

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

18th September 2015

CONNECT04

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

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MALAYSIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Although the haze situation delayed Nexus' first ever Malaysia Day celebration by two days, it did not dampen the overall spirit of the special day. To kickstart the celebrations, all Nexus learners and teachers gathered at the sports hall to sing the National Anthem, Negaraku, as well as to recite the National Pledge. Adorned in traditional costumes or colours of the Malaysian flag, the spirit of being Malaysian, or rather the love for the country, was apparent in many learners and teachers who dressed up to commemorate the anniversary of the formation of Malaysia. In the afternoon, the Malaysia Day Assembly was held during the last two periods, to showcase the various cultures of Malaysia to the secondary learners. Our event emcees were dressed up in various traditional outfits of the different ethnicities in Malaysia, and gave learners an insight on the multiracial uniqueness of Malaysia. The excited and enthusiastic audience enjoyed a variety of performances, ranging from a historical sketch of Malaysia to patriotic songs and cultural dances. Overall, our first ever Nexus Malaysia Day Celebration was a huge success and a most memorable event.

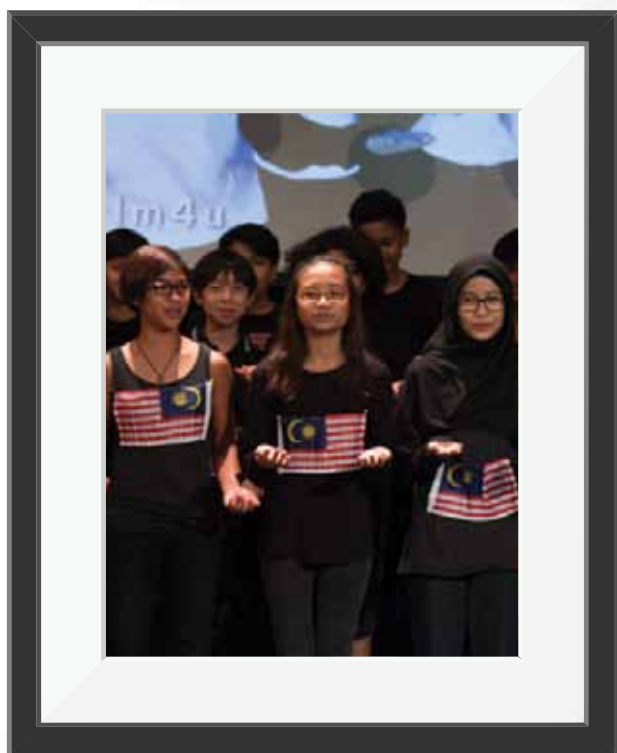
Article by Fiona Ling (Year 13)



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Boarding Trip to Melaka

Last Saturday, all boarders were offered an exciting trip to Melaka. It took us two hours to reach our destination and once we were there, the fun never stopped.

Our first activity was Taming Sari. We went on Taming Sari and it took us up high to the sky. We could see the whole of Melaka and we had a great view as far as the eye could see. It was a new experience for me and it was stirring.



After Taming Sari, we went on Duck Tours Melaka. The Duck can be used on land and water. We went around Melaka Island and we learned more about the city. After all the fun activities, we went to have lunch at a famous restaurant called Donald and Lily's Nonya Food. They served us plenty of food and that made the day even better for us.

Before ending the trip, we went to Jonker Street and did some shopping. Some of us went to a top shop and learned how to spin

a top. By the end of the trip, everyone was worn out. It was a great trip and I wish to visit Melaka again.

Article by Dening Koh (Year 10)



The latest Student Council news

The Heads of Councils (HOCs) and the Secretaries of the four peripheral councils (consisting of the Green, Sports, Events and Fundraising councils) were selected through an application-then-interview process. The prerequisites for becoming a HOC include possessing at least one year in a leadership position, whether it be in a previous school or at Nexus. The interview section helped us (the integral council, which consists of the president, vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer) to distinguish between those who truly had leadership skill, a good work ethic and, of course, ideas about where to take the council.

Competition was stiff, with the highest number of applicants since the founding of the secondary student council, and the list of successful candidates is as follows:

GREEN COUNCIL



HOC
Jasmine Foong



VHOC
Zhermaine Wong



Secretary
Sophie Low

SPORTS COUNCIL



HOC
Amir Haziq

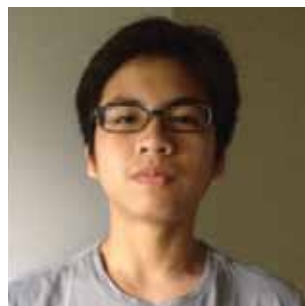


VHOC
Rachel Low



Secretary
Aaron Sim

EVENTS COUNCIL



HOC
Aiman Fikri



VHOC
Nina Shukor



Secretary
Hanna Mohd Amirul

FUNDRAISING COUNCIL



HOC
Jerrell Ong



VHOC
Julian Goh



Secretary
Toni Toh

For this year, the Green Council will be aiming to achieve the Bronze Award for our eco-school status. They will also be looking into expanding the ongoing paper recycling system and possibly branching out into plastic recycling.

