



## Letter from the Principal

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31 May 2013

### WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

#### Highlights

As we come towards the end of the academic year, school life becomes increasingly busy. Teachers and learners (and, in many cases, parents) are working hard on a wide range of activities and events. Among the recent highlights:

- Our Year 13 students have completed their IB Diploma exams, graduated in an official ceremony and enjoyed an evening dinner
- Our youngest children have presented a colourful and exciting performance of 'Minibeast Madness' to a full house
- Years 3 to 6 learners are furiously rehearsing for their performance of 'The Jungle Book'
- Year 6 learners have spent three days away on their residential trip to Bintan island
- Our Year 6 learners have also attended a number of Year 7 classes as part of their transition to Secondary School
- Year 11 IGCSE exams are almost finished

None of these activities happen by accident – they are the outcome of sustained hard work and commitment. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has organised or contributed to school activities in recent weeks.

#### Security, Attendance and Absence

Thank you to all our parents for responding so positively to the changes in our security and attendance routines. We appreciate your support in improving our systems and processes. Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school, you should contact **Student Services** at your earliest convenience and provide them with your child's name, year group and the reason for absence. This is more effective than contacting your child's homeroom teacher, as Student Services can quickly contact all relevant staff on your behalf. Student Services will then pass the details to the homeroom teachers and follow up on any absences that remain unexplained after 9.00am each day. Only parents or guardians should contact Student Services with the reason for absence. It is not appropriate for students to contact Student Services themselves.

#### Timetable for Academic Year 2013-2014

As you probably know, we have reviewed all of our curriculums during this year. One outcome of this process has been a decision to change slightly the length and organisation of the school day for next

year. Please note that, from August, the school day will start at 8.25am and end at 3.20pm (3.15pm for Nursery and Kindergarten).

### ELS Tip of the Week

This is the final 'tip of the week' for this academic year. I hope that you have found the tips interesting and that they have assisted you in supporting your child's language acquisition. Today I will share a variety of short suggestions:

- Encourage your child to share his/her culture in as many ways as possible at school because this will promote open discussion and stimulate good communication
- Playing 'Pictionary' can be very helpful for young English language learners. 'I Spy' and 'ABC' books can also help increase vocabulary in a fun way. Word games such as 'Scrabble' and 'Boggle' can help with spelling
- Encourage your children to look around and read everything they can find inside and outside home and school
- Use English at home, read newspapers, magazines, comics, ads, and coupons
- Your child should be reading books for pleasure at an easy independent level
- If you are having trouble in finding suitable books, come and talk with our librarian at school, or go to your local library and talk with the librarian there
- It is important to focus on understanding the text being read as well as pronouncing the words correctly
- The best way for your children to learn proper pronunciation is to have as much exposure as possible to people speaking the language conventionally. Services such as **EPiC** can be useful if you do not regularly meet English speakers
- Listening to recorded stories can also provide your child with a model of correct pronunciation and intonation, as well as enjoyment
- Encourage your children to read and read again, both in their native language and in English

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)

#### Uniform Exchange/Donation

Over the next couple of weeks, you may want to take the opportunity to exchange your child's current uniform in preparation for the next academic year. Alternatively, you might simply like to donate your unwanted uniforms, e.g. if you are relocating during the summer. Please bring your donations (clean and in good condition) to the NPG Room (Block C, Level 2) and place them in the box provided next to the Uniform Exchange wardrobe.

## Special Interest Groups

There will be a couple of new Special Interest Groups next academic year – see below for dates and details of exploratory discussions. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings will be held in the NPG Room.

- Book Club – If you would like to learn about the new parents' Book Club starting next semester, please come to a short meeting on Monday, 3 June, at 9.00am
- Discussion Group – If you would be interested in meeting with other parents of children with learning issues (e.g. Dyslexia/Dyspraxia etc, ADD/ADHD, Auditory Processing Disorder, Autistic Spectrum Disorder) please come on Tuesday, 4 June, at 9.00am to discuss how such a group might move forward

All Nexus parents are welcome to attend the various clubs and groups. Furthermore, all Nexus parents are invited to start a group if they think it will be of benefit to the Nexus parent community. If you have an idea for a group or have a query about either of the groups mentioned above, please email [npg@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:npg@nexus.edu.sg).

## Coffee & Catch Up

Our last coffee morning of the year will be held on Friday, 7 June, at 8.30am. Do come and join us as we celebrate the successful completion of another academic year. Many thanks for all your support over the last few months.

*NPG Committee*

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### ‘Minibeast Madness’

What a wonderful show! It was great fun joining the ants, dung beetles and all the other insects at their fiesta. The learners from Nursery, Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 showed what confident, articulate and expressive performers they are in today's fantastic performance. Thank you to Miss Nicki and Miss Natalie for their musical and stage direction, and to all other staff and the army of parents who made the show possible. For more photos, please visit our [Facebook](#) page.





