

CONNECT 36

02 September Issue, Term 1 (2016-2017)

Issue No. 37 will be in October. We are going monthly not weekly from now on.



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
MALAYSIA

Milepost 3 Family Workshop

Here at Nexus Malaysia we aim to work in partnership with parents. To highlight this, at the start of every new year we invite parents to a Meet and Greet session. However, this year we built upon the success of last Year's Family workshop and extended it to both classes in Milepost 3.

Workshops this year included Esafety, getting to grips with Google Drive and an introduction to our new Seesaw online digital portfolio.

Parents were able to clarify some questions regarding the responsible use of Macbooks at home. The learners got to show off their Google Slides skills and work collaboratively with their parents to create digital presentations.

But by far the most popular activity with parents was learning about how they could get involved in the learning journey of their children. Together, learners posted and commented on each other's work using the Seesaw Parent Access App. Guidelines were created for developing positive learning conversations which help to develop the important Growth mindset all Nexus learners strive for.

Learners are enjoying keeping their parents up to date with what learning is going on in their classroom and parents equally value the opportunity to contribute to this journey.

A big thank you to all the parents and learners that participated and to all the staff who contributed to the success of these workshops.

Parents and Learners getting connected through Seesaw.

Rob Holmes



New learner induction

On Monday the 22nd of August, our new secondary learners had an IT induction to get them used to their brand new Macbooks. Mr Jared and Mr Graeme went through the Nexus expectations when using a computer, briefly covering topics such as healthy use, breaks and email etiquette.

The new learners then had the option to learn the basics of Mac OS, learning about passwords, installing safe software, managing files and the trackpad, followed by a brief discovery session with Google Classroom.

Jared Wilson

UK University Fair at Nexus

On Monday 29th August Nexus International School hosted a University Fair with representatives from 30 UK based and 4 Malaysian based Universities. The event was an excellent opportunity for our year 13 learners to start to finalise their options as they are in the midst of applying to university. It was also an ideal opportunity for our Year 11 and 12 learners to start thinking about their own career and higher education pathways and to help with possible subject options for IB.

The event was very well attended with over 150 learners & parents coming and discussing with the representatives. After the event many learners had either widened their options for study, or had enabled them to identify realistic and achievable higher education pathways. The fair ultimately was able to energise those that attended and to get them enthused by the wide range of careers and educational pathways open to them.



Andrew Davies

Aqua Elite Master Class @ Alice Smith

Friday 26th August 2016

On Friday our learners in the Swim Team had a great opportunity to go and train with two Great British Swimmers, Anthony James and Steven Beckerleg.

They spent the morning learning the fundamentals and developing their skills further with some excellent tips. They then spent some of the afternoon in the classroom discussing and thinking about their dreams and goals for the future. Our learners had a fantastic day and came away with some new knowledge which they will be putting into practise in the swimming pool next week!



Gemma Cracker

IB Residential

Meeting new people is always nerve wracking. This time was no different. Being forced to socialise was hard at first, but as we teamed up for sports and laughed at each other during drama, the first day became a little less awkward. Of course it wasn't just fun and games. Mr Jared's enlightening talk on TOK left us something to think about whilst Ms Saron's very informative presentation on CAS gave us an idea of the many exciting activities we'd be doing to become well rounded learners. Mr Paul's 2 hour competitive sports session left something to be desired as we were made to sprint, catch, and throw in the swelteringly stuffy hall (it was still fun though). We finished off the night eating Mr Mark's deliciously baked scones and caramel granola.

The next morning started with breakfast, and then a group activity where we had to run around school solving questions. Then we made our way to the pool for a raft building activity. Interestingly enough, none of the rafts designed actually served their purpose as everyone made desperate attempts to stay afloat. After lunch, we listened intently as Mr Greg taught us the wonders of ICT. I found it the most challenging when the Y12s were grouped with Y13s to make sculptures with cardboard boxes tissue rolls which represented IB. There ended up being some quite creative sculptures and explanations, and a few odd contraptions. Later that evening, we watched the nail biting match between Lee Chong Wei and Chen Long, rejoicing and despairing with each point gained and lost.

Waking up early the next day, we had another enriching talk on ICT, this time by Mr Jared. We finished off the residential with meeting our teachers and getting our timetables. It was a good way to get to know everyone before the school year started. A great experience overall and I felt ready for school on the Monday morning.

Starting IB, I felt less intimidated by the difficulty of the syllabus as we were given advice during the residential on how to handle the workload and what needed to be done in order to achieve our desired grades. The talks on CAS and TOK gave me an idea of the kind of learning that we'd be doing in IB which was helpful, as we wouldn't be completely clueless as to what was required of us.



Lih Xiu Liew (Y12)

Instrumental Demo & Parent Sign-up Afternoon

On Tuesday 30th August the Music Department presented a demonstration of all the instruments that are offered for music lesson in front of the whole school. The 14 Instrumental Teachers did a wonderful job of 'selling their instruments' including the Harp and Indian Flute, Sitar and Tabla (which are 4 new instruments offered this year).

On Thursday 1st September, parents met with the instrumental teachers and asked them questions, before signing up for lessons. The Music Department now has 39 new learners signed up for instrumental lessons this year, which is an increase of 20% on last year's total number of learners having lessons.

A bit thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the process, we can't wait hear all of our new musical learners in the concerts coming up later in the year.



Tim Costello

Term 1 Week 1 - Boarding Blog

After an enjoyable holiday break, anticipation was high last Sunday evening as staff, parents and boarders met each other, some for the first time. As we all gathered for dinner Mr Troy welcomed everybody and introduced the houseparents Mr Alex, Ms Scout and Ms Bobby. We have welcomed twenty-five new boarders into the boarding house with all four floors occupied by a total of sixty-seven boys and girls.

The first weekend activity was a trip to IKEA for boarders to purchase any little nic-nacs that they wanted for their bedroom or bathrooms. Small mirrors, laptop mats, pen holders and storage boxes seemed to be the more popular items bought. We then ventured to the Mines Shopping Mall for lunch and some more retail therapy for those who had not had enough earlier on in the day.

On Sunday, the inaugural Nexus Boarding 'Wacky Sunday' took place with all boarders participating in team building, fun games, Tug o' War and swimming. This was a great opportunity for boarders to communicate with and get to know more about each other in an action-packed afternoon. We all enjoyed a beautiful BBQ dinner afterwards.



Troy Looms

We say goodbye to Connect

To all you faithful Connect readers,

We have made a decision to discontinue Connect and try different ways to connect with Nexus parents. So this is the final issue of Connect as you know it!

From next week onwards:

1. There will be a weekly parent bulletin sent to parents every Monday with information about events
2. We will be replacing the weekly connect with a slimline MONTHLY version. This will be a NEWSLETTER in an electronic emailer format that will link to the website.
3. We will post write ups of ongoing major events on the front page of the school website

Please note that this is an experiment to see which format works for us to communicate to parents, so we would really like you our current Connect readers to give us your feedback.

Feel free to send your feedback to arukanathan.r@nexus.edu.my.

Goodbye...

