

**To inspire every child to recognise their full potential, believe they can make a difference and respect themselves, others and the world in which they live.**

**October 2012**

**Our 10th anniversary year!**

Dear iCAN families, We have welcomed many new faces, old and young to our iCAN family this school year. Some children and teachers are not only new to iCAN but are also new to Cambodia.



Personally, some of the new staff have reminded me why I love Cambodia so much and why I have made it my home for the last 11 years. I have enjoyed seeing Cambodia through fresh eyes with a more positive perspective. It has reminded me how important it is for us all to celebrate both the similarities and the differences between host and home countries.



It has been wonderful to see how well everyone has settled. It feels like they have been part of the iCAN family for a long time. Whilst on the subject of 'a long time', this has been the longest Learning Block in the history of iCAN and I know that everyone is ready for a well deserved holiday.



I hope that you all enjoy the week with family and friends wherever you are ... I for one will be under an umbrella (for rain or sun) making sandcastles in Sihanoukville.



Have fun wherever you are and I look forward to seeing you all after Pchum Ben. **Ms. Lori**

## Parent & Carers drop-in

There are 3 of these drop-in sessions on the School calendar for the 2012-13 academic year. They are all on Mondays:

**29th October 2012**

14th January 2013

11th March 2013

As you can see, the first one is just after the Pchum Ben break. On this day you will be able to explore your child's classroom, guided by your child. Their teacher will be available to answer any questions you may have about their learning journey.

## DIARY DATE REMINDERS

### October

**22nd** Start of LB2

**26th** Swim Meet v. HOPE

**29th** Parent & Carers drop-in session

### November

**1st** Swim Meet v. ISPP

**2nd** 5J class assembly

**9th** Family learning day

**13th** MP2 family movie night

**14th** MP3 family bowling

**16th** Y1-9 sports event & picnic

**20th** MP1 family event

**22nd** End of LB2

**22nd** Teacher training day

## ... STOP PRESS ... LATEST NEWS ...

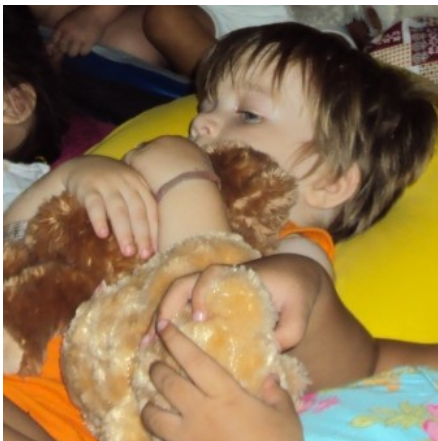
International Day, which was originally scheduled for Thursday 22nd November, will now take place later on **Thursday 11th April 2013**

More information in future issues of our iCAN Times.

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# EYFS iCAN PLAY



iCAN PLAY have been learning all about bears this learning block. As part of their celebration they helped to make delicious cup cakes. They came to school in pyjamas, bringing their favourite bedtime stories.



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# Nursery & Y6 Reading buddies



Each learning block Year 6 and Nursery join together for buddy reading sessions.

## Family social at Le Jardin



It was great to see so many faces at Le Jardin for our family socials. Lots of sand play and ice cream!



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# Early Years Foundation Stage



We have been practising many skills so far in Reception ... writing, cutting and sticking!



During our first learning block Reception have been focusing on the topic 'All About Me'. As part of our entry point the children brought in a photo of their family and were able to stand up in front of the class to talk about their family members.



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# EYFS Learning through play



Reception have become independent learners this learning block. They have learned to build and construct using a variety of resources. Our team strive to plan activities based on the children's learning. Our children in Reception had great fun playing with our new superhero toys and then drew excellent comic strips about their play.



