

# EXPLORE

2023-2024 AY, TERM 1 | ISSUE 6





## CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE:

Dear Paragon Community,

Welcome to another exciting edition of Explore magazine! In this issue, we will take a journey through the activities and events that took place during the first term of this academic year.

In the following pages, you will learn about the importance of celebrating International Days and the significance of developing proficiency in one's mother language from a young age. You will also read about the global adventures of our students who participated in various competitions, both locally and internationally. Additionally, stay tuned for some exciting news about the upcoming year!

Join us as we explore the fun and engaging events and activities at our school, and delve into the enriching journey of our learning process. We are thrilled to continue striving for academic excellence and eagerly look forward to another fantastic term filled with growth and achievements.

To our students, teachers, staff, and parents, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. It is your dedication and enthusiasm that truly make Paragon an exceptional place for learning and personal development.

Best wishes to all, and here's to another fantastic term ahead!

Warm regards,

LCT CHEA Sophakanny  
Chairwoman  
PARAGON Education Co.,LTD



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# WELCOME BACK TO THE CAMPUS!

We welcomed back to the school all our students and staff for new 2023-2024 Academic Year! Once again the campuses are full with the buzzing kids, exploring students and enthusiastic teachers! The parents orientation day was conducted for the new parents to get know each other and the school. Kids are back and we hope to have a great academic year, filled with learning, exploration, and growth!



# SHINING ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Our students participated and excelled in prestigious competitions worldwide. The Copernicus Competition in Texas, USA, witnessed our students' skills in science, while the Teeneagle event in London, UK, showcased their skills in innovation and the English language. Paragon ISC students also demonstrated their debating skills at the World Scholar's Cup Bangkok Round in Thailand, bringing home eight gold medals and twenty silver medals!

## TEENEAGLE - UK



## COPERNICUS - USA



## WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP - THAILAND





# Sustainability in Action

## Wormeries and Recycling Adventures

In a spirited celebration of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste Day the little eco heroes at Kindergarten demonstrated their commitment to sustainable living. The K and Pre K Levels embarked on an exciting journey constructing wormeries under the guidance of their teachers. Laughter echoed through the garden as these young environmentalists brought their wormery projects to life learning valuable lessons about the role of composting in reducing food waste.





Meanwhile in the Toddlers and Nursery classes a different kind of green adventure unfolded. Tiny hands eagerly peeled and recycled fruits and veggies turning kitchen scraps into nutrient rich soil fertilizer. The joyous faces of the youngsters mirrored the success of their recycling endeavors highlighting the simplicity and effectiveness of sustainable practices.

Through these hands on experiences kindergarten students not only raise awareness about food waste but actively contribute to a greener future embodying the principles of sustainability in their everyday actions. The wormeries and recycling initiatives stand as shining examples of how small steps can lead to significant positive impacts on our planet.





# Family Sports Day







The spirit of teams and joy filled the air as Paragon ISC Kindergarten hosted its annual “Family Sports Day,” bringing together students, parents, guardians, and teachers for a day of active fun and bonding.

The young athletes showcased their sports talents, fostering not only physical activity but also the development of crucial life skills. The event provided a platform for children to build friendships, boost confidence, and enhance their social skills, all while engaging in a variety of sports activities.

What made the day truly special was the enthusiastic participation of parents. Alongside teachers, they actively joined in all the activities, displaying remarkable team spirit and encouragement. The event not only strengthened the bond between families and the school but also emphasized the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle.





## PARAGON ISC HOSTS CIS PREP VISIT

Paragon ISC recently welcomed distinguished evaluators from the Council of International Schools (CIS) in a much-anticipated Preparatory visit. This visit reaffirms Paragon ISC's dedication to upholding global educational standards and marks a significant step in the accreditation process.

During the visit, the CIS evaluators examined our school, aligning it with global benchmarks. Their insights, commendations, and recommendations not only provide invaluable feedback but also contribute to our ongoing commitment to excellence. This collaborative evaluation not only benefits the school but sets the stage for the self-study phase in the upcoming 5-year cycle, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.



