

CONNECT05

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

WHOLE SCHOOL (2-5)

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Coffee Morning: Parents Meet Parents

2 Microwaves For Learners

PRIMARY (6-7)

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SECONDARY (8-12)

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MUSIC & DRAMA (13-15)

+ Learner Reflection on The World Music Workshop

+ **Book Recommendation: Musicophilia**

+ School Production: Can You Help?

BOARDER BLOG (5)



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Book Covering Blitz!

A big “Thanks” to all the Wonderful Parents of Nexus, who enthusiastically participated in the “Book Covering Blitz”, yesterday.

They covered 700 books from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on 23rd September 2014. And this is not the first time, that they have contributed their efforts in making the catalogued books quickly available to the learners. Their efforts are much appreciated in making the Nexus library a vibrant place!

These books are on special display in the library (2nd floor) @ “New Arrivals”

Thanks! Nexus Library



HELP FROM PARENTS

Learners who have poor organization really need help from home in order to set in place good practices that will continue into adult life. It is not about doing things for them, but rather, modeling what needs to be done (especially when the learner is younger) and gradually getting them to do these things for themselves.

Laminated Copy Of Timetable

When your child is given their timetable at the beginning of the session get them to make 2 colour-coded copies of it (each subject is coded a different colour). If possible laminate them. One for their schoolbag and one to stick up in their bedroom or by their desk at home.

Unpacking School Bag

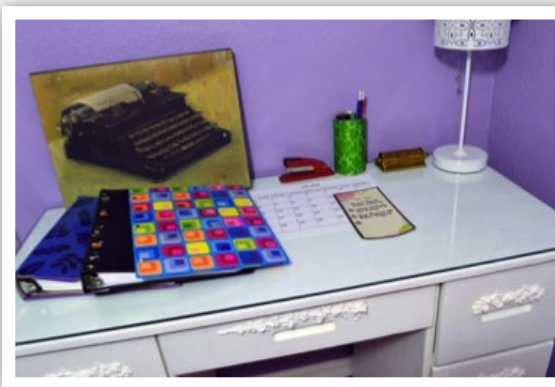
in the evening help your child to unpack their bag... lunchbox, gym kit, any notes from school, and set laptop up to charge. At this point discuss any homework for that evening.

Homework

A disorganized learner may forget they have been given homework. It's possible for parents to check what the

class has been set on the manageable system (secondary learners).

It is best to have a quiet designated place for your child to do homework. It'll save much time if the homework place (ideally the child's desk) is equipped with pencils, ruler, rubber, scissors etc. In order to set up good routines a designated time to do homework is advisable e.g. homework done before dinner.



Checking homework provides an opportunity for parents to engage with the work their child is doing at school, ask questions and discuss how they are getting on.

Packing The School Bag

Ensure the homework is put into the school bag for the next day!

Use A Planner

A large desk planner is very useful to note down upcoming events and also routine items e.g. every Wednesday 'gym kit' or every Thursday 'CCA'. Parents can help to ensure it is regularly updated with school events



and work deadlines. Your child may also like to use an electronic planner on their laptop or phone that will give them alarm reminders. This is particularly useful as it sets up good systems they will use as adults.

Lunch

Parents can now put money on their child's card for lunches and snacks. This will help the disorganized learner who may frequently forget their packed lunch or money for the card system.

Subject Folders

Although most work will be saved in folders on the laptop, there will always be additional paper worksheets, handwritten pieces from class etc. Keeping these in subject folders or one single folder with sections for each subject will be very useful – they might otherwise remain crumpled up at the bottom of a school bag!

Although help to initially set up routines/folders/planners etc will be needed, the aim is to help disorganised learners to become increasingly independent.

Disorganised? Learners can be helped to improve their organisational skills by parents, teachers and by setting up procedures and routines for themselves.

