

Hallo Everyone,

Term 1 has been and gone, Khmer New Year has just finished and here we are starting Term 2. Four months gone, so fast! The last few weeks, although normally the hottest part of the year, have been exceptionally hot this year, many days over 100°. The hottest weather recorded in 170 years. Very uncomfortable and very tiring for everyone. Andrew went fishing and I spent Khmer New Year school holidays settled in front of a fan with good books, my kind of holiday.

KIMHEAN WAS MARRIED

The day before the new school year started in 2024, Kimhean was married. Congratulations to our Head Teacher, Ngov Kimhean and Neang Seap on their marriage. Wishing them a long, happy married life.



LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (LAP)

We began a LAP programme at Kep Gardens this year. We have one parent, Koa Vettha who participates twice a week listening to students read Khmer books. Translated: "I now realize how valuable one-on-one help for a student is. By coming to Kep Gardens twice a week for one hour each time, I give struggling students the opportunity to practise and learn at their own pace. What a great feeling when a student has understood and can remember the sounds, can

spell out a word and say the word without any help. I feel proud that I have helped students not only improve their Khmer reading, but also provided them with a future. Reading and writing Khmer is important for their future."



Thank you to Vettha and five Class 4 students who have given their time to read Khmer with the students during their extra Khmer language class.

VOLUNTEER

Louis Brady volunteered at Kep Gardens for 3 weeks, reading with younger students and working with Class 9 students to prepare their debating topics. Thank you Louis for your valued contribution to our school. We will miss you when you move on. A few words from Louis: I am a 67 year old, retired IT Manager from the UK. I am spending a few weeks helping the children of Kep Gardens with their English reading and conversation. Kep Gardens is a wonderful community school in rural Cambodia. I would urge other people with some free time to volunteer at Kep Gardens. Louis



SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

A water squirter, growing crystals and making goo were science experiments that various groups in Class 4 chose to work on recently. All the experiments were successful. The students learnt important lessons such as team decision-making, preparation, following instructions and teamwork.

You have achieved so much and done so much for many, many people literally from all over the world! Kep Gardens is a haven of beauty and beautiful souls. I was there only a very short time but its impact has been huge on my heart. Much love and respect.

Lissa Hayworth, Australia



COSTUME BOX

A very big thank you to Agnes De Groote, a long-time supporter, volunteer, fundraiser and the person who keeps our costume box topped up. The Playgroup and Kindergarten children love to dress up and use their imaginations to pretend they are something or somebody else. Agnes was in Cambodia recently, and true to her calling in life, she brought more costumes to add to the box. We sincerely appreciate Agnes' support of Kep Gardens and look forward to her frequent visits.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN ASSOCIATION

IWA, International Women Association, every year provides us with backpacks and pencil cases for our new students. The backpacks are recycled cement bags. Two of the first topics our new students are taught, are rubbish and recycling, so the backpacks are a perfect way to explain recycling to them. A huge thank you to IWA, not only for supplying the backpacks to our students, but also for providing employment to village men and women through your project. You are helping the people of Kep in a variety of ways. Thank you.



GERI THE CLOWN

Geri the Clown performed for some lucky students and made them very happy earlier this year. They loved his show and we hope he will come back next year to spread his happiness to all. Thank you, Geri the Clown, for your contribution to introducing fun and laughter into childrens' lives to help make the world a friendlier place.



NURSING STUDENTS

Lotte and Nienke, Dutch nursing students, are doing an internship at the Sonja Kill Hospital in Kampot. Recently, they spent the whole day at Kep Gardens, talking about personal hygiene with the younger students and menstruation with the older girls. They showed students how to wash their hands and clean their teeth. Thanks to the Buddhist Library Cambodia Project and Colgate, they were able to give each child a set of toothpaste and toothbrushes to take home. In the evening they held a workshop on menstruation

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

Winston Churchill

with the older girls. This all came about because of Dini. Dini and her husband were our first volunteers with BeMore, many years ago. She was a nursing lecturer in The Netherlands and organized with Sonya Kill Memorial Hospital for the girls to do an internship in Cambodia.



SWIMMING

For the last 16 years, Kep Gardens' classes have been going on an excursion to the beach to wish all students and staff a Happy Khmer New Year. No different this year except that we had two beach days due to our numbers increasing dramatically. At Sabow beach, the water is very shallow, making it safer for the children. Also the children search for crabs and some wander into the mangrove swamps so there is a lot more activity they can participate in, rather than just swimming.

Ice creams for all kindly sponsored by Joy Arlene Smith and her friends in Canada.



Some of our older students opted for monks' blessings, lunch and playing Khmer games to celebrate Khmer New Year.



COMPETITIONS

First term competition was 'making a toy or a game'. The young classes coloured a picture but there were some great examples from the older students. Thank you to Jamie, Hilde and Leon for taking on the difficult task of judging.



GDG is proud of you and the team's hard work to achieve incredible outcomes over the years for all beneficiaries in Kep province. Your courage and hope show me there is nothing that can limit us when we desire to help others. I am so blessed to know you all.

Makara Kin, Cambodia.

Global Development Group not only provide tax deductible receipts for donations but also provide support for their members in many varied ways.

Use this link to go direct to Global Development Group to ensure a tax deductible receipt for your donation or sponsorship.

<https://globaldevelopmentgroup.org/au/projects/j674n-kep-gardens-community-project/>

Don't forget, tax deductible donations can be paid through GDG Project J674N.

Many other activities to tell you about but I think a good way to do this is by photos rather than writing. I hope you enjoy this page.

