

CONNECT03

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

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NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Chinese New Year

Primary

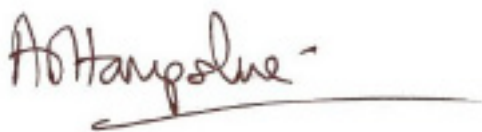
The Primary celebration assembly for CNY will take place in the theatre on Tuesday, 28th January from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Many of the learners are participating in the celebration for the first time and are excited to be learning about Chinese culture and language.

We look forward to another successful CNY Assembly from the primary school. Parents are invited to watch the performance and your attendance and support is important to us.

Secondary

We will be celebrating our 2014 Chinese New Year Curriculum Day on Tuesday 28 January. Learners will set up stations in our library to introduce topics related to Chinese New Year and Chinese Culture on that day. Parent representatives will organise CNY Food Tasting in the Primary and Secondary canteens during snack time. We would like to invite parents to contribute snacks for CNY Food Tasting, parents can bring your contributions on Tuesday 28 January morning and leave them in the secondary cafeteria for secondary learners and primary canteen for primary learners. Please don't hesitate to email Ms Wong at wony.yip@edu.my if you need more details.

Regards,



Alison Hampshire

Principal

CCA News

CCA will break again, for 2 weeks, due to the Chinese New Year holidays. If you wish to sign-up for CCA but have not, time is running out! Please contact cca.enquiry@nexus.edu.my if you need any assistance. Please also get yourself acquainted with the CCA calendar so you are not left stranded on non-CCA days. It can be found at <http://www.nexus.edu.my/Enrichment/Co-Curricula-Activities.aspx>

Our Cycling CCA has also started. Please pay extra care when you drive into / around the school during CCA hour. Our bikers have safety gears, but would rather not test their durability. Thanks for your help!

Primary

PE News

Our learners have been very busy this week and have worked tremendously hard. The skills carousel event was extremely competitive and many of the learners enjoyed it immensely. Results for the event are to be presented in assembly.



Nexus's U9s & 11s Boys and Girls were successful at Tenby on Wednesday in preparation for a couple of tournaments in February and March. Earlier on in the week the U9s & U11s won again against strong Garden International School teams on Monday and Tuesday nights, with all four teams winning their matches. Well done everyone on another great week for Primary PE at Nexus. Here are the results:

Date	Match	Result
Monday (Boys)	EU9s v Garden 'B'	4-0 (Win)
	U9s v Tenby	2-2 (Draw)
	U11s v Garden 'B'	3-1 (Win)
	U11s v Tenby	6-3 (Loss)
Tuesday (Boys)	U9s v Garden 'A'	2-1 (Win)
	U11s v Garden 'A'	4-1 (Win)
Wednesday (Boys)	U9s v Tenby	2-1 (Win)
	U11s v Tenby	5-0 (Win)
Thursday (Boys)	U9s v Garden	4-2 (Loss)
	U11s v Garden	3-2 (Loss)

Spotlight on IPC

Alex and Zen from 4E

What is your current IPC topic?

Active Planet – Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Why are you learning about that topic?

Alex: We need to know about the natural disasters in the world. This will help us to understand how the earth works and what to do if we experienced a natural disaster.

What are you learning today?

Zen: This was our Entry Point to our new topic. We did the activity to get excited about our new topic and to understand what our new topic will be.

Which personal goals are you using?

Alex: We had to use our cooperation skills because we needed to work together as a team. We also had to respect each others' opinions.

Zen: It was important to work together to get the raft built otherwise it would have taken too long to finish it. We had to share our knowledge to figure out the best way of making the raft float. When 30 minutes was up we had to sail the raft whether it was finished or not!

What are the next steps in your learning?

Alex: We need to do the knowledge Harvest where we will show what we already know about natural disasters and we will think about what we want to know.

Are you enjoying what you are doing?

Zen: Yes it was exciting because we had to make a raft and find the aid supplies, which had been dropped in the field. We had to use a compass and a QR reader to locate the supplies. I can't wait to find out more about volcanoes!



Maths Challenge

Good luck to the Nexus teams who have entered the KL Maths Challenge event. We will have a full report of their progress next week.

Request for Parents Opinion

Currently Primary Learners at Nexus are not allowed to bring money to school however it has been requested that we should review this as learners like to purchase food and drink from the cafeteria. We would like to get your views. Please discuss here and the school leadership will review on Wednesday 29th when a decision will be made. Here is the link: <http://nexus-parents-forum.proboards.com/thread/2/primary-learners-bringing-money-school>

Sharing Showcase

On Wednesday 29th at 8.45am, Year 1's will share their learning with the rest of the Primary school learners and parents. All parents are welcome.



CAS Reflection Teh, Wen Wen

The start of the new year brought a change to our basketball training schedules. As there were now CCAs going on everyday, there wasn't a suitable time for training anymore. I also took volleyball as my CCA this term due to upcoming volleyball games so I was unable to join in the Basketball CCA. As we haven't been training much towards the end of last year it is rather frustrating but I have learned to accept the circumstances and adapt to the changes.

