

CONNECT 08

23 Oct Issue, Term 1 (2015-2016)

Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA



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Highlights

▶ Notices:

Primary learning during possible school closures.

As there is a possibility that we may be forced to close at different times during the next few months I would like to tell you about some of our expectations from learners.

Milepost 3 (Year 5 & 6)

Learners in Milepost 3 will be able to access all of their learning online and are expected to sign in each day by 9am. The learning will be set according to their usual timetable (eg. If they have languages that day then they will be expected to do languages work). Learners should be engaged in learning for approximately 4 hours on any haze day. Teachers will be available online during school hours to support this learning.

Milepost 2

Learners will be able to access their learning online and will be set work on a weekly basis. Parents will be able to collect a hard copy of the instructions for learning either daily (in the event of a one off closure) or weekly on a Monday morning. Teachers will be available online during school hours to support this learning.

Milepost 1 and Early Years

Learners will be given 'Haze-Day' packs of activities for them to complete during school closures. In addition to this, there will be online activities that are detailed on the class Google Site under the page 'Haze Contingency Learning'. These will include some activities that the learners can do alone and some with which they will need help. We appreciate that for our younger learners it is more difficult to learn alone and the expectations will be that two to four hours each day (in total) are spent completing the activities set. Reading is incredibly important for this age group and we will endeavour to ensure that parents are able to collect reading books from school. The Primary Reading Hub will remain open and parents can change books as necessary. We are also investigating the purchase of an online reading scheme. Parents will be able to collect a hard copy of the instructions for learning either daily (in the event of a one off closure) or weekly on a Monday morning.

David Griffiths - Head of Primary



Primary

Primary Deepavali assembly



Dear Nexus Community,

Nexus will embrace diversity once again through our whole school Deepavali or Diwali celebration on **Friday 6th November 2015**.

Events to follow on that day:

- All learners, teachers, parents and staff are encouraged to wear traditional attire. Learners will have lessons as usual.
- Our Indian parents will prepare Indian food sampling for both primary and secondary in the primary canteen. Primary learners will join food tasting accompanied by their class teachers and Teacher Assistance at an allocated time and secondary is welcome to join during their lunch time.
- There will be a special **Primary Deepavali assembly** in the theatre at 2.15pm. Parents are welcome to join! Learners will showcase their learning.
- There will be a Deepavali Learning Centre - Learn all about the significance in the Indian culture.

We would appreciate parents' participation to extend the celebration to a wider community.

We encourage all parents, teachers and learners to get involved and help us with organizing this event.

To help our learners understand the traditions of different cultures deeper through our International Mindedness Personal Goal - Understanding of ourselves as part of a global community and a respect for, and celebration of, diversity within that community.

At Nexus this means that we:

- celebrate festivals of cultures in Malaysia
- are part of a global community.
- to understand and respect each other.
- open to learning about each other, including our similarities and differences.

Volunteers Needed

1. We are seeking volunteers to decorate school corridors on **Monday 2nd November at 9am in the Primary canteen**.
2. We would also appreciate anyone able to share with us some of the Deepavali - connected traditions: for example rangoli making, henna painting, traditional musical instrument - Sitar/Tabla, etc.
3. We need a few helping hands on **Friday 6th November** with serving food, sweets and savouries to our learners.

If you wish to help or contribute please contact:

pta@nexus.edu.my
hilrora@gmail.com
lpainsborough@btinternet.com

Year 1 Art Gallery

IPC Exit point



In our unit, 'Who Am I', the learners learned more about themselves through the lens of art, with a focus on portraits. They discussed and explored both realistic and abstract style portraits. They explored portraits drawn by different artists and other children, looking at what makes them look more real. They learned a lot through guided observation. First they painted their friend, then drew themselves by looking in mirrors, and finally, the learners explored the work of Pablo Picasso. They learned about abstract art and Picasso's use of colour and shape. They also learned how Picasso often tried to show things from different angles at the same time, such as a face from profile and facing the front. Parents and Mr. Brooks were invited to the Art Gallery and children presented their art work to them. Well done to all Year 1 learners for great effort, resilience, cooperation and great presentations!

