

2015

JWI 1st quarter report 2015



Presented by Phymean Noun

Prepared by John Thompson

March 2015

JWI FUNDED ACTIVITIES AT PIO

1 JANUARY- 31 MARCH 2015

SCHOOLS

At the start of the 2014 / 2015 school year there were 1,340 students enrolled at PIO, of whom 800 are funded by JWI.

School numbers to 31 March 2015		
School	Classes	Number
Stung Meanchey	Nursery to Grade 6	518 (up by 4)
Borey Keila	Kindergarten to Grade 6	350 (down by 24)*
Borey Santepheap 2	Nursery to Grade 3	306 (up by 3)
High school students	Grade 7 - Grade 12	94 (down by 54)**
University	Second year	1 (no change)
Total students		1,269

- A number of families have left the district.

** The previous figure included students who were enrolled at high school but subsequently left. The new total is for student **currently enrolled** at high school.

1. The number of students at SMC has had a small (4 students) increase. 9 students have left, predominantly from Grades 1 and 2 but an additional 13 students have been enrolled. The students leaving are mostly those whose families have returned to their home province for economic or family reasons.
2. The number of high school students has been confirmed at 94. Of those 65 are sponsored. The students that are no longer at high school have left for a variety of reasons, typically to work to support their families, moving back to their province, migrating to Thailand for work with their family, or in the case of some older students, marriage. Of those that leave most are not sponsored. It is clear that for those that are sponsored the dropout rate is 15%, compared with more than double that for unsponsored students. This year there has been a concerted effort to have as many students as possible sponsored by corporate or individual sponsors.

Now 20 are sponsored by Maybank, 25 by Smiling Gecko Foundation, 12 by nurses from Newcastle University Australia and 8 by PIO Board member Richard Teo.

3. The roll at Borey Santipheap 2 has increased by 3 to 306 with students who have left being replaced. The largest fluctuation occurs with students who live in the Tuol Sombo village – a very poor community of families quarantined there because of AIDS / HIV.

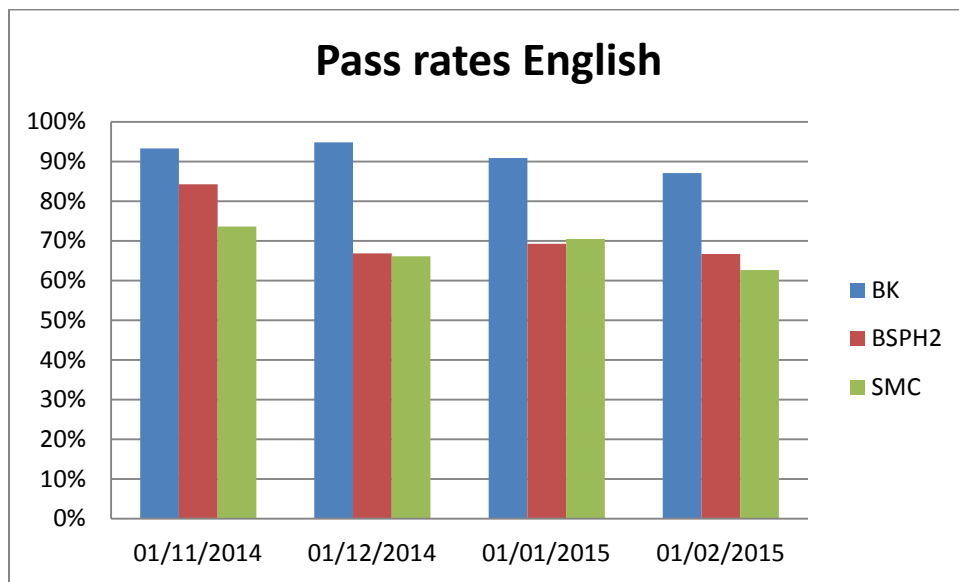
4. At Borey Keila the roll has dropped by 24 to 350. The overarching reason is families moving out of the district because of ongoing issues with housing in the area.

PASS RATES AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The standardizing of English tests, so that all the classes at each level sit the same test, and more detailed measurement of student achievement is providing some useful insights into student and teacher performance.

