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# Panaga School Newsletter

Issue Two

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Message from  
the Head of the  
International  
Stream

I have really enjoyed my first term at Panaga School, mainly due to everyone making my family and I feel so welcome. The school has a great community spirit and support. This ensures a friendly, welcoming atmosphere in and out of school. The start of the academic year was marked by the arrival of three new school leaders joining Panaga. I would personally like to thank parents, children and staff for their patience over the first few weeks of term. It's an exciting new chapter in the life of school, which will bring some major changes and improvements; I am really pleased to be part of this process.

This term we have seen the successful introduction of the tropical hours timetable, the re-organisation of the nursery provision aimed at removing the waiting list, the establishment of a new ICT room in Teraja, a new ICT specialist teacher and a very positive Fieldwork/SNOB support visit.

Next term will see further enhancements to the school, many of them in response to our initial evaluation of the educational learning provision at Panaga School. These improvements will have a direct, positive impact on your child's education and include: a review of the assessment and tracking system; establishing a consistent teaching and learning guide; implementing an effective learning focused quality assurance programme; and a review of both the school homework guidance and the presentation of work policy. All these improvements require parents' support, which we really appreciate.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful December holiday. **Craig Heaton**

## Inside this month's issue:

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## “Outward Bound” P7s Rock K.K.

*This year's P7 group have just arrived back (safely) from their Outdoor Education and Adventure Expedition in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. As all of the following special travel reporters agree, it was one rocky, but fun-filled adventure.*

From the 3rd until the 7th of November, the P7s of Panaga School went on a wonderful school trip to the Kota Kinabalu jungle. It consisted of activities ranging from canoeing to camping.

Once the P7s arrived at *Outward Bound Sabah*, they got settled in their rooms. Then they were split up into two groups: the Hornbills and the Monitor Lizards. Over the week they did several exciting activities including the night line, the flying fox and their educational visit to Lok Kawi Wildlife Park.

The night line was an activity when the two groups held ropes and walked through the jungle blindfolded. As Cynthia Carvalho explained, “It was an exhilarating experience that I would never forget.”

The flying fox was voted the most fun activity at the lodge. There was a gigantic fig tree that had a big ladder on one side. When safely harnessed, the children climbed up the ladder and onto a platform. Elise Steinhart added, “Jumping off the platform to fly down the wire is a once in a lifetime experience and I wanted to do it again and again.”

Another enjoyable activity was the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park. Jamie Maskall explained, “It was such fun but I was slightly



disappointed when I found out the fernarium was to do with plants.”

**By Jamie Maskall**  
P7's from Panaga School had an exciting week at *Outward Bound Sabah* in Kota Kinabalu.

We left from Brunei on the 3rd of November; our trip lasted for one week.

After our arrival at KK, the 32 children were split into two groups. The groups were called Hornbills and Monitor Lizards.

We tried a variety of challenging and team-building activities. They included: the night line, over-night camping, 4 wheel driving, canoeing, raft building and The Giant Ladder.

Silene Engbers said that her favorite activity was The Giant Ladder because she liked that we had to wear a harness and help people. Meanwhile, Annika Murison said, “My least favourite activity



was the 4-wheel drive because you had to bend your back and carry the heavy tyre, which was really tiring.”

The most popular activities amongst all the children were the Giant Ladder and the Flying Fox, as they were the most adventurous.

But Rachel Low Foong seemed to think differently. She commented, “The Flying Fox and the Rock Climbing were really scary as I'm afraid of heights.”

The P7s who arrived back from KK were welcomed by their parents and friends. Because the trip was a great success, the school staff are already making arrangements for the next year's P7s to



take the trip too.

**By Gayatri Sahadevan**

*It started with a bumpy flight, but when it ended the P7s were overjoyed.*

When we got to our cabins, we were surprised at how basic they were. But we soon forgot about this as the activities started.

“The activities were fun. The hardest was tying a knot in the raft building,” said Michael Dickie, aged 11.

Overall, the group's favourite activity was the flying fox. Some found it



scary at first but when they got on they had a lot of fun.

Sammy Turner said that the flying fox was, “Exciting!” Kayaking was the other most favourite activity.

