

CONNECT 21

05 Feb Issue, Term 2 (2015-2016)



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR 2016



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

EE Workshop

Last Saturday, we held our first ever Extended Essay Workshop for our IB Year 12 learners. The Extended Essay is a core component of the IB Diploma program and one that prepares learners for higher education academic writing. The Extended Essay represents a fabulous opportunity for learners to find issues they are truly passionate about, and then delve deeply into them.

In keeping with the fantastic attitude of our Year 12 learners have, there was near 100% attendance for this full day event, once again highlighting their commitment and focus. The day was designed to ease some of the learners' concerns on what is thought of as one of the more stressful elements of the IB Diploma Program. I feel that as a result of the day, we managed to transform those fears into opportunities and dispel many of the misconceptions and fears surrounding the Extended Essay.

The day opened with Troy – our Director of Boarding – leading our learners on a gentle 'Wake Up Shake Up' session. Mind you, he's a rugby player from New Zealand so 'gentle' in this case is a relative term. This was followed by general introduction to the Extended Essay and then subject specific workshops in the afternoon.

The learners felt that the day was very worthwhile. There were some inspirational ideas being discussed, from an investigation into which type of covering would give a football greatest flight to using Lucid Dreaming for acquiring new talents. (Matrix – watch out!), to the optimum distribution of pepperoni on a 15" thin crust pizza – I am kidding Kee Vern!

A great big thank you to Alison, Maureen, Vinny, Rachel, Andy D, Joel, Audra, Peter, Ainslie for giving up their Saturday. But the biggest thanks goes to our fantastic Year 12s for making it a useful and fun day! All in all, a great success and in the words of our Head of Secondary, the learners feel ready and "tooled up" as they embark on their Extended Essays.

Rizwan Mayet

Letter to Parents re. Saturday Art Revision sessions for Years 11 and 13 only

Dear Parents of Year 11 and 13 Visual Arts learners,

I would like to encourage your son/daughter to come to school on the following Saturdays if they wish. The art department will be opening the Nexus Art Studio on the following dates from 10am to 4pm:

February 13th
February 20th
February 27th
March 5th
March 12th
March 19th

This is a fantastic opportunity for your son/daughter to improve, refine and add artwork to their course work, exam paper and studio artwork in IGCSE and IB Diploma. The IB Diploma is due on the 23rd of March 2016, the IGCSE exam is on the 12th and 13th of April, 2016.

These extra Saturday art classes are designed so that the learners can spend a good five hours producing artwork under the art departments' supervision. They will need to bring a pack lunch with them and water.

Please arrange to drop off and collect your son/daughter, if they wish to join me, at the above times and dates.

I thank you for your support,

Yours truly,

Mauro Brooks
Head of Art and Design
Nexus International School Putrajaya

EE Workshop Reflection – the Year 12 Learner Perspective

On Saturday the 30th of January the Year 12's graciously gave up their Saturday for a day of workshops and activities that would ultimately increase our knowledge and understanding of the ins and outs of the Extended Essay. The day was split up into the different workshops and activities. The morning consisted of an hour in the senior school library with Mr Peter, learning about how to research properly and getting the necessary information we're going to need through different sources i.e. the Library, Nexus research page etc. After a quick break supplied with food and beverages, we headed for an exciting session on how to reference properly with Mr Rizwan. We learnt some very important skills that meant the difference between a pass and a fail. After being treated to a great lunch, the Year 12s were split into different subject specific groups such as English, Psychology, Biology and Chemistry. Within these core subject groups we learnt how to write an Extended Essay on these subjects, we also had a look at how to come up with a first-class research question for our essays.

Ultimately, thought it was with great trepidation that we all gave up our Saturday for a full day in school it was honestly a greatly beneficial experience. As we have acknowledged that many individuals do end up stressing about this core element of the IB Diploma Programme, we are incredibly grateful for the fact that we now have a better understanding of the EE as long as having more knowledge about the resources we have available to do the best extended essay that we can. We would also like to thank all the teachers that gave up their Saturday as well to come into school and work with us on the EE, and most importantly we would like to give a massive thanks to Mr Rizwan for organizing an extremely educational and helpful full-day session on the Extended Essay.

Kee Vern, Mahalia, Riana & Jacob (Year 12)

Here the Year 12s relax during their Saturday lunch break!



MANDARIN CLASSES PREPARE FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

Among many Chinese New Year greetings, here is a popular one that our learners have learnt through a special class activity in line with the Chinese New Year Cultural Learning -- “年年有余” pronounce as nián nián yǒu yú. This phrase is to wish someone having a surplus year after year, blessing overflows.

