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Welcome to the August edition of the Tuart College International Newsletter. I have pleasure in introducing myself as Principal of Tuart College. I commenced my role in April upon the retirement of Mr John Anderton who had completed 11 successful years in this role. I have enjoyed a 25 year educational career in Western Australia with a range of teaching and senior positions in both rural and urban locations.

Most recently I was foundation principal of Ellenbrook Secondary College, a new school in the developing north eastern sector of our capital city Perth. Ellenbrook is a large educational facility which features innovative educational partnerships, specialist educational programs, a focus on educational excellence and comprehensive student support and staff development programs. It is pleasing to observe that these enviable educational features underpin the strengths of Tuart College and the successes achieved by the students undertaking our international education programs.

Tuart College has built an enviable reputation as a college of excellence and I acknowledge the caring and professional approach taken by the staff and the dedicated and committed efforts of our international students in achieving these outcomes. I look forward to working with the Tuart community in developing the College as it responds to the changing educational landscape, while continuing to provide outstanding educational programs and services for our international students.

Scholarship awards recognise and distinguish the academic and performance standards attained by students who have consistently demonstrated high achievement and commitment to their studies. On behalf of the College community I congratulate the following students who received their 2010 scholarship award at the presentation ceremony held on 16 June.

Full Scholarships were awarded to Miss Fong Kim Mei (Malaysia), Mr James Ling Lung (Malaysia) and Mr Low Chuen Siang (Malaysia).

Partial Scholarships were awarded to Miss Novi Setia Budiastutik (Indonesia), Mr Jeremy Chia Zhihao (Malaysia), Miss Law Yih Lim (Malaysia), Miss Julia Lim Kin Hoey (Malaysia), Mr Johnson Ling Chia Bao (Malaysia), Mr Stanley Teng Yang Yang (Malaysia), and Miss Wong Yee Ling (Malaysia).

Partial Scholarships to final year students who studied the Bridging Program at Tuart in 2009 were awarded to Miss Dang Thanh Giang Nguyen (Vietnam) and Mr He Longsu (PRC).

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our international Fast-Track WAUFP and Bridging program students who commenced at Tuart in June and July respectively. I wish you all the best for your studies and encourage you to work closely with your lecturers and the International Students Office (ISO) staff to ensure you are comfortable with your studies and clarify any queries that may arise.

It is important that students who are studying the WACE and WAUFP programs identify the university and degree program they wish to undertake in 2011. To assist in this process the College will hold our Education Expo in August which will feature all Western Australian Universities and TAFE Colleges. This provides students with the opportunity to collect information about the programs and services provided by these institutions and make comparisons between them. Students are encouraged to speak with ISO staff who will assist you in sourcing and interpreting information you require when making decisions about your 2011 study options.

I encourage you all to remain focused and dedicated to your studies and future educational goals. Take the opportunities available to you as international students and enjoy the positive experiences that both Tuart College and the wider Perth community have to offer. I look forward to our WAUFP and WACE students’ successful completion of studies at Tuart in 2010, and trust you will achieve results that provide access to your chosen university and degree program in 2011.

Thank you to all the staff for your efforts this year to date and to the international students for your own contributions to the College and campus life we all enjoy. I wish you all an engaging second semester as we work towards completing the 2010 academic year.

Leigh Cottrill

Principal
The Western Australian Universities’ Fast-Track Foundation Program is, as the name suggests, an intensive study program. Students commence their studies in early June and complete their final examinations in December, and, if successful, enrol at university the following year. Because of the short duration of the course, students must be very focused in their studies and must also have a high level of understanding of the subjects they will study. Eligibility for university entrance is determined solely on the results of the examinations that are held at the end of the program.

This year’s Fast-Track students are a lively, interested and interesting group of young people. They have adapted quickly to the demands of life in another country and are also showing enthusiasm in their classes. While most of the students are from Indonesia, the cultural mix extends to Zambia, Kenya, Malaysia and PRC. The interaction between the students is all part of the international education experience and becomes an unexpected benefit of studying away from home.