INVITATION

**PARENTS MEET PARENTS
MORNING COFFEE**



Date : Tuesday, 30th Sept 2014

Time : 9.00 to 10.30 am

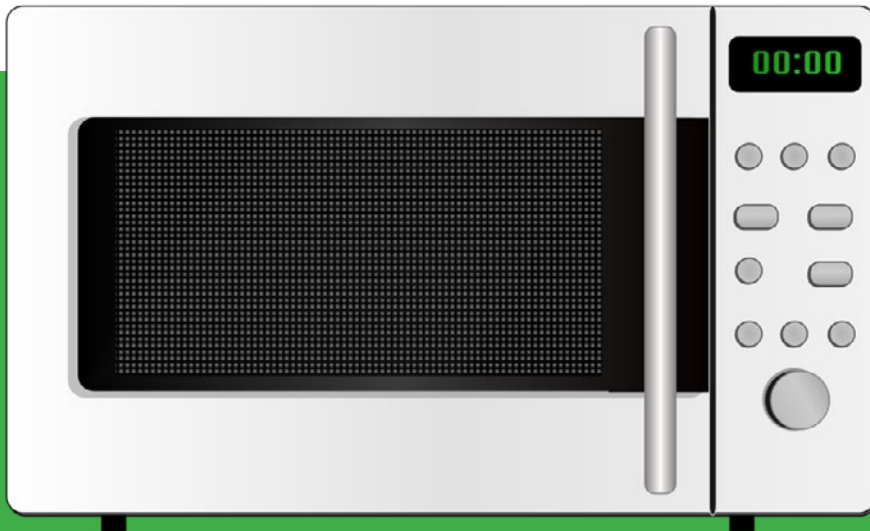
Place : Boarding Common Area

Kindly RSVP via SMS/WA to:

Rozienah 017-6871744

Rozita 017-4299770

An initiative by Nexus PTA



Microwave?

The school have put 2 microwaves (halal & non halal) at the cafeteria for learners to warm their lunch.

Boarder Blog

Lake Putrajaya Cruise

Last Saturday, boarding organized a trip to cruise Tasik Putrajaya. There was an open-air section on the ship. Everyone went up there at first but because it was really hot, some of us came down after a while.

There were many magnificent buildings and bridges along the cruise. There was a huge bridge which was an imitation of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, and it really impressed us. When we were in the middle of the cruise, we could see Cyberjaya, the city next to Putrajaya on our right hand side. We could also see the beautiful Pink Mosque and the impressive steel mosque. Everything seemed so wonderful along the cruise.

Reimy and Jeslin - Year 9



Primary

Our Host Country

Malaysia!

Last week our learners shared their knowledge of where they live and where they come from, celebrating the diversity that exists within our classrooms.

They participated enthusiastically in a flag hunt and fun flag race, danced to Malaysian folk music and made Tudung Saji.

The highlight of the week was the child initiated staged drummers and dancers.

A great deal of learning was achieved through play provision during outdoors discovery time as well as teacher planned creative craft activities.

We are happy to see Early Years learners continue to make a purposeful choice of activities and be keen to respond to new challenges.





French Boules

with Primary Learners



Secondary

Year 8:

English Learners

This term Year 8 English learners have been exploring the concept of success and what it is to be successful. Last week the learners were asked to create 3D sculptures to express their definitions of success. Here some of the learners explain the rationale behind their group sculptures.

Xin Huey, Ayra, Anmol, Muqri and Keigo:



Our group definition is “Success is when you achieve your goals by putting in effort.” To express this we chose the arrow in middle of the target because the target in the middle is SUCCESS. We think this is good model to show success because it shows the hard work you have to put in to reach your goal. We think this definition is important because if you understand the meaning of success clearly you

will try to improve yourself in order to succeed. We also think it is important because If you make the definition of success, other people would understand the meaning and importance of true success.

