

# NEWSLETTER

NO. 73 | DECEMBER 2020

Primary Years Programme | Middle Years Programme | Diptoma Programme



#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and Staff

I believe we should look back upon the last 10 weeks with a sense of pride for completing a job under very difficult circumstances. We have all worked very hard to ensure maximum engagement with school. It has been wonderful to note the full range of activities from well thought out lessons, to assemblies, parent teacher conferences and concerts.

We began the term with our visit form the IBO teams and WASC. The work put into preparation for these visits was tremendous but the feedback was worth it. The visiting teams painted a very positive picture of the school as providing excellent advice on our next steps. We have heard officially from the IBO that our re-authorisation has been confirmed (i.e. we remain a continuum IBO school) and we look forward to getting feedback on our accreditation status with WASC in the next few weeks. The visit was in every sense a triumph for the whole school community.

Next semester we will take the recommendations from WASC and the IBO and meld them with priorities from our Board and community to begin the process of writing our next three year strategic plan. This will give us a sense of direction as we move towards the 2024 school year. I look forward to being able to discuss the visiting teams findings with you as well as the vision, mission and strategic direction of the school as we move forward.

We should feel very proud of the way in which we have coped with the difficulties the pandemic has sent our way. We can reflect with pride on the manner in which we have thrived as a community. We can reflect upon our school vision and note the genuine resilience that we have shown as a learning community. We should also look forward to the year ahead with a sense of anticipation and optimism

confident that we are in a very good position to cope with any obstacle that may come our way. We are truly lucky to be part of such a warm, supportive and giving community.

This is a critical time of the academic year to reflect upon our own progress. Reports and parent conferences give us the capacity of completing a stock take of our own performance as well as the capacity to plan our next steps. I look forward to a very positive, focused and successful second semester!

Meanwhile, I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the break and spending time with family and friends.

Martin Blackburn Executive Principal

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

21 DECEMBER-8 JANUARY
Semester, Christmas and New Year Holiday

11-12 FEBRUARY Chinese New Year Holiday

> 15-26 FEBRUARY DP Mock Exams

19 FEBRUARY

Grade 10 PP Exhibition

5 MARCH
PYP Exhibition Celebration Day

11 MARCH
Ascension of the Prophet Holiday

#### MESSAGE FROM PYP

As we conclude our first semester, it is wonderful to look back at all we have achieved since July 27th. What an incredible first half of the year! We have successfully navigated 6 months of online learning with an enormous amount of resilience and determination and we have experienced the fruits of our labours in the resounding success our learners have experienced in all their subjects. It has definitely been challenging for all our students but by and large, they have managed to carve out for themselves, a place in this new learning landscape that allows them to demonstrate what they know, what they understand and most importantly what they can do.

Perhaps the greatest gift that has come from this whole experience so far, is the level of reflection that our students all demonstrate - something that has really developed over the last six months. Not only are our students thinking about how they learn the best and determining what they need from their teachers and their parents; but they are looking inside to understand how they learn and what adjustments they need to make on a daily basis to allow them to have the best learning experience possible. This is something that we all strive to develop in our students but it is possibly the most difficult learning to impart.

School has most definitely taken on a different look from one day to the next, from one week to the next, and I think we can all say quite confidently, that the partnership we so ardently strove for between home and school has most definitely been established and strengthened. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our wonderful parents, for supporting us in this endeavour. Your commitment to this partnership, to the growth and development of our child's learning has enabled us to play our part so confidently. It has not been easy but it has been possible because of the trust and respect we have for each other

and the important part we each play.

This semester has seen many lovely assemblies through which we have acknowledged the work of our students through the Class level celebrations. It has been wonderful to see the units of inquiry and all the learning that has taken place. We have also celebrated our participation in JISMO, the Virtual Run, the SIGS and of course our Learner Profile awards. We have celebrated national holidays and special STUCO events like Crazy Hair Day. We have enjoyed challenges and competitions and just recently, we enjoyed the Santa Challenge Drive Thru where so many of our students were able to receive their challenge from Santa and see their teachers as well. This has been a great semester!!

I look forward to seeing you all in 2021 when we will be welcoming our Expat teachers to Surabaya. Ms Caitlin Wheeler (PYP 4 & 5) has already arrived from Vietnam and Mr Zack (PYP 2), Ms Lisa (PYP 3 & 4) and Ms Bianca (PYP 6) will all be here in January from South Korea, New Zealand and Brazil. Our last arrival will be our newest addition to the Sekolah Ciputra family, Ms Gillian (PYP 5) who will come to us from Canada during Term 3. We are so excited about welcoming them all to Indonesia and to finally have our full teaching team in the country. These teachers have all done an amazing job working remotely in different countries and in different time zones.

As you and your children look forward to a well earned holiday over the Christmas break, I hope you are able to reflect on this first part of the year with fond memories and warm thoughts as I do. I wish you all a very happy and relaxing holiday and I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2021.

