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Open House 2015

The Pegasus International School opened its doors to the public on Saturday, 17 October for our first Open House of the year. Parents from the surrounding Johor Bahru area were invited to attend and participate in presentations conducted by members of faculty and staff. This Open House served as an opportunity for potential students and parents to learn more about the Pegasus International School and its unique learning environment.

Our program opened with a presentation from Mr. Todd Irwin Flanagan, the Deputy Supervisory Principal to the Pegasus International School, titled, "A Quality Education." The presentation detailed the rigorous curriculum and instruction offered by Pegasus as well as the student pathways open to students upon completion of the IGCSE examination including the GAC (Global Assessment Certificate) and the Cambridge A & AS Levels. After completing the GAC and or the Cambridge A & AS levels, students will be able to apply to international universities. In addition, Mr. Flanagan shared with parents that Pegasus is part of a larger community of schools in Vietnam (sixteen sister schools under the administration of the KinderWorld Education Group). This gives Pegasus a distinct advantage as all the schools under the KinderWorld umbrella share the same educational resources among staff and administrators.

The next part of our Open House was led by Mr. Michael James Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez gave a short presentation titled, "The Pegasus Community," highlighting the ways that Pegasus's school environment can benefit both students and parents. Mr. Gonzalez emphasized that Pegasus is a community of learners that seeks to help students reach their academic goals through support, flexibility and communication. Mr. Gonzalez also spoke about the growing list of extracurricular activities offered by Pegasus including the Interact Club and the new sports-based activities that will begin in 2016 including swimming and football clubs.

Open House 2015 Continued



Afterwards, parents were led down to the first classroom presentation of the day titled, "Energy Transfer." This class was conducted using the Inquiry-Based Teaching method. Parents and their children were asked to observe different objects in the classroom and ascertain how the object uses energy. Parents had fun investigating on their own how energy is transferred to different items.

The next classroom presentation focused on using Collaborative Learning in the classroom focusing on practicing using different parts of speech. Parents and their children participated in an English grammar game which encourages students to work together to create grammatically correct sentences. Participants had to help their partners in their group guess the correct words and identify each part of speech within the sentences. Our guests really enjoyed the opportunity to act and play for this activity.

In the last session of the day, parents and students took part in an ICT/Global Perspectives lessons. For this activity, parents were led in by our own school students using the Direct Teaching methodology. Students taught parents how to make mind maps on the computer about the current haze situation in Malaysia. Students taught the lesson in a clear and concise manner, exhibiting the skills they have absorbed from classroom practice. Students also showed parents how to use paint software. Parents enjoyed how our students will be able to conduct a lesson by themselves, with little assistance.

We would like to thank students, teachers, and administrators for putting on a spectacular Open House. We hope to conduct another Open House in the near future.





Parent Workshop 2015

Pegasus International School had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Todd Irwin Flanagan to our school campus. Mr. Flanagan is the Deputy Supervisory Principal for KinderWorld Education Group. His role is to help ensure that Pegasus continues to deliver quality education and a high level of service to students and parents. Mr. Flanagan visited the school on 15-17 October to review the school's progress as well as to meet current and prospective parents.

Prior to his visit, the school distributed survey forms to gain valuable feedback from parents and students as part of our effort to continually improve our level of service to the school community. Mr. Flanagan met with current parents on Friday, 20 October for an afternoon workshop to discuss the results of the survey and concluded the discussion with ways that he and the School Principal (Mr. Michael Gonzalez) will be initiating changes in the school in the coming months.

We would like to thank the parents who attended the workshop and those who took the time to complete the survey form. Your feedback is important to us and will help our school to improve student / parent relationships and environment.

IGCSE Student Writing on Haze

The haze pollution has been an ongoing problem for decades which has not been solved yet till now. It has affected several countries in Southeast Asia including Malaysia and Singapore. The main cause of the haze is by forest fires in Indonesia resulting from illegal slash and burn practice. Eventually, the peat fires are then blown overseas to the affected areas resulting in the atmosphere getting clogged with smoke in various countries. As a result of this, the atmosphere is polluted with poisonous gases, such as carbon dioxide, which leads to global warming. Due to this effect, many people claim haze is just an environmental problem, but the real question is, "is this *really* true?"

From a personal perspective, there is no doubt the prevailing haze affects us environmentally. The poisonous gases released are clogged in the atmosphere preventing light rays from the sun to return to space. This then causes the earth to warm up resulting in global warming. And as we all know, global warming has other environmental impacts. However, despite this side effect, haze affects us all - socially, politically, and economically.



IGCSE Student Writing on Haze Continued

The haze poses many social problems when the poisonous gases are being emitted continuously over a prolonged period. Yes, the smog has affected our health disastrously as the AQI had exceeded unhealthy levels between 100 and 200 regularly. The unhealthy range of air quality has affected the number of people residing both in and out of Johor, infecting those with respiratory tract infections such as eye irritation, sneezing problems and coughing. Young children and elderly people are especially vulnerable and I can only empathise with asthmatic patients.

Furthermore the haze has increased political tensions with affected ASEAN member states and Indonesia. It is no surprise that they bear a grudge against Indonesia since they started the massive forest fires that enveloped our breathing spaces. I think we deserve clean air and I personally feel the Indonesian government can be more positive and stringent in law enforcement, for example, imposing fines or immediate ban on indiscriminate slash-and-burn practices.

From a national perspective, I think the haze has severely affected countries economically. As a result of the haze, there has been a drastic decrease in tourism in affected areas. In my research, I learned tourists are afraid of the unhealthy range of air quality in countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia. In addition to foreigners not visiting, flights are also being cancelled because of the smoky air and many outdoor activities are called off, too. Tourism in Singapore, for example, is a major industry and contributor to the economy. It attracts 13,171,303 tourists every year, over twice Singapore's total population. Unfortunately, tourist arrivals have declined and this has affected Johoreans as well!

By Ellen Yokoyama (IGCSE1 Student)