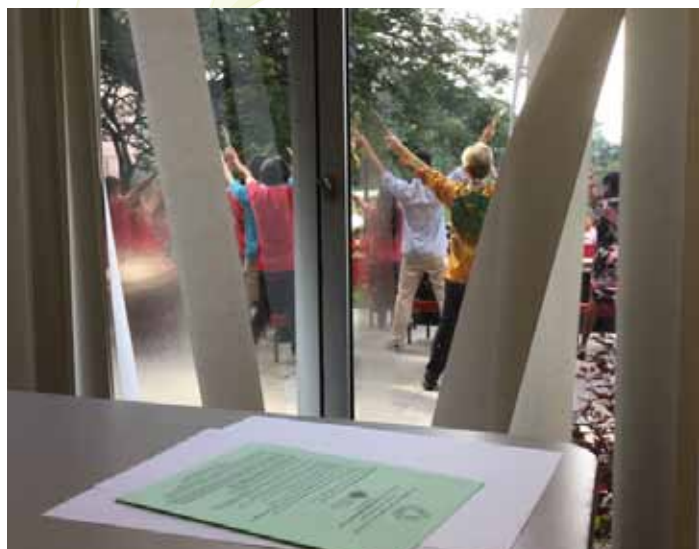
Learners came to understand that Chinese people like to use homophonic for auspicious reasons, therefore, we use Fishes (not because of its nutritional value), sound as yú, but to represent the greetings.

Here are some photos to show the excitement happened in the class when learners saw live fishes for painting and calligraphy brush.



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Thursday 4th February



Ms Emma organised this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Learners worked hard on Maths problems in the MPR with the boom of Chinese drums to accompany them!

Learners enjoyed themselves and found it challenging. Results will be out in two weeks time. Watch out for a fuller article then.

Endangered Animal Artwork

Year 9 finish the roots and shoots project

Last week the Year 9 Art and Design learners finished their Roots and Shoots project about endangered animals from Malaysia. The Endangered Wildlife Project was set up by Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Malaysia, organisation, and they will select a number of artworks to exhibit at Berjaya Times Square for the 4th, 5th and 6th of March, 2016.

The learners have been working hard on their projects and finalising and finishing their artworks for last week's deadline was a little difficult as some of the sculptures needed special recycled objects, namely the baby Asian elephant had no eyes! Thankfully the PE department came to the rescue, and Ms. Grace skillfully located a crushed orange ping pong ball which proved perfect for the elephant's eyes (check photos). A similar problem faced one of the Orangutan sculptures, again PE's old netball net came in very useful. Not only is it the fur for the Orangutan, but it also doubles up wonderfully as a nest (check photos).

All the artwork has been photographed and sent to Roots and Shoots for their selection. The year 9 had great fun working in groups on sculptures and working individually on drawings and paintings. We hope that all the work will be selected, but can only wait for the judges' decisions, however, Nexus will exhibit all the work at the Key Stage 3 Art exhibition in term 3 at school.

We wish the Year 9's Good Luck with the project and hope they learnt a lot about the plight of endangered animals here in Malaysia, and that they will want to do something about it in the near future.

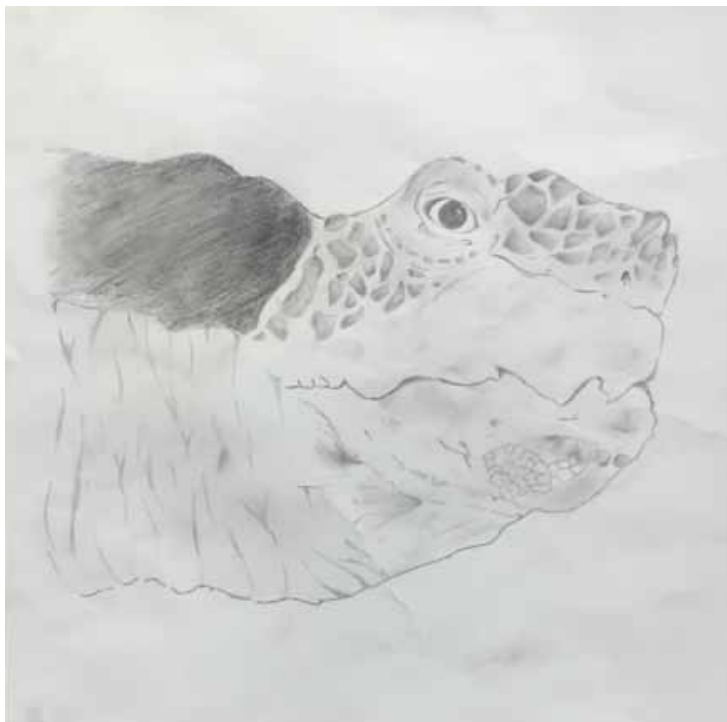
Brooks
Year 9

Endangered Animal Artwork

Year 9 finish the roots and shoots project



Asian Elephant (baby) Sculpture: by Jing Hui Tan, Nazmush Ahmed, Keigo Yoshizaki and Yusuf Khaled Mohamed Walid Bayazid



