



Letter from the Principal

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10 May 2013

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Annual Beach Clean Up & International Picnic

Thank you to everyone who came along and joined in. More than 100 people cleared rubbish and then enjoyed a brunch that had been prepared by our Year 12 CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) class. Congratulations and many thanks to CAS coordinator Andrea Webb, and the CAS students for their hard work in organising this event.



Security and Attendance

We have recently reviewed our attendance policy and, with effect from Monday, 20 May, there will be some changes to our systems and processes. There are two main differences you will notice – both changes are intended to improve our knowledge about who is on site in case of emergencies. First, the pedestrian gate beside the vehicle exit will be used for exit only during school hours (i.e. from 8.20am onwards). This means that all students arriving after 8.20am must walk to the main gate to

be registered by our security staff. If the student is in the Secondary School, they can then make their way to class; if the student is in the Primary School, it is expected that their parent or guardian will escort them to class. Students will no longer be required to register at Student Services as our security staff will automatically register those who arrive late. If a student needs to leave the school during the school day, they must go to Student Services before they leave. Student Services will update our system to reflect that the student has left and will authorise a 'Permission to Leave' form, which will need to be handed to security as the student leaves. This change will include young children who are collected by a parent or guardian from their class or the nurse's station. The parent or guardian will need to leave via Student Services to have the form authorised. Learners will be briefed on these changes before they are implemented.

ELS Tip of the Week

Up-grade your vocabulary

This week we concentrate on vocabulary and writing. Most learners write by using their existing and largely surface vocabulary; words that come to you without much thought. This is understandable because, as you write and think, you have to juggle many things in your mind. Your vocabulary is like an iceberg. You can see 10% of an iceberg above the water, but most of it is below the surface. Similarly, you know and recognise more words than you actively use.

You can improve your writing by up-grading, or improving your vocabulary by diving under the surface for better words and expressions. Select certain highlight pen or pencil colours for certain vocabulary items. For example, yellow for nouns, green for verbs, and other colours for adjectives, and so on. Go through your writing and highlight or underline all the examples you can find.

Then, think (consider), "Is that word the best I can do?" Do the words actually (precisely) say (express) what you want to say (convey)? Can you find another, better (superior) word? Either you can think more carefully about words you know, or use a thesaurus. A thesaurus is a book like a dictionary, except that it lists words of similar meanings. You can buy (purchase) printed versions, however most electronic dictionaries and computers have them.

I thought about many words in this paragraph and put a better word next to them in parenthesis "()". One of them was the word, 'say'. The thesaurus on my computer suggested many words to replace 'say' - 'state', 'speak', 'remark', 'utter', 'express', 'voice', 'declare', 'pronounce'. Not all examples in a thesaurus mean the same thing, so you will need to cross-reference the word you have in mind with a dictionary to make sure it is the meaning you really want. By doing this, not only will your writing become more interesting to the reader, but you will also be increasing your vocabulary.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime at walsh.b@nexus.edu.sg

Brian Walsh, Subject Leader, ELS

Nexus Parent Group (NPG)

The NPG invite you to the following events in the month of May:

Thursday, 2 May (7.30pm)

NPG Evening Social at The Wine Connection, at Roberson Quay (Robertson Walk, 11 Unity Street #01-05/06)

Tuesday, 21 May (11.30am)

Secondary School 'Eat & Greet', a pot-luck lunch (NPG room, Block C, Level 2)

For further information, please contact npg@nexus.edu.sg and your email will be forwarded to the appropriate committee member.

Playgroup at Nexus

Starting in January this year, Mount Sinai Playgroup has been holding fortnightly sessions right here at Nexus. The school has kindly offered the space and resources for the growing group. We would also like to thank Mr Paul Ho and his Facilities team for adding furniture and a safety gate.

Both parents and children love the space provided for play and activities. It has proved so popular that the numbers have increased to accommodate all who have expressed interest to attend the playgroup. If you have pre-school children and want to join us, please visit <http://www.meetup.com/Mount-Sinai-Playgroup> to sign up. Look for Play Group at Nexus on the website and RSVP to let us know you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you.

Please call Melanie or send a message to 9358 9232 for more information.



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please contact Student Services studentservices@nexus.edu.sg at your earliest convenience, and provide them with your child's name, year group and reason for absence. This is more effective than contacting your child's homeroom teacher, as Student Services will be able to quickly contact all relevant staff on your behalf, as well as pass the details to the

homeroom teacher. Student Services will also follow up on any absences that remain unexplained after 9.00am each school day. May we remind you that only parents or guardians should contact Student Services with the reason for absence. It is not appropriate for students to contact Student Services themselves.

