

Dasmesh Times

Sri Dasmesh International School

Ban Mai visits SDIS

By Shivraj Paneer Selvam (Y11)

On 22 and 23 January 2019, 11 delegates from the Ban Mai School in Vietnam visited our school. They arrived in time for the school assembly

to be given a warm welcome by our amiable students and the school's very own lead team. After being greeted and exchanging a few words with our TLIM Coordinator,



Ms. Julina, they were led to their seats to witness the school assembly which was filled with a profusion of performances. The 7 Habits gymrama got everyone on their feet moving fervidly to the beat of the music. After assembly, they proceeded to a meeting with Madam Sukhbir and a few teachers. They were very impressed with how passionately and ardently the teachers interacted with the students to carry out

daily lessons that incorporate the 7 habits and also looked at students in action around the school. They had various discussions with our hospitable lead team. A memorandum of understanding was agreed upon by both schools, with the blessings of Madam Jaswinder aimed at facilitating a student/teacher exchange programme.



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Trip to the Malaysian Nature Society

By Astara (Y11)



On a bright and cheery Saturday morning (20 April), 12 of our Nature Club members visited the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS). The Malaysian Nature Society aims to protect and conserve the natural heritage and rich biological diversity for the benefit and appreciation of all Malaysians. Everyone gathered at the location by 8.30am. Soon after, we were greeted by Encik Shahril who briefed us on what to expect for the day. He led us through the developing forest. During the trek, Encik Shahril taught us about the different plantations and the uniqueness of each plant, tree and flower.

Following a break, we were divided into groups of four and given a task: mixing sand with red soil, shovelling sand into a wheelbarrow to transport to the mixing area, transferring planted plants to another location and planting merbau seeds. The 4 groups were delegated separate tasks and worked hard for the next couple of hours. Elvis and I executed a different task of picking out a hundred healthy merbau plants to be donated to a school. We are grateful for the opportunity to not only visit the Malaysian Nature Society but to be of help and expand our knowledge about Mother Nature. I am definitely going to visit again and volunteer to give a helping hand whenever I can!

An Extraordinary Experience

By Haasha (Y10)

On 27th February, 13 students from Year 10 and Ms. Harpreet went on a four-day trip to Pnomh Penh, Cambodia to visit the Coconut School, an outreach programme under the wings of the Youth Ambassadors Singapore. Sight-seeing, exploring the Royal Palace and testing our bargaining skills at the Central Market was a great start.



Before visiting the Coconut School in Silk Island, we read about the amazing founder of this school, Mr Ouk Vanday, a visionary who created the school in 2013. It was a mind boggling fact that Mr. Vanday, a hospitality worker, gathered a group of volunteers and built a school. The school fees the kids had to pay were recycled items using tires for plants, glass bottles for walls, empty plastic bottles as wall decorations – we witnessed this first hand. Simply amazing! It was a lesson in creativity. We had the privilege of meeting Mr. Heng, the school principal. He was a doctor who quit his job as he saw the need for change. The paradigm shift happened when his bike was stolen and the thief, upon discovery was badly beaten up. He felt a deep sense of sympathy for the thief and felt a strong urge for Cambodians to build values.

Our main assignment was to assist in building a wall for the new school that was to be completed in a few months. It proved to be hard work ; we were exhausted by the end of the day. With the principal motivating us, we kept toiling, eager to complete it. On the third day, we marked our finishing touches to the wall. Soon after, we visited the Ronas Primary School and taught the many kids, aged 7-9, a few of our Malaysian cultural games, such as Jombola, 'Batu Seremban' and pick-up sticks. We flew home filled with lighter hearts, joyous memories and most of all, gratitude. Our message to all students is to never take life for granted and appreciate the comforts and luxuries each and every one of us possesses.



Transition Ceremony

By Alessandra (Yr 7)



On 17th January 2019, Sri Dasmesh organized a Transition Ceremony for the Year 7 students. The Transition Ceremony is an annual event to celebrate the changeover of the Year 6 to Year 7. The ceremony took place in the Year 7 Edison and Year 7 Newton classrooms. Before the ceremony commenced, each class was decorated with balloons and ribbons. The ceremony was attended by several Year 7 teachers, the school principal and Heads of department. The ceremony began with

opening speeches and a short video presentation by our class teachers. After that, a few students from each class spoke about what they had learned and experienced in primary school, what those years meant to them and their secondary school aspirations. The respective classes were led by their class prefects in a promissory pledge. The students pledged to work hard, make the school proud and strive for excellence in their actions. Finally, each student was presented with the Transition scrolls for 2019 by the Heads of Department. With the balloons popped, the Transition Ceremony ended in a sublime finish.

