

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we arrive at the end of Semester One, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the school this year. Learners, parents, staff and friends have combined to provide great experiences and high quality learning. I would especially like to acknowledge the families who are leaving us. As the saying goes “every ending is a new beginning” and our best wishes go with you. We are also sad to be saying goodbye to two of our long term staff. Margaret Chisholm, Anupama Shah and our nurse Cecilia Monis. Thank you for all of your contributions to Nexus over the past few years.

Because of our ongoing expansion, we are undertaking a range of renovation projects in preparation for next semester. We will also welcome a large number of new teachers and teacher assistants – more details at the start of next term.

Following a wide ranging review, we have terminated our current cafeteria provider and will re-open in January with a new operator. Kitchen renovations will be undertaken during the break and we hope that you will be impressed by new menus and quality.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our call for comments about the proposed 2014 - 2015 term dates. The dates have now been confirmed and will be published on our website and emailed to all families soon. The dates are:

Term 1: Tuesday, 12 August 2014 - Friday 3 October 2014

Term 2: Monday, 20 October 2014 - Friday 19 December 2014

Term 3: Monday, 12 January 2015 - Friday 20 March 2015 (Chinese New Year, 19 - 20 February)

Term 4: Monday, 6 April 2015 - Friday 12 June 2015

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,



Dr Stuart Martin, Principal



NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Gruffalo's Child

What a wonderful show! Although it was a little scary joining the *Gruffalo's child* on his journey through the deep dark wood it was a joy meeting the owls, the mice, the foxes and the snakes.

Thank you to our Year 2 stickmen and narrators for guiding us through the wood and getting us safely back home.



The learners from Nursery, Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 showed what confident, articulate and expressive performers they are in yesterday's fantastic performance. Thank you to Ms Bhavana, Ms Roberts and all of the Lower Primary team for their musical and stage direction and the army of parents who made the show possible.





Year 4 Bake Sales Raises \$650 for Charity

Thank you to our Year 4 learners for organising a fantastic bake sale. The \$650 raised will be donated to the animal charity 'Animal Lovers League' which was set up to look after vagrant strays, abandoned, abused and rescued animals, both cats and dogs. The charity endeavours to rejoin them with loving and committed families they deserve. There was a huge range of scrumptious treats available, including dog and cat shaped cookies, that were enjoyed by learners across the school. It is this service aspect of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) that takes children's learning to real positive action that makes it so powerful. Thank you to all our Year 4 learners' parents for their support in this venture.



Semester 1 Summaries of Learning

Your child's Semester 1 Summary of Learning is now available on the Parent Portal. Full details were issued via email to all our Primary School families earlier in the week. If you have any difficulties accessing the document please contact student services. Primary School Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Wednesday, 22nd January. Full details will follow at the start of Term 3.

Christmas Post Box

Thank you to our Year 5 postal workers who have expertly delivered hundreds of festive Christmas cards to many excited children and staff across the Primary School.

On behalf of all the staff of the Primary School, I wish you all a very happy Christmas. Whether you are staying in Singapore or travelling abroad for the holidays, we hope you enjoy this special time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 13 January 2014.

NEWS FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

We have now reached the end of Term 2 and Semester 1. The semester has flown by and so much has happened and so much has been learned. As so often happens, a number of our families are moving on to new countries, new schools and new challenges. May I wish those families a smooth move and hope that you will keep in touch with us.

In January we will have new families, learners and teachers joining us and I am sure we will all play our part in welcoming them into the school and to Singapore. It is just left for me to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and a very happy 2014.

Secondary learners are expected to continue their learning across the break. You can view the homework that has been set to each class at this link:

<https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.sg/nexus-homework/home>

(Please note that link works best when viewed with Google Chrome)

Best Wishes,

John Evans, Head of Secondary



The First Day of Nexcellence

On Wednesday Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a massive off-timetable event where they had to work in 12 mixed groups to solve a fictional murder set in San Diego, USA. Eduardo Sierra had met his end in intriguing circumstances in the Spiny Cactus Bar. There were six suspects, all with a strong motive...