Most of the students’ lessons are held in the College, however the ELACS class has had a couple of excursions in recent weeks. This has given them the opportunity to have a more ‘hands on’ experience, as they have visited the Electoral Commission and also the Fremantle Prison.

May’s International Student of the Month was Mr Vo Thien Dai (Dan) who commenced in the Flying Start Program in February 2010. He is very conscientious, produces excellent work, has a bright personality and a willingness to help others. In his Term One Interim Report, he received ‘Excellent’ for his attitude and performance in all subjects—which happens very rarely! The International Student Office believes that Dan will achieve outstanding success in his future.

Miss Chau Van Nhu (Alice) was the June International Student of the Month. Throughout her introductory program, 10 Week ECAAS, Alice has displayed great interest and a positive attitude towards her studies. Her teachers have been impressed by her pursuit of knowledge, made apparent by her enthusiasm, her excellent work habits and the high level of effort that has gone beyond the standard requirements of the tasks. The International Student Office congratulates Alice on what she has achieved so far and encourages her to continue these high standards in the future.

One of the students in the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) program was chosen as the August International Student of the Month. Mr Low Chuen Siang (Eugene) was awarded a scholarship to study at Tuart for 2010 and, in Semester One, has already proven himself to be a worthy recipient. He received an A for each subject, had perfect attendance and was described as “motivated”, “focused” and “enthusiastic” by his teachers. The International Student Office is confident that Eugene will be very successful in his final examinations and will have wonderful opportunities offered to him next year.
Making a good start

The last months have been a busy time in the International Student Office as four new groups of students have commenced their studies at Tuart College. In April, both the April Start WAUFP students and the 30 Week Bridging students began in the College. The next group to arrive was the Fast-Track WAUFP students and then, just a few weeks later, the 18 Week Bridging students also became part of the Tuart community.

Even though the Orientations that each group experienced varied in length and location, all students were given the opportunity to get to know the ISO staff, meet each other and form new friendships, gain specific information about their study programs at Tuart – and hence, settle in quickly to the routines and requirements of their new classrooms.

Some of the students were fortunate enough to be accompanied by their parents when they first came to Perth. The parents enjoyed the opportunity to see the College, the homestays and parts of Perth before returning home, knowing that their children were in a safe and comfortable environment.

Orientation allows students the chance to ask questions, to become accustomed to the new people they are meeting and the new ways in which things may be done – and all at a relaxed pace, before the classroom learning begins. For these reasons – and so many more – Orientation is a really important time for all international students.
In the blink of an eye the first semester of 2010 has passed, and with it, all our students will have received a statement of results and a report from their teachers. This is an opportune time for students to reflect on their performance and look to the future to determine the best ways in which they can make the best of their remaining time at Tuart College.

A number of facilities and services are provided at Tuart College to help students maximize their academic performance. The most obvious resource that students should use is their classroom teachers. Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek help from their teachers and in most cases their teachers will be happy to provide them with assistance outside of normal class hours. In a more formal way, students can access help in specific subject areas through the Learning Centre which is located in the College Library. At various times across the timetable, subject specialist teachers are available to answer questions and provide help with study and assignment preparation.

The College Library is a great physical resource, with extended opening hours to cater for our university-style timetable. Being open from 8am until 8pm from Monday to Thursday and from 8am until 5pm on Fridays gives students a great opportunity to access the wide range of resources and seek assistance from the ever helpful librarians. Importantly, our library is open during our holiday periods and prior to our examination periods on weekends, giving students every opportunity to fulfill their academic potential. The library staff also offers students study skill and exam preparation courses, enabling them to develop their skills outside of the classroom.

International students in the WAUF and WACE programs can enrol in the revision seminars which will be held at Tuart College during the next vacation period, immediately prior to the second semester examinations. These seminars will provide students with materials, skills and techniques which will be invaluable in their preparation for the exam period.

