



Fall Newsletter: October 2016 – January 2017

Another school year has arrived at The Global Child, and we are so happy to welcome eleven new students into our TGC family! Our new class has entered at a Grade 5 level, adding to our Grade 8 (G5), Grade 11 (G4), and Grade 12 (G3) students. We are looking forward to watching them grow academically, socially, and into confident leaders. This fall was filled with exciting opportunities and programs for TGC and we look forward to what 2017 will bring. As we reflect on 2016 and what the year brought us, The Global Child is reminded just how much progress our students have made and how grateful we are for all of your support.

EDUCATION

Integration Day & Opening Day 2016

It's the new academic year at TGC! On October 5th, The Global Child held its first day of school. But instead of new notebooks and stuffy classrooms, it was hailed as Integration Day and filled with fun activities. We were celebrating the addition of eleven new students to the school! It was important to make them feel as welcomed and comfortable as possible, and what better way to do that than with ice breakers, four square and musical chairs.

The next day was called the official "Opening Day," in which students, staff, families, and a member of the Ministry of Education participated in a special ceremony to kick off the school year. The outdoor pavilion was crowded with about 80 chairs, a temporary dance floor of mats was installed, and there were plenty of decorations. Teacher Dara updated attendees about everything going on at TGC as well as the goals for the year, and the Ministry of Education member addressed the importance of receiving an education. The flag was ceremoniously raised and our students participated in four different traditional dance performances. It was a real treat to see!





K12 Student Club

In November, the students of Grade 12 (G3) made a decision to improve study habits, increase their learning time, and put in extra work towards success. They began a K12 Study Group, in which members of the class congregate every Monday-Friday evening for 1.5 hours. They use it as a time to study together and support each other as they complete homework. They also occasionally have teachers join their sessions to increase their educational opportunities. Way to go G3 for taking the initiative!

Outstanding Student Program at 10 January School

This past December, The Global Child was invited to send their Grade 12 students to the Outstanding Students Program of Siem Reap! This is a wonderful honor and opportunity for our students to get extra time in the classroom with other excelling students in the area. It takes place at 10 Jan 1979 School Monday through Friday, after they finish their daily classes at TGC. The program will run until February.

The Human Bird Project at Joe to Go

In January, Joe to Go presented “Human-Bird,” an art and fashion show put on by TGC students. In preparation for the show, art teacher Savann directed the students to research a bird that embodied some of their own personal characteristics. The students then drew a creative art piece that combined a depiction of their researched bird with a self-portrait. They also hand built frames for their artwork! Finally, the students imagined what it would be like if this human-bird came to life and designed a fashion piece modeled after their drawing. This amazing project culminated in the art and fashion show at Joe to Go where the students got to model their artwork and clothing design for the public! The show was incredible and we are so proud of our students for all of their hard work!



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Halloween Program

This year, Halloween fell on a school day, but that did not stop TGC from getting in on the fun! Volunteers Allison and Emily put on a Halloween party for the students at the end of the school day. First, students lined up to go bobbing for apples. Then they competed in a donut-on-a-string eating contest. This activity was definitely the crowd favorite! Students took turns snapping their jaws at dangling donuts, as their hands were stuck behind their backs -- although there may have been more laughing than eating, and more sugar in hair than in mouths. Afterwards, students went crazy with face-paint and to end the affair, students went Trick-or-Treating at the front door of the school.



Student trip with Sam Veasna Center

On New Year's Eve, TGC went on a special field trip organized by the Sam Veasna Center, a wildlife conservation and bird-watching organization in Siem Reap. Our students have continuously participated in programs with the SVC, so they were thrilled to have the opportunity to spend a morning and afternoon bird watching and learning about Cambodian wildlife. We left by bus at 6:30am and traveled on a dirt road about an hour outside of Siem Reap. Everyone filed off the bus, and were instructed to keep an eye out for birds in the forest-like areas on either side of the road. We walked for about two miles equipped with binoculars, telescopes, and cameras searching for the birds in faraway trees. Unfortunately we only spotted a handful, but each time one was spotted, students ran over, hardly containing their excitement. Later in the morning, we went to the Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB) – a rehabilitation and conservation center for birds, monkeys, turtles, and other endangered Cambodian wildlife. Students were entranced with everything our guides were sharing about the wildlife and ACCB's conservation efforts. To end the field trip, students got to climb Phnom Kulen to see the waterfall and temple there. It was a day to remember!



Gender Equality & Female Empowerment Program

In November, Volunteers Allison and Emily kick-started a Gender Equality and Female Empowerment program at TGC. They planned five separate sessions to cover:

1. Female hygiene & health (girls only)
2. Self-esteem (girls only)
3. What is feminism? (co-ed)
4. Why should gender equality matter to men? (boys only)
5. How can we work for gender equality? (co-ed)

The first workshop was in late November and went really well. The girls were really responsive to the things presented on hygiene, physical, mental health, and coping with stress. In December, workshop number two was also a success! The session centered on encouraging the girls to embrace who they are and to help build up the other girls and women in their life. In both, the girls were open to asking questions, participating in discussion, and were enthusiastic about having a safe space to share stories. We look forward to getting the boys and girls together to discuss the importance of feminism in our communities -- because when girls win, everyone wins!

