Writers’ Fortnight 2014

What is Writers' Fortnight?

G9 / FIB schedules

G10/11/12 Schedules

Writing Competitions

Visiting Authors

For parents
What is Writers’ Fortnight?

In its third year at East campus, and seventh year as a UWC South East Asia event, Writers' Fortnight continues to blossom as an opportunity for students to become writers inspired by writers.

Guest speakers have included Meira Chand, Philip Jeyaretnam, Neil Humphreys, Mukul Deva, Steve Dawson, Ken Teh, Sharon Cheah, Alison Jean Lester, Valerie Browne Lester, Chris Huntington, Jacynthia England, Jennifer Gargiulo and Tabby Stirling. Many other talented authors of fiction and non-fiction from our parent body have supported us by so generously giving their time to share their experiences and expertise with our students.

Many of these writers will be joining us again, along with renowned Singaporean poet Kirpal Singh as our special guest speaker on Tues 7 Jan (8am, Auditorium). Students will meet with authors through a variety of talks, presentations, workshops and individual mentoring. Parents are invited to attend any event on the schedule, but might be especially interested in these talks.

We hope the whole community will enjoy Writers' Fortnight 2014!
For Parents

**Tues 7 January**: Singaporean poet [Kirpal Singh](#)’s keynote speech to the Grade 11 and 12 students during assembly. *8am in the Auditorium.*

**Tues 14 January**: Fox Sports Central presenter and sports biographer Steve Dawson’s short talk, followed by Q&A, about the world of sports journalism and working in TV. *1–1.40pm upstairs in the library.*

**Thurs 16 Jan**: High School Principal Nick Alchin’s talk to the Grade 10 students about text production and reception: ‘It’s All About Image’. *8am in the Auditorium.*

**Mon 20 Jan**: Blockbuster military thriller novelist [Mukul Deva’s](#) talk to the FIB students about ‘The Art and Science of Writing’. *11.30am in the Auditorium.*

**Tues 21 Jan**: Novelist and English teacher [Chris Huntington’s](#) talk, ‘Writing your first novel - and the ‘rules’ for using your friends, family and enemies in your writing’. *1–1.40pm upstairs in the library.*

**Wed 22 Jan**: ‘Diary of an Expat in Singapore’ author, [Jennifer Gargiulo’s](#) special talk and Q&A for parents who would like to develop their own writing and understanding of the world of publishing. *1–1.45pm upstairs in the library.*
G9 Schedule

Full details [here](#) (Unless otherwise stated, events take place during English lessons)

**Mon 13 Jan / Tues 14 Jan:** Journalism assignment - interviewing transient workers

**Wed 15:** Neil Humphreys writing workshop

**Thurs 16 / Fri 17:** Time to Write

**EXTRA OPPORTUNITY!**

**Tues 14 LUNCHTIME:** Steve Dawson short talk and Q&A - sports and TV:

**Mon 20 Jan:** Mukul Deva talk - The Art and Science of Writing

**Tues 21 Mentor Time:** Write Here Writing carousel

**Wed 22:** Alison Jean Lester writing workshop - Make Them Squirm: The Role of Discomfort in Fiction and Non-fiction

**Thurs 23:** Time To Write

**EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES!**

**Tues 14 LUNCHTIME:** Chris Huntington short talk and Q&A

Film scriptwriting workshop (TBC) - there are only 15 places on this workshop with Tom Radford
FIB Schedule

Full details [here](#)

(Unless otherwise stated, events take place during English lessons)

**Mon 13 Jan**: Time to Write - lesson time to prepare for the following week’s events and the authors.
**Tues 14**: Steve Dawson short talk - Print vs TV journalism
**Thurs 16 Mentor Time**: Nick Alchin talk - Production and Reception: It’s All About Image
**Fri 17**: Author mentoring opportunity – share your own creative writing with an author

**Mon 20 Jan**: Chris Huntington - short talk and Q&A
**Tues 21 (TBC)**: Tom Radford writing workshop - Observational Humour
**EXTRA OPPORTUNITY!**
**Tues 21 LUNCHTIME**: Film scriptwriting workshop - there are only 15 places on this workshop with Tom Radford
G10 Schedule

Full details [here](#)

(Unless otherwise stated, events take place during English lessons)