Shaun O'Neil

56 years old

The owner of the Spiny Cactus Bar, for the last 16 years. Claims that he was in the back washing glasses when the fight broke out. Shaun was the person who phoned the emergency services.



Jimmy Southern

27 years old.

A computer circuit-tester with Techno-cal. He is planning to marry his fiancé next summer. He has plans to buy a house within the next six months.



Toni Borini

41 years old.

A computer circuit-board tester with Techno-cal. Married to Richard Borini who runs his own successful florists shop. She has two children, both at secondary school.



Adam Travis

34 years old.

Owns and runs a garage servicing and repairing cars and trucks in the city's industrial zone which borders both the Mexican Quarter and the 'Downtown' area of the city.



Julia Gomez

23 years old.

A qualified mechanic who works legally for Adam Travis at his garage. She had to wait four years to get his US 'Green Card' (work permit) to legally enter the USA. Her extended family still lives in Mexico.



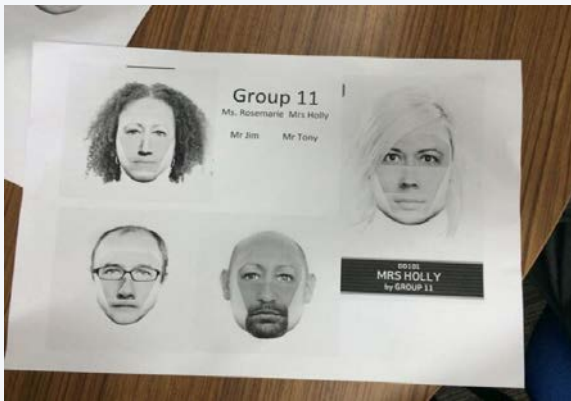
Ralf Kristiansen

42 years old.

Born in Norway but now has American citizenship. He owns a 'big rig' (truck) which he uses for small scale importing and exporting across the Mexican border. There is a police file on Ralf but you don't currently have access to it.

The learners had a briefing and then were set lots of challenges where they had to battle to win clues against competing groups.

Examples included making photofits of teachers in Art, solving code-breaking problems in Maths, writing concisely in English, creating enormous bubbles in Science, crossing a 'river' and orienteering in PE, Whodunnit? in Languages, finding clues in Minecraft and work with Google Earth in Humanities.



But there was a twist... the ICT integrators, led by Richard Poth, had built an amazing website to drive the day and this included a twitter feed and the facility to broadcast live news reports on the case. The twitter feed was used so extensively that [#daysofnexus](#) became the number one trending topic in Singapore!

Clues were therefore delivered to learners in many different ways and they had to be on constant alert, even at break and lunchtime to make sure that they did not miss anything.

Three groups solved the enormous minecraft puzzle in the allotted thirty minutes which gave a code which was an ISBN number for one of the suspect's police files that had been placed in the school library, and was searchable on the library database. To say that the teachers were impressed by the tenacity, intelligence and lateral thinking of the learners would be an understatement! On a related note, every single cryptic clue was solved by at least one group. These included:

Murderer is revealed when expensive shoes lose the child's train.

Answer: Jimmy (from Jimmy Choo)

Range turns into emotion!

Answer: Anger

All twelve groups produced excellent and plausible theories and prizes were awarded accordingly. Five groups correctly worked out that it was the dastardly Jimmy Southern with the chair and the stairs, fuelled by anger.



The secondary team, digital integrators, suspects, Police Chief McGuinness, witnesses and journalists should be heartily congratulated for putting on a great show which enabled learners to do something completely different which involved an immense amount of collaboration through inquiry-based learning. The learners should be congratulated for entering into the day with such enthusiasm and passion.

Case closed.

Winter Musical Extravaganza

A full house of excited parents, learners and friends enjoyed some amazing musical performances at the 2nd Annual Winter concert this week. Learners and staff created some wonderful music from a wide range of musical styles. Congratulations to everyone who performed or assisted in any way.



