

# 2019 Highlights

2019 has been an exciting year for PIO with a number of new and interesting activities enjoyed by students and teacher

## **Exam success**

Each year students in Grade 6 and Grade 9 take the public examinations set by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. In the past PIO students have been very successful in those important examinations. 2019 was no exception. For Grade 6 students the pass rate was 96% and for Grade 9, a perfect 100%. Congratulations to all of those successful students and thank you to their teachers for helping them achieve academic success.

## **Dental volunteers**

Students at PIO continue to benefit from a number of visits from health professionals. The visits are arranged through the Healthy Kids Cambodia programme, the University of Puthisastra and Antipodeans Abroad.

In January all students at the Stung Mean Chey School underwent dental assessment and treatment from oral hygienist students and staff from the University of Newcastle (Australia.)

During the year there were a number of visits by oral hygienists, dentists, and dental students from several organisations. Those visits were co-ordinated by Healthy Kids Cambodia, a health NGO based at the University of Puthisastra in Phnom Penh. They have helped PIO for the past five years.

368 students received a dental assessment and SDF treatment  
419 received level 2 treatment (sealant and minor restoration work)  
110 received level 3 treatment (restorations, extractions)

## **Teaching volunteers**

During the year PIO received help from 20 teaching volunteers, all of whom worked for at least one month, but most stayed for 2 - 3 months. Three of them will be here for a full year. The volunteers assisted with Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, High School, IT and in the Temple of Learning.

Of special note was Linda Bowes who volunteered at PIO for one year as a teacher of technology and reading classes in the Temple of Learning. Linda was a very committed and capable volunteer, doing so much to help everyone. She played a key role in developing our reading program and expanding the use of educational technology to all classes. Linda was always friendly, kind and most helpful to all students and to her colleagues. We would like to thank her for her exceptional contribution to PIO during the 2018/2019 school year. We wish her all the best for her university studies this year and hope that in the future she can come back to PIO.

## **Social Work volunteers**

In the past year PIO has worked with the University of Pannasastra Faculty of Social Science to allow students from their Diploma in Social Work program to have internships at PIO. During that time the interns work with the PIO social worker and the deputy director to assist students and families in need of help.

### **Khmer New Year**

We all yearly celebrated Khmer New Year at the Improvement Organization with a big celebration. There were many fun and interesting Khmer traditional dance performed by the students and Khmer traditional games. We intend to show the students to know and to help conserving our Khmer traditional dances through this occasion. After the show the children played games organized by their teachers. Later, all of the students had a delicious lunch. At the end of the carnival, the students and the teachers danced happily. They were very enthusiastic about this wonderful party.

### **Play around the World**

This group from the University of Alberta continued their support of PIO with another 3 month visit, providing a range of sports and play activities for Kindergarten to Grade 4.

### **Visitors**

Through the year there have been a number of visitors at PIO, many of whom support the school through the donation of goods and funds for the school.

### **Eurotech donation (drinking water)**

In the past few months, we were honored to welcome the CEO of Eurotech Company of Cambodia who came with a donation of a few boxes of milk, water, and some school supplies to the students of the People Improvement Organization. They always visit us every year. We'd like to thank Eurotech Company for ongoing support to our school.

### **Gravenhurst Rotary Club**

In February, Gravenhurst Rotary Club visited the People Improvement Organization (PIO). There are also some performances to enjoy the guests. We would like to thank you for your generous donation of 27 bags of rice to the students of People Improvement Organization at Stung Mean Chey School. Additionally, next year they promise to come to visit us again.

### **AIA donation**

PIO Shelter students were honoured to join the workshop conducted by AIA, a big insurance company in Phnom Penh. The workshop was to inspire students. The keynote speaker was Cambodian singer, Chay Virak Yuth. The students were surprised and delighted to meet him and learned good life lessons from him. We would like to thank AIA company for that workshop and for donation of cooking supplies, cleaning supplies, books, and a printer.

### **English Speech competitions**

This year has been the third year of the PIO English Speaking Competition. All contestants gained much from the experience of formal speaking. The high school classes also learned to use Google Slides to enhance their presentations. This competition was between students from PIO Borey Keila and Steung Mean Chey schools. It was a very closely contested with the senior prize going to Mon Chhenlin from Grade 9 at the Steung Mean Chey school.

### **Maths competition**

In July students from Grade 2 to Grade 6 began preparing for an online calculation contest in which each team had a limited number of calculations using only pen and paper. The top teams from each class competed in the grand final.

