

CONNECT 27

25 March Issue, Term 2 (2015-2016)



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

PUTRAJAYA



Happy holidays and a huge thank to teachers, learners and parent helpers for their inspiration, hard work and support this term. It has been packed with exciting learning, special events and activities.

Good luck to all the year 11 and Year 13 learners with their exam preparation. Parents, please support them to get good sleep, eat well and have the space to study.

All the best to those families who are leaving Nexus this term and we wish you well.

We look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for another great term of learning.

Alison Hampshire
Principal

PRIMARY

Year 6 Trip to Museum Negara and Mud KL

Exit Point for Our Time Tunnel IPC Unit

Year 6 took our learning outside of the classroom on Wednesday when we visited Museum Negara in KL to see exhibits that linked to our learning in Geography and History. It was an opportunity to see real-life examples of the type of things that we learned about in the classroom.

Our Exit Point for the Time Tunnel unit was a viewing of the musical Mud KL. This was an action packed show full of exactly what we had learned about in our History lessons.

Time Tunnel was a great IPC unit and we finished it off in style with our day trip to KL.

Dave H
Year 6



Friendly Swim Gala

Monday 14th March @ Help International School



Coming up in May we have our annual KLISS Swimming Gala @ IGB against 7 other KL schools. To be ready our learners are training hard; at least 3 times a week!

To prepare for this event learners have taken part in their first friendly competition this term against Help and IGB over at Help International School. It was a positive afternoon with learners clearly displaying a good understanding of starts and finishes and also some great times being achieved in the races!!

Well done to all of the learners that took part!!

Our next friendly competition before KLISS will be at Nexus on Monday 18th April.

U11 Boys Football B Team Tournament

Saturday 5th March @ ISKL, Melawati

Our Year 6 boys, coached by Mr David went over to ISKL to play in the B Team tournament against some of the top sporting schools in KL. They played fantastically, with Muhammad captaining the side to victory in all of their 4 games:

GIS 0 - 6 Nexus
KLASS 0 - 4 Nexus
ISP 0 - 6 Nexus
ELC 0 - 4 Nexus

Well done Boys!!



U11 Girls Football B Team Tournament

Saturday 5th March @ ISKL, Melawati



What a great morning of football! It was an extremely early start for the U11 Girls Team and Mr Dave @ ISKL, Melawati, but it was worth it...

ISKL 0 - 0 Nexus
GIS 0 - 1 Nexus
KLASS A 0 - 1 Nexus
ELC 0 - 2 Nexus
KLASS B 0 - 2 Nexus

Well Done Girls!



Primary KLISS Athletics

Saturday 19th March @ IGB International School

Our learners went to IGB to compete in the annual KLISS Athletics competition against 7 other schools. They have been training during their lunch times and have really shown improvement in their skills in the events they competed.

Lots and lots of medals were won on the day, with great times, jumps and throws in both the track and field events. (too many to mention, you can find all results on the Facebook page)

It was great to see so many happy faces and also lots of parent support for our learners at IGB. The team spirit was fantastic, there was plenty of cheering and encouragement for each other when they were competing. Also, lots of jumping around with medals flying about!!

Overall, Nexus achieved 4th place at this year's KLISS Athletics event with the most number of medals we have achieved in one Primary event.

Go Wolves!



MP2 & MP3 Athletics Day

Wednesday 16th March @ Nexus

What a fantastic morning of Sport!

So many learners taking part and working together with their house and house leader.

Thank you to all of the staff and parents that helped out and made this event a huge success.

It was clear to see that learners were being resilient, rigorous, adaptable and overall great sports people.

This year more learners took part in events also demonstrated superb running, jumping and throwing abilities. Well done to all that represented their house!

This year's winning house was CERGAS!!



EYS & MP1 Athletics Day

Thursday 17th March @ Nexus

Well done to everyone for taking part in the running, throwing and jumping in the Indoor Athletics day competition.

It was great to see so many learners excited and motivated to take part and have fun in their house teams.

Also, a big thank you to all of the parents for coming and supporting our younger learners.

Well done EYS & MP1!



