

CONNECT04

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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

CIS Endicott Survey for Parents

Nexus International School Putrajaya is beginning a year long self-study process, which will lead to accreditation by CIS (Council of International Schools). The purpose of this process is to help the school determine its strengths and areas for improvement. Therefore, we are requesting all parents to assist the school by completing an online survey, which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The school is very interested in what you think of your son or daughter's education. The whole school community will be asked to complete the survey; this includes learners, parents, teachers, auxiliary staff and boarding. Once the school community has finished the survey, all the data will be collated and then used by the school to focus on our improvements and developments over the next 12 months. This survey is an important document as it allows the community to help shape the future of the school.

The survey link will be sent out in Connect next Friday, 27 September.

Parents, Teachers & Friends (PTF) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please be informed that the PTF's AGM will be held on Thursday, 26th September at 3pm, venue Top Floor of Library.

The aim of PTF is to foster good communication and relationships between parents and the school. At this meeting a committee will be elected to run the PTF for academic year 2013-2014. The committee consists of a chair, a vice-chair, a treasurer, a secretary and ordinary committee members. PTF committees will then set up smaller working groups to organise events and work on certain area/issues at school. There are many different ways you can help with the PTF, whether you have lots of time to offer or not. Some of the roles are time-consuming, if you can't commit to a big job, look out for things you can do less frequently (eg running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale).

The Agenda for this meeting are as below:

1. To elect the new committee for 2013-2014. (New parents are invited to stand for election as well as existing ones).
2. Parent representative for various activities.
3. New name for PTF (change of name).

Please confirm your attendance by Tuesday, 24 September.

Nexus Education Forum (NEF)

As you may know, the Nexus Education Forum (NEF) was set up to promote discussion and understanding between parents and teachers around the learning experience in our school. This year, we hope to grow in membership and impact and for that reason we invite parents to apply for the position of Forum Ambassador. This role would involve encouraging attendance at our events, as well as consulting with staff on the main concerns and questions that parents would like to discuss. It would not be onerous, but would greatly help our group to grow and reach more participants.

For further information on the forum, please go to <http://bit.ly/nefsite>
To express your interest or simply find out more please email eduforum@nexus.edu.my

Next Thursday 26th September is European Day

To celebrate this, please come dressed in the colours of any European Flag. We will having a range of activities from:

- A Boules tournament during PE lessons!
- The Music department will be teaching primary learners songs in Spanish!
- Spanish/Latino and French films will be shown at lunchtime!
- A Flamenco dance lesson at lunch!
- Check out the Primary canteen for a video on festivals!
- And there will be Cheese-tasting taking place in language classes

For more information about the European Day of Languages, please visit the official website at <http://edl.ecml.at/>



Music News

The Instrumental Programme is now in full swing with some wonderful music making and learning taking place all around the Music Department. There is still some fine tuning of the timetables taking place so please make sure you check the timetables before a lesson to make sure the time has not changed. Click [Here](#) for Instrumental Timetables

Primary

IPC Pre-accreditation visit

On Thursday, two representatives from the IPC came to Nexus to evaluate our progress so far towards accreditation in November. They gave us some very useful feedback and we await their more detailed report early next week. Many thanks to those parents that met with the IPC to discuss their role in the process. More details to follow.

Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT)

Next week all learners from Year 3 to Year 6 will take a CAT test. A CAT is an online assessment tool that allows teachers to measure current aptitude in the following three areas: Verbal, Quantitative and Nonverbal reasoning. The results of this will act as a good indicator of what progress we could expect from each child. Results will be used by teachers to help to plan the right path for each child and to indicate reasonable levels of challenge so that we can ensure all learners are given opportunities to be rigorous learners.

Please note that it is not possible or indeed useful for learners to practice answering the types of questions that will be in the test. There are more details on the [GL Website!](#) This assessment forms part of our comprehensive assessment of learners and is used in addition to our Assessment for learning programme, Recording Learner Progress (RLP) grids and end of year summative tests.

