

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in devising, creating, constructing, managing, working at and supporting our 2nd annual Christmas Fête. A huge crowd of parents, learners, teachers and administration staff provided a well organised and colourful experience to the many visitors and participants. In only its second year, the fête has become a fixture on our calendar and we look forward to next year's event already.

We are always trying to improve our channels of communication, both internally (with staff and learners) and externally (with parents and other interested stakeholders). Our first "Head of Primary School Forum" took place this week and the NPG continued their series of workshops. Many thanks to Lilian Ing for hosting the "Connecting with your Teen" workshops on Tuesday and Thursday last week - the discussion was really interesting and valuable. Please contact Dr Rosie Martin (martin.r@nexus.edu.sg) if you have ideas for future parent seminars or workshops. Primary class newsletters will be distributed this week and next week's Letter from the Principal will be the last for Semester 1. We are trialling a new format for the newsletter so please contact student services if it is not working for you.

We are currently working on our terms dates for 2014-15. In our planning we focus first on the learners' needs in terms of instructional time (especially for examination classes) and well being. We do compare with other Singapore school and aim to have some consistency for families who have children at more than one school. Unfortunately, there are many different termly models being used in Singapore so break times can not often be aligned. Some of the public holiday dates have not yet been confirmed, so this proposal is subject to change when official notification is received. I welcome feedback on the proposal. At this stage, our proposed dates are as follows:

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

Invoices for Semester 2 are currently being posted – please let us know if you have not received an invoice by the end of the week.

Change of FPS insurer: The Council for Private Education (CPE) requires schools to protect the course fees paid by students. NISS has in place a Fee Protection Scheme (FPS) with fee insurance to protect the paid fees of all students. The School has previously appointed AXA Insurance Singapore Pte Ltd as the FPS fee insurer but AXA has not been re-selected by CPE so we have to change to a new fee insurer. We have decided to appoint **Lonpac Insurance Bhd**. Fees paid from 13 December 2013 onwards will be protected

under Lonpac Insurance Bhd. For parents who have paid fees that are protected under AXA Insurance Singapore Pte Ltd, the FPS insurance will continue to be in force until the coverage expiry date stated in the Certificate of Insurance (COI). If you need another copy of the COI or any questions about the new insurer, please send your request or queries to Student Services.

Nexus Winter Variety Show

Back again this year is our Nexus Winter Variety Show. The whole school is invited to join us from 6:30pm on Thursday, 19 December to celebrate the festive season and experience the wonderful talent of our learners.



Remember that our last day for the term is Friday, 20 December and we finish at 12 noon. Please ensure that you have arranged to collect your child at that time.



Dr Stuart Martin, Principal

FROM OUR ELS DEPARTMENT

If your child is learning English and adjusting to a new school environment, s/he may appear very tired and withdrawn at the end of a long school day. Getting adequate rest and even more sleep than usual may be needed to help your child through the first few months of adjustment to a new school. Classroom learning alone requires a high level of concentration and constant effort, especially when this involves learning a new language. Even being in a new environment and having to understand new ways of behaving can be hard work. In time your child will gradually understand the new environment and make new friends, but it is vital that you understand that this is a process and that adequate rest is very important to help in your child's adjustment and capacity to deal with change.

Culture shock is a well-understood phenomenon and it is something that also has an impact on adults when they move to a new country. Your child may experience culture shock and go through a series of changes in their behaviour, from being very interested in the new school at the outset to becoming withdrawn and homesick as time goes by. Eventually your child will start to feel at ease and be able to integrate their new learning with their past experiences. It is a natural and progressive change and requires patience and support from parents and teachers alike. Adequate rest and understanding of the experience of culture shock will help your child's progression towards full acceptance of their new environment and to develop a sense of well-being. Please talk with us if you have any concerns or notice any changes in your child's engagement with school.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Post Box

At this festive time of year, learners may wish to send Christmas cards to their peers in other classes. They will be able to do so by using the Christmas Post Box located in Pod C1. Children will be able to post their cards and have them delivered by our army of Year 5 postal staff. Please can you help our learners to make sure they have clearly labeled each envelope with the recipients full name and class.