Endangered Animal Green Turtle Drawing by Ruchira Dwarakanath Iyengar



Orangutan Sculpture: Nisa Nur Izzatul, Imanie Hadtamizi, Dildar Hatz.



Orangutan Painting by Tuan Aisya Tuan Razali



Orangutan Drawing by Syarifah Nur Dania Syed Farizal Aminy



Green Turtle Sculpture by-Terence Ming Tao Lee, Ahmad Nuaim Ahmad Faris, Kee Kang Ang, Lukeman Grover.



Orangutan Sculpture 2 by- Mathew Hennessy, Yoran Gao, Hafiz Helmi, Fathi Lukman, Samson Lai, Izzu Hasifi Azram Bin Ikram, Dzaqwan Hasbie.

PRIMARY MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Year 1 for their He Xin Nian song and Year 2 for their Dragon Dance song that they performed in the Lunar New Year Celebration Assembly. Your singing was wonderful, well done to all of you!



LNY Assembly 2016 Year 1 Singers



LNY Assembly 2016 Year 2 Singers



Lunar New Year - Chinese Drumming Workshop & Performance - Rehearsal



Lunar New Year - Chinese Drumming Workshop & Performance - Performance

20 learners, teachers and parents took part in a wonderful Chinese Drumming workshop and performance on Thursday 4 February. All involved learnt a traditional Chinese Drumming piece and the did a wonderful performance to the rest of the school at break time.

The VIDEO of the wonderful performance can be found [HERE](#) - Thank you to Mr Syahir for filming the performance

Well done to all the performers.

ABRSM Making Music Together Concert - Tuesday 2nd February at Eastin Hotel, PJ, 7.30pm



Learner Perspective:

"If you asked me, I think that the whole thing from performing to rehearsing was a familiar thing to me as it reminded me of practising for plays (just without singing). With the S.A.T.B was something I never have done before and it was quite interesting how without the different pitches of voices sing, you would get what some pop songs sound like today. I'm not going to stretch it to far and say it wasn't boring, it was in some cases but on the day of the concert it was fun and nerve-wracking being on stage the whole time. Overall it was quite an enjoyable experience for me and would also be a great experience for you if you decide to go."

Vimal Gunasegaran - Year 10

Learner Perspective:

"I joined ABRSM Making Music Together because of the very fulfilling experience from last year, but with an amazing choral coach, a diverse repertoire of music, and a talented group of colleagues I can say that this year's experience amazingly topped the last. There are two things I love about this annual concert: the first is the coaching. As a singing enthusiast who does not engage in a vocal coach, occasions like these are incredibly eye opening- not only to learn technical skills, but to be taught by a veteran and catch a glimpse of how they craft their art. Also, because they select a repertoire of a wide range, I was given the opportunity to challenge myself with some unfamiliar styles of music. The other thing I love is working with learners from the other schools- it was a rare moment to interact and collaborate with some individuals who love the same thing I do, just as much as I do; it was incredibly enjoyable but also very humbling. Personally, I think the concert is a chance to grab, simply to know what lies in our wider community in the context music, and to push ourselves to hone our skill."

Priya Ai Bharath - Year 13



Learner Perspective:

"I feel that this ABRSM MMT (Making Music Together) concert was a great experience for all performers participating in this great event. This is because it is quite breathtaking to be playing alongside many learners from international schools around Kuala Lumpur. I felt that this concert motivates you to work harder on your particular instrument seeing the many different calibers of the same instrument players. The fun bit about it is improving, taking the music back and practicing it and coming back being able to play a lot better to then collaboratively create harmonious orchestra music. As my second time participating in this ABRSM MMT concert, I have enjoyed both concerts equally, the overall experience of being able to work with a professional conductor and many learners from international schools all around KL is phenomenal."

