

CONNECT14

GREETINGS FROM NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUTRAJAYA

WHOLE SCHOOL (2-4)

Christmas Celebrations

PE Notice + Sport Fixtures

Girl Guides + Book Covering Blitz Report

PRIMARY (5-6)

History of Nexus by Year 3

Year 1 Visits The Gardenia Bakeries

Explorers & Adventurers in Year 4

SECONDARY (7-10)

CAS Reflection by Kenneth Choo

IB Open Morning 9/12/14

+ Information Presentation

Silver IA Practice Adventurous Journey by Jasmine Foong

Mural Painting at UMMC

MUSIC & DRAMA (11-13)

+ East Side Stories! Tickets On Sale Now!



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA

Whole School

Christmas Celebrations



With the celebration of Christmas fast approaching, Nexus staff and PTA welcome the opportunity to come together to mark this international celebration!

As with any celebration at Nexus, we will be hosting a variety of activities and learning experiences to deepen the learner's cultural awareness. In order to make this a memorable experience we are seeking support from our parents.

Monday 8th December: Decorating the campus. Please meet the PTA in the parents office (next to cafeteria) at 9am if you would like to help.

Thursday 14th December: Decorating the Multi Purpose room: if you would like to help to change this area into a magical Winter wonderland, please meet us there at 10am.

Throughout the week: we are looking for budding chefs to bake as many gingerbread men (and women, christmas items etc.) as possible. These will be given out to the learners by Santa himself!

In order to add a bit of sparkle to the event we will also be looking for **donations of small soft toys**. Please send these into school via your child's class teacher. (They will be used to make decorations and therefore cannot be returned. They should be around the size of the palm of your hand please!)

Monday 15th December: will be our main celebration day, we will be looking for the following:

Parents to bake or share their favourite Christmas themed dishes. A sign up sheet can be found [HERE](#). Please hand these in as early as possible to the Parents office.

Learners to wear party clothes or festive colours - let's bring some colour and sparkle to the event. Get your Santa hats at the ready!

Parents are invited to come along to school, join in the festivities, eat, chat and relax! You can listen to the live Christmas music throughout the day and be part of the Christmas Celebration Assembly in the afternoon. You might even see Santa on his sleigh!

PE Notice

KLISS Secondary Swim Gala

Nexus Swim team took part in the KLISS swim gala last weekend at ISP. Our team swam really well and were competitive throughout. Yi Jun was very successful scooping up three bronze medals. Congratulations to all the swimmers! Well done to all the learners who took part.



Morning Swim Sessions, 7.45am until 8.30am

The morning swim sessions have got off to a great start with excellent participation numbers. The sessions are continuing after Christmas and we look forward to seeing even more learners to get involved. The sessions are a great way to not only improve learners stroke technique but also their cardiovascular endurance.

New Climbing Wall



As many of you will already be aware the new climbing wall has been completed and is now ready for use.

CCA's will start after Christmas and all learners will

Saturday	6th	December	
ISAC Secondary	Swim Gala	at	KLASS, Equine Park (transport leaves Nexus at 6.45am)
Sunday	7th	December	
ISAC U19	Rugby	at	Nexus
Monday	8th	December	
U18 Boys	Basketball	at	MKIS (Transport leaves Nexus at 3.10pm)
U15 Girls	Basketball	at	MKIS
Saturday	13th	December	
U13 Boys	Basketball	at	ISKL (Transport leaves Nexus at 6.15am)
U13 Girls	Basketball	at	ISKL
U15 Girls	Basketball	at	ISKL (Transport leaves Nexus at 10.15am)

get the opportunity to test out their climbing skills in lessons after Christmas.

Wet Weather Lessons

With all the wet weather we've been experiencing lately it has given our Primary and Secondary learners lots of opportunities to work together in lessons.

Here are pictures of our Y3 helping our Y8s plan and deliver a fitness session.



Embracing Diversity. Challenging Minds.

Girl Guides

The Girl Guides at Nexus recently received their Membership Pins from Ms. Alison, the school principal. The girls were excited to learn that Ms. Alison herself was a Girl Guide when she was younger.

Ms. Alison's Mom was a Girl Guide leader. After receiving their pins, the girls discussed how great it is to have a principal who lives the values of Girl Guides every day by helping children.