## Mini Production of 'The Jungle Book'

Learners in Years 3 to 6 will be performing their mini-version of 'The Jungle Book' next Friday, 7 June, at 6.30pm. If you have not already returned your ticket request, please do so by Monday at the latest.

On Friday next week, children are expected to arrive at 6.00pm and go to their homeroom class for registration. Some children may need to arrive earlier if they have more complicated costumes (you will be informed individually if this is the case). If your child is unable to take part in the evening performance, please contact your child's homeroom teacher and let them know as soon as possible.

## Year 6 Assembly

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 lots of families will be able to join us for the learners' final assembly in the Primary School.

## Year Group Newsletters

The next year group newsletters will be issued on Friday, 7 June. These will be the final newsletters of the academic year.

## Classes for 2013-2014

We have a large number of new children joining us in August. To accommodate this, we will be reorganising the class groups for 2013-2014. During the holidays, all the children will be allocated new classes and homeroom teachers for the academic year ahead. We will be allocating children to classes according to friendship groups that work well in the classroom environment and promote learning. The current homeroom teachers will be talking to your child over the next week to ask for their opinions on children he or she enjoys working alongside and works well with. You will be informed of your child's new class and their homeroom teacher before your child returns in August.

*Paul Beach, Head of Primary School*



## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Theory of Knowledge

On Monday and Tuesday next week, 3 and 4 June, our Year 12 learners will be completing their first summative assessment for Theory of Knowledge. They are required to speak for 10 minutes about the way that knowledge is constructed and employed in particular situations. NISS parents and teachers are invited to come along on Monday from 3.30pm to 7.00pm to support our learners in this important event. Please note, however, that this is an official IB assessment and it is therefore not appropriate for young children to attend.

### Trips for Next Academic Year

We are busy making arrangements for Year Group trips to take place at the end of September. Some of these trips involve booking flights and these bookings need to be made well in advance. Letters will be sent out today about the Years 10 and 11 trip to China, and the Years 8 and 9 trip to Thailand. These trips are an integral part of the curriculum and we expect all of our learners to attend. To assist the staff arranging these trips, please return the documents promptly.

*John Evans, Head of Secondary School*

## SPORTS NEWS

### Congratulations to our 14&U Boys Basketball – Silver Medalists

Our fantastic 14&U Boys Basketball team were rewarded with silver medals after a long and successful season. The team, along with over 30 screaming Nexus Supporters, travelled to the Singapore American School on Saturday, 18 May for their gold medal match against the Australian International School. Both teams played superb basketball and were tied at 25-25 half way through the final quarter. The momentum shifted the Australians' way, and they came home victors 32-25. A big thank you must go out to all the parents, families, staff and learners who travelled to support the team. Congratulations to all the players, and of course Coach Abraham, who has brought them this far. We are extremely proud of you.



Coach Abraham makes some slight adjustments in a close final



A proud 14&U Basketball team with their silver medals. Congratulations!



## Mr Massey runs up a storm at the Great Wall of China to promote physical activity at Nexus

Mr Massey spent last weekend running the Great Wall of China Half Marathon. Although a little jet-lagged from the 3.30am pick up from Beijing, combined with a two and half hour bus ride to the foot of the wall, excitement levels were high. It all kicked off at Yin and Yang Square, the fortress of the Huanyaguang section of the Great Wall, Tianjin province. Conditions were a little hazy but that did not dampen anyone's spirits. A gradual incline was followed by 2582 steps and some unbelievable views before dropping down to one of the local villages to complete the half marathon. An amazing day had by all, one which has definitely whetted Mr Massey's appetite to head back and complete the full marathon next year, and of course he will be wearing the Nexus singlet!

Keeping active is essential to any healthy lifestyle. So if you have the opportunity to get out and about over the holiday period and do some physical activity, the PE and Sport Department challenge you to do so. It does not have to be much; a walk in the park, kicking a ball with family or friends, bike riding, swimming at your nearest pool, training for a sport, the options are endless. Enjoy, have some fun, and get active.



Mr Massey, a happy man at the finish line



Always time for a quick snap with the fans



Time to get clear of the traffic jam

## Return of Sport Uniform

With ACSIS Season 3 all completed, this is a final reminder for all learners to return any Nexus International School Sport Uniforms that you still hold. Please check in your drawers, under your beds, and in your sport bags for any outstanding shirts and shorts. Please return them to Mr Moriarty in the PE Office, or to Student Services.





## Sports Results

### **14&U Boys Basketball Semi Final**

Beat UWC East Campus 37 - 22

### **Track & Field Team**

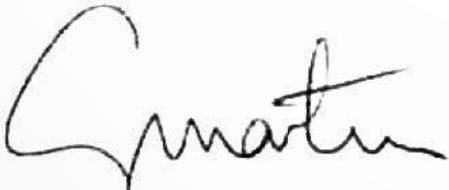
3rd Place. 8&U Boys 4 x 100m relay

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 and follow us at [Twitter](#) to keep up with all that is going on at Nexus.



Dr Stuart Martin  
**Principal**