

Panaga School Newsletter

Message from the Head of the International Stream



Welcome to the February-March edition of the Panaga School Newsletter.

Back in September, Mr. Richard led the annual Parent Introduction Evening with a presentation highlighting the Steve Jobs and *Apple* approach to improvement and how we at Panaga School are embracing the principles of this approach in particular, *'Apple is only its ideas, which is only its people'*.

As we end Term 2 and begin Term 3, I would like to share my favourite Steve Jobs quote. *'Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.'*

From the start of the Panaga School development and improvement journey in 2008, *'quality'* has been a constant driving force for everyone involved with the school. In addition to the children's daily learning experiences, some of the activities and events illustrated within this newsletter reflect the standards children and parents have come to expect: Book Day, Maths Day, Art Day, the Primary 5 Miri Trip, the Milepost 2 Production 'Save our Planet' and the IPC exit and entry points. They are all yardstick examples of the *'quality'* and *'excellence'* we are trying consistently to achieve in school.

With regards to Term 3, you can look forward to some new initiatives:

- A Reward and Recognition Guide that will incorporate the establishment of a school 'House' system.
- A Behaviour and Pastoral Care Guide
- A New Parent Handbook (with direct input from the parent body)

These new developments will give all stakeholders a shared understanding of the types of children we are helping to develop – personally, socially, as well as academic.

'People' and their *'ideas'* are continually taking Panaga School forward in its continued development of quality and excellence for all our children.

Have a safe and enjoyable break.
Craig Heaton

Milepost 2 Saves Our Planet!

The Primary 4s and Primary 5s enthusiastically acted, danced and sung their hearts out for their Milepost 2 production *Save Our Planet!* on the evenings of Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th March. It was wonderful to see every child perform on stage and have their own 'shining' moment.



DP5S played the Newsreader with great professionalism) to publicise their important cause. After a few weeks their campaign has been successful and the doomed fate of Zarkonia is reversed. Big Zed rewards Mollie and Michael with medals and appoints them as interplanetary pollution monitors!



As Zarkonian aliens, they reacted the story of how planet Zarkonia is slowly dying and how they suspect it has something to do with the 'dirty gases' rising up from planet Earth.

Big Zed, the bumbling Zarkonian leader (brilliantly played by Rene in IP5K), appoints Zak (confidently played by Hugo in IP5P) to travel down to Earth to sort out the problem.



Zak speedily arrives in the back garden of Mollie and Michael (fabulous teamwork by Maria and Robin in IP5R) – two sympathetic 'Earthlings', who are keen to help. Thanks to Earth's email and television technology, Mollie, Michael and Zak are soon appearing on the *World News* (Isolde from

The theme of the musical reinforced to the performers and to the audience the important message of how each one of us can help towards caring for our local environment. The Primary 4s and 5s have realised how small efforts can make an impact, e.g. using reusable bags when shopping, reusing paper and reducing the amount we use unnecessarily.

The production itself was environmentally-friendly by encouraging the children to reuse their clothes to make their costumes, issuing paperless tickets and creating a PowerPoint programme. The set is also going to be passed on and reused for an alien-themed birthday party!

By Miss Imogen, Music Leader for Learning



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Quote for the month:

"We read to know we are not alone."
- C.S. Lewis

Newsletter designed and edited by Damian Brady

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Panaga School Book Day - a tale of adventure P5 Go Wild in the Rainforest!

Friday 11th February saw Panaga School awash with familiar faces and well known characters as we celebrated book day.

The children, parents and teachers had gone to great lengths to bring their favourite characters to life for one day of fun and enjoyment.

Whilst many activities were occurring on both sites, including parades, fashion shows, story-tellings... The P8s were busy as reporters trying to capture all the events, taking photos and interviewing children, ready for their special 'Book day Newsletter'.

A special thank you goes to the P8 children, Miss Helen and Mr Damian, for their hardwork producing a fabulous in-depth report of the day in just a few hours.

As well as dressing

up, the children, in all year groups, enjoyed making up their own special stories entitled - 'The day it happened at Panaga School'.

Creativity and imagination was flowing as children acted out stories with aliens, dinosaurs, strange inventions, teachers disappearing... and then went on to produce their own book sleeve for the story.

