

CONNECT14

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

SECONDARY (6-9)

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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
— SCHOOL —

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Parent Teacher Association

Dear Nexus Parents,

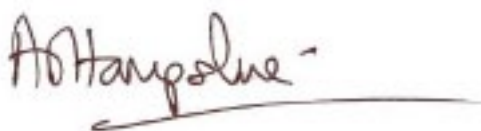
Please be informed that PTA will hold its first AGM on **Thursday, 12th December, 9:00 a.m @ Multipurpose Room.**

Meeting agenda as follows:

1. Approval for PTA Terms of Reference/Constitution.
2. Discuss on events/activities that PTA have done so far re: any areas that we can improve and engage assistance from more parents.
3. Upcoming events/activities, to set dates for the academic year.

Please confirm your attendance by Tuesday, 10th December 2013 to premila.r@nexus.edu.my

Regards,



Alison Hampshire
Principal



Primary Learners in Swimming Class with Mr. Paul (Head of Health/PE)

Primary

Year 2 Trip to Butterfly Park

On Wednesday Year 2 went to the Butterfly Park in KL as part of their exit point for their topic of **Flowers and Insects**. We put our learning into action to identify parts of flowers and a wide variety of insects. We had a photo challenge where each group had to take a picture of different things, (a red flower, a butterfly on a flower, a stick insect etc). The children enjoyed being insect detectives using their eyes and ears to be aware of the environment.

Amjad: "We were group 3 and we needed a list so we knew what to take photos of. We liked the butterflies."

Ayshah: "We saw the national butterfly of Malaysia and it's called Rajah Brooke."

Rachel: "There was a butterfly on Aydine's bag and we were going to take a photo, but Aydine moved and the butterfly flew away."

Nini: "I saw four different kinds of butterfly and some cocoons. I saw some hibiscus and lots of orchids. We saw a stick insect and a leaf insect. The stick insect was huge and long, and the leaf insect was big."



Indoor Athletics on Monday 9th December

All learners from Nursery to Year 6 will be involved in a fun Indoor Athletics event, starting at **10.20am** this Monday. Parents are encouraged to come and support the event and cheer on the runners in what will be an exciting day for our learners. The idea behind the event is to give all our young learners an introduction to athletics and hopefully many of them will sign-up to the Athletics CCA during term 2 and compete for Nexus in the up-coming inter school Athletics competitions. **Good luck to everyone taking part!**

EYs Learning Showcase

Next **Wednesday (from 8.45am)** our EY learners will be showcasing their learning from their recent 'Shopping' theme. **Parents are encouraged to join us.**

Year 6 Art Gallery!

Spotlight on IPC

Year 6 Exit Point

You will see some of the learning that Year 6 have achieved in Art, Music and Language Arts. Hope to see you there!



You are invited..

..to visit the Year 6 Art Gallery.

Opening soon..

Join us in celebrating our learning as we take you on a journey through **Artists' Impressions of the World!**

DATE: Friday 13th December

WHERE: Learning Hub 2, Floor 4, NISP

TIME: 8.45 - 10am



Mission to Mars

Year 5 Entry Point

The Mars One mission plan is to start and continue a human colony on the planet Mars. The search for Astronauts will begin in **December 2013** for a 1 week period. Those selected for the training program will receive an email with their completed application form and a message to tell them if they have been successful.

To apply

We are only seeking children between the ages of 9 and 12 due to the number of years it will take to fly to Mars.

As part of their entry point for their new Mission To Mars IPC Topic, the learners of Year 5 were selected to come to the Nexus Space Academy. Whilst there, they carried out several challenges to see if they had what it takes to become astronauts.

At the academy the trainee astronauts were put through some grueling training. Their cooperation, resilience and problem solving skills were tested during some fun and challenging team activities. Finally the learners had to answer the questions about space from the QR codes displayed around the academy. Their answers helped them to crack a code that would allow them on to the Nexus Space Academy website and to submit an application to be an astronaut.

The application included their scores from the activities they had done and a paragraph written by the learners about why the academy should choose them. Successful applicants were mailed a certificate confirming that they had been successful.

