



The Giving Tree Newsletter

JANUARY 2011

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Upcoming Events

- ♥ March 18: End term 3
- ♥ March 21: Professional Development day
- ♥ March 22: Start Term 4



Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening at our Christmas party! It's been great to see you return after the holidays and hear the children tell us about all their adventures.

This Term we will focus on all the interesting things around us, working with the theme 'Look up, look down, look all around'. The teachers and TA's are looking forward to taking the children on an exciting adventure and teaching them about the environment, various forms of transport and set off on a wild journey from the bottom of the ocean and high up in the sky where they will meet all kinds of animals and learn about their habitat. The children have already started to carefully examine their surrounding, running around with magnifying-glasses, looking for tiny treasures around the playground.

We have some great news from our Toul Kork branch. We are now offering an afternoon program so students can have fun at The Giving Tree the whole day! Our new manager Tina will happily share all the information with you.

In February, we will organise a day for the annual Classroom photoshoot. We will let you all know of the time well in advance so you can help your child practice the bright smile before the big day!!

On pages 6-10 you will find the teacher reports as well as some funny photographs. Remember that we have lots more photos in the office and you are always welcome to take a look!

Enjoy the read!
The Giving Tree Team



News and announcements

SWIMMING starts again!



As you are aware of, our weekly swimming classes have been on a break since November, due to chilly weather. Now the pool is getting warm enough for your little ones and we are very happy to tell you that swimming will start again on February 1st! Please remember to bring a swimsuit and a towel on swimming-days so your child won't miss out on all the fun in the pool!

Fire Drill



On Friday, January 21st, The Giving Tree Team conducted a fire drill in the school. We have established a relationship with the directors of BKK High-school across the street who have kindly allowed us to bring the children to their outside playground in case of an emergency. The practice was a great success. The teachers, cleaners and teacher assistants worked well together in evacuating the classrooms while our guard Dina, together with the policeman outside, stopped the traffic on the street so the children could cross safely.

We are all so proud of the children who stayed calm the whole time and showed us that we are well prepared if anything would ever happen in the school.

Don't forget the Communication book!

The Giving Tree teachers would like to kindly remind all parents about the importance of your child's communication book. The communication book is sent home every Friday and withholds important information about your child as well as upcoming events or activities in the classroom. It is therefore very important that you read the messages from the teachers and bring the book back to school on Monday. Feel free to add any comments or questions you might have and your teacher will get back to you right away. Thank you!

News & Announcements

Term Fees

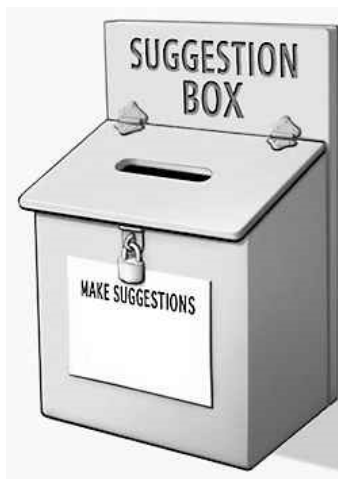
Fees were due by the end of the 1st week of Term 3. We still haven't received all payments for the third term, so we kindly ask you to come to our office and settle your fees. We try our best to get all payments in within the first week so that management resources can be focused on the day-to-day operations of the school and finding new ways to make The Giving Tree the very best place for all of our children. If you need to make alternative payment arrangements, please discuss this with Steinunn in the office as soon as possible.

NO parking in front of the gate



As you all know, the street in front of the school is pretty narrow and busy. During pick-up and drop off time we are kindly requesting you **not to park** right in front of the gate, even for a few minutes. This causes dangerous situations where other parents and children have less space to cross the street or enter the school. Parking in front of the gate or too close to it also prevents our guard from seeing who is coming to school and from being helpful to children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Suggestion Box!



Don't forget our suggestion box next to the notice board!! You can write down your ideas for improvement, even anonymously if you wish. We would really like to hear your input on our facilities, school resources, where we could make improvements, what you are concerned about, if you have any ideas for events in the school or just want to send us a general note on our program, or even let us know what we are doing right! Any suggestions will be much appreciated. We look forward to receiving your feedback!

News & Announcements

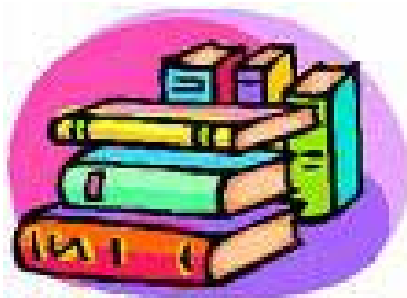
Show & Tell - Parent Style



Show and Tell isn't just for children at The Giving Tree. Many of us working in Cambodia and the region are involved in interesting and important work that can be incredibly exciting and engaging for children. Come and share it! If your organization is helping to protect turtles in Cambodia, the children would love to learn more about it. It doesn't have to be only about your profession. Love to scuba dive? Well, bring your equipment into class and tell the children about real life underwater adventures. Maybe your organization is protecting elephants in Cambodia and you have some great pictures to share. Or just come in to read a favourite children's book to your child's class. The teacher will be more than happy to go over how to make the visit children and age group specific.

