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FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Welcome to the June 2012 Tuart College International Newsletter.

The year has begun well and the international students have adapted quickly to the new routines of living and studying away from their families, in a new country and a different education system.

In order to assist this process, the College has developed a number of support systems which benefit both its international and local students. The recent implementation of our Virtual Campus website provides students with access to our curriculum information and management system (Moodle software platform). This system allows students easy access to curriculum materials, internet links, course assignments and tasks and teacher communication.

Combining the resources of the Virtual Campus with our student Apple Airbook computer program now provides our students with an information and communication technology system which is second to none, and that can be accessed while at the College, or literally from anywhere in the world.

Another support system is the Learning Centre. Conveniently located in the Library, students can receive extra, individual help from the College’s highly qualified and experienced teaching staff to clarify aspects of subjects they are studying. Students find this personal tuition extremely valuable.

The College has also adopted a more informative style of formal reporting to students and parents. At the end of Term One each international student was given a Progress Report which outlined their overall progress in each subject and also rated aspects of their learning such as organisation, participation, work habits and work completion. In most instances, teachers also added a comment to guide the student on how to continue to make progress in Term Two.

All students have since been interviewed by ISO staff about their Progress Report to ensure that the report was understood and that students are acting on the advice given by their teachers. Copies of these reports were also posted to parents.

As well as the staff of the ISO who assist the international students academically and with other issues that may affect their lives, the College also has a professional counsellor who is available to assist students with enquiries about future study options and, if required, more personal enquiries.

Tuart College’s gymnasium provides another method of support for students. Exercise – whether it be following a program in the weights room or playing basketball, badminton, table tennis, soccer … - is an important part of wellbeing. The College’s Recreation Officer, Dane Richter, not only organises sporting activities and competitions, but also works with students to achieve personal fitness goals. Physical activity is a perfect complement for mental achievement.

I encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities provided in the College to make their time at Tuart an enjoyable and memorable one. Please continue your diligent and committed approach to your studies and I wish you the best for the remainder of Semester One this year.

Leigh Cottrill
PRINCIPAL

TUART COLLEGE
VIRTUAL CAMPUS

This year, Tuart College has extended the on-line support to its students. The Virtual Campus provides a portal to services provided by Tuart College and the West Coast Curriculum Collaborative. Services include subject learning resources, announcements and news, the student newsletters, library services, student support and much more – and can be accessed when students are at College or at home or anywhere that they can connect to the internet.

Students register in each of their academic courses and also in Student Support and ISO (if they are international students). This gives them access to valuable, extra materials to assist them in the study of their specific subjects – and also provides information about upcoming events in which the College is involved (such as a basketball competition with students from another college) or social events (such as the Perth International Student Festival) or study and tutoring support offered in the College.
Tuart College’s 2011 international graduates will be found in a wide variety of locations in 2012. Some will be completing their home country’s national service training, others will be commencing studies at university campuses in places such as Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Indiana (USA), Malaysia – and, of course, Perth – while others are still holidaying as they wait for courses which will commence later in the year.

As the information below indicates, the top students have achieved some outstanding results and have continued to demonstrate the quality of the teaching that is provided at Tuart College. The Fast-Track WAUP Program has gone from strength to strength. The students in this program have been well supported during their time in the College, as is reflected in the fact that five of them achieved a CPS above 80, placing them in the top 5% of students who studied university entry courses in Western Australia in 2011.

The staff of Tuart College extends their congratulations to all students in the 2011 group on their achievement and wishes them every success in the future as they expand their horizons further.

### TOP WACE STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>ATAR</th>
<th>Placement 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Benjamin Tay Hao Bai</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>Deferred due to National Service Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Zhan Hui Jun</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>94.65</td>
<td>University of Melbourne – Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Truong Truong Quyen Sinh</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>93.25</td>
<td>UWA – Biomedical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Deepa Balakrishnan</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>90.25</td>
<td>Curtin – Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOP WAUPP STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CPS</th>
<th>Placement 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Mr Rudi Purnomo</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>UNSW – Software Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ian Chhoa Tsun Shye</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>Curtin – Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Vo Thien Dai</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>UWA – Medicine (Assured Pathway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mr Arvind Selvaraja</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>Deferred due to National Service Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Xie Yanmin</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>University of Melbourne – Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Xu Jiayu</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>University of Melbourne – Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mr Joseph Banda</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>Not for Publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mr Dody Kurnianto</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>Monash – Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wang Jianghao</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>Purdue (USA) – Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ms Nathalie Christiansen</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>Monash – Accounting &amp; Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wang Jiangyu</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>UWA – Computer Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* denotes Fast-Track WAUPP

### A NOTE ABOUT ATAR AND CPS

Students who studied the 2011 Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) received an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). It is not an average. Instead, it is a number, calculated from the average of the scores of the best four academic subjects studied, which is used to rank students. The highest ATAR is 99.95 and means that students with this rank are in the top 0.05% of the Year 12 students in Australia.