The Events Council has taken on board the feedback from last year's end of year dance, and they will work towards improving this year's dance. They are also hoping to plan new events such as a Halloween-themed party this year. The Fundraising Council will be brainstorming new ideas for fundraisers to be held throughout the year, and judging by last year's success of raising more than RM5K, there won't be a problem with lack of participation by the learners!

The Olympic Week will be the main focus for the Sports Council, and the new head of council is planning to hold "training sessions" leading up to Olympic Week in order to up the standard of the games taking place. In addition to that, the Sports Council will assist the PE department in the planning of sporting activities such as the annual Sports Day and will also work on increasing the competitiveness of the sports teams in Nexus.

Note from the Editor: We would be particularly interested to hear any suggestions from learners and parents on how we can raise the profile of our House system at Nexus.

CAS Reflection

To be honest, looking back, I don't know how the idea of becoming the Head of Events Council suddenly came to me. I think I just wanted to give myself a challenge and step out of my comfort zone, speaking up and organising events such as the End of Year Ball.

That was how I ended up becoming the Head of the Events Council for the 2014-2015 academic year. I still recall my first meeting

with the Independent Members (IMs), and how awkward it was because most of us didn't know each other. I remember how, as time passed, we grew tighter as a council, and by the third term, we have expanded to over 20 members in the team. Events ranging from the Fall Dance, the Secret Santa, Valentine's Mufti Day, Green Day, Summer Bash and the End of Year Ball - I think the Events Council has definitely had a success throughout the year. Although there were a few events that had to be cancelled such as Spirit Week, I'm glad that the team never took these failures to their disadvantage, but rather used them as a lesson learnt to strive forward.

Being the Head of Events has definitely pushed me mentally. Having to coordinate meetings by myself, having to speak up to people I don't know, learning to speak up to senior leaders (politely, of course) if I did not agree with them, learning how to organise events- these were the kind of things that I was afraid of. Being a shy person, having to speak to unfamiliar people was initially dreadful, and I remember being so nervous when I first started. Now, I'm definitely more confident when speaking to others. In addition to that, I get really paranoid if I hear that people are upset, disappointed or bored with my events- which was tough for me to overcome, despite knowing the fact that there will always be a couple of people who will complain, because everybody has different tastes. At every event, I will get extremely anxious and stressed about how people will react, especially during the End of Year Ball.

Upon reflection of the final event of the year and all the past events, I think I should be proud of myself. I've worked hard and tried my best to make as many people as possible happy. I've pushed myself and put myself out of my comfort zone by taking on a role that I've never done before. I've learned so many skills from this role, such as being more confident, managing my time effectively, balancing my life between school work and student council

tasks, speaking to people I don't know who are much older than me- the list goes on and on. Working together with the Events Council members has been a memorable experience, and taking on this role is something I will cherish for a long time.

Article by Xue Jing Ling (Fiona)



MUSIC NEWS

Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) Exam Results

The Music Department would like to congratulate the following learners for their excellent achievement in the recent ABRSM Music Exams:

Dening Koh - DESTINATION in Grade 2 Violin

Georgina Tay Qi En - PASS in Grade 1 Violin

Juyeong Rachel An - MERIT in Grade 2 Violin

If any other learners have passed any music exams then please bring in your certificates so that we can celebrate your achievements and success.

Grease the Musical - FIRST REHEARSAL



Last night saw our first full rehearsal with our large cast of 37. It was a fantastic beginning to the production with all the cast full engaged and committed to their performance. We studies two of the biggest vocal and dance number in the show and worked on the vocals and choreography. The cast and staff are all really excited about the remaining rehearsals and the final production on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December.



Sandy & Danny - Our Lead Role



The T-Birds and the Pink Ladies



Whole Cast Vocal Training

Dates For Your Diaries**Wednesday 28th October**

Y6 Primary Show

Thursday 5th November

Y11 Drama Production

Wednesday 18th November

EY-Y2 Young Nexus' Got Talent

Thursday 19th November

Nexus' Got Talent (Y3+)

Wednesday 9th December

Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre

Thursday 10th December

Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre

Monday 14th December

Primary Christmas Show

Why Study Music?

This Is How Music Can Change Your Brain

Check out this 3 minute video:<http://www.brainpickings.org/2015/01/29/music-brain-ted-ed/>

News from the Visual Arts Department

Visit to the Art Expo Malaysia 2015

This year the Nexus Art learners got a special treat when visiting the Art Expo Malaysia 2015. Not only did they get to see some great new contemporary art work, but they were also allowed to visit, courtesy of Razida Hanim Abdul Razak.