**Wed 15**: Neil Humphreys writing workshop

**Thurs 16 / Fri 17 Mentor Time**: Nick Alchin talk - Production and Reception: It’s All About Image

**EXTRA OPPORTUNITY!**

**Tues 14 LUNCHTIME**: Steve Dawson short talk and Q&A - Sports and TV

**Wed 22**: Author mentoring opportunity – share your own creative writing with an author

**EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES!**

**Tues 21 LUNCHTIME**

Chris Huntington - short talk and Q&A

Film scriptwriting workshop (TBC) - there are only 15 places on this workshop with Tom Radford
G11/12 Schedule

(Unless otherwise stated, events take place during English lessons)

For both Grades 11 and 12

Tues 7 Jan Mentor Time (Auditorium): Singaporean poet Kirpal Singh talk - The Potency of Writing

**LUNCHTIME OPPORTUNITIES!**
(upstairs in the Library)

Tues 14: Steve Dawson short talk and Q&A - Sports writing and working in TV (and an invitation to visit studio in Feb to watch a live show of Sports Central from the control room to those who attend!)

Tues 21: Chris Huntington - short talk and Q&A: Writing your first novel - and the ‘rules’ for “using” your friends, family and enemies in your writing

(English corridor)

Tues 21: Tom Radford - Film scriptwriting workshop - only 15 places available

G11 Language and Literature Higher classes will each spend time discussing an article with its journalist-author

G11 Literature Higher classes will each spend time discussing an extract with its author Tabby Stirling
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Mon 13 Jan</th>
<th>Tues 14 Jan</th>
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<td>Assembly 8am</td>
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<td>Nick Alchin: Production and Reception - It’s All About Image (Grade 10 and FIB, Auditorium)</td>
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<td>Neil Humphreys</td>
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<td>Blk 2 (10.10)</td>
<td>G9 Transient Workers journalism assignment</td>
<td>Neil Humphreys (G9 workshop CR1)</td>
<td>G9 Time to Write</td>
<td>Jacyntha England (Author-mentor opportunity for FIB)</td>
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<td>Blk 3 (11.30)</td>
<td>G9 Transient Workers journalism assignment</td>
<td>Steve Dawson (Talk about print vs TV journalism to FIB)</td>
<td>Neil Humphreys (G10 workshop, CR1)</td>
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<td>Journalist Darren Schuettler with CBH HL LL class</td>
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<td>Lunch (1.00)</td>
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<td>Steve Dawson talk about sports writing and TV (library)</td>
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<td>Neil Humphreys (G9 workshop, CR1)</td>
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<td>Blk 2 (10.10)</td>
<td>Chris Huntington: Writing Your First Novel talk and Q&amp;A talk (FIB, library)</td>
<td>Time to Write (G9)</td>
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<td>Blk 3 (11.30)</td>
<td>Mukul Deva: The Art and Science of Writing (all Grade 9s, Aud)</td>
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<td>Lunch (1.00)</td>
<td>Chris Huntington: Writing Your First Novel talk and Q&amp;A (library)</td>
<td>Jennifer Gargiulo talk/Q&amp;A for parents: learn more about writing and publishing (library)</td>
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<td>Blk 4 (1.45)</td>
<td>Novelist Tabby Stirling with DTO’s G11 HL Lit class</td>
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<td>Alison and Valerie Lester: Make them Squirm (G9 writing workshop, Blackbox)</td>
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<td>Novelist Tabby Stirling with KaL’s G11 HL Lit class</td>
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kirpal Singh is a poet, literary and cultural critic, and university lecturer in English language and literature, has written and published three collections of poetry and edited many literary journals and books.

