



YOGYAKARTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | August - December 2023



YIS Campus  
Jl. Tegal Mlati No. 1, Jombor Lor, Sinduadi, Mlati, Sleman, Yogyakarta  
0274-530-5147 | 0811-263-2442  
info@yis-edu.org | www.yis-edu.org



# Letter from the Principal

---

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, Staff, and Community Members,

As we embark on the new academic year at Yogyakarta Independent School (YIS), I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the challenges our world faces and how YIS can serve as an oasis from those challenges while preparing our students to face them head-on.

Our world has been plagued by conflicts and wars, threatening the stability and security of nations. The increasingly tangible threat of climate change poses unprecedented challenges to our planet and future generations. Furthermore, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) brings both opportunities and concerns about its impact on our society.

At YIS, we recognize the importance of nurturing our students not only academically but also emotionally and ethically. Our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP) provide a holistic education that fosters curiosity, knowledge, and caring for others. Through our curriculum, we aim to equip our students with the skills and mindset necessary to navigate these complex challenges.

YIS aims to be an oasis for our students, a place where they can find solace, support, and inspiration. However, we also recognize the importance of preparing them to confront the realities of the world they will inherit. That is why we foster critical thinking, resilience, and a sense of responsibility towards the environment and society.

As we navigate the complexities of wars, climate change, and AI, we encourage our students to become global citizens who value peace, sustainability, and ethical decision-making. By instilling in them a deep appreciation for knowledge, compassion, and a commitment to positive change, we believe that they will be well-equipped to shape a brighter future.

I invite all of you to join us in this journey. Together, let us support our students as they grow into inquisitive, open-minded, and reflective learners. Let us inspire them to embrace the joy of learning while fostering kindness and empathy towards others.

Kind regards,

Elia Ekanindita  
Principal a/g  
Yogyakarta Independent School (YIS)







As we embark on an exciting new school year, we are thrilled to welcome you and your children back to our learning community. At the heart of our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) lies a commitment to nurturing curious, knowledgeable, and caring young minds. Our Early Years and PYP students started the year by diving into the first Transdisciplinary Theme: "Who We Are". This theme invites our students to inquire into the essence of human existence, and their learning experiences have been nothing short of inspiring.

In the Early Years, our littlest learners are beginning their voyage of exploration into "Healthy Lifestyle". From discovering nutritious foods to embracing the joy of physical activity, these budding scholars are building the cornerstone for lifelong healthy choices. In Grades 1-2, students have delved into the significance of "Personal Choices". They are discovering how the decisions they make shape not only their lives but also the world around them. In the meantime, Grades 3-4 have started an exhilarating exploration of "Values and Beliefs" by studying heroes from different cultures and eras. The stories of these remarkable individuals are inspiring our students to reflect on their own values and beliefs, fostering empathy and understanding. In Grades 5-6, our young scientists have begun an inspiring exploration of "Human Body Systems". They are uncovering the mysteries of the human body, from the intricate workings of the circulatory system to the complexities of the nervous system.

We invite you to be active participants in your child's learning journey, encouraging not only their curiosity but also kindness towards others. Together, we will continue to nurture the inquisitive, open-minded, and reflective learners who will shape a brighter future filled with discovery, growth, and the joy of learning.



**Veronika Swanti**  
IB PYP Coordinator



# Preschool



This term, our young learners in Preschool have been exploring healthy lifestyles. They are introduced to nutritious food needed to help them grow. They learn to make their personal choices on healthy food to fill up their plate. Besides, they also learn about parts of the body. They learn it through songs and movement to point to the parts of the body while listening to the songs. Additionally, they learn about the five senses. They can explore the world around them by describing things they can see, smell, hear, touch, and taste.

Our young learners are also learning about healthy relationships with their friends. They learn through play by taking turns, sharing, and helping each other. It's nice to see them grow physically and emotionally. We can't wait to have more exciting experiences with our young learners!



**Euphemia Irene Herlinda**  
*Preschool Homeroom Teacher*



# Kindergarten A



Our little learners have been having a blast exploring the world of sand in kindergarten! Sand play helps develop fine motor skills and stimulates their senses as they sift, pour, and mold. From building towering sandcastles to digging treasure pits, their creativity knows no bounds. We take the learning outdoors, where fresh air and sand combine for endless excitement. Kids enhance their problem-solving abilities through sand play and learn about textures and shapes. Sand activities encourage teamwork, cooperation, and sharing among our young explorers. Stay tuned for more updates on our sandy adventures!



