

The RIA Rambler

Issue 1
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Shock Launch of RIA Newsletter

Sources close to the school have confirmed that RIA Shenzhen will launch a newsletter this week. It will be shared with the extended RIA community, both past and present. The newsletter is rumoured to feature intriguing content and exciting photographs.

Last night, our reporter caught up with Mr. Ian and Ms. Kate, who were sipping lemonade outside La Maison. When asked the pressing questions, “Is it true about the newsletter? And if so, why?” Ms. Kate replied thoughtfully,

“Well, we’ve been reflecting on all that has happened in the 15 years since RIA’s inception. We’ve been thinking about the many students, families, teachers, and friends who have been part of our journey, as well as the events, activities, adventures, and success stories that have contributed to our community.”

She continued, “Many people stay in touch with us and share their news, and many maintain connections with each other despite being in different corners of the world. They follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts and occasionally leave a ‘like.’ But wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could share these stories more widely and include updates from current school-life as well?”

Mr. Ian chimed in, “Splendid idea, Kate. Well said. Let’s do it.”

And there you have it—confirmation. The first edition of *The RIA Rambler* is coming soon. We hope you’ll enjoy it!

This first edition has been generated by AI, but in the future, we hope that real people - students and families – can help with the content. Please contact us and share your news!



Talented RIA parents, Dave and Ula, have a large following for their YouTube Vlogs about Shenzhen and China. Now, they’ve just posted one about RIA!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H1FbjDdPaw>

Please give it a view, leave a like / subscribe, and flood those comments boxes with your thoughts and memories!

15 Years Already!

This is probably our biggest news: that dastardly virus gave us all a beating. But thanks to the steadfast support of RIA families and the resilience of key staff members, RIA has made it through to celebrate 15 years of service in SZ. To mark the occasion, we held a logo-design competition with the winning logos added to our RIA hats and to our annual tie-dye T-shirts.



2009 - 2024



Congratulations to Rose Kehoe for her hat design



And to Alex Irons for his T-shirt design

Alumni Updates



From left: Sophia, Katie and Noya

Where Are They Now?

Here’s **Katie Martin**. Just started at The London School of Economics.



LSE. Wow! Congratulations, Katie!

And **Noya Kastro**: Noya has just proudly completed her two years of national service.



Hi, Noya! Always good to hear your news 😊

Sophia Higgins was already (literally) treading the red carpet of Cannes whilst at RIA.



She’s now a Senior in Suwanee, Georgia and still active in music, theatre and modelling.

Dear Alumni. Where are you now? Send us a picture and your news, please.



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Academically Speaking

At the heart of everything we do at Recognise is the belief that academic progress and a positive attitude toward lifelong learning are best nurtured in an environment like RIA's. During their time with us, we strive to help every child reach their full learning potential whilst also ensuring they leave with cherished memories of their school days.

Through observation and experience, we've always known the great academic progress we make with RIA students, but recent improvements in record-keeping have allowed us to now put some numbers to it. Here are a few of our findings:

- On average, students who stay with RIA two years or more, make **41.76% better progress** than expected progress rates for England and Wales. (ONSed/Ed/Prog./Ave.)
- Our NC levels for each age group are on average also **.78** of a NC level higher than seen in UK records (Gov.uk / Ed. 2014).
- Students new to English, acquire working fluency and literacy at RIA over **twice as quickly** as in other SZ international schools. (Anec/dot/al)
- RIA students are 98% happier going to school than their parents were.



Science



Art



Design



History



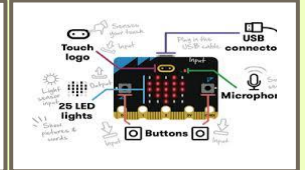
Chinese

2018: See Anyone You Know?



2018-2019

Computing. At the start of 2023-24, we introduced a great, new computing curriculum derived from the National Centre for Computing Education. It offers structured, challenging and interesting activities throughout the age ranges. Bit by bit (excuse the pun), we've been improving our resources to match it; robots, MicroBits, 3D printing and a whole host of new software are now in-house for student exploration.



Music: To supplement our music and drama lessons, we've compiled a list of local instrument teachers that would like to work with RIA and who will be available to teach small groups if demand emerges.

