



# Letter from the Principal

201 Ulu Pandan Road Singapore 596468, T: +65 6536 6566

5 April 2013

## Upcoming Events

Thursday 11 April, from 4.30 pm: Parent Consultation (Year 13/Grade 12), course option information (Years 10 and 12/Grades 9 and 11)

Friday 12 April, 8.30 am: Primary School Assembly (led by Year 5/Grade 4)

Friday 19 April: Whole School Swimming Gala

Thursday 25 April, 6.00 pm: Music Concert, preceded by IB Art Exhibition

Saturday 4 May, 9.00 am: Beach Cleanup and BBQ

## New Class Names

Following a long discussion with the Council for Private Education, we have reached agreement that Nexus registration can be extended to include our Kindergarten, which was previously registered by the Ministry of Education Pre-Schools Division. This means that the whole of Nexus, from Nursery to IB Diploma, should soon sit under one registration. There are many administrative benefits to this change, but you will notice few differences in your day to day experiences. Initially, the most obvious change will result from the renaming of our classes from Grades to Years. As of Monday 8 April, the Kindergarten will be re-labelled as a two year pre-school programme and the Grade levels will be renamed as Year levels from 1 – 13. You will find this conversion table helpful.

Old names	New names	Usual ages	Curriculum	Section
Nursery	Nursery	3-4	PYP	Kindergarten
KG1	Kindergarten (KG)	4-5	PYP	Kindergarten
KG2	Year 1	5-6	PYP	Primary School
Grade 1	Year 2	6-7	PYP	Primary School
Grade 2	Year 3	7-8	PYP	Primary School
Grade 3	Year 4	8-9	PYP	Primary School
Grade 4	Year 5	9-10	PYP	Primary School
Grade 5	Year 6	10-11	PYP	Primary School
Grade 6	Year 7	11-12	UK NC	Secondary School
Grade 7	Year 8	12-13	UK NC	Secondary School
Grade 8	Year 9	13-14	UK NC	Secondary School
Grade 9	Year 10	14-15	IGCSE	Secondary School
Grade 10	Year 11	15-16	IGCSE	Secondary School
Grade 11	Year 12	16-17	IB DP	Secondary School
Grade 12	Year 13	17-18	IBDP	Secondary School

PYP = International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme  
 UK NC = National Curriculum for England and Wales (enhanced)  
 IGCSE = International General Certificate of Secondary Education  
 IBDP = International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

## Re-enrolment for 2013 – 2014

By now you will have received the new student contract and re-enrolment letter. It will be very helpful to our planning if you can advise us of your intentions as soon as you can. We are currently finalising staffing and timetable for August so it's important that we are working with as much information as possible.

## Security

Please wear your ID pass when visiting the school. Everyone should have an ID pass, including any maids, friends or relatives who are regular visitors to the school. If you don't have an ID pass, please tell Student Services who will provide the required assistance.

## ELS Tip of The Week

The first stage for many children starting to learn English in the classroom is called the silent stage. In this time they are listening carefully to the language they hear but are not yet ready to start speaking. Depending on the personality and nationality of the child, this stage may last 1 day or 6 months or more.

It is important not to be concerned if this stage seems to be taking a long time. The child can learn a great deal without saying a word. In fact the power of listening is the main tool for developing a language.

I had evidence of the truth of this theory a few years ago when I taught an Italian boy in grade 6. He refused to say a word of English for more than half of the school year, and then he suddenly lost his inhibitions and started to talk. Before the end of the same year, he was almost fluent in English and made few serious grammatical errors.

Obviously, ELS parents and guardians want to do everything they can to help their children learn English, but it is probably not a good idea at the beginning to put too much pressure on them to speak only English at home, unless they themselves are happy to do so. It is far better to support them in their first language.

Another typical phase in second language learning is the 'backslide'. By this I mean that students have periods when they get wrong what they seem to have already learned. And they do this in exactly the same way as a child learning English as his or her first language.

Taking English verbs as an example, it very often happens that children seem to have learned some irregular past tense forms. They hear their parents / guardians saying sentences like " I went to the shops " and they use these correct forms themselves.

A little later, however, they start to say sentences like " He goed to the shops " What has happened is that they have started to unconsciously work out the rules of English grammar. They realise that the past tense in English is formed by adding –ed to the verb, but they overgeneralise this rule out to include all verbs. It takes a little more time before they further refine the rule to include both regular and irregular endings.

