# 27 Nov Issue, Term 1 (2015-2016) Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA



# **Highlights**

# **Primary future events**

#### Friday 4th December

The AP learners are organizing a disco for Year 4 to 6 in the Drama Studio from 3.30 - 5.30. Learners will be supervised from 3.15. All proceeds will go to the National Autism Society of Malaysia. Refreshments will also be on

The Early Years and Milepost 1 Talent Show is being held on Wednesday morning 2nd December 2015 at 11.15am in the Nexus theatre.

Monday to Wednesday

Monday

Wednesday **Thursday** 

**Friday** 

- Year 5 residential to Roots Eco Resort in Perak

- Early Years trip to IOI (Shopping theme)

- Nexus' Got Talent - Early Years / Milepost 1 (2pm - Theatre)

- Nexus' Got Talent - Milepost 2 and up (5pm - Theatre)

- Primary Swimming Gala at Alice Smith school

# T O 0 0 (1)

# Top IGCSE Maths Scholar in Malaysia

The school received news last week that Lakshman Manny of Year 11 had been named as the top IGCSE Maths Scholar in Malaysia. On Thursday Lakshman attended the Cambridge International Education prize giving ceremony at GIS to collect his certificate from Dr Ben Schmidt, Regional Director for CIE, based in Singapore. Lakshman was in Year 10 when he sat the exam, achieving an A\* result. Lakshman's Year 10 teacher, Mr Chris Krnic was present to support him.





Article and photographs - Mark Forsyth

## **International Award – UPDATE NEWS**



After a brief lull in activity due to the arrival of a new baby (Congratulations! - Editor), we are back and running again with the International Award here at Nexus!

Congratulations to Sue Yen Chong and Jasmine Foong on successfully completing their Silver Awards

Training has begun in earnest for our first trip of the year, a practice event for the Silver Award participants here in Putrajaya. We have started lunch sessions in the school pool covering the basics of kayaking in preparation for a weekend of paddling on the lake. Learners will also be demonstrating their camp craft skills and hopefully providing some culinary delights from their camp stoves! All this effort is leading towards an assessed kayaking Expedition around northern Langkawi in February

If you attend any of our sporting fixtures keep an eye out for Kirsty and Lih, they have been running a snack shop as part of their service section, helping to raise money for the SUKA society

Our participants take part in a wide range of activities across the sections of the Award, coaching peers in sporting teams, teaching English to Buddhist monks, Homework mentoring, sports team training, swimming, paying guitar and various other musical instruments; the Award offers young people a fantastic opportunity to grow and learn and be recognised for their efforts.

Interested in the International Award and want to know more?

Visit the official site at: http://www.intaward.org/about-the-award

Or contact Mr Jim for more details: harrison.j@nexus.edu.my



Langkawi Silver Expedition 2015

# **Media Studies**

## YEAR 10 PHOTO SHOOT

This week the year 10 Media learners have been putting their photography skills to the test as they are preparing for a photo shoot to create Print magazine covers using themselves as cover stars. This unit forms a central part of the skill building tasks and encourages them to develop their creativity.



Hanna striking a pose for a fashion cover.



Lotus being directed and photographed by Luqman for his GQ cover.



Using the green screen before adding the detail in photo shop to magically transform Lotus in Robert Downey Junior!



Getting to grips with the equipment.



Priti staying in role for the camera.



Winnie using direct address.



It's THAT dress again!



Creating a Sports magazine cover.

## CAS REFLECTION

I started taking competitive badminton as an extracurricular activity in the last term (term 2) and managed to 23.5 hours worth of practice and tournaments. I joined this activity as I want to continue to strengthen my skills in badminton as I have been playing it for a several years. Joining this activity can be seen as my ability to commit which is one of my goals in general. The first session went guite well considering I have left it of for guite a while but I knew in time and with practice I would be able to improve.

1. Increased awareness of your strengths and areas for growth

The competition that took place in Setia Alam Badminton Academy (March 7, 2015) has shown the areas I need to improve in, response in particular. I think I have developed my skills in smashing but due to my slow reflexes, I was not able to immediately react or think quickly of the way to hit the shuttlecock back. Overall, we as a school got 3rd place for female badminton. With this tournament, I was able to spot mistakes immediately after making them. I was aware of the common mistakes throughout the tournament causing me to be more cautious of the actions I chose to take while playing.