In Other News

RIA has applied to become a Cambridge Approved Examination Center. This would mean that we can host our own external terminal exams and it would be a status boost for the school too. Whilst our campus is small, we seem to meet the all the educational criteria for this process. It's certainly worth a try. Watch this space ...

See Anyone You Know?
Guess The Year



Tradition, Tradition

Some events we've been running for over 10 years - and they never seem to tire.

Maybe you remember some pretty boisterous RIA **Welcome Nights**? Mind The Gap, The Wine People? Dance and song? Well, the tradition continues. This year, for the first time ever, the Rain Gods decided to visit RIA – a huge downpour - but this didn't stop the evening. Mind The Gap swiftly relocated inside and the party cracked on. Parents break-dancing in the lobby? This was a first! But we can't find a picture of these stunning moves by (no names mentioned). Anyone got the evidence?



Winter Concert Ms. Vangie remains unstoppable when it comes to helping the children produce memorable performances. This year, our winter show was PUNK – a celebration of zips, safety pins, mohican haircuts - and the trashing of perfectly good guitars.



We've been hosting our concerts in the garden of late but perhaps you'll recall some of our other venues and shows?

The Blue Bamboo



The Terrace

Ecstasy On The Boat



Surf Camp. From our earliest days, Surf Camp has been a feature event of the year. Sai Wan in Hong Kong was our initial venue but since then we've moved further afield to venues in Bali and Hainan. This year, we had a group of 20 intrepid surf dudes, braving the waves of Hainan Beaches. Here are a couple of snaps from then and now.



Blasts From the Past

Anyone remember the pig?

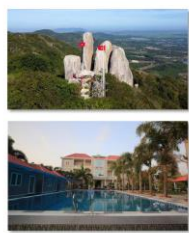


This big guy was carried across Shenzhen by Mr Ian in the boot of his tiny car. Boris left a 'surprise parcel' on the back seat and broke the car's suspension in the process.

RIA's 20th Overseas Excursion

We've travelled to just about all countries in SE Asia over the years. This year, Vietnam!

All are welcome.
Contact Kate ☺



How about the Winter Olympics?

In tribute to the event being held in China that year, Mr Will recreated this international sporting occasion in our back yard.



Featured Family



The Velez family were some of the earliest members at RIA, starting with Kate even before the school was officially established.



Thai and Gus attended in the early years, and Renee, even though quite small, was working privately with Kate. After moving to Hong Kong, and then settling in California, the Velez children are thriving.



Thai is in her sophomore year at Santa Clara University where she is passionate about her classes as a Child Studies major. She spent her summer volunteering in Tanzania. Gus didn't have much of a summer as he succeeded in his goal to continue to play collegiate soccer, and started as a freshman with the University of San Diego Toreros who had their best season ever, winning their conference for the third year in a row.



Last but not least, Renee is dedicated to her studies and giving back to her community. She is currently a junior and begins applying for colleges next summer. She is passionate about Marine Sciences.

Gustavo and Lynn Velez live happily in Pacific Beach California



Design Our Shield Competition

We think we'd like an RIA coat of arms, replete with motto. Don't really know why...

Perhaps ours could be a tad more stylish than the norm?

Students, parents and staff are all welcome to submit a design. We're sure you all can do better than the one above! 😊



RIA Networking

We've gone back through our documents and email lists and have added as many of you as we could find. We've also posted this newsletter on our webpage and put a link on Facebook. If you know anyone who might like to receive it, please pass it on. Also, if you have new contact details, please let us know, and should you have lost touch with someone from RIA that you'd like to reach, there's a good chance we can help. Below are a number of ways to contact us. Let's keep and grow strong our RIA network!



Website



WeChat



WhatsApp



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Can You Help RIA?

RIA is resolute regarding the principle of never being too shy to ask for help nor too proud to accept it. Perhaps you are fantastic at webpage, techy stuff - or are personal friends with Elon Musk's chief investor. Maybe you are twiddling your thumbs all week and really enjoy compiling newsletters. Or possibly you've a few hours to spare and have a particular skill that might benefit the children.

We know that you all spread the good enrolment word about RIA and we thank you for it. If you can think of any other ways to give us a hand ... we're never too proud ...!!!