Sports Day

By Aditya (Y10)

The Sri Dasmesh Annual Sports Day 2019 was held on 16th March. After months of endless practices, the students were thrilled. Excited students and parents gathered at the University Malaya Arena Stadium at 6.45 am. In true SDIS tradition, each of the four teams conducted a short parade to lift everyone's spirits.



With no time to waste, senior students and teachers made haste by getting their mascots, parade outfits and students ready with face paint, colorful bands and all types of décor. As music sounded through the stadium, the march past commenced.



I would say that the judges were put to a test, wondering which house was best. The event was a spectacle and lighted a burning determination within all students. What an amazing start to the day! All talented sportsmen and sportswomen who had

embellished the school's name, by reaching many state and national level competitions were celebrated and acknowledged. Finally, the long-awaited track and field events began.



A total of **five** new records were set for the Group A boys 200m and shot putt, Group B girls 200m, Group C girls 200m and Group D 100m. Higher standards



every year—what an achievement! After all points had been accumulated, the much deserving Blue “Winter Soldiers” emerged victorious. All house members jumped for joy and warmly embraced

each other in the spirit of real synergy. Overall, it was a sprightful day, also marking the start of the much deserved holidays, for all who gave their best for Sports Day 2019.

Safety and Cleanliness Week

By Kirrti (Y7)

On 7th January, The Student Council officially launched this year's Safety and Cleanliness week. The aim of this week was to raise awareness on the importance of cleanliness not only of students but their surroundings as well. Students were also reminded to be more mindful of their surroundings, to stay safe and avoid any injuries. There were many activities held with the students. We had a demonstration on the usage of a first aid kit with the primary students during their lunch period and a table display of several interesting and insightful ways to be safe and improve cleanliness. Towards the end of January there was a special Fire Drill conducted by Jabatan Bomba Malaysia. SDIS students learnt that the most important tip in case of fire is to be alert, listen to instructions by officials on duty and not worry about belongings. Safety first!



Awards Day By Adhya (Y10)



The SDIS Annual Awards Day 2019 commenced on the delightful daybreak of the 11th of April. Teachers, office staff and students were as busy as bees ensuring that stage decorations, canopies and chairs were in order before guests arrived. Our Emcees for the day, Amritpreet Kaur, Sean Christien Paul from Year 6 and Astara Kaur, Zack Ali from Year 11 were as outstanding as any radio talk show hosts, capturing the audience's attention with their clear, crisp voices. The bright morning commenced with an incredibly tuneful performance of "Dikir Barat" by the immensely talented singers of



Year 6, who showered the audience with their mellifluous tones depicting Malaysian culture. Year 5 young leaders, Manisha Jaya Shanker, Balranveer Singh, Kannchana Vhina and Lok Xuen Her were next in line, showcasing 7 Habits in action through role plays.

Respected Madam Harcharan Gill and Madam Sukhbir were each invited on stage as they presented their respective speeches on key events and heart-warming moments at school over the past year. A choir titled "Sa Ni Da Pa" brought on by the Year 5 students, turned out to be a rhythmical and upbeat performance. Year 10 representatives shared the unique experiences of their visit to the Coconut School, Cambodia. The stage performances ended with an engaging play titled "The Gift" by the Year 8 students. After a good hour of entertainment, the much-awaited award giving ceremony took place. The IGCSE top achievers were the centre of attraction and were celebrated in style. After a thoroughly enthralling morning, parents and guests were invited to visit various booths set up. The Food Fiesta manned by the Year 7 and 8 students was a hit yet again, as parents and guests made a beeline for the scrumptious spread. Undeniably, this year's Annual Awards Day prove to be as spectacular as the many ones before it.



Editor's Note By Adhya Renuga (Y10)



We are halfway through the year 2019, and already, several invigorating events have taken place. This merely showcases the burning determination and dedication in teachers and students alike as they worked

diligently in organizing and preparing for these events. Students especially gave their all for Sports Day 2019—the many days of extended practises, shouting war cries with a fiery passion and persistent marching bore fruit at the end. What more, there was a significant paradigm shift amongst our students who visited the Coconut School in

Cambodia as it allowed them to view their own lifestyles in a new light. The mid-year holidays soon marked a quick end towards an eventful spectacular first term, a much-deserved break for all Dasmeshians. Till then, I, along with the rest, await the excitement of the second term which looks equally promising.

All articles are provided by the credited students. Editing, compiling of articles and layout of newsletter was done by the editor, Adhya Renuga. If any student would like to write an article for the newsletter, kindly approach the editor.



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