So this apparent backward step is in fact a sign of progress in learning the language and needs to be celebrated.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime at [walsh.b@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:walsh.b@nexus.edu.sg)

*Brian Walsh, Subject Leader, ELS*

## Nexus Parent Group (NPG)

All of us in NPG would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have recently joined Nexus. Please come along to our regular coffee mornings in the NPG room – first Friday of every month from 9am in the NPG room on Level 2

We would like to build up a store of brochures/leaflets for parents new to Singapore. If you visit a museum, gallery or other attraction please pick up a dozen or so leaflets (preferably not time-specific) and drop them off in the NPG Room or at the Student Services front desk.

Scrapbooking is a great way to keep all those lovely photos and memories at hand. Come and enjoy a few hours of sticking, glueing and chatting, with the NPG Scrapbook Club. \$20 covers all your materials to make a cute mini book to put your photos in. Each month we will make a different mini book. No experience necessary. The Club will be held on the second Tuesday of the month: 9 April, 14 May and 11 June (10am-1pm, NPG Room, Blk C, level 2). Sign up to the event on the NPG FaceBook Page or email [npg@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:npg@nexus.edu.sg), "for the attention of Aisha".

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Welcome

First, welcome back to all our existing children and families. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday. Second, welcome to all our new learners and their families. We have had 14 students start with us this week and it has been lovely getting to know them all. Having greeted them in the mornings and chatted to them around school, they seem to have thoroughly enjoyed their first days at Nexus.

### Music Teaching

As you will have read in the last newsletter, Natasha Ali, our Junior School music teacher, left us at the end of Term 3. We are very fortunate to have talented musical staff, so your children will continue to receive high quality music tuition throughout Term 4. The Grade 2 to Grade 5 learners will be taught by Jermaine Griffiths from the Senior School while our Nursery, Kindergarten and Grade 1 learners will be taught by Nicki Taylor. Nicki is an accomplished musician and has numerous years of experience as a Music teacher and coordinator. While Nicki is teaching music for these classes, our PYP Co-ordinator, Miriam Mahapatra, will teach UOI in Penguins' class. This will be on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Despite this change in staffing, we are very keen to ensure that all the children have the opportunity

to be part of a school performance, even if it is on a smaller scale. Therefore, we are planning a small production for Nursery, Kindergarten and Grade 1 and a small production for Grades 2 to 5. As we are aiming for the 'show to go on' we would be delighted if our talented parents and guardians came forward to help us on costumes, make-up and scenery or with drama and singing coaching. If you would like to be part of the Nexus backstage crew please contact Paul Beach ([beach.p@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:beach.p@nexus.edu.sg)).

### **Teacher Aides**

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a Teachers' Aide for Kindergarten, Melanie Halge. Melanie has experience working in other international schools and will be a real asset to our team. She will be based in Penguins' class. Erna Evans will return to supporting Grade 1 and we thank her for all the assistance she has given to the Kindergarten in the interim period.

### **Grade 4 Assembly**

Our next grade assembly will be led by our Grade 4 learners and will take place on Friday 12 April at 8.30am. We hope that lots of families will be able to join us.

### **Grade 5 Residential Trip to LooLa Adventure Resort, Bintan**

The Grade 5 residential trip is scheduled to take place from 21 Tuesday to 23 May, Thursday at LooLa Adventure Resort on Bintan Island in Indonesia. Full details of the trip will be provided next week. In the meantime, we would ask Grade 5 families to check that their child has a current passport, it is valid for at least 6 months from the end of May and will have 3 or more blank pages remaining by the time of our trip. In addition, children of nationalities that require visas for entry to Indonesia (eg: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, North Korea, Nepal) will need to apply for an Indonesian visa. We will also hold a brief information session for parents at 8.30am on Thursday, 18 April (venue to be confirmed).

*Paul Beach, Head of Junior School*

## **SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS**

The new Term has got off to a brisk start and is so pleasing to be able to welcome so many new families to the Nexus community. Next Thursday 11 April from 4.00pm is the Information Evening for current Year 9 and 11 (Grades 8 and 10) learners to discuss IGCSE and IB choices, and parent consultations for current Year 13 (Grade 12) learners. The venue will be the library and the emails for signing up have already been sent out. Please sign up as soon as possible.