He was a founding member of the Centre for Research in New Literatures, Flinders University, Australia in 1977, the first Asian director for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1993 and 1994, and chairman of the Singapore Writers' Festival in the 1990s. He is currently an Associate Professor with the Singapore Management University (SMU).
Neil Humphreys is Singapore’s best-selling author. *Notes from an Even Smaller Island* (2001), *Scribbles from the Same Island* (2003), and *Final Notes from a Great Island: A Farewell Tour of Singapore* (2006), and the omnibus *Complete Notes from Singapore* (2007) – are among the most popular titles in the past decade. His fifth book, *Be My Baby*, (2008) chronicled his journey to parenthood and was his first international best-seller. Humphreys then penned two novels – *Match Fixer* (2010) and *Premier Leech* (2011) – to critical acclaim. *Premier Leech* was selected as the *FourFourTwo* Football Novel of the Year in the UK. Humphreys has written extensively for The Straits Times, TODAY, The New Paper, Esquire, Men’s Health, FourFourTwo and The Age in Australia. His latest Singapore title, *Return to a Sexy Island: Notes from a New Singapore* (2012), became a national No.1 best-seller and was one of the most popular books of the year. In March 2013, he wrote and hosted the TV series, *Return to a Sexy Island*, for Channel NewsAsia. To keep his daughter happy, he has written the *Abbie Rose and the Magic Suitcase* series of children’s books. In December 2013, his latest book, *Secrets of the Swamp*, a dark adventure for upper primary readers, was released. In 2014, he intends to publish a new novel - a contemporary detective thriller - and produce his Singapore-based movie screenplay.
Mukul Deva has traveled a long, winding road and shows no sign of tiring. Completing his education from La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the National Defence Academy, Pune, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, Mukul was commissioned in the SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY of the Indian Army in 1981. Another twist in the tale followed when Mukul turned to his first love - writing. The result was a series of books spanning genres as multi-faceted as his personality.

With FIVE successive bestsellers in five years Mukul is acknowledged as India’s literary storm trooper and one of the pioneers of the Indian thriller novel.

Realizing his passion for and ability to help people live up to their potential, Mukul acquired certification in coaching from the Henley Business School, University of Reading, U.K. and embarked on the path of being The Change Maker, as a Business, Executive and Creativity Coach.
Jennifer Gargiulo Marrapese is an author, journalist, and university lecturer. She graduated from Vassar College with a degree in Philosophy and has a PhD from Sydney University. She spent her childhood in Verona and now lives in Singapore.

"Jennifer Gargiulo has just become the island's most famous expat blogger after the publication of her book, Diary of an Expat in Singapore." (Verne Maree, Executive Editor, Expat Living Magazine Dec. 2013)

The book, published by Marshall Cavendish is based on her popular blog by the same name. In her free time, the author enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with her family: husband Michele, and two kids Alexander, aged 12 (grade 7 UWC East student) and Eliot aged 8.
Alison Jean Lester was born in the United States, and has studied and worked in the UK, China, Italy, Taiwan, Japan and Singapore. She studied Mandarin and French in college, and did a graduate degree in Chinese studies. She has worked as a tour guide, desk officer for the US Commerce Department, economic editor, freelance writer, and voiceover artist, and for the past 14 years has been running her own communication skills coaching business.

Valerie Brown Lester is the author of three published books: one biography, one history, and one translation. The biography recounts the life of her great-great-grandfather, Hablot Knight Browne (1815-1882), who was better known as "Phiz," the principal illustrator of the works of Charles Dickens.

The history, Fasten Your Seat Belts!, tells the story of Pan American from the point of view of the flight attendants, much of it in their own voices. The translation is of Alain Fournier's Le Grand Meaulnes, a minor French classic about the dreams and agonies of adolescence, which is still required reading for French teenagers. Her newest book, a biography of Giambattista Bodoni, the most influential Italian typographer of the 18th century, will be published in September 2014. (You can find Bodoni fonts on your computer.)
The host of FOX SPORTS Formula One coverage, and anchor of the award-winning Sports Central programme, English-born Steve Dawson brings a unique style of enthusiasm and knowledge to the screen. Steve really is as pleased to be working in sport as he seems to be.

Born in South East London, Steve studied Economics and Public Administration in West London and spent 11 long years of his post-university life as a tax accountant. Steve has been involved in sports journalism since 1988 when he first reported for a weekly fight magazine called “Boxing News”.

Steve Dawson made his move to Singapore in 1994 with his wife who is Singaporean, and started out as a journalist for the Straits Times. "We came here on holiday and what's not to like when you come here? We ended up staying.”
Chris Huntington has been described as a “half-Chinese combination of Faust and Charlie Brown,” and his book has been described in similar terms. *Mike Tyson Slept Here* is a fictionalized version of the ten years Chris Huntington spent working in the American prison system and has been called both “a desperate note carved into the desktop of a schoolroom everyone must pretend does not exist” and at the same time “a quirky and hilarious workplace comedy.”