1. Working collaboratively with others

Badminton can be played individually as well as having a partner and during the tournament I played doubles female with a girl who was quite inexperience. Originally I had a different partner but due to her calling in sick, I was placed with someone I wasn't entirely comfortable with. In fact, our school team lack players. I was surprised that we all took the effort and work in attempt to get first place. I think that even with a new partner, we were able to communicate throughout which made it a fun and collaborative experience to compete.

Wan Nursyafiqah Fhadilah Wan Zaidi Year 13

# **Nexus Composers' Concert**

### Thursday 26 November

It is quite commonplace to see concerts and musical performances, and while the showcase of skill is often incredible and awe-inspiring, it is much rarer to see the other side of these performed pieces, the composer. The young composer's concert that took place this week was Nexus' first ever showcase of its home-grown composers and their talent for writing original music. After the impressive feats that took place, it is almost definite that this will be the start of yet another musical tradition at Nexus, along with our Spring Concert and Talent Show.

There was great variety, from classical piano arrangements, to modern compositions for a rock band, by way of a vocal performance and a string trio; overall this was a most enjoyable show. It was clear the students had preferences in style and period, and they were able to replicate those styles with clear musical understanding. As a result of this we had wonderful classical pieces, romantic era pieces, neo-classical pieces and 20th century music. Writing your own music can be a daunting task; an original piece has a much greater emotional link than one written by someone else. So aside from the great amount of skill the students showed, the courage involved in getting up and performing was astounding.

We are truly proud of our Performing Arts department at Nexus; this inaugural concert certainly reinforces that. The variety, creativity, skill and bravery showcased made a rousing success for it's premiere!

Congratulations to:
Alex O'Shea
Amira Nor Azam
Cicely Guillouet
Danial Shariat
Ilyssha Jasmine Shah
Johana Jarkulischova
Michael Chan
Siti Nurhadzlin
Stephen Ong

**Article by Danial Shariat (Year 13)** 

## Year 9 Roots and Shoots UPDATE

## Bringing their work to Facebook

Year 9 have been working hard this term by making their artwork about endangered animals for the Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots, endangered animal competition.

Recently the roots and shoots team shared a Facebook website with Nexus so that we could post pictures of work in progress, ask questions and supply positive comments about peoples work. Here is the address link if you wish to see their work in progress and add some positive comments.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/105799946442073/?fref=ts

The competition deadline is the 29th of January 2016, unfortunately, there are no prizes for the learners other than publicity and the knowledge that in someway, a learners work will be used to promote awareness for endangered Malaysian Animals.

**M** Brooks Year 9



Opening Facebook Page for the competition.



The 'baby' Asian Elephant Sculpture



The Green Turtle Sculpture Team.



The "Big Hands" Orangutan Sculpture Team.



A Painting in progress of a Green Turtle.



The boys Orangutan Sculpture team.



A painting of an Orangutan.

# **MUSIC NEWS**

## Nexus' First Composer's Concert - Thursday 26th November '15

On Thursday 26th November we held our first Composer's Concert skillfully organised and managed by Mr Steve Maniam. Nine of our GCSE and IB Music learners performed their own compositions that have been written over the last year.

It was a wonderful occasion attended by over 50 learners and teachers. A huge congratulations to all the composers and performers, you did an amazing job with some fabulous and emotive compositions and performances. A big thank you also to Ms Audrey and Mr Mervin for their help, support and performances.

Here are some photos from the concert and a video will be available on the Music Department website, thank you Mr Tom:

















## **Nexus' Got Talent FINAL**

## Thursday 3rd December 2015 - 7pm in the Theatre

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! - From Student Services - The seats are numbered so grab the best seats early -Available seating can be found HERE

On Tuesday this week and Thursday the week before, the NGT '15 Judges auditioned 48 acts. After a lot of deliberation we managed to chose 11 Finalists from the Primary and 10 from Secondary schools. Everyone who auditioned performed wonderfully and some very tough decisions were needed to be made. If you did not make the finals we will find other opportunities during the year for your to perform, it was not because you played badly but we only had a few limited slots for acts and also needed variety to keep the audience entertained.