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# Early Years Foundation Stage



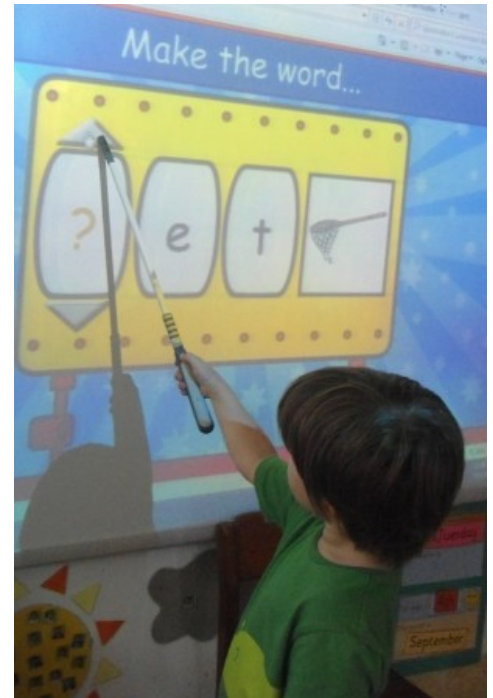
We have also been learning about our feelings and we have become better at telling each other how we feel each morning, and explaining why.



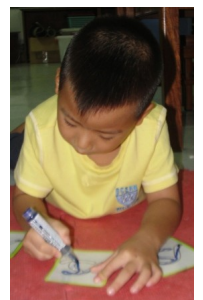
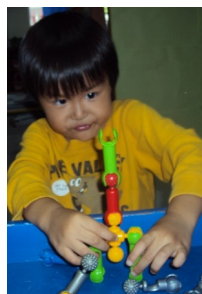
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# EYFS Learning through play



Who knew learning could be such much fun?



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# New to iCAN 2012-13

Last school year we introduced Cooperative Learning at iCAN, which research shows positively affects academic achievement, social/emotional development, cognitive development, liking for school and class as well as a host of other positive outcomes. One of our teachers said cooperative learning "...has transformed my teaching. Having cooperative learning structures in the classroom is making the children far more responsible for their own learning."

We have updated our I.C.T. resources, purchasing 12 new MacBook Pros for Key Stage 3 and an iPod Touch for each year group from Reception to Year 6. This is in addition to the bank of 140 laptops and netbooks already in school.

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. We started the year with the Parent/Carer socials in the second week and these were very successful despite the rain! We also held the ever popular Movie nights for KS2 families and the ice cream socials for EYFS families. We are planning to hold the third iCAN Amazing Race when the weather cools down after Christmas.

It is already shaping up to be another action packed year at iCAN, full of fun learning.

It is great to be a part of a learning environment that is positively buzzing.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Pchum Ben holiday.



Hello to the iCAN family! I am Mr. Labhras the new Year 5 teacher. I have been living in Asia for the last two years and I am really excited about coming to Phnom Penh. We have a great year ahead of us and I am looking forward to all the events the school has planned. I am especially excited about Creative Arts week this learning block and all that we will be celebrating then.

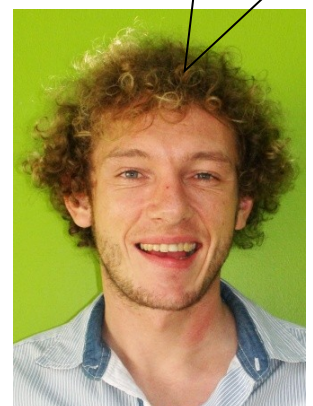
I am from Ireland where the weather is wet and the summers are cold so I am particularly happy to see the sun most days!! Let's hope that it won't get to hot!!!

Two new teachers joined us earlier this learning block...



My name is Brian. I'm from California. I'm very happy to be in Cambodia and I'm really excited to be a part of KS3 and the iCAN community. I look forward to getting to know everyone and help students reach their academic and personal goals. At my previous school in Los Angeles, I taught maths and science, which I will also be doing here at iCAN. I love playing basketball or any sport really. I try to stay active and am always open to hearing good jokes, so please feel free to share any good ones you have with me.

So if you see me in the corridor make sure you say hello!!



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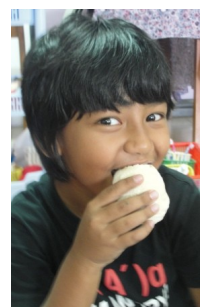
# International Primary Curriculum

building on prior knowledge applying skills  
 lifelong journey independent thinking  
 learning is  
 researching repetition  
 making relevant to real life situations recording  
 applying information life skills  
 learn by doing making connections  
 skills knowledge  
 learning styles retaining social skills  
 understanding new skills  
 challenging yourself  
 new approaches



The goal of the IPC is for children to focus on a combination of academic, personal and international learning. Here at iCAN we want children to enjoy their learning; develop enquiring minds, develop the personal qualities they need to be good citizens of the world, and develop a sense of their own nationality and culture, at the same time developing a profound respect for the nationalities and cultures of others. Most of all, we want children to develop all the skills they will need in order to confidently face the world of tomorrow.