We are happy to announce that all learners in Year 5 were successful and are now ready to begin their 10 week training programme - Mission to Mars.



Focussed



Groupwork



Supporting



Teameffort

Secondary

Old Newspapers Collection

The Secondary Art department would like to appeal for Newspapers as we are starting a paper mache project with the Year 9's, and to cover the table while painting. We also recycle the Newspapers for paper making and printing activities. Please send them to the Secondary **Art room (122 or 123)** anytime during school hours. All contributions are highly appreciated.

Newspaper Article in The Star

Please read the following article by clicking on the link below, about our learners who received awards for **British Summer programs**.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Community/2013/11/30/A-taste-of-British-culture-Summer-school-programme-prepares-students-for-higher-studies-in-UK.aspx>



After School Activities (CCA's)

The school runs CCA's after school Monday to Thursday, if your child does not attend a CCA, then they should either go home or work quietly in the school library. Unsupervised activities are not allowed due to issues of health and safety.



MUN Model United Nations News

Last weekend the 20 strong Nexus delegation set out to TAYMUN Subang Jaya 2013 prepared to discuss and debate a number of topics ranging from the reunification of the Koreas to asylum seekers. Each of the 8 committees had at least one Nexus delegate, with the most populous being DISEC with 6 Nexus representatives. And what better way to relax and unwind from a hard day of striking diplomatic agreements and delivering speeches than a buffet social night?

On the last day, the Nexus delegation completely cleaned out the closing ceremony, not only winning 5 awards (Arisa James, Azalea Roseli, Fiona Ling, Jerrell Ong, Kenneth Choo) but also 3 honorable mentions (Luanne Lai, Ryan Lee, Wi Kiat Ng). As usual, all the Nexus learners showed their support for their fellow delegates, roaring and cheering loudly every time one of our delegates went to collect their award.

The overall quality of the debate and the enthusiasm of all the delegates present made TAYMUN the perfect conference to kick start a new year of MUN for NISPMUN!

CAS

Reflections:

“Ahmad Fahmy, Wan Farina”

Today’s dance lesson was terribly challenging and oh-so-tough. Sabrina, our dance instructor told us that for today’s session, we were going to be doing technical training. If you were a dancer, then you would know that you’re definitely in for bucketloads of PAIN. And torture. Basically, we were going to be working on getting our technique and skills right as well as improving on our flexibility.

To get us all warmed up and our muscles going, we had to do sit-ups, push-ups, supermans and V-sits; 30 of each, two sets. We then did our right-leg, left-leg and middle splits to get our muscles all loose. We then started off by correcting our chaîné turns; they are a series of fast turns from one foot to the other, executed in a straight line. Sabrina went over the proper technique with us and had us execute a long line of chaînés all the way across the studio. Next, we worked on our chassés; gliding steps across the floors where one foot displaces the other.

My favourite part of the session though was learning the grand jeté, in other words, the split leap. I have seen so many dancers do it on television and I was really glad that Sabrina was going over the proper technique for it because I have badly been wanting to be able to do it. By the end of the session, I was able to do quite a nice grand jeté on my left leg, although my right leg needed improvement.

All in all, I really enjoyed the challenge that today’s session hurled at me and I look forward to stretching and practicing to improve on my technique and my flexibility.



Taiwanese and Nexus Learners

Our school has been privileged to have the opportunity to welcome Taiwanese learners and teachers to Nexus on an exchange programme.

On the 4th of December, 24 learners and 4 teachers from the Taiwan Chudong Junior High School visited our school. On the first day, the Nexus learners and the Taiwanese learners engaged in an ICT project, where the learners either interviewed the teachers in Nexus or made an introductory video to a lesson in Nexus. As the learners were able to use both English and Mandarin to conduct and record the videos, they were able to apply their knowledge of the language to a real life situation. An interview with Ms Alison, Mr Steven, Mr Martyn and Ms Wong was filmed by the Nexus TV Production team. This was an interview regarding the exchange programme.

On the second day, the Taiwanese and Nexus learners were involved in a treasure hunt organised by the Year 12 IB Mandarin learners. The learners had fun in this activity as they were able to work in teams with their new friends to solve various quizzes.

