Issue 43

September 2009 Teaching Block 1

Science & Technology Week

Dear Parents & Carers,

School News

I would like to welcome you all to a "new" year here at iCAN. The iCAN family has continued to grow. As well as all of you who were already part of our community we have welcomed "new" teachers and "new' children and their families. I know that many of our children were very eager to start back at school in August, which always makes me smile. I am not sure that is how I felt as a child. It is also reassuring because it really does mean that we are providing a learning environment which fosters happy children and living up to our motto which is "A happy child loves to learn."

I am sure that many of you will have already noticed all the improvements and renovations that took place over the summer holiday. The children are certainly enjoying the remodelled play spaces. This work was just part of our ongoing building programme, which also includes the completion of the building works at the newly opened iCAN PLAY (see the copy of the advert on page 9). Plans are also underway to relocate the car park and remodel the current car park, creating additional play spaces for the children. We are all very excited about this and are hoping that we will be able to use this space at the start of 2010.

There are a number of new initiatives this year, including "Wake Up and Shake up" which will literally be waking us up and shaking iCAN to the foundations on a daily basis after Pchum Ben. We have created a new International Links coordinators position and they will be responsible for setting up links with schools overseas. We have also updated our I.C.T. resources, purchasing an I.W.B. for the Nursery 2 Unit, eight new net books to be used across KS2 and KS3 and some great new cameras.

We kicked off the year with the parent socials in the first week and then held the ever popular Movie nights for KS2 families. We have planned a number of family events this year and hope that you will all join us and take the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of other iCAN families. Further events can be found on your iCAN calendar.

Enjoy the Pchum Ben holiday and see you again on 21st! Ms. Lori Water, land or air... how will you choose to travel?

We had so much fun i n v e s t i g a t i n g , designing and making. Pages 2 to 6 are full of photos of the various Science & Technology week activities.

... and a special thanks to Ms. Jo, Ms. Andrea, Mr. Paul, Ms. Caroline & Ms. Shubhra for all their hard work coordinating our specialist week.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT A GLANCE

- 21/9 Start of TB2
- 30/9 3R Class Assembly
- 5/10 No school Professional Development for teachers
- 7/10 50 Class Assembly
- 14/104L Class Assembly
- 28/10Book sale
- **29/10** Family Learning Day
- **30/10International Day**
- **30/10End of TB2**

Science & Technology Week Water





Our Early Years children and those in Year 1 had lots of fun finding out what makes boats and rafts float ... or not!

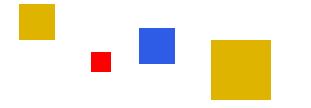




Science & Technology Week Land







In Years 2, 3 and 4 our children designed and made a variety of vehicles which could travel on the land.

We saw ambulances, triple-deckers and even wind powered vehicles.



Science & Technology Week Land



"How does my vehicle work?"

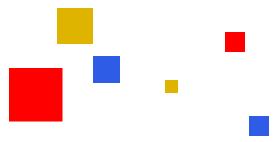
"What changes can I make?"

"What is friction?"



Science & Technology Week Land



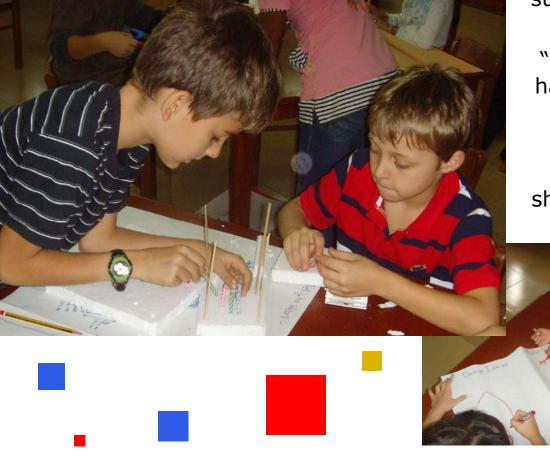




"What is surface area?"

"What would happen if ...?"

"What materials should I use?"



Science & Technology Week Air





















Family-School communication

We are really committed to developing more effective channels of communication with members of our community. Improving communication between home and school is one of the targets in our 2009-10 School Development plan.

There are a number of communication systems in school both formal and informal.

