

THE BERKELEY TIMES

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EARCOS and the Action Research Project

Berkeley International School is celebrating the fact that our elementary teacher, Melisa Pubil, has won a grant from EARCOS to implement Project Based Learning in her classroom as of August this year. To get a little closer to the facts and find out exactly what this means we have conducted an interview with Melisa to find out more.



Hello Melisa, how did you end up getting a grant from EARCOS?

Melisa: I sat down and wrote a preliminary paper to EARCOS explaining all the things I had planned and everything I want to research in relation to Project Based Learning and how it affects ESL students in the classroom.

How many other schools applied?

Melisa: There are 100's of schools involved in EARCOS but we don't know exactly how many formal papers were submitted. Competition is usually hot in events of this nature.

How much is the grant worth?

Melisa: We'll receive 1000 USD to finance the different projects over the course of one school year.

How are you planning to start the project?

Melisa: I am currently researching the best way to begin based on the Common Core Curriculum and collecting materials to get a valid starting point.

What are you planning to buy to assist you?

Melisa: I would like to start off by getting in a specialist in their various

fields of operations, such as an author or environmentalist; have them speak to the children and from there begin a project concentrating on the subject covered.

How can you monitor children progress?

Melisa: The main areas of progress will be assessed on reading abilities and MAP testing results.

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You are currently teaching Grade 1 at Berkeley and moving up to Grade 3 in August 2013 is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Melisa: I am very excited and looking forward to sharing my ideas and projects with other teachers. The projects we shall be undertaking; 4 in total will span the entire school year.

The projects will all be student driven hopefully giving them real world experience.

We'll be using interdisciplinary instruction which is teaching different subjects at the same time. For example, a topic for science may be helping the earth and the importance of recycling, which would then be combined with the social studies topic of goods and factory production. We could combine these two topics by having each student create a unique toy out of recycled materials in our toy 'factory'. This would enable students to think about supply and demand while working creatively with recycled materials and develop and understanding of the whole process. It's clever stuff and I can't wait to get started.

Thank you very much for talking to us.

Contact Details

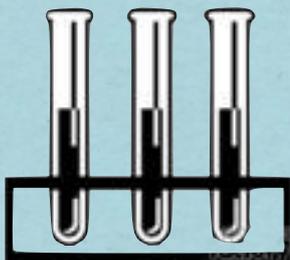
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SCIENCE FACTS



Early electronic computers, developed around the 1940's, were the size of a large room and consumed huge amounts of electricity.

Because of differences in gravity, a 100kg person would only weigh 38kg on Mars.

Sound travels at a speed of around 1,230 kilometres per hour.

The fastest land animal in the world is the Cheetah, clocking a max speed of around 113 km per hour.

Rabbits and parrots can see behind themselves without even moving their heads!

Although the Stegosaurus dinosaur was over 9 metres long, its brain was only the size of a walnut.

A hippopotamus may seem huge but it can still run faster than a man.

Sneezing with your eyes open is impossible.

Campaign Day!



"Along with their theme of saving the world, all the middle school students participated in their first "Campaign Day" on January 23rd. The Campaign Day encouraged each student to take up a current world science issue and create a display, and inform other students and teachers how to best solve the issue.

Grade 5 explained the need for water conservation and practical ways to do it.

Grade 6 explained the energy crisis, energy resources, and choose the best resource for Thailand. The Grade 7 took sides on the issue of Genetic Engineering, discussing the benefits and limitations of this field of science.

Grade 8 explained the physics of car safety and encouraged everyone to be safe while in a car. It was splendid to see students both teaching to and learning from other students. The Campaign Day was a chance for students to show their knowledge, creativity, presentation skills, and global responsibility all at one time.

Furthermore, this Campaign Day was an important precursor to the Middle School Science fair that will occur in late April or early May. If you want to know what the students are learning, just ask them and be amazed!"

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K1B Busy Beavers

By Ms. Charlotte

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Time sure does fly when you are having fun and the K1B Busy Beavers always enjoy learning and playing together. Things have certainly been busy at Berkeley with all the school wide celebrations we've had over the past couple of months Book Week, International Day, Spirit Week and Songkran. The Busy Beavers and their parents always make me proud as they always participate and have fun! When the Busy Beavers weren't busy celebrating one of Berkeley's special events they were certainly focused on transforming our classroom into a jungle, building a jungle tent as well as learning about lots of different creatures that live in the jungle. The children in K1B had a blast learning how to use a magnifying glass to look up close at nature. All of K1 and Pre-K also enjoyed a fantastic day at Play Time, where the children had such fun running, climbing, playing and exploring.

