



The Highlander Review

SEKOLAH MENENGAH SWASTA SALEHA GENTING HIGHLANDS & HIGHLANDS INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL
CO-EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL (ESTD.1999)

Message from the Director of Studies

At the start of the year, I had the privilege to take up the position of Director of Studies at this school. The post has proved a considerable challenge – as I expected it to be. For example, I was initially surprised by the difficulties many students had with written and spoken English, although I realise this is a situation common to most Malaysian schools.

Whether we like it or not, we live in an increasingly global world, a world in which the main language of communication is English. This could change in the future

as China becomes more and more powerful, but we are some way from that day at present. Without effective English, students here will not be able to maximize their achievements, not just in passing exams but in their future lives and work. I have recently been reading a play called *Roots* with my extra-curricular Play Reading Society. One of the characters describes words and language as “.....bridges, so that you can get safely from one place to another. And the more bridges you know about, the more places you can see.” Mastery of language expands our horizons as well as our vocabulary.

It is equally important to be fluent in Bahasa Melayu, especially for our Sekolah Menengah Saleha students. And we all need to be as numerate as possible. This is why we have this year introduced extra classes in BM, Mathematics and English to meet the needs of students who require most help with these subjects. It would be dishonest to say that these classes have been universally popular. But we are not here to be popular. We are here to provide as comprehensive a programme of education as possible. The more responsible students have recognised this and benefited from the extra tuition.

Education – particularly in a boarding school – is also about being given the chance to grow up. Of course, we want our students to leave with the best possible grades. We also, though, want to see our students develop as people as they progress through the school. We want everyone to realise their potential in sporting and cultural activities, and to promote the values of honesty, consideration and humanity. The teachers here are dedicated and committed to supporting these values.

One of the ways we can do this is to stress the international and multi-cultural aspects of the school. We have teachers from several countries. I myself am British,



Mr. Michael Edward Mellor, Director of Studies

although I now have a home and family in Malaysia. We have students from many countries, from China, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Bangladesh, South Korea and Indonesia, as well as from Malaysia. We have students and teachers with contrasting faiths and beliefs. We aim to create a tolerant atmosphere in which we can all learn from each other.

We have also recently welcomed students on short courses from South Korea and Japan. Earlier in the year, students and teachers from a school in Indonesia visited us. This is all part of a conscious attempt to expand our international horizons and broaden the scope of the work we do here.

On a personal note, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with the staff and students over the last few months. It has not all been plain sailing, nor should it be. However, the rewards of working in such an environment have more than made up for any problems.

Finally, I would like to wish all students the best of luck in the end of year exams and, for those leaving us this year, a successful and happy future.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Principal

Mr. Chee Peng Soo, PMP

Director of Studies

Mr. Michael Edward Mellor

The Board of Governors

Mr. Tee Kok Bin

Mr. Umar Bin Man, PKT

Mr. K. Haridas

Mr. Chee Peng Soo, PMP

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sekolah Menengah Swasta Saleha, Genting Highlands

Highlands International Boarding School

10KM Genting Highlands

69000 Genting Highlands

Pahang Darul Makmur

Tel: +603-61001688

Fax: + 603-61003688

Email: aphem@po.jaring.my

Website: www.smsaleha.edu.my

www.hibs.edu.my

Blog: <http://yeshibsaleha.blogspot.com>

Petaling Jaya Office

15, Jalan Changgai (6/22)

46000, Petaling Jaya

Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: +603-79569311

Fax: +603-79569355

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ANNUAL CAMP



The **Annual Camp** was held on 1st May at Awana Resort, Genting Highlands. 68 students from both Saleha and HIBS took part in the camp. The students were energetic and enthusiastic throughout the camp. A number of challenging activities were arranged which included leadership skills, teamwork, Night Owling and Back to Nature Trail. Students participated in each activity with full zeal and zest. They accepted all challenges and proved to be truly HIGHLANDERS. The event ended on 3rd of May.