There is **printed communication**;

• occasional letters

• weekly newsletters published by each year group which are posted on the school website each Friday. These newsletters contain information about the learning that is taking place in each year group, the weekly spelling list and other information on events that are planned.

• the iCAN Times which is posted on the school website at the end of each teaching block, which is always packed with photos and information relating to that teaching block.

• The reading records that go home each day in your child's reading folder are another means of communication with your child's class teacher about your child's reading.

At iCAN PLAY there are Home Contact Books which families and teachers use to write messages about individual children in.

There is also **verbal communication**;

If you have a question or concern please do come and talk to one of us at school. Generally, if your question or concern is related directly to your child e.g. progress, health or behaviour then your first port of call is your child's class teacher. Class teachers are usually happy to have a quick chat in the canteen at 7.50am, but if you need longer then please make an appointment to meet with them.

If you need further clarification or your question is related to a wider school issue please make an appointment to see either Ms. Emily, Head of Early Years, Mr. David, Vice Principal, Ms. Lori, Principal or Ms. Margaret if it relates to KS3. We are also planning to put a wooden box under the "Information for Families" board in the canteen to give you another option for sharing ideas, making comments or asking questions. The box will be checked once a week and we will feedback to parents.

If the matter is related to general day to day administration, such as the payment of fees, please speak to Ms. Lynn or Mr. Sophak.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our channels of communication please do let us know.

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Year 6 Flea Market

Your junk, our treasure?

As part of our topic, 'Keen to be Green' class 6A organized a flea market. We asked children to bring in old toys, books, games and clothes that were still good quality. Then we divided the items into different groups by deciding how much each item was worth to us. This was really tricky! We gave each person tokens depending on how much they had brought in. The whole class was involved in sorting and getting our classroom ready for the trading.

Finally the flea market began! People used their tokens to trade. Everyone was happy and seemed to get what they wanted. Except the helpers, because they were too busy helping! The 'helpers' helped to collect the tokens from the people that were trading and tried to creatively ádvertise' the items they were 'selling'. We had a great time! It was a great success!

The toys, books, games, and clothes that are left over have been given to the children at C.D.C.C.



"It was great for recycling." Kun Woo



"I think it was fun!" Mak

"It was fun tempting people to buy the clothes!" *Mai*

"There were many things to buy." Nathan







iCAN Times Issue 43



"I think the flea market was great, because if someone doesn't want their things,

then someone else would. It made everyone happy!"

Fden

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Early Years Centre

ican

British International School

85, Sothearos Blvd, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel : (855-23) 222 416 ~ 8 email : ican@ican.edu.kh www.ican.edu.kh

The latest edition to our iCAN family will open it's doors on Tuesday 22nd September. It's located close to the main site, on Street 21.

Early Years Centre

For 1½ to 3 year olds

Ms. Emily and her team have worked really hard to ensure that iCAN PLAY will be an amazing provision for the younger members of our School community.

iCAN British International School

85, Sothearos Blvd. Sangkat Tonle Bassac **Phnom Penh** Cambodia

Phone: 023 222 416-7 Fax: 023 222 418 Email: ican@ican.edu.kh

www.ican.edu.kh

iSPACE

A new initiative coming to iCAN...

intrigued, curious, interested? Come to the hall at 7.50am on Monday 21st September.



Birthdays

If you wish to bring a cake to school so that your child can celebrate their birthday with their friends that is fine as long as you check with your child's class teacher first.

Cakes should only be brought in for snack time in the morning (EYFS & KS1 at 9.30am and KS2/3 at 10am) and parents should provide disposable plates and spoons.

Please do not bring in any other food, drink or party gifts.

Family Learning Day

This is a great opportunity for you to come in and spend some time in class with your child/ren, join in with learning activities and see how teaching and learning take place at iCAN.

This year we have planned for "Family Learning Day" to take place the day before International day so many of the activities will relate to this day. Remember to sign up for a session.

ispace

Remember to check out this amazing resource. It will provide hours of fun learning, for your child (and you!)

You can access it by going to the school website on www.ican.edu.kh and then clicking



or by using the following link: www.ican.edu.kh/ispace/home/ispace.htm

This week was Science and Technology Week, so why not encourage your child to visit some of the great Science sites.



What is the Schools Fantasy League? How does it work?

Mr. Paul will be sending out information about this very, very soon.

Have you visited iSPACE on our website yet?