If you have changed any of your details such as phone numbers or emails then please let us know as soon as you can so that we can be sure of contacting you.

The IB and IGCSE exams start in four weeks time and our learners are now in the final straight of their courses. So many of them now seem to be making that extra effort, as the exams themselves get closer. I am sure we all wish them well with their preparations.



### 7th Singapore Chinese Language Competition

Congratulations to four Nexus learners who have qualified for the finals of the annual YMCA Mandarin Speaking Awards organised by MOE & YMCA. More than 200 candidates from around 70 government and international schools have participated in the competition. 12 learners, including 3 from the Primary school represented our school in the competition.

Four of the Nexus learners have qualified for the finals: Zhang Xue Ming (Year 8/Grade 7), Wu Jia Ni and Liu Ying Zhou (Year 10/Grade 9) Secondary B Grade and Chen Wen Qian (Year 12/Grade 11) in the Open grade.

Other finalists come from:

Bukit Panjang Government High School, Jurongville Secondary School, Maris Stella High School, Ngee Ann Secondary School, Hwa Chong International School, Anderson Junior College, National Junior College, Millennia Institute and Nan Yang Junior College.

The finalists will attend a compulsory half-day experiential learning trip in Singapore on 10 or 17 April to hone their skills before the final, where they will be expected to make impromptu speeches both in Chinese and English.

We should also congratulate the following 8 students who also took part in the competition and became more confident speaking Chinese:

G1 Emma Smith  
G3 Cao Nai Yu  
G4 Zeng Yi Yi  
G6 Li Jing Yi  
G9 Zhou Tian Yi  
G9 Chen Xiao Ying  
G11 Xu Yun Jia  
G11 Myint Myint Sein

### The Octopus's Garden Project

Learners from Grades 7 and 8 presented their final research findings to Dr Stuart, Dr Rosie, Mr Wade and Mr Fensom on Friday 15 March 2013. They were trying to answer the question 'What is a 21st century classroom?' and researched different areas including walls, floors, ceilings, furniture and 'other stuff'. The final presentation can be viewed [here](#) and a report written by Kevin, a learner from Grade 7, can be read on his blog [here](#).

Dr Stuart and Mr Wade are going to review the project findings and decide how to move forward with redesigning the Nexus learning environment. We will keep you posted.

*Mrs Holly*

## **Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition 2013 - Bigger and Better than Ever Before!**

The Humanities Department will be asking Year 7 and 8 learners to bring the past to life by entering the Historical Association's annual historical fiction competition.

One of the key attributes of historical fiction is that it has a convincing setting in a past time and place. Learners can set their stories in ANY period or place in the past, so the story can fit in with and extend any historical topic that they are interested in/studying.

Winning learners will each receive a cash prize of \$50 and an engraved Bath Aqua Blue glass paperweight. Nexus will also receive a year's FREE subscription to the HA.

See your Humanities teacher for details.

*John Evans, Head of Senior School*

### **Heart Warming Story of The Week (email from an ex student)**

*Hello Mrs. Richardson,*

*I'm writing this to you from Mongolia, where I'm currently studying film directing in a very old school. It's a very good school, and I'm enjoying myself while still experimenting with oil portraits. I regret never thanking you for what good grades you gave me. I also never thanked you for the cool book you gave me for my graduation present. I thought of giving you a self-portrait I painted during the last few months of IB, but I thought too late. I was a very weird kid 2 years ago.*

*You introduced me to "street art" when I was obsessing over small time crooks like Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt, I do like their paintings but I do not condone their lifestyle. The term street art sounds more like junk food to my mother, because it is junk, with its petty vandalisms and superficial rebellion against society. Any kid who can make a stencil calls himself a street artist or a Banksy, it feels like devouring a Big Mac. But the underlying motto of street art inspires me to paint in the streets. I imagine doing gigantic murals to decorate the streets, not only with paint but all kinds of mediums. The idea of streets belonging to the public to decorate.*

*You taught me what art is when I stumbled into your class instead of business. A sudden choice that has kept me smelling turpentine in my sleep. I walked into a class where you wept about Andy Goldsworthy and his collapsing twig sculpture and the listening of Starry Night by Don McLean.*

*I've been meaning to reach you for a long time, thanks to Prab who helped me find your Nexus email. I am emailing you to ask for your phone number because I've got a few questions I would like to ask you regarding my future studies. Please contact me when you have the time.*

*I still have the Banksy book I stole from you. Below is a picture of the portrait I thought of giving you, and a shot of my room.*



## SPORTS NEWS

Welcome back for term four. And of course the final few weeks of the ACSIS season 3 for the academic year. Below is a reminder of the training schedule for all our season 3 teams.