Being a CIS-accredited school brings numerous advantages. It ensures that Paragon ISC provides an internationally recognized education, preparing students for a globalized world. The accreditation process emphasizes rigorous standards, promoting a holistic approach to education that goes beyond academics.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated school community whose unwavering support has played a pivotal role in this collaborative journey toward continuous growth. Thank you, dear teachers and staff, students and parents and the school's management team!





# SAFETY FIRST:

## The Significance of Annual Fire Drills in Schools



At Paragon ISC, the recent initiation of a fire drill underscores our unwavering commitment to the safety of students and staff. The drill serves as a vital practice session, ensuring a clear and efficient evacuation procedure aimed for success. This proactive measure is essential in preparing our community for any unforeseen circumstances that may demand immediate action.



Annual fire drills are not just a routine; they are a critical safety step. Conducted regularly, these drills ensure that everyone is well-versed in the evacuation procedures, guaranteeing a swift and organized response in case of an emergency. The commitment to these drills at Paragon ISC reflects our dedication to fostering a secure and prepared environment, where safety remains a top priority.



# WORLD FOOD DAY

Why it is important to celebrate World Food Day?



World Food Day was a vibrant celebration at our school, dedicated to instilling the importance of a wholesome diet in our young learners. The day was marked by a delightful picnic, where children engaged in creating artworks, playing games, and relishing the taste of fresh fruits and vegetables.

This initiative aims to seamlessly integrate a healthier lifestyle into the early years of our students, fostering habits that promote well-being. Beyond the joy of colorful and tasty treats, the educational aspect highlighted the significance of fiber in fruits and vegetables. Science-backed, this nutrient not only adds colors to our plates but also supports digestion, keeping our young tummies happy and healthy. World Food Day at our school becomes a flavorful journey of learning and embracing the importance of nutrition.





# PTC: PARENTS INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING PROCESS



The Parent-Teacher Conference is a valuable opportunity, fostering open communication and collaboration for the success of our students. The agenda of this PTC included an overview of the academic success and development of the students. By bringing home and school closer together, parents had the opportunity to calibrate and understand their child's progress and well-being at school.





# ADVANTAGES OF IMPLEMENTING MOTHER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN EARLY YEARS



In the early education system, incorporating the mother language and culture holds multifaceted advantages. Introducing the Khmer language during formative years aims to forge a profound connection that transcends the classroom. This cultural immersion not only imparts a sense of identity and pride but also paves the way for future academic achievements.



Our little learners, participating in the Water Festival and Khmer New Year celebrations, not only embrace the beauty of their heritage but also cultivate language skills, establishing a robust foundation for their educational journey. These festivities become more than mere celebrations; they unfold as a cultural journey, fostering a generation proud of their roots and well-equipped for a globally connected future.



Believing strongly in the advantages of early exposure to the mother language, we understand that it sparks a lifelong bond while cultivating a deep appreciation for heritage and identity. As our students delve into the richness of Khmer culture, they concurrently develop language skills, creating a harmonious blend of tradition and learning that fosters a profound sense of pride and connection to their roots.



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## Safari Adventures Ignite Learning Without Walls

Field trips, a cherished tradition in education, extend learning beyond the classroom, transforming textbooks into unforgettable experiences. These excursions are not mere breaks from routine; they are windows into a world of discovery and learning.

Beyond traditional classroom settings, learning in environments like Phnom Penh Safari offers numerous advantages. Students engage in experiential learning, gaining practical insights into wildlife, ecosystems, and biodiversity. This approach enhances their observational and critical-thinking skills, fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world. Additionally, these excursions promote social interaction, teamwork, and the development of a sense of responsibility, creating well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the world beyond the school walls.







This unique adventure not only provided an opportunity for hands-on learning but also fostered unforgettable moments that strengthened the bonds between families and the school community. The trip to Safari wasn't just a visit; it was an exploration of nature's classroom, where students, teachers, and families collaborated in the pursuit of knowledge and discovery.