Exporters Development Division, for the the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), where the learners saw show rooms of all the Malaysian designed and manufactured products for export. This gave them an insight into future art and design careers, and the types of products that they themselves could one day design! They were also shown a private selection on the 22nd floor, of up and coming art works by Malaysian Artists. These were art works selected for exhibitions abroad to represent contemporary Malaysian artists, such as Tijan Firdaud's 'Nocturnal Primate' made with discarded electronic parts. And Fawwaz Sukri's cartoon with acrylic and collage on canvas:



Having taken notes and photos, the learners then went to the ground floor, where the main Art Expo Malaysia 2015 was held. Here they found art works and artists representing different parts of the world, and most of the art work was from South East Asia. The learners were asked to fill in worksheets that encouraged them to speak to the artists that were exhibiting their work. Many learners managed to speak directly to artists, and also got the chance to ask them about their work and techniques, as well as receiving autographed sketches and feedback about their own drawings in their sketch books.

With all this extra research the learners can now use this material to deliver current and contemporary ideas into their portfolios, where they can comment on cultural and historical aspects of art work that link to their own work.

Article by Mauro Brooks (Head of Department)

Growth Mindset Workshop

It was an encouraging start to the morning (10th September) with over sixty parents attending. These included new parents to the Nexus Community who had the opportunity meet existing parents and the leadership team. The main purpose however was to participate an amazing workshop about "Growth Mindsets".

The morning kicked off with a game of "I can sing, cook, drive well etc". This served not only as an icebreaker but also showed us how we tend to use a common fixed mindsets about learning.

After watching a video called ***Austin' Butterfly*** (<https://vimeo.com/38247060>) it became evident how we can challenge ourselves to do better in constructive ways. Further examples by the presenters illustrated that many of us are guilty of praising our children's efforts in a manner that does not always lead to productive outcomes. Strategies to help children who feel defeated by those they perceive to be better than them was also discussed. By the end of the morning we had all learnt the importance of adding to statements such as "I cannot do that" by qualifying it by saying more constructively, "I cannot do it yet."!

Article by Yashica Munn (Vice Chair of PTA)

Advice for all Nexus Secondary Parents

Our parent portal is now available at **parentportal.nexus.edu.my**. Please click **Homework**. To find active homework, you then have to enter your child's school email address.

Looking ahead

Raising Achievement "Next Steps" Day – Friday 2 October

Primary

Milepost 2 and 3 Morning Singing

Start your day with a song!

Miss Ann will be running singing sessions again this week in the theatre:

Milepost 2 - Monday at 8.15 - 8.40am

Milepost 3 - Wednesday at 8.15 - 8.40am.

See you there!!

Family and Friends

Learner in Early Years are now well underway with their new topic of Family and Friends. Our 'big question' during this topic is "What does it mean to be part of a family?".

We have started to answer this question by making family frames, to share our knowledge about our immediate family and to create a Knowledge Harvest of all of the things we would like to find out.

Last week, we began to look at the difference between family and friends. As our 'Entry Point' we had a shared friendships picnic. The learners wrote invitations to their friends detailing the time and place of the picnic, along with a little illustration of the skills their friends have that make them true friends. In the kitchen we used a recipe book to bake friendship cookies and once cooked we decorate these and wrote friendship notes for our friend.

The picnic was a huge success. The learners thoroughly enjoyed sharing out their cookies and singing new songs to each other and the group.

EY2 also enjoyed making tally charts documenting the number of learners with each colour of hair or eyes. After looking closely at their friends they used this information to make bar graphs.

This week we have developed this to look at family and friends around the world. Celebrating Malaysia day allowed us a platform to discuss Malaysia and our parents helped us to create some great models of KLCC at home.

In the library we have found the story 3 Little pigs and both classes have really taken to this. For this reason we will integrate this into next teaching focusing on the comparison between our family and other homes around the world.



NEWS from the ELL department



Sunshine September

The Extended Language and Learning department with the help of the Nexus community is celebrating Sunshine September - Autism Awareness month. In our true spirit of celebrating diversity and challenging minds, look out for exciting upcoming events including a whole-school quiz and a primary disco!

The money we raise through the disco and other related activities will be donated to NASOM. National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) is a national charitable organisation that 'strives to provide a range of support services to assist people living with autism, especially children and their immediate family members.'

"My autism is part of who I am, not all of who I am. I rely on you. Be my guide, my champion, love me for who I am, and we'll see how far I can go."

LOTE NEWS

Language Clubs

Starting next week the Languages department will be offering Language support in 4 languages during lunch times. This is open to all learners. These sessions will be run by our Year 12 and 13 learners who will make them fun and worthwhile sessions. Things covered might include:

- If you need help learning some vocabulary
- If you don't understand some grammar point and need it explaining
- If you are really stuck with a piece of homework and need help with it
- If you simply want to speak in that language
- If you want to watch an age appropriate film in that language
-

If you need to catch up some languages work but learners can request anything else too; Mr Najman and his team will try to arrange it for you.

The sessions will be as follows:

Tuesdays from 13.00 - 13.45

- French in room 226
- Spanish in room 225

Wednesdays from 13.00 - 13.35

- Mandarin Chinese in room 227

Fridays from 13.00 - 13.35

- Bahasa Malaysia in room 223