The Combined Percentage Score (CPS), by which WAUPP students gain entry to university, is calculated from the average of the scores of the best three academic subjects that the student completes. The CPS is not converted to an ATAR for university entrance, however if it were, a CPS of 75 would convert to an ATAR of 95.

Therefore, it is worth noting that 33% of Tuart College’s WAUPP students achieved scores that placed them in the top 10% of Year 12 students in 2011.
ORIENTATION IS ABOUT MAKING CONNECTIONS

The phrase ‘making connections’ can have many different meanings. It can refer to gaining an understanding of how to do something or how something works, or it can refer to forming a friendship, or it can refer to a link between two things.

Attending orientation allows students to make many connections. All students ‘connect’ with other students at orientation, forming friendships that often last well beyond the time spent at Tuart College. These friendships help the students to feel more comfortable in a new school, a new city, a new country.

All students also ‘make connections’ during orientation using information they are given about the way things are done at Tuart College (such as subject content, methods of teaching and assessment, class structures, regulations ...) and what they have experienced in their previous schools.

At orientation, all students learn about Perth’s public transport system, open bank accounts, visit local shopping centres, Perth city and other places of interest – and in this way ‘connect’ with their new environment.

There are also family connections that lead students to Tuart and orientation. Piyadarshini Balakrishnan’s sister, Lavania, was in the class of 2009 and Julian Lu’s brother, Brian, was in the class of 2011. Now, Piya and Julian are part of Tuart’s class of 2012.

We all know that attending classes, completing homework and studying hard are things that contribute to being a successful student; but attending orientation – and making connections – should also be added to this list.
getting to know each other

Even grocery shopping is fun with friends

Sisters!

Don’t step backwards!

Dinner by the Swan River

Off to homestay at the end of Orientation

subject advice before enrolment

getting to know each other
FROM THE ISO MANAGER

Like many other education institutions, Tuart College takes pride in being innovative and proactive and, as such, it has been decided to provide introductory level English Language programs to both our local and international student cohorts. This innovation will allow students requiring ELICOS programs, traditionally those from China and Vietnam, to maintain a continuous program at Tuart College upon their arrival in Perth. This will provide a more stable study and homestay environment for these students. Greater detail on these programs will be sent to agents via e-Newsletters later in the year.

Again, like other schools and colleges, we do not operate in a vacuum and we have to respond to change which is generated from outside our institution. More often than not these changes come in the form of compliance to policies, rules and regulations which come from other government agencies. I have discussed some of these changes in other forums earlier this year but, due to their importance, I feel that I need to address them again.

The Knight Review of the student visa program has resulted in significant changes to the visa application process. One of the changes which has a perceived benefit for university bound students has been the implementation of the Streamlined Visa Package (SVP). This will result in prospective students being treated as though they are at Assessment Level One, regardless of the country of origin. In response to this change, the Western Australian Universities have decided to re-register the Western Australian Universities’ Preparatory Program (WAUPP) as the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP). The outcome of this re-registration is that students from Level Three countries wishing to enrol in the WAUFP under a 575 sub-class visa will have to have completed Year 11 and have an IELTS score of 5.5 prior to applying for their visa. This is a higher level of compliance than was required under the WAUPP when it fell under the 571 visa category.

On a local level, the Western Australian Department of Education has applied a policy pertaining to local students and to international fee-paying students at Tuart College. In simple terms, this means that in 2013 Tuart College will only be permitted to enrol international students who are between the ages of 16 and 17. From 2014, the College will be able to enrol international students who are over 16, 17, or those who will turn 18 after the 30th June of that year. Initially, this policy change will result in a decline in the international student population at the College, a factor that will increase the relative percentage of local students. This is likely to have a positive impact on learning outcomes for international students at the College.

It is possible that related policy changes made by the Department of Education may see a rise in the population of international students at Tuart College from 2014 and beyond.

In conclusion, it is clear that we live in a time where change is our constant companion. As a provider of quality education, Tuart College does its best to innovate changes to improve outcomes for its students and, when necessary, respond to imposed change in a common sense manner.

Phil Levitzke
ISO MANAGER

FAREWELL TO ANN

It is with mixed feelings that we inform you of the retirement of Ann Bignell. Ann first came to the then Tuart Hill High School in the 1970s, was here for its transition to Tuart College in 1982 and then became the assistant to the first coordinator of the newly created International Student Office in 1987. Ann has worked tirelessly in the ISO since then.

