

THE ASPIRANT

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



FEDERAL TERRITORY DAY



Federal Territory Day, also known as *Hari Wilayah Persekutuan*, is an important public holiday celebrated annually on February 1 in Malaysia. This day commemorates the establishment of Kuala Lumpur as a federal territory, which occurred on February 1, 1974, when it was officially transferred from the state of Selangor to the federal government. The holiday also marks the anniversary of the formation of the Federation of Malaya in 1948, adding historical depth to the celebrations.

Usually, this day is celebrated by Malaysians through:

Official Ceremonies – Government buildings and landmarks are adorned with the Federal Territories flag, and official ceremonies are held to honor the significance of the day.

Parades and Performances – Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, and Labuan host cultural performances, parades, and exhibitions showcasing Malaysia's rich heritage.

Community and Charity Events – Various public service initiatives, including tree-planting activities, charity drives, and free medical check-ups, encourage community engagement and goodwill.

Sports and Recreational Activities – Marathons, cycling events, and family-friendly activities promote health and unity among residents.

Shopping and Promotions – Many businesses offer special discounts and promotions, making it a great time for shopping and dining.

This holiday serves as a reminder of the unity, progress, and development of Malaysia's federal territories while bringing communities together in celebration.



Zi Rong
Year 10 strength

THAIPUSAM



Celebrated by Indians around the world, Thaipusam is held each year during the full moon day in the Tamil month of Thai, which is usually in January or February. The word 'Thaipusam' comes from the word Thai, which means 10th, and Pusam, which means 'when the moon is at its brightest'.

This vibrant Hindu festival commemorates the victory of good over evil. Over the course of a month prior to Thaipusam, people start offering sacrifices to their Hindu Gods. Some may start fasting, getting up early in the morning for prayers, chanting, and many other things in honour of Lord Murugan, who defeated the demon Soorpadman.

The story of Lord Murugan and Soorpadman is a legendary battle between good and evil. It began when Soorpadman started tormenting gods and sages. Because of this, Lord Murugan was given Vel (a powerful weapon that can defeat Soorpadman) by Goddess Parvati. Lord Murugan went off to battle with his army and Vel, and in the end, Lord Murugan was victorious over Soorpadman.

This resonates with all humanity as winning against evil is a natural will at the core of the human spirit.

On Thaipusam Day, people from the Klang Valley offer sacrifices by walking barefoot from their houses all the way to Batu Caves, where people climb the 272 colourful steps leading to the temples inside. Young women may carry a milk pot whilst walking. Devotees also express gratitude by carrying 'kavadis', an ornate wooden or metal structure, as a form of penance.

This expression is called Padayatra. It is done as a form of pilgrimage, humbling themselves to honour Lord Murugan. Padayatra symbolizes Lord Murugan's journey and how he overcame obstacles to defeat Soorpadman.

Batu Caves is a series of stunning limestone caves located just north of Kuala Lumpur, a national landmark recognized by UNESCO. It has three main caves featuring temples and Hindu shrines, where people offer prayers and sacrifices.



Rayden
Year 8 Affection

VALENTINES

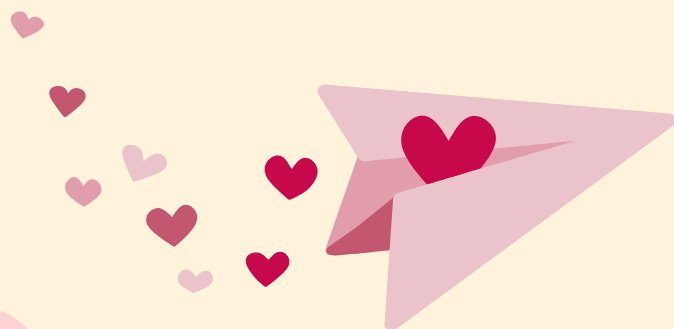


Valentine's Day is a special day that is celebrated on February 14th every year. It is a time for people to show love and appreciation for others, whether it be their partner, friends, or family. The day is often marked by the giving of cards, flowers, chocolates, and small gifts.

The history of Valentine's Day dates back to ancient times, and it is believed to have been named after Saint Valentine, a priest who lived in Rome. Over time, the day became associated with love and affection, and it became a tradition to exchange love notes.