Overall it was an exciting time and we had a week of fun in different environments.

**By Morris and Hanson IP7S**

P7 students from Panaga School went on an adventurous teambuilding week at O.B.S. Kota Kinabalu.

We had to face one week of dish washing, table cleaning and team building activities.

The flying fox was one of the most popular activities. We had to climb a 15 metre high ladder to a platform on a tree before being



strapped into a safety harness and flung off down a 200 metre long rope. One student, Sneha Ramasamy, aged 10, said, “It was really fun but most people were nervous.”

We all completed the activity and returned safely to the ground.

Another activity was on the fourth day when we went to the Wildlife Park, Sabah. This was the second most popular thing that we did. We saw lots of tropical and rare Malaysian animals such as orangutans. This was a very new experience for some children so they were a bit scared when they saw the animals.

“The Wildlife Park was great. We saw lots of animals including elephants and tigers. After a night in the bush it was a fun thing to do,” said IP7S class teacher, Mr. Simon, aged 45.

**By Sneha and Coeli**





## Road Safety



### Play Your Part!

A Message from HSE



Road safety is a key concern for all in Brunei. What can we do to ensure we are safe travelling to and from the school? How can we play our part? Parents should be role models for the children and lead by example. Please take time out this week to discuss road - and bicycle - safety with your children. Here are a few pointers:

- Be very careful when crossing the road - use the zebra crossing points.
- Wait for the Security men to assist in crossing the road.
- Wear a hard hat when riding a bike.
- Ride on the left of the cycle path.
- Be courteous to others on the cycle paths.
- Always wear a seat belt in the car.



Photos by Lisa McKimmie



## P2 Celebrations Topic

In IPC, we have learned about Divali.



Some of the mums decorated our hands with Mahendi patterns.



Some of the mums helped to make Rangoli patterns.



Some of the mums showed us how to do a Dandia (stick) Dance.

We have learned about Chinese New Year.



We visited a Chinese temple.

By: Miss Gina

## A VIP at Panaga!



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Panaga School welcomed Constance Buford - the U.S. Department of State's Regional Educational Officer. Constance, along with Vanessa Prashad, a US Embassy official, met with the Leadership Team and enjoyed a tour of the school. Constance was greatly impressed by the 'wonderful international spirit' and 'terrific atmosphere of the school'. Later in the morning, Constance met with US parents to discuss issues of American families living in S.E Asia.

## Come On Now, Celebration!



Above are our Teraja November Celebration Certificate recipients who have achieved wonderful success this month in areas such as Second Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Peer Support. We also farewell 'veteran' student of the last eight years, Vanessa Gurtiza (Front row, third from right.)

## IP5P's Perfect Poetry

In week 7, IP5P studied poetry along a similar theme. Do you like our poems based upon "Creatures of the Garden" by Moira Andrew?

- Mr Paul C

### Creatures of the Garden

Worms wiggle and slither  
 Slipping all over the place  
 Like a peace of string.

Wasps zip and buzz  
 Circling in the breeze  
 Like an acrobat.

Grasshoppers bounce and skip  
 jumping up and down like a miniature kangaroo.

By Marco

### Creatures of the Garden

Worms slither and slip  
 Sliding against the floor  
 Like spaghetti a bowl.

Snails creep and crawl  
 Leaving goo on the floor  
 Like a silvery ribbon.

Bees buzz and sting  
 Destroying peoples skin  
 Like a worrier.

Grasshoppers jump and bounce  
 Chirping around the place  
 Like a frog.

Butterflies flutter and flap  
 Flying in breeze  
 Like a colorful pattern.

Ants run and race  
 Playing tag  
 Like two armies.

By: Andrea

## Ancient Olympic Games

The P4s had a fantastic group of challenges set for them in their Ancient Olympic Games. The five events were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Here are just some of the pictures showing the various events. The five winners of the Olympic Wreaths were Jack, Ghassan, Chris, Abdul Rahman and Rohit. - Miss Sandy

Also featured are: Saskia in the middle of a javelin throw, Sophia getting the correct stance for the discus event and Cameron preparing himself for the standing long jump.

