

## Letter from the Principal

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22 February 2013

### Guidance Services At Nexus

My name is Carole Rodden and I am the full time counsellor here at Nexus. I came from a school in New Zealand where I was the counsellor for 14 years. I offer counselling, advice and guidance for all learners, staff and parents here at Nexus International School.

My office is situated in Block A, Level 2, Room 7. I can be contacted by email at [rodden.c@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:rodden.c@nexus.edu.sg) or at 6536 6566 [ext. 0145]. There is also a "drop box" located outside my office where messages can be left for me, and I am more than happy for anyone to just drop by as well.



Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any concerns about your child/ren. This could be in relation to bullying, low self esteem, managing relationships or anxiety (to name but a few of the issues faced by our learners as they progress through childhood and adolescence). You may have concerns about another learner here at Nexus, and again, I welcome those concerns as well.

**This is a private and confidential service.**

*Carole Rodden, Guidance Counsellor*

### Notes From The Library

#### **Book Week: Heroes And Villains, 4 - 8 March 2013**

Book Week is here again to help us all celebrate reading for pleasure. So do please get involved and help your child to discover their love of reading. A full timetable of events can be found on the [Nexus Loves Reading](#) website.

Studies show that children who enjoy and feel confident reading are better learners. Reading helps them discover the world. A strong reading habit - whether they enjoy books, comics or digital technology - will help them grasp other subjects, from history to science to maths to music. With this year's theme of Heroes & Villains, there's something for everybody to enjoy. So join in!

#### **Here's How:**

1. **Have a chat:** Everyone has a hero or a favourite villain, whether they're from books, comics, history, sport, films or even computer games. So probably the best and fastest way to take part in Book Week is simply to talk to your child. Why not ask them about the heroes that have inspired them? Or tell them about a person or character that made a big impression

on you? You could even turn it into an activity by watching a film, reading together, dressing up or going on an outing.

2. **Come along to a book event from March 4 – 8:** Check out the timetable of events from the [Nexus Loves Reading](#) website. There will be guest authors, a book fair, a costume parade and more.

3. **Try some reading tips:**

**Read aloud to each other.** It's a great chance to share something special, talk and be close.

**Choose books that suit their interests.** Comic books, dancing or football - whatever your child's passion, go with it.

**Don't get frustrated.** If your child wants to read the same thing over and over, that's fine. What matters is that they love reading.

**Keep lots of books around the house!**

**Ask a teacher, a librarian or someone who works in a bookshop.** They love to talk about good books if you're stuck.

*Shaun Russell, Teacher Librarian*

## ELS Tips Of The Week.

- Schedule time everyday for your child to do homework and provide a quiet place, free from distractions, where your child can work
- Make reading part of your child's daily routine. Parents can read to their children in either English or their native language
- Talking in your mother tongue about what your child has learnt in his/her lessons will not only encourage conversational skills but also gives the child an opportunity to express any problems and /or frustrations he/she may be encountering at school
- Be sure to attend parent-teacher conferences scheduled by the school
- The key to success in obtaining a new language lies in permanent collaboration in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust and encouragement between the ELS teacher, homeroom teacher, parents/guardians and the student
- Encouragement is crucial for the development of a new language

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

### Nexus Parents' Social Evening – Thursday, 7 March

A date for your diary. Enjoy the company of other Nexus parents and a glass of wine from 8.00pm onwards. Location details to follow. We look forward to having you there.

## Lost And Found

Lost and found items can be claimed at the administration office during school hours. If your child has lost an item, do encourage him/her to approach our friendly Student Services to have a check or make a report.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### Grade 3 Assembly

Our assembly next week on Friday, 1 March, will be led by our Grade 3 learners. We hope that lots of families will be able to join us to celebrate the discoveries that have been made by the Grade 3 learners.

### After School Supervision

Please could we remind all parents and guardians that once children are collected from their classrooms at the end of the school day, they must be carefully supervised by the adult with them. As classes finish at slightly different times, we encourage adults and siblings to wait **outside** the Pod areas. Here siblings can run around and make noise without disturbing other learners. However, if you do choose to wait inside the Pods, please make sure siblings are closely supervised and wait quietly. If this is not the case, please do not be offended if you are asked to wait outside. These respectful and responsible behaviours are encouraged during the school day and we ask that all adults support us in reinforcing these positive messages. If you do not collect your child from school yourself please could you make sure that this message is share with the adult who does.

### Grade 5 Exhibition

Please find attached the flyer for the upcoming Grade 5 PYP Exhibition: "Ingenuity allows communities to adapt and respond to environmental changes." We do hope that families and friends from across the Nexus community can join us at one of these exciting sessions. On Thursday there was a brief information session for Grade 5 parents regarding the upcoming Exhibition. If you have any follow up questions or were unable to make the session and would like to know more, please contact your child's homeroom teacher or our PYP Coordinator, Miriam Mahapatra at [mahapatra.m@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:mahapatra.m@nexus.edu.sg).

### New Units Of Inquiry

In all Grades, from Nursery to Grade 4, the children have started to explore new Units of Inquiry in the past week. Last week's Grade newsletters provided details of your child's new UOI theme. If you feel that you could add to the children's learning in any way please contact your child's homeroom

teachers. For example, you may have artefacts that you could show the Grade or perhaps you have some skills or knowledge in the field of study that you could share with the children. We are always keen to find ways to enrich the learning that takes place at Nexus.