Please make sure to make all arrangements with Steinunn and your child's teacher first of course!

Library books



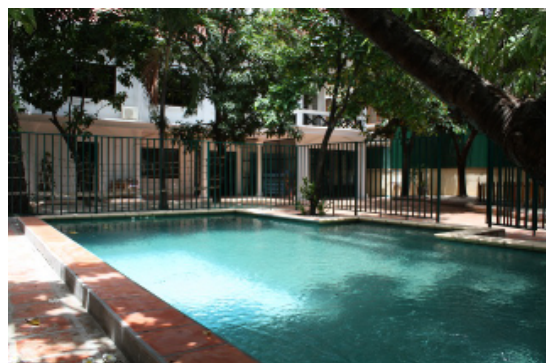
We would like to kindly ask you to remember to bring back your child's library book after the weekend. If a book gets lost or damaged, we will need to charge you a fee of \$5, but this is due to the number of books gone missing. Thank you for your understanding!

News & Announcements

Thank you for your generous donations!

The Giving Tree would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of clothes, toys and books we received before Christmas. Your donations were given to an NGO run by one of the moms in the school, Martina. The NGO works with children born or raised in Cambodian prisons. They are building a play-room in the Battambang prison at the moment and your wonderful donations will go directly to there. Martina explained the project at the Christmas party, but for those of you who missed her presentation or would like to learn more, feel free to stop by at the office and we can get you in contact with the organisation. Thank you again!

Come Visit Us On The Weekends!



The Giving Tree wants to remind you that the school facilities are available to TGT parents and children on Saturdays and Sundays! This includes our Elementary school on street 334 and the new Tuol Kork location! All three schools have a swimming pool and a large outdoor area. Just remember to sign a liability waiver at the office and bring your gate-pass to show to our guards. Then the kids can enjoy coming to The Giving Tree 7 days a week!

You can also rent our facilities for Birthday parties. Whatever location you choose, having your child's birthday at The Giving Tree is an easy and fun option for all our parents. Just stop by at our office to make the arrangement.

From the Classroom

Bunnies 1 and 2



We had a lot of fun exploring water in Term 2! Our activities and games were centered around the water all around us, and how we can use water. Both classes had a great time learning about rain, the ocean, plants, and rainbows. The students enjoyed learning about the ocean by making a 'school of fish' and using different textures, such as sand, to make an ocean.

In our classes, we observed the plants and trees around us. The children planted sprouts. They were really excited to water them everyday and see the growth and changes. They were very happy to take their plants home after a week. Trees were fun to learn about. We made trees from our hand prints and, also, artwork with leaves.



The Bunnies are learning so many new words everyday and are making more friends. They are doing a great job of taking turns and sharing. A big welcome to all of the new students in the Bunnies classes! Thank you for a great term!



Teacher Makara, Chan Thoi, Şinak and Thanin

Teacher Marcela, Şophy, Şita and Şok Neang



From the Classroom

Monkeys 1 and 2



Last semester, we all celebrated Water, with the Water Festival day as the biggest highlight. The day was filled with fun and excitement and we all had a great time! The children of the Monkeys classes have also learned about sea creatures and different forms of water through weather and experimentation.



Unfortunately, due to the cooler weather, the swimming classes had to be replaced by other physical activities like climbing, fun races or collective games. It was beneficial as it supported the children in developing their gross and fine motor skills.

We happily welcomed our music teacher Soren who quickly became popular among the children. They are always looking forward to their music slot.

We are glad to see most of the children improving their language and social skills and becoming more autonomous. The teacher-parent conference was a great occasion to discuss it with each of you.

It was so much fun to prepare for the end of the year party; the children really enjoyed creating decorations and practicing songs.

Our last day, the two classes mingled for our special snowing day. After a tiring snow paper balls fight, the children bid farewell while enjoying a cup of hot homemade chocolate!

**Teacher Marie Line, Mach, Chenda and Rinna
Teacher Sarah, Khoma and Vorleak**



From the Classroom

OWLS 1



Our theme for Term 2, 'Water, Water, Everywhere', was a huge hit with the students! Since it was the rainy season the weather was unpredictable and a prime opportunity to study rain and weather. We spent a few weeks learning about rain, snow and sun.

The students also loved learning about living things which need the sun and water in order to survive. We focused on plants, flowers, trees, vegetables and fruit. The children had a wonderful time exploring the natural world with magnifying glasses and growing their own bean sprouts.



We also had an informative experience learning about how water is integral to our health, reviewing proper hand-washing technique and the importance

of drinking plenty of water. We also introduced a dental health program, giving each student his own toothbrush to use after snack.

Finally we spent a few weeks focusing on oceans and sea creatures, which proved to be endlessly fascinating to the little ones. We had a great time reading topical stories and creating relevant art-projects. All of this culminated in a Water Festival celebration, which was a huge success. Thank you to those of you who made it to the party!

On the topic of parties, our Christmas extravaganza at Gasolina was excellent! The students made us all so proud!