Lee Jia-An, 13N

PE Notices

Another fantastic week of sport for our Nexus teams with no fewer than 11 fixtures.

KLISS Primary Swim Gala

The KLISS Primary Swim Gala was held at Tenby International School on Saturday 30th November. Nexus competed well and came away with 6 medals. Anna Kilham won a bronze medal in the 50m Freestyle, Jonathon Chin won 3 bronze medals while Brook Flaherty won Gold in the 50m Backstroke. Well done to all swimmers

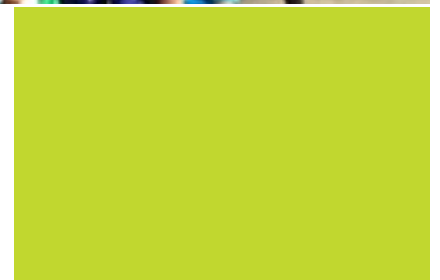
U12 Boys Football

The U12 Boys Football teams were in action in Cheras at the weekend in the annual Southside football tournament. The boys played superbly and were unbeaten winning the gold medal trophy along the way. Special mention goes to Rasmus who was voted player of the tournament.



Boys U15 Rugby

The Boys U15 Rugby team played at home against ISKL on Tuesday night and maintained their 100% winning record with a 10 - 0 victory. The boys start their ISAC league campaign this weekend and should go into the first match with great confidence.



Girls Snr Basketball

The Girls Snr Basketball team played a fantastic game on Tuesday against KLASS. The girls won with a superb 4th quarter performance, shutting out their opposition and scoring 6 points to win the game comfortably. The Boys Snr team suffered a narrow loss against KLASS in the corresponding ISAC league fixture. Despite outscoring the opposition for the first 3 quarters the boys were pegged back in the 4th and finally fell in the final few moments of the match. Encouraging performances from both teams and definite signs of progression.



U13 Boys Football

The U13 Boys Football team played their final match of the year and beat GIS 5 - 2 in the process. A dominant performance from the team who controlled the game from start to finish. It marks the end of a successful 2013 for the boys. Well done!

Coming-up Next Week

Saturday 7th December	ISAC whole school swim gala at Pusat Aquatik, Shah Alam. Bus leaves at 6am
Monday 9th December	Snr Girls Basketball at Nexus Vs Aism Snr Boys Basketball at AISM
Tuesday 10th December	U15 Girls Basketball tournament at ISKL U15 Boys Basketball tournament at ISKL
Thursday 12th December	Snr Boys Basketball at Nexus Vs AISM U15 Girls Basketball at Nexus Vs ISKL

Music News

AIMS Rock Festival on Thursday 5th December

On Thursday 12 learners in 3 bands went to the Australian International School Malaysia to represent the musical talent of Nexus. It was a great afternoon and all of the players and singers did Nexus proud. Their performance Videos can be found by this link: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/recordings-performances>