### Nexus International School ACSIS Season Three – Training Schedule

Old names	New names	Usual ages	Curriculum
8-11&U Track and Field (Athletics)	Thursday	3.30-4.30pm	Top field
8&U Football (2 teams)	Tuesday & Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm	Top field
Swim Team	Tuesday and Friday	3.30-4.30pm	Pool
12&U Football	Tuesday	3.30-4.30pm	Top field
14&U Girls Basketball	Friday	3.30-4.30pm	Big gym
14&U Boys Basketball	Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm	Big gym
14&U Girls Volleyball	Wednesday	3.30-5.00pm	Small gym
U19 Badminton	Thursday	3.30-5.00pm	Big gym

Sport team photos will take place on Thursday 11 April from 11.15am. Learners will receive a letter on Monday with more information. Please remember to bring all team uniforms for photos, including socks, shoes, and shin pads for footballers.

### Sport Results:

#### 14&U Boys Basketball

Lost Presbyterian High School – 23-41

14&U Boys Basketball Team

#### Sports Draw:

#### Tuesday 9 April

- 14&U Boys Basketball. HOME vs. LFS, 4.30pm



- 14&U Girls Basketball. AWAY vs. CIS Lakeside, 4.30pm  
Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 6.20pm

**Wednesday 10 April**

- 12&U Football. AWAY vs. Global Indian School, East Coast. 4.30pm.  
Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 6.00pm

**Thursday 11 April**

- 14&U Boys Basketball. HOME vs. German European School. 4.30pm.

**Sports Photo Schedule 2013**

When: Thursday 11th April

Where: Please meet Mr. Moriarty in D2

What: Please ensure you are present in D2 at the beginning of the allocated session (ie. if your team's time slot is 11.15am you must be there at 11.15am). You will need to bring any Nexus sport uniforms that you still have, plus any items listed below for your respective teams. If you have returned your team uniform, you will borrow one for the photo.

- Swimming – Please bring Nexus swim uniform and PE uniform
- Biathlon – Please bring PE uniform
- Track and Field (Athletics) – Please bring PE uniform
- Cross Country – Please bring PE uniform
- Badminton – Please bring playing uniform (including black PE shorts), shoes and socks
- Football – Please bring playing uniform, black socks (if you own) and shin guards
- Volleyball – Please bring Volleyball shirt, black tights or PE shorts, shoes and socks
- Basketball – Please bring Basketball shoes, 14&U teams to bring uniform (uniform will be provided for others teams)





Schedule:	
<b>11.15am</b>	14&U Girls Volleyball U19 Girls Badminton 12&U Girls Basketball 14&U Girls Basketball U19 Girls Volleyball
<b>12.00pm</b>	8&U Football 9&U Football 11&U Football 12&U Football U19 Football
<b>12.45pm</b>	11&U Boys Basketball 12&U Boys Basketball 14&U Boys Basketball U19 Boys Basketball
<b>1.30pm</b>	Biathlon Track and Field (Athletics) Cross Country Swimming
<b>2.00pm</b>	11&U Boys Badminton 12&U Boys Badminton 14&U Boys Badminton

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you all on time this Thursday.

We wish all our teams the very best, not only for next week, but the entire ACSIS Season Three.

If you have any questions regarding sport at Nexus International School please do not hesitate to contact me at [moriarty.b@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:moriarty.b@nexus.edu.sg)

*Bevan Moriarty, Director of Sport*

If you have any comments or questions about any aspect of the school's procedures, please email me at [principal@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:principal@nexus.edu.sg) or [martin.s@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:martin.s@nexus.edu.sg)

Please also LIKE and share our [Facebook](#) page to keep up with all that is going on at Nexus.



Dr Stuart Martin  
**Principal**