She has often been the first point of contact for students, parents, agents and visitors and her welcoming manner, professional attitude and caring nature have always shone through as she has performed her many duties. It is certain that the thousands of international students who have attended Tuart College will have fond memories of Ann and the help that she has given them over the years. She has definitely gone beyond the call of duty on innumerable occasions, providing support and care to students who have been in need.

The last friendships that Ann has developed with past staff and students, as evidenced by the many emails and ‘drop in’ visits she receives, is testament that Ann has treated her time in the ISO as more than just a job. We are certain that Ann will enjoy her well deserved and long overdue retirement, but her smiling face and ‘get the job done’ attitude will be greatly missed.

As one door closes, another opens – and so we would like to welcome Ms Diana Bruce to the ISO. Diana has worked in the College for a number of years and has had experience in ‘Ann’s chair’ in the past. We are confident that she will make her own, significant contribution to the ISO and that our international students will quickly appreciate her friendly and cheerful approach to all that she does.
At Tuart College healthy bodies as well as healthy minds are encouraged. The Gymnasium is, therefore, a popular place to be in the afternoons after classes are finished. Basketball is one of the activities that the students enjoy and love to compete in.

This year, two inter-College games have been played – and won – by the Tuart team.

Game One was held at Tuart College. With Canning College taking a clean-sweep in the basketball last year, Tuart College was keen to even the ledger as they came out guns blazing and asserted dominance early in the match. But a half-time pep talk boosted Canning’s morale and they fought back hard. Some excellent offence by Shakil Kolandasamy, Nathan Gartner and Gilbert Serem saw Tuart triumphant in a high-scoring 54-45 win.

Game Two, on Canning’s home turf, was a much tougher battle with Canning hungry for a win. Again Tuart started well and quickly established a 9 point lead by half-time. As the game resumed, Canning brought their A-game and closed the margin to level the score. For the rest of the game, Canning hovered just behind Tuart until some excellent defensive skills by Chendi Niu, Nico Anthony and John Nguyen forced a turnover. A clutch 3 pointer from Stefan Jovanovic sealed the game with a low-scoring 36-29 win.

Congratulations to all the Tuart players. We all look forward to the next challenge!

In early February a group of very talented students from Chengdu came to Perth, having won a competition. Tuart College hosted two of the students for their 2 week visit and provided homestay accommodation. As part of the program, the students visited various educational institutions and cultural and tourist places of interest. On the day they came to Tuart College they participated in an English class with a difference. As a way of developing their ‘Australiana’ knowledge, Chris Lowson taught them some Australian songs, such as “Waltzing Matilda” and “Kookaburra Sits in an Old Gum Tree”, which was sung in ‘rounds’ with students singing different parts of the song at the same time. The students quickly mastered the lyrics and their voices harmonized beautifully.

The students later performed the song at the farewell dinner that was arranged for them, and said that learning it had been a highlight of their Perth experience.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduating from Tuart College provides a ‘passport’ to enter into a wide range of undergraduate courses in Australia’s best universities. Two of our 2008 graduates share their stories of life at Tuart – and beyond.

Nguyen Thi Hong Diep came to Tuart College from Vietnam.

“I am Diep Nguyen. I am studying a Bachelor of Commerce at Curtin University and this is my last semester. I have been in Australia for four years and I would like to share with everyone my wonderful experience at Tuart College, as well as my stay in Perth throughout these four years.

In 2007, Tuart College provided me with an opportunity to come to Perth by offering me a scholarship for my Year 12 studies in the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program, for which I am always thankful. Before I came to Australia, I was a country girl who knew nothing about Perth. I had no idea where it was or what the city looked like. I imagined that Perth was a very big city with many people and busy roads like in an American movie I had watched. However, when I first arrived in Perth, everything was so different: Perth is, in fact, a very quiet and peaceful place. It may not be easy for you to accept its environment initially, but I am sure that you will love this place after a period of time. Now, after four years in Perth, I would say that with its natural beauty, good education systems and very friendly residents, Perth provides international students the best environment for their education.

I can still remember how I felt on my first day in Perth – very lonely and homesick. On top of that, I couldn’t speak English very well, I had no friends and relatives here, I didn’t know how to cook or find my way around – and my greatest fear was that I would fail my studies because of the language barrier.

I’m sharing my past fears with you not because I want to scare you, but I want you to know how meaningful Tuart College is to me. It is where I learnt my very first lesson about life in Perth, and it also helped me overcome the cultural barriers of living and studying in Australia. Although I had only 15 months at Tuart College, I gained a lot from my teachers and my friends. At Tuart College, students are provided with all necessary assistance to help them through their studies. What I really like about Tuart College is that the teachers are very warm and helpful and maintain close bonds with their students. They are always there to help solve problems – not only academically, but also in other aspects of life. They taught me how to plan my study and gave me skills to improve myself, which was very useful as these skills allowed me to easily adapt into university life. Knowledge that I gained from my study at Tuart College has proved to be vital and essential.

