FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The new term has begun. It will be a challenging term for all students. We are introducing a number of new programs to enhance the students’ learning including a Mental Maths Strategies program, a Reading Strategies program and a Learner Attributes program. Each of these programs is intended to improve student performance and attitude. Later this term, we will be providing opportunities for parents to learn more about these programs and how to use them at home.

AFTER SCHOOL READING ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Starting in 2nd Term an After School Reading support program will be introduced for Grade 1 students. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm to 4pm. I would like to thank Ms Lovelyn and Ms Mohana for introducing this initiative.

PROGRAM OF STUDY (POS)

Earlier this week students were provided with the Program of Study for this term. Please take time to review this with your child. For some subjects the PoS for the year was provided in Term 1.

PARENT EDUCATION SESSION

Please be advised that we will be holding a Parent Education session on Tuesday 26th May from 8:00 pm at the school. The session will be for parents with children in Kindergarten to Grade 3. The session will be looking at ways to assist the development of students’ Reading in the early years.
SECONDARY CAMPING TRIP
@ IPOH & GOPENG PERAK
I would like to congratulate the students and teachers who attended the Secondary Camping Trip to Kem Bara Murni, Ipoh, Perak during the holidays. The accompanying teachers were Pn Hawa Bakar, Pn Nurul Huda Mas’od, Ms Suzana Safian, Mr Nicholas Barno and Pn Siti Abidah Abu Hamid.

Special mention and thanks to Pn Hawa and Pn Nurul who spend many hours fund raising and organising the trip.

The purpose of Outdoor education experiences like the camp is to develop students’ self-confidence, teamwork and inter-relationships. The mix of activities is designed with this in mind. The action activities included white water rafting, waterfall abseiling and caving at Gua Tempurung, Gopeng. Other activities included a Night Walk and interactive games.

The teachers reported that the camp was very successful and students have requested more opportunities like this one.

LATE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL
Please be advised that school commences at 7:45 am with the morning assembly. At this assembly important announcements are made to the students. A number of students arrive well after the school starting time. This is of concern to the teachers, the school owner and myself as Principal. Please ensure that your child is at school before 7:45 am.

Please also note that it is Sri Utama policy that any students arriving after 8:30 am will be returned to their home by the school.

PARTICIPATION IN PE PROGRAM
Please note that all students are required to participate in the school PE program. If your child is unable to participate for health reasons, please provide a note explaining the reasons.
JOHOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADER’S CONFERENCE

On 27th April a team of Form 5 and 4 students attended this important student conference at KSL Hotel & Resort JB accompanied by Madam Norah Hajah, Mr Mitchell Yamrus and Mr Nicholas Barno. Two Sri Utama students, Ayan Joshi and Bariq Pasarebu, made presentations to the conference. Ayan’s presentation received full marks. His topic was “Youth Empowerment and Leadership.” His presentation covered the willingness to improve on the part of government and individuals. Mr Barno and Mr Yamrus also presented to the conference on the “7 Habits of Successful People.”

I would like to congratulate Ayan, Bariq and the teachers involved for their excellent representation of the school at this significant event. We are planning to provide the presentations to our Secondary students later in the term.

READING RESOURCE

Late last week the school took delivery of the first of a series of resources to support the development of Reading in the Primary school. The resource produced by “Teachers 4 Teachers” is called “Reading Box”. It provides a graded set of reading texts, comprehension questions and activities. Students are placed on a level based on their reading ability. They can then progress at their own rate. This box covers reading ages from 7 years to 12 years. Included in the resource is a levelling test that allows the teachers to determine the students reading level. We are in the process of determining grade expectations based on the levelling test.

DIGITAL COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Please be advised that digital copy of this newsletter is available through the Sri Utama website www.sriutama.edu.my. The website is for the KL school however there is a section for newsletters that includes the JB school.

The Haunted House

It was a foggy night at around 9 in the evening. I was about to go to bed when I received a call on my phone. I picked it up but there was no one, so I put down the phone. Immediately the phone rang again and I answered it. There is a soft women’s voice on the phone saying “Go to the house on the hill!” and it kept repeating those words.

I shuddered on hearing the voice; I knew that the house is haunted. I gathered my courage and decided to go to the house and investigate about this. So I took my bicycle and went to the old and rickety deserted house.

When I reached there, it was dark and spooky. I went inside the house and the first thing I saw was a sign saying "Help Me!". I trembled and began chewing my fingernails. On shaky legs, I went further inside and I saw the most amazing sight!

I saw all my friends, waiting and putting on ghost costumes. I asked them “What was all this about??” Laughing out loud, they told me they just want to spook my socks off because it’s Halloween!!

Written by,
Nur Muhammad Solehuddin bin Mohd Hazi
P5A UIS.
MERIT AWARDS - CAMBRIDGE LEARNER ATTRIBUTES

At the beginning of the term we introduced our Learner Attributes Merit Award system. Class teachers will present Class Awards to students who consistently demonstrate the Cambridge Learner Attributes. Students who are awarded five Class Awards will be eligible for a Principal’s Award. A Principal’s Award will be acknowledged in this newsletter, will be presented at the school assembly, parents will be informed directly by the principal and encouraged to attend the presentation.

An important aspect of the Cambridge system is the development of the student as a life-long learner. This is a goal shared by many school systems. The life-long learner is based on a set of attributes that includes Responsibility, Confidence, Engagement, Reflection and Innovation. For the Cambridge organisation the development of these attributes is as important as examination results. The organisation argues that students with well-developed learner attributes will most likely achieve high examination results.

At the end of each term teachers will provide an evaluation of each student’s progress with the Attributes. This will be provided to parents as part of the end of term reporting.

SECONDARY CAREERS DAY

Last Thursday 30th April, a number of Secondary students travelled to Singapore to attend career presentations at Raffles University. The presentations included fashion design and business. The visit also included a workshop on success.

I would like to thank the organising teachers Ms Jayalatchume and Pn Normariana as well as the accompanying teacher Ms Lim Pui Hiar.

SWIMMING COMPETITION

We have been advised of a swimming competition to be held on Sunday the 31st May at Ponderosa Golf & Country Resort JB for students aged 8 to 16 years. The competition includes the four major swimming styles and is open to all Sri Utama students. For more information please contact Puan Selva at the school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Secondary Education Trip – Agro Park 20th May 7:30am-3:30pm
1st Term Parent Teacher Meeting 21st May 3:00pm-4:30pm
Teacher’s Day Celebration 22nd May 8:00am-12:30pm
Parent Education Evening (Kindy-Prim 3) 26th May 8:00pm
Swimming Competition @ Ponderosa 31st May 9:00am-2:00pm