Jonathan Chin Wei - Year 8



ABRSM Making Music Together Concert - Tuesday 2nd February at Eastin Hotel, PJ, 7.30pm

Learner Perspective:

"The ABRSM MMT event was personally, very beneficial to our learners, as it not only allowed us to have the opportunity to interact with musicians from other schools all around Selangor, we also had a chance to experience what it felt like to play as an ensemble and coordinate with all the other musicians. My friends and I thoroughly enjoyed this event and we certainly hope to attend the event again next year."

Aaron Sim - Year 12

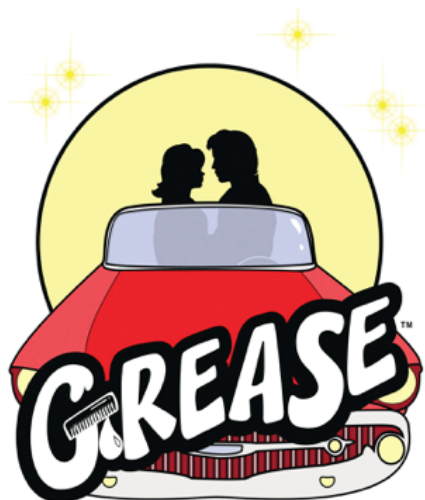


20 Nexus learners, on Tuesday 2nd February 2016, joined 5 other schools (GIS, Alice Smith, ISP, Tenby and BIS), to take part in a workshop and perform in an orchestral and choral concert at the Eastin Hotel. The 300 strong audience included 40+ Nexus parents and friends went to watch and support.

A wonderful day was had by all and many new musical friends were made. The concert was a great success and showed off all of the hard work put in by the learners in the workshop on the previous Saturday and during the day on Tuesday.

Well done all, you were great ambassadors for Nexus and the Music Department. Thank you also to Mr Steve and Ms Ann for helping out, singing, playing and giving up their free time.

Grease the Music - VIDEO is now available to watch and download



The VIDEO now available to watch and download [HERE](#)

A HUGE Thank You to Tom Dennison White and the learner video team for all their work on the filming and editing of this lifelong memory of the show.

Instrumental Parents' Evening

The Music Department's annual Instrumental Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 23rd February from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the MPR. Letters will be sent home this week via all of the learners who have instrumental lessons detailing the arrangements for the parents' evening. Please respond to the letter and request an appointment time with your son/daughter's instrumental teacher.

If you have not received your invitation letter, then can be found [HERE](#)

or here:



(Please note this parents' evening is only for parents of learners who have separate Instrumental/Vocal Lessons at school)

Instrumental Reports

Instrumental Report have been given out this week, if you have not received one yet then please email myself costello.t@nexus.edu.my to receive an electronic copy. The Instrumental Parents' Evening above will be an opportunity for you to discuss the learner's progress and report with the teacher.

Dates For Your Diaries

Tuesday 16th February
Tuesday 23rd February
Wednesday 2nd March
Wednesday 23rd March

KS4 & 5 Musical Recitals - 7pm in the Theatre
Instrumental Parents' Evening 3.30pm to 5pm in the MPR
Y3 Primary Showcase
Senior Spring Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

Why Study Music?

Why Practicing from an Early Age Is so Important



<http://www.bulletproofmusician.com/why-practicing-practicing-from-an-early-age-is-so-important/?platform=hootsuite>

Year 1 art lesson with Mr. Brooks

IPC: We are what we eat - Still life art

The Year 1 learners had another visitor last week, from the present this time. Mr. Brooks, our Secondary Art specialist came to introduce the art style of "still life". First the learners had a few guesses on what could still life be and then Mr. Brooks explained what it really means. He showed us some examples of still life artists in the past and he gave us some tips how to draw in a realistic way. We chose to draw fruit as it links with our "We are what we eat" IPC topic. After a detailed demonstration of the technique, the learners could practice their still life art by drawing fruit, under the caring guiding eye of our art specialist.

Thank you Mr. Brooks for your visit and professional advice! We will continue by shading and colouring the fruit drawings at our next art lesson. We will also continue looking through the lense of Art and learn about the Italian food artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

Ms. Andrea
Year 1



Expat

Support Group



“Expat Stress: Finding A Safe Place To Talk”



WEDNESDAY
3rd Feb 2016
10am-11:30am



FREE-WILL
Contribution *



15 PEOPLE **
(maximum)

Register Now!