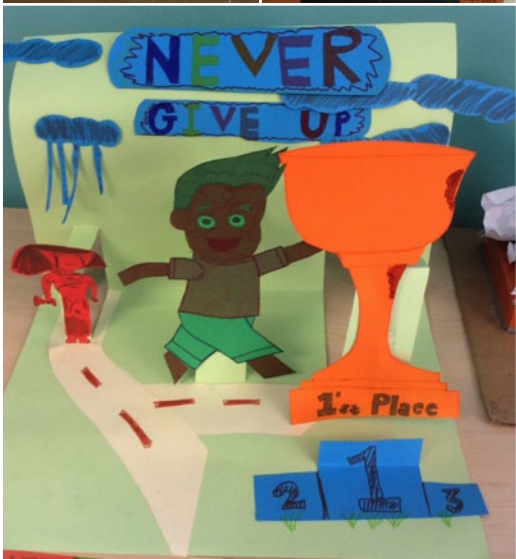
YuanSheng, Keely, Nabila and Dildar:



Our definition of success is “Success is to do what you love, never ever give up, be happy, have friends and have tons of money.” We chose this because if you’re stuck in a job not doing what you want, what’s the point of doing it? And if you give up, you won’t be able to get there and do what you want anyway. But then again all that hard work will be nothing if you aren’t happy. You also need money. Lots and lots of money. And what’s the point of having all of that if you don’t have anybody to share it with? The reason we made this model is because it is what we think it most represents Success. The stairs represent the problems you have to overcome and that is why they are so big. The people on the stairs represent ‘You’ and your friends. The little guy in the smiley face has achieved success already. We’ve made coins to on the ground because often some definitions of success is to be

wealthy. The little guy in the smiley face has got money in his hand too. We've put another little man on the ground, trying to get all the money but technically he's given up but he's scrambling to get money anyway.

Here are a few more examples of the sculptures Year 8 learners made:



Secondary Art "Newspaper Appeal"

Secondary Art would like to appeal for newspapers, as we are going to start our **Papier-mâché** project with Year 9 learners and to cover the table while painting. We also recycle the Newspapers for paper making and printing activities.

Please send the newspapers to the Secondary Art room (122 or 123) anytime during school hours. All contributions are highly appreciated.



CAS Reflection

Amin Mohd Arief Liew

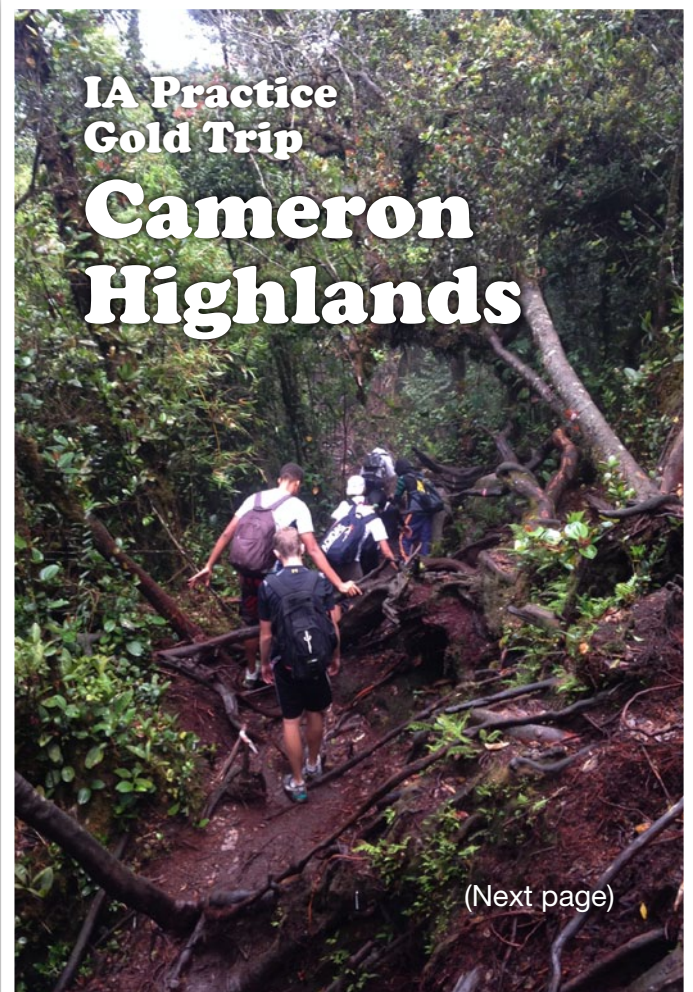
Badminton: In badminton, I will try my best to attend all the training in order for me to have enough knowledge on how to play badminton at the level that I want. Also I will be participating in a lot of tournaments and play with other people in other schools, hopefully they will be better than me in badminton, so it will be more challenging for me and I will be forced to make myself play better.