Year 3 and Their Entry Point

On Thursday, Year 3 enjoyed a party as our entry point for our IPC unit 'Living Together'. We were celebrating all of the different communities that we are a part of; our families, our school, Putrajaya, KL, Malaysia and the whole world! Our parents and our IPC visitors came along too. We wore traditional costumes from our countries, brought in delicious food to share with our friends and did activities from all over the world; a quiz, voice recordings of ourselves saying 'hello' in different languages and studied international flags. Here is what some of our learners have to say about it:

- Azfar says "I enjoyed the activities and the food from around the world"
- Aleesya says "I liked writing hello in different languages"
- Aisha says "I liked researching my flag on a website"
- Isaac says "We had a lot of fun doing the activities together with our friends and our parents"
- Etienne says "I enjoyed making a Vietnamese flag special to me and easy because it only has two colours!"
- Jordis enjoyed the quiz about countries because "My Dad helped me find the answers, he taught me things about the world"
- Erina says "Our Mummies were helping each other out with the quiz"



Spotlight on IPC

This week we are talking to Aireen and Amyra in Year 3

This week Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their Entry Point to their new IPC topic 'Living Together'

What is your current IPC theme?

Amyra: Living Together – it's all about different communities.

Why are you learning about that?

Aireen: We have to be internationally minded and learn about different cultures. When we know and understand about different cultures we can live together.

What are you learning about today?

It's our entry point to our new topic. We have entry points so that we get excited and motivated about our new topic. We are wearing traditional clothes and have brought food from our home country. We are taking part in quizzes about all the different cultures and we are learning to say hello in different languages. It's our entry point to our new topic. We have entry points so that we get excited and motivated about our new topic.

Is it fun?

Amyrah: It is a lot of fun because we are having a party.

Aireen: Also because we found that there are things that our parents don't know and things that we don't know so we are learning together.

Secondary

Book List for Year 10 to 13

Please click [Here](#) to see the compulsory list of books that need to be purchased for learners in Year 10,11,12 & 13.

These books can be purchased from the school bookshop next to the main office.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

It is the time of year again where learners are encouraged to sign up to take part in the International Award. The Award is available to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25 and is offered at three levels; Bronze Silver and Gold. At each level learners have to participate in a form of Physical Recreation, learn a Skill, give a form of Service to help those more in need than themselves and take part in an Adventurous Journey, at Gold level there is an additional Residential Project.

Last year we had nearly 60 learners participating in the award at Nexus and we hope to see those numbers increase this year. Further information can be found at the school International Award Google site and on the International Award site, or by emailing Mr. Jimi directly.

All learners in Year 10 and above who are interested in participating in the award should contact Mr. Jimi and collect and complete a planning sheet before Monday 30th September.



PE Notices

Thank you to all the learners and staff who have made it such a fantastic start to the sporting year here at Nexus. Sports CCA's are oversubscribed and the school teams are starting to take shape, which in my view, is an excellent-sign that the school is in good health. This coming week sees the start of many of the competitions against schools from around KL. Already this week we have witnessed the U18 Girls Volleyball Team play their first ever match in the ISAC Div 2. It was against tough opposition in the shape of ISKL, AISM and MKIS. The girls showed great spirit and had lots of fun while winning one out of their opening 3 matches, (see photo below). Well done girls and a huge thanks to their coach Miss Wen Nie. Their next league matches will be played on October 10th at ISKL, Ampang.

Fixtures coming-up this week

19/9	22/9	23/9	25/9	26/9	28/9
. U18 Boys Volleyball at Tenby . U15 Boys Football at BSKL . U15 Girls Football at ISP	. Snr Girls Football at Nexus . U15 Boys Football at MKIS . U15 'b' Boys Football at ISKL, Ampang . Snr Boys Football at KLASS	. U9 Boys Football at Nexus . U11 Boys Football at Nexus	U9 Boys Benchball at ISP	. U15 Boys Football at BSKL . U15 Girls Football at ISP	. Snr Girls Football at Nexus . U15 Boys Football at MKIS . U15 'b' Boys Football at ISKL, Ampang . Snr Boys Football at KLASS

If you would like to keep in touch with all that is going on with Nexus Sports teams, then you can do so in the following ways: Click here, [Pe Google Site](#) or Email: smith.a@nexus.edu.my

IA Gold Award Trip



The day began in a crowded school mini-bus in which the 7 of us, accompanied by Ms Claire and Mr Jimmy, travelled on a four hour long trip towards Teluk Batik, in Lumut, which would serve as our first base camp for the 5 day long expedition. The Adventurous Journey is a challenging element of the Gold International Award, and the next few days would prove to us just how demanding and exciting such an expedition can be.