# WORLD SOIL DAY



World Soil Day holds great significance, especially for kindergarten students who are at the beginning of their educational journey. Our kindergarten celebrated this day with enthusiasm and a commitment to imparting valuable lessons about the environment to our young learners.



The event was marked by engaging activities that allowed the children to delve into the captivating world of soil. The importance of celebrating World Soil Day at kindergarten lies in its ability to lay the foundation for the children's understanding of the environment. During the celebration, our students learned about the crucial role soil plays in nurturing plants, emphasizing the interconnectedness of soil, plant life, and our food sources.





The hands-on experience of planting seeds and exploring various soil types made the learning process enjoyable and memorable for the children. By turning the educational experience into a fun and interactive adventure, we aimed to instill a sense of responsibility in the kids for taking care of nature. This early exposure helps them develop into environmentally conscious individuals as they continue to grow.



# “THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN”



In today’s fast-paced world, prioritizing the mental well-being of our children is more crucial than ever. Mental health care plays a pivotal role in fostering resilience and emotional intelligence, laying the foundation for a successful and fulfilling life.

By addressing the unique challenges children face, such as learning overload and social dynamics, we empower them to navigate life’s complexities with confidence. Establishing open communication channels, promoting self-awareness, and providing a supportive environment are integral components of mental health care. As parents and educators, it is our collective responsibility to recognize the signs, destigmatize discussions around mental health, and ensure that our children grow up emotionally resilient and equipped to face life’s challenges head-on.

Paragon ISC hosted an informative session for our parents, titled “The Importance of Mental Health Care for Your Children”. During the session, attendees delved into various crucial subjects, such as gaining a comprehensive concept of mental health, exploring different parenting styles, understanding child development, and learning effective communication techniques with their children. The session also featured an engaging Q&A segment, where parents could seek expert guidance and answers to their questions.





## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



After-school activities play a pivotal role in a child's holistic development, extending the learning experience beyond the classroom. At Paragon, we recognize the importance of these extracurricular pursuits in shaping well-rounded individuals.

From academic enrichment clubs to interest-based pursuits like Cambridge Clubs, Taekwondo, Robotics, swimming, sports, and science, our after-school offerings provide different opportunities. Engaging in these activities goes beyond the academic curriculum, fostering teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills.

Participation in clubs such as Robotics enhances problem-solving abilities, while sports and Taekwondo instill a sense of physical well-being and teamwork. Academic clubs and Cambridge Clubs develop intellectual curiosity and academic achievement. Meanwhile, interest-based clubs allow students to explore their passions, promoting self-discovery and a love for learning.



# OUR NEW CAMPUS IS COMING...

Paragon ISC's New Campus Coming Soon!

We are thrilled to share exciting news with all prospective students and their families! Paragon International School is delighted to announce the construction of our brand-new campus, set to be completed in time for the upcoming 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Our new campus will provide an innovative and conducive learning environment, designed to nurture the academic, social, and personal growth of our students. With modern infrastructure and advanced resources, we aim to create a remarkable educational experience for each and every student.







# YEAR-END

Here are some snapshots from the "End of the Year" party on the last day of 1st Term. Our students and teachers gathered together, creating lasting memories as they celebrated the holidays.





# D PARTY

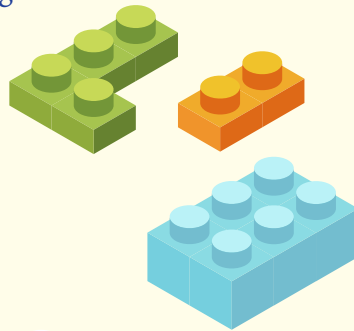


# IMPLEMENTING LEGO PLAYS AND BLOCKS BUILDING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Integrating LEGO plays and blocks building into early years education is a dynamic approach that fosters crucial skills. These activities promote creativity, fine motor skills, and spatial awareness. By manipulating blocks and constructing with LEGO sets, children enhance problem-solving abilities and engage in imaginative play. The tactile nature of these materials also aids sensory development.