Call: +603 6201 7488 (Ask for Jeremy Lim)
Email: trainings@rekindletherapy.com

* (RM50 suggested towards “pay-it-forward” scheme for Rekindle Academy)

** First come, first served. Adults only – childcare facilities not available

Centre for Systemic Therapy
Individuals, Couples & Families

**Re
Kindle**
Centre for Systemic Therapy
Individuals, Couples & Families

2nd Floor, 40-2 Jalan 25/70A
Desa Sri Hartamas Kuala Lumpur

Have you experienced difficulty in your transition to life as an expatriate in Malaysia? Expat stress can be subtle and complex. If not understood or managed well, it can have a negative impact on couples and families. *Rekindle* is pioneering a support group which will provide a safe and confidential environment for expats to learn and to attain support and coping strategies – to make expat living as stress-free as possible!

The support group meeting will consist of a brief educational talk and facilitated group discussions. It is ideally suited for the "trailing expat spouse" but all expats are welcome. Bring your own favourite tea/coffee and come join us!



MARCEY HESCHEL

Licensed Professional Counsellor Intern
Clinical Intern – Rekindle Academy

A Canadian expatriate in Malaysia, Marcey graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and English. She completed her Masters degree in Counseling at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Marcey lives in Kuala Lumpur with her husband and daughter, and balances her role as an expat spouse with the pursuit of clinical hours, through Rekindle Academy, needed to obtain full Texas Licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

She is passionate about helping others realize and utilize their strengths and assisting them in building fulfilling lives and futures.

DR. JOHNBEN LOY

USA-Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Founder & Clinical Director
Rekindle Centre for Systemic Therapy

Over his many years of experience in the mental health field, Dr. Johnben Loy has worked with people from all walks of life, across different parts of the world. Dr. Loy has lived and worked in Malaysia, Singapore, England, Canada, and the United States. He received his MBA from Cambridge University, his MTS in Counseling from Tyndale Seminary (Toronto), and his PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Minnesota, USA.

After five years of providing therapy services to expats through *Rekindle*, Dr. Loy felt the need to develop a support group – a safe place that is not quite therapy and not quite a networking event – for expats to share common issues and find friendships that are mutually supportive. He envisioned a support group which would generate funds that would go towards helping financially-challenged clients to receive financial support for therapy services.

Dr. Loy is married to a Caucasian Canadian wife and they have two bi-cultural teenage children.

Olympic Week (Nexus Games)

29th February - 10th March

The Olympic Week (Nexus Games) has been a tradition within Nexus for the past 2 years, it's these type of tradition that we need to hold on to in order to create enthusiasm within learners. Enthusiasm to join sports events. Nexus games will be held on the 29th of February and will be hosted for 2 weeks, there will be a range of activities that vary from touch rugby to football.

Learners have been shared into a [google spreadsheet](#) where they are then able to select and sign up for each event they wish to participate in. The sports council has also shared a 'rules and regulation' document where learners are advised to read this doc in order to understand how the week will go. Along with that there will be a [schedule](#) where learners can see which events are held on what day.

The sole purpose of this tradition is to keep learners active and to have this team spirit within Nexus. Trophies and medals will be awarded to teams at the end of term 2 during the achievement assembly. So the sports council would encourage learners from Yrs 7 - 13 to participate in this event.

Any queries about Nexus games please feel free to email the HOCs of sports council.

Amir - haziq.amir.17@nexus.edu.my

Rachel - rachel.low.17@nexus.edu.my

Aaron - aaron.sim.17@nexus.edu.my

Amir

12N

U11 Boys & Girls Football

Tuesday 2nd February & Wednesday 3rd February

On Tuesday in preparation for the first round of the KLISS football tournament our U11 footballers took part in a friendly competition. They had a great afternoon of competition and were able to put their skills and training into practise.

Wednesday was round one of the KLISS tournament and each team had three matches, they played KTJ, ISP and BSKL. Both teams had a fantastic afternoon and demonstrated their positive attitudes

The final scores were:

Boys

Nexus 1 - 2 BSKL

Nexus 4 - 0 ISP

Nexus 7 - 0 KTJ

Girls

Nexus 6 - 1 KTJ

Nexus 0 - 0 BSKL

Nexus 0 - 4 ISP



Secondary Athletics Day

Congratulations to Riang 2016 Athletics Champions

The final results are as follows:

Riang - 1288

Kreatif - 1264

Cergas - 1226

Cemerlang - 1021

As you can see in the end it was incredibly close and just goes to show that every point counts and full participation is key. A huge thank you to all the staff for officiating and helping the day run smoothly and a massive thanks to all of the learners who signed-up, competed and shared in what was a wonderfully healthy, competitive environment.

Here is a link to some photos of the day:

https://drive.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/folderview?id=0B47aKn_uz7oxR05mZIBWWnNVWDQ&usp=sharing