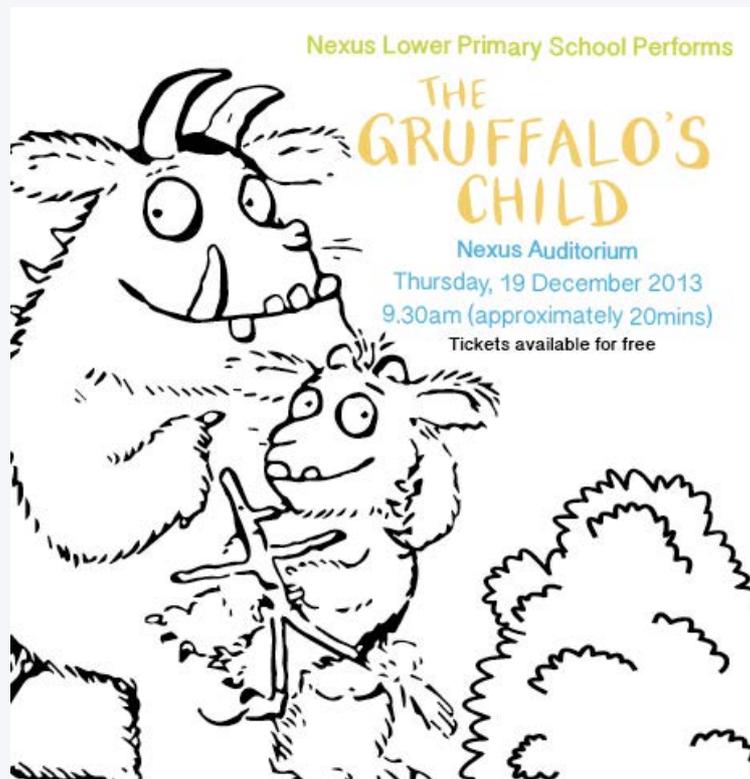
Head of Primary School Forum

Our first Head of Primary School Forum took place on Monday. Thank you to those parents that attended and to those that put forward items to be talked about. We hope the session was useful to you and you gained a greater understanding of how the Primary School operates. We will provide some notes of the session shortly. A further session will take place early in Term 3.

The Gruffalo's Child

Primary parents are invited to watch the Lower Primary learners' performance of The Gruffalo's Child next week. The dress rehearsal will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday, 18 December for parents who are unable to make their performance on Thursday, 19 December at 9.30am.

A fun filled musical following two Gruffalo Children as they journey through the woods in search of the Big Bad Mouse. On their travels they meet a snake, a fox and an owl who each believe they have seen this mythical creature. Follow their journey as they discover the truth...



Year 6 to 7 Transition Evening: **Tuesday, 28 January 2014 from 7pm**

On Tuesday, 28 January 2014 we will be holding our Transition Evening for Year 6 parents. During the evening we will talk to you in detail about the rigorous and exciting curriculum that we offer in Years 7 to 11. We will also outline full details of our 1:1 laptop programme and share with you the programme of activities and taster sessions that all Year 6 learners will take part in later on in the academic year to prepare them for their time in Year 7.

NEWS FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

From the Humanities Department

Last Tuesday, Year 9G visited Mr Lowe's Year 5 class to teach them about Tsunamis.

This term, Year 9 have been learning research and presentation skills in Humanities. Here is what they had to say about the experience:

Our Success & Achievements

By Richard Dharmamulya

It was a great success for our group teaching the cheerful Year 5G Learners, Adriel, Lucy and Astrin. We greeted them by presenting an informative presentation, about tsunami, that includes having facts of information (and not long boring sentences), exclusive pictures and carefully-chosen videos.

We then gave them a quick quiz, based on the presentation, to know were they paying enough attention and have gained knowledge and in the end, they all scored a perfect 100%. We have also invited Adriel, Lucy and Astrin to see our interactive tsunami model, to teach them even further with visual.