Christine Stayte
PYP Coordinating Principal



On 10<sup>th</sup> December, the High School celebrated Human Rights Day. Our Global Politics students made a video affirming the importance of human rights, and why they are particularly under threat in the current environment. Our students were then given the opportunity to promote, engage and reflect about human rights.

The following excerpt is a statement by the United Nations on the importance of the day:

This year's Human Rights Day theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by

ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.

10<sup>th</sup> December is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Under UN Human Rights' generic call to action "Stand Up for Human rights", we aim to engage the general public, our partners and the UN family to bolster transformative action and showcase practical and inspirational examples that can contribute to recovering better and fostering more resilient and just societies.

Mr. Stuart Global Politics teacher

#### MESSAGE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Students,

Nothing has changed with regards to online learning at Sekolah Ciputra - we continue to explore, develop and deliver learning via our online platform.

As we did in Term 1, we have managed to successfully complete a number of activities without students actually being at school. Highlights of Term 2 include staff online professional development (Oct & Nov), virtual assemblies (organised and run by Grade 11 students), the school's combined IB reauthorisation and WASC accreditation visit (12-16 Oct), our student-led conferences (26-28 & 30 Oct), Tournament of Eagles (2-28 Nov - a wonderful student-led initiative), Board of Trustees meeting (23 Nov), Grade 12 oral exams (23-27 Nov), Semester 1 reports (17 Dec) and our virtual Parent Teacher Conferences (18 Dec). Again, all the events mentioned were successful and demonstrated a willingness from teachers and students to explore educational opportunities outside of the virtual classroom.

The educational canvas for teachers has undergone a huge transformation due to the pandemic. Responding to chat messages or emails at any time of the day, helping and supporting parents (learning with technology workshops), turning up and continuing to deliver lessons day in and day out. This is their job. This is what teaching now looks like. What you won't see is the weight of worry that teachers are feeling about their students. Teachers feel responsible for the learning and the well-being of each one of their students. With students having become untethered from their classrooms, teachers talk about how they miss seeing their students every day. They worry about their social and emotional welfare. They explore and experiment with new

teaching strategies, hoping to keep your child engaged in learning. They continue to reach out to students and families that don't respond. They call students to offer them words of encouragement and reassure them.

I am proud of these teachers. To completely rework what teaching looks like, to work tirelessly to connect to students and families and to do it with passion, flexibility and grace shows me how deeply invested they are in teaching and nurturing the High School students of Sekolah Ciputra, i.e. your children!

Semester 1 report cards will be shared with parents on 17 December. We hope that parents use the Semester 1 break to discuss (with their child) their progress throughout Semester 1 and discuss any concerns with teachers. I encourage all parents to stay connected with the school as we know that your involvement has a positive impact on student learning and social well-being.

As I write this article, we are approaching our 3-week Semester 1 break (19 Dec-10 Jan). I would like to thank students, staff, and parents for contributing to the Sekolah Ciputra High School community that we are all so proud to be part of. We have had another successful term with many opportunities for our students to demonstrate their amazing talents and passions.

Please keep an eye out for any emails from us regarding plans for a phased return of students for face-to-face teaching in Semester 2.

Best wishes for the upcoming break - be safe!

Terry Swain
High School Coordinating Principal

#### Alumni Corner

### Naufal Kharisma Wiranandatama

Class of 2017



Where did you go to university? What are you studying? Can you please share your experience applying to the uni?

I went to Airworks Aviation Academy that's located in the Philippines. I'm studying Aviation, trying to pursue my dreams to become a Pilot. I had no trouble applying to this school, all I needed was a medical certificate and passed an English proficiency test.

What was the best thing about Sekolah Ciputra? Tell us something memorable from your time at Sekolah Ciputra.

I have a lot of memorable moments in Sekolah Ciputra. Most of them are from all the camping trips we did in High School. I also enjoyed all the sporting events such as Athletics day, Ball games, Swimming Carnival, and events held by OSIS. I was also a part of the DBL team. Even though we didn't win, it was a fun and unique experience.

What advice would you give to a graduating student? I might not be the best person to go to for advice, but learning from experience, don't waste any time. Pick something you're truly passionate about and put your heart and mind into it. Trust the process and try to have some fun while you're at it.

## Would you recommend Sekolah Ciputra to others? If yes, what would you say about it?

Yes. The good thing about studying in Sekolah Ciputra is that they focus on both academics and non-academics studies. Their Diploma Programme could also help you to get into the University of your dreams. Some people might think that studying is boring, but with the help of the teachers and the facilities that they offer, studying can be fun.

#### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I really enjoy hanging out with my friends while discussing the current issues happening around the world. I also love playing basketball and occasionally play online games.

#### Anything else you would like to share?

Be open-minded to new ideas. The learning never stops.

