

CONNECT07

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Upcoming Event

Nexus will embrace diversity once again through our whole school Deepavali celebration. We would appreciate parents' participation to extend the celebration to a wider community. If you wish to help or contribute please contact:

Mrs. Sahmalah Sakthivel at sakthivel.s@nexus.edu.my

Ms. Sandip at jagdev.s@nexus.edu.my

Ms. Norazlina at norazlina_awanghad@gmail.com

Deepavali Curriculum Day

Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Hub 2 - Level 4
Monday 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary and Secondary learners will put up learning displays to showcase their Internationally Minded learning
Tuesday 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year groups to visit Learning Hub 2
Wednesday 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole school dress up wearing Indian costumes Food tasting – Indian delicacies Year groups to visit Learning Hub 2 Primary Assembly – Year 2 assembly on Internationally Minded

Internationally Minded - Definition

International mindedness is an understanding of ourselves as part of a global community and a respect for, and celebration of, diversity within that community. At Nexus this means that we:

- Celebrate festivals of cultures in Malaysia.
- Are part of a global community.
- Try to understand and respect each other.
- Are open to learning about each other, including our similarities and differences.



New Bus Company

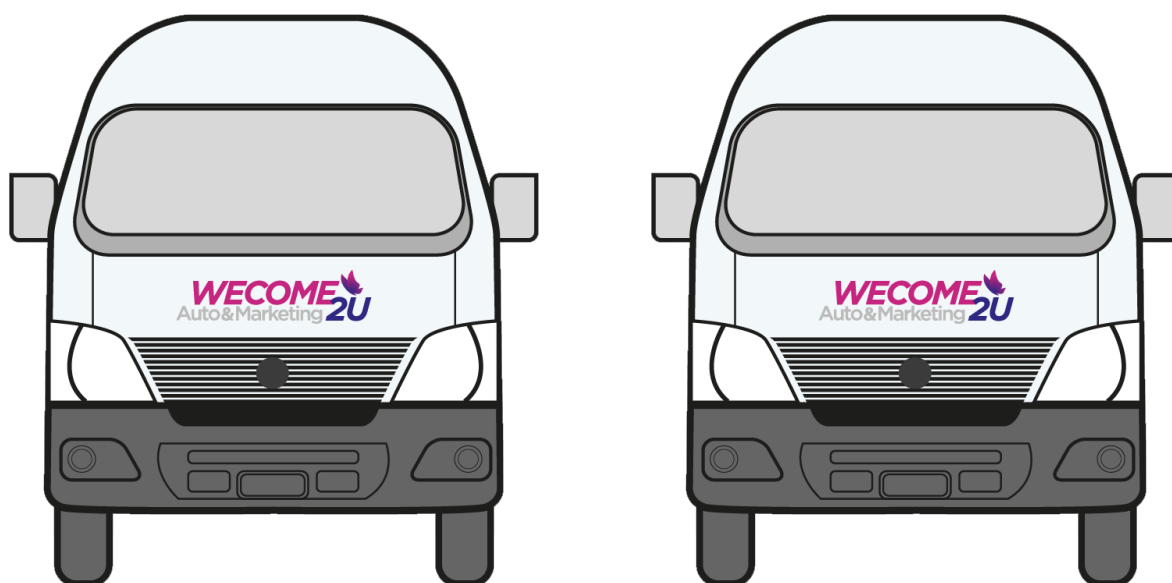
In response to on-going parental dissatisfaction with the current bus service, the school met with a new service provider - **WeCome2U Auto & Marketing Sdn Bhd** - and we are impressed with what they can offer.

The new service provider will be at Nexus from 21-25 October to do a road show and to invite parents to register. The new provider will look to establish a new bus service effective from term two in January 2014, if there is sufficient interest.

Each bus will have a maximum of 4 pick up points and dependent on where parents are located could do individual drop offs if this is not too many, nor too time consuming for learners at the end of the day. Otherwise it will drop off where it picks up.

Initially the bus provider needs to have 8 learners to start a new route (using a 13-seater van). If demand exceeds 13 learners a bigger van/bus will be used. They will consolidate the numbers by planning routes to maximise the numbers on a bus without adding too much time to the journeys. The arrangement of the route will be based on the number of registrations received during the road show week.