Book Covering Blitz, December 3rd 2014

Well done to the wonderful Parent volunteers of Nexus, who covered **341** books in just a few hours.

Nexus Library is Thankful to your Remarkable Dedication and Appreciates your continuous support!

Best Wishes, Nexus Library

Primary

The History of Nexus by Year 3



This term, Year 3 has been looking at different communities. Through the lens of history, we looked into how, why, when and where the Nexus community was started. We split into groups to learn about the location of Nexus, its buildings, its staff and learners and about the boarding community.

Mr Graeme came and helped us learn about how to film using the rule of thirds. This rule helps us to frame people when we are filming so it looks interesting when we watch it. We then emailed

staff and learners to ask them if we could interview them. Next, we planned what questions we would ask and where our locations for filming would be. When we went to film our interview the learners were in charge and told Ms Alison, Mr Griffiths, Ms Suzy and several other interviewees exactly where to sit before filming the interview on our iPads. Ms Suzy was so impressed with our work that she invited us to be experts to teach Year 8 learners about the rule of thirds.

Lastly, Mr Graeme came back in and showed us how to use iMovie to edit our films. If you want to watch our History of Nexus documentary, then watch this space as it will soon be available to view online.



We Had Fun in Year 1!

In order to explore the World through the 5 senses and ask scientific questions, Year 1 visited the Gardenia Bakeries in Shah Alam on Wednesday of this week.

After watching a fun presentation about the history of bread we went on a factory tour and watched the different stages of making bread. Our trip concluded with a waffle tasting session and we even got a goodie bag to take home!



EXPLORERS AND ADVENTURERS IN YEAR 4

This week in Year 4 the learners have been enjoying learning through the lens of Science as part of their topic on Explorers and Adventurers. They investigated magnetic materials and learnt about magnetism.

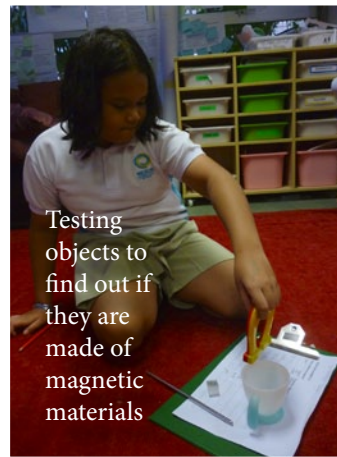


Investigating magnetic toys.

The learning began with a chance to play with magnetic toys since children learn a lot through exploration. They were then introduced to scientific terms such as magnets, forces and materials. Next, they were asked to work in teams of scientists and were given an assignment by a toy manufacturing company to provide a report about suitable materials for magnetic toys.

The learners began by predicting which materials would be magnetic and which would not be magnetic. Many of the learners

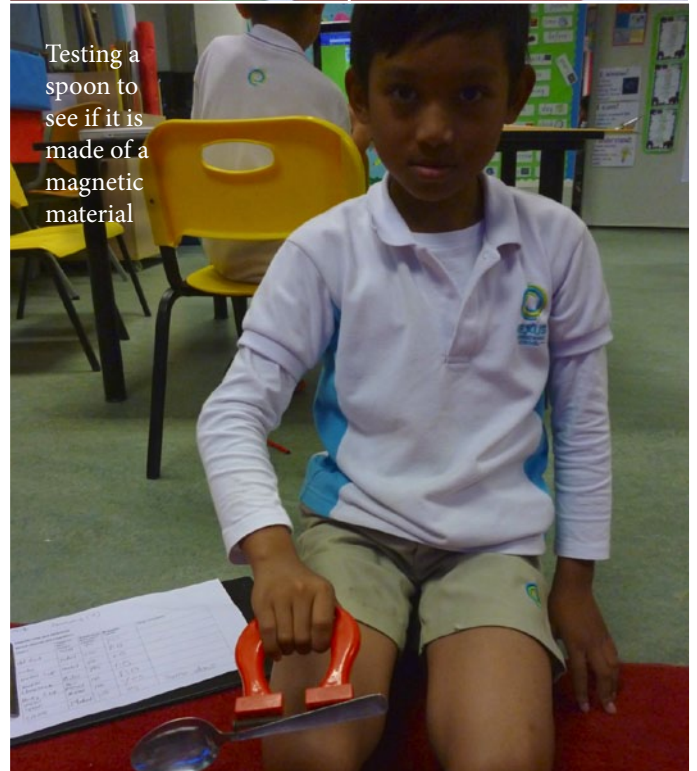
predicted that metals would be magnetic and non-metals would not be magnetic. Once they had made their prediction they carried out tests on different material finding that not all metals were magnetic. They continued their search for information about magnetic materials using secondary sources of information (Brain Pop Junior and Encyclopaedia Britannica). Finally, they wrote up a report for the toy manufacturing company about what they had learnt.