Primary Music News

Y6 Guitar Project

This week Y6 have been working on a guitar project with Ms Ann:



Young Performers' Concert - Auditions

Calling all younger musicians from Year 4 up to Year 9 - The Young Performers' Concert will be held on 12th May in the Theatre. The Music Department will be holding auditions for places in the concert after the holidays so please practise hard and get together with friends to form small groups/ensembles as these will be looked on favorably at audition.

Sharing our cultures through food in Year 9

The Year 9 EAL class learned about procedural writing. We also shared some delicious food this week.

Getting to know about someone's culture is their food. Together we decided to bring food from our culture to share during our EAL lesson. We also learned about procedural writing.



Yusuf brought Koshari from Egypt.



Raghad brought Stuffed Grape Leaves from Egypt.



Xin Hui brought Cola Chicken Wings from China.



Yvonne brought beef and carrot dumplings from China.



Keigo brought onigiri from Japan.



Amir brought Mee Curry from Malaysia.



Yoran brought fried dumplings from China.



Terence brought klepon from Malaysia.

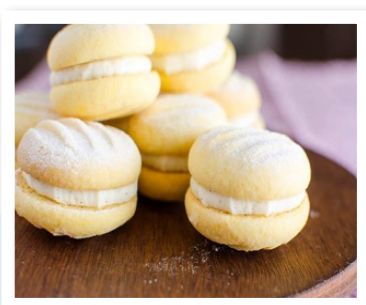


Shaq brought bahulu from Malaysia. Kee Kang brought Tang Yuan from China.



Iman brought Kuih Bakar from Malaysia. I brought Nasi Lemak from Malaysia.

Ms. Sandra brought Melting Moments and Vegemite Sandwiches from Australia.



We made posters of our recipes to show how to make our food. It was a really great way to learn procedural writing and get to know about the different cultures and see what's special about each one. We also enjoyed tasting all the food.

After we finished eating, we brainstormed information about all the different countries in Year 7-9 EAL classes. This information was used in a class quiz on the last day of Term.



Drama

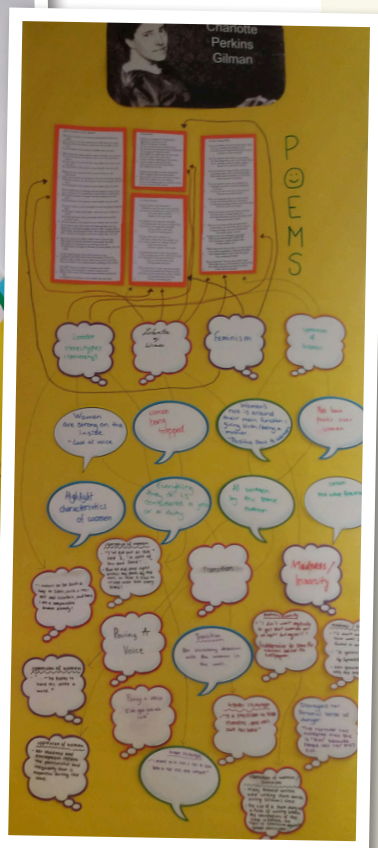
There have been some excellent work towards assessment to end this term in drama, Year 8 explored ensemble acting in the Greek play Jason and the Golden Fleece as well as working with Trestle masks, resulting in some excellent performances.

The Year 12 Theatre Arts IB students performed their version of the contemporary play; Morning by Simon Stephens, where they incorporated physical theatre transitions and a movement piece inspired by the theatre company Frantic Assembly.



Year 13 HL learners tackle “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Contextual study of feminism in the 19th Century Short Story



As a part of the Year 13 IB English A course the learners have been studying their final text for the examinations. One group of learners have been exploring the works of the feminist writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman investigating links between her poetry and short story titled “The Yellow Wallpaper.”

Gilman was a prominent American feminist, sociologist and writer. She lectured on social reform at a time when her accomplishments were exceptional for women and she served as a role model for future generations of feminists because of her unorthodox concepts and lifestyle. Her most famous work is the semi-autobiographical short story “The Yellow Wallpaper” which she wrote after a severe bout of postpartum psychosis.

