

# Peninsula Wallabies



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As we are approaching the Chinese New Year celebrations Holidays I would like to update you on the progress of the school building. I am sure if you do drive by the school you will have noticed how far we have come to completing the structure and façade. Work is now taking place inside the school with class rooms being finalised, the Theatre in the midst of transformation and other essential areas being painted and outfitted and set up with fixtures and technology infrastructure.

The contractors and maintenance staff have done an excellent job of making our school look great and ready for its grand opening and I will update you later on after the Chinese New Year with information about the completion of our wonderful school building.

*Clive Peter Rogers*  
Founding Principal

## OUR CORE VALUES

**EMPATHY**  
**PERSONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**INTEGRITY**  
**COMMUNICATION**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

**12th-16th:** Chinese New Year School Holiday

### March

**2nd:** School Chinese New Year Celebration

**21st:** 1st report to be sent home

**28th:** 3.30pm-5pm Learner, Teacher & Parent Conference

**30th:** End of Term



# MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 to 10



Ms. Lynette Grant  
Middle School Principal

Welcome to Peninsula International School Australia Middle and Senior School. We aim to develop a school environment where all students can learn, grow and flourish as individuals and members of our community.



Ms. Emily Vallance  
Senior School Principal



The first two weeks have provided our learners with a fantastic opportunity to settle in to their new school. The focus has been on getting to know each other and their teachers and adapting to the expectations of this new learning environment. As we move forward, the focus will turn to learning and teaching; we endeavour to meet our students at their point of need so they progress in all areas of the curriculum. Therefore, in the coming weeks, teachers will be taking time to collect some baseline data on each of our learners. This will enable us to identify individual strengths and encourage students to take ownership for their learning by tracking their own progress.

## House Activity: Friday 26th January

Each week students will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of different events as part of our house activities. This will provide an opportunity for students to learn important leadership and teamwork skills, grow friendships outside of their classes and flourish as individuals as they are challenged to move outside of their comfort zone.



We made the most of this opportunity in week to provide students with an opportunity to work together as a team within their house; to get to know the members of their house and build some community spirit and a sense of belonging. This week's activity was competitive and the students had to complete 4 different problem solving challenges that required them to collaborate and communicate with each other.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

Foundation to Year 4

We are now over two weeks into our very first term at PISA and all of the Junior School children have settled in very well. We are building a wonderful community spirit and enjoying the opportunity to begin some house activities with the Senior School. Every morning I sit in the main foyer as the students arrive and I have really enjoyed learning more about each of them over this time. We have a range of fun activities on hand at this time to encourage the children to be creative and work together. Over time we will continue to expand on this as it is a great start to the learning day.

We have already begun our Junior School assemblies and these are held every Friday afternoon. The children have been learning to sing both the Malaysian and Australian National Anthems which they are doing very well. The focus on our assemblies will always be on sharing our learning and successes. So we have already begun the 'Star of the Week' certificates. These will be awarded in every assembly and one is given to a deserving student in each class (not each year group). Each week we will be focusing on one of the **EPIC** Core Values by building them into the curriculum and 'everything we do.' Therefore, our Star of the Week certificate will go to a student who has demonstrated the focus Core Value for that week. In Week One the Core Value was Empathy, Week Two was Personal Excellence and this week is Integrity. Congratulations to the following *Star of the Week* recipients:

**Week One:** Kazuma and Mellanie

**Week Two:** Lewis and Paddy

We are looking forward to sharing our learning and successes with parents in our assemblies once we are in the new building. There has been a lot of learning taking place already and all lessons started in full from the first day. It is fabulous to see how quickly they have all settled into routines and their learning. We are looking forward to sharing that with you at the end of term with our first round of reports and PTCs.

To those celebrating Chinese New Year: **Gong Xi Fa Cai**, have a wonderful holiday break!



Ms. Mary Rivers  
Junior School Principal



*Kazuma & Mellanie*



*Lewis*



**Gong Xi Fa Cai**

*Ms Mary Rivers -Junior School Principal*

# INTRODUCING OUR STAFF AND THEIR HOUSES

## WOMBAT



**VICKI PSIAHOS**

FOUNDATION  
TEACHER

I am from Australia and I have been working around Asia for the past 26 years including international schools in Malaysia, Singapore, Beijing, Brunei and Indonesia. I will be the Foundation Class teacher and am very excited to be back in the classroom.

I have a particular interest in Mathematics and have experience working with children who have English as a Second Language. I look forward to being part of the team at Peninsula International School in 2018.

## KOALA



**MARK PERCIL**

YEAR 3 TEACHER

I am originally from Wiltshire in the United Kingdom and have a PGCE in Primary Education and a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science from Swansea University. My teaching experience includes over 11 years of delivering a variety of different curricula including the National Curriculum of England, the International Primary Curriculum and the Singapore curriculum for Mathematics. I have a passion for ICT and for Maths, which is my subject specialism.