Ms. Andrea
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Secondary



In the beginners cycling CCA on Tuesdays, the learners are learning about cycle safety and maintenance. Recently we have been learning about how to re-attach a bike chain when it slips off. Learners have been thoroughly enjoying and are motivated to take part in the practical activities, despite being stuck indoors due to the haze.

Tamsin Wilson

DP CAS Reflection

Postponed due to haze

Ever since I was primary school, I was always out playing football during break times with the boys and I felt like football was what I was best at in sports. I felt like football was something I wanted to be in.

This had led me to joining the Secondary Girls Football Team. There were tournaments or friendly matches against the other schools and I attended most of them. From attending the games, I have learnt how to communicate well with the others while I am on the pitch. During games and training with Mr Paul, I have also successfully worked collaboratively with my teammates so that we make sure to play our best on whilst we're on the pitch against the other team.

Our team from Nexus consists a lot of tiny people compared to the other schools such as EPSOM, ISKL, Alice Smith but that did not stop us to win the games. To be honest, I was scared at first as I am quite tiny myself but training and practicing with the girls helped me to gain confidence and strength within myself.



Stamina was a thing I had a problem with, and the worst thing is that I am was an upfront midfielder which requires a lot of running up and down the pitch. During the tournament, I have pushed myself really hard because I wanted our team to win a medal. In the end we were all dead tired, but we made it. It was worth it even when I was dying due to bad stamina. This was a challenge for me as my stamina was really bad and being a midfielder requires lots of running. This activity has changed me in my attitude as I have become more aggressive and loud, especially on the field.

From my experience of joining the girls football team, I think what I learnt from this activity is that it has helped the others too. It helps the others and me in a way where if they have lost a game, it would help them work harder in order to win the next match and not give up, even if it was a friendly game.

Akila Ayatillah
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European Languages Trip to France & Spain

Now that we're back in Malaysia I've realised how lucky we were on this trip with nothing but blue skies. These last two weeks in France and Spain have undoubtedly been worth every penny and, for me, the best trip that Nexus has ever organised. There wasn't a moment when someone wasn't laughing. It wasn't only all just about having fun, but there was also a lot of learning (which is fun too) as we went to many famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame cathedral, and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and even the Nou Camp in Barcelona and we learnt many interesting facts about these places. For example did you know that there was a person who hated the Eiffel Tower so much that he ate there everyday (so that he didn't have to look at it and ruin his view) or that Antoni Gaudi wasn't the first architect of the Sagrada Família.

Surprisingly one of the highlights of the trip wasn't Disneyland or Nou Camp, but just walking around the streets in the cities in France and Spain and seeing the different cultures. If there was one thing that I wouldn't have thought that would be as great as it was that would have been the bike ride, but let me tell you, the bike ride in Spain was just amazing. Riding bikes on the pier by the beach, passing by the places we had visited earlier on the trip like the Sagrada Família and the park.