Ten years in the making, *Mike Tyson Slept Here* is a sharp look at prison, love, and what it’s like to be in both at once.
Tabby Stirling lives in Singapore with her Drama teacher husband, eccentric 6 year old son and 'the' Beagle. “I've been writing since I can remember. It's always been a huge part of my life. I've had poetry, short stories and hopefully, this year, after being taken on by a literary consultancy - a publishing deal. I have a novella published on Amazon by Skiddaw Books under the pseudonym Alex Mitchell and am also working on a series of novellas featuring Zombies. I love to read and the invention of the Kindle has made me more voracious than ever! I really enjoy taking part in these events and can't wait to work with all that East talent.”
Jacyntha England is a writer, theatre performer and educator who grew up in Canada but has made the world, including France, Thailand, Tanzania, Kazakhstan and Singapore, her home for the past twenty years. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Vancouver’s Simon Fraser University and has published both fiction and non-fiction in anthologies and journals in North America, Asia and Europe. Her recent publications include short stories in the anthologies Love and Lust in Singapore, published by Monsoon Press in Singapore, and Through Central Asian Eyes, published by Nomad Publications in Kazakhstan.

Jacyntha has never given up her day job, which is teaching English and Drama in IB international education. She has been lucky enough to work with a dynamic and diverse group of students at Singapore’s ISS International School for the past five years, and has loved every minute of it! She is also an active volunteer with H.O.M.E. (Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics, a Singaporean NGO that works with the local migrant worker community), and helps run an English language education for domestic workers in Singapore.
Jyoti Angresh has a natural love for heritage and culture which has found expression in her writing of coffee-table books on Fort Canning Park and National University of Singapore (NUS) Co-operative, chapters on Heritage and Traditions of Singapore for the 10th, 11th and 12th editions of the ‘Living in Singapore’ reference guide, as well as a number of regular features and articles on subjects of local interest for the monthly Singapore American Newsletter.

Jyoti is a qualified fashion business professional with over 15 years of international experience. She is currently a part-time trainer at the Textile and Fashion Federation of Singapore, where she also continues to write the monthly newsletter for members of the industry.
Melissa Diagana has lived in Singapore for 6 years with her husband, 3 little kids, and 2 cats. With family roots and shoots in the US, France, Serbia, Senegal, and Ethiopia, she finds it easy to thrive in this multi-ethnic city-state and has been inspired to write regularly on environmental and medical topics for the Singapore American Newspaper. She has also written chapters for the 11th and 12th edition of Living in Singapore guidebook and most recently a coffee table book on Fort Canning Park (with Jyoti Angresh).

Melissa grew up in upstate New York and in New England; and then shifted to France to do her Ph.D. in molecular biology and start work in the biotech industry. She eventually worked in San Francisco and has a decade of writing scientific papers and patents to her credit before moving to Singapore in 2006.
Meher Deva is the daughter of an Indian Army officer and best-selling author. She has had the good fortune to live in diverse cities and cultures, and is currently completing her studies in Mass Communications at a prestigious Singapore university. Her first book, *The Girl who Lost Her Shadow*, was co-written with Dr Ken Spillman. A keen debater and theatre enthusiast, Meher is now working on her second novel – a young adults’ thriller titled *The Peregrine Factor*. 
The Blurb Writing Competition

"I like things to be story-shaped. Reality, however, is not story-shaped, and the eruptions of the odd into our lives are not story-shaped either."
- Neil Gaiman, Fragile Things

You don’t have to be a storyteller to have an interesting story to tell. Imagine taking any snapshot from your life and making it into a short story. Describe a moment in your life - whether tragic, humorous or bizarre - up to 500 words long, and email it to uwctheblurb@gmail.com by February 8, after the CNY break.
Words Go Round Writing Competition

Words Go Round wants you to be short and sweet this year! Its flash fiction contest, inspired by micro-blogging site Twitter, challenges you to tell a compelling adventure story – in 140 characters or less.

Here’s what to do:
1. Write an original short story in 140 characters or less, with the theme of “Adventure”.

Example:
He survived the dinosaurs and man-eating plants but trapped in the gully for days, delirious with hunger, he thought his shoes looked yummy.

[The English Department expects you to do a better job than this!]

Attractive prizes are up for grabs!

Entries in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil are accepted.