The Year 13 learners have been studying this unit with a focus on the context of the writing looking through the critical lens of feminism. This week the learners have collaboratively brought together their knowledge and understanding of the text through an interactive display charting the changes in the narrator’s perspectives, thematic connections between the writer’s poems and short story; and visual collages of the use of imagery within the story. This culminated in drawing all of their knowledge together to practice previous exam questions.

Year 9 English

As part of non-fiction analysis in the Media unit, the year 9s were looking at responding to a newspaper article. The learning involved was comprehension of the contents as well as identification of literary and persuasive strategies inherent in a newspaper article. The focus was on interpretation of meaning rather than a simple restatement of the contents of the article. The task was to create a reply to a given newspaper article in the form of a newspaper article. The learners all sourced the templates themselves and employed their personal writing styles in the article.

Mr Rizwan

Big Brother Is Watching You



Are we really safe? The top news for these past few months is the whole FBI vs Apple case, Tim Cook versus the government. If you're not up to date with this whole story, have you been living under a rock?. Do you remember the shooting that happened last year, which one you ask? The one that happened December 2nd 2015 at San Bernardino. 14 people were killed and 22 seriously injured in a "terrorist" attack conducted by 2 armed "terrorists". 4 hours after the massacre, the gunman attempted to escape through a van the FBI pursued the gunman and killed them in a shootout. While the FBI searched the "terrorist" house they found gun, explosive and their phones. The FBI immediately went to apple to retrieve information on the phones. Apple co-operated with them and gave all the information apple thought the FBI needed. Now the FBI suspect that there is still more information hiding within the phone that apple has not handed over. The FBI now request that apple develop a software which completely obliterates our privacy and safety by circumventing Apple software. Letting the government's, FBI spy on us even more than they already are. They will be able to read every message we have ever sent a funny joke could turn into an Guantanamo orange jumpsuit and a fun trip to confinement.

Lies told by people who want us to support them spread around like viruses. Making innocent civilians who know of this "privacy vs safety" controversy not

aware of why the FBI want this software and why Apple are refusing to make it. They read the articles given, infecting their gullible brains into believing which ever side produces more of a convincing story. So far the winning side of this, apple has released multiple statements from their Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook. He talks about many other mistake "I think safety of the public is incredibly important. Safety of our kids, safety of our families is very important," But the public are worrying for a different reasons as if this software was to be created like what happens when they see your embarrassing chats, awkward photos. The world is gonna end how we can't stand the idea of someone being able to see what we are doing or have sent. The uneasy feeling we have when we know someone is watching. We know that governments spy on us but up to the point where they could see everything we have ever said or done demolishes any trust we have for this government.

Humans now live off technology we take our phones everywhere we go. We act like we would never be able to live without our phones. Likes it's the end of the world if we dropped our phones or left them home. What makes us humans so cautious when it comes to our privacy, why must we hide stuff that really isn't that bad. The simple effect of just going through someone's web browser history sends chills down their spines makes them anxious and worried. Since most of the people unaware of the actual real issues of this "Privacy vs Safety" conspiracy it makes us, humans support apple for the sake of our privacy even though we don't have any since FBI are spying on us anyway. This makes us bias all because of the fact the we don't want someone to know what we have done.

Adding in a new problem to the already increasingly problematic case "What is at stake here is 'can the government compel Apple to write software that we believe would make hundreds of millions

of customers vulnerable around the world, including the U.S.?" If the governments can get apple to do this what else would they be able to get from other companies. Opposing governments already has apple in a very complicated situation. But the FBI believes that they are doing what's best for the people safety wise. They believe that making this will be able to lower crime rate and stop potential attacks. Some who oppose the FBI suggest that all of your credit cards numbers, bank accounts and other personal information could be leaked. Yes, it could but using this software they can track down the people that have done it and lock them up. So there would be no point

"Apple has cooperated with the FBI fully in this case," Cook said. "They came to us and asked us for all the information we had on this phone, and we gave them everything we had." It's not that apple are refusing to help when needed. Its that FBI do not trust Apple and are demanding more from them. They only do this just to be sure that they are being as careful as they can be to catch everyone related to the San Bernadino case. This issue is as well as involves trust between the big shot Apple and the apparent big bad wolf FBI. But Fighting with majorly important points but both with severe consequence which one will out run the other, making matters for better or for worse.