Please come along to ask question and see the actual vans that **WeCome2U Auto & Marketing** propose to use. If you cannot make a visit in person we will also be sending registration forms via email.



Primary

IPC Curriculum In Action

Are you keen to find out more about IPC and actually have a chance to see IPC in action in your child's classroom? On Friday the 25th of October you will have that opportunity. First Mr Griffith's will give a short talk in the theatre at 2pm to give you more information about IPC. Then our fantastic tour guides will take you to your child's classroom via some of the IPC displays around school. Finally we would like to invite you to the classrooms. Once in there your children will tell you more about how IPC works and give you a chance to observe and join in with some IPC learning. They will also be available to answer any of your questions. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about IPC and what and how your children are learning at Nexus. We hope you can make it and if so look forward to seeing you there.

Spotlight on IPC

This week we are talking to Xuen from 4E. The learning goals Y4 are covering are:

- Science
- To be able to carry out simple investigations
- Technology
- To design and make a home to suit a particular environment

What is your current IPC theme?

Homes and Habitats

Why are you learning about that?

It's useful to learn about homes and how they are different around the world. It helps us to understand why they are made that way.

What are you learning about today?

We are writing down the materials we would need to make an insulated wall for our home so we can design our own house. It is something new I'm learning. We are planning a science investigation to find out which material is the best insulator.

What skills are you learning?

To plan a fair test and to use a temperature sensor to measure the changing temperature.



What personal goals have you been working on?

I am using my cooperation skills because we have to work together in a group and listen to each other's ideas.

Is it fun?

Yes, it makes me happy to do science investigations. I will get to find out which materials I should use for insulation to keep my house cool.

Thank you Xuen.

Brain Friendly Learning in the IPC

Here are a few ideas from the IPC that explain some of why we promote the things that we do in school.

1. Morning Exercise: Learning about healthy eating etc. Good health is important to an effective brain. We have always known that lack of sleep makes the brain inefficient. Recent research has made it clear that diet and exercise also have a great part to play in enabling the brain to work effectively. Regular intakes of water stop us becoming dehydrated. High levels of oxygen are important to brain functioning. The right foods provide the brain with the nutrients it needs.

2. Knowledge Harvests: New learning is when the brain literally makes connections inside our heads. So learning takes place best when the brain makes connections between new experiences and older experiences. The old idea of linking current learning to previous learning has been shown by brain research to be one of the most sensible ways of teaching.

3. Rigorous and fun learning: The best state for learning is 'relaxed alertness'. Children who are stressed can't learn. It's as simple as that. The part of the brain we use to think with is the neo-cortex. It works slower than the limbic brain, which is the part, which controls emotions and feelings. What happens when we get stressed is that the limbic part of the brain takes over, often resulting in emotional flooding as we try to counter the stress brought on by a perceived aggressive situation.

4. Children need to see the big picture: It's easier to do a jigsaw when you have looked at the 'big picture' first than it is when you look at a piece at a time. Above we highlighted the importance of helping children make connections with their previous learning. But making connections is even more important than that. Learning works best when children can be helped to link all the different aspects of their work.

5. Each child has a portfolio of intelligences: The old view on intelligence as a single general factor has been challenged in recent years by the idea of multiple intelligences, developed by Howard Gardner. Using brain research Gardner has identified eight – and possibly nine – intelligences, which are different but equal in status. The idea of multiple intelligences allows us to see children differently and more positively. It also allows us to help children access work that they might otherwise find 'difficult' through their stronger intelligences. Learners at Nexus are able to experience and develop different learning styles. Brain research tells us that children and adults access their learning in three main ways – auditorily, visually and kinaesthetically. Although most children can learn using all of the styles, about one-fifth of all children have a very strong preference for one style only. So if we organise our teaching and children's learning through one style only, we reduce the opportunity for many children to learn.

6. Thinking time: Time needs to be created for complex thinking to take place 'Slow thinking' is the term Guy Claxton has used to describe the kind of thinking which needs to take place in its own time and not be rushed – reflective thinking. Claxton has used brain research to show how the mind can only solve complex issues by sifting and sorting the information it has been given over a period of time.

