



Sunshine News

September 2010

www.sunshinecentrecambodia.org

Should I Study or Work?



For the past four years, a couple of hundred children have had the chance to go to public school because of the support received from the SC. Many of those kids have been teenagers, some of whom have done very well

and are now progressing through secondary school. However most of the teens have dropped out without finishing primary school and for those who struggled on through grade 6, the question arises, would I be better off finding a job now that I'm 15? This was the dilemma for 2 of our graduating girls, whose families wanted them to start paying their own way and who feel they cannot make even a small contribution towards vocational training. Over the summer holidays, these girls found part time work waitressing during the morning rush hour and realised there wasn't much of a future there. After chatting with friends and staff, they are now committed to starting grade 7 in October.

*"I don't want to go back home when I am at SC because this place has love, friendship and compassion from the teachers. I want to tell you that coming to SC is important to me."
Grade 6 student*



International Children's Day

Public Schools take the opportunity to reward students who have done well over the year. Above, some SC students are receiving a gift from a teacher.

Annual Day Trip

This year we took all the kids on a 3 hour bus ride to Thmor Rong (Hole in the Rock) where we could enjoy playing in a river and splashing amongst the rocks! This is a rare treat and some of the kids had never even been in a bus before. Unfortunately, many of them were car-sick but tolerated their discomfort without any complaint which is pretty impressive!



Christmas Cards



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

This year we have beautiful Christmas cards for sale in packets of 10. Each packet contains 2 designs produced by SC students with the inspirational assistance of Rachel Saunders, a teacher at Hope International School.

Printing costs have been generously covered so 100% of proceeds go directly to the SC. Each packet is \$10, the cost of breakfast for 50 children for one day. Order as many as you can!

Please contact Jill at:

newsletter@sunshinecentrecambodia.org

or call 02 91447333.

Chidsafe Traveler Tips



Last June there were teary goodbyes for Barbara (Denmark) and Eva (Sweden) who had come as volunteers for a year. They both taught English and Eva also did health check-ups and hygiene lessons. Thanks so much— the kids miss you! We also welcome 3 new volunteers from Denmark: Pia, Louisa and Tobias—more about them next time!



We also have a great new Education Advisor, Elke (Germany) who is supporting our teaching staff and also helping out a lot with the preschoolers during the summer vacation.

Andreas, our previous Ed Advisor, is currently in Denmark with his family and would value your prayers as they consider their future in Cambodia as their 4 year old son has been diagnosed with autism.

#2 Think twice before buying anything from children on the street, beaches or at temples and refrain from giving money to begging children or parents with infants.

It keeps them on the street and places them at risk. If you really want to help, please don't give directly to children. Instead, find and support services that help these children have a better future.

#4 Be aware of the dangers of orphanage tourism.

A lot of orphanages in Cambodia do not have child protection policies in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the

children in their care. Allowing visitors to have direct contact with children can place children at risk, especially when visitors are unsupervised. Good organizations have policies in place to protect children and should not allow visitors to just drop in and have access to the children.

For further tips and more information how to better protect children in Cambodia, visit www.chidsafe-cambodia.org



Thank You

The staff have undergone lots of training recently in micro-enterprise, character growth, organizational development and working on new strategies to focus more on community development and participation. This will involve restructuring and a change of mindset for all stakeholders over the next 3 years. Yet, as you read this, we are in the process of enrolling up to 30 new families and preparing for the new school year. In the next 2 months there will be 5 volunteers and several visiting teams. Please remember us in your prayers as Channy and the management team lead the SC into new areas. The first 10 years were very eventful, no doubt the next 10 will be too! Thank you so much for joining us on this journey.

Bonnie Lepelaar
Project Advisor

*"If SC didn't help me, I don't know where I'd be. I am thankful to SC because SC doesn't just support my study, but it also educates my behavior. I am glad because I have repented and I know what my responsibilities are."
Grade 8 student*

HANDY INFO:

Enquiries: email Jill at newsletter@sunshinecentrecambodia.org or (02) 9144 7333 or post to SC Reps, PO Box 2243, Ringwood, 3134

Donations: The Sunshine Centre is a Global Development Group approved aid and development project. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia (and other countries inc. USA). Donations can be made:

1. ONLINE via www.globaldevelopment.org.au/donations.php to project **J529**
2. BANK TRANSFERS to NRUC Sunshine Centre A/c No. 10257096, BSB 063885, Commonwealth Bank, Ringwood North (inc. your name & address details by email or post if a tax receipt is required).
3. CHEQUES to —NRUC Sunshine Centre Account, posted to the Ringwood address above including name and address for tax receipt.

