

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

KHMER NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Khmer New Year, or 'Choul Chnam Thmey' in the Khmer language, is indeed a vibrant and joyous celebration in Cambodia, marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of a new year. It's a time when families and communities come together to engage in many cultural activities, including offering food to monks, playing traditional games, and participating in ceremonies that honor the past and welcome the future. The festival is a beautiful expression of Cambodia's rich cultural heritage and community spirit, reflecting the country's values and traditions.

Our entire school community came together to celebrate and enjoy the festivities. It was heart warming to see parents and children enjoying the traditional games together, fostering cultural continuity among the younger generation.



YEAR 2 FIELD TRIP TO BAMBU STAGE



Year 2A and 2B enjoyed a wonderful visit to Bambu Stage. The students learned how to make traditional Sbek Thom or Khmer Shadow Puppets. Using wooden hammers and large nails, they worked in groups to create different puppets including giraffes, buffaloes, people and elephants. The performers taught them how to maneuver the puppets, and all the students had great fun bringing them to life in their own shadow puppet performances. They also had great fun watching the artists perform with some other animal puppets. The children brought their puppets that they made back to school with them and will continue to enjoy creating puppet shows in class.

MS. LUCY AND MS. JACALYN



RECEPTION 2 FIELD TRIP TO APOPO VISITOR CENTER

Reception 2 visited APOPO Visitor Center on Thursday, 11th April as part of their Superheroes Topic. APOPO is a facility which trains African giant pouched rats to detect landmines. They discovered that not all superheroes wear capes and not all superheroes are human. With this in mind, our visit to APOPO showed how important animals, particularly these large rats, are at saving many lives by detecting landmines. They learnt about different types of landmines, how to clear them and saw a live demonstration of the HeroRATS at work on a simulated minefield. The HeroRATS are able to sniff out and scratch at the surface to indicate that they have found something. They receive a reward each time they 'find' something, this comes in the form of bananas. Who knew rats liked bananas!

We met Alvin and Valerie the super rats.

MRS. SALLY-ANNE



Valerie

An informative and wonderful experience was had by the children and adults alike.



Alvin



STAR OF THE MONTH



Year 2A and 2B worked together to create a performance surrounding the importance of protecting the Earth. Using green screen technology, the students were all able to play a role in sharing information about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, deforestation, reforestation and simple tips and tricks that can be used to reduce waste in everyday life. Reuseable products such as bags, containers, coffee cups, water bottles, silicone straws and portable cutlery were shown through the video and held up as props during the assembly to showcase the ease in which they can be used. It is almost a month later and both classes still enjoy singing Big Yellow Taxi and relaying the message that we can no longer pave paradise to put up a parking lot. Remember, there is no planet B!



EARTH DAY



Using cardboard as the base, Year 2 prepared shapes such as the Earth, hearts and the letters ISSR for the rest of the school to decorate using recycled and natural materials. The assembly focused on protecting the Earth, classes got together to create intricate pieces of art with straws, cutlery, plastic containers, wood, flowers and leaves to create the balance between natural and man-made materials. On Earth Day, Monday the 22nd of April, the students displayed their artwork at the entrance for all to see. Permanent positions have been found for these pieces in our library so all can remember the Earth every day.

MS. JACALYN



MYTHS AND LEGENDS DAY!



Year 3 inspired their school community on Friday the 26th of April when they led a student assembly all about myths and legends. Students took turns speaking with confidence, teaching pupils across all year levels about the features of myths and legends, giving examples and showing artwork of mythical creatures and famous legends. Year 3 showcased their own original myths and legends, reading them out loud in entertaining styles which made the audience laugh, smile and gasp!

Students gave tips and advice on the writing process, breaking it down step-by-step for others to follow. These exciting stories will be kept safe in the library for all students to read and enjoy. Year 3 are proud of their hard work and are now published authors!



MR. ELLIOT



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The Power of Critical Thinking: Essential Skill for the 21st Century



These days, we find the world is rapidly changing, this means the ability to think critically has never been more important. Critical thinking is not just a skill but a necessity for students to negotiate the complex landscape of the 21st century.

Why Does Critical Thinking Matter?

Critical thinking allows individuals to objectively analyse information and make reasoned judgements. It involves questioning assumptions, evaluating evidence, and synthesizing information from various sources. In the 21st century, this skill is invaluable as it empowers students to:

- **Solve Complex Problems:** With the rise of new technologies and global challenges, students will face problems that require innovative solutions. Critical thinking equips them with the ability to approach these problems methodically and creatively.
- **Navigate Information Overload:** The digital age has led to an explosion of information. Critical thinkers can effectively sift through this sea of data and distinguish between what is useful and what is not.
- **Make Informed Decisions:** From social media to news outlets, students are bombarded with persuasive messages. Critical thinking helps them to evaluate these messages and make decisions based on evidence and reason.

- **Foster Independence:** By thinking critically, students learn to rely on their own judgment and become more independent learners. This self-reliance is crucial for success in both academic and professional settings.
- **Promote Lifelong Learning:** Critical thinking is the foundation of lifelong learning. It encourages curiosity and a love for discovery, which are essential for personal and professional growth.

Cultivating Critical Thinking in Schools

Schools play a pivotal role in developing critical thinking skills. In line with our school vision and mission our teachers can foster these skills by:

- Encouraging questions and open discussions in the classroom.
- Presenting real-world problems for students to solve.
- Integrating technology in a way that promotes analytical thinking.
- Providing opportunities for collaborative learning.

Conclusion

As we look to the future, critical thinking stands out as a cornerstone of education. It is a skill that is found in all academic disciplines, and it will help prepare students for the complexities of their life. By nurturing critical thinkers, we are not just educating our students; we are equipping them to be the innovators, leaders, and responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Upcoming Events



- **Star of the Month— Early Years**
Thursday 16th May
Primary School Friday 17th May.
- **Primary School Splash Day**
Reception 2 – Year 6 **Friday 24th May.**