Is risking your life really worth it to make sure you have some privacy. Safety of your property is important like your credit cards, account info are important as well but is that more important than your life.

by: Caylyn Pooler

Year 11 IB Art Exhibition

Sci-Fi, Dreams and Phobias.

This week Year 13 Visual Arts Learners have proudly exhibited their IB exam work in the MPR. The learners have been working on thematic concepts for their artwork this year. The idea behind this is to have all of their work link together and to have it explained by the artist in a written Curatorial Rationale and in artwork scripts. The learners have been working flat out this week to put up their show and have hosted it, speaking with all the visiting learners, parents and teachers about their work and concepts.

Here are some of their gut feeling reactions in a sentence each:

Akila: "Nervous at first, but now a new and rewarding experience"

Farah: "it was hard work but worth it. I was surprised by the viewers reaction because I thought my work was not good, yet they really liked it."

Nabilah: "At first I had a low self esteem about my artwork, but as more viewers came in, I gained experience and confidence as the audience reaction towards my work was very positive."



SPRING CONCERT - Wednesday 23rd March

Review

The Spring Concert last Wednesday 23rd March was a wonderful evening and such a great success, with some stunning and amazing performance. Well done to all of the 200+ senior performers involved in making the concert so memorable, you all did fantastically well.

Special mention must go to the Y8s performing their Whole Class Samba Performance/Compositions, the String Orchestra, Wind Band, Baroque String Ensemble, Sax Ensemble and the Choirs. You guys in the ensembles have put in so much work and commitment to rehearsals in your own time which was rewarded by some stunning performance, well done and thank you to all of you involved.

Well done also to all the soloist/duets etc. for being so courageous and special thanks also to Mr Dan Tan for his fantastic and new Sax Ensemble, it is was a wonderful new addition to our concerts and very much appreciated by all.

The video for the Spring Concert will be edited and made available soon. A BIG thank you to Mr Jason, Mr Tom and their team of camera-men/women for their time and efforts.



Rock Concert - Auditions

Calling all popular music groups/bands from ALL year groups. The Rock Concert will be held on 26th May. The Guitar and Drum teachers are putting most of the programme together but there will still be space for a few other high quality items. We will be holding auditions for places in the concert after the holidays so please practise hard together with friends in your band over the holiday.

Instrumental Lessons

****NEWS FLASH****

A New Term is just around the corner so why not try playing a musical instrument:

Sign Up for Instrumental Lessons Here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nexus.edu.my/music-department/sign-up-for-instrumental-lessons>

Why not give it a try for a term - you are not signing up for life, just to see if you like it!

Wonderful Concert Opportunity - Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana' - It is an amazing piece of music!

Tenby Schools Setia Eco Park (KL) is staging the biggest and most ambitious concert in its history. 200 students and staff from all five Tenby Schools in Malaysia (KL, Ipoh, Penang, Johor and Miri) are coming together to perform 'Carmina Burana' which requires a large orchestra, vocal soloists, choir and dancers. The 70 minute piece is a collection of 13th century lyrics set to a dynamic, percussive score by Carl Orff in the 1930's.

Date: Sunday 8th May, 2016

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS, Kuala Lumpur City Centre

Please may we warmly invite you to witness this performance with your friends and family. Tickets are on sale now, please call 03-3342 1535 for reservation with Ms. Mandy Cheong.

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Dates For Your Diaries

Wednesday 27th April

Thursday 12th May

Wednesday 18th May

Thursday 26th May

Wednesday 8th June

Monday 27th June

Y2 Primary Showcase

Young Performers' Concert - 7pm in the Theatre

Y1 Primary Showcase

Rock Concert

Early Years Showcase

Very Young Performers' Concert

Why Study Music?