Therefore, overall we think that it was great success for us to presenting our tsunami lesson to Adriel, Lucy and Astrin based on their wonderful performance and satisfaction. They have encouraged and motivated us to improve our presentation and present an even better one in the future.

From our MUN Delegates

On the weekend of the 26th and 27th October our Nexus Model United Nations learners attended their first MUN conference of the year at Overseas Family School. Delegates at MUNOFS were Elinor Seow de Vries, Joshua Desai, Adam Landau, Aidan Branch, Lew Talon, Paarvv Goel and Dhanis Darmawangsa. The debates were outstanding and delegates made a great effort to participate in all aspects of the conference.



This is what some of our delegates had to say about the conference and the MUN in general:

“MUNOFS was an enchanting experience. It was something we can never forget. It was a contrast of emotions and thoughts with you being friends with someone yet simultaneously against them in debate. I was the delegate of Hungary and my committee was concerned with Economics, so we had to consider the politics and economic stability. We debated for two days, and out of 6 resolutions 3 failed and 3 passed, including mine.” - *Paarv Goel*

“MUNOFS was an incredible experience. I was the Delegate for Hungary in the Human Rights committee, and we discussed elevating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to international law, promoting women in politics and rights for homosexuals. Despite being threatened by North Korea, who brought along a “cleverly disguised bomb” as a present from his “great leader,” we managed to pass two of the six resolutions allowing women to participate in politics and get access to more Human Rights.” - *Adam Landau*

“MUNOFS 2013 was an amazing experience. I was the Delegate for Peru in the Environment committee, debating the topic of E-Waste. I think every one of us will cherish the time we spent there. We had a lot of fun debating our various topics, and the debate was both engaging and of a very high intellectual level. From Malaysia and DPR Korea threatening war to Panama and USA talking non stop for an hour before actually coming to a conclusion and passing resolutions on

important issues, this was an extremely fulfilling experience.” - *Joshua Desai*



“MUNOFS was an excellent experience that has deeply enriched my understanding of global matters. It was an amazing environment with an exhilarating and engaging energy. Even with me choking, sometimes literally, up on the podium multiple times I found every moment a superb and practical way to build my own oratory skills. In fact it was such a friendly and open environment my near dramatic failure garnered me notoriety enough to win the coolest accent superlative. It is an opportunity that cannot emphasise how amazing it was.” - *Aidan Branch*

MUN Directors Rosemarie de Vries and Lisa Smith

Creativity, Action and Service

One element of the IB Diploma is Creativity, Action, Service (CAS). This requires candidates to develop a wide range of skills and awareness in all three areas. CAS must be completed continuously for a minimum of 18 months of the IB Program of study. The activities must be meaningful, planned, recorded and reflected on in a



written evaluation in order for them to 'count'.

All candidates are encouraged to seek opportunities for CAS both in and out of Nexus and this is exactly what Chandra Sunardi in Year 12 did during the October holidays. The following is his reflection on his experience of teaching in a school for street kids in Muharto, Malang in East Java, Indonesia.

"I was nervous, at first, teaching is a new challenge for me and it seems hard to do it. I thought that street children were not smart but actually they are just as smart as others, but they just do not have a chance to study in a better school. The government actually helps them to pay their school fees, but it still hard for them to buy their uniform and books. I asked them why they do not go to school regularly, and they gave a lot of excuses such as too tired, overslept, have to work, help parents, no uniform, etc. When I asked their parents, they answered it is up to the them, the street children, whether they want to work or study. The parents said that all they can do is just take care of the children by giving them food and pay for their daily expenses. Even-though teaching is a new challenge for me and it seems hard to do it but when I see the spirit of the kids, they make me want to stay for longer.



Muharto, Malang, East Java: This place is known as a place for "bad" people. Once you say you are from that area, most people in Indonesia will look down on you since that area is not safe and clean enough, but do we really have to look down on them? They are same as us, it's just they are not lucky enough to live in a better place.