**Diah Hermintati**  
*Kindergarten A Homeroom Teacher*

# Kindergarten B

Our fantastic Kindergarten B is eagerly exploring healthy habits and lifestyles this term. They gain a more profound knowledge of the value of getting enough sleep, the importance of eating breakfast, washing their hands, taking a shower, caring for their teeth, playing reasonably, and doing sports. The kids practice using soap to wash their hands properly. Additionally, they brush their teeth to keep them germ-free and clean. They excitedly prepare fruit salad with their friends and enjoy eating it to demonstrate their understanding. In Art, they created a healthy watermelon and meal from coloured paper and explained what was on their healthy plate. In addition, the kids learn how to listen with their entire body. When listening to teachers and friends, they use their eyes, ears, hands, and legs to be quiet and concentrate.

In addition to learning how to take care of their bodies, they also learn how to manage their emotions to help them be more resilient when presented with new circumstances and issues. The kids are also taught how to control their anger and resolve peer disagreements. To improve their communication capacity, Kindergarten B engaged in certain activities requiring them to perform a show-and-tell in front of the class. They become more talkative as a result of this practice. Examining a healthy lifestyle and habit helps kids become more adaptable and outstanding at self-management, social interaction, and confidence. It is incredible to watch Kindergarten B develop in a balanced manner on both an academic and social-emotional level.



**Fajar Ina**  
*Kindergarten B Homeroom Teacher*



# Grade 1 and 2



Through our first unit of learning under the Central Idea, 'Personal choice affects our health and relationship with others', Grades 1 and 2 explored how our decisions significantly impact our physical and mental health. We shared stories, we discussed some social situations, we had our Fruity Friday, and we did a lot of things to maintain our healthy bodies, minds, and relationships.

There was a special session when we invited Ibu Fani, a dentist and one of the parents, to be a guest speaker, sharing how to care for our teeth. Stop! Wait! Think! are the three strategies we learned before making our decisions.

The students were also busy discussing the interdependence of living organisms in Science class. They learned how energy flows through ecosystems as living things feed on one another and how they play vital roles in maintaining the balance of nature. Our math class has delved into the fascinating world of numbers, focusing on odd and even numbers, ordering, and skip counting. The students have been learning to be good citizens by choosing wisely, which can positively influence our health and relationships and contribute to a happier, more harmonious world.



**Luky Anggraini**  
Grade 1-2 Homeroom Teacher





# Grade 3 and 4



In Term 1, our Grade 3-4 students embarked on an enlightening journey of discovery centered around the Central Idea: "Characteristics of heroes in various cultures throughout history help define individual beliefs." Throughout this term, they delved into the captivating world of heroes, real and mythical heroes from diverse times and cultures. Our young scholars began their exploration by observing compelling images that showcased heroes from different periods and regions. This visual journey served as the foundation for their understanding of the values and beliefs that these heroes embodied. Students have selected real-life heroes who inspire them for their research.

In English, they honed their skills in describing heroes through writing and speaking, articulating the qualities that make heroes inspiring. They delved into the impact of Isaac Newton's Laws, recognizing him as a hero in Science and fostering their curiosity and innovation. In Math, students focused on fundamental concepts, including place values, rounding numbers, and addition and subtraction, building a solid mathematical foundation. In PE, they practiced hurdle running, promoting fitness and discipline.



The insights gained by exploring the beliefs and values embodied by heroes will empower our students to be knowledgeable, compassionate, and responsible members of our society. We look forward to continuing this enriching journey of learning and growth in the upcoming terms.

**Veronika Swanti**  
Grade 3-4 Homeroom Teacher





# Grade 5 and 6



Students in Grades 5 and 6 have been on a fascinating journey lately. They have been digging deep into a transdisciplinary theme, "Who We Are," about understanding our amazing bodies. Think of your body as a complex puzzle with many pieces, such as the heart, muscles, and eyes. They wanted to figure out how all these pieces work together to make us who we are.

In UOI class, students presented what they learned about the body systems in front of their class, just like experts! Students also had hands-on fun! They became mini-chefs, making tasty and healthy meals like homemade burgers, sandwiches, salads, butter chicken, and delicious smoothies. They also had a creative play called "I am the Most Important." One student acted as a judge, and others portrayed different body systems. They discussed and realized that every system is equally important because they rely on each other. Let's give our Grade 5 and 6 students a big round of applause! They have shown us that learning is exciting and a journey full of tasty discoveries and adventures.



