

# Gecko & Garden Gazette

April 29, 2011

## General School News



Where young minds grow...

### Upcoming Events

**May 13**

King's Birthday  
School Closed

**May 18 & 19**

Parent Teacher  
Interviews

**May 27**

Last day After School

**DATE CHANGE:**

**May 31 (NOT June 1)**

End of Year School  
Picnic at Gasolina

**June 3**

Last Day of School

**June 6 -17**

School Closed

**June 20-July 15**

Summer School

Dear Parents,

The month of April came and went and was not half as hot as anyone had feared. The expectation is often different from the reality.

At school, the expectation is that all kids feel safe, learn new things and enjoy being at school. I believe that this is also the reality at Gecko & Garden pre-School.

The teaching staff at G&G work hard during the morning, and before and after school to ensure that the expectation and reality match.

This term the staff has started computer training classes at Yejj. We want to continue to offer excellence to our students and families and feel that professional development contributes to that.

Please note an important date change. The End of year school Picnic will be held on Tuesday, May 31 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Gasolina. Please sign up for a dish to share in a few weeks.

Starting Monday May 2nd you may sign up for Parent Teacher Interviews. These will be held on May 18 and 19. The sign up sheets will be by the water cooler.

We will have two new interns starting on May 2nd from the NGO PSE. The previous interns valued their time here and were very appreciative and tearful when they said goodbye.

Wishing you a great and hopefully rainy May!

Sincerely,

*Eveline Hafland*

School Manager

**Gecko and Garden Pre-School**

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## NEW STAFF

The Parent Management Group and the Manager have been very busy recruiting new staff for the 2011-12 school year. We are pleased to introduce two highly qualified people:

Ms. Ali Bergthold comes from the USA and has been in Phnom Penh with her husband and their three children for one year. Her daughter Charley is currently in the Tadpoles class. Ms. Bergthold has extensive experience as a manager in different fields and in several different countries, including Ukraine, the USA, Thailand and Eritrea.

Ms. Helen Saxon comes from the UK and has been in Phnom Penh for a few months. She will teach the Garden Class and is looking forward to creating exciting lessons for your four year olds. Ms. Saxon previously taught at several different schools in London.

Both Helen and Ali will be working closely with Teacher Lui and Eveline in the months of May and June to ensure a smooth transition and hand-over. The PMG and management feel confident that the school will continue to run smoothly and live up to it's world famous expectations with these qualified and experienced people.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HELP

The After School Program at G&G is very popular in the community and offers a large variety of classes. This would not be possible without the help from parent volunteers. This year Mindy, Ivan's mom took over from Melissa to help get the Spring program going. A BIG thank you to Mindy who will be leaving Cambodia in a few weeks. Please let Eveline know if you would be interested in helping to organize this important program. You will meet lots of parents and kids, and the results are immediate. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## WEDDING BELLS FOR TEACHER KIM SAL!



Congratulations to Teacher Kim Sal who married Vandy on April 9. Kim Sal has worked at G&G for ten years, a fact that will be celebrated at the annual PMG & Staff dinner cruise next month. Kim Sal and Vandy had a lovely wedding with many staff members attending and looking beautiful. We wish Kim Sal and Vandy all the happiness in the world!

# HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR!

The month of April brought another celebration: Khmer New Year. Each class performed a dance or song and participated in some traditional Khmer games. The students helped prepare the Nom Korm Nom Borth Cake in banana leaves the day before. We liked the final tradition of the Khmer style piñata, called Veay Khaorm.



Performances, hide the scarf, & tug of war.



## WIRELESS NOW AVAILABLE AT G&G

The next time you arrive at school much too early to pick up your child or choose to wait at school during After School Activities, you can whip out your phone or lap top and log on. We are proud to announce we now offer Wi-Fi on campus. The teaching staff is bringing their laptops to school to do research and email me their detailed lesson plans on line.

If you would like to use the Wi-Fi option at school, just stop by the office to ask either Eveline or Sophea for the password. Now all we need is a coffee corner!



## FROM THE PARENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Dear Parents, Thank you to those parents who made the effort to attend the annual General PMG Meeting on April 25. It was nice to be able to share the school's accomplishments of the year and to report on future plans. If you would like to attend the next regular PMG meeting, please inform Eveline and she will give you directions. This meeting will be held May 23 at 7:00 PM and comes without obligations. **The PMG is in desperate need of a treasurer for next school year.** This is an important role at the school. If you are interested, please contact Eveline or a PMG member. Thank you!

**PMG members are:** Stephanie (Chair and Declan's mom), Lydia (Secretary and Louca's mom), Frank (Treasurer and Ines's dad )Martel (Penny's mom), Jenny (Phoebe's mom), Barbara (Dorian's mom), Ann (Vilgot and Harald's mom), Craig (Shai's dad), and Tim (Eugenia's dad).

### Summer School Program 2011

As always G&G is offering a four week Summer School Program. The program will be filled with fun and games, water play, art, reading, drama, cooking, music, yoga, dance, exploring and sharing with friends.

Children do not need to be registered as G&G students to attend Summer School.

You may sign up for any number of weeks. The dates for the program are:

Week I: June 20 – June 24

Week II: June 27 - July 1

Week III: July 4 – July 8

Week IV: July 11– July 15



The cost is \$55.00 per child per week. Snack and water are provided.

Registration starts Monday, May 2. There will be two classes with 20 spaces each available. Enrollment forms are available in the office. We hope to see you soon!

### Registration 2011-12 School Year

Please come to the office soon and pay the 2011-12 School Year Capital Fee of \$200 to hold a place for your child for next school year. New class lists are being prepared and we would welcome the opportunity to teach your child at G&G for another year. We hope to see you in the office soon!