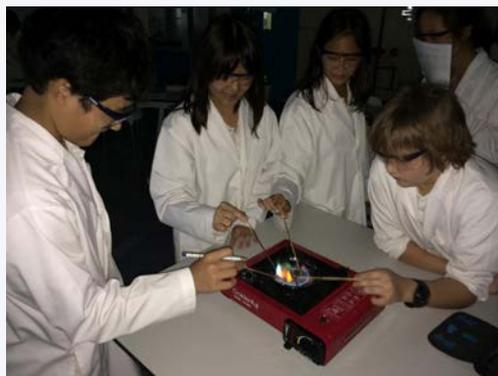
Street children appear to have many of the same chances and some of them even smarter than other "normal life" children but financially they are not ready. They prefer to work as a street singer or other low skilled job. A lot of people that I spoke to said that once they feel the feeling of working and getting money, they will not go to study, they will work and they will not really think of their future life. In my opinion we can not judge others by their appearance, even though they have a problem financially, they may still have an opportunity to be a successful person, I have realised that we can do is to help them realize that they actually have a chance and persuade them to go school regularly in order to create a successful future for themselves."

- Chandra Sunardi

Andrea Webb, CCA and CAS Coordinator

Science Department

One of the Year 8 groups has just started a unit on Pyrotechnics and Fireworks and this has led to a good deal of combustion experiments! The whole unit began with the learners 'magically' creating silver out of seemingly nowhere. We have since progressed through several experiments involving copper and its reactions before we spent a lesson doing flame tests. Learners had wooden sticks soaked in various compounds of metals such as potassium, barium and lithium. Moving the sticks through flames produced incredibly vivid colours and plenty of "oohs and aahs".



Peter Hart, Head of Science

SPORTS NEWS

ACSIS Season Two has got off to a spectacular start with both of our U19 Boys and Girls Basketball teams being unbeaten. Our boys have had convincing wins over International School Singapore (ISS), and United World College – East Campus (UWC East), both games hosted here at Nexus. Scores were 39-15, and 50-30 respectively. The girls travelled the longest road trip in ACSIS sport, being hosted by UWC East. The team, led by Lucy Zhang controlled the match from the tip-off winning comfortably 29-8.

Nexus Sport Team Training Information

Below is the final reminder of training days/times for our ACSIS Season Two sport teams.

ACSIS SEASON 2 TEAMS	COACH	MANAGER	TRAINING DAY
10&U Football	APSM	Heather Munoz	Thu, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11&U Football	APSM	Graeme Massey	Mon, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
11&U Badminton	Andrea Webb	Andrea Webb	Wed, Lunchtime
12&U Basketball - Boys	APSM	William Lowe	Mon, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
12&U Basketball - Girls	APSM	Darren Snell	Tue, 3.30pm - 5.00pm

14&U Football	APSM	Deborah Uy	Mon, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
14&U Volleyball	Bevan Moriarty	Bevan Moriarty	Tue/Wed, 3.30pm - 5.00pm
U19 Basketball - Boys	APSM	Sheida Hancock	Fri, 4.45pm - 6.00pm
U19 Basketball - Girls	APSM	Andy Jefferson	Fri, 3.30pm - 4.45pm
U19 Touch Rugby - Girls	APSM	Maylene Leonard	Mon & Thu, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Swim Team	Kristinn Regalado	Shaun Russell	Tue - Fri, 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Elite Swim Squad	Jeffrey Talabucon	NA	Mon - Fri, 6.30am - 8.00am

Sport Results

10&U Football

Round 1: Played 5 mini games, won 4, drew 1

Round 2: Cancelled due to weather

11&U Boys Football

Played 3 mini games, drew 2, lost 1

12&U Boys Basketball

Lost to St Joseph's Institution International, 4-32

14&U Boys Football

Lost to United World College (East Campus), 2-4

U19 Boys Basketball

Beat International School Singapore, 39-15

Beat United World College (East Campus), 50-30

U19 Girls Basketball

Beat United World College (East Campus), 29-8

U19 Girls Touch Rugby – FIRST EVER GAME

Lost to Singapore American School, 1-13

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

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