## 1 Develops Fine Motor Skills:

- Building with blocks and LEGO pieces requires precise hand-eye coordination and manipulation of small objects.
- As children pick up, stack, and connect the blocks, they enhance their fine motor skills, which are crucial for tasks like writing, drawing, and buttoning.



## 2 Encourages Creativity and Imagination:

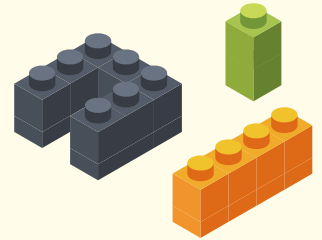
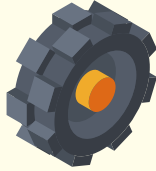
- Block and LEGO play foster creativity as children use their imaginations to construct various structures, scenes, and designs.





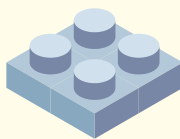
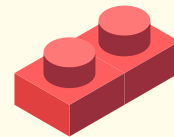
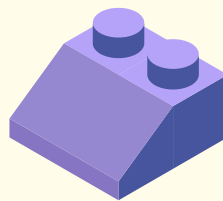
### 3 Promotes Cognitive Skills:

- Building activities help in the development of cognitive skills such as spatial awareness, geometry, and basic math concepts.
- Children learn about shapes, sizes, symmetry, and patterns as they manipulate the blocks, laying a foundation for mathematical understanding.



### 4 Enhances Social Skills and Teamwork:

- When children engage in collaborative building activities, they learn to work together, share ideas, and communicate effectively.
- Sharing materials, negotiating roles, taking turns, and combining efforts to achieve a common goal contribute to the development of important social skills, including teamwork and cooperation.



### 5 Builds Persistence and Resilience:

- Constructing with blocks can be challenging, requiring patience and perseverance. Kids learn that they may need to try different approaches, problem-solve, and adapt their designs.



# Teacher's Day



# Celebration at Our Campuses



We celebrate and honor the people who spark curiosity and inspire us to never stop exploring – our teachers! You are our source of inspiration, helping us overcome our weaknesses and encouraging us to believe in our abilities!



# Thank you!

# Spreading Kindness: Cyclo Charity Event at Paragon ISC Primary Campus



We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support received during the Cyclo Drivers Donation event, meticulously organized by the Paragon ISC Primary Campus.

This philanthropic initiative, led by the Paragon Student Union in celebration of World Kindness Day, partnered with the Local4Local organization. The primary goal was to supply non-perishable food items, fostering a spirit of kindness and compassion within our community.





A heartfelt shoutout extends to the remarkable contributors of the Cyclo Drivers Donation event—our dedicated students, teachers, and parents. Your generosity knows no bounds, and we're immensely grateful for your support.



*Local Factor*



# EXPLORING BEYOND

The Educational Adv

A

Field trips, a cherished tradition in education, extend learning beyond the classroom, transforming textbooks into unforgettable experiences.

One of the primary benefits of field trips is their ability to bring theoretical knowledge to life. Whether it's a historical museum, a science center, or a botanical garden, students witness concepts unfold before their eyes, fostering a deeper understanding the subjects studied.

Beyond academic enrichment, field trips cultivate crucial life skills. Students learn to collaborate, communicate, and navigate the world outside school walls. These experiences contribute to the development of social skills, independence, and a sense of responsibility. Moreover, exposure to diverse environments broadens perspectives, encouraging open-mindedness and cultural awareness.





# THE CLASSROOM:

## Adventure of Field Trips



B



Our students at the secondary level have the privilege of embarking on numerous field trips throughout the academic year. Tailored to their respective grade levels, these excursions take them to various companies and places, enhancing their educational journey.

