

August 7, 2014  
Trimester 1  
S.Y. 2014-15



Meet your teachers

## *Welcome Back Lower Elementary!*

**Ms. Weng Amarga**  
eamarga@cis.edu.ph

PS3

**Ms. Liv Coles**  
lcoles@cis.edu.ph

PS4

**Ms. Maureen Juanson**  
mjuanson@cis.edu.ph

Kinder

**Ms. Michelle Dimaculangan**  
mdimaculangan@cis.edu.ph

Grade  
1

**Ms. Melanie Chua**  
mchua@cis.edu.ph

Grade  
2

**Ms. Ami Ritsema**  
aritsema@cis.edu.ph

ESOL  
1

**Ms. Marcie Dunham**  
mdunham@cis.edu.ph

ESOL  
2

Dear students and parents,

*We hope that you had a fun summer break and as excited as we are to start the new school year!*

*There are a lot of changes in the school campus this year and the elementary school now has two teams, the lower elementary team and the upper elementary team. The lower elementary team is from Preschool 3 all the way up to Grade 2.*

*Aside from the subject specialists and the PYP coordinator, we also have 2 ESOL teachers working with us and three instructional assistants.*

*Our goal is to help your child develop socially, emotionally, cognitively, creatively and physically through the PYP programme that encourages and guides your child through important developmental milestones as they explore their world.*

*As parents, you have begun the education of your child, now we move forward together to help him/her reach his/her full potential.*

We look forward to a great year working together with you and your child!

Sincerely,

The Lower Elementary Team

Weng, Liv, Maureen, Melanie, Michelle, Ami, and Marcie

- Our mission
- Units of Inquiry — what to expect this first quarter
- Important Info
- Meet your Teachers
- Volunteering Sheet



*What an exciting day for your child- the first day of preschool in CIS!*

*My name is Eleonor "Weng" Amarga and I am from Cebu. I'm married with two kids, a 22 year old son and an 18 year old daughter. I have been teaching Early Childhood for many years in CIS. I always love being with little children. It is important that we work together to help your child make the transition from home to school. The more I know about your child, the better I will be able to help and support him or her as they grow and develop in school.*

*I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child.*

*Welcome to Preschool 4!*

*I am excited to begin the 2014-15 school year with your child and I look forward to seeing some familiar faces and meeting new ones. My name is Liv Coles and I have been teaching for ten years already. This is my fifth year here in CIS. Working with young children is one of my passions. I also love cooking and spending time with my two Labradors, Jax and Bauer.*

*I believe that parent-teacher relationships are necessary to ensure that students reach their full potential so I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time.*



*A warm welcome to Kindergarten! I hope you had a restful vacation and were able to spend time with your family over the past months. My name is Maureen Juanson and I have been teaching for 9 years. This is my fourth year teaching Kindergarten at CIS. I was born and raised in Manila and relocated to Cebu when I joined CIS. Teaching is my passion and I have always enjoyed being around children. I enjoy travelling and learning about different cultures, reading and spending time with family and friends. I've recently found the interest to learn more about photography and baking.*

*The move to Kindergarten is a significant change for each child and it is my goal to make this transition as smooth as possible. I look forward to a fun-filled learning experience with you and your child.*



*Welcome to lower elementary school!*

*My name is Michelle Dimaculangan and I will be teaching Grade 1 for the fourth time this year. This is my eleventh year of teaching and my seventh year here in CIS. I used to teach in Manila and I moved here because of CIS. Thanks to the warm hospitality of the people in school, I now consider Cebu as my home away from home. Aside from working with young children, I also love reading books, spending time with my family and friends.*

*I am excited to work and learn together with you and your child this year.*

*Welcome back to school everyone!*

*My name is Melanie Chua. This is my third year at CIS teaching Grade 2. I have worked in the school for five years. Aside from teaching and working with young children, I also enjoy travelling to other places to discover different cultures. I love to eat out with my family and friends, read books and go on road trips. I am very pleased to meet the new bunch of Second Graders. I hope to have a lot of new and meaningful learning experiences with them. I believe that this will be another productive and exciting year for me and the students.*



*Hello! My name is Ami Ritsema and this is my 14th year of teaching. I taught in Colorado for nine years before I began my international teaching adventures. For the past four years, I taught in Bolivia and Guatemala. My teaching experience has been in primary grades with students learning English. I will be teaching ESOL in first and third grade. I am excited to be a part of the CIS community!*

*Hello!*



### *Moving Towards Conceptual Understanding*

As you may already know, the elementary school is using the Primary Years Program (PYP) as the framework of our curriculum. The aim of the PYP is to create a trans disciplinary curriculum that is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant for the learners. One of the aims of the PYP is to ensure that students experience coherence in their learning, regardless of which teacher has responsibility for them at any particular point in time.

