



### **Introduction**

The past few months at The Global Child have been nothing short of exciting. Between regular classes, extra curricular activities, and weekend programs, the students here at TGC have been keeping busy. Each and every student continues to embrace their education with open hearts and big smiles. Read on to learn about some of the wonderful opportunities that TGC has been involved with this winter!

### **Young Birders Club – Adventure to Prek Toal**

On a Saturday in early October, a group of TGC students and staff had the opportunity to travel to Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary with the Sam Vesana Center (SVC). The students are part of the Young Birders Club and had been taking birding classes with SVC, a local organization that sustains Cambodian wildlife and communities through ecotourism, so they were excited to be able to experience their curriculum firsthand. The Prek Toal Sanctuary harbors seven species of water birds of global significance and is unmatched throughout South East Asia for the number and populations of endangered water birds it supports through the dry season. The day started bright and early, with a quick van ride to the Tonle Sap and then onto a wooden boat, where we took in the beautiful sights of early morning life on the lake. After drifting past fisherman and the floating villages, there was a quick stop at the Visitor Centre of the Prek Toal Core Area in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, and then it was on to the actual Sanctuary itself, where we got to see the birds mating and interacting in their natural habitat. Some of the species we saw included the Great Adjutant, the Oriental Darter, the Great Egret, and the Black-headed Ibis.





### **Swimming Lessons**

It can definitely get hot here in Siem Reap! To beat the heat, Teacher Sam and Mimi organized the first swimming lesson of the year at The Lotus Lodge, a local guesthouse that was kind enough to let us come and use their facilities. As is expected some of the students were apprehensive to get in the water at first, but after encouragement from their teachers and peers everyone took a dive into the deep end (literally!). From freestyle to backstroke and butterfly, a great time was had by all!

### **The Women Empowerment Program**

October saw the launch of The Women Empowerment Program, a monthly workshop that Teacher Sam and Teacher Mimi have put together under guidance from TGC founder Judy Wheeler. The idea behind the Program is to bring successful Cambodian women in from the Siem Reap community to give presentations to the female students at TGC. The aim is to expose our girls to women who have succeeded in their professions and who do not conform to the limiting roles that have defined them in the past. So far this year we have had a wonderful group of women who have come into present, including our very own Nimol Pong (business director at Joe to Go and The Global Child). Other presenters include Chantreemas Sittipornpan (fashion designer and manager at Onyx), Thavra Sun (Assistant Board Of Director at Sarai Resort and Spa) and KimChou Moul (store manager at a Korean BBQ Chicken franchise under EFG express group). These are extremely successful and intelligent women who have worked hard to get to where they are today. By listening to their presentations and learning about their life experiences, the female students at TGC are realizing that if they continue their education, they can do anything they put their minds to!



### Health Class

Health education is a very important asset for children and adults alike. This year Teacher Sam is continuing the health program from last year. Although many of the topics, such as disease prevention and sexual education, can be seen as taboo by traditional Khmer standards, at TGC we wholeheartedly believe it is important to provide our adolescent students with the tools necessary to understand the changes they are going through during these formative years. The boys and girls are separated on an alternating weekly basis to ensure their comfort and safety throughout the program. Sam has been covering a variety of health topics, from basic hygiene to maintaining a healthy body image and learning how to live a healthy lifestyle. This program has become a permanent installation in the TGC curriculum so it can be adapted as the students continue to grow into well-rounded adults.

### Chess Program

TGC students can now add one more activity to their already impressive list of extra curriculums: the ability to play International Chess! For the past few months, the students have been taking Chess lessons for an hour on Saturday mornings from Karelle Bolon, the Assistant Fashion Designer at the Onyx Boutique in town. Karelle comes to Siem Reap from Ile de la Réunion, a French island in the Indian Ocean, and has been playing chess since she was five years old. She is a four-times French Champion in Chess and has played in eight World Championships. Karelle describes Chess as telling a story, but with pieces instead of words. Karelle feels that is important for our students to learn International Chess as a gateway to the world around them. She states, "Maybe, in a few years, they could be a part of International Championships. We can dream. Chess can help them become self-taught in life and improve their concentration and their memory. Chess allows its players to think by themselves, rather than doing what everyone else does. Lastly, it improves their logical thinking, allows them to learn fair play and encourages team spirit." We are so grateful to Karelle for bringing this wonderful program to TGC!



### Pen Pal Program

In the month of November, the Grade 10 students began a Pen Pal program with a group of American children who live outside of Boston, Massachusetts. The program was set up by Teacher Mimi, whose mother works at a school for Dyslexic children. Just like the students at The Global Child, the children at Teacher Mimi's mother's school need help practicing their reading and writing skills. What better way to do that than involving both sets of students in an interactive experience where they can make new

friends and learn about each other's cultures! So far there have been two rounds of letters received on both ends. The children have discussed everything from their classes at school, what they eat for dinner, what movies and music they like and what sports they enjoy playing. Additionally, both sets of students got the chance to read the same story ("My Best Enemy" by Dakota Lane) and enjoyed discussing what they liked and disliked about the story. It has been very special for the Grade 10 girls to connect with students all the way across the world.

### **Annual Holiday Party**

The most anticipated holiday party of the year did not disappoint! With games and activities organized by all the TGC staff and one visiting volunteer, Swing from Singapore, we all had a great time. Stockings



were made and decorations lined the walls for a celebration of many religions. The kids sang Christmas carols, danced to Holiday tunes and had a quick lesson on Kwanzaa as well! We were busy with activities ranging from potato sack races, karaoke, freeze tag, trivia, pin the tail on the buffalo, dance party and much, much more!

### **Joe to Go**

Just like the students themselves, Joe to Go has also been busy and thriving this past winter. With the coming of the high season and the holidays, there were plenty of new dishes to keep get our customer's taste buds in a festive spirit! In addition to classic specials such as the *Cheesy Breakfast Crepe* and the



*Sweet Potato Stir Fry*, Joe to Go offered seasonal specials that included the *Passion Orange Crepe Suzette*, the *Peppermint Mocha* and the *Cinnamon Dolce Latte*. All were a great success!

In more news, Joe to Go's Upstairs Art Gallery has been displaying a new exhibition for the months of January and February. Organized by the French non-profit organization AEC-Foyer Lataste, "In the Intimacy of Humanitarian Action" showcases photos and poems depicting an unexposed facet to Humanitarian Aid. Photographs taken during humanitarian interventions in conflict zones generally show an excess of violence, poverty and victimization. The emphasis is therefore one of dramatization: a sort of "humanitarian show," where suffering is staged without focusing on the causes. The aim of the present exhibition is to highlight a different side of humanitarian action by focusing more on encountering the other and immersion into

the host culture. The photos, which depict faces, emotions, family life, culture, social sharing, and difficult as well as happy times, are accompanied by poetical texts. The purpose of this exhibition is to share scenes of daily life during humanitarian actions of sustainable development in a context where local populations and humanitarian agents are closely connected.

**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](http://www.theglobalchild.org)

To send a check by mail to:  
The Global Child,  
C A Raboin CPA PC  
5 Short Bluff Rd  
Newport, VT 05855

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](mailto: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  
Board Chair, The Global Child  
518-423-8780  
[judy@theglobalchild.org](mailto:judy@theglobalchild.org)