



Introduction

Spring has sprung all over the world, and here in Siem Reap we are getting into our hot and dry season! As we leave behind the more temperate weather, we are entering a busy and exciting time of year at the school. Our students have been hard at work these past few months preparing for their semester exams and Outstanding Student Exams, and their hard work will certainly pay off with all of the events that we have planned this spring! So please, enjoy reading about what we've been up to recently and what we have coming around the corner in this month's TGC Spring Newsletter!

Dance-a-Thon Fundraiser

The students at The Global Child and Union College volunteer teacher Ariel have rehearsed during every opportunity that we were given; during class breaks, lunch time, and our Saturday morning dance class for the past month. They practiced their Traditional Cambodian Dance, Bhangra, Salsa, Zumba, and Hip Hop. Every Tuesday they had a Traditional Cambodian Dance Class with their teacher Sokoan Lun who is also a student at the Performing Arts Center in Siem Reap. The Bhangra and Salsa dance I adapted from the Union College Zumba class and the Salsa and Hip Hop dances the students and Ariel choreographed together. After several meetings, advertising, rehearsing, creating the program, and fundraising, we were just about ready!



Fifty chairs were arranged outside, in front of the school and a small stage was set up using blue tarp. A small group of expats came to watch this performance and all of our staff members from The Global Child and Joe to Go came to support our students. We had a brief introduction by Dara and Ariel about the TGC mission statement and my dance class followed by Kontea, our student council president, who spoke about her love for dance. She was fantastic!

The Traditional Cambodian Dancers began with their traditional outfits. They held their fingers back, were perfectly in line, and had a wonderful costume. In every dance, the students were so confident and poised. Though the dancing didn't stop there- we had our students teach the audience how to dance. Phiron, one of our Wood House students, took the lead on this one. He taught the expats a Cambodian line dance and he was a fantastic teacher! He taught the moves, step-by-step, and went very slowly so everyone understood. Once all of the expats learned, all of the students clapped and joined in to dance with them- it was so nice to see them interact. And, again, the dancing continued... this time with the Cha Cha Slide, the Cupid Shuffle, the Macarena and Waka Waka. The students truly have a passion for dancing and it was incredible to see them perform and interact with some members from the expat community.



They are all so talented. It was an absolutely amazing day filled with dancing, singing, smiles, and so much fun. Another highlighter-we reached our fundraising goal!

Girl's Soccer Team Moves onto the Grand Final!

We are very proud to announce that our TGC Girl's Soccer Team has ranked second overall in their regular season's standings. Because of their high ranking, they will proceed onto the Grand Final Championship on March 30th! There, they will compete against three teams who also rank amongst the top four. We hope that they will manage to clinch the number one slot! We are so proud of their hard work and dedication to this year's team. Under the leadership of team captains Kontea, Nari and Srey Khouch, the girls have not only been fierce competitors, but they have been supportive and respectful teammates to each other and towards other members of the Globalteer Junior Soccer League. They ended the season with only one loss, and they have grown in both skill and strength throughout their six-month season. We are all so excited to cheer them onto victory in just three short weeks. They have undoubtedly earned their spot in the Grand Final Competition, and we know that they have what it takes to "take it all the way" to the top!



Sari: TGC's Outstanding Student!

Over the past few months our students in Grade 9 have been studying very hard for the Outstanding Student Exam. This year, we had three students return for the final exam- Sari, Sokoam, and Sophoas. These students are exceptional! They are constantly studying in their free time and they are always asking questions. Huge congratulations to Sari who passed the final exam and will be traveling to Sihanoukville to compete with students from other schools in April. This is the first time ever that a student has made it this far in the Outstanding Student Competition and we are so very proud of Sari! We wish Sari the best of luck in her studies and on her next exam.

Field Trip to Friend's International NGO and American Corner Library

This past winter, our students have been participating in field trips to the American Corner Library on Saturdays. At the library, they have worked with various English-language software on computers to further strengthen their English skills. They also have been participating in vocabulary and spelling contests with other students at the library. They read and type regularly during these trips. We are very happy with the dedication they are showing to their studies by participating in these opportunities, and the excitement that they have each week for them.

Also, we had a field trip to the Friends International NGO. Friends International is an NGO in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh that works doing vocational training for adult students. They have a training beauty salon, motorbike repair shop, seamstress shop, barber shop and a restaurant, called Marum. We brought the students to this NGO so that they could both understand the different ways to help Cambodian people improve their lives, and so that they could understand how fortunate they are to be involved in an NGO in which they are getting a complete education so that they can hopefully continue through university and have a successful professional life. We think that the students learned a lot from this visit and we are very happy that they were so receptive to these lessons. It is obvious that they truly appreciate the opportunities that TGC is giving them for their futures.