In the PYP the pronoun “we” is used in each question, rather than referring directly to the students, for reasons that reflect the PYP belief about a school being a community of learners. While recognizing that a school’s primary responsibility is for student learning, a school is encouraged to see itself as a community where everyone is a learner, where teachers and parents must continually learn about the needs and capabilities of each student, the content with which they are engaged, and about our personal responsibilities in honing enthusiasm for learning.



### *Inter disciplinary Theme: Who We Are*

*An inquiry into the nature of self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human responsibilities including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human*

### *Preschool 3 Central Idea & Lines of Inquiry*

#### ***Our differences and how we act make us unique.***

- *Similarities and differences of our physical features*
- *Similarities and differences of personal abilities and interests*
- *What it means to be a god citizen*

### *Preschool 4 Central Idea & Lines of Inquiry*

#### ***Family relationships contribute to shaping our identity.***

- *Diversity of families*
- *Responsibilities within the family*
- *How families influence who we become*

### *Kinder Central Idea & Lines of Inquiry*

#### ***Making balanced choices about daily routines enable us to be healthy.***

- *Daily habits and routines*
- *Balanced choices*
- *Consequences of choices*
- *What being healthy means*

**“A school’s primary responsibility is for student learning; everyone is a learner.”**

### *Grade 1 Central Idea & Lines of Inquiry*

***People's relationships with each other can have an impact on well-being.***

- *How relationships affect us*
- *How we develop relationships*
- *Roles and behaviors within relationships*

### *Grade 2 Central Idea & Lines of Inquiry*

***Being a good citizen entails taking personal responsibility for ones' actions and decisions.***

- *What makes a citizen*
- *The rights and responsibilities of citizens*
- *The effects of fulfilling our roles as citizens*

### *Other Important Information*

In order to make the school year start smoothly, please take note of the following important points below:

1. School begins at 7:30am. Please have your child here at school between 7:15-7:30 to avoid being tardy. The students must wait quietly outside the classroom or at the lobby (for preschool).
2. Please label uniforms with your child's name. An extra set of uniforms and underwear in your child's bag will be appreciated.
3. We can communicate with each other through the Assignment notebook and Communication Folder. Please bring it to school everyday.
4. At 9:00am everyday, your child will be given 5 minutes to eat brain food (nuts, raisins, dried fruits, fresh fruits) to help energize and sustain him/her until recess. For Kinder, Grade 1 and Grade 2, aside from recess snacks, please make sure that your child brings packed lunch. You may also let your child sign for canteen privileges by accomplishing a form from the school's concessionaires. Should you let your child bring money, please make sure that all lunch money is sent in an envelope or wallet with your child's name. You can also pay for lunch in advance. Yayas are not allowed to stay with your child during snack or lunch time. Teachers will be there to assist your child.
5. If your child needs to take medication during school hours, please leave the medicine with the nurse who will ensure that your child has taken the correct dosage.
6. Toys and other electronic gadgets are not allowed in class.
7. If you would like your child to celebrate his/her birthday with their friends in school, please let us know ahead of time. You can send a cake to share with the group or individual cupcakes during snack time.

Please refer to the Student-Parent Handbook for other information about school and class procedures.

# *Volunteering*

If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to have your help! Please fill out the reply slip below with the kinds of jobs you would like to do for our children and submit to your homeroom teacher.

*Welcome to Lower Elementary!*

---

## **I want to be a Homeroom Parent Volunteer. Count me in!**

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ being a chaperone/ offer vehicle for fieldtrips
- \_\_\_\_\_ help in classroom or school celebrations (eg. International Week, Sinulog, Philippines Week)
- \_\_\_\_\_ have special activities with students (eg. speaking to class, presenting, storytelling)
- \_\_\_\_\_ preparing materials for students' projects
- \_\_\_\_\_ decorating classrooms
- \_\_\_\_\_ others: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for making yourself available!*