Humanities Department

Parents and guardians of Year 10 Geography learners are invited to attend a presentation by Ben Tamblyn from Odyssey Institute about a possible field trip to Bali in Term 4. The presentation will take place in the school library on 15 January 2014 from 5:30.

Ben will talk about the proposed itinerary and the activities learners will participate in during the trip. He will also discuss how those activities fit into the IGCSE curriculum. The main purpose of the trip will be for learners to collect data to use in the coursework component of the IGCSE Geography course. They will also develop valuable field work skills that will be useful in IB Geography, as well as other subjects such as Environmental Systems and Societies and Biology.

If parents or guardians have any questions or comments they can contact Tony Hall via email at hall.t@nexus.edu.sg

Looking forward to seeing you there!

English Department

Merry Christmas to all of our learners and their families. The English Department trust you will have a restful break and enjoy time with family and friends. We would like to share some great photos from our recent *Poetry Readings* morning. Learners in Year 7 and Year 8 created an original poem and then collaboratively developed them into an oral presentation. They all reflected the learner profile attributes including inquirers, communicators and thinkers. Thanks to all who participated. Enjoy the photos.

Michele Newman, Head of English

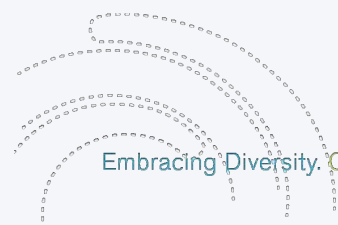


Year 10: English as a Second Language

To engage second language learners in English, Year 10 have been working on a blended learning unit on picture books, which has utilised both traditional and new literacies, and both analogue and digital tools.

Learners began with traditional literacy in the form of analytical skills, such as examining sentence structure, and identifying language patterns such as rhythm, rhyme, repetition, and onomatopoeia. They explored characterisation, and developed visual literacy by analysing how the images enhanced and helped the text. They also looked at the cover, the style of illustration, the page turners, the main conflict and the theme. Throughout the unit, learners learned new vocabulary through [Quizlet](#), where new terms we added as the unit progressed.

Learners added the themes and conflicts of the picture books to a flip chart, and discussed their



relevance to young children. Following this discussion, they wrote a journal about a childhood memory that resonated with them, and focused on writing using first person narrative and past tense. They then developed their journal writing into a plot outline for a picture book suitable for Year 3 and Year 4.

Using **Book Creator** on iPads, the learners created their picture books in digital form. The finished books were peer assessed, revised, and then finally shared with a Year 3 primary class in a school in Malaysia via iBooks. The Year 3s completed a Book Review on a Google Form that provided valuable feedback to the Year 10 authors.

Learners really enjoyed creating and sharing with another school, and feel the unit helped them to learn a great deal about writing, audience and purpose.

Year 7: English

7G have worked very hard on thinking about how they want to present themselves to the world in a both real life and the digital realm. We have focused on becoming responsible digital citizens as too often, we make mistakes about the things we post online. Without thinking carefully, we may post things that might cause us to look foolish, cause someone to be upset, or even be unsafe.

Learners want to create online portfolios that showcase their amazing work in English. This means they are creating a really positive online persona, one that shows off their skills and talents, and one that they can be proud of.

Year 7 learners have created their blogs, and are aiming to publish work they are proud of every two weeks. Their first posts, which introduce themselves to the world, will be posted this week. Please visit [their blog](#) and click on the links on the left to find out about these incredible learners, and their fantastic work.

The Nexus Turner Prize

The Turner Prize is awarded in the UK in December every year "To celebrate a British artist under fifty for an outstanding exhibition or other presentation of their work in the preceding twelve months".

The prize is named after J.M.W. Turner whose paintings were misunderstood and ridiculed during his lifetime (1775-1851). They are now considered some of the finest of British art and have a special gallery in the Tate Britain, London. The Turner Prize continues to be controversial and works are frequently discussed as not being art! Year 12 have been investigating contemporary art and the controversies that it can cause in the art world. In response to this they have produced their own works worthy of a Turner Prize nomination. This interesting collection of individual works inspired by previous nominees and prize winners is displayed as a mini exhibition in B2, staff and learners were invited to vote online for their favourite work. It has been a close run competition with two works tying almost to the end!

