Construction of the Micro Community

Construction projects have ceased for now at SHCC, the final group of Reach out Volunteers completed the ninth village house on Friday. There are just three left to complete later in the year. We would like to thank Reach Out Volunteers for their work on this project over the past 10 weeks and look forward to their return at the end of the year. Each of the houses constructed as part of the micro community (‘replica Kro Bei Riel’) represents one of the villages in Kro Bei Riel community. And each of the twelve school grades have now been assigned a house and land area to take care of and use as their home base while at SHCC. Their extra tuition classes take place here, lunches are cooked here and they can wash and change here before they go onto State school each day.
SHCC News
July 2013

Art News

SHCC has some pretty incredible artists in the making. Several of the art students at SHCC now attend Small Art School in Siem Reap, every Sunday they travel in by truck to attend classes.

Small Art School recently entered the artwork of three SHCC students Yon Chet, Py Porng and Chai Vichai in the Aerie International Art Award. Just having their artwork entered is this competition is an amazing achievement.

But Py Porng’s piece won the award! An incredible achievement and we are extremely happy for him. His pencil drawing depicting his mother can be seen below.

Three other students Vin Bona, Sen Safari and Ly Sreypi received certificates of distinction in the USA Flowers for Peace Award. We are extremely proud of them all and would like to congratulate all the students who took part.
Class Structure and Delivery changes

As part of the restructure at SHCC our education department has had an overhaul. The way our classes are delivered now has changed as well as how classes are graded. We still follow the same curriculum but our class levels are now aligned with that of the State School system. Although we teach different subjects to what is taught at State School, we decided we needed to make the change as it would allow us to work more easily alongside the State School and hopefully make it easier for the students.

In the past we have allocated classes according to a student's ability rather than age, as obviously due to the lack of availability to quality education the difference in ability levels of any two students the same age can be vast. This method of grading worked for awhile, however as the role has increased and there is a much greater number of older children joining the education system now, we have noticed problems with older students feeling uncomfortable in a classroom full of younger students and as a result of this we were beginning to see students coming to class less and less. We were also seeing the divide between student ability widening. So decided the change needed to be made.

Our main concern in making the change was how it would impact both the lower and higher level students in a class—perhaps struggling students would not get the one on one time needed or they would not keep up? Perhaps the students who excel would stop progressing or get bored and drop out altogether?

The only way we could try to counteract this was by offering extra tuition classes to each grade, not such an easy task when we had just gone from twelve teachers to four!

So now SHCC classes are in grades, the same as at State School. There are twelve grades and within each grade there are four different level classes (eg—Grade 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D). So classes are still somewhat graded on ability within each of the grades, so those needing extra help will get it and those excelling can move on rather than be held back.

It has been less than three months since the change, but the children are flourishing. We have already seen a huge improvement in the confidence and enjoyment of the students as well as the attendance rate of the older students.

Students now sit tests monthly rather than quarterly (covering writing, speaking, listening, reading and grammar). Each student has a follow up book in which their progress is recorded. We had hoped to send this book home with students weekly so that parents and teachers could communicate with each other through it and hopefully it would encourage parents to take a more active role in their child's education. However books were getting lost so now once a month the book is taken by our social work staff to a student's home when conducting home visits. The staff explain progress, discuss any concerns or issues the child or parents may be facing and seek feedback from the students family.
CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

We have recently taken on a new scholarship programme at SHCC. Providing assistance to 36 children identified as at risk and who would be unable to receive an education without this scholarship and extra support.

As well as providing financial support to the children and their families, each child will be assigned a staff member and trainee who will work with them and their family to support them in their education and in moving towards becoming self sustainable.

A huge thank you to everyone that has offered to sponsor one or some of the children. Everyone at SHCC, the children and their families are incredibly grateful.

OTHER NEWS FROM JULY

- Sadly July was not a good month for the community of Kro Bei Riel, several young people died, and of course being a small community, in one way or another each of them were tied to the SHCC. All were taken tragically and the circumstances avoidable. We have pledged to help these families however we can and promise to honour these young people by continuing to push the importance of education so that things like this don’t happen.
- The bamboo Art & Craft class has been taken down to increase the play area for the younger students and this area will also be our make shift football pitch during the wet months when the big football pitch is under water. The Art & Crafts building will be reconstructed shortly next to the vocational training building.
- Rice harvesting and re planting continues in the micro community.
- Large amounts of clothing, toys, books and other educational resources were donated to the school this month by visiting volunteers. Each of our 70 scholarship students received an item of clothing each and the educational resources and stationary were distributed as prizes to the hardest working students.
- Staff and students are currently learning a new school song, which was selected by the school staff when they heard the lyrics to a song and thought it summed up the values and hopes of SHCC.
GOOD NEWS!

We would like to share with you that we have had success recently in funding proposal submissions and confirmation of continued support from grant making organisations that have been supporting SHCC for sometime now. We would like to say a big thank you to these organisations and also a few incredibly generous individuals that have been supporting SHCC for a sometime now.

Global Fund for Children, Annulliamo la Distanza, SHCC NZ, Tony Munro, Rudi and Annette Moraw, Jessica Barrett and Vanessa Morley. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support, without it, it would not be possible to carry out the work that we do.

VOLUNTEER DATABASE

In the coming months we are hoping to put together a volunteer database that will help us link previous SHCC volunteers that are from the same countries, states or regions. Many of our volunteers when they leave like to stay involved and sometimes hold fundraisers back at home to raise funds for different projects at SHCC. We are hoping through the database we will be able to put volunteers in touch with each other so they can support each other, share ideas, perhaps combine resources or organise events together.
Rice harvesting...