Testing objects to find out if they are made of magnetic materials



Testing coins from around the world to see if they are magnetic



Testing a spoon to see if it is made of a magnetic material

Secondary

CAS Reflection by Kenneth Choo

This term, the new challenge for the IGCSE tutoring team, especially the Year 13s, has been how to balance time between the demands of the IB exams and our tutoring service. We have a handover plan so that the year 12s will take over from us and the learning of our students are not disrupted.

Student attendance has been erratic, but with the few that attend the sessions we have been able to make the most of our time. A memory that stands out to me was when I taught some Y7 kids math -it proved to be hard for me as I had to simplify concepts. The game I came up with to teach them skills was a big hit and they enjoyed themselves while picking up new skills. When teaching, I myself learnt as well how to make abstract concepts real for these students. This is one challenge in teaching, and for this reason I have more respect for those who do the job on a daily basis.

I have enjoyed myself very much, for tutoring others has taught me new skills that I never knew I needed. Additionally, it made me question ideas I always thought to be true, and in so doing I gained a deeper respect for the knowledge I have. If we have more students, the tutoring sessions can only get better!



Come and experience!

IB OPEN MORNING

Tuesday 9/12/2014 from 9am to 12pm

Open to all
Parents &
prospective
Parents &
Students

Presentation in the Nexus Boarding House from 9:00am to 10:00am, followed by a tour of IB classes in action.

Light refreshments provided.



IB Information Presentation

On the 9th December at 9:00am in the Boarding house there will be a short presentation and information on the IB Diploma at Nexus.

Any parent is welcome to attend and ask questions about the programme.

If time allows we will be able to see some of the IB learners in their classes.

Silver IA Practice Adventurous Journey



by Jasmine Foong

If I had to describe the previous weekend in 1 word, I'd use unity, because everything we had to do, we did so as a team – from making lunch for each other to kayaking under the scorching sun. This entire experience allowed us not just insight into interdependence between teammates, but in addition the extent of our own capabilities.

After having survived half a day of lectures & written essays on a habitual Friday afternoon,

we were downright excited to embark on our 3-day escapade towards Paya Indah Wetlands, which would be our mosquito infested campsite for the next two nights. Besides the multitudinous mosquitoes, we also saw never-moving hippos (of which one of our peers compared to his boarding house roommates), elephantine crocodiles, and hundreds of square kilometres of palm oil plantations residing in the wetlands.

Upon arriving at our campsite, we began setting up our tents, and then proceeded to learn an array of knots essential for wilderness survival. Later in the evening, after acquainting ourselves with the tropical November rain, we unpacked our cooking equipment and began devising a delicious curry chicken dinner. It was so marvelous that some of us gulped down the remains of each other's curry sauce straight from the cooking pots. As the night advanced, we reluctantly settled down in our tents. Surrounded by unfamiliarity, we finally descended into an interrupted sleep throughout the dark night's drizzle until dawn made an appearance. Although the first day didn't include any adrenaline pumping activities, it was the perfect introduction day to our 3-day expedition. We carried out each and every activity as a team – when knots were being tied, legs were loaned as makeshift tree trunks; when a meal as complex as curry chicken was expected on the first night, groups teamed up to quicken the cooking process; and when a fire was awakened, compassionate approaches were presented to solace burnt limbs.

The next day included frivolous splashes into murky water, dancing with kayak paddles, and taking turns kissing a rubber dummy. After arriving at Kelab Tasik Putrajaya, we were given a short briefing about the fundamentals of kayaking, followed by an introduction to developing water confidence. Closing a quick

paddle on Putrajaya Lake, we returned to our campsite where we all took turns performing CPR in hopes of saving a rubber dummy's life. On top of that, we were also taught the procedures of treating a range of different injuries – from mere cuts, to dislocated shoulders. The rest of the day was particularly relaxed. And with aching arms & drooping eyelids, we all slept soundly through the inclement night curled up in our tents like little hamsters.