Children Learn Faster To The Sound of Music
By Rob Edwards: The New Scientist, May 18, 1996

Teaching children more music at school improves their ability to learn language and social skills, say Swiss educational researchers. A study of 1200 children in Switzerland found that those who were given extra music lessons performed better than those who were not.

Music can have a positive influence on the emotions, according to Maria Spychiger, a psychologist from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. "When children sing or play music together, they have to learn to listen to one another," she says. "Competing behaviour is not compatible with making music."

With Jean-Luc Patry from Salzburg University in Austria, Spychiger studied 70 classes of children aged between 7 and 15. The number of 45-minute music lessons in 35 of the classes was increased to five a week by reducing the time spent teaching math or language. Children in the remaining 35 classes continued with just one or two music lessons a week.

After three years, the children in both groups were asked a series of questions designed to compare their intelligence, cognitive ability and social integration. The children's teachers were also canvassed for their opinions.

No differences were found in the intelligence of the children in the two groups. But Spychiger says that children given the extra music lessons were better at language and no worse at math, despite the fact that they had received fewer lessons in those subjects. They showed improvements in their ability to retell in writing or pictures a story that had been read to them. Teachers reported that younger children given the extra lessons learned to read more easily.

There was also much less social tension in the classes which had been taught more music, Spychiger told New Scientist. The children were more cooperative with the teacher and more friendly towards each other, she says. Fewer children were cast as "outsiders".

Spychiger made a special study of one class of children who were so difficult to control that no one wanted to teach them. A teacher agreed to take them on, as long as they were included in the group that received extra music lessons. Despite initial problems, the children learned to play music together. After three years, the class gave a "spectacular" concert, says Spychiger. "It was a miracle."

U15 Girls Basketball Plate Final

Wednesday 23rd March 2016

Yesterday evening the U15 Girls Basketball team participated in the plate final at IGB school. They were up against Taylor's, Tenby and IGB.

Due to some of the players also being involved in the Spring Concert on the same night, the players had to play back to back games. The first game played was against IGB. This was a tough game to begin with. Nexus had to work hard in defence. The game ended with a score of 10-6 to IGB.

The next two games were against Taylor's and then Tenby. The U15 girls team showed what they were truly capable of in these games working well as a team and showed improvements in their attacking skills. These two games finished And to Nexus.

We are yet to find out the result of this tournament due to having to leave before the results were announced.

