

# ANJALI'S NEWSLETTER



## HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR!!

This religious celebration is the most important of the year in Cambodia. It starts every year the 13 or 14 April to finish the 15 or the 16 April. It's mean the end of the dry season. Cambodian people give offering to the Vat (pagoda), clean their houses, share gift and new clothes and spray each other. In the streets, they play with traditional games like the Boh Angkunh, the Chaol Choung, the Leak Kansaeng and the tug-of-war.

The Bouddhist calendar is used in Asie of South East (mainly in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) and in Sri Lanka. It is a lunisolar calendar based on the astronomical treatise Surya Siddhanta which dates from the 3rd century.

Khmer New Year, or "Bon Chol Chhnam Thmei" in the Khmer language, is the greatest traditional festival and national holiday in Cambodia. The celebration lasts for three days.

The first day of Khmer New Year is called "Maha Sangkran", Sangkran means movement and refers to the sun moving into a new Zodiac sign and Maha means great. Some say that Maha Sangkran means welcome to the new spirits. In the morning the Cambodians will go to the pagoda and offer food to the monks and receive blessings.

The second day is called "Wanabot" and it is the day that they offer gifts to parents, grandparents and elders. In the evening of this day, many Cambodians will go to the pagoda and build a mountain of sand to remember their ancestors who have passed away and have the monks give them blessings of happiness and peace.

The third day is called "Leung Sakk". The last ceremony is called "Pithi Srang Preah" and the purpose of this ceremony is to honor and to give a special cleansing to Buddha Statues, the monks, elders, grandparents and parents. During this ceremony the participators apologize for any mistakes they have made during the last year.



Our students received some post card and bookmark from the children of the Canadian International School of Singapore with beautiful drawing and inspiring messages. We used the Khmer New Year as a topic to respond to them. Our students explained what it is and what we do during Khmer New Year. They also illustrated it with wonderful drawings. This exercise allows them to channel to their creativity, their English writing and to share their own cultures. It's amazing to create a link between Singapore and Siem Reap!

And to celebrate the new year, with the students our teachers and volunteers did many activities linked with this celebration. They play different games like the Chhoung Game, Bos Angkunh or the Bay Khom.



## A GREEN CONSCIOUS

Because Cambodia is one of the most affected countries in the world by climate change, teaching our students the importance of preserving our Earth is of the greatest significance.

To celebrate the Earth Day of the 22 April 2022, we wanted to highlight what Anjali does to make our students more conscientious of the environment.

### A Clean area for a Clean Community!

The Commune Chief asked all his partner NGOs to participate in cleaning their area for a clean community. Our social worker, Sochaeta, leads this project once a week alongside the teachers.

This project increases student awareness of how much trash is improperly disposed of. They realize the importance to throw away the waste to make our commune clean and lovely, and of course to save our wonderful Earth! We hope they pass on this awareness to their families and friends to keep Siem Reap beautiful.

In addition, Chy, one of our Alumni returned to Anjali to lead a green workshop! She focused on:

- What is litter?
- How many kinds of waste?
- Where does it from?
- How does litter affect us?

These questions were discussed in depth!

In groups, our students talked about the disadvantages of litter, how to reduce the amount of waste we produce, and how we can recycle and reuse. These exchanges were very enriching.

To complete the workshop, everyone collected the trash around Anjali House. We collected 4 bags of trash in only 1 hour!! It's satisfying to see our area clean.

Thank you so much Chy and to our Future Leaders!



### Inside our garden Developing Confidence, Building teamwork and Connecting with Nature

Every year, Earth Day reminds us to check-in and celebrate our planet's environment. At Anjali House, we use gardening class as a way for our students to connect to nature and raise awareness about environmental protection and sustainability.

Let Annie, our long-term volunteer and gardening star, introduce our garden program. Thank you Annie!



## ALUMNI FOCUS

It's a pleasure to present our Alumni Portrait to show how the student has evolved and become a leader in their community. Especially when one of invests so much to give to our young generation advice, help, and learning. Meet Chy, who is currently a university student and continues to work with our current students as a role model and inspiration.

### Meet Chy

My name is Moun Chy and I'm 21 years old. I've been studying at Anjali House since I was 7 years old. I'm from Seam Reap province and I come from the poor family. I have four members in my family, and I have one brother. In my free time, I like to listen to the poor and learn about new things, but mostly I like to listen to the successful speakers, because it can motivate me and give knowledge about their experience....

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## WE NEED A FEEDBACK!

Since December we have changed the format of our newsletter. In order to improve our contents and to know more about your desires, we would like you to answer our satisfaction questionnaire. Feel free to tell us in the comments.

We thank you in advance for your feedback!

Anjali's Team

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