Everyone woke up the next morning to the glorious tune of 'You Raise Me Up' (Brandon's favorite tune) As first light shone, we very quickly dismantled our tents, arranged our knapsacks with food for the day, and set out on the final day of this trip. We disembarked at Kelab Tasik and hurriedly smeared sunscreen on ourselves before jumping on our kayaks for a 13km paddle around the lake over the next 3 hours. It was a truly enjoyable day, with singsongs and banter for each stroke we took against the water as the morning breeze caressed our skin.

Unfortunately, the rain decided to disrupt our plans for sailing throughout the afternoon, so we ended up relishing in piquant meals at the Kelab Tasik restaurant as we reflected on this eye-opening expedition. Although this "adventurous journey" was only a brief practice, I have nonetheless gained a great deal of knowledge from it, from wilderness survival skills to adapting and overcoming unforeseen obstacles, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to have experienced this with.



Two of the amazing performances in NGT2014



Mural Painting at UMMC



Recently Nexus International School contributed in the creation of a mural in the UMMC. The aim of the project was to paint, design and create artworks in the UMMC's children's playroom based on the theme 'under the sea'. The mural project was held at University Malaya Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur and the mural project is for the children's playroom in the hospital.

Some of us are art students but the other half of us are not. Even though some of us had some difficulties managing the time to prepare the cut outs for the pictures, we still managed to create some good and simple sketches of the sea creatures. We all had roles in designing, as some art students suggested to draw a submarine and an octopus while the others decided to create simple drawings, like

fishes, seaweeds, etc.

On the first week, we had the whole playroom painted in baby blue colour, to represent the 'sea'. The painting process didn't took long as Ms Claire and Ms Susan also contributed in the painting and there were quite a number of students that were helping in.

On the second week of our project, we started to outline the cut outs of the sea creatures and have them painted and designed throughout the room. With the help of Mr. Mauro, there were numbers of cartoony-likes artwork that each of us got the chance to create, draw and paint individually. This process took us longer to complete, as there was quite a number of small details that we needed to paint. Compared to the previous week of painting the playroom, this week was certainly the hardest.

Despite all of the hard work and challenging techniques we had to face, we all had fun and managed to have the project finished at the end of the day. The results of our artwork turned out more beautiful and creative than what most of us expect it to be. Most of us are very happy with our final project, and through this, we get good opportunities to express our individuality through artwork and at the same time, meet new people and work with them.

Elza (Year 11)

Music & Drama News

End of Term Music Recitals, Wednesday 3rd December 2014

Congratulations to all of the performers who took part in the end of term recitals last Wednesday 3rd December in the Theatre.

You all did yourselves and Nexus proud with your excellent performances and the hard work that went into practising them. It is not easy to perform on stage especially when you are very young, but you all held it together and did a fantastic job!

A HUGE thank you for Miss Audrey L, Miss Sam L, Miss Yem Voon, Mr Jared C and Mr Mervin for organising the performers and the recital. Their hard work, time and enthusiasm is much appreciated by the Music Department and Nexus as a whole!

New Piano Teacher from January 2015

It is my sad duty to inform you that Miss Sam Liang, our piano teacher, is leaving Nexus at the end of term to concentrate more on her other music project. Sam has been a fabulous teacher and administrator within the Music Department over the last couple of years and she will be very much missed by everyone. We all wish her all the best for her future endeavours and hope that she keeps in touch with us and her learners.

Mr Yew Chee will be taking over Sam's duties from the start of next term. Here is some information about his significant piano, violin and musical career:

Mr. Chew Yew Chee has been actively involved as a musician, educator and entrepreneur for many years. Completing Licentiate of Trinity College London (LTCL) in Piano Performance and Associate in Music (AMusTCL) during his high school years,

he had performed extensively as pianist, violinist and violist in solo, chamber and orchestral works. Some of his notable experiences include performing as soloist in Yellow River Piano Concerto and Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor; violinist and violist accompanying famous artists such as Noriko Ogawa and Patricia Shih; and performed with the Penang Symphony Orchestra at the Prefecture Theater that was televised nationwide by Kumamoto Television (KTV). He also performed with National Symphony Orchestra at Istana Budaya in several occasions as casual violist.