International Mindedness

At last we have our definition of International Mindedness. We have had lots of input from learners, teachers, parents and members of the Board of Governors. The Nexus School Community defines International Mindedness as: **“An understanding of ourselves as part of a global community and a respect for, and celebration of, diversity within that community.”** This means that we:

- Celebrate festivals of cultures from Malaysia and beyond.
- Are members of a global community.
- Try to understand and respect each other.
- Are open to learning about each other, including our similarities and differences.

PE News

Another busy week for Primary PE with the cross country last Sunday, Basketball for U11 boys and girls on Wednesday and the culmination of 8 weeks hard work on skills within the curriculum. Mr Harvey would like to say a big thank you to all learners, parents and staff who gave up their time to participate in the X-country last Sunday. A considerable number (nearly 70) learners ran from Primary and sums up the on-going commitment of Nexus to improve the participation in various types of sporting events throughout the last 12-14 months.

Well done to the U11 girls Basketball team who competed in their first ever event and they worked extremely hard in the 5 games they had. A big thank you again must go to the parents who came to support our girls and it was much appreciated by Mr Harvey and the PE team. CONGRATULATIONS to the Boys team, who won all their 5 games, some convincingly, and now sit at the top of the KLISS U11 Basketball league. They join our U9 Boy's Benchball team who are also top with the 2nd round of games coming in November.

A reminder to all parents that Year 3 and 5 classes will now have 2 dry PE sessions up till the holidays in December and Year 4 (Monday) and 6 (Tuesday) will swim instead Please remind your children to bring swimming kit.



Parent Teacher Conferences

These will take place on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd October. Sign up can be done on line and details have been sent in a letter. If you don't have the letter please contact griffiths.d@nexus.edu.my

Secondary

Art – Paper Mache Project

Secondary Art would like to appeal for newspapers as we are going to start a paper mache project with the Year 9 learners. The old newspapers will also be used to cover the table while painting. We also recycle the newspapers for activities like paper making and printing activities. All contributions are highly appreciated. Please bring the newspapers to the Secondary Art Room.

Staff CAS Reflection – Mr. Jimi

I have been teaching for over ten years now and have worked at the Senegal refugee school and with the Myanmar learners that come to Nexus in the past, however, I was still slightly apprehensive before I visited the Myanmar school last Saturday.

Driving in Kuala Lumpur can be stressful at the best of times, but we had been told that this 'school' was particularly difficult to find and that we should set out well in advance. Despite the warnings we didn't find the school too hard to find, but nonetheless we took GPS coordinates and photos to help those that will go in the future.

I had spoken to Mr. Tom about what he and Mrs. Katrina had done with the learners the previous week and where they were up to in the workbooks that the school wanted us to use. Miss. Jenny had looked at the activities and drawn up alternative versions that would encourage the learners to talk more as this had been highlighted as something that would help the learners. We had split ourselves into three groups, Miss. Jenny would take the younger learners as she had the most experience of those, the Nexus students would take the middle ability learners and I would take the older learners.

The activity started with, was based on describing and interviewing a famous sports personality. We had chosen Lionel Messi as our example as we thought he was famous enough. The boys in my group all knew who he was but the girls are very shy and didn't seem to know so that made it hard for them to engage in an activity about writing questions to interview a celebrity. In the end they chose to write and ask questions to interview each other. When it came to completing the fill in the blanks activity in the set book the girls were absolute stars and able to complete the activity much quicker than the boys who spoke more. This is something I will have to consider for the next time I go.

After a brief break we then did an activity where the learners have to sit back to back and use their descriptive skills to explain to their partner how to draw a flag.

This encouraged them to speak to each other and listen too, it was difficult to make them use just English rather than letting them slip into their native Chin, but they all clearly enjoyed the activity and some of them were very good at identifying the words such as next to and above/below that made them successful in the activity.

At the end of the two hours I was hot, tired and hungry, but I felt that my two hours had definitely been worthwhile and I look forward to returning to the school for my next session with them.