Instead of training with other students in badminton, I would like to have individual training with my coach. Because I believe that training one to one with a coach would give better results and it will help me learn faster than having to train with other people, and also badminton can be an individual sport. So individual training can also one of the good way to learn faster. While I'm doing this training I will also want to work on my footwork in badminton, because even though I'm already at the level where I can actually play, I still feel like my skill can be developed to a better stage.

Translation: This activity requires a lot of commitment and group work, and I take

this activity as the opportunities to know new people and work with them collaboratively. I also make sure that I will show the best commitment at my best, because in my group I'm the only one that can speak good Bahasa Malay, and it would be unfair for my team if I let them do all the work.

Butterfly Farm: Our main purpose with the butterfly farm is to start putting butterflies in the sanctuary that we've already constructed. Since this is a new activity for my team, and me we will decide on which role we're going to take. I'm not planning on being the president for his activity, but I will still engage with my group and work together on planning the activity or any upcoming work in the future.



(Next page)

This is the story of how I almost died. Well, not really. But it sure felt that way. Last weekend, a group of Year 13s went to the Cameron Highlands for a cup of tea. The hardest earned tea they ever had. In order to complete their Gold International Award, they had to first go through a practice, in order to learn what they need to work on when they go on the actual trip.

The Practice Gold IA consisted of more than 40 km of walking to their next destination. Their base camp was in the Forestry Department campsite in Brinchang, a charming little town next to a dainty golf course, and horrible traffic. Their first hiking day was what the supervisors called the “warm up” hike. From base camp they walked up to the aptly named “Berembun” peak. It was a nice couple of km trail up the peak then the same, if not more, back down to base camp. Although it was short, many of us felt the burns in our thighs already, and were relieved to get back to camp.

The second day was the bane of all the days. We had to carry our full packs up to peak of Brinchang Mountain. It was only 2.7 km, but with near 80 degree inclines and at least 10 kg on each of our backs, it was a tough trail. Some of the members (namely me) literally gave off steam, caused by the heat of our bodies, and the naturally cool temperature up in the highlands. By the end of the hike, one person (again, me) fell asleep as soon as he finished

and laid down at the rest stop on the peak. This was the trail with the best views, with a ledge overlooking the town, as well as the various farmlands and tea plantations. But luck was not with us as the clouds were in high spirits and enveloped us in their embrace. Despite many of us being dead tired when we reached the top, the supervisors told us we reached the peak ahead of schedule, taking about 4 hours from campsite to the peak. Our original plan of camping up there was altered to using the paved roads to walk the 12 km down the mountain, and for a few of the group, 5 more km back to campsite. The 4th day was the trickiest hike of all, but honestly, the best one (in my own humble opinion). It was extremely muddy, messy and we were on all fours a lot of the time. But without the packs on our backs, the hike was much, much easier. This hike was different in a sense where the hands become really important. The root system was such that we used them almost as ladder rungs as opposed to normal steps. The mud and wetness of the terrain caused many of us to slip and fall, but none of us got seriously hurt and all of us enjoyed the climb to the Mini Irau Peak, where we enjoyed our lunch, and some of us had tea that our guide made.

Overall, the IA trip is not for the faint of heart. It is one of the biggest physical challenges that I had faced, and was completely out of my comfort zone. But for those who are able to endure the whole thing, will



come back home with a wealth of experience, as well as the delight of being able to use the bathroom, and showers. The IA trip was really an adventure that can't be forgotten, it teaches us the importance of organization, preparation, and most importantly, teamwork. All of us came back home weary and tired, but stand tall and proudly say that we got through hell and back. After walking 40+ km over 5 days, I end this with my own version of the last lines of Fast and Furious 6; dedicated to our supervisors. Thank you for the gathering of friends, we give thanks for all the choices we've made because that's what makes us who we are, we give thanks for the mistakes that we've made, because that is what we will learn from, let us forever cherish the bruises, blisters and cuts we've gained along the way; thank you for the food that our family greeted us with when we got back, thank you for safely bringing us home, and most of all thank you for fast cars!