The winner was 'IB Survivor' by Lavena Xu

5 o'clock in the morning, you wake up with an exhausted body. You walk into the bathroom and look into the mirror. Your brain is spinning - work, family, friends everything is going through your head like a movie-clip. A voice is screaming somewhere inside, the stress is driving you crazy, the power suddenly exchanges into a form of words and appears everywhere no matter where your eyes go.

In such a competitive society, people are forced to work even harder, helplessly people have nothing to do with the pressure and stress. The initial dream is somewhat, somehow killed by the reality. As a young adult, my life apparently is simply an IB World (which the texts is only about IB life), but the concepts are revealing, the helpless and stressful feeling people are facing in the society.



The style of the text I used in my work is inspired by the 2013 Turner Prize nominee David Shrigley, he is well-loved for black humour, jest and macabre intelligence that is revealed in his drawing, sculpture, film and photography.

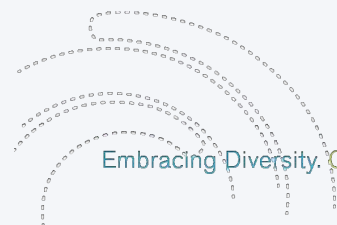
The Hague International Model United Nations Singapore 2013

Model United Nations at Nexus is rapidly developing a high profile and proving to be a real winner with learners who wish to keep a handle on global issues, and develop their debating skills. In Term 2, MUN delegates attended their inaugural THIMUN Singapore 2013 conference. This prestigious event will now be an annual part of the MUN calendar. Delegates who attended this event were involved in three days of intense lobbying, debating, chatting and more debating. Post-lobbying, debate on resolutions began on the second day and continued during the General Assembly Plenary Session on the last day. The Belarus delegates in ECOSOC, however, debated in their own forum.

The Nexus delegates felt THIMUN Singapore to be a great learning experience and fun, as they made new friends, gave stirring and often controversial speeches and passed (or failed) resolutions. Paarvv Goel the Ambassador of Belarus, Elinor Seow de Vries, Dhanis Dharwangsa and Adam Landau, all participated in the writing of resolutions.

THIMUN Singapore 2013 in short, was a roaring success for all delegates. Here's looking forward to more MUN fun next year!

Rosemarie de Vries and Lisa Smith, Directors



THIMUN was an amazing experience. Both for social and academic: social because you make so many new friends through representing your country; academic because you learn so many important skills like public speaking, debating, arguing your point, documenting, researching and representing! These are all life skills that you must have!

On the first day, we made allies. Allies are basically friends, who we would write our resolutions to the problems with. We then did the same in half of day two, and we finished our resolutions, then in the second half of the day we began debate! We debated in all of day 3, then in half of day 4, before holding a huge debate with hundreds of delegates! Then it was over! I enjoyed it, and I would encourage you to sign up too!

Paarvv Goel, Ambassador for Belarus

WE'RE MAD!

A big thank you to all the learners, parents and teachers who were MAD in Semester 1! Yes, you really did Make A Difference!

It has been amazing to see the school community get involved with all of the fundraising efforts and to see our learners offer support and guidance to each other, in and out of curriculum time. Learners have also been proactive at raising the profile and awareness of global issues.

Particular thanks must go to the NPG and our CAS learners for being so proactive, for not only organising fundraising events, but also offering opportunities for our school community to come together and have fun.

A few of the highlights of the semester include....

