

Teachers Across Borders Program – Kampong Thom, Cambodia 2015

During the school holidays, Auburn South Primary School sent two teachers to Cambodia to participate in the Teachers Across Borders Program- we were very fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of this. The program took place in a town 2 hours from Siem Reap, called Kampong Thom and involved 18 volunteer teachers from Australia running professional development workshops for Cambodian educators.

It was much hotter in Kampong Thom for us than when they left Melbourne! After getting used to the heat and humidity we settled into the daily routine of getting up early and travelling via tuk tuks to the Teacher Training College to conduct the workshops. There were over 250 Cambodian teachers who attended a variety of different workshops.

We ran a workshop on primary mathematics with a focus on providing engaging experiences in the classroom that could be adapted for different ages and year levels. The participants were very enthusiastic to learn new games and activities, and have fun giving them a go. The teachers participating in the program did not speak English and neither of us spoke Khmer so the lessons needed to be translated. There were very noticeable differences in the classroom conditions in Cambodia compared to Auburn South Primary School. The classrooms were very basic with some wooden desks and a whiteboard at the front. There was not much else. It was an eye-opener as to how lucky we are to have lighting, heating and cooling, carpet, books and so many amazing resources and learning tools.

After the completion of the workshops each day, we had the opportunity to visit some of the local schools in Kampong Thom which included both primary and secondary schools. We were able to donate clothing left over from last year's school fair to the primary school as well as books and games. Both teachers and students were very appreciative of these.



Chass Primary School, Siem Reap
Drink taps donated by ASPS



Upon our return to Siem Reap we visited Chass Primary School which ASPS have been providing support and donations to for a number of years. It was wonderful to see a newly paved quadrangle which was built through funds raised by ASPS. We were able to make another donation to Chass Primary School from the funds raised by Cupcake Day and the ASPS Fun Run. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Year 6 organisers of Cupcake Day and the Parents Association for their efforts in coordinating these fundraising events.

We would encourage any family travelling to Cambodia to make a visit to Chass Primary School to see for yourself the difference that the generosity of ASPS families has made to this school. If you are interested then please let us know and we can put you in touch with Samnang Sok who has been one of the key local organisers of Teachers Across Borders for almost 10 years.

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