



ALESS Meeting Times 2025-2026

Date	Location and Host	Focus
Mon, Sept 22 4:30-5:30 pm	Chinese International School Ardea Smith & team	Welcome & Planning for the Year
Weds, Nov 5 4:30-5:30 pm	Malvern College HK Corinna Mansfield & team	Book Week/Literacy Week Planning • sharing best practices • author discussion • author lists Guests speakers: Young Readers Festival and Authors Abroad
Sat, Nov 8 9 am-1 pm	Shrewsbury International School Lynn Lawrence-Brown & Ashanti Mayes	Global Citizenship, Diversity, Collection Development Policy Workshop (½ day) • Guest Speakers, Janet Wong • why diversity is important • supporting mission of global citizenship & defining diversity • a framework for auditing collection development policy • shared diverse book lists.
Fri Dec 5 4:30-6:30 pm	Globe in Central Crystal Lang & Lynn L-B	ALESS Mid-Year Reflection & Holiday Celebration
Sat Jan 17 9-3 pm (with lunch break)	Location - TBC	21st Century Library Best Practices PD focusing on the latest trends and best practices in school librarianship including: • AI Best Practices, Responsible Use, Balance & Digital Citizenship - TBC • Scope & Sequence of Library Programming • Advocacy • Library lesson planning & design Guest speakers: Cora & Dalton Flanagan - TBC
Tues Feb 10 4:30-5:30 pm	Renaissance College Melissa Cooper & team	Library Design & Increasing Circulation through Display Guest speakers: Phoebe Wong, Raeco/Steelcase - TBC
Mon, March 16	Hong Kong Academy	Bibliotherapy/ SEL through Library Collections/

4:30-5:30 pm	Katie De Santis & team	Diverse book lists Guest speakers: TBC
Weds, April 15 4:30-5:30 pm	GSIS - Campus - TBC Christy Bicknell & team	Mother Tongue/Chinese Collections/Translated Works
Fri, May 22 4:30-6:30 pm	Pier 7 Cafe & Bar or other recommendations welcome Crystal Lang & Lynn L-B	ALESS Annual General Meeting & End of Year Celebration

	ALESS Agenda Date: Nov. 5, 2025, 4:30-5:30 Location: Malvern College HK	
	Attending	Crystal Lang (LP-HKIS), Jonah Skinner (HKCA PLK) Suzanne McCluskey (CDNIS), Sarah Cha (ASHK), Jill Wong (Bradbury School), Ardea Smith and Phoebe Wong (CIS), Mandy Chan (KS), Mei-li Bacani (KGV), Claire Palmer (ICHK), Miriam Bates (NAIS)
	Apologies	Macy Lau (KJS), Isabele Silva (KCIS)
Speaker	Agenda Items	
5 mins	Welcome	
Crystal 10 mins	Guest Speaker: Young Readers Festival	
Lynn 15 4:45-5:00	Guest Speaker: Authors Abroad	
Crystal 15	Guest Speaker: Karl Dzelzkalns from Every Page Counts	
Lynn 15	PD Focus: Book Week/Literacy Week Idea Sharing	
TBD	Other items of discussion:	

	Please feel free to add anything else you might be interested in discussing today (or at a future meeting.) •
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	ALESS Agenda Date: September 22, 2025, 4:30-5:30 Location: CIS
Attending	<u>PLEASE FILL LINK TO ATTEND:</u> Crystal Lang (HKIS-LP), Lynn Lawrence-Brown (SIS HK), Diana Chian (KIS), Isabelle Silva (Kiangsu-Chekiang International School), Sarah Cha (ASHK), Nicki Merrick (ASHK), Christy Bicknell (GSIS), Mandy (KS), Melanie Foti (DBIS) + Aurelie Guidevay (FIS), Ardea Smith (CIS), Phoebe Wong (CIS), Millie Yip (CIS), Wing Che (CIS), Babs Bowman (HKIS-MS), Maggie Davidov (HKIS-HS)
Apologies	Macy Lau (KJS), Ezeamuzie Mercy, Zanele Mnguni (HKA), Heather Jablonowski (CDNIS), Claire Palmer (ICHK), Annie Yeung (GS), Mei-li Bacani (KGV) Kyla (KJS) Suzanne (CDNIS), Emily Wong (Kellett), Mel Cooper (RC), Jonah Skinner, Hema Raj (PS), Amy Robinson HKIS-UP)
Speaker	Agenda Items
10 mins	Welcome - Who's in the room? Thank you to CIS for hosting our meeting. We are hoping to move forward with in-person meeting this year. Those present introduced themselves.
Crystal 3 mins	Communication Update • Platform - Google Site • WhatsApp Group (social) vs. email (library content) • Documentation - Google Drive • Member Database ◦ Mel will send something out to ensure our membership database is clear and organized (coming) Keep communication platforms the same for now, clean up member list, WhatsApp - for social purposes and optional Professional communication - please send via the ALESS email Documentation and resources will be in the Google Drive.
Lynn 15	Collaboration Groups - all attending members contributed ideas and added thoughts to the attached document. • Topics of Interest

	○ Diversify book collections - an event coming up soon; ○ AI ○ Information Literacy Continuum/ Scope and Sequence (HKA) ○ Reader identity continuum ○ Other ideas? Building world language collections ● Breakout Groups based on interest ○ What might this group want to accomplish?
Crystal 15	PD Focused Meeting (with letter for Admin describing goals of each meeting) ● Topics of interest? ○ Scope and Sequence of Library Programming ○ Other ideas? ● Break out groups ○ What might we be interested in covering? ○ What keynote speakers might we want to hear from? Map out PD goals for each meeting to give library staff greater leverage to argue for coming to ALESS meetings.
Lynn 5	HK Library Things People Should Know About ● Battle of the Books - registration link ○ Register ASAP (31 Oct.) ● Golden Dragon Book Awards - Mel ○ List coming early October ○ Please join! Contact Mel Foti ● Kids Lit Quiz on March 17, 2026 (Annie Tam) ○ Double check age range ● Please add to this list (as a comment)
Lynn 5	Upcoming PD for Librarians ● LSKW - Phnom Penh (Nov 13-15) ● ALESS - Defining Diversity and Auditing Collection Development Policy Workshop - Hong Kong (Sat, 8 Nov - half day) ○ Why diversity matters in collections and curriculum materials - 45 mins ○ Host school library tour and break - 30 mins ○ Defining diversity in an international school setting discussion & brainstorm - 45 mins ○ Workshop on how to audit your Collection Development Policy with diversity in mind - 45 mins ○ Diverse book lists - discussion on collaboration and how to build these out - 30 mins ○ Lunch & book shopping nearby ● 21CL - Library Connection - Hong Kong - Still seeking library tour and presenters ○ Library Tours - March 11 ○ Library Connection Mini - March 12 ○ 21CL Conference - March 13-14 ○ Greater Bay Awards - winner last year Macy from Kowloon Junior ● ALESS - PD Workshop (Jan 17) - Generalized PD on what members would like to focus on - an opportunity for focus groups to meet in person? ● Please add to this list (as a comment)

Crystal TBD Isabele	Other items of discussion: Please feel free to add anything else you might be interested in discussing today (or at a future meeting.) ● Is it possible to create a spreadsheet for the international language books we have in duplicate and offer your excess books to a shared pool, please? ● Hosting authors from the HK Literary Festival. How was your experience and how does it work? ○ Local authors - AY Chan (Christy) ○ We will update list of local authors ● Suggestion: Create a document where people could share links to products they have successfully ordered and vetted (eg. Taobao purchases)
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