Book day is an opportunity to celebrate reading and the fantastic stories we have access to.

It was a great day, so thanks goes to everybody who made an effort and was involved in the day.

Keep reading and remember 'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body!'

*By Miss Yvonne Crooks,
Literacy Leader for Learning*



On Thursday 3rd March 2011, P5 set off for the Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort, just outside of Miri, for a one-night residential visit. After waving their good-byes the P5s were soon engrossed in snapping as many photos of the passing scenery as they could. Passing through the surrounding rainforest, one pupil was heard to say, "Wow, a tree!"

On arrival pupils carried their bags to the dorms and staked a claim on a top or bottom bunk, before heading down to the One Tree Hill Café for lunch. After lunch, five activity groups were formed (lead by the extremely brave P5 teachers, Mr Damian, Miss Hanie and Miss Hazel) and headed off for an afternoon full of activities - abseiling, obstacle course, low ropes course, ball games and the all-time favourite the Flying Fox!

All activities were designed to challenge the P5s to work as a team and to use their personal goals of co-operation, team-working, communication, respect, resilience and thoughtfulness. After a hearty dinner the P5s then set off with



their trusty torches for a night hike; on the look out for all manner of creepy crawlies! After finding tarantula nests and a scorpion the P5s headed back inside for a well deserved (if noisy!) rest. The following day after another filling feed, some of the P5s completed their activities whilst others went on a tour of the resort and a very energetic rainforest ramble! Then before they knew it, it was time to get back on the coaches for the journey home.



Thanks goes to all the school staff and the resort staff for organising such a fantastic experience which, despite wearing out even the teachers (!), was well worth it. A great hit! Well done all.

By Miss Kathryn

IP6S Assembly - a legendary performance

IP6S worked very hard practising for their great assembly about what they had been learning in Literacy: 'Legends, Myths and Fables', during that part of the term.

I think I certainly spotted a few budding actors and

singers amongst them all.

We all enjoyed the build up and the laughs we shared whilst rehearsing all the dancing and learning of lines.

The Robin Hood rendition was fun to learn too and the children were

very proud of their creative abilities in making the hats and the mask for each animal of the Chinese Zodiac.

All in all a fun assembly, with great singers, narrators and dancers.

We hope you enjoyed it too?

By Miss Sam



Chinese Zodiac - Myth, Legend or a Fable?



Fantastic narrators and super Chinese zodiac acting took place with a finale of a happy holidays song. Thanks to Miss Imogen!



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You could count on World Maths Day's success

On the 1st of March the children of Panaga were involved in a range of events to mark 'World Maths Day'.



Both sites had varying tasks with Teraja children embarking on a 'Maths Trail' which took their learning outdoors.



One minute children could be counting bikes in the bike shed and the next recording tempera-

tures around the playground.



Over in Rampayoh the children again were actively involved in a variety of activities which included using data handling skills and



mathematical problems linked to the playground and the pupils environment.

In Mendaram children had the chance to have fun and learn at the same time. Number activities involved sandplay and water - ideal ways to capture interest and build on prior learning.



Older children at the school took part in



the 'World Maths Day Challenge' against online competitors around the world.

All activities were enjoyed by the children who took part.



Better start counting down the days until next year's events.

By Mr Gordon,
Numeracy Leader
for Learning

Panaga's high achievers



There were quite a few gridders around the school last week as this term's Celebration Certificate winners were duly rewarded for their achievements and aspirations.

Although there were a few different reasons for the certificates awarded, one

common theme shone through all the awards. Effort! 'An improved effort in..', 'Excellent effort to..', 'A great effort shown...' were phrases resonating around the hall from the awardees' respective teachers.

Congratulations to all winners on your success.

By Damian Brady

Spirits were not washed away as the Football Tournament rolled on

Torrential rain the day before could not dampen the spirits of many girls, as for them, the 2011 Football Tournament remained an exciting contest.



Girls from International School of Brunei (ISB), United World College, Singapore (UWC) and two Panaga teams (U11 and U12) battled it out in a revised 'under cover' tournament at the Panaga Club Multipurpose

Hall, last Sunday and all competed admirably.



According to referee, Mr Paul Creaton, "The competition was played in a wonderful display of *sportspersonship*. The girls displayed wonderful commitment and energy.