By Mr. Jimi

Music News – Instrumental Lessons

We have had lots of enquiries regarding the increased cost of lessons this term. The main reason for this is because we have had to divide the 30 lessons we offer over the year into uneven chunks:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Will have 11 lessons this term (rather than the normal 10 per term); RM770 for Individual Lessons or RM473 for Group Lessons for the whole term	Will have 12 lessons; RM840 for Individual Lessons or RM516 for Group Lessons for the whole term	Will only have 7 lessons; RM490 for Individual Lessons or RM301 for Group Lessons for the whole term

The uneven distribution of lessons is because of the uneven length of the school terms this year, sorry for any confusion. It is not too late to 'sharpen up those minds' and sign up for Musical Instrument Lessons here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons>

Music Technology Club Diary

In Music Tech this week we spent the majority of our time getting to know the interface of our software, Logic Pro, and discussing and demonstrating the use of EQ and reverb, particularly in classical guitar pieces. We took a piece of classical guitar music recorded by ourselves in the previous week and fiddled with the EQ settings and reverb. With the EQ we adjusted the bass, mid, and treble until we found the right balance that sounded right for this particular piece of music. With the reverb, we adjusted the dry and wet setting, the length of the echo, and the room size and shape. Over the next day we will be receiving our loaned copies of Logic Pro, which we will be fiddling with over the mid-term break, ready to come back and continue.

By Leighia Stephen

PE Notices

All games on Thursday evening were cancelled due to the weather.

We've seen another huge week of sporting action for our Nexus learners. The weekend began with 6 Football teams spread across the city, all competing in their respective ISAC divisions. Mr Redmond's U15 Boys team deserve special mention as they snatched Bronze in extra time against a spirited MKIS team. Also, the U13 girls competing in their first ever league competition, just missed out on a bronze medal at ISKL, Ampang. Well done to all teams.

Sunday, witnessed the ISAC Cross-Country meet at Alice Smith School. Nexus had over 90 learners competing from Y3 right up to Y13. Special mention goes to Eric Tay and Imran Qabil who won medals for their 4th and 5th placed finish in the 3km U15 boys race and Phoebe Faulkner who came in 9th in the fiercely competitive 5km O15 Girls event. All the runners should be very proud of themselves for completing the race in extremely hot and humid conditions. We are looking forward to next year's event!!

On Tuesday 8th our senior boys and girls Football teams visited MKIS to play a friendly match against higher division teams and the long journey was made worthwhile as the Adlina netted a brace for the girls and the boys, despite losing the game, gave an impressive performance all round.



Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

Wednesday 9th was the turn of the U11s Basketball teams. The boys travelled to ISP while the girls played their matches at ELC, Sungai Buloh. The girls found themselves in a tough league against physical opposition but they will surely be stronger for the experience and are looking forward to the 2nd round of games on the 20th November. The boys fared better winning all 5 of their matches and sit proudly on top of the league after round 1.

On Thursday 10th the senior girls Volleyball team were in action in the final round of the ISAC Division 2 competition. The girls fought hard during the games but fell at the final hurdle, just missing out on the medals.



Australian Fencing Competition

Congratulations to Jia Ann. Our Y13 learner Jia Ann recently took place in the Perth, Australian Fencing competition. Jia Ann's team received the Silver medal for 2nd place which is a fantastic achievement. Well done!



Boarding House

On Saturday morning the boarders enjoyed a pancake breakfast. Ms Amy was helped by several boarders who cooked banana pancakes which were covered with lots of honey.



The following report from Vania, one of our Papuan boarders, describes the activities for the remainder of Saturday.



When we were in Petrosians , we climbed aboard the Dark Ride that took us to a place where we can learn about science and other things about Malaysia's Petronas. The part of the ride we enjoyed the most was the rain forest.

Our journey , continued through some amazing 3D images and then we found robotic talking and moving dinosaurs, and models of other animals.

We learned about the equipment and science used to take the oil from the ocean floor. We enjoyed using the demonstration equipment. It gave a real feeling for how oil is collected. Other highlights of our visit included learning about tsunamis and earthquakes, trying a flight simulator and seeing a petronas racing car.

By Vania (visiting student from Papua)

ELL

Information

Building Your Child's Vocabulary

Our use of vocabulary affects everything we do – the way we talk, our ability to understand what we read, being able to write well. Vocabulary is built, not just by learning new words but, most importantly, by and putting those words to use in daily speech. Learners (young and older) can be helped at home to improve their vocabulary by:

1. Having topic discussions ... they will pick up on the words used by parents in such discussions
2. Making connections with their own lives means they will tend to use the new words more frequently
3. Creating a word wall in their bedroom
4. A cork pin board is best – write new words on paper, pin them up.
5. With younger children the words can be grouped into categories e.g words starting with the same letter , or 'describing words' etc
6. Older children could think of synonyms and antonyms. Introduce older children to using a thesaurus on their laptop (or book)

The internet has plenty of activities to help children learn new words.

www.wordcentral.com looking up words and building their own dictionary

www.vocabulary.com games, puzzles and crosswords

Encourage your children to talk about what they learn in school. Research has shown that “students who discussed their studies at home on a daily, weekly or monthly basis had higher average reading scores than students who never discussed their studies at home.”