**Ajeng Sekar Pamungkasih**  
*Grade 5-6 Homeroom Teacher*



# Message from the MYP Coordinator

Another exciting academic year full of opportunities to achieve more goals and beat challenges has been awaited. We might not see familiar faces we miss from the previous academic year, but new faces have given the school more colours and spirits. One of the excitement that the MYP students have in the new academic year is when they have a fun time during their Extracurricular Activities (ECA). Not only do the students learn a new area of interest, but they also develop interpersonal skills. ECA helps build students' confidence and discourages them from engaging in antisocial behaviors. Sports, particularly volleyball, basketball, and taekwondo, have ranked at the top, followed by music, visual arts and photography.



The Middle Years Program at YIS puts the students at the center of learning. At a time when students are establishing their identity and building their self-esteem, it serves as a tool to motivate them to develop their potential, explore their learning preferences, and take risks to become a person with a strong sense of confidence. We are assured that in the years ahead, we will celebrate the many ways YIS students have confidently worked for success.



**Kencana Devia Candra**  
*IB MYP Coordinator*



# Grade 7: Mathematics



In Mathematics, Grade 7 students learned about numbers, including number operations, percentages, and scale drawing this term. The global context in this unit is Globalization and sustainability with exploration to develop design and scale. Students applied their knowledge about scale drawing through the activity "I am an Architect". Students measured the Mathematics room, converted the measurement using a ratio, and created a blueprint from the room.

Students learned how to communicate complete and coherent mathematical lines of reasoning and apply the selected mathematical strategies successfully to reach a solution. This activity could help the students to develop their communication, social, and thinking skills. Students worked in groups to share their ideas and learn to work collaboratively. They interacted with each other, had a discussion, and got ideas to solve this problem. Students were excited about doing this activity. They also reflected and realized how Mathematics is helpful in our daily lives. What a meaningful mathematics lesson.



**Fransiska Duitasari**  
*MYP Mathematics Teacher*

# Grade 8: English

I am thrilled to share our Grade 8 English journey into the captivating world of dystopian literature. We have delved into this genre through Collins' iconic novel, "The Hunger Games." Dystopian literature transports us to worlds where societal norms are dramatically altered. Students have explored the genre's complexities through its characters and oppressive setting. "The Hunger Games" has sparked lively class discussions and debates on moral dilemmas, power dynamics, and social injustices. These conversations sharpen critical thinking and argumentation skills, vital for literary analysis and real-world scenarios.

Additionally, students have been encouraged to relate themes from the novel to current events and global societies. They have drawn parallels between Panem and real-world challenges, deepening their comprehension of the book and expanding their awareness of global issues. Witnessing our Grade 8 students engage in these discussions has revealed their remarkable potential and enthusiasm for learning.



**Annaelle Barnes**  
*PYP-MYP English Teacher*



# Grade 9: Spanish



## Ropa tradicional

Hanbok es la vestimenta tradicional de Corea, generalmente caracterizada por sus elegantes líneas y formas, así como por una aura serena. Por lo general, está hecho de materiales como algodón, seda y lino, y varía en diseño según la ocasión y el estatus social de la persona que lo lleva. Hanbok es considerado un símbolo importante de la cultura coreana.



## Juegos para jugar en el tiempo libre

El Juego del lut (윷놀이) es un juego tradicional coreano que consiste en lanzar los "dados", que son cuatro palos de madera con forma de media luna, y mover las piezas de acuerdo al número indicado.

En general se juega entre familia (la familia coreana es extendida, y las "reuniones familiares" pueden tener entre 15 y 30 personas) durante las festividades tradicionales, y en particular el año nuevo lunar. (Sul-nal) Pueden jugar un mínimo de dos personas o equipos, o más, según la cantidad de gente para la ocasión.



Jeongwon's brochure sample

In this unit, students of Grade 9 have learnt about many topics linked to the key concept of culture. We may need to be made aware that the sports we practice, how we spend our free time and the clothes we wear are somehow influenced by the culture we belong to. Some of these activities have become so common that they can be considered global (see examples of soccer or just wearing jeans or a t-shirt). By reflecting on that, our purpose with this unit is for students to maintain a happy and well-balanced life.

Students also need to try to be themselves with their values and attitudes. They then asked to make a brochure promoting some exciting aspects of their countries. Diversity is what makes international education such an open-minded and tolerant education. Be yourself, accept and respect differences.

**Paloma Cascales**  
MYP-DP Spanish Teacher





# Grade 10: Personal Project

At the beginning of the new academic year, Grade 10 students have been (re-)introduced to the Personal Project. It is a student-centered and age-appropriate extended project in which students consolidate their learning throughout the program. The Project's nature is essential; it allows students to explore an area that motivates and interests them.