My core belief is that learning should not only be fun but also interesting and engaging. I always try to ensure I teach with energy, enthusiasm, a sense of humour and I am incredibly excited to be a part of Peninsula International School Australia.

## DINGO



**POPPY CHAUDHRI**

YEAR 1 TEACHER

My home city is Manchester, UK. After graduating and completing my PGCE, I moved to Buckinghamshire, UK to pursue my career as a Primary teacher in an outstanding school. I was at this school for 11 years and gained experience within Primary and had various leadership roles during this period. I have taught for 13 years in the UK, and 2 years as a primary teacher and KS1 Coordinator in Malaysia. My most recent role was as Primary Principal for an International School in Selangor. I have vast experience teaching across the Primary age range from EYFS-year 4. My experience includes: Primary Principal, KS1 Coordinator, Literacy Coordinator and class room teacher.

## KANGAROO



**ANNA CASEY**

YEAR 2 TEACHER

Bringing 10 years worth of Victorian Primary Teaching experience with me, I am extremely pleased to be joining the vibrant and dynamic educational community at Peninsula International School Australia.

In the past, I have taught year levels 1-4 and am delighted to be teaching Year 2 in 2018.

I am confident in teaching to the Victorian Curriculum guidelines across all areas in the Junior Years and have a special interest in actively promoting positive well-being practices based upon the science of Positive Psychology.



## NATALIE GOULD

YEAR 4 TEACHER

After graduating from a degree in French and Spanish studies in 2009, I was presented with the opportunity of working in Spain. My pathway into teaching began after completing the PGCEi course in Madrid, where I worked for several years as a Primary school teacher. Many of these years were spent leading Literacy in an Infant School, maintaining and raising standards in Reading, Writing and Phonics. Specialising in Literacy alongside my background of languages has enabled me to become competent at teaching children who are being educated in a second language.

I am very excited to have joined the Peninsula team and to embark on this adventure in a new school.



## KAREN MAREE

HEALTH/PE TEACHER

I have over 20 years experience in teaching in South Africa, England and The Netherlands. I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had during my own sporting career to further my personal development and have not only my Teaching Qualification from the Natal University (Durban, South Africa) but also in Human Resource Management, Health Management and Personal Coaching. I have experience as an International Hockey Coach and as a Performance Lifestyle Advisor.

My leadership experience includes: Head Of Subject, Head Of Year Group and Head Coach. My Areas Of expertise lie in people support and in sport.

My athletic career has included being a Former Olympian, South African Sports Ambassador and Sportswoman of the Year (South Africa 1998), Commonwealth Games Team Captain, South African Hockey Captain, Squash, Athletics, Tennis and Golf.



## RACHEL LINDSAY

HUMANITIES TEACHER

I trained to teach in the UK, and my Undergraduate and Masters Degrees are in History. I have taught in both the UK and overseas in international schools since 2005. I have been fortunate enough to live and work in Milan, Tokyo and Madrid before coming to Setia Alam.

I am a History specialist and am passionate about supporting my students in achieving their goals and ambitions in life. I love working with young people, it keeps me active and brings vitality and vibrancy to my working life.

I look forward to working alongside your children, and welcoming them into the Peninsula family.



## POOI LI

MANDARIN TEACHER

I hold a Bachelor of Education from the National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan.

I have also completed a Certificate of teaching Mandarin as a Second Language from Hanban, China. I have 16 years of teaching experience in both international schools and private schools in Malaysia.

I enjoy working with children and delivering interesting and interactive lessons which engage the learners and encourage them to enjoy learning Mandarin.



## RICHARD SYKES

DESIGN &  
TECHNOLOGY  
TEACHER

I will be teaching Design Technology at secondary level. My professional background is as a registered Architect, having been registered with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

I have been teaching since 1993 having had various roles including being head of a Design Technology faculty, and UK Department for Education Consultant for Design Technology. I am also experienced in the use of information technology within the subject, having particularly managed CAD/CAM systems both as an Architect and within schools.

Within Design Technology I have taught specialism in all aspect of the subject, and even taught additional courses in Engineering and Construction.



## ISABELLE PRIMAVESI

FRENCH/DANCE  
EAL SUPPORT

After graduating from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Danse et Musique de Paris I started performing and teaching contemporary dance and physical theatre to varied ages and abilities throughout Europe.

Having lived in England and in France I subsequently started teaching English and French as a foreign language.

I have spent the last 5 years teaching at the French School of Kuala Lumpur and I am now delighted and excited to join the Peninsula team.