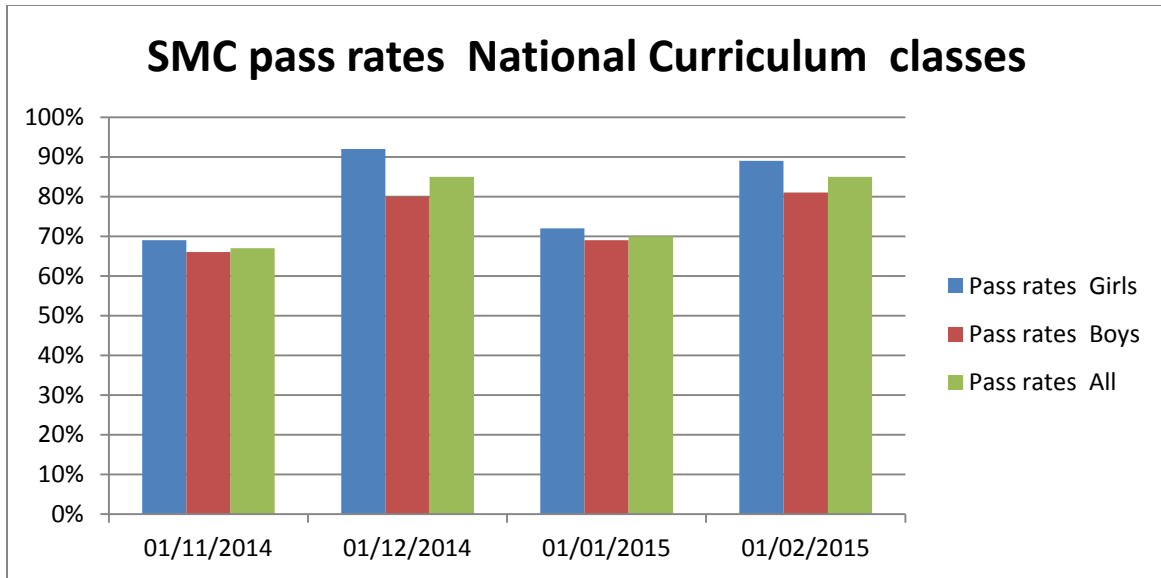
It is clear that the standard of teaching and learning at Borey Keila is excellent. The teachers there are well-qualified to teach English and that is reflected in the student test results.

The table shows the English test pass rates, November 2014 – February 2015 at each school.



The system has highlighted some problem areas where the School Supervisor will need to work with the classroom teacher to determine the reason for the lower achievement.

At SMC the students are also tested each month on their learning of subjects from the national curriculum.



UNIFORMS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Children at all three schools have all received uniforms, school books and all necessary equipment for their learning.

Of those children 800 have their school supplies and uniforms directly funded by JWI.

LIBRARY

- Activity is at a similar level to 2014 with classes Grade 1 to Grade 6 having one hour per week of library time for reading books in either Khmer or English.
- During the day a number of senior students are employed to repair books, cover books and maintain the sports equipment, art supplies and educational games.
- The library stock continues to grow with regular donations from visitors and volunteers. The are now well over 6,000 books in the library.
- Lunchtime usage of the library has increased significantly with numbers of children from Grade 2 and above spending time each library reading the Khmer and English children's books.
- Volunteers have helped in arranging the library stock so that the most useful reading books are easily available to students.
- There is an urgent need for more library space. A need that will be addressed when the new building is completed.

CULTURAL

Dance performances are a regular feature whenever there are visitors to PIO or a special event.

In addition there are dance performances at outside venue, especially on special occasions such as the upcoming Khmer New Year celebrations.

Each week 37 students (24 female and 13 male) receive instruction from the JWI funded dance teacher in Traditional dance.

SOCIAL WORKER

The social worker visits an average of 20 families per month. The visits are to the families of children where PIO has become aware of a problem, usually erratic or non-attendance by the child, or health issues that are affecting their learning.

In February a revised job description was prepared for the Social Worker. It provides Thavy with a focused description of her role and places an emphasis on what is possible to be achieved given the limited funding and resources.

In the last month the Social Worker visited some families in the Tuol Sombo vilalge near Borey Santipheap 2. For children in that village PIO is the only provider of education, so it is important that the children are regular in their attendance.

Other visits included a family whose child has ongoing health problems because of a congenital heart problem, one who's schooling was in jeopardy because his parents had recently divorced and one who was intermittently truant because he wanted to play games instead of going to school. Another wanted to stay home and help his family by working because they were very poor.

In all cases Thavy received an undertaking that the family would work hard to keep their child at school. The cases will be monitored over the next month and class teachers will alert Thavy if the problems with attendance resurface.

Ensuring attendance and dealing with non-attendance at the time when it first occurs is an effective strategy for ensuring that students at risk of non-attendance remain in school.

HEALTH

There have been several important health initiatives in the first quarter of 2015.

Monash University and University of Newcastle volunteer nurses

Following the visit from nursing volunteers to Borey Santipheap 2 in December Antipodeans Abroad sent a similar team in January to treat and assess 633 students from Borey Keila and Stung Meanchey schools.

The information and data from each consultation was saved into a database and for the first time PIO has some good baseline data on the health of its students. That can now be used to assist in decision-making about health education and treatment programs at the schools.

The major limitation is funding. If a child requires more than first aid or symptomatic relief they need to be treated at a medical center or hospital. To do so incurs costs outside of PIO's normal funding. Occasionally the money will be provided by a sponsor or donor but in the vast majority of cases the funding has to come from PIO as the families lack the financial resources to provide for expensive treatment.

