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International School of Siem Reap

2016-17

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The High School

NEWSLETTER

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## Sports Day



High School Sports Day  
March 31st 2017



Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> saw the annual High School Sports Day from 0800 – 1200 at Chun Lung Sports Centre. It was superbly organised by Mr Rob and supported by the entire staff, the House spirit being very much in evidence as students cheered and congratulated their respective teams.



Year 11 were trounced by the teachers in the tug-of-war contest, one student expressing amazement at this stunning overthrow: "I didn't think teachers were so strong!" Think again. The students, however, did make a tremendous comeback in their victory in the relay race. The Principal thanks all the staff who worked so hard to make the day an unqualified success.

#### House Points Sports Day

Angkor Wat	46 points (4 <sup>th</sup> )	Bayon	47 points (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Banteay Srei	49 points (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Ta Prohm	51 points (1 <sup>st</sup> )

#### Running total 2016-17: everything to play for!

Angkor Wat	173 points (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Bayon	168 points (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Banteay Srei	172 points (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Ta Prohm	158 points (4 <sup>th</sup> )

#### Presentation and Communication Skills: Y10 / Y11 / Y13 awards

From January to March, Year 10, 11 and 13 students attended a professional course in presentation and communication skills conducted by the Principal culminating in a series of presentations which were assessed according to the following criteria: slide format, introduction, preparedness, smoothness of transition, use of gesture / eye contact, use of space, voice, signposting, avoidance of distraction and imaginative presentation technique. This was a demanding course and all those who participated became very aware of how much thought and preparation are required to ensure a successful presentation that will maintain the audience's attention.

The following students successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates during assembly on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

##### Year 10

Centina Caboor  
Danesh Mariapan  
Huiju Yun  
Kimyi Tang  
Lucas Purnell

Pei Shan Taing  
Philos Himm  
Reaksmey Morgan  
Yoondong Ji

##### Year 11

Bory Rit Yin  
Bunho Tan  
Gaeul Kim  
Heerim Han  
Jungmin Lee

Junmin Kim  
Koki Yoshimoto  
Maylis Benoit  
Siv Hong Lor  
Watchray Yin

##### Year 13

Vichea Balch



A further round of assessments will take place for those students in Years 7 – 9 who attended this course as part of their ECA programme.

Y9 / Y10 Expedition to Kampot

ISSR is in the process of organising a school expedition for our Year 9 and 10 students to Kampot from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May until Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and we are delighted that the vast majority of the students will be able to participate.

The students, accompanied by the Principal, Mr. Max and Ms Hannah will be staying at Salty River Resort.

Coach transport from the School will take the group directly to Kampot and will be with us for the duration of the expedition.

A range of activities have been organized, including:



[1] **bicycle tour** around Kampot with Butterfly Tours; we will be visiting a variety of cultural sites including a rice mill, a lotus farm and rice paddies where students will learn how Cambodian rolled cake and traditional Khmer noodles are made.

[2] **Pepper Farm:** Students will have the opportunity to learn about how organic pepper is grown, as well as other crops, in and around Kampot.



[3] **Bokor Mountain Tour:** Students will have the chance to enjoy and explore the wonderful mountain scenery through an organised trek, see the waterfalls and learn about the historical significance of the ruined Catholic Church and Old Royal Guesthouse.

The Principal remembers with fondness his first school expedition to the Netherlands at the age of ten, a single expedition that led to countless others both during and after his school years (and which, in a sense, ultimately led to Cambodia), and he has been a tireless supporter of such initiatives ever since. Travel – both local and international – not only furnishes students with academic and cultural knowledge, but also fosters independence and interaction with others, as well as developing tolerance, sensitivity, adaptability and, above all, curiosity, that desire – possibly lifelong – to explore further. While Kampot may not be the world's most challenging environment, it does mark the start of the School's development plan to offer students the opportunity to participate in expeditions both within Cambodia and in other countries in the South East Asian region. Our thanks go to Mr Max and Ms Hannah for their meticulous planning.

The Principal will be visiting Kampot in advance of the expedition in order to make the standard health and safety checks carried out by all international schools.

#### **Khmer Games**



Bodh: genius in Maths ...and Musical Chairs

The High School and Primary School jointly celebrated the Khmer New Year by participating in the Khmer Games held on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.



Elliot and Mr Rob show how tough they think they are.



Primary children explain the three-legged race to Bory.

#### **Y7 / Y8 / Y10 cinema visit**

After years of research and months of filming, Fauna in Focus, a superb project about nature in Cambodia, was premiered at Shinta Mani in March. However, on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, students from Y7, Y8 and Y10 had the opportunity to attend a very special, schools only screening of the film at the Platinum Complex. We thank Mr Greg, the organiser of the event, and the teachers who also accompanied the students.



## Year 7 Biology Practicals



Year 7 students designed their own quadrats to find out how bio-diverse the ISSR school field is. We estimated that there were roughly 30,000 grass plants in that small area of the school. We also counted a handful of other plants, and most importantly, identified a few frogs! (MEJ)

We investigated how quickly heat is lost when an 'Easter Bunny' is deprived of its furry coat. We measured the temperature drop using scientific equipment and compared a 'furry' Easter bunny with a 'bare' Easter Bunny. The results showed how important it is for a rabbit to insulate itself during the cold winter months.(MEJ)



## Assembly

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Ms Hannah conducted an assembly with her ECA performing arts group. Students selected their favourite piece of drama, which was then performed before the whole school. Performances included an extract from Blood Brothers, drama in a box (performing within a limited space), conveying meaning exclusively through gesture and advertising products. (HH)



## Examinations: update

All Checkpoint examinations, IGCSE coursework, ICT practical tests and French / Mandarin oral examinations are now complete and have been dispatched to Cambridge International for marking. The main body of IGCSE / AS / A2 examinations will begin in earnest in May.

## Valedictory Assembly

The entire High School wished Year 11 and Year 13 the best of luck as they began their study leave at 4pm on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Principal encouraged them to pursue in their lives what captured their interests and not to be influenced to follow pathways that were not of their choosing. Members of staff

representing different aspects of the School each read a verse from the beautiful and thoughtful poem called the Desiderata, often used as an expression of good luck as young people embark on the next phase of their lives, the first lines reproduced below:

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible without surrender  
be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;  
and listen to others,*

The Principal awarded certificates of Special Merit, recommended by the teachers, to students in Y11 and Y13 who have made significant contribution to the life of the School during the academic year.



The Year 11 and Year 13 examination candidates and leavers



The Principal delivers the valedictory speech encouraging the students to explore the world

The Desiderata read by the Principal, Mr Andrew, Mr Neville, Ms Sinead, Ms Hannah, Ms Srey Rath



Certificates of Special Merit awarded to Vichea Balch (Head of the Council), Maylis Benoit (Captain of Bayon) and Watchray Yin (Captain of Banteay Srei)

## The Spirit of a school

In the preceding newsletters there has always been a section entitled “The School at Work”, a series of photographs – often with little or no commentary – that reflect the everyday activities at school of the different year groups. However, as the end of the school year is in sight, I have chosen for this and forthcoming newsletters some photographs from the thousands taken this year which have a more reflective quality capturing special, sometimes quiet moments and which convey the range of experiences that the students have enjoyed. There are no words; the pictures tell the story of what truly constitutes the spirit of a school.



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