It has certainly been hot in Bangkok but the Busy Beavers have been keeping cool by getting involved with lots of water play in the garden. Their favorite thing to do is fill up water balloons and then put them in the freezer for the night. The next day they keep cool by playing with these large blocks of ice and experimenting to see what will make the blocks of ice melt quickly I am very proud of all the children in K1B as they are all learning to write their name independently, as well as the



Hello from the library at Berkeley! It's hard to believe that we're nearing the end of the year. I have enjoyed my first year here at Berkeley. The kids are great and I've really enjoyed having them visit the library. I'm excited too about making new purchases of books and electronic resources for next year. I always like to ask parents and students what books they'd like to have here in the

numbers 1-10 and all of the letters in the alphabet! I am such a lucky teacher as I have such a creative bunch of kids in my class who love to build and paint whenever we have a spare moment. It is almost the end of the school year but the excitement in K1B continues...we recently had a VERY LARGE visitor come to our classroom. Unfortunately, we didn't get to meet our visitor but they left us footprints, a letter and a nest full of dinosaur eggs! The Busy Beavers now need to learn all they can about

library. Please let me know if you have any suggestions. You can email me at mibrantley@berkeley.ac.th. I'd appreciate having your input.

At the end of the school year, libraries normally cease circulation before classes have finished in order to make sure that all the books are returned. Circulation will close on May 17th. During the week of May 20th library books will be returned. During the week of May 27th there will be no library classes, but the library will be open for students to use.

I am eagerly looking forward to our next school year. Please encourage your children to read over the summer!

Best,

Mike Brantley

Librarian

dinosaurs so that when the eggs hatch they know how to take care of the dinosaur babies.

We certainly enjoy our time together in K1B and if you would like to take a closer look at what we are up to please feel free to check out our class blog.

<http://mscharlottel.wordpress.com>

Ms Charlotte

Happy Snaps!





So Long, Farewell.

By Mrs. Sharin Tebo

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Berkeley Parents and Family,

I simply wish to take this opportunity in writing to express gratitude to you and bid farewell to the Berkeley International School family. As many of you now are aware, Mr. Josh and I will be moving across the world to South America to take on new Administrative roles at an American international school in Venezuela. We have a passion for traveling and experiencing the world's vast diversity and cultures. After earning my initial university degree in Spanish and Secondary Education, and teaching Spanish for over 10 years in the United States, I am looking forward to being able to remain in the Technology capacity,

while gaining my fluency back in Spanish.

In all sincerity, it has been a genuine pleasure being able to work with all of your children across grade levels the last two years. The best thing about Berkeley in my mind is the students, the reason we are here. I have been witness to some incredible learning adventures by all kids at all levels. That is an understatement! I am happy to say I feel confident that the students in this school will be in great hands next year with my incoming replacement. There has been tremendous growth not only for students, but also with the school's state of Technology. As a result, I have also grown professionally through many challenges that have brought success.

Thank you for welcoming me in to the Berkeley community with open arms two years ago and giving me the opportunity to help your children become independent learners, creators, and problem solvers in IT. As the school matures and grows, I envision the already close ties becoming stronger,

fostering unique partnerships among all

stakeholder groups. There is plenty to look forward to with many new changes around the corner for all of you and your children!

Good luck to all of you and our students. You have treasure troves of children to be proud of here at Berkeley International School.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharin L. Tebo



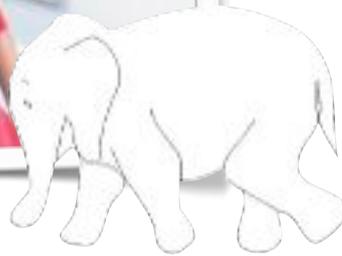
Sports Update: QR WWW

A select group of physical education students will be creating short workout videos that will be used to develop a unique QR code circuit workout with three other schools. The program will be called the Quick Read - World Wide Workout. A QR is the little pixilated boxes read by scanners that contain information like the barcodes on products around the world. The participating schools will be our very own Berkeley International School right here in Bangkok, Thailand, Escuela Bella Vista in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and Edison Middle School in Green Bay, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Students and teachers from each of the three schools will be creating short work out videos attached to a QR code. Teachers will post the QR codes in their physical education classes offering unique circuit workouts for the students. Students will use their own smart devices to scan the QR code. Once the QR code is scanned, a video linked by a Wiki will prompt the students to complete a short exercise routine. The benefits to student learning include: 21st century learning through technology integration, building an understanding for other cultures, and improved physical fitness.

Scan Here!



K2B ELEPHANT NEWS



By Chris



Greetings, from the K2B Elephants!! We have entered the final month of school for the 2012-2013 school year, and what an amazing year we have had! I am impressed with the amount of growth I have seen in the classroom!! As I reflect on all that we have done, some of the highlights shine through the many months of learning.