A relaxing first day consisting of shopping for necessary items, setting up camp and a briefing session dramatically changed as we woke up for the next morning, an arduous cycling session to Bukit Ungku Busu began early in the day, wearing helmets, and flamboyant neon orange safety vests we biked for hours through city roads until finally setting foot on the side of the mountain, and beginning our trek uphill.

The strain was starting to take its toll, each of us worked as a team to keep up the pace and make sure nobody was left behind, keeping watch for poisonous animals and thorny branches along the way, we began to work as a collaborative group that assisted each other to reach our final goal. After a few more hours of trekking and biking back to camp we started work on the night's dinner, gathering wood and creating a small fire to cook Bamboo Rice, a task that proved more difficult than initially thought, but we were able to pull off in the end, surprisingly well.

The following days were met with a range of activities, rising in the early morning to pack our tents, make breakfast and on a variety of occasions protect our food from monkeys who often succeeded in stealing our goods. We moved to Pangkor Island, camping on a sandy beach and beginning an independent kayaking trip that took us around some smaller islands in the area, here we worked as a group to organize and prepare our trip without any assistance, rowing for hours under the blazing sun. This activity allowed us to cooperate independently, inquire and explore while at the same time being a gruelling physical challenge, one that ultimately left a few members of our group seasick. As night fell, we continued with a personal exploration of the beach and some relaxation time within our group that allowed us to reflect on the day's activities.

The last active day of the Adventurous Journey consisted of Survival Camping, and this proved to be the most physically tolling aspect of the trip, as we carried our full backpacks through the path towards a deserted beach, the aching pain on our backs and the scorching heat struck us, from here on we would be left on our own, with minimal contact with other members outside of our own groups we worked on setting camp, building a fire, creating a fishing pole and hunting bait, a flurry of tasks that needed to be done before night set on our camp.

The Gold Award challenged us both physically and mentally, dealing with responsibility [we had to take care and protect an egg throughout the journey], teamwork and independence in ways we hadn't experienced before, albeit exhausting, the experience allowed each of us to work together in new ways and end the trip happy and satisfied with our time on the adventure.

By Carlos Chicas

Romeo and Juliet Performance Trip

Last week all year eight learners along with those year eleven learners who will be studying Shakespeare over the course of this academic year went to see KLPac's performance of Romeo and Juliet.



It was a very large contingent that set off, 96 learners plus teachers, in three buses. The whole day went without a hitch; the traffic there and back was not too bad, the venue was excellent and we could sit outside in the shade of trees in a park-like setting and eat our lunch. Of course it goes without saying that the learners were excellent to take on such a venture and appeared to enjoy the day very much, with one learner being heard to say, "We should do this more often." The play was an adaptation and was set in a high school classroom where a reading of Romeo and Juliet was going on. But, as the director said when he spoke to all the learners at the end of the play, "Some of the actors got carried away." There were lots of moments where the learners laughed out loud, and went ooh, ahhh and ouch! Not surprisingly, the fight scenes and romance scenes seemed to be the most popular.

All in all it was a very good day and we hope that when the learners study the work of Shakespeare later in the year it will have greater resonance and meaning for them.

Music Technology Club

"Going into the recording studio for the first time today was a tremendous experience. Why?

It's a room filled with all the equipment a musician or sound editor could dream of! With 7 other people, our thoughts were in a unanimous decision that it was some of the most impressive sights of a recording studio of a school that we have seen. It's quite a curious case that Nexus was so generous to invest so much money on this set of high-tech inventory for the students to use. The teachers there were fabulous too, they showed us the basic of the equipment and explained to us the future purpose of the room. Our inquiring minds can't wait to see how this club will unravel itself in the future!"