Many people celebrate Valentine's Day by going out to dinner, giving thoughtful gifts, or writing heartfelt messages to their loved ones. It's a day to remind someone how much they mean to you, whether it's through a simple "I love you" or a special gesture. While Valentine's Day is often seen as a romantic celebration, it can also be a time to show love to friends, family, and even pets. Some people celebrate by sending cards or flowers to their friends, while others use the day to reflect on the importance of love in all its forms.

Overall, Valentine's Day is about spreading love and kindness. It's a reminder that love is important in our lives, and it's worth celebrating in many different ways. Whether big or small, any act of love can make the day special.

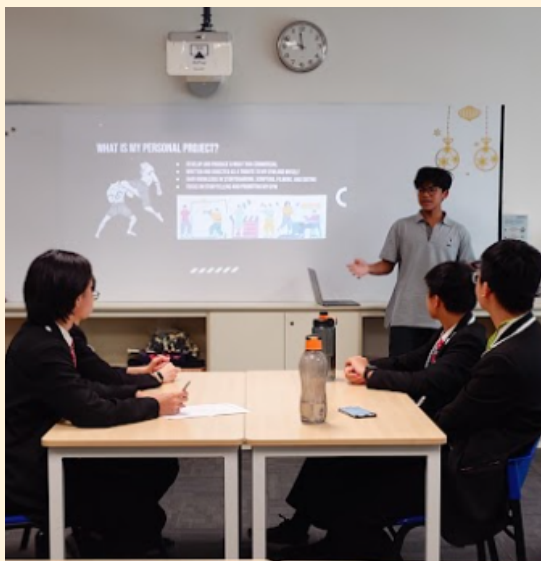


Josephine
Year 8 strength

MYP PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION AT MKIS AND IGBIS



On 5 and 18 February 2025, students from Aspiration International School had the opportunity to visit Mount Kiara International school and IGB International School. This visit aims to provide valuable exposure to the Personal Project process, showcasing the creativity, effort, and achievements of other students. The experience was both educational and inspiring.



During the visit to IGBIS, we received warm welcomes from Ms. Rosalina and Dr. Greg, followed by a guided tour of the campus. Students explored various facilities, including their swimming pool, auditorium and library.

Personally, I had such a fun experience at IGB International School. We went to the Year 8 community project and it was unique and quite different from ours. One of them was trying to create a playground for the preschool and I find them interesting. After that, we had a Q&A session with the Year 11 and Year 10 about their personal project. One of the girls was doing a podcast and one of the boys was gardening and trying to use 3D modeling to create a self watering hydroponic. All the students were kind and outgoing, and I learned a lot from them, especially about time management and how they conducted research for their reports.

*Roanne
Year 10 strength*



Y7 SERVICE AS ACTION



On February 19, 2025, the Year 7 students visited Taman Tugu Nursery as part of their Individuals and Societies subject. This activity took place from 10:00 AM to 12:50 PM, with the goal of planting trees to support the Free Tree Society.

During the activity, students planted 33 trees, including one Langkat tree each. Their efforts contributed to environmental conservation by helping to restore greenery and create habitats for wildlife. Tree planting plays a crucial role in maintaining forests, cooling the environment, and supporting biodiversity.



Exploring the Forest

During the forest walk, students did not encounter any animals, but they saw many unique plants and trees. A highlight of the trip was the multi-level gazebo, which offered a breathtaking view of the surrounding forest.

Students also learned about the four layers of the rainforest: forest floor, under-canopy, canopy, and emergents. They discovered a variety of plant species, including ferns, palm trees, pandan leaves, inedible mushrooms, beehive ginger, and wild raspberries.



Sienna
Year 7 Affection

Y7 SERVICE AS ACTION



Student Reflections on the Trip:

“My favorite moment was when the teacher explained the soil. It was fun because we laughed a lot, and my friends were there. We even got to smell the soil, which made it an interesting experience! We planted the Lanteng tree, and I enjoyed mixing the soil and learning about Malaysia’s native trees. Tree planting is important because deforestation is a global issue, and planting new trees is one way to help. I even took my plushie along to take pictures! I would love to participate in more activities like this in the future❤️.” -**Hannah Choo (7A)**



“At the end of the trip, I loved going up the multi-level gazebo. We took pictures, and the view was beautiful. Planting the Lanteng tree was fun, though I wished we could have taken it home! I think tree planting is important because it helps provide clean oxygen. A funny moment was when I accidentally fell, but I laughed a lot. I hope we can do more activities like this in the future because it was an amazing experience with my friends.” - Ong Raeyen



Every Saturday Taman Tugu does a plant giveaway which is sponsored by Uniqlo. Feel free to visit with your friends and family for a little hike or just to adopt a cute little plant for your garden or balcony!