Furthermore, classroom and outdoor activities at Tuart College gave us many opportunities to establish long-lasting friendships with people from very different backgrounds and cultures. We were provided with various opportunities to interact and share with others. My favourite memory from my time at Tuart College was a surprise party for my 19th birthday from my teachers and friends; it was a very touching moment for me. What I gained from Tuart College was not just limited to academic knowledge, as I also experienced fun, love and friendship and how to be independent at the same time.

The result was that I achieved good scores in my Year 12 studies and I was offered a place in the Pharmacy course at Curtin. After one semester, however, I decided to change to a Commerce degree upon realising that Commerce is what I really wanted. I am happy with what I am doing now and I am completing my bachelor degree soon. Travelling by myself around Perth, cooking, communicating in English and feeling homesick are no longer my problems. Moreover, I have a part time job that helps with the costs of living in Perth.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Tuart College and all my teachers who provided me with a solid foundation for my education and my life in Perth. If you are looking for a good environment to study abroad, come to Perth and Tuart College. I am sure that you will have a great experience.”

Diep with her mother in Vietnam
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lee Pei Ying came to Tuart College from Kuching, East Malaysia.

“Studying at Tuart College has given me one of the best memories in life so far. I did the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) at the College in 2008. Thanks to the helpful staff members at the College, I adapted myself well to the new environment. Meeting new friends and getting familiar with my new surroundings during orientation, I found was a good start for my transition. ELACS was a very interesting way of learning English because it gave me insights to the Australian culture.

Tuart College provides quality education resources and facilities for students. My teachers were absolutely amazing. They were enthusiastic and often went the extra mile to provide help. With them being nice and approachable, it helped me with my study because I understood that while being independent is important, I could get some guidance when I needed. I also loved studying in a class with people from diverse backgrounds, including the Australian students, as there was so much I could learn from everyone.

I’m now doing 4th year Optometry at the University of Melbourne. I’ve recently started the clinical aspects of optometry. It can be challenging but I’m enjoying it. Besides that, I’m a member of the Student Ambassador Leadership Program (SALP) hosted by the university. It’s a structured program where members engage in volunteering activities in the community and the university, besides attending a series of seminars and workshops. My group is now working on the project promoting healthy eating and building a garden in a kindergarten in an inner Melbourne suburb. It is an exciting experience!

For students who are considering studying at Tuart, I’m sure you’ll love the experience! Explore your potentials and make the most out of it! To all my friends from Tuart College, your presence has been a gift that I truly cherish! To all the lovely ISO staff (Phil, Peta, Ann, Robyn), and to my wonderful teachers (Sandy, Kim, Eric, Serge, Chris, Clare), words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your guidance and support throughout my time at Tuart! My experience at the College is remarkably valuable and unforgettable.”

SO BEAUTIFUL! FUN! AND HOT!

February was a hot month in Perth as the students and staff from Jiamusi #2 Middle School found when they came to Tuart College for a study tour. Jiamusi City is in Heilongjiang province, in the north-eastern region of the People’s Republic of China. The average day temperature in Jiamusi in February is -7.3°C, so arriving to temperatures in the high 30s was quite a shock. However, the students coped admirably.

They enjoyed their English lessons in the air-conditioned classrooms of Tuart College, but also enjoyed experiencing just a few of the Perth’s highlights, such as getting wet at Cottesloe Beach, eating fish and chips at Fremantle, having a barbecue at Matilda Bay, feeding the kangaroos at Caversham Wildlife Park, sampling ice-cream and chocolate in the Swan Valley and visiting Curtin University and the University of Western Australia.

Tuart College really enjoyed hosting the study tour and meeting the students and the staff who accompanied them, Madam Wang Wei, Madam Zang Li and Mr Wang Chen.

Tuart College Principal, Leigh Cottrill, and ISO Manager, Phil Levitzke, welcomed the staff and students from Jiamusi #2 Middle School

Tuart College was presented with a banner from Jiamusi #2 Middle School at the end of the study tour

Kings Park provided a beautiful introduction to Perth
A MEMORABLE GIFT

In the ISO, we are very fortunate to be given many truly beautiful, thoughtful gifts that offer an insight into the countries and cultures they come from. One recent gift, given by current Year 12 WAUPP student Luo Yifei, was a set of postcards depicting an area of Chengdu. We decided they needed to be framed and displayed for the enjoyment of all who come to the College – and, as you can see, are really delighted with the final product.