In order that parents know what their child is learning, they will be sent a letter prior to each Learning Journey unit which outlines what learning will be covered and how parents can help continue that learning at home if they choose.



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# Years 1 & 2 Milepost 1



In History our classes were split in two. Half of our children learnt about The Cirque de Soleil, the other half about Marcel Marceau. Then we went back and with our partners we had to share what we had learnt to complete a Venn diagram comparing the two types of circus.

**International mindedness:** we thought about how the animals get treated at the circus and whether they belong there. We watched video clips on how animals are treated in the circus and then how they are treated in the wild. We also thought about what the circus would look like in the future.

**Technology:** In our year groups we thought about what the best way of sitting was to watch a circus. We tried sitting in rows and lines and then in a square but finally we found that sitting in a circle was best of all. We then learned that circus means circle in Latin so we knew we were correct. After that we designed a circus of our own, making sure we included everything important in our plan, and of course making sure it was in the shape of a circle. Finally we built a circus with our teams using junk modelling equipment.



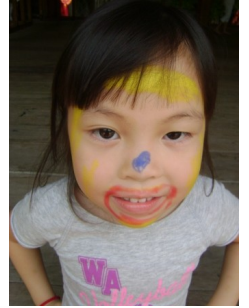
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# Learning in Key Stage 1 Circus



In Art we made clown face paint designs. We then painted these on our partner. We reflected on our work and tried to make improvements to it. We also used a range of different media to make clowns. We had to think about the materials that we liked using and the ones that we didn't.



Science: Milepost 1 went on a fantastic trip to iCAN PLAY to investigate whether materials were waterproof. We felt the different fabrics, tried to predict what would happen and explained our ideas. A few brave children then had to go into our 'tent' and test it while a teacher poured water all over it! Some of us got very, very wet!



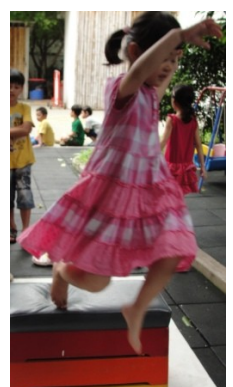
Society: We talked about different jobs in the circus and what skills you would need and even conducted some job interviews!!

The children then talked about safety in the circus and made posters to say what to tell the audience about the rules – they decided ... no smoking, no pets, no fast cars and no dropping of litter. Let's hope they follow these rules when they go out!!

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# Years 1 & 2 Milepost 1



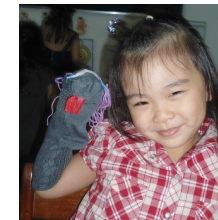
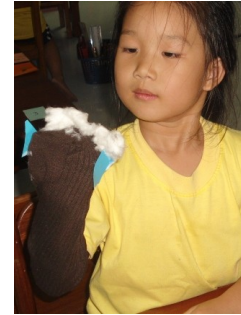
Year 1 had a lively trip to iCAN PLAY to practise our juggling and balancing skills.

What tricks did we learn?  
It took lots and lots of practice!

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# Learning in Key Stage 1 **Circus**

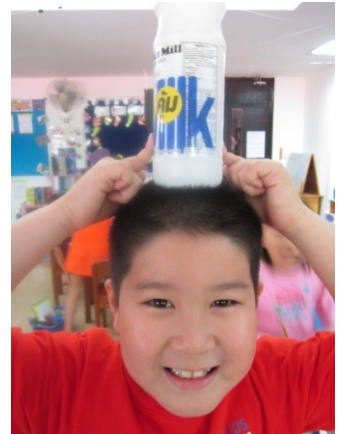


**Geography:** After we had planned and built our circuses we then had to create a map of them. This was tricky because we had to try to use a key to show what everything was and remember to use a birds-eye view to make our maps look realistic.

