



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



Hi Everyone,

I am sure you are well over Christmas and New Year but here we had Chinese New Year in February and now are right in the middle of Khmer New Year. A great time is had by all, lots of fun, family parties, lots of games and to top it all off, 2 weeks holidays.

VOLUNTEERS

A catch up here. A big thank you to Angus Buck who volunteered last October, sadly for only one week. What didn't Angus do? He taught one of Andrew's team to tig weld, he spent time with the older classes in conversation, he repaired bits and pieces around the classrooms and buildings, he showed some students how to kick an Aussie Rules football and he joined in with the girls at Lego Club. Thank you to the people who supplied Angus with the safety shirts for a couple of lucky students. Also thank you to Angus for bringing craft items as well as a few personal items for us. He intends to return next year with his partner, let's hope so.



Angus



Rin



David



Marre

David and Marre each added "another brick in the wall" to the students' knowledge. David spent 7 weeks teaching 2 classes 4 days a week, concentrating on pronunciation. Marre, like Angus, helped all classes from Playgroup to Class 7. Thank you both for your valued contribution to Kep Gardens. We appreciate your time and enthusiasm.

KHMER DANCING

Our beautiful Khmer dancers performed in January at Try Pheap Palace. Very proud of the magnificent way you represented Kep Gardens. Thank you to Tha and Kimhean for organizing this event. Thank you to Sek Sokhuntheary, Chaev Sreypov, Kao Vietha and Thon Kimhour for applying makeup to, and doing the hair of, the dancers. They looked so beautiful. Thank you very much.



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

A big thank you to Chin Phyla and his team at the Department of Labour Vocational Training Centre. They spoke to our four older classes about vocational training opportunities. The students asked many questions. We hope this presentation was helpful when planning their career options.



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Thank you very much to Kep Children and Petits Bleu club from Phnom Penh for organizing a football tournament on the weekend and inviting Kep Gardens to join, Kep Gardens coming a very close second. Well done boys. Sep Satic was awarded a certificate for the best goalkeeper. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all teams. Thank you to Chheng Phorn and Seng Sokonthy for looking after the teams all day.



IWA

Once again, a very big thank you to IWA (International Womens Association) for providing backpacks and pencil cases for our new students this year. IWA is a huge supporter of the local community, not only making backpacks and many other items out of recycled cement bags and distributing them to students throughout Kep, but also providing employment for local women. At Kep Gardens we have a bin to collect any recycled cement bags you may have.



HEALTH CHECKS

A huge thank you to OPG-VATICAN and Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital. They have checked about 2/3 of our students so far for their health, a mammoth task, but thanks to them we have a great system organized. We set up for them in our big shed. They have a social worker who takes the students' particulars, then they wait to see the doctor. After the doctor, they proceed to the nurse who gives them medicine if any is needed. Valeria oversees all of this and presents us with a list of students who need further tests and investigation. We take these students to Sonja Kill where some may have blood tests, some ultra sounds, some surgery, all sorts of tests and procedures to ensure their problem is attended to. The NGO, OPG-VATICAN, facilitates the event as well as helps Kep Gardens with the cost of these additional tests. Thank you very much to the doctors from Sonja Kill and the OPG-VATICAN staff for their care and concern for our students. We greatly appreciate all your help. Thank you also to Andy and Ming for your donation to help with the cost of transport to Sonya Kill. We greatly appreciate their help over the last few years.



ANNUAL SWIMMING DAY

Kindergarten upwards to Class 3 enjoyed our annual swimming day at Kep Beach from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm with 11 classes shuffling backwards and forwards all day. This day represents the end of Term 1 and the beginning of Khmer New Year holidays. An icecream for all and Happy Khmer New Year shouts ended each class's beach time. Teachers Kimhean, Chansopal and Marythet deserve a medal for staying in the water all day as does Chan who took an afternoon shift. Thank you for keeping the students safe. Thank you Mr Huch for your great organizational skills filling and offloading truck loads of students. You did a great job. Thank you to Pov who helped back at Kep Gardens. A very happy day enjoyed and looked forward to each year by all.



KHMER NEW GAMES

During the last week of term, all classes played Khmer New Year games.





Andrew and I wish you all a Happy Khmer New Year.

DRUG AWARENESS

Kev Reatha from The Arc Organisation in Siem Reap spent a very busy day at Kep Gardens yesterday speaking to students and parents about drugs. He spoke age appropriately to 10 classes and conducted 2 parent workshops. He advised the students as to how their health would be affected if they took drugs and gave the parents information about what to look for if they suspected their child was taking drugs as well as examples as to how they may help them. Both students and parents asked questions. Thank you Kev Reatha, you interacted well with the students and kept their interest. This is your third visit over the years and we will definitely invite you back.



A few photos of class activities to finish off.



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