- Seeing our Year 3 learners completely engaged with their CAS reading partners, through our lunchtime **buddy reading scheme**
- Raising awareness and funds for **the Sumatran Orangutan Society**, through 'Orange for Orangutans' Casual Clothes Day and the CAS Halloween stalls at the amazing Halloween disco organised by the NPG
- Learners from Nursery to Year 13 excitedly added their coins to the **Coin trail for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan)**, which reached 355m. A special mention to 12B and Ms Hilary for organising the phenomenal coin trail that raised \$4020 and to Ethan in year 7 who brought his piggy bank with 3 years savings to donate to the cause.

- Ms Maria's raffle and the NPG bake sale, which combined with money raised at the Christmas Fête has enabled them to make a donation of \$4,000 to the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.
- Over 90 runners from our school community participated in the Run For Hope to raise funds and awareness for Cancer Research. In the same weekend, 15 learners, organised by Daniel Hagen, challenged themselves in the 12 Hour Race to highlight the plight of Human Trafficking.
- The Nexus Christmas Fête really saw the school community come together for a fun-filled day. The Marketing department and NPG set the stage for a fantastic event, which could not have run without the help of CAS learners, keen secondary helpers, teachers and parents who helped on stalls or got soaked! The day also raised funds for the Blue Dragon Children's Foundations and for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

We should be really proud as we have raised over \$13, 179.55 for charities in Semester 1. The money raised will go to the following charities:

Gawan Kalinga's Operation Walang Iwanan Project: S9206.50

This Philippine based charity is at the frontline of disaster relief and re-building efforts after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). School has asked that funds raised are directed towards Mr Jeff's province that were decimated by the typhoon. <http://gk1world.com/typhoon-yolanda>

Blue Dragon Children's Foundation: \$2773.05

This is the charity adopted by our CAS learners and is a grassroots charity that reaches out to kids in crisis throughout Vietnam. Blue Dragon kids are street kids, children with disabilities, children from very poor families and victims of human trafficking and slavery. They aim to break the poverty cycle by offering education and long-term opportunities to those in most need in Vietnam. www.bluedragon.org

Sumatran Orangutan Society: \$1200

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and without urgent action could be the first Great Ape species to become extinct. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around by raising awareness and supporting grassroots projects. www.orangutans-sos.org

SPORTS NEWS

15th Royal Bangkok Sports Club (RBSC) Invitational Swim Meet

Another haul of medals by the Choo siblings at the 15th RBSC swim meet in Bangkok, Thailand held on 30 November to 1 December 2013. With 429 participants from 5 different countries, Joey (Year 8) and Jenny (Year 6) Choo stood out by bagging 11 medals and a trophy between them. Joey collected 3 gold and 1 bronze medals, and Jenny won 3 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals, and also the trophy for being the 2nd best swimmer in her age category at the event. This is truly an amazing achievement and congratulations.

3rd Annual Fighting Fish Swim Meet

Congratulations to one of our elite swim team members, Aalia Espejo, for bringing home 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal in the recent 3rd Annual Fighting Fish Swim Meet held on Saturday 14th December in Singapore. Aalia competed in the 200m Individual Medley, 100m Backstroke, 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly.

Alongside these results, Aalia also won an additional 2 gold, and 2 silver medals, at the last Dover Phoenix Invitational Swim Meet.

Sports Meet

11&U Boys Football

Drew with Canadian International School – Lakeside B, 0-0
Beat Canadian International School – Lakeside C, 2-0

14&U Girls Volleyball

beat Overseas Family School, 2-0 (25-17, 25-4)

14&U Boys Football

Lost to International Community School

U19 Boys Basketball

Lost to United World College - Dover, 31-38
Lost to Canadian International School - Lakeside, 28-35

U19 Girls Basketball

Beat Canadian International School – Lakeside, 33-25

Sport Draw

All information regarding ACSIS sporting fixtures; times, opponents, venues, and approximate bus return time from away matches, can be found on the Nexus International School website. Use the link below to take you directly to the Nexus Parents Events Calendar page.

<https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.sg/niss-parent-calendar-site/>

If you are new to Nexus International School Singapore and are interested to find out more about our sport programme, you are more than welcome to email me.



Bevan Moriarty, Director of Sport

moriarty.b@nexus.edu.sg