We've started training on alternate times after school, but not enough people have been coming and the team lost quite a few players from last year. My layups have been improving and my shooting is more consistent now, albeit still needing some work.

Since the start of the basketball season, however, it was great to see a greater sense of commitment within the team. Based on the performance in our previous games, we have been improving ever since our first match at ISKL. It is really thrilling to see everyone really come together as a team and finally operating as a unit on the court, especially with our first win against KLASS. It makes me really proud to see our hard work finally pay off. Seeing the spirit of determination and competitive drive thriving among my teammates really gives me a sense of accomplishment as team captain, to be able to bring the love of basketball into their lives.

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.

Year 12 Parent Teacher Conference

The Year 12 PTC will be held in the MPR on Wednesday 29th January from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Please make an appointment via your child. Year 12 Learners have been given a sign-up sheet. Learners are expected to make 5-minute appointments with each subject teacher as soon as possible.

Year 7 Field Trip

This is a friendly reminder that the Year 7s will be out of school for the entire school day on Monday, January 27th, visiting the Taman Wetlands and Putrajaya. The learners will need to pack a lunch; however, if they already have a prepaid school lunch plan, pack lunches will be provided by the school. They will need to wear sensible shoes (trainers) as there will be some walking involved, and some form of waterproof clothing. Where possible we will be in shaded or covered areas but the learners are advised to bring insect repellent, hats and/or sun cream for the times that we will be in the open. If your son/daughter has their own camera, it would be useful to bring so they can collect evidence and pictures. We will be leaving school at 8:35am and returning to Nexus for the end of school at 3:05 pm. If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the school, via phone or email.

Drama News

IGCSE Drama and IB Theatre Showcase



"It's not all glitz and glamour!"
Y13 IB Theatre Arts learners preparing the set and publicity for 'Lunch in Venice'

Parents, and learners from Y9 upwards, are warmly invited to join us for the Y10 - 13 Drama Showcase on February 20th.

'Bugsy Malone'

It's great that some learners have already started bringing in items for the costumes in our musical. Please take a look at the props/costume list to see if you can help with this: https://docs.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/document/d/14nyvw00-OJoBGvGiahqQhwIjLobbbAqCCKjdb_DP_A/edit

We still need lots of help with sourcing props or making costumes, please contact Ms Rach if you can spare a little time to assist us!

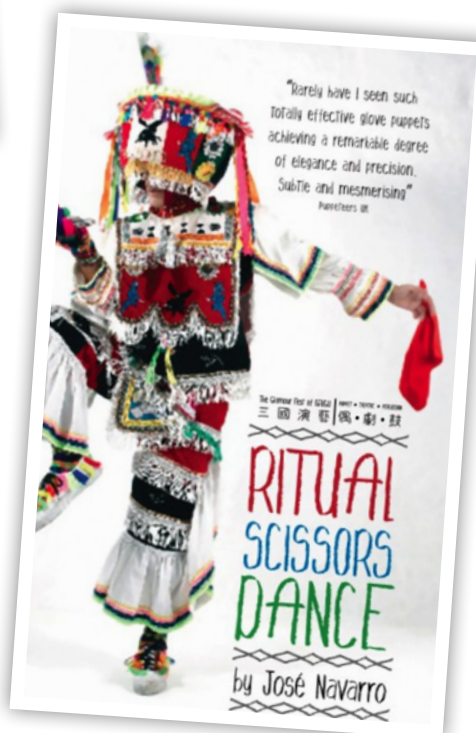
Year 5 & 6 Drama Club

Year 5 & 6 Drama Club runs on Thursdays 12.40 - 1.10 PM in the Drama Studio. This term, we will be rehearsing and performing a short script based on Roald Dahl's 'The Twits'. New members are welcome, but need to commit to coming every Thursday lunchtime.

Drama Technical Crew

Thanks to those learners who have already expressed an interest in being part of the backstage crew for our productions this year - we will let you know when we need you! If you would like to participate, please see Ms Rach.

What's On?



Catch the fascinating combination of puppetry and dance that is 'The Ritual Scissors Dance', performed by José Navarro from Peru, at KLPAC until January 25th. For more information, see this link: <http://www.klpac.org/?p=11659> or contact KLPAC on: +603 4047 9000

Dates for Your Diaries

February 20th 7.30pm	KS4 & 5 Drama Showcase
April 9th & 10th 7.30pm	Nexus Musical 'Bugsy Malone'

ELL Reminder

Please note that ELL have a Parent Support Forum that is on the Nexus Parent Portal. Log on and register to take part in discussions, get access to workshops & seminars and share learning experiences.

ELL Information

Text to Speech Applications

People with dyslexia and other related learning difficulties usually have a hard time in both reading and writing. For example, letters and words get jumbled up in their minds, their reading ability may be affected by how tired they are or by how much concentration is needed to comprehend the reading of a certain page.

Text to speech (TTS) applications can be used to assist such learners. Such applications translate digital text into spoken word. For example, text can be highlighted and the reader delivers the text in spoken word. (In Microsoft word on Macs, once you have highlighted the selected text, press 'option & 'escape' to listen to the spoken word.) TTS applications vary in what added features and voices are available, but the general principle is the same—to allow auditory rather than visual consumption of a digital text.