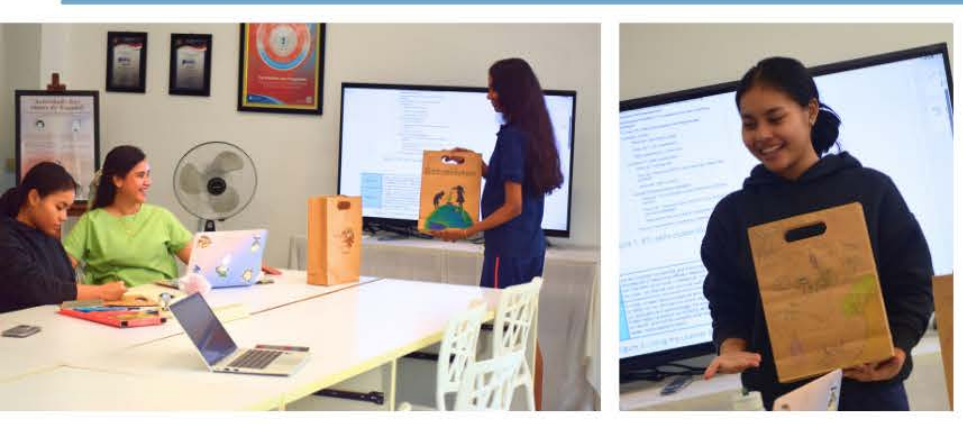
Students choose what they want to focus on, whether an existing or a new interest, choose how to achieve their goal and create their success criteria for the product. The Project provides an excellent opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and often creative product in their final year in MYP. Personal Project is mandatory. Students will write a report on their Project, which will be submitted to the IB. The school will internally assess the report and externally moderated by the IB.



**Kencana Devia Candra**  
Grade 10 Homeroom Teacher



## Grade 11: Environmental Systems & Society



Students learned how individuals or organizations can make a real difference in people's lives by influencing others to support them in their humanitarian work (spectrum) in the community as eco-centrics, anthropocentrics, and technocentrics in Environmental Systems and Society.

Students then reflect on the leadership qualities of having values, a vision, and delivering visible results by considering the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as WaterAid to develop their awareness of how communities can be empowered to make a real difference in the lives of people and places.

Through the paper bag project, students could also investigate their environmental values, which included social, spiritual, and economic aspects, and determine what spectrum they stood for.



**Rayi Artika Paramita**  
DP ESS Teacher



# Grade 12: Physics



Grade 12 Physics students grasp the concept of Simple Harmonic Motion (SHM) through direct experimentations supported by technology and conducive circumstances. Simple harmonic motion is when the object moves to and fro along a line. Students investigate their curiosity in a comfortable and healthy environment. Through this process, the students practice working collaboratively and independently, enhancing the practical and communication skills they need in the future.



**Pandu Triwijoso**  
MYP-DP Science Teacher

## Grade 9 Students Joining National Painting Competition

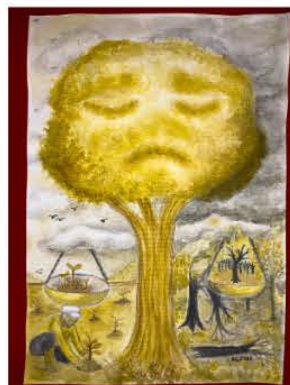


To commemorate the Anniversary of Basoeki Abdullah Museum, a National Painting Competition for students of elementary, junior high school and high school themed "Menyongsong Hari Esok: Refleksi Krisis Iklim Melalui Karya Seni Lukis" is conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology. This competition is carried out to select the fifteen best artworks from each level to be exhibited together with one of the best paintings of Basoeki Abdullah entitled "Menyongsong Hari Esok" in the temporary exhibition held from October 12 to November 30, 2023.

Kimberly, Reihana and Jeongwon - our 3 MYP students submitted their artworks using natural dye materials (natural plants and minerals). Each of them selected different themes for their artwork. Kimberly's theme is about living in harmony with nature, Reihana's theme is about forest fires, while Jeongwon tries to portray the air pollution caused by factories and the hope that we can turn them into trees and clean clouds



*"Bersatu dengan Alam" by Kimberly*



*"Forest Fires" by Reihana*



*"The Touch I Loved" by Jeongwon*



# Parents' View

## Mr. & Mrs. Gust Bertels

Parents of Helena Bertels (Early Years student)

Choosing the correct school for your child is a difficult task nowadays. Each family has their own set of priorities for school. In our situation, two factors were significant:

- IB curriculum
- Cooperative schools that include parents in the process make the transition seamless.