STARTUP TEENS

Last week a number of our Year 12 learners participated in the Startup Teens program organised by StartupMalaysia.org. The Prime Minister of Malaysia launched the 4 day GREAT 2014 Entrepreneur Festival at the MaGIC Centre in Cyberjaya with the Ministry of Finance Malaysia sponsoring this festival involving over 25 programs fostering entrepreneurship.

The Startup Teens event was one of these programs - this was an experiential learning bootcamp designed to teach teenagers about creativity, problem-solving using technology and developing an entrepreneurial mindset.

The learners were working with over 200 participants from schools all over Malaysia, they had to work in project teams and develop a phone application that either helped to solve problems encountered in Malaysia with regards to the environment, education or health.

Learners had to define a problem and come up with a product solution, and then 'pitch' that idea to potential investors. Throughout the 4 days, they listened to a number of guest speakers (including the owner and creator of the My Teksi app), who talked about the 'World of Tech', 'The Beauty of Failure' and developing a Minimal Viable Product.



Learner feedback on the program;

'Overall I enjoyed the 4 days very much because of how all of us got a lot closer. My very first goal was to learn more about entrepreneurship which I did achieve on the second day. To me, the second and third day were the most exciting because we not only got to listen to inspiring speakers/entrepreneurs, but we also got to program our own app. Programming day (third day) was the best because not only did I help my group finish our app quickly, but I also helped other groups. The last day was the saddest because we not only had to go back to school, but also because we won't be able to see the friends we've made during the program later on.'

Music News

World Music Workshops - Lead By Andy Gleadhill - The World Renowned Ethnomusicologist

Last week Nexus Music Department hosted 8 wonderful World Music Workshops lead by Andy Gleadhill, a world renowned ethnomusicologist from England. Our Y10, 11 Music GCSE and Y12 Music IB learners took part on Thursday and Friday and our teaching staff (both classroom and instrumental) received training during the week.

Here are 3 Videos of Gamelan and Drum Final Performances: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/recordings-performances>

Music Lesson 2014-15

Instrumental Invoices: Invoices for this terms Instrumental Lessons will be sent out with the school fees at the start of Term 2 in January.

Now over 75 new learners have signed up for Instrumental/Voice lessons making a total of 30% of the school involved in the Nexus Instrumental Programme.

If you have not signed up yet IT IS NOT TOO LATE! You can now do so on the new Online Sign-Up Form here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons>

We still have a few woodwind, brass and string instruments to loan FREE of charge to learners.

Dates For Your Diaries

Mon 10th Nov	Nexus' Got Talent Auditions
Thur 20th Nov	Nexus' Got Talent FINAL
Fri 21st Nov	Young Nexus' Got Talent FINAL
Wed 10th Dec	Production - TBC
Thu 11th Dec	Production - TBC



Learner Reflection On The Nexus World Music Workshops

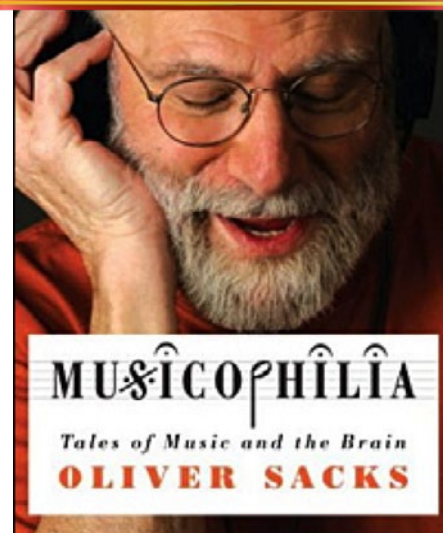
"Last week I attended the World Music Workshops with Andy Gleadhill. We learnt a completely new style of world music which I had not come across before call Gamelan. The Gamelan ensemble originates in Indonesia and consists of different metallophones, dums and gongs. The Gamelan workshops were very collaborative and forced us to listened carefully to the other parts playing the pieces to enable to play together. The part I enjoyed most about the workshops was writing our own Gamelan Ensemble compositions and then getting them performed on the school's new Gamelan Ensemble". Irfan Azhar 12N

Lunchtime Music Clubs - All Welcome - Early Lunch Passes Are Available To All Attendees - Come Along & Have Fun!