The audience vote for the winners at the end of the show, so make sure you buy a ticket and enjoy a wonderful evening of varied and very entertaining acts.

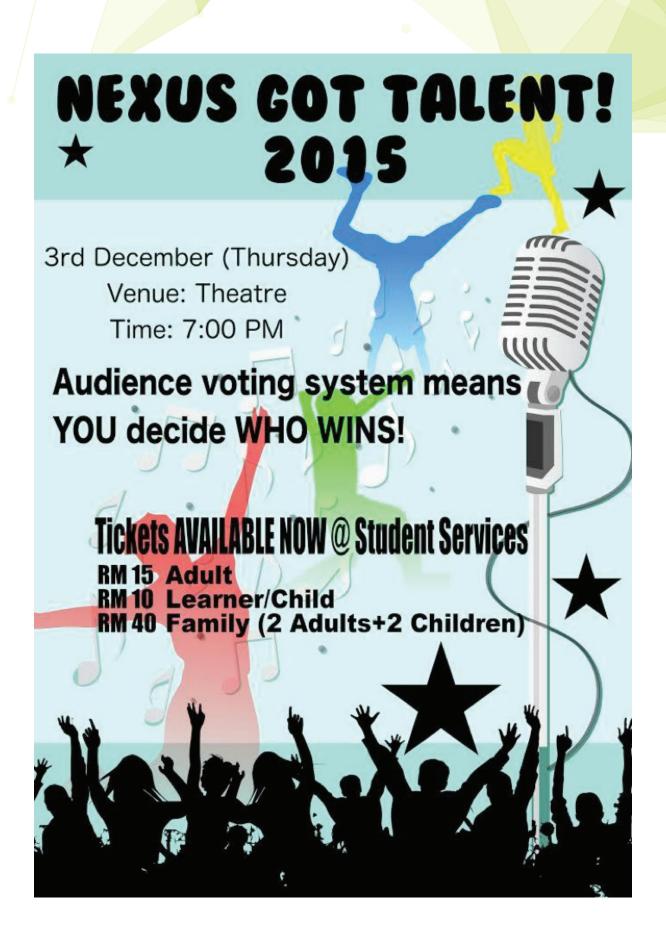
The finalists who will be performing are:

#### **Primary School**

#### Luca Phoenix 3E Isabelle Yong 3N Farzana Faizal 4N Nurul Huda Ahmad Salman 4E Nur Dina Aliyah Saiful Redzuan 4N Marika Watanabe 4N Mina Hudson 4N Jeeahn Hur 6N Dina Che Kamarizaman 6E Syarah Omar Ali 6N Humairah Muhammad Anwar 6E Nur Ilham Afzal 6E Kai Xin Leong 6N Kayla Mutinda 3N Alia Ahmad Farid 3N Ilmam Mohd Jamil 6X Rhys Griffiths 6X Aidil Yanto Isra 6E Asraf Mat Dris 6X Hamzah Mohiuddin 6E Janarthan Selvamuthu 6N Hazeeq Syed Mohamad Fairus 6E 4X Afif Anwar **Preston Williams** 4E Alex Grassby 3E

#### **Secondary School**

Suraya Mohd Aini	8E
Ha Nhi Tran	8N
Jonathan Chin (Guitar)	8E
Philip Shim (Vocals)	8N
Jachym Jarkulisch (Clarinet)	8N
Zack Azlin (Piano)	8N
Soleh Md Shaiful	8E
Aissa Maryam	9N
Iman Mohd Hadtamizi	9X
Muqri Ammar	9E
Jing Hui Tan	9N
Siti Hadzlin	11E
Priyalini Ai Bharath	13X
Christina Chandra Sehgaran	12X
Salina Mohd Jamil	13E
Akila Ayatillah	13X
Hamidah Abd Rahman	12E
Jasmine Foong	12E



## **MUSIC NEWS**

## VERY YOUNG Nexus' Got Talent (for EY to Y2 Learners) -Wednesday 2nd December 2015 - 11.40am in the Theatre

On Wednesday 2nd December at 11.40am in the Nexus Theatre we will be hosting our Very Young Nexus' Got Talent for our Early Years to Year 2 learners. There will be no auditions as it is not a competition and we want all learners to take part.

