

# Tears, Laughter and Love at JIS Class of '96 Reunion

**The seed was planted in April of 2005, during a slow paced lazy Jakarta afternoon in Amigo's Kemang.**

The thoughts of gearing a potential reunion during the summer of 2006 seemed daunting and far off. But the seed showed hope of growth as months of planning by several class of '96 alums began bare fruit and promise which no one ever anticipated. With the age of converging media, what seemed difficult swiftly turned into reality through communication across the miles, through word of mouth, via email and websites. Soon there was a



*Keegan Curnutt and Scott Boyd*

whelming response ensued with close to 200 JIS alums from various grades with family and friends planning to arrive. The reunion was held at Treasure Island while various enthusiasts littered many of the hotels on the infamous strip. Thursday evening and all day Friday, June 23, alums flew in and flocked in droves to what soon was eerily reminiscent of a first day back at school. That evening saw the kickoff of the festivities with a cocktail party mixer at Kahunaville, followed by a Saturday poolside buffet dinner with open bar, blue and silver deco-



*Aarti Natesan and Mandi Ikert*

reunion site, a hotel booking, posts of old familiar faces and stories shared. The JIS bonds proved still to be the most tried and true kinships many of us have ever experienced. Scores were fortunate to lock in the event while those who could not attend shared their joy, love and gratitude through correspondence.

And what better place to have a JIS High School reunion, than Las Vegas! The votes were cast and soon an over-



*Kathy Preslar, Sarah Reeves, Dewi Chand, and Tara Calvert*

rated theme and a JIS Dragons cake. The days brought poolside parties and the post-evening events brought a trickle on effect through the unique nightlife which only Vegas can deliver.

The resilience of 'third culture kids' was tested with ease as alums flew from all over the world to make the most of the special three-day gathering. Friendships were renewed. Stories were shared. Good vibes, happy tears, stories old and new, were conversed and savored through a lot of love and affinity for our big little school and the gifts it gave us all. Everything was the same except that everything was different. A perfect 72-hour event from start to finish, the theme of the weekend seemed to be one of overwhelming emotion as we remembered our past, cherished our present and looked forward to



*Nate Geisinger, Heather Danahey and Joe Machin*



*Kathy Preslar, Nikki Fougere and husband Rich*



*Jaime Walters, Mindy Weimer, Alex von Winning, and Sheree Chiou*

the future. We replayed our innocent youth, rekindled old memories and found solace in embracing how far we had collectively come in our life experience, mind and spirit. Once again life was a celebration in true JIS style!

A very special thank you to Jaime Walters for all her tireless dedication without which the event would not have been possible, to Beth Owen and JIS for contributing JIS memorabilia to the special event, Anuj Ralhan – our class president – for his assistance, Jason Lane for setting up the invaluable website and the support of the JIS Alumni Association – Jakarta Chapter. On behalf of all those who attended, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Photos have been posted and can be shared at [www.snapfish.com](http://www.snapfish.com), login email: [jis96reunion@gmail.com](mailto:jis96reunion@gmail.com), password: vegas. Enjoy! To other classes out there, we hope this inspires you to make more happen, and don't forget to extend invitations to us all!

*Craig Money, Class of '96*

**The class of 1997 is organizing a reunion for the Summer of 2007 in celebration of their 10-year anniversary. All JIS Alumni are welcome to attend. For more information please e-mail the '97 Alumni Committee at [info@jisalumni97.com](mailto:info@jisalumni97.com) or visit the website which will be available soon at [www.jisalumni97.com](http://www.jisalumni97.com).**



*Craig Money, Justin Wimbish and Jono Eiland*