Both requests have been filled with YIS. Being continually involved in their child's school life may be unneeded and even bothersome for some parents. In contrast, we see attachment as the key to maintaining a decent and healthy parent-child relationship.



There is an obvious attachment issue in our world. Under the weight of social media, especially, we are losing our children because they become more devoted to their friends than to us grownups (parents and teachers). In this situation, we produce a childish society that degrades rather than evolves because a youngster can only learn and develop when the adults to whom they become attached provide kind direction. Our future and the future of the entire civilization lies in institutions like YIS, where parents have access to school life and values and where children and teachers are treated with respect and love. No joke 😊

## Upcoming Events

- 8 January 2024 : Start of Term 3
- 14 February 2024 : Valentine's Day
- 26 Feb - 1 Mar 2024 : Book Week & Read Aloud Day
- 8 March 2024 : Term 3 SPTC





# Special Events at YIS



## Celebrating National Batik Day

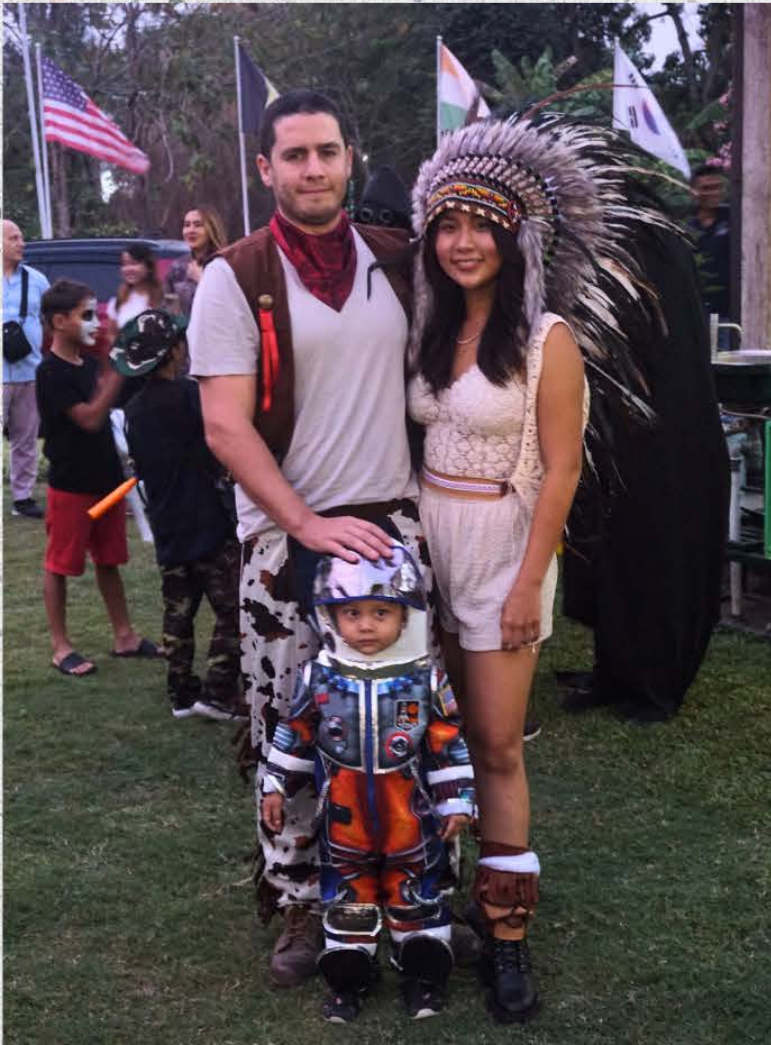
National Batik Day is an Indonesian cultural day commemorating the anniversary of when UNESCO recognized batik as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity on October 2nd, 2009.

Our students celebrate National Batik Day by wearing Batik to school and learning about its history and motives.





# YIS Field Trip



# YIS Halloween Party







**Jogja International Heritage Walk**



**YIS Thanksgiving Poem Competition**





# Student Activities





# Extracurricular Activities



**Taekwondo**



**Music Club**



**Dance Club**



**Fun Soccer**



**Playcation**



**Green Thumb**



**Art Club**



**Volleyball**





**Yogyakarta  
Independent  
School**



*At YIS, we value the unique potential of each student and believe in their ability to make meaningful contributions to the world.*

## Contact Us:

Jl. Tegal Mlati No. 1, Jombor Lor, Sinduadi, Mlati, Sleman  
Yogyakarta, INDONESIA 55284  
0274-530-5147 | 0811-263-2442  
info@yis-edu.org | www.yis-edu.org

