Dear BINUSIAN Parents,

2012 has been packed with fun activities and learning on-the-go for the BINUSian community as a whole! Students, teachers and even parents all got involved in the myriad of activities that Term 3’s Annual Project and Exploration Week during the March holidays brought. Our teachers strive to provide novelty in learning to touch our students’ hearts and not only impacting their minds.

As we enter the last few weeks before the final examinations, let us fall back on our symbiotic partnership. Let’s work together, hand-in-hand towards ensuring the success of our children’s learning journey!

By Ms Maryam

Words from the Editor

Improving Your Child’s English

Here are some practical ways to improve our children’s English. Teachers and parents can practice these ways on a daily basis.

- Be a good model for our children
Children imitate what adults do; their actions and words. If we as adults model the correct uses of English in front of our children, they will definitely imitate the uses correctly and apply them properly.

- Encourage our children to write
Creating a journal frequently can help our children to express their ideas and feelings in an organized manner. This habit will boost their Writing skills as they are used to pouring out their thoughts on papers.

- Read to and with our children
Reading a variety of materials is one great way to increase and improve children’s vocabulary. They can learn many things through books. Let them choose reading material that interests them so they can find pleasure in reading.

- Expose our children to different varieties of English resources
Books, movies, music, educational websites/applications and TV programs as they are fantastic resources to enhance someone’s English skills. Learning English is not just acquired through worksheets and grammar practices, but through other mediums as well.

By Ms Leony

Brewing @BINUS

Did you know that our next batch of graduates will only be our third?

They have strived and worked hard at both the school assessments and Ujian Nasional 2012.

We wish all the UN students the very best during 7-9 May 2012.
What is Pinyin?

Chinese is not a phonetic language. The pronunciation is not related to the writing of Chinese words (characters). A special tool called Pinyin (pronouncing the sound) is created for people to learn Mandarin pronunciation. Pinyin is a way to transcribe Chinese characters so people can pronounce them. The writing of Pinyin is similar to the English alphabet.

Adapted from: [www.newconceptmandarin.com](http://www.newconceptmandarin.com)

Learning Mandarin: Pronunciation

If you listen carefully you will find that Chinese is a very beautiful language as it has more musical sounds (vowels) than noise (consonants). Except for nasal sound “n” and “m”, all Chinese syllables ends with vowels, so we call them Final sounds. The consonants at the beginning of a syllable are called initial sounds.

Most of Mandarin sounds are easy for English speakers to pronounce but some sounds are difficult and require more practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tones</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese Character</th>
<th>English meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Tone</td>
<td>mā</td>
<td>妈</td>
<td>Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Tone</td>
<td>mà</td>
<td>麻</td>
<td>Flax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Tone</td>
<td>mǎ</td>
<td>马</td>
<td>Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Tone</td>
<td>mà</td>
<td>骂</td>
<td>Scold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The first tone (Flat or Level Tone) is represented by a macron (') added to the pinyin vowel:

   ā (ā)  ĕ́ ō ū ŭ ĀĒĪŌŪŪ

2. The second tone (Rising or High-Rising Tone) is denoted by an acute accent (‘):

   ā́ (ā) é́ ō ū ŭ ĀĒĪŌŪŪ

3. The third tone (Falling-Rising or Low Tone) is marked by a caron/háček (˘). It is not the rounded breve (˚), though a breve is sometimes substituted due to font limitations.

   ā (ā) ḗ ō ū ŭ ĀĒĪŌŪŪ

4. The fourth tone (Falling or High-Falling Tone) is represented by a grave accent (¨):

   ã́ (ã) ë́ ō ū ŭ ĀĒĪŌŪŪ

5. The fifth tone (Neutral Tone) is represented by a normal vowel without any accent mark:

   a (a)  e i o u ā ē ī ō ŭ û ĀĒĪỌŪŪ

Adapted from: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)
Igniting the Flames of Learning Math

On 20-24 February 2012, BISS proudly held Math and Science Week for ECY/EL students. It was a collaboration of Math and Science Committees to have fun learning by setting interesting activities, having more hands on activities and an exhibition of students’ work. For Math activities, there were 2 days allocated to conduct 3 activities; Math Trail, Grade Level Games and Math in action.

ECY and EL students were so excited to do the Math trail activity. It was done outdoors. They walked in groups to find clues and answer the questions related to Math around the school premises. Grade Level Games were also held during lesson hours.

Each grade level focused on certain topics for this game, for example; sequence of numbers between 1-5, 1-20, addition to 20 and showing the time on a clock face for ECY students. Topics for EL level were addition and subtraction word problem, fractions, volume and many more!

On the second day (21 February 2012) there was a Math-in-Action activity. Students from ECY had a great time making a vest from paper, plastic or sack material, and decorated it with things related to Math. EL 1-3 students had a competition to modify lyrics of songs or rhymes related to Math. Each level was given a different topic (Addition and subtraction, multiplication on 1-5 and multiplication 6-10).