TTS applications are not just useful to readers with learning difficulties but have other benefits. These range from reducing eye strain from reading (digital or paper formats), reducing paper use due to printing digital text, foreign language learning, writing and editing, or promoting listening skills.

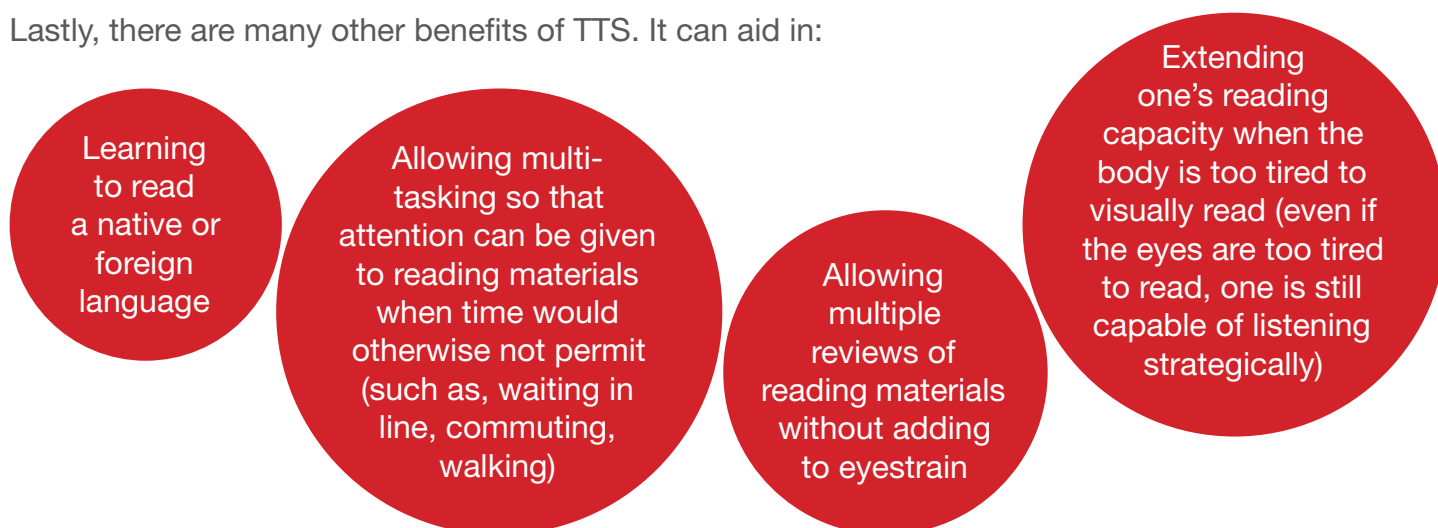
In the classroom, teachers can promote learning, listening, and writing skills by informing the learners that the adoption of a TTS application can assist in expanding reading coverage, allowing a different frame of reference when reviewing and editing their own writing, and enhancing listening skills (that promotes focus during instruction, discussion, and general communication). Focus, a skill developed through listening, is a key component in effective comprehension of course materials.

Not everyone learns effectively through the same instructional methods. The principle of learner diversity can be explored using digital and non-digital mediums. "As a result of new media and technologies, a much broader palette for literacy is now available, one that extends beyond reading and writing to include aural (and oral) literacy as well as visual literacies" Rose & Dalton (2007). In this article, TTS is considered as one such tool that might add to the learning palette, offering another mode for learner engagement.

TTS can also extend reading capacity when there is a lot of text to cover. For example, in a 1:1 school like Nexus, learners encounter digital text through emails, websites, e-articles, eBooks, reports, and their own written work. The accumulation of these materials means that a large amount of online reading is the norm. A mixed method of visual and auditory reading can reduce some strain involved in this experience.

Another useful application of TTS is within the writing and editing process. TTS can aid the writing and editing processes since listening offers a different perspective of written text. Listening triggers comprehension of the writing process. For example, concepts, overall flow, and organization of written text can be critiqued for comprehensibility; and typos, wrongly worked phrases, or misspelled words can be detected more apparently when they are read out loud. This writing aid can be indispensable for learners who are learning to write, have difficulty writing, or who are already strong writers.

Lastly, there are many other benefits of TTS. It can aid in:



There are many TTS applications. If you are interested in trying TTS, it is worth your effort to explore the various versions that are available. You can find both free and purchased versions.

Kurzweil Educational Systems NaturalReader Text-to-Speech Apps for iPad

TTS offers versatility and endless possibilities. Simply informing your children/learners of this technology for learning and developing listening skills could revolutionise their educational experience, as well as encourage them to open ways to engage throughout their lives as lifelong readers and learners.

*References: Rose, D., & Dalton, B. (2007). Plato revisited: Learning through listening in the digital world. Paper prepared for Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Princeton, NJ. Retrieved October 16, 2012, from http://www.udlcenter.org/resource_library/articles/plato_revisited