*Paul Beach, Head of Junior School*

## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### English

Last week Grade 7 and Grade 8 learners were deciding on how to proceed with their final 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom design presentations for [The Octopus's Garden Project](#). Lots of critical thinking happened as learners made important decisions about how teams would be formed, how the presentation would work, what would be included, and the order each section would occur in. Learners recognised that these thinking, planning and linking skills are essential in effectively and clearly presenting all their designs in a cohesive manner, but are also very important for organising their writing. Read more at [The Octopus's Garden Blog](#).

### Science Department Working With Primary Pupils

On Thursday, the Science Department hosted our Grade 1 learners who came to investigate the building blocks of life using microscopes. After getting used to working with microscopes, they began to use the instrument to look at pieces of paper and coins. The learners then moved on to looking at pieces of onion and some pre-prepared slides of plant and animal parts. Teachers used smartphones to capture some of the amazing images that the pupils produced; these photographs will be used in follow-up work.

Grade 5 learners who are preparing for their PYP Final Project sought advice from the science department by organising a meeting in which to discuss possible ways to model a tsunami. Many ideas were generated and the science department looks forward to working with these learners to bring some of these ideas to fruition over the next few weeks.

### Grade 7 Health And Physical Education

Grade 7 Physical Education learners have impressed this term. Their land based PE focus was 'social responsibility' using the sport of Floorball – which is a gymnasium version of ice hockey.

Learners were divided into three even mixed ability teams, and these teams were maintained for the duration of the unit. Each team member then chose an on-going team role to perform; coach, manager, captain, equipment monitor, first aid, team player. These teams were responsible for undertaking their own Floorball training sessions before learning to play various methods of tournament play (round robin, league, knock-out, drop off).

ICT was integrated into the learning through team training planning sessions, where team members collaborated to research useful drills, tactics, and techniques of Floorball.



Teams also learnt the structure of a training sessions and what is involved for each component. Learners had to demonstrate time management to fit warm-up, technique development, skills and drills, mini games, and warm down into the training sessions.

All Grade 7 learners have stepped up superbly, and I was amazed at the high level of social responsibility demonstrated by all.

*John Evans, Head of Senior School*

## SPORTS NEWS

### ACSIS Season Three is Upon Us

It has finally arrived. The final sporting season of the academic year, ACSIS Season Three kicks off over the next few days. Nexus International School will be participating in the sports listed below. Also included, are the training days, venues, and time for each team.

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

TEAM	TRAINING DAY	TIME	LOCATION
8-11&U Track and Field (Athletics)	Thursday (start 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	3.30-4.30pm	Top field
8&U Football (2 teams)	Tuesday	3.30-4.30pm	Top field
Swim Team	Tuesday and Friday	3.30-4.30pm	Pool
12&U Football	Tuesday (start 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	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

Thank you to the various members of Nexus International School staff and community who have volunteered their coaching services to help our learners during this ACSIS season. If you would like to assist with a sport team, please email me using the address below.

### **ACSIS Junior School Swim Meet – Saturday, 23 February, 7.00am to 12.00pm**

Our Junior School swim team head to UWC Dover Campus this Saturday morning for the Junior School Swim Meet. This meet, like the one hosted at Nexus International School, will have a festive atmosphere. Close to 400 participants will flood the Aquatic Complex at UWC Dover, with Nexus fielding a strong team of 20 swimmers. Siblings Joey and Jenny Choo will look to continue their hot form, and repeat their efforts from the Middle School swim meet where, between them, they won 2 golds and 1 bronze medal.

I wish all our swimmers the best of luck for Saturdays' event. Represent Nexus International School with pride.



### **14&U Boys And Girls Basketball Ranking Tournaments – Friday, 22 February**

I also extend my well wishes to our mighty girls and boys 14&U basketball teams who venture out on Friday afternoon to participate in their respective ranking tournaments. Each team has over 15 squad members, a testament to the hard work and enthusiasm by our fantastic coach Mr Abraham Delos Reyes. Good luck and play hard.

## **Sport Draw & Results**

### **Friday, 22 February**

- **14&U Boys Basketball Ranking Tournament.** AWAY at Overseas Family School. 4.30pm - 7.15pm. Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 7.35pm
- **14& U Girls Basketball Ranking Tournament.** AWAY at UWC East Campus. 4.30pm-6.30pm. Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 7.15pm

**Saturday, 23 February**

ACSIS Junior School Swim Meet. AWAY at UWC Dover Campus. 7am – 12 midday.

**Monday, 25 February**

U19 Girls Badminton. HOME vs. German European School. 4.30pm.

**Wednesday, 27 February**

- **U19 Girls Badminton.** AWAY vs. UWC East Campus. 4.40pm. Learners are expected to be back at Nexus by 6.45pm
- **8&U Football.** AWAY vs. various schools. Hosted by Dover Court Prep School. 4.30pm

We wish all our teams all the 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

NISS Grade 5 PYP Exhibition March 2013

**“Ingenuity allows communities  
to adapt and respond  
to environmental changes”**



### Exhibition Sessions

Venue: Block B Level 1

#### Wednesday, 13th March 2013

Session 1: 9:00am - 11:00 am  
(for parents and families of Grade 5 learners at NISS)

Session 2: 1:45pm - 3:15pm  
(NISS teachers and learners)

#### Thursday, 14 March 2013

Session 3: 8:45am - 10:00am

Session 4: 10:30 am - 12:00pm

**We look forward to sharing this event with you.**

**Paul Beach**  
Head of Primary School

**Miriam Mahapatra**  
PYP Coordinator

**Carlie Bassett**  
Grade 5 CBA

**Alan Evans**  
Grade 5 AEV

**NISS Learners**  
Grade 5

**RSVP : [mahapatra.m@nexus.edu.sg](mailto:mahapatra.m@nexus.edu.sg)**