## NADINE MONTILLE

HEAD OF ARTS

Originally from Mauritius, I am a French language speaker and graduated with a BFA (Hons) Painting Major. I have 17 years of teaching experience in Mauritius, India and Malaysia before arriving at Peninsula International School Australia. I pride myself on running highly successful Art Departments and nurturing creativity for all the students. I am also an IB Visual Arts Examiner for the International Baccalaureate, Cardiff, UK, and continue to attend Art workshops and conferences in the South East Asia region. **Artistic Career:** I am a registered artist with the Government of Mauritius. I was the Mauritian Art Ambassador at the Francophonie Games Beirut 2009, Lebanon, and have also been a member of the jury for the 2010 Festival Creole Art Competition organized by the Government of the Seychelles.



## GRANT SMITH

HEAD OF MUSIC

I relocated to Malaysia in 2014 from Victoria, Australia to teach classroom music within the International School system. With over 12 years of teaching experience based in V.C.E Music, VELS Music and V.E.T Music (Performance and Technical Production Courses) plus Instrumental Studies, I have enjoyed a vast teaching career including being a member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and as an official assessor in V.C.E Music Solo Exams. I have toured Australia performing in Jazz/Blues and Contemporary Bands. My previous leadership roles include an appointment as 'Head of Department' at JMC Academy (Melbourne, Australia) within the tertiary sector of education.



## JILLIAN CENTI

ENGLISH TEACHER

I am British and I have been teaching English both as L1 and L2 for the past 17 years. Ranging from elementary, middle school, upper school to foundation. I am fortunate to have travelled and worked in Italy, Oman and Australia whilst continuing my professional development. I studied Fashion Design and Product Development in Italy for three years at Diploma level, later continuing my studies in England where I received my Honours Degree in English and Art History. Then my PGCE in International Education with Derby University. My experience has led me to publish a collection of short stories and poems from my previous classes with [scholastic.co.uk](http://scholastic.co.uk); while I periodically publish my own lessons through Times Education (TES).

Recently, I have channelled my efforts into becoming a certified KiVa Trainer for a well documented anti bullying program in Turku, Finland. I believe every child has the right to shine and succeed in a safe and happy environment.



## MELISSA WOLSEY - FINDLAY

HEAD OF COMMERCE

I am a teacher from Peninsula Grammar in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, where I also held the position of Head of Commerce. With 15 years of teaching experience, I hold a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business (Management), Graduate Diploma in Education and have recently completed my Master of Education (Studies of Asia).

I have a strong history of curriculum development and have written, planned and implemented a range of Commerce and Humanities based subjects into the secondary school. I currently volunteer with the Australia-China Youth Association to help young people find internships in Australia and China, and I have also voluntarily taught primary school in Tanzania. I have presented at many teacher conferences around a range of business and economics subjects, and have planned and implemented overseas study tours for students.



## UDAYKUMAR MADAR

HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I graduated from Pune University (India) with a first class degree in Physical Education and Master degree in Sports and Exercise Science from Leeds Metropolitan University (UK). In 2006, I worked as Swimming Coach, PE teacher and Head of PE and Sports across all age groups in International Baccalaureate, IGCSE and CBSE curriculum schools in India and the UK.

**Sports Career:** I have participated in competitive swimming, Judo, and cross-country at national level and I am aiming for world masters swimming championship 2018. I am looking forward with excitement to working with the vibrant and lively students at Peninsula International School Australia.



## MARCO CENTI

WHOLE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

I was born and grew up in Rome, Italy. Knowing and understanding different cultures has been my vocation and also part of my job. I studied Anthropology obtaining an Honours degree in Cultural Anthropology and a Master in Education specialising in Intercultural Education.

My travels and working experience have taken me to Australia, where I had the fortune to meet and study aboriginal people and culture. Later, I worked for several years as tutor-coordinator for a NGO specialised in student intercultural programs and exchange. I lived and worked in Oman where I coordinated a Self Access Centre, focused on conversation enhancement, at the University of Nizwa.

My most recent experience was at the European School in Bad Vilbel Germany, where I worked as Pedagogical Advisor for secondary school.

I am also a redactor/journalist for an Italian newspaper.



## RYAN CASEY

MATHS TEACHER

I am from Ballarat, Victoria, Australia and have taught for nine years in Camperdown. I have worked across the year levels teaching Mathematics between Year 5 through to Year 10.

I have also enjoyed supporting teaching in a wide range of subjects such as History, Geography and PE but my passion is undoubtedly Mathematics. I endeavour to ensure that my students are motivated and supported in their learning of this core subject.



## AZLAN TAJUDDIN

BAHASA TEACHER

I am a specialist teacher for Agama and Bahasa at the Peninsula International School Australia and I'm going to teach Agama and Bahasa for the whole school. Prior to my education, I graduated from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) with Bachelor's Degree of Human Sciences (Sociology & Anthropology) minor in Islamic Revealed Knowledge in 2010. I have been teaching since 2010.