Sienna
Year 7 Affection

SPORTS DAY



On 23 February 2025, the annual Sports Day was held at Stadium Arena UM, brimming with excitement, competitive spirit, and pure joy. This year, AISS has introduced the theme - Pokemon! The characters representing each house were ● **Charmeleon**, ● **Pikachu**, ● **Bulbasaur**, and ● **Squirtle**. Moreover, the main track events were the 100m, 200m and 400m races, followed by the field events consisting of Shot Put and Long Jump. Finally, with the third category involving the 4x100m relay and the highly anticipated Tug-of-War.



A refreshing breeze at dawn swept through the arena, setting the stage for an exhilarating Sports Day. The stadium buzzed with animated chatter, rhythmic shuffles of footsteps, and the enticing aroma of food prepared by the fundraiser teams from all houses. The event commenced with the opening ceremony, where all houses proudly showcased their banners, mascots, and meticulously choreographed march pasts. A new addition to this year's march past was AISS's newly formed band, which captivated the audience with a harmonious performance, filling the arena with a vibrant and melodic ambiance. The ceremony was then followed by the national anthem, flag bearers, and honor pledge among students.



Elvyna
Year 11 Affection

SPORTS DAY



After the opening ceremony, it continued with the shot put and long jump finals, followed by the semi-final and final races of the track and field events, where athletes competed fiercely to secure their places as eventual champions. Meanwhile, the fundraiser team remained dedicated, tirelessly selling freshly prepared food and beverages throughout the stadium, ensuring that participants and spectators stayed energized for the events ahead.



Furthermore, a special event was held, involving both parents and students. The events are the 3-Legged Race and the Spoon and Ping Pong Ball Race, which are set to foster bonding and strengthen relationships between students and their parents. Finally, the highly anticipated Tug-of-War filled the stadium with immense intensity as the teams battled fiercely against one another. The clash of strength and power sent a surge of adrenaline through both participants and spectators, making it a thrilling conclusion to the day's events.

At the end of the day, the announcement of the overall winning house of this year's Sports Day was met with a thrilling mix of anticipation and excitement. The overall winning house of 2025 Sports Day goes to the ● **Yellow House!** As a reward for their outstanding performance, they received a massive goodie bag as a champion prize.



Elvyna
Year 11 Affection



HOW MUSIC HELPS ME STUDY



Studying can be frustrating, especially when my mind keeps wandering. But over the years, I've found that music helps me focus. Total silence makes me overthink or get distracted, but having background music keeps my brain anchored. Of course, not all music works—songs with lyrics usually make me sing along instead of study—so I stick to instrumental music, lo-fi beats, or movie soundtracks.

Music also makes studying feel less like a chore. Let's be real—cramming for a test or finishing hours of homework isn't fun, but with the right playlist, it's at least tolerable. It also helps with stress; when I feel overwhelmed, putting on a relaxing song makes everything seem more manageable. It's like my brain associates music with getting things done, so as soon as I hit play, I know it's time to focus.

Of course, this doesn't work for everyone. Some people need silence, and that's fine. But for me, music turns studying from something I have to do into something I can actually get through. So, if you ever struggle with focus, try some lo-fi beats or soft piano music—it might make studying a little easier.



Erin
Year 11 strength

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Dylan Lim Jingyao

Achievement

Most outstanding award-Powiismun 2025
Prince of wales island international school (Powiis)

Date

17-19 January 2025



Han Jaeho

Achievement

runner-up (2nd Place) - Under-15 Boys
Category

Sirkit Golf Remaja Kedah (SGRK) Junior Open
2025 - Permaipura Golf & Country Club, Kedah

Date

4 - 6 February 2025



Claire Chong Yi Jing

Achievement

Silver in girls aged 14-15 - 800 Meters
Freestyle

34th Selangor Age Group in Swimming
Championships 2025
Pusat Aquatik Darul Ehsan

Date

16 January 2025



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