



Intimacy and Space at KIS International School

Arriving at KIS International School I immediately notice the huge green lawn in front of the building. As green spots in Bangkok are few and far between this already looks promising. The building itself does not look ordinary either but has a somewhat artistic touch to it with its green and pink colours and pointed towers.

By Nan Jacques Zilberdik

KIS International School is an IB World School offering the globally recognized International Baccalaureate Programs. Situated in central Bangkok it stands out with its spacious grounds and new and modern facilities. KIS was founded in 1998 as a primary school. Expansion to Grade 12 began in 2003 by adding a year group annually ending with the pre university IB Diploma Program in 2008. Currently there are 320 students.

What is IB?

IB is an international education developed using the best aspects of curricula around the world. The curriculum for the Primary Years Program takes its starting point in six trans-disciplinary themes. When I visited KIS the theme was "How we organize ourselves". All primary grades worked with it on different levels. Some looked at how the school is organized as a workplace, others at the organization of the world in countries and governments. The themes encourage making connections across the regular disciplines taught; science and technology, math, languages, drama, music and social studies etc. The curricula for the Middle Years and IB Diploma programs are set along the same principles. The IB concept aspires to create curious, critically thinking and culturally open-minded students characterized by passion for learning and international understanding, described by ten qualities: thinkers, inquirers, communicators, risk takers, knowledgeable, well-balanced, principled, caring, open-minded and reflective. KIS also offers many extra curricular activities such as art, dance, music, sport and choir and community service is a central part of school life.

Enviably facilities and community

All this takes place in wonderful new facilities. I am impressed and quite envious. The classrooms are roomy. The library is equipped with a soft seating area. There is a media room, an art

studio and drama and music rooms. Computers are everywhere. Outside activity areas include playgrounds, tennis courts, basket ball and badminton courts and a swimming pool with a grandstand. Moreover, KIS enjoys a close relationship with parents, many of whom are engaged in the school's development and volunteer for courses or community service projects.

The students are in for a treat! Everything is well-considered. Like the school acronym: KIS – knowledge, inspiration, spirit.

It refers to how teachers and students seek knowledge together; inspire each other and how the spirit of a warm, caring community permeates it all.

Back to school

It sounds impressive and almost too good to be true. But I *do* get a special feeling at KIS. It *does* feel as if everything is somehow more connected.

The atmosphere vibrates with knowledge, discovery and commitment. There is a feeling of intimacy, yet of space. Is it the IB spirit or the KIS spirit...? I don't know.

But it makes me want to go back to school. Even the science lab smells better than in my days!

For more information, visit www.kis.ac.th