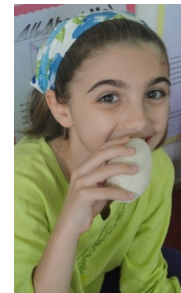
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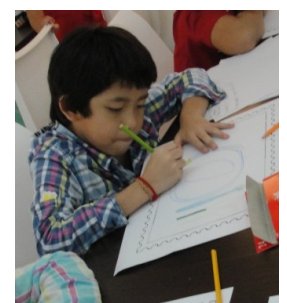
# Milepost 2 What's on the menu?



In Geography Milepost 2 looked at different packages and found out what countries foods came from. We also researched on the internet what foods people in history ate.



In our science lessons the children in Year 4 planted vegetable seeds and conducted experiments to see what happens to food (bread and milk) when it goes bad and they monitored changes.



Year 3 made farm machinery in DT. We watched videos on 'YouTube' about farm machinery through the ages. We then made a plan of how to make a tractor and a trailer from junk material. We also learned how to make wheels and axis and the wheels on our models had to actually move.

We also designed our own restaurant menus! Delicious!

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# KS3 Design Technology



Years 8 & 9  
tasted,  
designed  
and created  
pizza ...  
improving  
their recipe  
over several  
weeks until  
the perfect  
pizza was  
created!



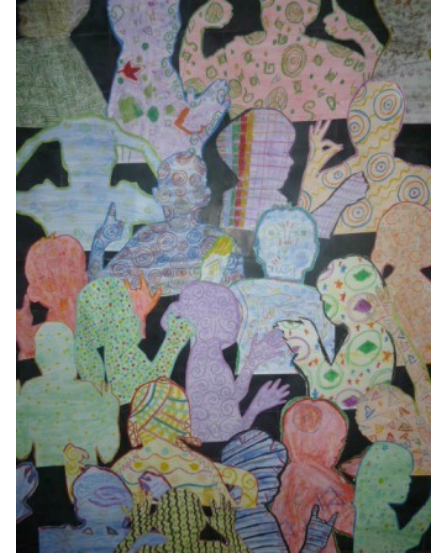
Our Year 7  
learners  
went on a  
fact  
finding  
mission to  
Olympic  
market!



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# Years 5 & 6 Milepost 3



During 'Brainwave' the children in MP3 literally had 'hands on' experience! They were able to investigate a real brain to look at the different parts and then used this to create their own model brains. It really helped the children understand the different sections and was certainly a memorable experience!



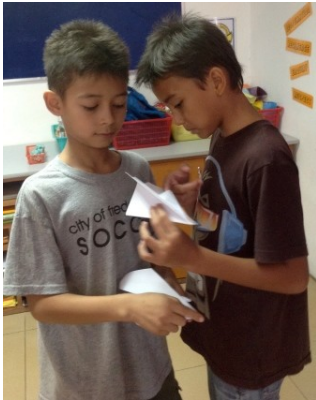
At the end of our mini-IPC topic, 'Brainwave', MP3 had their EGGS-it point! Thinking about how delicate and important the brain was, they thought about crash helmets and how to keep safe. The children had an egg each to represent their brain and had to create packaging that would keep it protected when dropping it from great height!

There were many casualties along the way but a few protected eggs survived the fall!

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# Milepost 3 Express yourself!



MP3 went on a tuk-tuk adventure to help them express themselves, through photography, about how they felt about living in Cambodia.



They whizzed around the city taking photographs of the environment and had a great time! The children then used these pictures to create some outstanding pieces of art work and used I.C.T. to manipulate the images.



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# KS3 Problem solving



As part of their unit on measure the Year 7 class were exploring an investigation to estimate distance. Then they calculated the margin of error between their estimation and actual distance, converting the units as necessary. Levels of accuracy obtained using the trundle wheel verses the measuring table led to a healthy debate back in class!



Year 8 were exploring squared and cubed numbers with visual representations, working co-operatively to present their findings. They proved creative once again as no two groups came up with the same representation as you can see above!



## KS3

## Flash-mob

Our KS3 students sprung a surprise during one of our daily 'Wake Up & Shake Up' sessions this learning block. They jostled Mr. Ciaran, Ms. Michelle and Mr. Labhras out of the way and left us wanting more of their 'Gangnam Style' dancing! More to come we suspect!

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# KS3 Thespians!