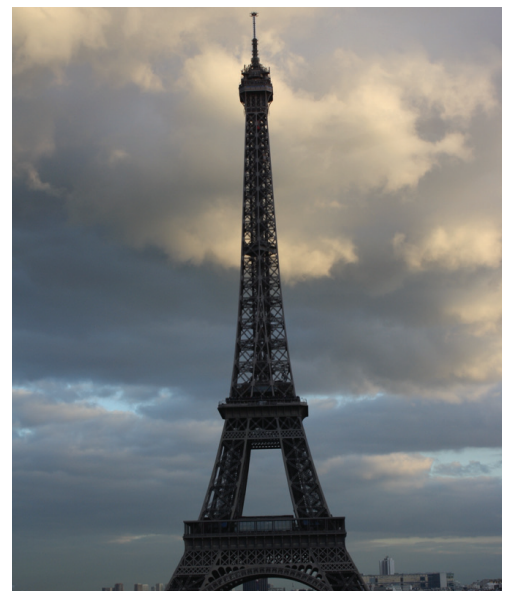
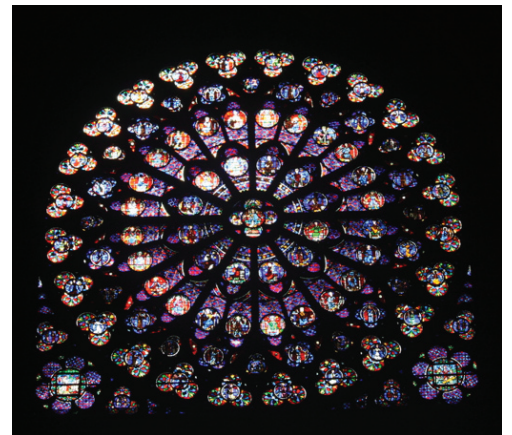
For many of us the food served in France and Spain was food we would never have eaten at home but it was very interesting to watch our friends adapt and eventually become true gourmet fans of such delicacies as escargot, frogs' legs, tapas and paella.

by **Maximiliaan Marichal**

Overall, I really enjoyed the trip to France and Spain and, when we weren't stuffing our faces with croissants, pinchos and maybe a little too much cheese and sweets and shopping till we could shop no longer, we actually discovered amazing monuments, visited unusual and beautiful art museums and galleries and went to strange places we wouldn't usually have visited like the catacombs and the old sewers of Paris. However, one thing we all learned is don't go shopping with Vicki and Ji and don't let Mr Martyn sing strange, personalised love ballads. You will die.

by **Queisher Munn**

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MURAL by Gai Yeow

New Mural for the Nexus Community

Gai Yeow spent many hours at the end of the last academic year (2014-15), painting a mural for the school in the secondary art room. The mural was part of his creativity for the IB CAS Year 13 project, but it far exceeded the hours required. Ga Yeow has a passion for painting and often sat quietly adding paint as I held classes in the art room. I would often catch him reflecting on the tones, colours and textures for the mural, as well as the poem that is written off centre in the composition.

The composition speaks of nature freedom and a bright future and is an inspirational piece. The work stands up to interpretation as does the poem, and what is important here is that it is a bold message and has a good feeling to it, for a brighter haze free future.

Mauro Brooks

Ga Yeow wanted to create a mural that encouraged the Nexus Community to live sustainably. It represent harmony and balance. The idea evolved from a sketch on a scrap of paper to this magnificent mural which has been the product of many hours.

Alison Hampshire

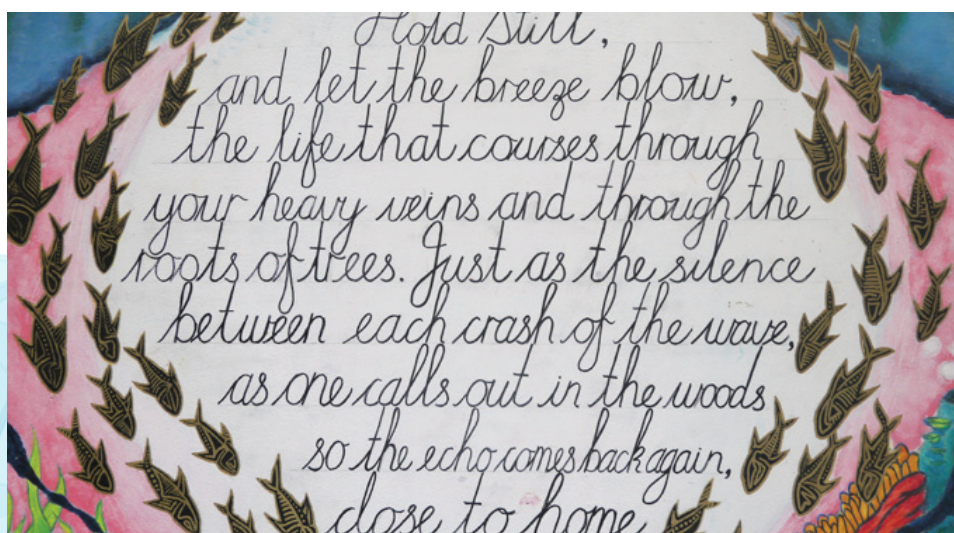
I only know that he'd enjoyed his time here so much that he wanted to "give" something back.