### **Race to Wat Phnom**

For Grades 9 and 10 there was a special maths contest. The students worked in teams to complete a set of 10 puzzles. The puzzles were challenging and even the top team took 90 minutes to solve the puzzles. The winning team was taken to visit the National Museum followed by lunch at a restaurant to celebrate their success.

### **Online Learning Resources**

During the past year the PIO website [temple.teacherjohn.org](http://temple.teacherjohn.org) continued to expand and provide an increased range of English, Mathematics, Coding, Science and Electronic resources and activities for all classes.

### **Temple of Learning - Library and IT centre.**

In September PIO opened its Temple of Learning, a room that combines the library and our collection of computers and iPads. The room is in use all day - reading classes in the morning, open sessions at lunchtime and using IT for maths and English the afternoon.

### **Coding club**

From 4 - 5 each day grade 8, 9 and 10 students learn to code. The PIO coding club gives students the opportunity to learn the basics of coding and web design.

### **Electronics club**

Since October a group of high school students meet every lunch hour to learn electronics. The students use Arduino sets and under the guidance of PIO Project Manager John Thompson are learning how to construct circuits using sensors, motora and a variety of other components.

### **CIS visit**

PIO continues to enjoy a good level of support from the Canadian International School (Singapore) with visits from students and teachers. In February we enjoyed meeting with them again when they came to meet our students and participate in some classroom activities.

Canadian International School of Singapore(CIS) has partnered with PIO for over 14 years. Additionally, in March we were great honoured to welcome teachers and students from CIS of Singapore for warm visiting and donating uniform to PIO. We also put on some

performances who acted by PIO students and CIS students for making that occasion enjoyable. Thank Canadian School of Singapore for your ongoing support to PIO

### **Temple Christian College and ConnectEd Cambodia**

Temple Christian College (Australia) has supported PIO for 10 years. This year we had visits from ConnectEd and Temple Christian College. Connect Ed donated some more used computers and provided some funding for us to purchase equipment for our STEM teaching project.

### **Maybank - Sponsorship and Support**

Maybank has supported PIO for 5 years. This year they extended their sponsorship of high school students to 52. In October we were honoured to host a visit from the Maybank Board. Following the visit Maybank was able to confirm their support for the new building project allowing construction to begin before the end of 2019.

### **JWI Delegation**

Just World International (JWI) has supported PIO since 2004. In October we were delighted to host a visit from a delegation of JWI Ambassadors, led by JWI Founder and CEO, Jessica Newman. The group spent time visiting the classes and were impressed with how much had been achieved through their support of PIO over the past 15 years.

The JWI visit included the 2019 / 2020 school opening ceremony.

### **The PIO School Opening Ceremony 2019-2020**

This is an occasion when we welcome our students back to the school again. A thousand students attended the open day, it is an important part of their education. The event was attended by a delegation from Just World International (JWI) who have been our major donor and partner since 2004. Our student enjoyed the dance performances and songs and listened to speeches from PIO Founder, Phymean Noun and the CEO of Just world International, Jessica Newman. We wish all of our students every success in the new school year.

### **Grade 4 - Trip to Kep**

In October, Grade 4 students and their teachers visited Kep province. The trip was made just after their end-of-year exams. During the trip, their teachers divided students into five teams, and all team leaders were responsible for leading their friends in preparing food, playing games, cleaning up the rubbish and looking after all the members in their team. The students enjoyed this trip, and also it helped them to unite and to show leadership and learn the importance of teamwork. Thank you to the teachers and students for organizing this trip. It was of great benefit to everyone.

### **Girls Peace Camp - Nepal**

In August, our students, Kao Voleak and Mol Chhenlin were honoured to join the Asian Peace Camp for Girls in Nepal. This is the third time that PIO has been invited to send girls to this camp. For Voleak and Chhenlin this was their first opportunity to travel abroad. The camp aims to empower young women to be independent, brave, confident and self-directed in life. At the camp Voleak and Chhenlin gave a presentation about our PIO school and Khmer culture to the other girls. Both of them said that they made lots of friends from different Asian countries. They were very happy to be there.

### **Pchum Ben Ceremony**

In September, the students and teachers went to a pagoda to celebrate Pchum Ben, a most important national ceremony. They all carried food and sweet drinks to give to the monks for praying to their ancestors. The teachers were pleased to accompany the students and were delighted with how well the students appreciated the importance of the ceremony to honour their ancestors.

### **Borey keila school**

In November we added an additional class to Borey Keila School. The class is at a higher level than previous classes and enables students to extend their knowledge of English while remaining at this PIO school.