Year 1 Assembly

Our Year 1 learners lead our assembly today. They did a great job of showing their learning about homes, including sharing videos and models. Everyone enjoyed their song about different kinds of living environments. Thank you to the families who joined us. Our next year group assembly will be led by the learners from Year 6. It will be on Thursday, 13 June at 8.40am. We hope that more families will be able to join us.

Year 2 ‘Goods and Services Day’

Last Friday, our Year 2 learners held a ‘Goods and Services Day’, which the children planned, organised and ran. In groups, the children created adverts for their goods or services and displayed them around the school. They certainly grabbed other learners’ attention, as the response was overwhelming from all year groups. There were large crowds viewing the wide variety of stalls, which included nail painting, scooter washing, massage, hairstyling, shoe shining and craft making. The learners raised a fantastic \$200 and they have decided to donate this to a member of our local community who, due to a bacterial infection, has lost both her arms and legs and is raising money to buy prosthetics. This was the culmination of a number of weeks of work, finding out what goods and services are, and how a community needs a range of them to function. Well done to our Year 2 entrepreneurs.

Mini Productions

As you are aware, we are planning to put on two mini productions this Term 4, (one for Years 3 to 6, and one for Nursery, Kindergarten, and Years 1 and 2). The dates and times for these performances have been shared in the Year Group newsletters.

Field

We are very excited to announce that the main sports field at the back of our site is going to be renovated. This is a large project that will take over two months to complete. We have planned the work so that the majority of it will take place during the school holiday, but the work will need to begin next week. This means that the children will not be able to use the field at lunch time and snack time. Instead, the children will use the field at the front of the school at lunchtime and use the small gym at snack time. It also means that the service road by the field may have contractors’ vehicles, so we will need to suspend our Primary School ‘Wheels Days’ for the remainder of this term. We know this is an improvement that many children and parents have asked for. We are looking forward to having a well-drained, well-maintained and flat sports field when school opens in August.

Year 6 Residential

The Year 6 residential camp to Bintan is quickly approaching. Please ensure that you have check the items required for this trip so that your child is ready. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate



to contact Mr Evans or Miss Carlie. We are pleased to inform you that, following up on the feedback from parents, we have arranged for a coach to take the children from Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal to the school on Thursday, 23 May. The coach will arrive back at school at approximately 2.30pm and children can be collected and taken home at this time. We hope that everyone will find this change to the itinerary helpful.

Year 6 Transition

This week, Year 6 children have begun their transition to our Secondary School. Together with their homeroom teachers, they have visited the different parts of the Secondary School and have taken part in lessons with the specialist Mathematics, Humanities, English and Science teachers. The feedback from the students has been extremely positive. They particularly enjoyed learning how to use Bunsen burners in the science labs, and in Humanities, thinking about how humans may adapt in the future to extreme climate changes.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

Nexus is a school that promotes a healthy lifestyle and we encourage children to make considered choices about the food they eat. To help us in this regard, we ask families to provide children with healthy foods for lunch and snack time. Whilst crisps, fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate are great for occasional treats, they should be eaten in moderation. Fruits, rice crackers, yoghurts, cereal bars and juice drinks are all good alternative choices. Thank you in advance for your support in this.

Paul Beach, Head of Primary School

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Whatever You Do, Don't Make Sense

In English, our Year 9 learners have been working on reviewing and consolidating their understanding of sentences. They were challenged to use their learning to create sentences that were grammatically correct yet did not make sense.

Learners were provided sentence starters and asked to finish them; the final sentence was not to make sense, but had to use correct grammar and punctuation. Learners then chose their favourite sentences, played around with them, explored patterns, and experimented with editing and reworking the order and syntax, until they had created poetry.

Read some of the results below, or visit the [Year 9 Blog](#) to read more.

The Creative Mind by Katie Walker

At the top of tomorrow waits for the future that we will soon call the good old days.
The hiding place of rain shivers underneath the turtle's shell.
The antonym of pink is showers, no love.
If you look underneath peace, you might hear nothingness.
When you toss sadness to the wind, it returns in an owl's eye.
At the centre of boredom is an anonymous thrill.
The rock bottom of October will never await the never-ending string.

When you tiptoe through the Valley of Happiness, you might find a reflection.

Untitled by Paarvv Goel

At the top of tomorrow waits a table with wheels and an attached gun and knitting kit.
The swirl of loneliness sounds like an old man drinking water.
When you toss sadness to the wind, it returns as a glue stick.
When you tiptoe through the valley of happiness, you might find a gold marker.
The shape of the past fits inside a wine glass.
The enemy of green hides between the window and black piece of paper.
If you jump into the present, you'll land on Dhanis.
If you look underneath peace you hear a book.