EL 4-6 students had different things to do for their Math in Action activities. They made projects while employing Math skills in the process. “The Warlord’s puzzle”, “Pyramid miniature” and “Geometric String” were displayed on the Math Exhibition day. They were awesome!!

Thanks to the class teachers who gave their time to practice with the students.

By: Ms Ety, Ms Coyet, & Ms Christy
Departemen Kurikulum Nasional (Kurnas) dengan segenap tim sukarnya menyelenggarakan sebuah acara selama sepekan di TK/SD Bina Nusantara Serpong Tangerang selama rentang waktu 23 – 27 April 2012. Kegiatan yang berfokus pada "Bangga akan Budaya Indonesia" ini memiliki beberapa tujuan diantaranya memperkenalkan keanekaragaman budaya bangsa Indonesia kepada putra/putri Binusians khususnya, melalui beragam jenis

Menutup acara Pekan Budaya Indonesia 2012 ini, para siswa/siswi baik di tingkat TK maupun SD berkumpul guna menyaksikan beberapa penampilan karya seni berupa hasil prakarya terbaik para Binusians yang dibuat selama kegiatan di kelas, pertunjukkan menyanyi maupun menari yang ditampilkan oleh para Binusians cilik maupun remaja. Tak kalah menariknya, terlihat kerja sama yang harmonis antara para guru dan perwakilan dari orang tua murid (PSG) karena PSG juga memberikan kontribusi yang sangat besar agar para siswa/siswi kita mengenal seni budaya musik termasuk alat musik dan lagu dari suatu daerah di Indonesia. Semoga dengan terjalinya kerja sama tersebut, anak-anak dapat memahami betapa pentingnya rasa kebersamaan untuk mencapai suatu tujuan yang baik.

Beberapa rangkaian kegiatan yang dilaksanakan di tingkat Taman Kanak-kanak (TK) adalah membuat batik celup, mendengarkan cerita yang dibawakan oleh perwakilan dari orang tua murid (PSG), lomba menyanyi lagu daerah, parade baju daerah, hingga mengunjungi pameran kebudayaan.

Sedangkan para siswa/siswi tingkat Sekolah Dasar (SD) melakukan serangkaian kegiatan perlombaan seperti mendeklamasikan puisi, menghias rumah adat dengan biji-bijian, membuat tiruan makanan tradisional, membuat pola batik nusantara, membuat senjata tradisional, membuat wayang/boneka dari cerita rakyat Indonesia, serta mengunjungi pameran kebudayaan yang merupakan ciri khas Indonesia yang dibuat oleh para perwakilan dari orang tua murid (PSG).

By Ms Astuti
Science is Fun!
Learning Through Competitions

Competition is an integral part of education. It is obvious that many learners enjoy having competitions with their peers to measure the achievements they have accomplished. Having competitions also allow them to benchmark how good they are compared to others. However, educators must also be aware to set healthy competitions in which the learners will benefit participating in.

BINUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Serpong also sees the importance of facilitating the students to participate in the competitions. This is aimed to explore the students' potential as well as benchmarking our School. Therefore, we have been participating in many kinds of competitions for those purposes.

Term 3 was an exciting yet challenging Term for ECY/EL Science Department as we participated in 3 Science competitions.

By Mr. Anjar

• KUARK Science Olympiad
This year was the 2nd time for BISS to participate and host this nation-wide Science Olympiad. The elimination round was held on 18 February 2012 at Sjuman Hall. There were 280 students from 11 schools that had sat for the test. 89 of them were BISS students. They did a 50-question paper with different levels of difficulty. Level 1 was for EL 1&2. Level 2 was for EL 3&4. Level 3 was for EL5&6.

We deserve to be proud that although it was delivered in Bahasa Indonesia, 39 of our students were eligible to go for the semifinal round which was conducted on 28 April 2012 in Saint John’s Catholic School. We are crossing our fingers that they will also be able to pass the semifinal round and go for the Final round which will be held in June.

• Green Project International Competition organized by DiscoveryBox Magazine
This is also the 2nd time for BISS to participate in this international competition. Last year, our School won the 1st prize of the competition. This year, we are striving to keep up our achievement by having some EL 4 students look after the Science Garden and EL 5&6 students collect and segregate plastic waste and then make an artistic mosaic of our ECY/EL Building. We documented the activities in a video and sent it to the publisher in Hong Kong. The results will be announced in May.

• Santa Laurensia Logic Competition 2012
11 selected students of EL 3-6 participated in the Science Olympiad organized by Santa Laurensia Primary School on 30 March 2012. 3 of them went for the Final Round on 3 April 2012. Proudly, 1 of them won the 1st prize of EL 3&4 Science Olympiad. Congratulations to Aurellius Vincent Engelbert (EL 4F)!