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Welcome to the June 2011 Tuart College International Newsletter. It is my great pleasure to acknowledge and welcome to the College our international student cohort for this year. Our students have settled well into their Western Australian Universities’ Preparatory Program (WAUFP), Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) and Bridging programs. I also extend a warm welcome to the international students who have recently commenced the Fast-Track WAUFP. This program’s Orientation began on June 1st and classes commenced on Tuesday 7th June, following our Foundation Day Public Holiday on Monday 6th June.

We are privileged this year to have a range of international students from a broad cross section of countries studying with us. This diversity, along with our local students, provides a strong multicultural learning environment at Tuart College, one that has many benefits for our students. The College is proud of the way it integrates the international and local students in classes to provide mutual learning benefits for all where students can share their unique strengths and experiences with each other.

Tuart College has a proud reputation, built over 25 years, in providing international education programs. Our prime objective continues to be that we ensure our international students achieve their educational goals in a supportive, comprehensive and responsive learning environment. It is important to us that our international students grow and mature as independent learners and are well prepared for their future tertiary studies. The College’s dedicated International Student Office (ISO) staff provide valuable individual guidance to our international students, along with a range of support programs and activities.

International students’ interim reports were posted out to parents or agents in April. The reports provide an overview of each student’s progress and are carefully reviewed by the College’s ISO staff to monitor each student’s progress and follow up any students who may need support or guidance with their academic program. It is pleasing to note the excellent progress students in general have made in their academic studies.

To all our international students, I encourage you to continue diligent and focused approach to your work. The continued application of hard work and dedication now, will hold you in good stead for the remainder of the academic year. Please ensure you ask for any assistance required as soon as needed and continue to work closely with your teachers who are only too happy to assist you.

The overall results of the international students in 2010 WAUFP and WACE was pleasing, with the majority of students achieving the results they required to enter their chosen tertiary program. Congratulations to our top WAUFP and WACE students (shown Page 3) who achieved highly commendable results. There were, of course, many others who also achieved excellent results and can be proud of their achievements.

On behalf of the staff at Tuart College, may I wish all of our international students a productive and successful year. We are looking forward to another outstanding year from you and hope you take every opportunity to not only apply yourselves academically but also enjoy and learn from the many cultural and social experiences you encounter throughout the year.

Leigh Cottrill
PRINCIPAL

Scholarship Presentation

The 2011 scholarship recipients were presented with their certificates at an afternoon tea attended by Mr James Webb, Regional Executive Director, North Metropolitan Education Region, Western Australian Department of Education; Mr Leigh Cottrill, Tuart College’s Principal; and Mr Phillip Levitzke, Tuart College’s Manager of the International Student Office. The students ‘dressed up’ for the occasion and enjoyed starring in the many photographs that were taken – and eating the delicious afternoon tea that was their reward!
HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR TUART COLLEGE STUDENTS

The 2010 Tuart College international graduates have gained entry to a wide range of courses in Australian and international universities. Some students have chosen universities that ‘twin’ with others, and so will study in Dublin and Penang, or Kuala Lumpur and the UK. The Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) was studied by most of the international students, though once again, a number chose the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Students listed below achieved very high scores, placing them in the top 5% of students in Western Australia. They, along with most of their fellow classmates, will be entering courses such as Medicine, Podiatry, Pharmacy, Design, Economics, Engineering and Commerce.

The staff of Tuart College congratulates all of the 2010 group on their achievement and wishes them every success in the continued expansion of their horizons.

A NOTE ABOUT ATAR AND CPS

WACE students receive an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). It is not an average percentage. The highest ATAR is 99.95. Students with this ATAR are in the top 0.05% of Year 12 students. WAUFP students receive a Combined Percentage Score (CPS), an average of the scores of the best three subjects. It is not converted to an ATAR; however, if it were, a CPS of 75 would convert to an ATAR of approximately 95. On this basis, over 28% of Tuart’s 2010 WAUFP students were in the top 5% of WA’s Year 12 students.
WHY IS ORIENTATION SO IMPORTANT?

Orientation allows students to adjust to their new environment before they have to cope with the added pressure of beginning their studies. During the orientation period, the pace is usually quite relaxed. Even though students have a lot to do – such as listen to all sorts of information, do an English test, complete forms, make decisions about the subjects they will study, open bank accounts, select their long term accommodation – they also have lots of time together just getting to know each other. This happens during all the formal activities as well as at meal times and on casual outings to places like Fremantle and Hillarys. In this way, friendships are formed – and these friendships can last a lifetime! Once the classes start and the pressure of homework and revision and tests is felt, the information that was gained and the friendships that are already in place make the world of difference!

As the photos on these pages show, the students quickly became friends – and the parents who join us also enjoy themselves.
It is with great pride that in 2011 Tuart College celebrates 25 years as a provider of high quality programs for international students. A major driver in the success of our students and longevity of the College is related to our status as a government institution. With the backing of a financially strong and politically stable government system, Tuart College has been in a privileged position to be able to offer international students the opportunities to study alongside Australian citizens in a fantastic learning environment.

Whilst we have no plans to celebrate this significant anniversary with great fanfare, I am sure some of our long-term associates will join us at the International Students’ Graduation during October, when we will reminisce about the great achievements of our students and those of the College.

In my relatively short time as the Manager of the International Student Office, I have seen many changes occur in the international education arena. The so-called ‘perfect storm’ brought about in recent times by the unfortunate collapse of a small group of institutions, tightening of DIAC regulations and the strength of the Australian dollar has resulted in the need to work proactively to secure new students. It is evident that traditional means of attracting students to the College may not be sufficient to maintain a sustainable population. With this in mind, Tuart College has embarked on a raft of initiatives in an effort to maintain a diverse and academically able student body.