A final resource which is sometimes overlooked by students is the College intranet website. This can be accessed by students from both inside and outside the College and houses a wealth of subject specific information. This ranges from past exam papers to course outlines and materials that can be downloaded for revision purposes. I would also encourage Year 12 students to use the resources available online from the Curriculum Council of Western Australia. This is particularly important for those subjects that have been introduced to the curriculum for the first time this year in the WACE and WAUFP.

In the April edition of our International Newsletter in 2009, I commented on the possible outcomes of the Global Financial Crisis on international education in Australia and the importance of holding a world view in education. Since that time, the Australian Government has responded to a number of issues in the international education arena. These responses have resulted in significant changes to government policy; most significantly, the shift in pathways to permanent residency and the development of the Skilled Occupation List. As Tuart College has primarily prepared students for a university education, these recent changes have not had the great impact that has been felt in the VET sector. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Tuart college has close to 25 years of experience in educating international students and the quality and assurance that is provided by being a government institution places us in a sound position to move forward in a period of change in the Australian international education market.

Phil Levitzke,
ISO MANAGER

Deteksi Winners Come to Perth

Last year, Perth Education City (PEC) sponsored the Deteksi Convention Journalist Blog Competition in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Two of the winning student journalists were then hosted by Tuart College for their two week visit to Perth in April 2010. The College provided one week’s English tuition and homestay accommodation for the whole visit. The students were taken to many places of interest in Perth by PEC, including a trip to the Swan Valley and a barbecue in Kings Park.

Miss Cinthya Cihendra and Miss Zammira Zatadin enjoyed the time they spent in the College and also in Perth.
Western Australian Department of Education Scholarship Presentation

After two days of grey skies and rain, the clouds disappeared and the sun shone on the Tuart College scholarship presentation which was held on Wednesday 16th June. The scholarship winners looked fantastic, as can be seen from the photograph, and happily celebrated the occasion with lots of smiles.

Mr James Webb, Director, Schools, Swan District Office, Western Australian Department of Education, was the Guest of Honour. Both he and Mr Ian Hanger, the College’s Vice Principal, reminded the students that the value of their scholarships is more than monetary, as they also provide opportunities to explore paths they may not have initially considered. The students were also congratulated for the contributions they make to College life and challenged to set their own high standards, just as previous winners have done.

Visiting the College

In May, Tuart College hosted a group of agents from China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brazil. They were accompanied by an ETI representative, and spent several hours in the College enjoying meeting some of the students, visiting some classrooms, touring the College’s facilities and having lunch.

The Principal, Mr Parningotan Simanullang, and Deputy Principal, Mr Dwi Eka Kartika, of SMA Negeri 5 School in Balikpapan, Indonesia, along with IDP agent Mrs Lili Kusama Chandra visited the College in June. They met with the Vice Principal, Mr Ian Hanger, Deputy Principal Development, Mr James Kent, and ISO Manager, Mr Phillip Levitzke to learn about the College’s programs and to formally enter a sister school relationship between the two institutions. It is anticipated that the relationship will develop educationally and culturally in the coming years.

Mrs Li Ping Wilson and Tuart College Management worked together to arrange for the Principal of Tianjin No 21 Middle School, Mr Pang Wei, and the Vice Head of Educational Bureau of Heping District, Tianjin, Madame Yu Zeng Hui, to visit the College in July. Fifteen students from the school were also in Perth at the same time for a study tour, involving some English lessons at Tuart College, combined with a range of activities and outings, including a tour of the University of Western Australia, a trip to the Swan Valley – and shopping!!
As a way of welcoming back the students who had studied in the College in Semester One and saying hello to the new students who commenced their studies in Semester Two, the Big Lizard Day Out was a great success. Attractions such as a bouncy castle and baby farm animals gave students an opportunity to have some ‘hands on’ fun. There was also a dancing demonstration (with some audience participation) and a sausage sizzle at lunchtime. The visiting students from Tianjin enjoyed the ‘party’ atmosphere, as did everyone else who was involved.