In 1998, he won the ABRSM Centenary Travel Grant award to study performance pedagogy based at Royal Academy of Music in London. He was mentored by Eve Halsey; tutored by Jean Harvey (former ABRSM Chief Examiner) on the piano; Clarence Myerscough on violin pedagogy; and Judith Burton on piano pedagogy. After completing Licentiate of Royal Schools of Music in Piano Teaching (LRSM) in London, he returned home and dedicated his full attention in building his music school business in Kuala Lumpur, Shah Alam and Klang areas.

In 2006, he was one of the pioneer violists in Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's inaugural concert at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas and toured with the orchestra to Penang, Ipoh, Melaka, Johor and Kuantan. He was also a former student of Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO)'s Principal Violist, Giovanni Passini and Co-concertmaster, Liu Jian.

In 2013, he was admitted as a full accredited member of Music Teachers' Association of New South Wales in Australia (MMTA). In the midst of his heavy teaching schedules, he is currently pursuing part-time Masters in Business Administration (Bristol MBA) in Taylor's University Malaysia which he will graduate in 2015. He plays the cello and oboe; sings and involve in music production work during his leisure time. He also likes travelling and indulges himself in various foods around the world.





Why Study Music?

Vanderbilt Researchers Explore Links Between Grammar And Rhythm

A very interesting cross-curricular read!

<http://www.redorbit.com/news/education/1113276207/grammar-and-rhythm-links-vanderbilt-111014/#AYifv6AbVhK0lfUw.99>

Dates For Your Diaries

Wed 10 Dec	Production, 'East Side Story'
Thu 11 Dec	Production, 'East Side Story'
Tue 10 Feb	Instrumental Parents' Evening 3.30- 5pm
Thu 12 Mar	Spring Concert

NEXUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PRESENTS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

EAST SIDE STORIES

TALES FROM SE ASIA
Asian delicacies will be on sale

10th & 11th December 2014
7 pm in the Theatre

RM 15 Adults RM 10 Learners
RM 50 - 2 Adults + 3 Learners

'East Side Stories' is a collection of 3 plays set in Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam: 'Ulek Mayang', 'The Woodcarver's Love' and 'The Crystal Heart'. The tales all have elements of adventure, love and loss, and of course magic!

Suitable for the whole family!!!

'East Side Stories' Wed Dec 10th & Thu Dec 11th 7pm, Tickets on sale now!



It's finally here!

Our School Production for this year, 'East Side Stories', blends kampung life with palaces, the natural elements and our new Gamelan in our tales from SE Asia. It's the ideal way for the whole family to start getting into the holiday spirit!

Featuring 41 performers onstage plus a design, technical and production team of 40 learners and staff, 'East Side Stories' showcases talent and creativity in all areas of Performing and Visual Arts. The PTA will be serving up delicious food from the region before the shows, so get here from 6pm for some magnificent makanan.

Y9 Production: 'Fugee' by Abi Morgan



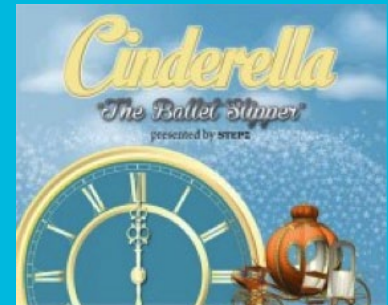
The whole of Y9 are working towards a learner-led production for which is to be performed after the PTC in January.

'Fugee' tells the story of Kojo, a teenage refugee from the Cote D'Ivoire, and the problems he

faces once he reaches the UK. It builds on the learners' research into people trafficking and issues facing asylum seekers.

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the 'Stop the Traffik' charity.

What's On!



KLPAC Dec 21:
'Cinderella' brings a touch of magic to the KLPAC stage for the holiday season.

<http://www.klpac.org/?p=12785>



KLCC Dec 18-22:
'Mama Mia' is an "epic, charming and poignant tale about two Malaysian dreamers, brought to tragi-comic heights."

<http://stagekl.com/shows/mamma-mia-the-musical-live-in-malaysia/>