Excellence Day

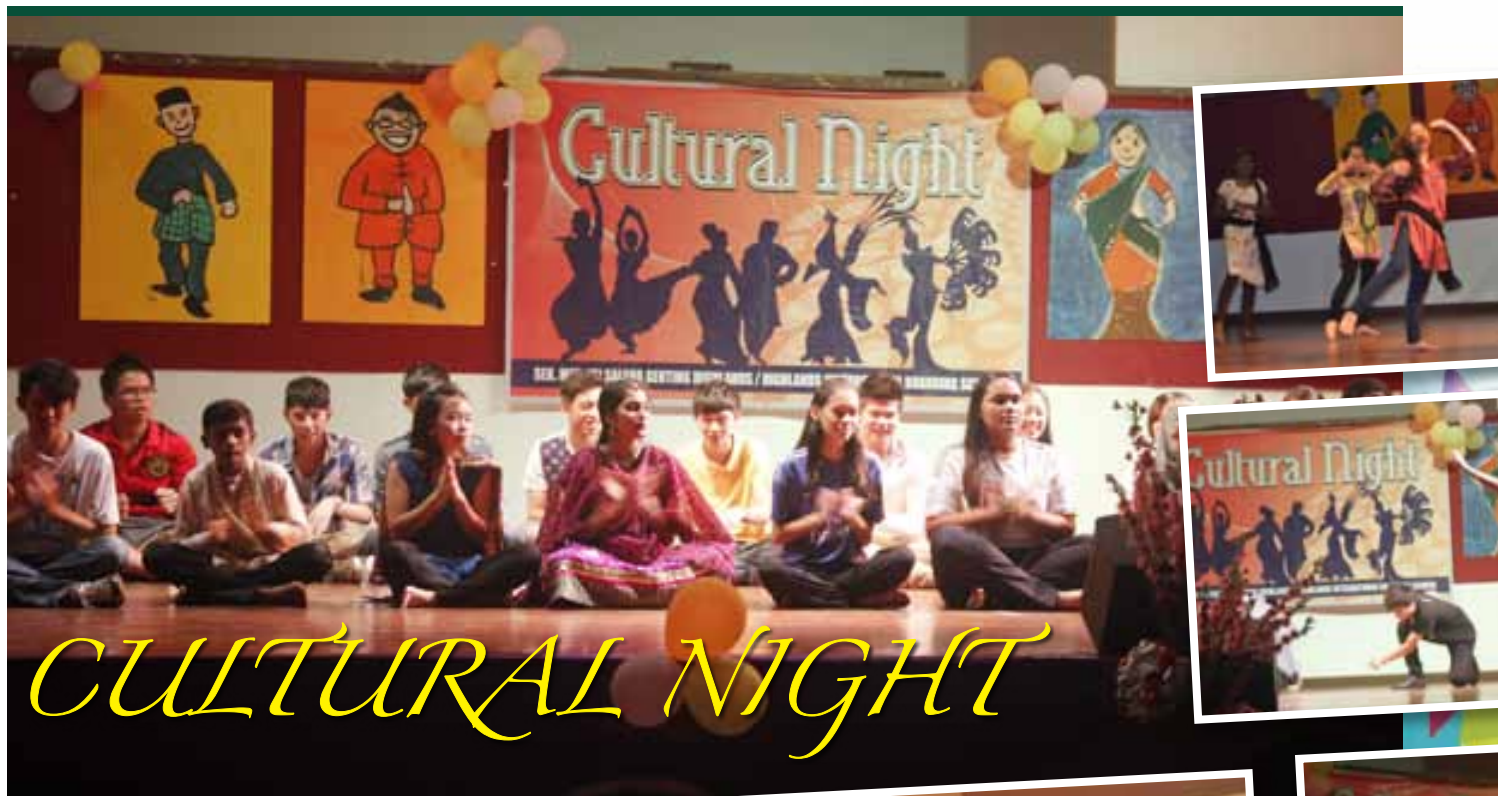


The school held its annual **Excellence Awards Ceremony** on 31st May. Awards were given not only for academic excellence, but for loyalty to the school and achievements in sport, extra-curricular activities and leadership in the boarding halls. The Gold Medal went to Chong Sue Ann who gained 10 Grade 'A's in her SPM exams.