Throughout my carrier, I have been very fortunate to have gained experience in both lower and higher education institutions. This has included Mutiara International Grammar School, Segi University, University College of Tunku Abdul Rahman and few other private colleges. As an educator it is my responsibility to create an educational atmosphere where all my students are granted the opportunity to fulfill their potential of becoming knowledgeable and productive human being.



## PATRICK DORIAN

MATHS TEACHER

I arrive at The Peninsula School having taught for 15 years in Gippsland Victoria, Australia. My specialist areas of teaching are Physical Education and Health, however I have also taught across many domains including Maths, Science, and Outdoor Education. I am honored to have been granted the opportunity to teach Middle Years Maths and Science in 2018. I have also been assigned the role of ECA coordinator, assisting in the development of extra-curricular activities across all levels within the school.

I have experience in many areas, including leadership roles as Head of Sport and Health and Physical Education Curriculum Leader. I have taught Senior Years Physical Education and Outdoor Education and have also been a successful Middle Years Coordinator. I have a strong background in welfare and I believe every student, regardless of academic ability, deserves the opportunity to succeed in education and life.



## SHERRY WYSE

ENGLISH TEACHER

I am from St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. I hold a Bachelor of Arts from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Bachelor of Education from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. I also have a Specialist Certificate in Guidance and Career Education.

I have experience in a number of different areas and have taught English in Busan, South Korea; provided learning support in Berlin Germany and have taught English, Middle School Social Science and provided academic and personal counselling in Malaysia for 4 years.

I have a passion for the written word and created Malaysia's first national inter-school poetry slam. I am very excited to bring my creativity and talents to Peninsula International School Australia.



## SRI RAM SEETHA

EAL / SEN TEACHER

A dynamic, forward-thinking and innovative Primary School Educator, I offer more than 14 years of teaching experience in the various International School Education System in Malaysia. I have experience working with children with special needs including behavioural and development disorders, as well as autism. In my previous role as a Curriculum Support Coordinator and Subject Teacher, I am leading the Year 5 and 6 Home Room teachers by providing training and running the 'Learning Through Play' activities as well as developing an inclusive curriculum that caters to the needs of every child in the class.

More recently, I have conducted various workshops nationwide on Early Intervention Programmes.



## MICHELE TAN

DRAMA TEACHER

I hold a Degree in Musical Theatre from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London, which I obtained in August 2016.

My credits whilst training include Prudencia/Pepe/Antonio in 'Bernarda Alba', Mary Sunshine in 'Chicago', Daniela in 'The Heights', Vera Charles in 'Mame' and Judy in 'Women of Manhattan'.

My performance credits also include Jenny Cavilleri in 'Love Story' (Dama Asia, 2017), Susan in 'Tick, Tick Boom!' (Monday Show Entertainment, 2015), 'Larger Than Life' (Dama Orchestra, 2014), 'Merrily We Roll Along' (PAN Productions, 2014). I directed the final showcase for 'Dama Asia's Young Artist's Programme' and assistant-directed 'Fame the Musical' for Monday Show Entertainment.

I currently run the senior musical theatre programme at the British Academy of Performing Arts from the Upper School to Foundation.



## NASIHAH KALAMUDDIN

PHYSICS TEACHER

A young, driven and passionate Physics teacher who believes that anyone can learn anything, anywhere from anyone at anytime. I was a government scholar for my Bachelor Degree of Physics from USM and then obtained a teaching certificate for IBDP from the Netherlands. I have vast experience in Physics ranging from SPM, IGCSE and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. I have joined a few Science conferences mainly on robotics and STEAM throughout my studies and work.

I have an outstanding track record at IGCSE and IBDP in Physics with students achieving excellent results. I was invited to be a speaker at the New Straits Time Physics workshop and many other school around Malaysia. I promote the love of learning, the ability to question, to analyse, and to think critically beyond my classroom with passion towards the subject.



## JANELLE DORIAN

HEAD OF SCIENCE

I arrived from Australia excited and looking forward to sharing my experience and knowledge at Peninsula International School Australia. I have over 15 years teaching experience in both Senior and Middle school contexts, teaching Senior years: VCE Biology, and VCE Geography, and Middle years: Mathematics, Science, Geography, Humanities, and Health. I possess a great passion for both Science and Mathematics, and have excellent curriculum knowledge in both of these disciplines. I have developed a breadth of experience in both the classroom and positions of management in my years as a teacher, holding several leadership positions in this time.

My key areas of expertise include curriculum design and the development of a guaranteed viable curriculum, showcasing science education in primary and secondary settings, mentoring beginning and experienced teachers, fostering parent engagement, and teacher training and development.