

# News @Ascend



*Empowering our students to communicate with confidence*

*December 2013*

A monthly newsletter to help you stay in touch with activities at Ascend

There are really many wonderful incidents that happened at Ascend.....but the best memory for me would be the quality time I have spent with my beloved friends. Many of them are really close to me, like siblings.

-Kimberly

One thing that I can still remember is my first day at Ascend.....I was a bit nervous. But teacher Robin asked us to introduce ourselves and told us some interesting jokes. The teachers at Ascend are super friendly and students are easy going. I loved my school life in Ascend and this would be my best memory in Singapore

-Elsa

## MEMORIES @ ASCEND.....

*from the 'Advanced' class*

My best memory would be the time I spent with my friends. These memories are what I will carry with me always.

-Yuzo

I don't have a 'best' memory at Ascend. Every day is a new memory with my friends and teachers. I'm looking forward to tomorrow's memories!

-Lucas

All the events that I've attended in Ascend are good memories.....Friends are always there, eating, chatting and partying. These have become precious memories that I would never forget.

-Hararta

My best memory was the Halloween party. It's was the first time I'd celebrated Halloween .Everyone was dressed in nice costumes and we danced to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'!

-Etsuko

# A colorful day @ Ascend

Students joined in the spirit of Deepavali on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November by creating beautiful Rangoli designs during their conversation classes.



They used coloured powder and glue to make the designs. The powder had to be poured into the designs very carefully and required a lot of skill and patience!!

Concentrating hard!!



A colorful display!

## TEACHER FACT FILE



**Name:** Zee Ryan

**Nationality:** Singaporean

**Born:** 27<sup>th</sup> May

**My family:** My husband -John, daughters -Dewi (4 yrs) & Dina (9 mths) and my cats -Tiger & Chaplin.

**I speak:** English, Malay & and Mandarin (a little!)

**Favorite sports:** I love wakeboarding, playing tennis & yoga.

**Travel & holidays:** I love the food in Asia, beaches in Thailand, the historical city of Istanbul, shopping in the US.....the list goes on!

**I'm afraid of:** heights & speed ..... I don't like being in tall buildings, planes, fast cars and DEFINITELY NO roller coasters!!

**I enjoy:** playing with my children, meeting friends and cooking for my family on Sundays.

**If I wasn't teaching.....**  
**I would be a vet!**

----Zee Ryan

# 'Not so common' Christmas traditions.....

It's that time of the year again.....of love, sharing and giving. What makes it even more special are the Christmas traditions , most of which have remained the same over the years.....of Christmas carols, Turkey & Ham, Christmas trees , Santa Claus and super special gifts! But there are other odd ones that are celebrated in a few countries.....but can be a lot of fun!

In **Norway** it is believed that on Christmas Eve, witches and evil spirits come out to find brooms to ride. All of the brooms in the house are hidden and the men go outside to fire guns so that they may scare away evil spirits



El Festival de los Rabanos (The Festival of Radishes) is a one-of-a-kind festival in **Mexico** that features dance, food and delicately carved radishes on Christmas Eve. Carvings with Nativity scenes, dancers, historical and mythological events are sculpted from radishes by **Mexican** artists and add color to the holiday celebrations.

In **Venezuela**, the streets are closed off to traffic on Christmas Eve so that the locals can attend mass by roller skating to church.

In **Ukraine**, Christmas trees are decorated with artificial spiders and webs are hidden in the tree and an extra present is given to the one who finds them.



On the 2nd Sunday before Christmas, **Yugoslavian** children creep in and tie their mother's feet to a chair, shouting, "Mother's Day, Mother's Day, what will you pay to get away?"

She then gives them presents. Children play the same trick on their father the following week and get more presents.

Around this time of the year, there's a huge Santa gathering in **New York City**. To celebrate the holiday season, New Yorkers get together dressed up as Christmas characters. The city is filled with reds and greens, as Santas and Elves spread holiday cheer during SantaCon.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18  <b>Exams!</b> 	19 ECA	20 	21
22	23 Term Break	24 Term Break	25 Term Break	26 Term Break	27 Term Break	28
29	30 Term Break	31 Term Break				

# December 2013

Happy Birthday!

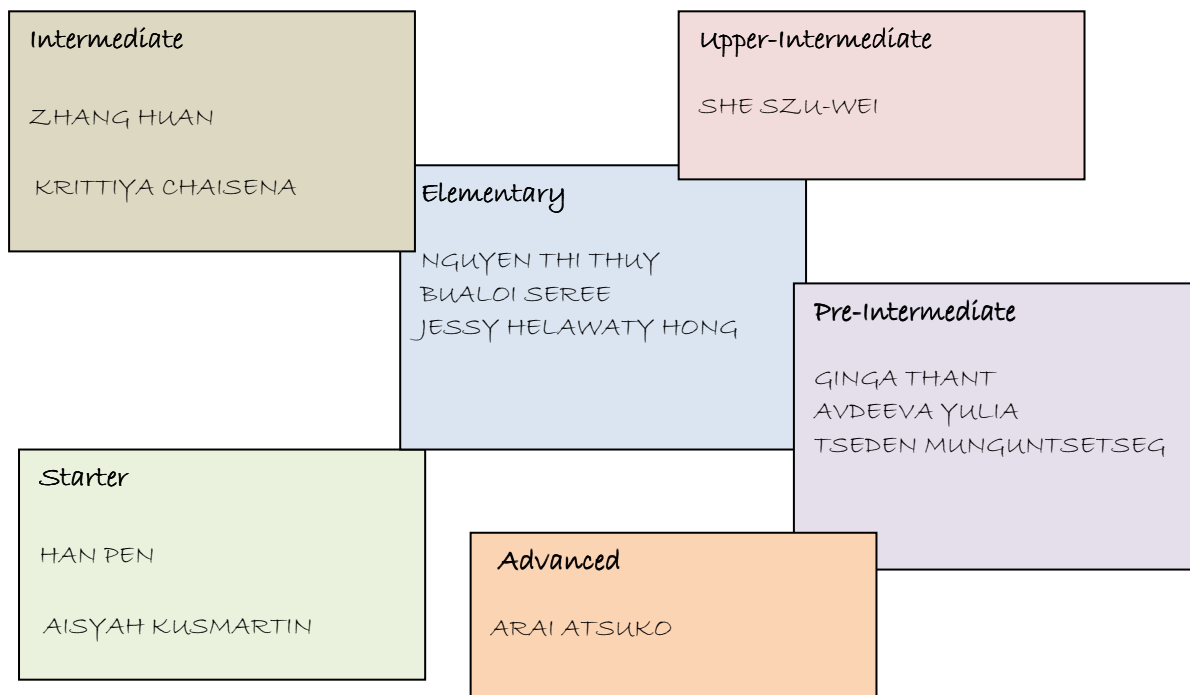


11<sup>th</sup> Dec- Yu Li(Pre Int1)  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec- Kwon (Upper Int1)

### Important dates

18<sup>th</sup> Dec: Module 3 exam  
19<sup>th</sup> Dec: ECA  
20<sup>th</sup> Dec: Graduation  
22<sup>nd</sup> Dec: Term break begins  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec-Christmas Day

Newcomers @ Ascend



Welcome to Ascend