Please See Ms Ann to sign up for an act.

## Sign-up for Instrumental/Voice Lessons for Term 2

Sign-Up on line here:

https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons

N.B. This is only for learners who want to start new lessons - All previous lessons will continue automatically unless we are advised with a 6 weeks notice period for cancellation.

The school will provide/loan, free of charge, the following instrument: Trumpets, Trombones, Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Basses.

#### Timetables for Instrumental Lessons

It you want to find out the time of your Instrumental/Vocal lessons then please look on the Music Department Website here:

https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/instrumental-timetables

## Why Study Music?

Music Lessons Were the Best Thing Your Parents Ever Did for You



http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/best-thing-your-parents-ever-did/

# **MUSIC NEWS**

## Grease the Musical



#### **Grease performance dates:**

- Wednesday 20th January Opening Night Performance 7pm in the Theatre
- Thursday 21st January Performance 7pm Theatre

#### **Dates For Your Diaries**

#### TERM 1

Wednesday 2nd December Thursday 3rd December Monday 14th December

#### **TERM 2**

Wednesday 20th January Thursday 21st January Wednesday 27th January Thursday 28th January Tuesday 2nd February Tuesday 16th February Thursday 25th February Wednesday 2nd March Wednesday 23rd March EY-Y2 Young Nexus' Got Talent Nexus' Got Talent (Y3+) - 7pm in the Theatre Primary Christmas Show

Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre
Grease the Musical - 7pm in the Theatre
Y4 Primary Showcase
Y9 Drama Showcase - The Container by Clare Bayley - 7pm in the Theatre
ABRSM Making Music Together Concert - 7.30pm Eastin Hotel, KL
KS4 & 5 Musical Recitals - 7pm in the Theatre
Y10 & 12 Drama Showcase - 7pm in the Theatre
Y3 Primary Showcase
Senior Spring Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

# The Hour of Code is coming!

The Hour of Code is a worldwide event that aims for all participants to take part in an "hour of code" and Nexus has once again signed up for this awesome event.

The Hour of Code event commences on the 7th December and Nexus Learners will participate in suitable tutorials that have been provided by the organisers. Who knows we might discover the next Mark Zuckerberg right here at Nexus!

Nexus integrators will be supporting learners and teachers throughout the Hour of Code week. If there are parents that would like to get involved in the event then we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have some coding skills that you would like to share with the learners, or you might want to participate in the hour of code.

Please email lazell.g@nexus.edu.my if you would like to participate.

If you need more information on this awesome event, watch the video here

Graeme Lazell ICT Integrator



# **Andy Wright Visit**

Next week, on Wednesday 2nd December, we are excited to announce we will have a day of workshops with international storyteller, Andy Wright.

During the day he will work with Year 7 and 10 to explore creative writing linked to stories as well as lead teacher training for some secondary and primary teachers. He will share the five core skills of storytelling and how this can be applied in our reading aloud. In addition, this workshop will briefly look at storytelling across the curriculum and how it can in fact support maths and science and other topics. All the sciences have at their heart the concept of question and answer, and stories can lead us into enquiry and discovery.

A free workshop will also be open to primary and secondary parents in the afternoon where he will look at how to choose stories to read, and how to create stories, in order to help parents who have trouble either telling stories of their own, or choosing stories for their children.

If you are interested in attending, then please email Miss Yat to book a free place. saad.n@nexus.edu.my

Find out more at his website below and see some of the feedback he has received from other schools he has led workshops at.

http://www.storyteller.net.au/



# It's Christmas time again!

Nexus will be holding their annual Christmas curriculum celebration day on Monday 14th December.

Christmas is a time associated with particular clothing and colours in celebration of the event. Please help us to make a very festive atmosphere in school by our community of learners, parents and teachers dressing in red and green.

#### **Customize your Santa Hat**

If learners bring a Santa Hat with them to school then there will be an opportunity for them to decorate it with fabric pens and other items. They can enjoy wearing this during the day too!