Primary @ Lunchtime	
Mon	Recorder Group for Primary Learners with Miss Ann
	Primary String Group (Violins, Cellos) for Primary Learners with Mr Mervin
	Primary Guitar Group for Primary Learners with Mr Afiq & Mr Hafiz
Tue	Primary Drumming Group for Primary Learners with Mr Jared
Wed	Flute Group for Primary Learners with Miss Yem Voon
	Xylophone and Glockenspiel Group for Primary Learners with Miss Ann
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Fri	Primary Singing Group for Primary Learners with Miss Ann & Miss Audrey
	Primary String Group (Violins, Cellos) for Primary Learners with Mr Mervin

Secondary @ Lunchtime	
Mon	Music Technology Club with Mr Tim
	Secondary Drumming Group with Mr Jared
Tue	Guitar Group for Secondary Learners with Mr Afiq
	Brass Group for Secondary Learners with Mr Gerold
Wed	Flute Group for Secondary Learners with Miss Yem Voon
	Senior String Group (Violins and Cellos) for Secondary Learners with Mr Mervin
	Fun Secondary Vocal Group (Acapella singing, 4 part singing) with Mr Tim & Mr Steve
	Guitar Group for Secondary Learners with Mr Hafiz
	(After School) Clarinet Group for ALL Learners with Miss Kit
Fri	Jazz Band/Group with Mr Tim & Mr Steve

WHY STUDY MUSIC?



Learners only have 6 weeks to practise their items ready for the auditions on 10th November. Audition sheets will be going out at the start of November and we are looking for a variety of acts not just singers, so get your thinking cap on and talk to your friends to see what you could do together. Get practising!

KLPAC

The Short & Sweet festival makes a welcome return to KLPAC! Between now and November 2nd, they will be hosting some great evenings of entertainment featuring talent from around Malaysia. There will be performances in Theatre, Dance, Music and Stand-up Comedy.

DPAC

Damansara Performing Arts Centre have lots of Drama and Music performances coming up, including the comedy 'L'elisir D'amour' - "Love potion meets love triangle. Results in complication. Hilarity ensues."



Drama News

Drama Showcase October 16th



You are warmly invited to join us for our first Drama Showcase of this year, featuring Drama and Theatre learners from Y11 and Y13. Y11 will be presenting 'Be

My Baby', a bittersweet snapshot of life in 1960s England, whilst the Y13 learners will be showing how they've risen to the challenge of writing and adapting their own scripts and directing other learners in their short Independent Project pieces.

It promises to be an evening where our learners demonstrate a range of skills, from collaboration and communication to critical thinking and risk-taking. Note that due to the mature content of some of the performances, only learners from Y9 upwards will be admitted.

ISTA Theatre Festival May 7-10 2015



This is an exciting opportunity for learners from Y6 - 9 to join peers from other international schools in creating

performances and learning new Drama skills. A letter will be sent out within the next few days for those learners wishing to attend.

Why Study Drama?

We know that Drama is fun and engages learners in activities which develop communication and collaboration, but don't just take our word for it! High levels of involvement in theatre links to high levels of achievement in reading proficiency. In a scientific study conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles, students highly involved in theatre outscored the students who were not involved in theater in reading proficiency. They found that the 9 percent advantage of high-theatre involved Year 9 learners grows to a 20 percent advantage by Year 13.

Can You Help?

Scripts and ideas for props and staging have been shared with our **School Production** cast and crew, and they're busily starting to learn lines and make props. We're on the lookout for the following items, please let us know if you can help : Large cloth sheets, Newspapers Large, Wide bamboo canes, Cardboard boxes

Dates For Your Diaries

Oct 16th	Y11 & 13 Drama Showcase
Dec 11th	School Production