



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



Hallo Everyone,

Term 1 has been and gone, Khmer New Year has just finished and here we are starting Term 2. Three and a half months gone, so fast! Usually April is a horrible month, very hot and humid, a month we have come to dread. This year however, we have had rain and much cooler days, quite pleasant to enjoy Khmer New Year.

END-OF-TERM ACTIVITIES

Busy, busy, busy to mark the end of Term 1. Class by class starting with Kindergarten up to Class 3, enjoyed fun at Sabow beach followed by an ice cream for all. The students not only enjoyed swimming, but many dug in the foreshore hunting for small crabs, tiny fish and shells. Many people to thank for making the day such a success. Thank you very much to Chhim Kmao for loaning us his truck to transport the students and to the driver, a parent named Chheng Phorn, for spending the whole day driving backwards and forwards between Sabow Beach and Kep Gardens. Mr Huch did a tremendous job making sure the children who got on the truck all had signed permission slips and gave me the numbers so that I could do periodical head counts. Most important, Kimhean and the volunteers, Bella, Jake, Kelly and Mia spent all day in the water ensuring the children were safe. A huge thank you. Sorry about the sunburn!! Thank you to Pheng An for providing a tent to save us from ending up like crispy chicken. Sincerely appreciate your help. Until next year when off we go to the beach again.



**WE WISH THE KHMER NEW YEAR
BRINGS YOU GOOD HEALTH, GOOD
LUCK AND PROSPERITY TO YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY.**



The evening students celebrated with a prayer ceremony with the monks, shared lunch and Khmer games. It was a lovely activity. Thank you to Mr Huch for organizing and looking after the monks for us.



Term 1 seemed like a busy term but a lot of it was to do with changes in Government policy. Two extra hours a day has been added to the students' curriculum at primary school. Before it was very easy, morning primary school, afternoon Kep Gardens and vice versa. Now, all of a sudden we were adding or deleting class times to ensure the students could still attend. Finally, after a few weeks of chopping and changing, we have ended up with numbers attending in the

mornings virtually equaling those attending in the afternoons. Very different to other years.

At the same time we were dealing with major changes that our sponsor, Buddhist Library, was expecting us to enforce by the end of March.

We also had two staff members absent for one month as they completed their teacher training in Phnom Penh.

Through all this, thank you to the four volunteers and the remaining staff who kept the students active and interested through all the changes.

VOLUNTEERS

We welcomed Bella Tilley, Kelly McLean and Mia Dunham to Kep Gardens from the United Kingdom for 8 months. and Jake Murphy from the United States for 3 months.



Bella



Kelly



Mia



Jake

They have been a great asset as mentioned above, bringing different skills to share with the school community. The students have an acting/role playing lesson one week, a craft lesson the next, followed by a science experiment the following week. On top of this, a variety of sport activities are available every morning and afternoon, three times a week, either before or after their English class. Many different activities for the students to enjoy.

LAP PROGRAMME



Thank you to parent, Loern Koem Seng who joined the Learning Assistance Programme this year, listening to students read Khmer. We value your time spent with these students as it is so important for them to become proficient in their own language.

PEN PALS AND ZOOM CALLS

In 2023 Kep Gardens had a visit from the Headteacher, West Moors Middle School and an old friend, Helen, an ex-teacher. Deborah also organized zoom calls with her school in the UK. Our Classes 7 and 8 zoom called again with individual students speaking to the students overseas. Also, our younger classes 2, 3 and 6 have written letters, replying to the letters they received recently from the students at West Moors. A wonderful experience for our students to have friends overseas to exchange views on cultural differences, everyday life activities, families and many more topics of interest. We hope the zoom calls and exchange of letters will continue for many years to come.



ASIAN-PACIFIC CHILDREN'S CONVENTION

The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention will be held in Japan in July. Two girls and two boys will join children from 42 other countries as Junior Ambassadors to represent Cambodia. Two of our students applied. One of our students, Kem Sokunnisa has been selected as first reserve. Well spoken English is an important part of the selection process. Except for 1 student from Kandal, all others attend schools in Phnom Penh, many at private schools. How exciting to have a student from the provinces selected. Congratulations Nisa. We are very proud of you.



GRADUATION

Congratulations to Seng Marythet and Seng Chan who graduated from Krousar Yoeung Preschool Teacher Training in Phnom Penh. All at Kep Gardens are very proud of you and are looking forward to your return.



We hope that 2025 has been kind to you, you are well and enjoying life.

Cheers, Janine and Andrew

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

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Proud to partner with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 9930) for project J674N

"The world would be a nicer place if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog."

- M.K. CLINTON



He visited his daughter's kitchen and left an honest review



I been waiting on my order to get done for 45 minutes, and I'm the only customer here. She was making good progress at first, then she stopped for 20 minutes to go watch Paw Patrol... Overall the customer service could be better, but the cook is a cutie; so I'll give her another chance.





Two students received awards for being honest and returning money they had found.