Hari Raya Dinner



Our **Hari Raya Dinner**, to celebrate the occasion of this time of piousness and peace was celebrated on 9th August. Haji Umar Bin Man graced the occasion as guest of honour. The invitees were welcomed to the well adorned hall with traditional Kampung music. The celebration started with a prayer by Ustaz Afandi and followed by a variety of performances. Students and teachers sang Hari Raya songs. The feast, obviously, was the most dominating part of the function. The event ended with a colourful firework display.



CULTURAL NIGHT

Cultural Night celebration was scheduled on 21st June and it was truly an amazing event. Students, teachers and guests gathered at the multi-purpose hall after a sumptuous feast. The students, teachers and guests dressed in appropriate style made the night feel truly exotic and full of tradition. There were various highlights. The Japanese dance and singing performed by our students were noticeably dazzling. Teamwork as usual, made the night's celebration a great success.



STUDENTS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



The school's regular **Malaysian-Japanese student cultural exchange programme** took place from 3rd June to 12th June. 18 female students from our school accompanied by Mr. Azeman, Mr. Aw Sai Hong and Madam Pajan from our school were chosen for the visit to the Fukuyama Akenohoshi Girls Junior and High School in Japan.

Students were selected on a first come, first served basis and they were required to answer a few questions related to their interest of going to Japan before being selected. The trip was a success whereby the students learned about Japanese culture and most importantly students had a chance to understand the lifestyle and daily routine of the Japanese students

English Camp



From 25th July to 22nd August we had two groups of students from Korea and Japan come to HIBS to participate in an intensive **English Camp** hosted by the school.

The schedule was hectic but the visiting students and teachers from HIBS were able to successfully pull it off. The Highlanders soon made fast friends and mingled with their new guests. The Korean Students also participated in co-curricular activities organized by the school. A fantastic time was had by all and in December we are expecting another group of Korean students to come.



as they were given an opportunity to stay with some of the Japanese students and their families for 6 days. During the last two days of the trip, students were taken for sightseeing of the historical and famous places such as Hiroshima Memorial Park, Miyajima Island, Nijo Castle, Kinkaku (The Golden Pavilion) and other places including Fukuyama itself. Students enjoyed the cultural programme, especially the company of their adopted families.

Students had the opportunity to spend time at school where they learned new things such as archery, origami, cooking, manga drawing and *koto* or tea ceremony classes.

TEACHERS' DAY



Teachers' Day was held on 16th May. Students were anxiously waiting for their teachers at the multi-purpose hall. As the teachers entered the hall, students offered tokens of appreciation to their teachers. A number of stunning performances were presented by our students. All the teachers pledged that they will inspire the young generation, providing modern up to date education while inculcating moral values. To round off the day, friendly football and netball matches were played between teachers and students.

ENTREPRENEURS' DAY



The **Entrepreneurs' Day** fell on 23rd August. The event was organized by the enthusiastic students of form 4 and Year 10. There were 7 food stalls and a number of games. The song dedication facility was an integral part of the event. The roti canai stall, hotdog stall and the Ice Bucket Challenge booth were the most popular of the day. The excellent teamwork of form 4 and year 10 students made this event as a great success.

VISIT TO MALAYSIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



On Sunday 18th May, Mr Mellor and Mr Azeman took ten students to Dewan Filharmonik Petronas for a performance by the **Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra**.

The concert was entitled *Brilliant Brothers* as it featured the brothers Timothy and Nikki Chooi both playing the violin. Students heard works by Bach, Saint-Saens, Bruch and Tchaikovsky.



AMBANG MERDEKA



Independence and freedom is the fundamental right of every human being. Our school celebrated the **National Independence Day** on 30th August. The event began with a variety of performances by our students. They sang a number of patriotic songs, followed by an amazing slideshow about the history and independence of Malaysia.

Beautiful videos of patriotism and harmony were shown which were equally enjoyed by students and staff. An exhibition showing students' drawing related to Malaysia's independence was also held. Students also participated in an essay writing competition about Malaysian Independence. Prizes were given to the winners of the drawing and essay writing competition.

The event concluded with the start of the countdown at 11:50 pm reaching its climax when all students chanted 'Merdeka' seven times at the stroke of midnight in honour of that historical declaration. The 'Negeraku' was then enthusiastically sung by all students, teachers and staff.