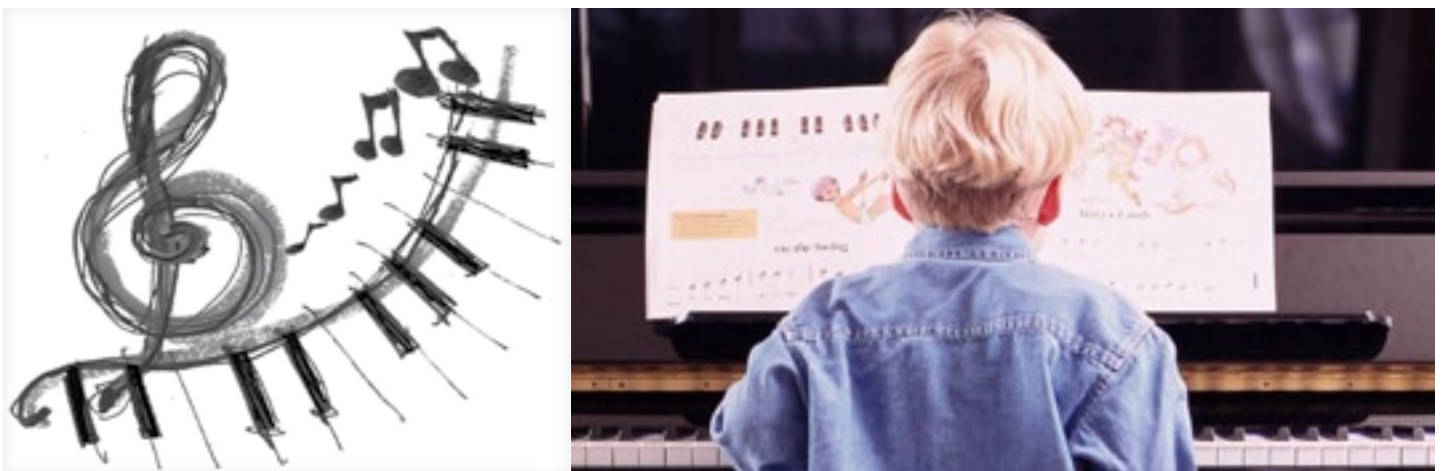
Instrumental Invoices

A polite reminder to please pay any outstanding amounts on the Instrumental Programme Invoices this week. We are needing to pay our staff for the Christmas holidays. Below are the dates for your diaries:

3rd Feb	Instrumental Reports go out to parents
18th Feb	Instrumental Parents' Evening
19th Feb	Auditions for Senior Spring Concert
20th Feb	KS4 & 5 Drama Production
12th March	Senior Spring Concert
9th & 10th April	Bugsy Malone - The Musical

Why Study Music?

How Music Could Make You A Rocket Scientist?



<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/music-make-rocket-scientist/story?id=20692544>

Drama News

Theatre Trip Review 'The Dumb Waiter'

22 learners and staff saw an engrossing performance of the **Harold Pinter** play 'The Dumb Waiter' at KLPAC on **Friday November 29th**.



"This darkly comic tale of two hit-men waiting for orders about their next target was a site specific performance, set in one of the small upstairs rooms at KLPAC. Unusually, the audience surrounded the actors in a theatre in the round style; at times, they came unsettlingly close to us! The setting added to the claustrophobic atmosphere created as Gus and Ben's sense of tension and nervousness increased."

After the performance, we had the chance to put questions to the director, Ariff Kamil, and actors Arief Hamizan and Tan Boon Kit, in a Q & A session. They explained details about the rehearsal process and how they had approached

character development, also how the staging had changed due to the fact that they had a larger audience than they'd anticipated.



"The actors chatted to the learners after the Q & A session and gave us a photo opportunity. Many of us are still talking about the play's ambiguous title and ending; Pinter is well known for his clever word play and plot development, and now we can see why!"

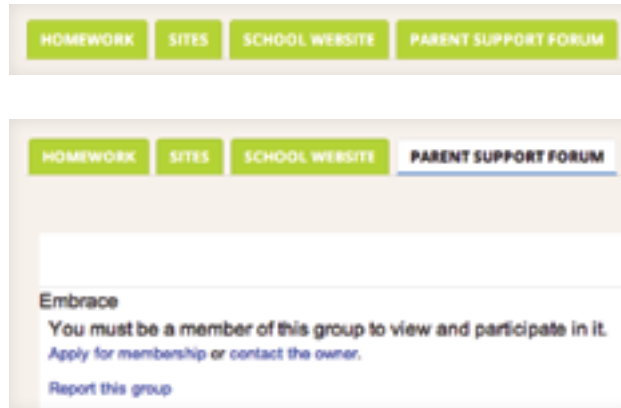
Other News

Learners from IB Theatre Arts Y12 & 13, and IGCSE Drama Y10 & 11, are all performing in the **Drama Showcase on February 20th**.

Tickets for this event will go on sale next term. We look forward to welcoming many of you to see Nexus' thespian talent!

ELL Information

The ELL department has now begun an online parents support group called Embrace. Quite a number of parents have shown interest in this. However, you may like to sign up for the online forum so you can share concerns, practical strategies and advice. This will enable parents for identify with others who are in a similar situation.



On the Intranet, click 'parent' then 'parent support forum.'