Firstly, we have established a number of relationships with schools in Indonesia, China and Vietnam. In all cases, the relationships are mutually beneficial and all have the primary aim of providing a stream of high quality, well prepared students for the College.

The installation of state-of-the-art video and web conferencing hardware in the near future will enable Tuart College to reach more of our school partners and provide enriched teaching and learning experiences for them.

Although not a new idea, the College has been open to providing study tour programs to prospective students. In April, 2011, we hosted a small group of international students from SMUN 10, Melati, Samarinda in East Kalimantan. In June and August, we will welcome two more study tour groups to the College. These tours provide a taste of our curriculum, facilities, teaching methods and lifestyles that students will encounter if they decide to enrol in a full-time course in the future.

In conjunction with Perth Education City (PEC), the College has provided educational experiences for a number of competition winners. In May, 2011, Akhfhin Rahardhiyanto and Gofelin Stefik Karundeng, winners of the Deteksi Young Journalists competition in Indonesia, spent a week at the College developing their English language skills. In sponsoring these students, we have given them an opportunity to live the life of an international student in Australia and report back to Indonesia on a daily blog, as well as write articles for a daily newspaper in Surabaya.

Student recruitment for the College is dependent on the efforts of local education agents who have worked tirelessly in accompanying staff on their marketing trips overseas. Special mention must go to Mr William Chi and Mr Le Quang Vinh who have both ‘opened doors’ in China and Vietnam over a long period of time. The College and the many students that have been helped by these gentlemen are indebted to them for their diligence and hard work.

I am confident that through the efforts of our marketing staff and our local and international partners, Tuart College will continue to provide quality educational options for international students well into the future.

To receive a Government of Western Australia Curriculum Council Special Certificate of Distinction is an impressive achievement – and that is exactly what Julia Lim Kin Hoey received for her studies in Human Biological Science.

Julia, who previously studied at Jit Sin High School Penang, accepted a scholarship to study at Tuart College in 2010. Throughout her time in the College, she demonstrated her ability and dedication in all aspects of her study. Her commitment has resulted in an ATAR of 98.9 and a place to study Medicine at Monash Malaysia.

Congratulations, Julia!
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? SHARENE CHONG

Sharene Chong studied the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program at Tuart College in 2008. Even though she was one of our youngest students that year, she seemed to make the transition from Malaysia to Perth easily, no doubt because of her upbringing, her positive outlook, her focused desire to succeed – and the friends she met at Orientation, who are still friends today. Sharene gained entry to several universities, but after a lot of thought and weighing up of options, chose to study Medicine at the University of Tasmania, where she has, again, adapted well, worked hard and embraced her new environment. Here are her reflections about Tuart.

“I am not going to say my year at Tuart College is the best year of my life as I’ve still got a long way to go (I hope!), but I will certainly say that my year at Tuart was one of the best so far!

The College provided a comprehensive educational experience and the best part is I learnt to be independent and responsible for myself but at the same time, I knew that help was there for me whenever I needed it. The outstanding staff at Tuart College are experts in their respective fields and are willing to go the extra mile to ensure students make the most of their potential and get the very best from their education. Some of the things I like about Tuart College are the convenient location being close to the city and everything else, helpful staff, long opening hours of the library, as well as the excellent environment and facilities. It was also great to be able to mix with an amazingly diverse student body, and form friendships that remain today. My homestay experience, arranged by the College, was great and it truly felt like I was living in a home away from home. I sure miss Thelma very, very much.

This College is definitely the choice if you’re looking to get a holistic experience which looks into your academic, as well as personal, well being. Currently, I’m doing third year medicine at the University of Tasmania, while also working part time as a residential supervisor at the hostel where I live. Uni life has been really exciting this year as I begin to spend more time in the clinical environment.

To the current and future students at Tuart, I wish you all the best in your undertakings. Do make the best of your time in Tuart! To Phil, Ann, Peta, Robyn, Clare, Chris, Gary, Monica and all the wonderful staff and friends at Tuart, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my college life exceptionally wonderful.”

FANTASTIC! AMAZING! INCREDIBLE!

This is how the ten students from SMUN 10 Melati in Samarinda, Indonesia, described their study tour to Tuart College in April. The students, who were accompanied by their Principal, Vice Principal and two agents from IDP, had a ‘mini’ experience of living in Australia. They lived in homestays, travelled to the College each day on public transport, and attended English classes each morning. They also visited a high school, where they ‘taught’ a class of students learning Indonesian, toured a university campus and enjoyed some of Perth’s tourist attractions such as AQWA and Caversham Wildlife Park – and, of course, they went shopping!

We know that they will remember their time at Tuart College and we look forward to having some of them return to Tuart College as full-time students in the future.
Learning Made Fun in 15 Week Bridging

The 15 Week Bridging program’s main focus is the development of English language skills. The 2010/2011 program included a number of activities and excursions which provided students with additional ways to improve their English. The students and their English teachers, Chris and Lan Lowson, visited Penguin Island, Mandurah and Yanchep where they were able to see and interact with things they had previously researched and discussed in the classroom.

On another occasion they made Christmas cards and followed a recipe to make edible gifts, after having first researched various Christmas traditions. On the last day of the program, the students made kebabs and then cooked a barbecue lunch for themselves and their teachers, before being presented with their 15 Week Bridging Completion Certificates. The extra activities were really appreciated by the students and definitely assisted them to step more confidently into their next course at Tuart College.