Teacher Erin, Mala and Many



From the Classroom

Owls 2



This term's theme of 'Water Water Everywhere' has been a wonderfully fun investigative theme for the Owl's Two. They have been very busy learning about rain, rainbows, water cycle, the uniqueness, importance, care and conservation, properties and forms of water through many hands-on, exploratory learning experiences and experiments.



The Owl's Two classroom has been brightly decorated with this term's creative arts which have included rainy day posters, splash paintings, raindrops and clouds, rain paintings, colourful rainbows, favourite colour graphs, rainbow colours collages, recycled materials boats, fish and water festival arts.

The Owls have continued to really enjoy learning new concepts through many theme-related songs at circle time. This term's favourites have undoubtedly been: Standing on One Leg, Rainbow Colours, Drip Drop, What's the Weather? and Rolling Along.

Preparations for and participation in The Giving Tree's Water Festival fun morning enabled the children to learn about this important Cambodian Festival and the importance of the river to the people.

It has been awesome to see just how far the Owls have progressed and developed in their social, mathematical, language and literacy development throughout this year and term. They are a fantastic and energetic group of children always ready to explore and learn more!

Teacher Ros, Many and Neath



From the Classroom

Elephants

The second term has gone by so quickly! The children were really looking forward to the Water Festival. We made many crafty items related to the theme "Water, water everywhere". We sang funny songs for example "humongous wale".

Besides our theme work the children have been doing a lot of language, literacy and math activities.

The last two weeks of school the children enjoyed making Christmas trees, snowmen and reindeer bags, all of course out of recycled materials. With all the items we could decorate our classroom. Furthermore the children have been learning some festive songs which we were so happy to sing at the Christmas party.

Team Sarah, Simix, Srey Peou



TGT's Afternoon Programs

Join our afternoon Program with Teacher Makara!



The Giving Tree's afternoon program in English has never been as popular! It's wonderful to see our students mingle with children from other classes while enjoying all the fun activities teacher Makara has planned, such as painting, dancing, origami, music and library. Everyone's favourite is the cooking class on Friday, where they have baked brownies, chocolate chip cookies and tart, to name just a few delicious treats!

The program is open to our Giving Tree students as well as students from outside, so if your child has friends that want to join please contact the office for enrolment.

TGT's afternoon French program

Bonjour! The Giving Tree's French program is bigger than ever before! This year, we decided to divide our French program into two separate groups to best accommodate each and every student. We've offered a daily program with teacher Marie-Line, open to everyone, as well as a special program with teacher Sarah designed for children who already speak French, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our two classes are a great mix of native and non-native French speakers and it's amazing to see how quickly the children pick up new words!

If you think your child would love to learn French as much as we love to teach them, please stop by and ask for Marie-Line or Sarah.



We still have some spaces left in our afternoon classes, in both the French and English programs. Registration is open at the office so please stop by or send us an email: registrar@thegivingtreeschool.com.

News from Toul Kork

NEW! Full-day program in Toul Kork!

The Giving Tree's new branch in Toul Kork continues to grow and we have some very exciting news to share with you! We have split the classes into Bunnies and Monkeys and hired a new teacher, Chenda, to take care of our little Bunnies. We are also now offering a full day program for children aged 18 months to 4 years so they can enjoy the Giving Tree all day!

Our previous manager Keely had to leave after Christmas. She will be greatly missed, but her replacement, Tina, is just as smiley and friendly! Tina comes from Sweden and is full of ideas as how to make the school both fun and educational for your child.

As it is The Giving Tree's first year in Toul Kork we are offering a special promotion offer on Term fees. Registration is still open at the office so please stop by and Tina will be happy to give you further information.



Email: givingtreetk@thegivingtreeschool.com

Website: www.thegivingtreeschool.com

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Tel. (077) 993 073

News from Toul Kork

Come and enjoy our new pool!



Great news everyone! Toul Kork's brand-new swimming-pool is now open and ready for some water fun! Teacher Erna will be in Toul Kork on Tuesdays, swimming with both the Bunnies and Monkeys and she can't wait to teach them the strokes. Remember, you are welcome to use our pool on weekends too! Just stop by at the office and sign a liability waiver.

See you in the pool! Splash! Splash!

Tina—Manager Toul Kork Branch



Tina is the new manager of our branch in Toul Kork. She comes from Sweden and has studied Human Resource Management & Development for four years at Linköping University in Sweden and got a Master's degree in that area. Last year Tina worked in Turkey for six months in a hamam, a spa. There she took care of the customers and all that comes with it. She also helped the management with the organization and with some of the promotion for the place. She is excited to now be part of the Giving Tree Team and is looking forward to developing our Toul Kork Branch!

Chenda—Bunnies Class



Chenda has been part of the Giving Tree Team from the very beginning. She worked as a teacher assistant in the Bunny and Monkey classes in our BKK branch before being promoted to a teacher position in Toul Kork. Her professionalism, creativity and love for children made her an obvious choice when we decided to split the classes in Toul Kork and we are very happy to have her teach the Bunnies class!

In Pictures: Term 2 2010