The nurse provided treatment for a wide range of conditions including, sore throats, colds, head lice, intestinal parasites and fungal skin conditions. They also measured and weighed all children, assessed the incidence of tooth decay and conducted a rudimentary vision test.

The findings were unsurprising.

- Many children required treated for intestinal parasites
- There was a high incidence of head lice, especially amongst girls.
- Very high levels of tooth decay
- Dehydration
- Many children, especially at BSPH2 were underweight.

Visits from these nursing groups is now well-established and will become a regular part of the PIO program in the future.

PIO is grateful for the support of Kiri Travel (Cambodia) and Antipodeans Abroad (Australia) in organizing these programs at the three schools.

Seal Cambodia dental program

Cambodian children have the highest incidence of tooth decay in the world, with an average of 9 decayed teeth per child. PIO, with the support of JWI is able to provide tooth brushes, toothpaste and education in dental hygiene but for many children poor dental health is a fact of life, a consequence of living in poverty.

PIO has been fortunate to participate in the Seal Cambodia dental program.

The project is supported by the Global Child Dental Fund (GCDFund), the Cambodian Children's Charity (CamKids), and GC (Asia) Company. It has the approval of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. It aims to seal the first permanent molars of 60,000 Grade 2 children over the next three years

In early March a team of Cambodian dental students from the International University provided sealant treatment for all Grade 1 and Grade 2 students at SMC and BSPH2. With the treatment students were also provided with instruction in dental care.

One2One

Later this year (May / June) One2One, a dental service provided by the Health Sciences school of the University of Puthisastra. Funding for the treatment will be provided by an Australian dentist who is a strong supporter of PIO.

In conjunction with that program, PIO will be enhancing its dental health education program at all schools and teachers will work with the students to ensure that teeth are cleaned regularly and mouths rinsed with water and eating or drinking food which has a high sugar content.

PIO Physician

It was disappointing to lose the service of Nurse Voleak who recently resigned from her position as PIO nurse so that she could care for her mother that very sick in hospital. However PIO has been fortunate to secure the services of a final year medical doctor student who is specializing in pediatrics. Mr Vuthy worked as a health intern at PIO in 2013 and has now returned to continue the work of nurse Voleak.

Maria Newman has been supporting Vuthy for his studying over 11 years.

Like his predecessor he is already seeing up to 20 children per day providing the necessary treatment, and in more serious cases referring the children to a clinic for further treatment.

NUTRITION REPORT

All children at Borey Keila and Stung Meanchey continue to receive a daily nutritious lunch comprising rice, vegetables and meat or fish.

Students at Borey Keila and Stung Meanchey each receive 5 kilograms of rice per month

OTHER ACTIVITIES

With the demolition and planned re-building of the old school the shop, vocational training classes and Nursery class have been relocated into temporary accommodation. The shop and vocational training classes are now operating in temporary classroom build in the playground building. The Nursery class is now held in the Shelter.

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Although only the Traditional Dance class is funded by JWI, the others are included to show the widening range of activities conducted outside of normal school hours.

OTHER CLASSES

These include

- Dressmaking
- Traditional dance
- Extra English for high school students
- Math in English
- Drawing
- Jewellery
- IT (Grade 5, Grade 6 and High School)
- Life Skills

ADDITIONAL CLASSES MARCH 2015

Class	Number of students
Drawing	11
Traditional Dance	37
IT	21
Electrical	4
Dress making	12
Math in English Class	13
3D Printing with LevelUpVillage	15
English	29

SPORT

PIO now has the use of a sports field located at the base of the old garbage dump. A donation from the University Newcastle nursing group and the loan of the land means that there is now a football / volleyball field solely for the use of PIO students.

The donation allowed for the construction of a fence, building a base of sand, goals and a net and a large shade cloth to protect the students from the sun.

The ground is used every morning as students do their morning exercises at 7:00 am. In the afternoons it is used for physical education classes. After school and in the weekends it is used by the PIO football teams.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The number of visitors and volunteers continues to grow, reflecting the increasing level of interest in and support for PIO.

Nearly every weekend there are a visitors to the Shelter, either sponsors or overseas school groups visiting projects in Cambodia. These have included groups from Norway, India, Singapore, Hong Kong There has also been a visit from long-time supporter of PIO, the Canadian International School in Singapore.

The number of volunteers is up by 50% from this time last year and includes a group of 20 Cambodian students from Pannasastra University who have been helping the older children at the Shelter during the weekends. There have been 60 English teaching volunteers in the first quarter.

CONCLUSION

The school year is progressing well with ongoing incremental improvements to ensure that PIO continues to provide the best possible education for its students.

The temporary relocation of classrooms pending the rebuilding of the old school has been achieved with minimal disruption. Staffing is stable and student achievement good.

As always PIO is grateful to JWI for helping us build a brighter future for the children of Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 9 April 2015

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