Membina Perbendaharaan Kata Anak Anda

Penggunaan perbendaharaan kata memberi kesan kepada semua perkara yang kita lakukan – cara kita bercakap, kebolehan pemahaman kita, keupayaan menulis dengan baik. Perbendaharaan kata dibina, bukan sahaja melalui pembelajaran perkataan yang baru, tetapi yang paling penting, melalui penggunaan perkataan-perkataan tersebut dalam ucapan harian. Pelajar (muda dan tua) boleh dibantu dalam mempertingkatkan perbendaharaan kata mereka dengan:

1. Mengadakan perbincangan topic... mereka akan belajar perkataan-perkataan yang diguna oleh ibu bapa mereka dalam perbincangan tersebut
2. Membina hubungan dengan kehidupan mereka sendiri bermaksud mereka akan lebih cenderung untuk menggunakan perkataan-perkataan baru dengan lebih kerap
3. Mencipta dinding perkataan dalam bilik tidur mereka
4. Papan pin gabus adalah terbaik – menulis perkataan baru atas kertas, lalu menggantungnya
5. Dengan kanak-kanak yang muda, perkataan-perkataan boleh dibahagikan mengikut kategori tersendiri seperti perkataan yang mula dengan huruf yang sama, atau 'menghuraikan perkataan' dan lain lain

6. Kanak-kanak yang lebih besar boleh berfikir tentang kata-kata seerti dan kata-kata lawan. Memperkenalkan kanak-kanak yang lebih besar kepada tesaurus dalam komputer riba mereka (atau dalam buku)

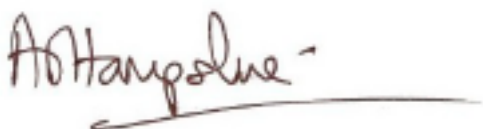
Internet mempunyai pelbagai aktiviti untuk membantu kanak-kanak belajar perkataan baru.

www.wordcentral.com mencari makna perkataan serta menghasilkan kamus mereka sendiri

www.vocabulary.com permainan, teka-teki dan silang kata

Menggalakkan anak anda untuk berbincang perkara yang mereka belajar di sekolah. Penyelidikan telah menunjukkan bahawa “kanak-kanak yang berbincang tentang pembelajaran mereka setiap hari, setiap minggu ataupun setiap bulan mempunyai skor bacaan purata yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan pelajar yang tidak berbincang tentang pembelajaran mereka di rumah.”

Regards,



Alison Hampshire
Principal

建立您的孩子的词汇

我们所用的词汇会影响我们的一切—我们的说话方式、我们的理解能力以及写作的技巧。词汇的掌握不只是单靠学习新的词汇，而最重要的是可以在日常生活中准确的应用这些新的词汇。以下是一些帮助学生提升词汇掌握能力的建议：

1. 与孩子们讨论不同的主题：他们会在与父母讨论这些话题的过程中学习新的词汇
2. 若可以与日常生活进行相关连接，他们会更频繁地用他们所学的新词汇
3. 在他们的卧室里做一个词汇墙
4. 软木针板是最佳的选择—把新的词汇写在纸张上，并把它贴在软木针板上
5. — 若对象是年幼的孩子，词汇可以被分类为不同的类别。例如：同一个字母的词汇或“形容式”的词汇
6. — 年长的孩子可以学习词汇的同义词与反义词。鼓励孩子利用词典或线上词典

网际网络上有许多不同的活动可以让孩子学习新的词汇。

www.wordcentral.com 寻找新的词汇以及建立自己的字典
www.vocabulary.com 游戏、拼图、填字游戏

鼓励你的孩子与你分享他们在学校的学习。研究报告显示“每日、每周或每个月在家分享学习心得的学生比从来不分享学习心得的学生拥有有较高的平均阅读成绩。”