In Maths, students can now order and write numbers from 0 – 20, they can count to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s. We have introduced simple addition and subtraction and measuring with a ruler, and

have been mastering the math vocabulary that will insure our children's success in math as they continue through school. In Language Arts, the K2 Elephants have shown their reading readiness with letter / sound knowledge, their ability to blend sounds to make words, and their eagerness to learn sight words. We have had fun this year learning about rhyming words and listening to stories to build oral language and vocabulary. And if anyone were to ask one of our students to "put that in a complete sentence," they might be impressed with what they hear.

In Science, the K2 Elephants have learned about the life cycle of frogs and insects, how a seed grows, the difference between man-made and natural objects, and ways that we can help protect our Earth. In Social Studies, we have learned that there are people of different cultures and beliefs all over the world. The students can identify Thailand on a globe and have compared the seasons in the United States with the ones we have here. Through Health and Values this year, our children learned the benefits of good nutrition and hygiene, ways to stay safe in public places as well as school, and how to better express their feels to avoid feelings of frustration.

This has been a full year of fun and learning! The K2 Elephants have enjoyed school and spending time with one another. They have made friendships that go beyond the walls of our classroom. They are truly growing into life-long learners and respectful global citizen! Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful summer!



VISUAL ARTS: "BOOK POP" PROJECT



In Visual Arts, Middle School students have been working on a "Book Pop" project. After learning about Andy

Warhol and analyzing some of his portraits (such as the well known "Marilyn" series), we discussed popular culture and the types of images that qualify as being "pop icons". In more recent times, the idea of repeating images and iconic images has been adopted by a new generation of "Street Artists" such as Banksy and Shepard Fairey who have taken the guerilla tactics of graffiti writers and infused the images with meaning and aesthetic quality. We learned about street art and stenciling techniques and the students were challenged to choose images from literature that would

qualify as being "pop icons". After discussion, images of Anne Frank, Moby Dick, Medusa, Harry Potter, Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, Thing 1 and 2, and the Mockingjay were chosen as subjects and the images were converted into stencil patterns and cut. The students have been using the stencils and spray paint to create groups of "Street/Pop art" portraits with variations in colors similar to the style of Andy Warhol's famous portraits.

Joey



WSC Newsletter



by Ms. Caitlin and Mr. Tom

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On Saturday, May 4th and Sunday May 5th, students from Berkeley International School attended the Bangkok Round of World Scholar's Cup.

Three teams of three were sent to the competition which includes events such as The Scholar's Challenge, Scholar's Bowl, Debate and Collaborative Writing. The theme of this year's World Scholar's Cup is "A World in Motion". Berkeley students certainly proved that they are in forward motion, bringing home many awards in our first ever participation in the academic tournament.

In January, students joined the World Scholar's Cup club which met once per week to explore topics and practice skills for the tournament. Just last month, three teams were chosen to attend the tournament and represent Berkeley: Andy, Kong and Sean; Fasai, Champagne and Minnie; and Mimi, Max and Gabriele. The week before the tournament, these students stayed almost every day after school to prepare and study.

On Sunday, after all of the academic events were finished, students had the opportunity to participate in the Scholar's Show. Our very own Sean Brown, also known as Shon Burnett, represented Berkeley by opening up the show with a rendition of "Use Somebody" by the Kings of Leon.

Finally, after a long weekend, awards were presented to students at the Scholar's Awards. We are very proud to share the following recognitions for students from Berkeley:

Kong – Honorable Mention in Art for the Scholar's Challenge

Minnie – 3rd place in Current Affairs for the Scholar's Challenge

Andy – Honorable Mention in Special Area for the Scholar's Challenge; 3rd place in Science for the Scholar's Challenge; Honorable Mention for an Individual in the Overall Challenge; Special Award for the highest overall score from Berkeley

Andy, Kong and Sean – Honorable Mention for a Team in the Overall Challenge

Max – Honorable Mention for an Individual Score in Debate

Gabriele – 3rd place for an Individual Score in Debate; chosen for the Debate Showcase

Max, Mimi and Gabriele – 3rd place for a Team in Debate

All in all, we are very proud of the students who studied hard and gave up their time to prepare for the competition. We would like to thank Mimi, Max and Gabriele for bringing home a new trophy for Berkeley! All three of Berkeley's teams qualified for the Global Round in Dubai, which brings together the best teams from all over the world. We would like to give a special thank you to Berkeley's parents who came out to support Berkeley and cheer on the students.

"We are Berkeley!"



World facts

Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.

Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents – Europe and Asia.

Los Angeles' full name is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula.

The first city on Earth to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome in 133 BC. Thanks to the vastness of Rome's historic empire, there is a city called Rome on every continent.

Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning 'big village'.

The driest place on Earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic. There has been no rainfall there for an estimated 2 million years.

Spain means, 'the land of rabbits'.

The deepest hole ever drilled by man is the Kola Superdeep Borehole, in Russia. It reaches a depth of 12,261 metres.

Siberia contains more than 25 percent of the world's forests.