In the end, UWC were victors and the Panaga U12s were runners up. The player of the tournament was Naomi from

UWC, whilst Panaga's best player was Amelie. Fien was Panaga School's top U11 girl. From ISB, Tani, took out her school's best player award. Special mention goes to Aisha (U12s) to for her amazing bravery in goals.



Massive commendation goes to the many parents and teachers (particularly Mr Paul Deelen and the rest of the Football Tournament Commit-

tee), from here and abroad for their resilience to make this tournament such a success, despite the frustration of having to cancel the outdoor competition.



After the contest, the players and adults retired to the Panaga Club for a well-deserved drink and ice cream.

By Damian Brady

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P7 are great composers of Fanfares

In the *What Price Progress?* IPC Music Task, the Primary 7s listened to *The fanfare for the common man*, composed by the 20th century composer, Aaron Copland.

It was a tribute to the Allied troops involved in World War II, a piece of

music which has a slow, solemn mood, but is an impressively moving and optimistic tribute to the 'common man'.

The children then learned to play a fanfare (not on trumpets though!), in the style of Aaron Copland, using percussion and tuned instruments such as

suspended cymbals, conga drum, keyboards, guitars and xylophones. In groups, they composed their own fanfares expressing the 'mood' and development (changing 'moods') of a natural environment such as a rainforest, ocean or polar region.

By Miss Imogen



Panaga School teachers spend time with the Penan people

Miss Vanessa and Miss Hazel recently took several bags of clothes and household items, kindly donated by the children and parents of Panaga, to the Penan tribe living in Long Raya, Sarawak.

The trip was organised by Jacky McLaren, biology teacher at J.I.S., and Shida Crichton, who was able to act as an interpreter between the villagers and our group.

In addition to taking donated goods, the purpose of the trip was to buy Penan crafts, such as

bags, mats, backpacks and blowpipes, which would later be sold in Brunei.

Many of the handicrafts are traditional woven goods, plus some have been adapted to suit modern tastes, for example: bottle carriers and shoulder bags.

This enterprise enables the Penan people to earn money and at the same time encourages them to use, develop and pass on their handicraft skills which may be in danger of being lost along with their traditional way of life.

Who are the Penan people?

The Penan people were once nomads; they would move from place to place in the rainforests to search for food. But after many years of logging companies cutting down huge swathes of forests, and causing the runoff of soil into the rivers, the Penan have been forced to give up their way of life and move into small villages.

Some Penan people now cultivate rice and vegetables but many rely on their diets of sago (starch from the sago palm), jungle fruits and their prey which includes wild boar, deer, snakes,

monkeys, birds, frogs, monitor lizards, snails and insects. They only take the animals that they need to survive, and do not negatively affect the populations of animals in the forest.

They catch their prey using a blowpipe, made from the Bilian Tree, carved out using a bone drill - the wood is not split, as it is elsewhere, so the bore has to be precise almost to the millimetre, even over a distance of 3 metres.

The darts are made from the sago palm and tipped with poisonous latex of the Tajem tree, which can kill a human in a matter of minutes.

Everything that is caught is shared as the Penan believe that everyone is equal, so much so that it is said that the nomadic Penan have no word for 'thank you', because help is assumed and therefore doesn't require a 'thank you'. However, 'jian kinin' is typically used in the settled communities.

The photographs show the people of Long Raya and a neighbouring village, Long Sulong. The children particularly loved the comics and stickers that were given to them, and although they couldn't read, they enjoyed looking at picture books. The older brothers and sisters

were staying at a school approximately 2-3 hours drive away down logging roads, so were not at the village during our visit.

The people of Long Raya invited us to sleep in one of their large shared houses, and in return we took several large pots of food to share with them.

It was a fascinating, and humbling, experience to visit these people who have so little in the way of material possessions, but have such a strong sense of community, which like many other cultures, are in danger of losing.

By Vanessa Clee



Miss Hazel and Miss Vanessa arrive in Long Raya



Long Raya



Opening a box of donations



Miss Hazel sharing



Enjoying playing with stickers!



Miss Vanessa sharing a book



Long Raya



The kitchen



The 'Old Man' with new glasses



Playing music



A family at Long



Miss Hazel with Shida, choosing a blowpipe!