



Winter Newsletter: 2015-2016

As spring quickly approaches, it is time to recount all that has taken place at The Global Child in the winter months of December through February. The days have been filled with lots of laughter and fun while the students and staff maintain their vigorous academic schedules. By the first of January, the schoolhouse and the woodhouse were successfully combined as we moved into our beautiful new building. The new school is beginning to feel more and more like home. New habits have been established and adjustments have been made as the 2015-2016 academic year continues.

Angkor Wat International Half Marathon

On the 6th of December Teacher Maggie, Teacher Kyle, and Marot took part in the International Angkor Half Marathon. Although they did not run the full marathon they did run the 10k. The course was based around Angkor Wat and went through Angkor Thom. This year there were about 8,000 combined participants in the 3k, 5k, 10k and 21k races. Although the trio may have not have taken first place it was a fun and challenging run.



Grade 10 Christmas Carols

Throughout the month of December TGC's grade 10 had the opportunity to perform Christmas carols for tourists at the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor. These grade 10 students had been practicing many different Christmas songs, from "Jingle Bells" to the classic "Joy to the World." The students sang a handful of Christmas songs and mixed in one Khmer song called "Pkah Tkhul." Following their preparation, grade 10 sang a total of three times at the hotel on December 6th, 20th and 24th to help spread the holiday cheer to the people of the hotel. On December 6th and 20th the students sang in the main lobby of the Raffles Hotel as practice for the main performance which took place in the back of the hotel in front of a much larger crowd of people from all over the world. While it is understandable that the students were very nervous to perform in front of a large crowd of strangers, they did a wonderful job and the guests seemed to enjoy the carols.



Mentoring Program Fundraising

At the end of the fall, Teacher Kyle and Teacher Maggie decided to take on the task of raising funds for the Mentoring Program. After having the great privilege of joining in on the last Mentoring Program trip of 2015, the first weekend they arrived, the two volunteers realized how wonderful the program was. The two became so passionate that they ran a 60-day Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign in hopes of raising \$2,500 for the 2016 Mentoring Program. Needless to say, the campaign was a huge success. At the end of the campaign on December 18th the two managed to raise about \$3,200! With the additional funds, we were able to buy soccer cleats and socks for all of our soccer playing students, plus two sets of goalie gloves and fund two school-wide day trips. The support was outstanding, we are so thankful to all those who supported us in this campaign!



Phnom Penh Karate Workshop

Earlier in the winter TGC had eight students selected by the karate instructor to attend a karate workshop in Phnom Penh with Mr. Phiron and two students from each grade. TGC was among hundreds of other students of karate at the Olympic Stadium in Cambodia’s capital. From December 12th to 14th the head karate master in Cambodia along with many other high degree black belts led the workshop to share their skills and help improve all those who attended. The Global Child students who attended the workshop have brought back the skills they learned and shared them with the other TGC students so that everyone can benefit from the Phnom Penh trip. At the closing of the workshop the Minister of Education along with the head masters greeted each individual organization and awarded them with a certificate. Overall, it was a very constructive event that will continue to improve TGC’s students.



Women Empowerment Program

Thanks to the support and resources from Nimol and Nika, the Women Empowerment program has continued into 2016. In December we welcomed Engkunthea Nov, who is the Executive Secretary at Victory Angkor Resort and Spa, a luxury hotel in Siem Reap. She spoke to the girls about her experience working her way up the ranks in the hotel and now being in a management position. The TGC girls had many insightful questions and thoroughly enjoyed Kunthea’s presentation.

Annual Christmas Party

On December 26, the students and staff celebrated a very Merry Christmas with our annual Christmas party. It was a wonderful day thanks to all the teachers and staff who worked hard to prepare days before the party. Some of the highlights were the annual “rice sack” races, the water balloon toss (which eventually turned into a water balloon fight), sponge water races, and of course karaoke and lots of dancing. Despite the many wonderful events of the day, it seems the group favorite was the very unexpected visit from Santa Claus himself, who rode in bearing gifts for all. Thank goodness, Kyle allowed Santa to borrow his bike for the day!



Globalteer Football League

Ever since Sunday, December 6th, most TGC students have been playing in a local soccer league that includes over 70 different teams from numerous NGOs around Siem Reap. Charlie Pomroy of the Globalteer NGO set up this league and the Goals 4 Girls team helps officiate and organize the games. This is part of phase 2 as mentioned in the TGC fall 2015 newsletter. TGC students formed teams in three different age groups: under 14 girls, under 16 boys and under 18 girls. From the most recent update the under 14 girls team are in 6th place for their age group, the under 16 boys team are in 12th place for their age group and the under 18 girls team are in 2nd for their age group. TGC is excited to announce that on March 20th the under 18 girls team will be playing in the championship to finish off the season. While it would be great if all our teams had the success the under 18 girls team had, it is still important to know that all the athletes did their best and had a lot of fun this season.



Parent-Teacher Meeting

The Global Child opened the doors of its new building to the parents and family members of some of the students on February 16th. This was the first official parents' meeting of the new school. It was nice to have a chance to give parents a tour of the fully operating school. Some of the details that were discussed during the meeting were student exam scores presented in graphical form showing most improved. Other topics that were covered were social media, student health, and study habits at home.