C





# PARAGON TALKS: A PLATFORM FOR INSIGHT AND INSPIRATION

Paragon Talks - led by a dynamic group of secondary student volunteers - serves as a vibrant platform for our students to engage with accomplished individuals from various professional spheres. These speakers bring to life the diverse career possibilities that await our students beyond the academic realm. The talks are not only an opportunity for intellectual exchange but also a chance for our young minds to gain valuable insights, advice, and inspiration as they navigate their educational journeys.



This student-led initiative underscores the collaborative and forward-thinking spirit at Paragon ISC. By connecting current students with alumni who have successfully ventured into different career paths and have valuable experiences to share, Paragon Talks fosters a sense of community and provides a roadmap for aspiring individuals.



# International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies



At Kindergarten, the celebration of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies has become a cherished tradition. Each year, anticipation fills the air as eager kids await a day of exploration, learning, and fun dedicated to our environment.

The day unfolds with many engaging activities, turning the learning experience into a joyous adventure. Kite running takes center stage, allowing children to connect with the open skies while embracing the thrill of the wind. The vibrant colors of kites dance against the backdrop of the sky, symbolizing the beauty and purity of clean air.

In addition to kite running, artistic expression takes flight as children engage in drawing activities, capturing their perceptions of a clean and clear atmosphere. The day culminates in the creation of mesmerizing soap bubbles, expressing the purity and simplicity that the International Day of Clean Air stands for.



# TEACHERS' FOOTBALL COMPETITION



Our Paragon ISC teachers and staff showcased their sportsmanship and talent in the Teachers' Football Champions League.

The competition featured 6 teams, with participation from 4 esteemed international schools. We are thrilled to announce that the Paragon ISC team emerged victorious, winning all their matches and securing the championship title. The final match saw our teachers facing off against the team from Saigon, Vietnam.

Heartfelt congratulations on this outstanding achievement, dear team!



# NO BACKPACK DAY AT PRIMARY

The 'No Backpack Day' at Primary organized by our Student Union was full of imaginative ideas and artistic expressions. Kids were asked to find an alternative to a traditional school backpack to put their books and belongings. From handmade masterpieces to DIY crafts, it was a day of limitless inspiration and fun-filled excitement.

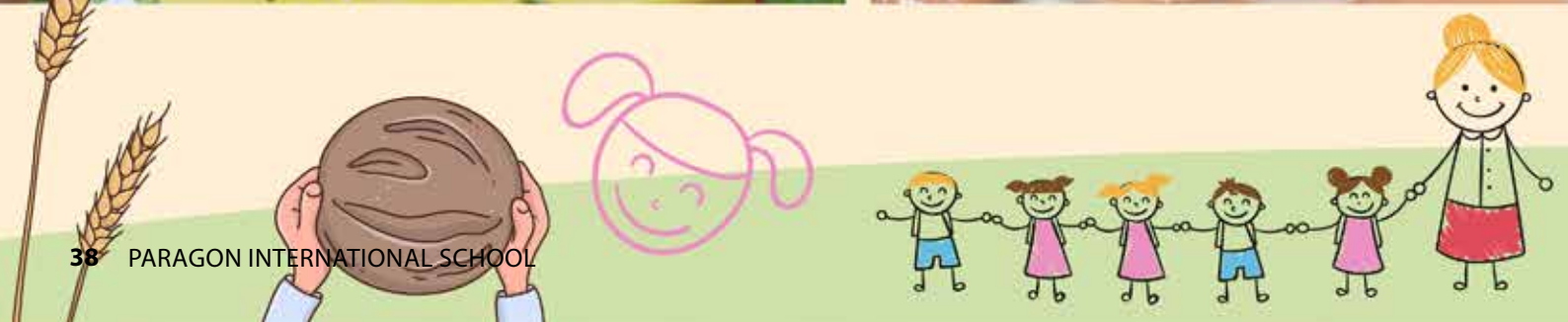


# BAKING, DRAWING, AND NATURE CRAFTING!

A Fun-Filled Saturday at KG



Kindergarten came alive with excitement as kids engaged in a delightful array of activities. While some young chefs showcased their culinary skills by baking sweets and biscuits, others at the Pre-K level immersed themselves in drawing and craft-making with flowers, seeds, and dried leaves.





