

6th May 2022

NEWSLETTER FOR ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Issue 13, Volume 6

Dear Students, Staff, Parents/Guardians and members of our school community

From the Principal

Welcome back to Term 2



Welcome back everyone. Hope you had a wonderful break – enjoying my favourite autumn season. Look forward to hearing from you in person about all your recent adventures, exploring Adelaide and getting to know your homestay families better; spending time visiting local landmarks, the people of Adelaide and engaging in exciting Australian cultural experiences. Most importantly creating lifelong memories and lifelong friendships.

We welcome new and existing students onsite. I wish to extend a special welcome to them all – Tsz Lok (Amos) CHONG – EAP SACE CONNECT – who moves to Concordia Co-educational College in Highgate, after his intensive English language course with us; Le Gia My NGUYEN – EAP SACE CONNECT who moves to St Dominic's School for Girls in North Adelaide, after her intensive English language course with us; Wing Shan (Eva) from Hong Kong in Year 12. All students have settled in beautifully, thanks to the strong induction and support from Ms Zara Phillips, Director of Teaching & Learning and Ms Catherine So, Student Services Officer.

I'd like to make a special mention regarding Eva as she seamlessly manages her Year 12 studies, completing assessments and preparing to take her SACE graduating examinations in November. Eva is a talented and inspirational student who has been studying online during lockdowns from Hong Kong. Eva was studying in Australia before covid, returning to be home with her family once the borders were about to close – when no-one knew what was going to happen to us all. I am so proud of Eva. She never neglected her learning goals – despite intensive challenges. She sought out a great online education school – Adelaide International School – delivering hybrid quality lessons in real time, through one of our staff in Hong Kong – Ms Sandy Kam. We thank Sandy for introducing Eva to our school. We thank Sandy and her family for their invaluable support and assistance to get Eva to Adelaide. We thank Wendy and Lucy – homestay family of Eva for welcoming Eva so attentively and warmly into their homes. Thank you to Hallena from Happy Homestay for matching Eva to such a caring homestay family for Eva. Good luck Eva as you return to Adelaide to complete your South Australian Certificate of Education in pursuit of your career and life goals. We are delighted that your online AIS friendships from last year with us – see you connect with your friends here in Adelaide as well, who went on to complete their SACE studies at Mercedes co-educational school in Springfield.

We wish Eva and all the other students who have arrived onsite this term - all the very best.

A special welcome back to our existing students – offshore and onshore. Great to see your smiles and see you relaxed and well. Good luck for Term 2.

We send sincere prayers and thoughts to four of our dedicated and beautiful Year 12 students in China who are doing it tough working fully online from home – as they cope with the lockdowns and inability to get onto their flights to finish their graduating studies here in Adelaide. We will continue to do all we can to get you here to Adelaide – working closely with key partners and your parents. Stay strong. Stay focused on your studies. Stay healthy and well. Have faith in getting here to achieve your dreams and goals.



AIS Students – Term 2 - Your time to shine

Some advice to all our students. This is the term where you really ‘drill down’ and implement those goal achievement strategies that you focused on in your Wellbeing classes in Term 1. Our English for Academic Purposes for SACE Connect students have 10 more weeks to really strengthen their English language proficiency as they prepare to transition to their destination school here in Adelaide. If their English language proficiency is not where it needs to be – they may need to push back their entry into their preferred destination school. Stay strong. Stay focused. Good luck.

Our Year 11 (Stage 1) students are finishing off assessments for Semester 1 subjects and are preparing for upcoming end of semester examinations. Their teachers will help them learning Examination Preparation Techniques to be ready for this assessment opportunity. All our AIS students are given 3 trial examination opportunities to be well prepared for their graduating examinations in November of their Year 12. Ms Zara Phillips – will publish further information and advice to parents and students regarding examinations coming up in June. Parents – please encourage your students to take up these strategies so they are well prepared to do well in these examinations. Taking examinations is not something we are born with (as I often hear in the media). Examination taking is a skill. Like all skills – you can learn it and you can improve it with rigorous opportunities to refine this skill. I often say – good luck as a family and school community. The more we work together teaching our children these strategies – the better the outcome and confidence in each child.

Our Year 12 (Stage 2) students. You are nearly halfway through your graduating school year. Soldier on. Stay strong. This is also when some of the toughest topics are studied in your classes. Remember to ask your teachers for help and assistance in class. Don’t sit there quietly trying to deal with difficult concepts on your own. Students who ask questions – perform so much better in examinations and tests – because by asking questions their brain is mind-mapping these challenging concepts. Be an active learner. Don’t be a passive participant learner. No pain – no gain. I strongly believe in this saying! Remember it’s not long this painful time. You will get a brilliant reward for all your hard work now – you will achieve your future goals for university study and career plans – this brilliant reward is the longest school holiday break ever – 3 months holidays before university starts. Use your Independent Study lessons wisely; use your academic tutors wisely. Your hard work will definitely be rewarded.

Staffing Update

Farewell Ms Gabi Zhao

It is with much sadness that I announce to our school community that we will be farewelling Ms Gabi Zhao – Business Development Offshore Special Projects Manager in two weeks. Ms Gabi Zhao has played a critical role across so many areas of our school in the last 5 years. We wish her well as she pursues her next life and work adventure. Gabi has been studying part-time to qualify as an education trainer/assessor part-time for the last few years. Thank you Gabi for all you have taught



me in my time here as Principal and for your generous work ethic and friendship. Your professionalism, grit and determination are highly valued by us all. Remember – you are always part of our school community – do stay in touch and pop in for a visit whenever you are doing your bit to support the South Australian Rundle Mall traders. Every best wish for your family as they support your new chapter. Special wishes to Leo your son, as he finalises his senior secondary schooling at Pulteney Grammar School. He is blessed to have such wonderful parents to support him in his career and life pursuits.

Rest peacefully Wendy Weng

I wish to share this heartfelt message from Don Chen, our Managing Director/Board of Governors member:
"I am sad to announce that our beloved ex AIS, ISES and AEG member, Wendy Weng has passed away a short time ago (Tuesday 3 May) in the Queen Elizabeth hospital. Those of us who knew her are going to miss her beautiful smile and her kind heart towards her colleagues and students.

Wendy has been fighting for her life since the beginning of last year when she was diagnosed with cancer. Wendy has been living with her daughter, Isabel since 2017, when she lost her husband, Andy, who also died of cancer.

Andy and Wendy both were working with our partner school in Hangzhou, Greentown School when I first met them. When Isabel approached school age, they decided to come back to Australia. I invited them to come to work with Adelaide International School. Unfortunately, Andy couldn't make it in time. Wendy then decided to bring Isabel with her to come down to Adelaide. For the first two years, Wendy had been working in our ISES office. In 2018, Wendy moved to Adelaide International School. Due to sickness, Wendy had to stop work at our school in 2020. We are so sad to see Wendy leave her young daughter - but we are also pleased that Wendy's younger brother has decided to take Isabel home to China to be with family.

Our colleagues Gabi, Sabrina, Maggie and Selina have helped nurse and support Wendy throughout her illness here in Adelaide. Many other friends were around Wendy to comfort her. I will let everyone know funeral arrangements as soon as they are coordinated if you want to come to say goodbye.

We hope Wendy rests in peace.

Regards

Don and friends of Wendy."

In closing, please contact me if I can assist your family on gina.kadis@ais.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Ms Gina Kadis

PRINCIPAL