Food for Difference by Bronwyn Watkins

At the centre of the eye is boredom.
At the edge of silver is a shimmering smile.
The swirl of loneliness sounds like a single heart-beat echoing;
the centre of the eye is blood red.

Toss sadness to the wind, and it will await your arrival.
Valley of Happiness: walk through and back down, devils beware!
Keep climbing to the top of tomorrow and find an old friend.
Toss sadness to the wind - it is a boomerang.

Proposed IGCSE Geography Field Trip to Bali in September 2013.

We are proposing to take the IGCSE geographers to Mount Batur in Bali, Indonesia, in Week 5 (from 9 to 13 September) or Week 6 (from 16 to 20 September) of Term One of the 2013/14 academic year. Fieldwork is a vital component in the study of Geography. It gives learners the opportunity to experience first-hand material covered in the classroom. For IGCSE geographers, it will also be an opportunity to put into practice fieldwork skills learned in class, as well as collect 'real world' data to use in the coursework component of their assessment for Geography.

Odyssey Institute is a group that runs school trips all over Indonesia and have organised the trip's itinerary. Learners will stay in comfortable accommodation inside Mount Batur's caldera. This provides excellent access to Mount Batur itself (on which we will hike), villages in the caldera and the Batur Volcano Museum. The focus for our trip will be on volcanology, human geography and tectonic processes. Learners will be participating in field activities such as mapping, data collection and interviewing local residents during the day. In the evenings, they will have lectures from experts and will be working on developing coursework material. Learners will be accompanied by 3 to 4 members of staff will be at all times.

A letter with further details will be mailed out to parents next week.

If you are interested in attending, please let me know via email: hall.t@nexus.edu.sg.
I look forward to seeing you at the presentation.

Tony Hall, Geography/ESS teacher

Science Department Year 6/7 Transition Lessons

The Science Department ran the first of their taster lessons for Year 6 learners on Wednesday. There was much excitement in the room as learners lit a Bunsen burner for the first time, and as a result, left the laboratory with a certificate to mark the occasion. Mrs Burgess and Mr Snell look forward to running a further three sessions over the next fortnight.

The secondary school is a very busy place at the moment. We have our Year 11 and Year 13 learners now well into their stride with their final examinations. Lots of preparations are taking place for events to conclude this academic year and to begin the next.

The graduating class will have a graduation assembly on 23 May in the afternoon, with a social event for the graduates, their parents and staff before the assembly.

The School Council is arranging an end-of-year celebration for all students in the secondary school on Thursday, 13 June, after lunch.

Preparing for next year, the Secondary School has had visitors to lessons from Year 6 to prepare them for their start in the Secondary School next year. We are also making initial enquiries for some year group residential study and activity visits for Years 7 to 9 for the next academic year. These are likely to take place sometime during the last 2 weeks of Term 1. Further information will follow in due course.

Please also note that on 14 June, school will operate as normal and we will be teaching until lunchtime. We therefore expect all learners who are not on study leave to attend school and be in class until that time.

John Evans, Head of Secondary School

SPORTS NEWS

ACSIS 8-11&U Track and Field Championships – Saturday, 11 May

The annual Junior ACSIS Track and Field Championships takes place tomorrow at Clementi Stadium. Please see below for all details.

Event	ACSIS 8-11&U Track and Field Championships
Date	Saturday, 11 May, 2013
Time	8&U and 9&U, 8.00am-11.30am 10&U & 11&U, 12.00pm-3.30pm
Venue	Clementi Stadium, 10 West Coast Walk, Singapore 127156
Events	Athletes will choose their 3 preferred events
Transport	Nexus International School will provide one bus to and from the venue. It will depart Nexus at 7.30am to Clementi Stadium, and returning back to Nexus at approximately 12.00pm.

Sports Results

14&U Boys Basketball

Beat UWC (East Campus): 37-24

14&U Girls Basketball

Lost to Chatsworth International School

Triton Swim League

Gold Medalist Joey Choo,
Ribbon Winner Brandon Gore, after the latest round of Triton
Swim League.



Sports Draw

Monday, 13 May

12&U Football. AWAY vs. YBIS at Rainforest Sportshub, Turf City, 4.30pm. Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 6.00pm.

Thursday, 16 May

8&U Football. AWAY at Overseas Family School, 4.30pm. Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 6.00pm.

If you have any questions regarding sport at Nexus International School, please do not hesitate to contact me at 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 or martin.s@nexus.edu.sg

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



Dr Stuart Martin
Principal