Beyond the traditional lessons and textbooks, these Saturday activities served as a platform for bonding and fostering a deeper understanding of one another. The joy and laughter echoed through the campus and outdoor spaces, creating lasting memories and connections that extend beyond the regular school routine. It's heartwarming to witness the little ones not only learning within the classroom but also embracing creativity, teamwork, and friendship in a more relaxed and playful setting. Saturdays at KG are not just about education; they're about creating a vibrant community of young minds eager to explore, create, and connect.



# STAFF'S SPORTS & WELLNESS DAY



Paragon Education Company celebrated a fantastic Sports and Wellness Day, bringing together our incredible staff from across all campuses!

The day was filled with exciting outdoor and indoor activities, engaging team-building games, thrilling lucky draws, lively songs and dances, and special moments to honor our dedicated teaching, support, and management teams. We hope you enjoyed the day! Looking forward to seeing you again at the next Sports and Wellness Day!







# Top in the World

## Cambridge Outstanding Learner Award



Excitement resonates through the halls of our secondary campus as we proudly share the remarkable achievement of Rubina, who has secured the prestigious Cambridge Outstanding Learner Award - TOP in the World in the Cambridge IGCSE!

Rubina's exceptional performance is a testament to her dedication and academic skills, making her a shining star in our school community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Rubina for this incredible accomplishment.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Rubina's parents, family, and teachers for their unwavering support and guidance throughout her academic journey. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

**Hi, my name is Rubina Heng and this year I took IGCSE and got six A stars.**

**Q1. What subjects did you take exams for and which one did you find the most enjoyable?**

Rubina: I took five subjects which were Co-ordinated Science, Math, Business, English as a Second Language and ICT. And the one I found most enjoyable. Even though most people will question my sanity. It was Coordinator science

**Q2. Studying for exams can be challenging. What strategies did you use to stay motivated and organized throughout your exam preparation?**

Rubina: For me, preparing for exams, I was not prepared, honestly. I left things to the last minute and started studying like within the last month before the exam, which I don't recommend. However, I kept thinking about like the grades. I kept thinking about how I would feel if I actually achieved those A stars, how my parents would feel, how proud they would be of me. And that really kept me going and was the drive for me to try my best and do my best on the exam and study hard for it.

**Q3. Were there any specific resources, like textbooks, online materials or study groups that you found particularly helpful in understanding difficult concepts?**

Rubina: So, the website I used the most was Guide and Save my exams, which really does save your exams. I pretty much cleared out the IGCSE Guide website from 2017 to 2022, and I tried to do all the past papers. Save my Exams really helped me a lot, especially with biology, which I slept through some classes

**Q4: The Cambridge exams often require critical thinking and problem solving. Can you describe an exam question that made you think creatively or how you approached solving it?**

Rubina: So, there was this one question in paper six of Co-ordinated Science where we were asked to plan out an experiment to drop a seed from a sycamore tree and see how far it would land. I imagined the tree and actually like climbing it and putting the seed and placing it at an exact height and seeing how it would go in my head before I wrote it down.

And for Business, there was this one question where we had to calculate which option was better to sell more seats at a lower price or less seats for a higher price. I imagined each seat having the price on it itself and how filled the theater would be. And yeah, I was able to write a lot for that question.

**Q5: How did you manage your time effectively during the exam period and did you have any routines to help you stay focused during the exams?**

Rubina: During exam period or prepping for the exam, like before the exam started, I was doing papers non-stop. I woke up I do papers, before I eat, I do papers, after I eat I do more papers, before I sleep I go do more papers.

Actually during the exam itself, it might seem stressful because there is not that much time, but just go through what you can and do what you think you know best. Try to look for two sections, you know, first and try to figure those out. And, during the actual exam, like the period itself, there are spaces between each exam. You have like about a few days to a week to prepare for each exam. So, you should use that time wisely and yeah prepare for it, using that time.



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A BETTER TOMORROW**



Cambridge International School

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