Just simply apply for membership

Dysgraphia Awareness Month

This month is dysgraphia month. ELL teachers will be sharing tips and advice on how to identify and help learners who have this learning difficulty.

Dysgraphia is a learning disability that affects writing. (dys meaning 'disordered' and 'graphia' meaning writing).

It can lead to problems with spelling, poor handwriting and putting thoughts on paper. People with dysgraphia can have trouble organizing letters, numbers and words on a line or page. Dysgraphia can be a lifelong challenge but a student can benefit from extra practice and strategies.

Dysgraphia Warning Signs By Age

Having bad handwriting doesn't automatically mean you have dysgraphia. It is a processing disorder and the difficulties a student faces can change over time. Below are some of the signs you might expect with a student who has dysgraphia.

Young Children, Trouble With:	School-Age Children, Trouble With:	Teenagers and Adults, Trouble With:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight, awkward pencil grip and body position • Avoiding writing or drawing tasks • Trouble forming letter shapes • Inconsistent spacing between letters or words • Poor understanding of uppercase and lowercase letters • Inability to write or draw in a line or within margins • Tiring quickly while writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegible handwriting • Mixture of cursive and print writing • Saying words out loud while writing • Concentrating so hard on writing that comprehension of what's written is missed • Trouble thinking of words to write • Omitting or not finishing words in sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trouble organizing thoughts on paper • Trouble keeping track of thoughts already written down • Difficulty with syntax structure and grammar • Large gap between written ideas and understanding demonstrated through speech

What strategies can help?

There are many ways in which both teachers and parents can help a child with dysgraphia. These are listed below.

Early Writers

Be patient and positive, encourage practice and praise effort. Becoming a good writer takes time and practice.

- Use paper with raised lines for a sensory guide to staying within the lines.
- Try different pens and pencils to find one that's most comfortable.
- Practice writing letters and numbers in the air with big arm movements to improve motor memory of these important shapes. Also practice letters and numbers with smaller hand or finger motions.
- Encourage proper grip, posture and paper positioning for writing. It's important to reinforce this early as it's difficult for students to unlearn bad habits later on.
- Use multi-sensory techniques for learning letters, shapes and numbers. For example, speaking through motor sequences, such as "b" is "big stick down, circle away from my body."
- Introduce a word processor on a computer early; however do not eliminate handwriting for the child. While typing can make it easier to write by alleviating the frustration of forming letters, handwriting is a vital part of a person's ability to function in the world.

Young Students

Encourage practice through low-stress opportunities for writing. This might include writing letters or in a diary, making household lists, or keeping track of sports teams.

- Allow use of print or cursive—whichever is more comfortable.
- Use large graph paper for math calculation to keep columns and rows organized.
- Allow extra time for writing assignments.

- Begin writing assignments creatively with drawing, or speaking ideas into a tape recorder.
- Alternate focus of writing assignments—put the emphasis on some for neatness and spelling, others for grammar or organization of ideas.
- Explicitly teach different types of writing—expository and personal essays, short stories, poems, etc.
- Do not judge timed assignments on neatness and spelling.
- Have students proofread work after a delay—it's easier to see mistakes after a break.
- Help students create a checklist for editing work—spelling, neatness, grammar, syntax, clear progression of ideas, etc.
- Encourage use of a spell checker—speaking spell checkers are available for handwritten work.
- Reduce amount of copying; instead, focus on writing original answers and ideas.
- Have student complete tasks in small steps instead of all at once.
- Find alternative means of assessing knowledge, such as oral reports or visual projects.

Teenagers and Adults

Many of these tips can be used by all age groups. It is never too early or too late to reinforce the skills needed to be a good writer.

- Provide tape recorders to supplement note taking and to prepare for writing assignments.
- Create a step-by-step plan that breaks writing assignments into small tasks (see below).
- When organizing writing projects, create a list of keywords that will be useful.
- Provide clear, constructive feedback on the quality of work, explaining both the strengths and weaknesses of the project, commenting on the structure as well as the information that is included.

Information adapted from <http://www.nclid.org/>

For more ideas and strategies visit this link: <http://www.nclid.org/types-learning-disabilities/dysgraphia/helpful-writing-disability-resources>