 January at 19.00 at school. It is a great chance for parents to become part of the school community. We would like to extend an invitation to all new parents to join the PSG. For more information about the PSG, please contact Ellen on ellen@novusasia.com

Chinese New Year celebration
Save the date! The Chinese New Year concert will take place on 29 January. It is one of the most anticipated events in our calendar year after year. This celebration is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their competence in the Chinese language, for the Chinese teachers to introduce elements of Chinese culture and art, and for the school community to come together and usher in this important festival. An invitation and the programme for the event will be sent to you.

Wonderful Christmas celebrations
We would like to thank all the teachers and students involved in the fantastic Christmas celebrations at the end of last year. It was the first celebration of its kind at the campus of Hillside World Academy and we congratulate all participants for setting the bar so high.

The Red Dot PYP Network
Grade 4 students performance of their interpretation of Mark Ronson’s Uptown Funk featured in the Red Dot PYP Network. Students collaborated with their homeroom and music teachers to produce the song using common terms or slang from Malay, Chinese and Indian languages as well as local dialects (Singlish) demonstrating their understanding of Singapore's
various and rich cultures. Well done Grade 4! The Red Dot blog is written by PYP teachers in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Please do visit the blog from time to time to get an update on teaching and learning, not just in our school but PYP schools in the region.

http://thereddotsingaporeyp.blogspot.sg/

**English Week**

Middle and High School celebrated the first ever English Week in mid-December, overseen by MYP English teacher Tony Luz. This year’s theme was entitled Poetic Gestures, which featured lunchtime reading sessions, student-led poetry readings, a celebration of Dr. Seuss. The Student Council also sponsored a Christmas Story Telling time for their PYP schoolmates during English Week. Class reps from G7 to G12 took turns reading Christmas classics and poems to eager primary kids.

Perhaps the defining event of the week was the visit of Singaporean poet Deborah Emmanuel, who absolutely wowed the MYP crowd with her stories, her style and her amazing poetry.

**Field trips**

Grade 11 History students attended a talk by former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott, hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) at the Fullerton Hotel in December. The talk centred on ‘rational and irrational actors in a troubled world’. It was a great opportunity to see politics up close and to hear a variety of opinions.

**The Keys Academy: externship opportunities**

On 20 January, High School students will have the possibility to hear about work experience opportunities through Keys Academy. The outfit places students with high-profile companies like Bloomberg, Autodesk, etc. It is a chance for our students to gain work experience and real insight into life after education. Students will gain practical experience that will, on top of boosting their CVs, allow them to think about further studies, careers and beyond.

**Hillside on Facebook**

For new parents, please follow events in school, updates, invites and photos on Facebook on www.facebook.com/HillsideWorldAcademy

Don’t forget to like the page to get automatic updates!