First TGC Student to Travel Abroad

TGC is happy to announce that Sokoam, one of the grade 11 girls, was accepted to the fully sponsored opportunity to be a participant in the Michael Johnson Positive Track Project in Dallas, Texas. This project is a 9-day leadership camp for young people from all over the world. The project selected Sokoam out of a huge pool of applicants because she displays strong characteristics in inspiring others, sport ability, and problem solving. The camp will help improve Sokoam's leadership skills and help her learn how to inspire others. This camp does all of this through the use of sport and classroom sessions. Overall this opportunity functions to improve the leadership and influential skills of people who can positively affect others in their home country. This could not be a better match for Sokoam. Another aspect of the camp is that it gives each participant a small grant to implement a community project directed toward addressing a social problem in each of the participants' local area. We all wish Sokoam the best and know that she will represent TGC very well in this 9-day adventure in the United States.



CamTESOL Workshop

Late in February from the 20th to the 21st, Teacher Dara and Teacher Soben travelled to Phnom Penh to represent TGC at the annual CamTESOL teacher conference. The conference consisted of multiple workshops and brought in educators from many different countries. The conference gathers an average 1700 attendees with 600 of them being from 30 different countries every year. This visit will be beneficial to TGC because both Teacher Dara and Soben attended as many presentations as possible and brought back the new skills and methods of teaching to the other TGC teachers. The last Saturday of February Soben and Dara held a conference of their own to share the presentations from CamTESOL. Other things that were discussed were gender education and how to foster an educational conducive environment. This experience was very helpful to TGC and we are happy they had the chance to attend the conference.



Health Classes and Yoga

This winter at TGC there has been a big emphasis on health, beginning with health classes conducted by Teacher Kyle and Teacher Maggie in February. The two separated the boys and girls and discussed various topics ranging from healthy eating, to exercise, and to relationships. Overall, the classes were very successful because the students were very engaged and willing to voice concerns and ask questions. Along with the health classes, Teacher Maggie continues to teach nightly yoga classes at the school to all those willing to join. Students and staff alike enjoy the workouts and meditation sessions, and those hours have become a time for all of us to relax and clear our minds of stress and tension. The classes have been so



successful that we have decided to institute 40 minutes of yoga each week as part of the Saturday activities for the students. We hope this time gives the students the chance to decompress from the week and discover the benefits of yoga, stretching, and body weight exercises.

Joe to Go

Throughout the winter months, positive changes have been made at Joe to Go as well. Nimol, Nika, Orn and Teacher Maggie have been working to re-design the display board as you walk into the café. There is now a small flat screen TV that will soon play a short video about The Global Child and Joe to Go. We hope that these visuals will give customers a better idea about the connection between the school and the café and give them an opportunity to see all of the wonderful work that is going on at TGC.

We have also instituted some changes to the drink section of the menu. Soon, Joe to Go will serve both regular and large sizes of selected coffees. These changes should give customers more of a choice when deciding on their drink orders. We also introduced a “London Fog Tea Latte” to the menu to appeal to all of the drink



lovers. This tea latte consists of earl grey tea, steamed milk, and vanilla flavoring. As of April, the Food of the Month specials also include another tea special, the Chai Tea Latte along with new Iced Fruit Punch and Nutella and Banana Stuffed French Toast.

The most exciting changes however, are among the staff. We have recently hired two women who are relatives of the students at TGC; we are thrilled that we can help assist our student's families beyond the children's education at TGC. Both of the women have very interesting stories and backgrounds, there is no doubt that their efforts at Joe to Go are crucial to the livelihood of their families.

Han Sao was hired as a cook assistant and cleaner at JTG July 2015. She is 43 years old, she is married and has two sons and three daughters, one of her sons is our student Dara who is in grade 7. Four of her children are still young, live at home with her and her husband, and need complete financial support including their educations. One of which is only 4 years old. Her husband is a policeman, which is not a stable job, when he is free he works as the security guard and a motorbike/land broker to earn more income. However Han is responsible for bringing in the majority of the income for the whole family because her husband's salary is very low. They live in a small house on land that they do not own, in exchange, her family needs to keep up and maintain the property.



Saron Ny was just hired to work at Joe to Go as a front house staffs assistant and cook in early March 2016. She is 34 years old and is the eldest sister of our grade 11 student Srey Khuoch. Saron has three children: one son (14 years old) and two daughters (13 and 6 years old). Unfortunately, Saron's husband passed away 4 years ago due to an illness, which leaves her as the sole provider for her children who all attend school. She and her children live on a very small piece of land that they share with several families. Thankfully, TGC is committed to providing for our student's families in every way we can.

Winter Newsletter Fundraising

Thank you all for your tremendous support over the years, The Global Child would not be where it is today without you. However, our work here is never complete. Over the next couple of months we will be launching a new crowd-funding page, through the site Indiegogo, in hopes of raising money to continue to make TGC the wonderful place it is. It is our goal to raise funds to help offset the continuing expenses from the move to our beautiful new building. Please keep your eyes open for the link to the Indiegogo page coming soon. Once again thank you for all of your continuous support.

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:

<http://www.theglobalchild.org/Donation.html>

Send a check by mail to: The Global Child, P.O. Box 126, New Baltimore , NY 12124

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 remember that Today's Children are Tomorrow's World.

Warmest Regards,
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