Giant Puppet Parade

Giant horses, snakes, Apsara dancers, bugs, and other creatures filled the streets of Siem Reap- for the Giant Puppet Parade that is! This past Saturday evening everyone at The Global Child participated in The Giant Puppet Parade. This event was absolutely amazing! It is noted as the best night of the year in Siem Reap and I would most definitely agree. Over 500 children joined to showcase the giant puppets that they made with the help of Savann Idea (Siem Reap artist and art teacher at TGC). This year we spent two full mornings working on our puppet. Our theme was “The Color of Ozone.” This idea was first displayed at the Made in Cambodia Market at the Shinta Mani Hotel in which we made colorful umbrellas to represent the ozone. We made a large umbrella and various large plants and hats to represent the ozone. It was a wonderful display and it was so much fun to make!

The parade began with a drummer group from Madagascar called Malagasy Drummers followed by the Phare circus performers and, of course, all of the children and schools with their puppets. Throughout the parade we shouted “Kaphea Preycha Ozone!”- “Protect the forest, ozone!” We worked hard to make a statement on the streets of Siem Reap. Marot, one of our Wood House students worked as an incredible leader guiding our way. All of the other students had a role holding up our display or getting the crowd involved in our artistic presentation.



It was a fantastic thing to be a part of. The lit up Apsara dancers demonstrated the Cambodian traditions, the giant horse represented the Chinese New Year, and we, as TGC, represented the current environment issues by displaying the color of ozone. As the parade progressed we passed by all of the smiling faces of Siem Reap supporting the children and their artistic abilities. It was a magnificent night filled with lights, art, music, and traditions.

Semester Exam

In February, the TGC students took their semester exams. They were tested in all of their subjects for one week. The teachers worked very hard to prepare their exams, and the students spent long hours studying and preparing as well. The semester exams are very important because we send the results to the Cambodian Ministry of Education, along with their final exams at the end of the year. Although they were nervous about their tests, the students succeeded in all of their classes across the board. We are very proud of their results and their hard work in achieving them.

Karate Competition

In April, 23 of our students will be travelling to Phnom Penh to participate in an annual Karate Tournament where they will compete with other members of the Cambodian Champion Club. TGC is joined with over 10 other clubs from various Cambodian provinces in this competitive league. There will be between 600-700 participants in the competition. We have so much confidence that our students will excel in this competitive tournament and will represent our school with pride and strength. We are very proud of all of their hard work in their Karate classes, managed by Grade 10 students Marot and Phiron, who will also be competing. Marot has been an accomplished Karate competitor in the past, and we are



excited to see the results. We wish all of our students the best luck in this competition!

Olympics Day

In honor of the Winter Olympic Games, TGC had an Olympics Education day in February. Physical Education Teacher, Becca Duffy, lead this Olympic celebration for the students. They learned about what the Olympics are, where they were located this year, some famous past Olympians, what culture means and why the Olympics are an important international and cultural event. They then broadened their knowledge of winter sports by watching this some of year's Olympic competitions in bobsledding, figure skating, free style skiing, giant slalom ski racing, speed skating, lugging and ice hockey. They finished the day participating in makeshift Cambodian winter Olympic competitions where they got to be the athletes! It was a fun day filled with new knowledge and healthy competition.

Upcoming School Trip to Koh Kong and Swimming Lessons

On April 10th, all of the students and staff at TGC are leaving for our annual school trip! This year, we are having a trip to an ocean in a town called Koh Kong. This annual trip is something that our students look forward to all year. It is their only real break from their studies and housework, and they undoubtedly earn it with their hard work and concentration all year. Before the trip, we will be hosting two preparation activities: swimming lessons and an English vocabulary lesson. Union College volunteer, Becca Duffy, will lead two days of swimming lessons for the students at a local pool before we leave. She hopes to give them more confidence in their swimming abilities so that they can safely enjoy their time at the ocean. Also, the whole school will have a fun English vocabulary lesson in which they will learn words for different species of fish and ocean-dwelling mammals, water sports and beach activities. We want to make this trip as educational and entertaining as possible for the students, and we are sure that we will all have a great time!

TGC Environment Day

Every few months the students and staff at TGC get on gloves and take large bags to collect garbage on the streets. Relating to our "Color of Ozone" theme at the Giant Puppet Parade, we are always trying to save the environment. It is a group effort to clean the streets of Siem Reap and what a job we do! We split into groups to conquer as many areas in town as possible. Some leaving from the Wood House while others leave from TGC. Surprisingly and unfortunately, we find so much trash along our way, however, we make sure to leave none behind while we clean. Hopefully next time you are in Siem Reap we will have just cleaned up the streets and made it as clean and beautiful and it deserves!



TGC Needs Your Support

We always need your help to keep the school running. A small donation goes a long way. To donate go to www.theglobalchild.org

To send a check by mail to:

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Should you have any questions or would like to discuss ways to help The Global Child, please don't hesitate to contact me at judy@theglobalchild.org. Please join us in the fight to destroy corruption, poverty and the withholding of education in Cambodia. Please remember that *Today's Children are Tomorrow's World*.

Warmest Regards,

Judy Wheeler

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