

IEC Chesco News

Mrs. Liau's new baby arrives – New Library



The IEC has a new addition to its landscape. The new library has been built and it is now operational. It was officially opened at the end of term 3. Group 61 with the help of some other students from 62, all worked as groups, and dirtied their hands to recreate a library for students to improve their reading skills.

Many things have been going on in the new library like, the parents meeting, and when we had visitors from the Queenwood High School they were welcomed by students in the library. The visitors were kind, friendly, polite, and of course beautiful. *(Continued Page 3)*

IEC Movie

Our School is making video programs which expose students to theatre, dance, music and other forms of art. Without the chance of making a performing video program, students would have to try to discover this outside of their everyday routine, and this would make the probability of them discovering an appreciation of fine arts more unlikely than if they attended a school that does help them improve their skills in simple ways.

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The video program



Video photos taken by Chris Atkins

he attraction of theatre, dance, film, music and other forms of arts is that these activities allow children to express themselves in a safe, positive way. Our school has been running a program called the film project where students have been a part of the production of a movie about refugees. It helped students improve their accents and writing skills in English.

ctually our students wrote small stories which were then put together as a big story, and made into a film. The story is about Johan a child who left his country with his sister, because of war, but sadly without their parents who were left behind. The person who played the role of Johan was Khalid Magzoub and his sister was played by Dena Rezaie. They faced many problems ever since they came to Australia. But Johan was faced by more problems than his sister; he gets bullied at school, and even gets to go to detention class where his detention teacher was MR FUREY known as MR FREEMAN. The person who helps him and

takes care of him in school is GHAZAL EHSAN which is known in the film as TINA. And I was one of the bullies who got to hit Khalid, not just me but MAHMOUD EL AKOUMI and ARYAN SINAIEAN who were my friends, we got to bully Johan and take his shoes away. Well there are more people who cooperated with us like behind the scenes. Fatmata and Karina wrote a song and actually sang it for the introduction. We all had fun and cooperated well together which I even learnt. I thank Mr. Craig Thornton, Mr. Furey, and Ms. Caroline very much.

By Mustapha Faytrouni

Battle of Words

By Yve Reyes & Sophia Park

One of the most awaited events in Chester Hill IEC is the Oratory Contest. It is the time where students from different classes speak their hearts out for a couple of minutes about a certain topic.

This term's Oratory Contest was held in the newly-built library, which is the "Taj Mahal" of Chester Hill IEC, on the 2nd of December 2011.

Twenty-nine students battled in the elimination round and only twelve will be chosen to proceed to the Finals. The contestants ranged from the older Stage 6 groups to the Stage 4 youngsters.

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The New Library



The person most excited about the library was Mrs. Liau as she has a new office there and that makes her very happy, especially since there's full silence there which doesn't give her any headaches.

The library has many types of famous books like Twilight, Harry Potter, The Diary of the Wimpy Kid and even more. There are even many kinds of book that are very easy for beginners to improve their English skills. It's full of new books, old books, encyclopaedia's, dictionaries, magazines, newspapers, computers and even more.

It became our new home which we have to take care of; all students are very excited that they have a new library and especially when every class has an hour a week to read in there.

By Mustapha Faytrouni and Asef Bayti.

Common test

This term like every term, we had our common test which was in week seven.

In the common test each class has their own levels, depending on their English level. Even in maths, students did different tests depending on their maths ability. For some of the students, it's the first time they have done a common exam. Mostly we are given our common test in the hall but last term and this term we didn't do it, because students from high school were using it.

The Common test is very hard for new students because their English is not very good and they might not have done this kind of test in their own country. They often need more time to read and understand the questions.

By Maryam Akhlaqi



Parents meeting

By Christine Guan & Wendy Wang

The IEC (Intensive English Centre) parents meeting were held on 31st November in our school library from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The library was full of teachers and parents when we entered with all the parents sitting around the tables and listening carefully.

After welcoming all the parents attending the meeting, Mr. Van der Weide made a brief introduction about the IEC. The IEC is a bridge that leads foreign students to adapt to their new learning environment, to help them get used to the Australian cultural customs and improve their English. Students in IEC are divided into different groups which are based on their English level and their ages. And there are many activities which are held every term, such as excursions, Optus day, speech and writing competitions, and film programs. They learn new skills as well as improve their English while enjoying the fun. Students can easily assimilate into Australian education system after they graduate from the IEC.

And then, Mrs. Soma and Mr. Van der Weide introduced several subjects such as English, Mathematics and IT. Mrs. Soma spoke about her teaching experience and students' study situation and Mr. Van der Weide also described the problems students may meet caused by learning a new language and how the teachers help them to solve these troubles.



Teacher was waiting for the parents in the school library.

At last, the careers adviser Ms. Patrizi from Chester Hill High School reported the options that students can select in high schools. Students can go to universities or TAFES to get a higher degree; they can also get a full time job or get some training as apprentices. Different selections are suitable for students in different situations, as she said, many people have prejudice of TAFE, but in fact it's also a good option which is not worse than any others.

The meeting ended with a free talk among teachers and parents, teachers answered all the questions patiently and they talked about all the details that the parents wanted to know about their children.