#### Primary Christmas Assembly will be from 1.50 - 2.40 pm in the Theatre

Parents are kindly invited to attend. They will enjoy learners and teachers singing, some 'drama' from the younger children and some Internationally-minded videos!

#### Santa's Grotto

This year, learners will have an opportunity to visit **Santa's Grotto**, this will be based in the art corner next to the PTA office, where a small, edible treat awaits the children. Primary learners will be accompanied by tutors and secondary learners are most welcome to pick up their treat too.

#### **Curriculum Learning**

Like all cultural celebrations at Nexus, the children learn in class about other world cultures in the lead up to these celebrations. This is an integral part of learning at Neuxs and developing the capacity for our learners to be Internationally Minded. The children will learn about the Christian celebration of Christmas and how this is similar or different to their own culture. They will learn about how Christmas is celebrated in Malaysia and in other countries, the history of Father Christmas and other interesting information that allows our learners to respect the beliefs of others. Primary classes will be invited to visit the MPR room where the curriculum learning will be displayed for all to benefit.

Christmas Songs will be performed by musicians in the cafeteria during lunch - to bring some festive atmosphere to the learners mealtime! Please feel free to pop along at this time and join in the ambiance.

#### A time for Giving

#### Myanmar School in Puchong

It is a tradition for Nexus learners to prepare gifts for our Myanmar children who will also be enjoying the afternoon with us in school.

Traditionally, each class prepares a gift for 1 or 2 Myanmar learners. Your child will be informed by their class teacher or form tutor in secondary as to who this is.

The boxes will include a couple of wish list presents from the Myanmar children, some essential toiletry supplies and a few other small gifts that the class decides would be nice for their Myanmar friends. This is a great opportunity to focus on giving to others, especially to those who do not have the same kinds of opportunities and material goods that our Nexus learners have. Our Myanmar friends are always extremely grateful.

Here are some images from last year. As a community we were extremely proud of the difference this made to the lives of our Myanmar friends.





# It's Christmas time again!

As well as the Chirstmas boxes presented to the Myanmar learners we are also holding a charity sale of handmade goods from United Voice.

United Voice is the first society in Malaysia that is led by persons with learning disabilities. The members of United Voice include persons with Down Syndrome, Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Global Developmental Delay and Cerebral Palsy. We will be supporting United voice by selling their handmade and beautiful Xmas Crafts and Cards from NOW till the 11th of December, outside the PTA Room. For more information on United Vision, click here

Here are some of the items that will be on sale.







Deck the halls

Christmas is a time for togetherness and we extend our invitation to all of the Nexus community to join with the PTA in decorating our beautiful campus.. We will be decorating the school on Monday, 4th of December. If you would like to join us and have some fun, please join us at 9 a.m. in the primary canteen. The learners will also be participating in making some decorations of their choice. They will learn about the similarities and differences between their culture and other cultures and how in most cultural celebrations there is a time of preparing and 'dressing' the house and streets in anticipation!

And last but not least, of course, all the way from the North Pole Mr Claus will be paying our Primary Learners a special visit! Ho Ho Ho







# Y3 CONNECT 27th November 2015

On Thursday 26th November, as part of our Exit Point, Year 3 learners transformed into 'Jurassic Nexus Tour Experts' sharing their learning with parents, secondary learners and staff. Learners looked smart in their lab coats and iPads.

Upon arrival, learners took their parents through a virtual tour of their learning during our topic on 'Footprints from the Past - Before People'.

Through the lens of ICT, they started at the virtual Petting Zoo where learners taught visitors facts about dinosaurs. Then they showed their Green Screen dino documentaries. After that, they used 'Earth Primer' to explain how volcanoes are formed, they were very confident in using the technical words to explain the formation. They also showcased their very own Stop Animation on Dinosaur Food Chain - explained about the producer, Primary Consumer and Secondary Consumer.

Through the Lens of English, learners shared their Dinosaur Adventure stories and instructional writing on how to train a Dinosaur.

Through the lens of Geography, learners had the opportunity to watch, learn and explain how fossils are formed. They too had a very busy hands on station, where they made their very own fossils to take home!