"At the start of our topic about Shakespeare I thought that he was a strict man who only focuses on acting and writing plays. However, after researching and reading some books about him, I realised that he was actually a really out-going and friendly man. After I learnt more about one of his plays 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' I found out that he had a really great sense of humour because the play is very funny and creative. The topic is really interesting because I always thought that William Shakespeare was just a very famous poet, writer and actor. I've learnt so much and I really enjoy this topic." *Lilien*

"When we started learning about Shakespeare I didn't know much about him and his life. I knew he was an actor and wrote plays and poems but after learning many new and interesting things about him I respect his talent. He is much more interesting than I thought and I enjoyed the whole topic. I really thought Shakespeare was going to be boring but I was surprised by all the different things I learnt. I actually also learnt a lot of things about Elizabethan England too." *Junior*



We enjoyed a Shakespearean feast to celebrate learning about Shakespeare and his works. Our Y8 learners dressed up and played medieval games and danced to medieval music.

'It felt like we were really in Elizabethan times' *Andi*  
'The food was amazing and the games were new and different' *James*

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# KS3 Metaphors



Year 9 have been studying Sylvia Plath's poem 'Metaphors' and produced outstanding presentations to show both a personal and critical appreciation of the poem.



The students had to decide whether the poet's message was universal or a bitter complaint and explain their opinions using evidence from the poem. We were impressed to see our students use their unique learning styles and talents to create such fantastic assignments.



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# iCAN After School Activities



Throughout each week we run over 40 different after school activities for our iCAN learners. How many different activities can you see in the photos on this page?



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# Creative Arts Music



In music MP1 thought about the different sounds they would hear in the circus. They used different instruments to recreate the sounds and record their music.



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# 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 a priority for us.

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

There is **written communication** which is usually e-mailed home, unless a consent form needs to be completed, in which case a paper copy also goes home;

- incidental letters,
- fortnightly newsletters published by each year group which are posted on the school website every second Friday. These newsletters contain information about the learning that is taking place in each year group and across mileposts and other information on events that are planned.
- the iCAN Times which is posted on the school website at the end of each learning block which is always packed with photos and information relating to that learning block.
- Our iCAN website and our online school calendar which is updated with the latest school events.
- 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-School 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 class at 7.50am but if you need longer then please make an appointment to meet with them.

You are also invited to visit your child's class on the second Monday of each learning block for an hour after school, so that your child can share their learning with you. This also offers you the opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about their learning.

If you need further clarification or your question is related to a wider school issue please make an appointment to see either Ms. Lily, Head of Early Years, Mr. David, Vice Principal, Ms. Lori, Principal or Ms. Margaret if it relates to KS3.

If the matter is related to general day to day administration such as the payment of fees please speak to Ms. Roseta 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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IPC Units Coming Up ... **'Seeing the light'** in MP1, the popular culture **'Fashion'** unit for MP2 and invention/development with **'What price progress?'** for MP3! Check future issues of our iCAN Times for yet more photos highlighting children's learning.

We have also introduced 8 personal goals to iCAN, which we will be encouraging and celebrating each month throughout the year.

Our **8 personal goals** are:

<b>Adaptability</b>	<b>Communication</b>
<b>Cooperation</b>	<b>Enquiry</b>
<b>Morality</b>	<b>Resilience</b>
<b>Respect</b>	<b>Thoughtfulness</b>

# 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, [www.ican.edu.kh](http://www.ican.edu.kh) and then clicking

## iSPACE

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unable to attend school due to sickness or another reason please ring the office in the morning and inform Ms. Roseta on **023 222 416**

Many children miss a significant amount of time from school which has an impact on their learning. We understand that there are times when this is unavoidable but it is important that we are informed prior to the child being absent. We would recommend that if you wish to take your child out of school during school time for a particular event or a holiday you pop in and see Ms. Lori in the office first. If this is not possible please write a letter to Ms. Lori.

### NEXT ISSUE ...

- **Football**
- **Basketball**
- **Swim meets**
- **Family learning day**
- **Sports event**
- **EYFS & KS1 class trips**
- **Family socials**

... and so much more great learning!

### MEKONG RIVER SWIM

**Sunday 31st March 2013**

Keep the last Sunday in March free in your diaries ... as the annual Mekong River Swim organised by iCAN will be taking place.

More info to follow!

### CONTACT US...

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