All the parents now have a deeper understanding of the IEC and know more about their children's school life. All benefitted a lot from the meeting and are waiting hopefully for the next one.

STREET ART ON COCKATOO ISLAND

By May Bayti & Judy Dang

The school Leaders, international students and 61 class were included in the Cockatoo Island excursion in term 4.

The excursion started at 9:00 so all the students had to be at the Chester hill station before 9:00 and it was supervised by Mrs. Soma, Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Linh. We went by train to the city and then we went for a 30 minute walk. After that Mrs. Harding called us to wait for the boat but we were too late for it so we had to wait another 30 minutes for it. Finally the boat arrived and we went on it and it was a beautiful view: the buildings, the trees and the sea.

Before we got to Cockatoo Island, we passed so many different islands and it took us half an hour to arrive there. We were impressed by how beautiful and wonderful it was. Then Mrs. Harding, our history teacher, explained us the history of the Island. Then she told us that we have half an hour to explore it. We started to separate into groups. While we went around it, we started to take pictures of it and it was amazing: an old



house, tents and a lot of old ancient histories.

Then while we were walking there was a street art and it was stunning the drawing that the people have done you can't describe it. Then all the students came and start drawing what they like, love and other people came and draw too. It is good to express your feeling by art.

Then Mrs. Soma called us because it was time to go and it took us 15 minutes to arrive the station. On the way back to school we used the train. Some of the students went off in different stations. We had a lot of fun and we really enjoyed it very much.

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Oratory Competition

Their speeches circled around the most controversial issues of the world today; Free Speech, Pop Culture, Drugs and Age Discrimination. A majority of the speakers spoke about Drugs. They shared how illegal drugs can end your life and how medicines can cure even the most horrible diseases. They were judged by Mrs Soma (English Teacher), Mrs Harding (History Teacher) and our beloved Head Teacher, Mrs Liao. It was a tight competition and the judges were forced to pick three more than the usual twelve finalists.

The finalists are; Sang Hong, Wendy Wang, Judy Dang, Fatmata Kane Bah, Khaled El-Magzoub, Cody Zhao, Tarana Ashraf, Cherry Liu, Elly Li, Klein Reyes, Dana Pontawe, Yuting Chen, Ye Rin Kim, Dena Rezaie and Akira Fujii.

There are also some names that are said likely to win, namely, Yuting Chen and Fatmata Kane Bah.

The Finals will be held in The Hall on the 12th of December 2011. It is said that it will be a tough fight so make sure to pray for your preferred winners!



Sculptures by the Sea

By Judy Dang

This term Mrs Liao decided to send many of the students for a walk, so she organised an excursion to Bondi Beach to look at the sculptures. Nearly the whole centre went to experience art and the lovely Sydney coastline.



We divided into groups and started walking from different ends of the path. The students took many photos of the sculptures and of their friends as well as the beach. We even saw many students from other High Schools and took photos with them too. About halfway along the walk we stopped for lunch in an area that had not only many artworks but also food, ice cream and drinks. Some students took out paper and pencils to draw the sculptures even though it was quite difficult to do.

After some time there we headed on to our respective buses. We had some time at the end to put our feet into the water on the beach and had a great time. We enjoyed our day not only because we saw many interesting things but we also learnt cooperation and not to be shy.

DIVING INTO THE POOL

Australia is surrounded by the ocean and you can imagine how many beaches that they have in this country right? So it is a good idea for you to learn swimming.

You don't have to know how to swim really well like an athlete, you just need to know the basics to survive in the water. So our IEC has organized swimming lessons for everyone who can't swim. The lessons lasted for 5 days with 2 periods each day and every lesson had a new benefit to each student. Between the two periods, we had a short safety presentation and our slogan was: "**NEVER SWIM ALONE**".

On the first day, the coach told us to get into the pool and to show some basic movements like floating, kicking, back float, backscull and freestyle. Then they put us in a suitable group like: Gold fish 1, 2, 3 and the top group was Sea horse 1. Then we started to learn new movements and practise it for 4 days more to prepare for the test at the end of the week.

Day after day finally the test came. The coaches tested us and after that our marks were written on the certificates. From the beginning, some students started at **0000** metres and now they had incredible results such as our top student is Aryan with 25 metres and many could swim more than 5 metres.

All of the students had fun and learned lots of important lessons about swimming and water safety. Thanks to all the teachers and coaches who supported us and organised this special program for the IEC students.

By Soumaya EL.T. & Sang Hong.



SPORT

The IEC CATS ALMOST MAKE FINALS!

On Friday the **4th** November, **2011** at Macquarie University Oval some of our junior boys participated in a soccer tournament. They competed against another IEC and high school teams for the Football United trophy.



The first game was against Lurnea IEC and although both had many chances to score, neither team troubled the scorer so the final result was **0-0**. The best player was the captain of the team Eliya KASONGO.

This result meant that the Chester Hill IEC Cats needed to win the second game against Fairfield High School to advance to the finals but they were unable to reproduce the form of the first game and lost **4-0** with again Eliya KASONGO their most outstanding player.

They all tried their best and were unlucky, but they realise the experience will be of great benefit to them all.

By MahmoudEl Akoumi & Ghazal Ehsan

GOING FOR A SWIM read the story inside on page 7