By Akihiro Cheng Y12 IB
Learner & valued member of
The Music Technology Club

Hairspray the Musical Trip

22 Learners, parents and teachers went to KLCC on Thursday to see Hairspray the Musical. It was a wonderful show and the learners were all great ambassadors for Nexus. A full review by a learner will be in next weeks Connect. A big Thank You to Ms Rachel for organising the well-run trip.



Exclusive interview with Sarah Seymour, Stage Manager on 'Hairspray!'

Y13 Theatre Arts learners got a valuable insight into the world of theatre stage management this week when they interviewed Sarah Seymour, who has worked on many West End shows and is currently keeping things running smoothly in 'Hairspray' at KLCC.

She loves her work but admitted that keeping the creative types happy whilst juggling the technical requirements of the show and making a profit too can be a huge challenge. We were fascinated to hear about Sarah's event management escapades, the highlight being a military sequence involving tanks and four fighter jets! We'll be looking out for the details she told us about when we go to see 'Hairspray', including the remote controlled rats which are rather temperamental!

We're keen to continue giving learners a wide range of performance opportunities throughout the year. Thanks to Miss Claire Waller for introducing us to Sarah.

By Ms Rachel

Boarding House

Boys and Sport

All boys and girls in boarding are encouraged to play a sport but the boys this year have made a great effort to take part in the a variety of school sports. The majority of boys are playing football and rugby while basketball and badminton are played by a few.



The positive outcomes of playing a sport are well documented and it has been good to see many boys trying rugby for the first time. In their last rugby carnival they did not win a match. Nevertheless it was a good learning experience for all and the boys know what they have to do to beat good rugby teams.

To gain fitness the boys are making good use of the gym after school and in the mornings many of them take part in the staff-led fitness training programme. There is no doubt that having a fit and healthy body will benefit them in other areas of their life at school.

ELL Information

Are our readers really reading?

Reading is so much more than saying the words on the page! Research has shown that lack of challenging reading material is the biggest barrier to continued reading development for advanced readers.

**NEW AND
CHALLENGING
READING
PROGRAMME**

The English Department is running a weekly reading programme in years 7, 8 and 9 throughout this session. The aim is to engage all learners to become 'active readers', reading at a deeper level and getting real enjoyment from written text. With this in mind here are some excellent links to sites with short bite-size texts and comprehension questions.

<http://www.k12reader.com/> | <http://www.readinga-z.com/>

Tip: To improve comprehension pause after each paragraph to ask yourself: "what happened?" , "What was it about?" "What was the main idea?"

HAPPY READING!

Adakah pembaca kita betul-betul membaca?

Membaca bukan hanya tentang mengatakan perkataan pada halaman. Penyelidikan telah menunjukkan bahawa kekurangan bahan bacaan yang mencabarkan merupakan halangan yang terbesar untuk perkembangan pembacaan yang berterusan untuk pembaca maju.

**PROGRAM
MEMBACA YANG
BARU DAN
MENCABARKAN**

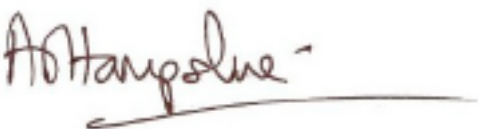
Jabatan Bahasa Inggeris sedang menjalankan program membaca mingguan untuk Tahun 7, 8 dan 9 sepanjang sesi ini. Matlamatnya adalah untuk menggalakkan semua pelajar untuk melibatkan diri dan menjadi 'pembaca aktif', untuk membaca pada tahap yang lebih mendalam serta benar-benar menikmati teks bertulis. Dengan ini, sini terdapat beberapa link yang bagus kepada laman web yang mengandungi teks pendek dan soalan-soalan pemahaman.

<http://www.k12reader.com/> | <http://www.readinga-z.com/>

Petua: Untuk meningkatkan pemahaman, berhenti selepas setiap perenggan dan tanya sendiri: "Apakah yang telah berlaku?", "Apakah yang ia mengenai?", "Apakah idea utama?"

SELAMAT MEMBACA!

Regards,



Alison Hampshire
Principal