At the last station, all learners and parents blogged about the brilliant learning experience. Also, they also completed our 'Exit Ticket' sharing one things parents have learned from the experts and the part of the tour they enjoyed the most!

To find out more please visit our Year 3 site @ https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/year-3-new/







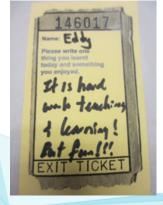


















# Himalayas Trip 2016

We are underway with the sign ups for the Himalayas trip. Just a reminder, please, the payment deadline for the full amount is Monday 7th December.

Completed medical form, passport copies and all payments must go to the Student Services counter located in the main reception. Trip letters and forms can be picked up from the ICT office.

We already have some enthusiastic learners signed up and would love to see a few more as it really is a fantastic experience.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

#### Miss Rachel



# Girl Guides need your help!

## 1st Putrajaya (Nexus) Guides- Help required!

Nexus School has a popular Brownie unit for girls age 7-10 (Weds), and a Guide unit for girls aged 10-14 (Thurs). Sarah Phoenix who runs Guides is in urgent need of help to keep Guides running, otherwise it is a risk of folding at the end of this term. Sarah is happy to run meetings but she needs someone (or preferably a couple of people!) to help with the following:

Admin: maintaining our database and managing the accounts.

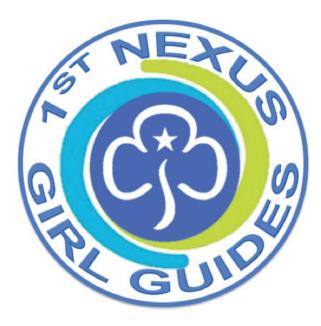
Help at meetings: a small group of parents who who be happy to help at meeting on a rota basis.

Help with shopping: for anything needed at meetings eg craft supplies or cooking ingredients

If you feel you could help in any way, however small, please do get in touch for a chat. Guiding is great fun, and the girls get so much out of it, it would be a great shame of nexus school lost its Guide unit.

Please contact Sarah (Guide leader) 1stnexusguides@gmail.com or Fiona (Malaysia Division Commissioner)bgifclualalumpur@gmail.com

Sarah Phoenix phoenix.s@nexus.edu.my www.nexus.edu.my



# **Boarders' Blog**

### 24/11/15

It's been yet another jam-packed week for boarding, especially for the Floor 3 boys. On Wednesday, Floor 2 and Floor 3 were pitted against each other in our termly inter-floor games. Floor spirits were high and rivalry intense as both teams played the tie-breaker sport for this term- basketball. Floor 3, as done time and time again, emerged victorious with a narrow 26-23 scoreline.

The very next day, the Floor 3 boys bathed in our newfound glory during our floor outing to Skywarriors by the Putrajaya lake. The boys and I had the opportunity to feel like an 'American Ninja Warrior' before heading to Alamanda to spoil ourselves further with a nice meal.

On Saturday, boarding headed to Shah Alam for a game of paintball. Casualties were heavy but so was the fun. All in all, it was a very good week for Floor 3 and all boarders.

#### Ryan Year 13













## **Parent Teacher Association Announcements**

## **Upcoming events:**

30.11.2015 from 8.30am - 3pm help us to bake gingerbread for Christmas, contact Pavla for more details: pjkarkulka@gmail.com

4.12.2015 from 8.30am - 3pm whole school Christmas decoration. Please contact Tammy if you'd like to help: tammyetherington@gmail.com

14.12.2015 Christmas Celebrations in school, primary Christmas assembly

#### Dear parents,

- PTA is looking for a volunteer to fill the Events / Celebration position
- Y11 and Y5N/E are still looking for a class representative who could help us build better communication between parents, teachers and PTA and welcome new families in the classes

Please don't hesitate to contact us at: pta@nexus.edu.my







United Voice is the first society in Malaysia that is led by persons with learning disabilities. The members of UV include persons with Down Syndrome, Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Global Developmental Delay and Cerebral Palsy. Please show your support by purchasing Christmas gifts that were handmade by them.

The United Voice Crafts will be on sale outside the PTA Room from 8.30am to 8.50am everyday till the 11th of December.



Please contact Nazneen at 012 297 0895 for inquiries.