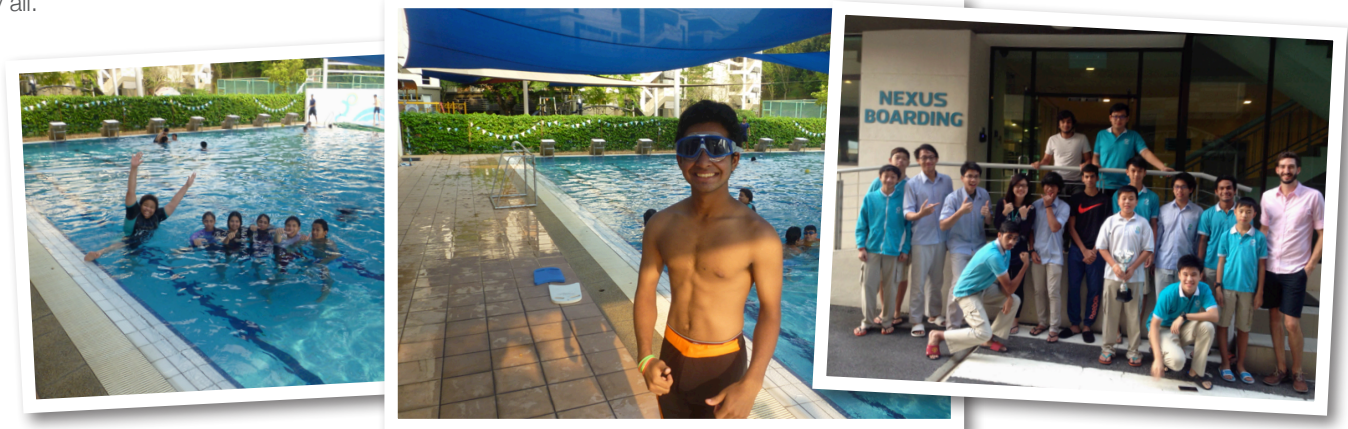


Boarding Blog

Inter Floor Swimming

The boarders had fun cooling off during the heatwave by taking part in an inter-floor swimming competition at the pool. As well as the traditional freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke races they also competed to see who could make the biggest splash in the dive-bomb competition. Other events included the t-shirt relay and the float race, where teams were timed pushing one of their teammates across the pool sitting on the large float! After strong performances from Dickson, Kanishka and Ryan, the boys from floor three were deserved victors. It was great to see so many boarders getting involved, whether that be through competing in the races or cheering on their friends.

After the events of the competition were complete, it was time for a whole boarding house water polo match, before heading back to the boarding house for dinner. Mr Troy arranged a barbeque meal to celebrate the last week of term and the delicious food was enjoyed by all.



Dialogue in the Dark

Dialogue in the Dark is a simulation of the daily life of someone who is blind. The boarders who participated were split into two groups of eight people. We were handed a white stick each and given instructions on how to use them. We were then walked, single file, into a dark room which eventually got so dark that we couldn't even see our hands in front of our face - suddenly use of the white stick had become very important! We were introduced to our guide, she took us for a walk around what appeared to be a forest with leaves on the ground and streams all around. The boarders quickly had to come to terms with using each other and their white sticks for support.

Our guide then took us to a cafe, still in complete darkness, we were allowed to order a few drinks. Kanishka remarkably managed to find the right bank note to pay for his drinks. While drinking our coffees and soft drinks, we got the opportunity to ask our guide some questions. This was when it became apparent that she was actually blind, she went on to explain that she had been blind since she was 6 years old. The boarders asked about her life and her family, she talked openly about the complications she faces in day to day life but also about the support she receives from organisations like Dialogue in the Dark. We were all impressed at her ability to move so easily around the faux world created in the dark room, and how she managed to find every member of the group so quickly just by calling their name.

This activity created a truly immersive learning environment for our boarders, and the mature manner that they approached this completely unfamiliar experience was outstanding.

Trainee Teachers

This term we have been fortunate enough to have three trainee teachers assist with duties in the boarding house. Ms Joyce, Ms Kit May and Ms Valerie have been extremely valuable during prep as well as joining in with the fun activities that we do. We would all like to thank them for their hard work and we wish them well in their final semester before they graduate.

Important Dates - Term Three

April

Sunday 10th Boarders return from 3.00pm
Friday 29th (Long Weekend) Boarders depart after school

May

Monday 2nd Boarders return from 3.00pm
Wednesday 18th (Mid term break) Boarders depart after school
Monday 23rd Boarders return from 3.00pm

June

Tuesday 28th (End of Term) Boarders depart after school



Library News!

The library now has a dedicated Travel section concentrating mainly on Malaysia and its Asian neighbours. Sadly, the books cannot be taken on holiday with you, but you can pop along and read a range of LP guides at your leisure.

There is also a new Malaysian book collection with over 50 books that explore the history, culture and peoples of Malaysian. Our Graded Reader section is now fully established with over 500 titles! It is always popular with students and is suitable for English beginners through to advanced learners in Y5-11.

The Overdrive E-text & Audio book platform has been rolled out across Primary. Students have been wildly ordering their favourite books which are usually available 24 hours after order!

The books can be read/heard on MAC/PC/iPad; there is also an app for your phone, so get downloading, and get reading! Please note teachers, there are a lot of books in Overdrive that are suitable for a range of subject areas, and books are being added daily to match the IPC unit topics. It is also possible to choose books via lexile level.

The school research page is now well established and has a full range of resources to cater for all ages and subject areas. If you have not used it, you're late! And well behind the students (worried yet?). If you want to be in the know, book a training session for your department, students or just yourself.

If you want a demo of the research page, Overdrive or any specific databases, please contact the library