Christmas Party

On Christmas Eve, the staff threw a holiday bash for our students. Although the majority of TGC does not celebrate Christmas, the holiday party has become TGC tradition filled with cultural exchange, camaraderie, and celebration. Our students made stockings which were stuffed with candy, snacks, and toothbrushes (important after all of that sugar)! Teachers Soben and Chhaylon and Volunteers Swing, Emily, and Allison created a host of games and activities for the students to participate in including a “snowball fight” with balloons, pin the nose on the reindeer, Christmas caroling, and three legged races. Even Santa made an appearance!



Right: Of course when it’s Christmastime, someone has to be Santa! Rithy gave his best Santa impressions and even posed for pictures!

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“Football for Kids”

Last summer TGC saw its first student make a journey to the U.S.! One of our Grade 12 students, Sokoam, was selected out of a competitive pool of applicants to participate in the Michael Johnson Positive Track Project, a 9-day leadership camp for youth from across the world, located in Dallas, Texas. As part of the camp she was given a small grant to create and implement a community project. Sokoam chose to organize a sports and education program in her village called “Football for Kids”. Every Sunday in December, Sokoam worked with her TGC peers on the soccer field, leading them through a series of sports drills, problem solving activities, and team-building exercises to prepare them to be coaches for the children in her village. In January, Sokoam took her next step: bringing the program to her village. After a meeting with the village chief to determine where her program should be held and other logistics, she ran her first session on January 22nd. It was a hit! The kids were thrilled to learn a new skill and Sokoam and her coaching staff led the session seamlessly. Sokoam’s leadership abilities and dedication to her community and country truly embody TGC’s mission: today’s children, tomorrow’s world.



Quick Mentions:

- **NextStep Football Tournaments:**
 - In the months of October and November, NextStep FC hosted several NGO football tournaments. Our boys participated in a U16 competition and despite missing the final round, the boys fought hard and played really well. The following weekend, it was the girls' turns! In the U16 tournament, our team came in third place! The girls were really proud of their victories!
- **Social Programs: recycled plastic flowers, fried spring rolls**
 - Teacher Chhaylon's Social Program continued through the winter months with exciting new projects for the students. In November, students made beautiful flower sculptures out of recycled plastic bottles and other materials that would have otherwise been thrown away. Through this activity, they learned about art and about environmental consciousness. In December, students gathered in our outdoor pavilion to make homemade fried spring rolls. They cut and chopped all of the vegetables and meat, rolled the ingredients up in rice paper, and fried them over gas burners. Once the work was done, everyone enjoyed eating the fruits of their labor together!

In other (fun) news...

... **Angkor Half Marathon:** The Angkor Wat International Half Marathon is always quite the event, drawing thousands of competitors from across the world to participate. This year, Volunteers Emily and Allison were among the throngs of runners who lined up at 6 AM on December 4th to run 13.1 miles amid the beautiful temples of Angkor Park. As they crossed the finish line, they were met with TGC students and teachers cheering them on! Emily and Allison fundraised over \$800 for The Global Child through their participation in the half marathon, which will be used to support TGC's yearly trip, buy crucial school supplies, and fund exciting new programs. Several TGC students also participated in the 10 km race, demonstrating once again how hard-working and ambitious our students are!



... Sending a big thank you to our volunteer Swing for spending four weeks with us at TGC! She stepped in to teach many classes, helped plan and organize our Christmas party, and joined on our SVC Field Trip. It is always wonderful having you join us Swing!

... Students still love their swim days! Thanks to John Slyer's generosity, our students have been able to spend one day a month at a local pool practicing their swimming and floating skills!

JOE TO GO UPDATES

The temperature in Cambodia remains around 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter months, but that shouldn't stop anyone from enjoying some holiday cheer in the form of a piping hot drink or warm Christmas treats! And so Joe to Go introduced delicious seasonal specials including a Cinnamon Dolce Latte and a Peppermint Mocha Latte. To spread even more Christmas cheer, Joe to Go staff baked homemade Christmas cookies as a complimentary goodie for its customers over this holiday season. All of this seasonal goodness was an offer alongside Joe to Go's tasty menu regulars and new specials like Pad-Thai and homemade mac and cheese. In other exciting news, Joe to Go has hired several new staff members who are committed to its mission of providing stellar customer service and food, all while supporting the education of bright Cambodian youth.

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, mail to:

The Global Child Inc.

PO 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,

Judy Wheeler

Board Chair, The Global Child

518-423-8780

judy@theglobalchild.org