Maureen Forsyth

My main intention or motive behind this piece was to try and illustrate the interdependency of all things. When I say, the life that course through the roots of trees and the veins of your hand, I imagine that there is a commonality between them. The silence between each crash of the wave implies that there is a relationship between them, because we cannot appreciate stillness, without movement. As on calls out in the woods, the echo that comes back is a call to home, for when we interact with nature, a being of nature, appreciate the act of being in nature. All one has to do is hold still, and listen.

Ga Yeow T.

MB, AH, MF
Year 13
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Year 7 Trip to Broga Hill

Beautiful hills and tall trees greeted us at Broga Hill when we arrived for the Year 7 residential trip the last week before half term. Learners were ready for a mid-morning snack of pandan cake before tackling the team climbing-wall challenge. This was the start of three days of outdoor adventure activities, designed to build teamwork, collaboration and communication skills. There was a chance to check out the spacious dormitories set in the gardens before heading out to zipwire over the valley and try their hand at abseiling. A BBQ dinner of chicken satay was enjoyed by all before a traditional campfire with team games and fun before a well-earned sleep. The next day started early with a sunrise hike, followed by canoeing on the lake to cool down. On the last day learners had a chance to climb again and reflect on their learning with a drama-based activity with some impressive results. A great time had by an enthusiastic year group who demonstrated exemplary behaviour. Well done Year 7, we look forward to seeing your new skills put into action at Nexus.

by **Miss Rachel**





Sport News

KLISS X-Country Hosted by Nexus

Nexus are hosting the annual KLISS X-Country event on Saturday 28th November from 7am until 12pm.

As always this is a very inclusive event and should be seen as an opportunity for you to either try a new activity, have fun with friends, or push to improve your personal best. Whatever reason you decide ultimately you will be representing Nexus and gaining points for our team. Every learner that runs will gain at least one point for the Nexus XC team and so your participation is very much needed.

What to do next?

Miss Gemma will be handling the sign-ups for primary learners. She will speak to you during your lessons and register learners that way. For secondary learners, I will shortly be sending round a google doc for you to add names onto. By adding your name to the doc you are committing yourself to attending the event. Once you have signed-up you should come and see a member of the PE dept for a Parental consent form. Please get this signed and returned to Mr Andy ASAP.

Outline of the day

All the details of the event can be found here
If you have any questions or queries please contact me on the email below

PE Dept
Year 3 to Year 13
Smith.a@nexus.edu.my
Sport Fixtures Schedule
PE Department Website



Secondary Swim Gala - Tuesday 3rd November

Postponed due to haze

After a long discussion and with a heavy heart we have decided to postpone the Secondary swim gala until Term 2. A new date will be announced very shortly.

I understand that many of you will be very disappointed but I will try to explain the reasons behind this decision below.

Sports and sporting activities are extremely valued at Nexus. However, with uncertainty surrounding the continuing haze problem and a poor forecast for the next few weeks, we feel it is important to make an early decision so that parents, learners and staff are fully aware of the situation and no further disruption is caused to a curriculum that has already been adversely affected.

Please contact me if you have anything you would like discuss regarding the above.

Mr Andy
All Secondary
smith.a@nexus.edu.my
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PE Department Website

Whole School



Primary Deepavali assembly



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