



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



Hi Everyone,

One week holiday for the teachers to have a break between the longer holidays of Khmer New Year and Pchum Ben. It has been a very busy term, especially the month of June, so I'll attempt to catch you up with some of the activities.

VOLUNTEERS

The US and Europe have summer holidays in the middle of the year, so the end of May and the month of June we were lucky enough to have 7 volunteers visiting. Thank you all very much for your input into the students at Kep Gardens.



Antoine Tanguy



Dalia Deshe



Alyssa Esaki



Courtney Nguyen



Manu Perichery



Irene Goldaraz/Tim Lucas

STAFF TRAINING

We had a school closure day for staff training. A huge thank you to Prok Sokhun, Project Coordinator for Restore One in Kampong Thom. "I grew up in a rural area with no local school, no clean water, no proper shelter. Today so many people are still in this same situation, which touches my heart and motivates me to make a difference". Four major topics were covered in the staff training: Domestic violence awareness; How to be a good teacher; How to ensure a happy classroom; Positive management of students with behaviour problems. Apart from our staff, teachers from Khmer Government schools also attended. Thank you Mr Sokhun for encouraging our teachers to make a difference.



STAFF TRAINING CAMBODIA GLOBAL HEALTH

A group of young, medical people in the US have joined together to provide health training to staff at schools in underdeveloped countries. They provide training for over 15 topics. The training is held over Google Meet and targets the teaching staff who are then expected to pass the information onto the students they teach. They electronically provide teaching resources. One of our volunteers, Manu Perichery, is involved in this group. During his time with us he conducted 2 parent workshops on "Food Storage" and "Water Sanitation". The majority of the topics are suitable for all ages but they do offer some topics that will only be of interest and help to the older students. It is a great concept. Our staff ask lots of questions at the end of the presentations. This opportunity adds to their knowledge of the topic.



UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISASTRA

Kep Gardens had a very enjoyable visit recently from the University of Puthisastra. The students played games with the visitors and received bags which contained milk and other goodies. They also gave many packets of crayons that have been shared with Playgroup. Thank you very much for thinking of the students at Kep Gardens.



SONJA KILL HEALTH CHECKS

The initial health checks for all of the students at Kep Gardens plus some younger siblings have been completed. Many students have already received extra tests and blood tests at Sonja Kill. There are still students who need these extras as well as 3 monthly check ups and some operations. Consequently, the health programme for 2026 will be ongoing for a few more months yet. Thank you very much to the doctors from Sonja Kill and the OPBG-VATICAN staff for their care and concern for our students. We greatly appreciate all your help. The NGO, OPBG-VATICAN, facilitates the event as well as helps Kep Gardens with the cost of these additional tests. The biggest contributor of financial aid to check all 400+ students is the City of Dendermonde, Belgium. We can't thank you enough.

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.
- Oscar Wilde

DEBATES

Class 7 held their internal debates recently. There were many students that were debating for the first time. They did a good job. What a great experience for them to watch the older students. I was very impressed by the older students who have improved every year and felt very proud of them as I watched their performances. Thank you very much to Jamie and Manu for judging the 5 debates. Not an easy job!



INTERSCHOOL DEBATES

I was bursting with pride. Our bi-annual debates between Kep Gardens, Karuna Children Cambodia Organization and Chumkriel Language School were held recently. Two students from each school also gave presentations on a topic of their choice. I was proud not only of the Kep Gardens' students but of the students from all 3 schools. The improvement over the years is huge. It was our turn to host the debates this time. Off to KCCO in December.

People may forget what you told them but they will never forget how you made them feel.



Let's start with Group 1 who sold jewellery they made themselves.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

This year for public speaking, Class 7 is doing debates and Class 6 is doing the presentations for volunteers. I wish we had more volunteers so that Class 6 could have more practice!



SMALL BUSINESS

Class 4 were given the task of planning a small business, covering all aspects from the initial idea, to financing the business, to costing the product, to advertising. On a Friday evening, the businesses were setup and selling began. The students learnt many lessons during this project. They then had to pass this information to the rest of the class. Maybe we will set up the market again in the playground another evening as it proved very popular with the students, sellers and buyers.



Group 2 sold coconut water.



The last group, Group 3, sold coffee.



LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Playgroup kicked off proceedings with an enthusiastic rendition of Baby Shark; younger classes displayed designs they had drawn and the primary school students made toys from all sorts of materials. But the piece de resistance was a brilliant idea from Kimhean that we hold a MasterChef competition with the high school students. What a great night! Thirteen students took up the challenge, only one meal was duplicated. An ex-student who has been cooking in a guest house for many years was the judge. MasterChef will definitely be a regular end-of-term occurrence.



1st place – fried rice



2nd place - Korko



Fried Rice



Korko



3rd place – spaghetti



Spaghetti



Taste OK?

All is well here, busy, but lots of fun. Volunteers are warmly welcomed if you would like to be part of Kep Gardens and “add another brick in the wall” (add to a student’s education and therefore opportunities).

We hope you are all well and enjoying good health.

Cheers, Janine and Andrew



EDGE Worldwide
EDUCATIONAL Growth and Empowerment
តង់ឡង់

If anyone is seeking a tax-deductible receipt for donations to Kep Gardens, please use the following:

Bank: ANZ

Account Name: EDGE Worldwide

BSB: 013011

Account No: 659385738

EDGE Worldwide proudly supports Kep Gardens and its educational impact in the surrounding community.



Fried Beef



Lok Lak



Fried Duck



Another Fried Rice



Sour Soup with Morning Glory



**MASTERCHEF
KEEP GARDENS**

