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Sekolah Bina Cita Utama

TK - SD - SMP - SMA

Nurturing Human Values

BCU Newsletter April 2022

Happy Eid Al-Fitr 1443 Hijri



Message from The General Manager



Mrs. Setiawati Soesetyo
BCU General Manager

It's the time of year again when those who are Muslims fast during the Holy month of Ramadan – which is the 9th month in Islamic calendar. Ramadan shifts 10-12 days earlier each year, and this year it lasts from Sunday, April 3 to Monday, May 2 in Indonesia, which may vary for each country depending on the appearance of the crescent moon.

For Muslims, Ramadan is a period of introspection, communal prayer (ṣalāt) in the mosque, and reading of the Qur'ān. The end of the Ramadan fast is celebrated as Eid al-Fitr. In some communities Eid al-Fitr is quite elaborate with children wearing new clothes, special pastries are baked, gifts are exchanged, the graves of relatives are visited, and people gather for family meals and to pray in mosques.

Specific for Indonesia we seek forgiveness for past mistakes also from relatives and friends, in addition to the belief that with fasting, prayer, and faithful intention during the holy month our past sins will be forgiven by God. In the spirit of Ramadan, we pray for peace and harmony around the world and may Allah ease the suffering of all people around the globe.

In this April issue, we would like to guide you through the school's activities when finally and gradually we were able to re-open the school. Indeed it was heartwarming to see our students arrive at the school ground in bus loads after so many months of online learning. One cannot forget seeing the joy and happiness of each one of them – for some to finally meet their classmates in person for the first time.

The last article in this issue is something you can't miss. A story by one of our alumni – beautifully told, to understand how BCU actually touches each child in their own way to become the glowing inspiring person that they are now.

Happy reading!



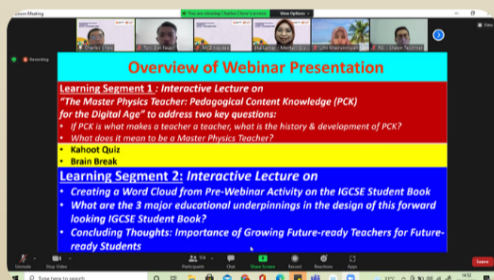
The Importance of Professional Development for Educators

by Elisvina S.Pd., BCU Principal.

Why is professional development so important for educators? The main objective is to ensure that the knowledge and skills possessed by educators in BCU school remain relevant to the latest developments, especially in the world of education. Determining professional development activities for BCU school educators has its own challenges because it departs from the school's vision and mission which is expected to be effective in helping educators grow into future educators who are able to produce students who are ready to contribute actively to global citizenship with 21st century skills. Topics that are prioritized in determining the right professional development for BCU school educators are as follows:

- Teaching strategies that integrate social and emotional aspects of learning;
- Teaching strategies that foster 21st century global skills, namely communication & collaboration, creativity & critical thinking, intercultural competence & citizenship, emotional self-regulation & wellbeing, digital literacy.
- Communication skills, especially in English.

Most of the professional development activities attended by BCU educators are paid training organized by ANPS (Association of National & Private School) and Mentari Group. BCU school receives positive benefits by joining as member of ANPS because the trainings are held mostly in English which is in line with the school's support for BCU educators so that English skills continue to be improved along with enriching teaching strategies. In addition to getting reference books that support the BCU school curriculum, Mentari Group also offers a choice of relevant teacher training & the language of instruction is English.





Update from BCU Kindergarten

by Wuryanti Soesetyo, BCU Kindergarten Principal.

The foundations laid in early childhood are critical for later emotional and mental wellness. Especially in the world's situation nowadays, its importance are of ...

There are 5 points that determine their wellbeing;

1. Infants experience and perceive a range of emotions.
2. Early positive interactions promote emotional wellness throughout lifespan.
3. Having appropriate expectations of young children's development is important
4. Parents and caregivers should be mindful of their own emotional well-being, seeking support if they need it.
5. Young children are resilient and, if properly supported, can overcome potentially traumatic events.

All these aspects are reflected and supported in how we deliver learning in TK. As a day to day routine, supporting awareness of their emotions are encouraged, hence learning to practice it in ways that are appropriately fitting. Understanding their development and how adults communicate with them, in hopes of creating a sort of resilience to thrive in the next level of learning.





BCU School 2021 Christmas Celebration.

BCU family celebrated Christmas last year on 18th December 2021.

Christmas theme this time was "I am Special" with the intention to note that the existence of humans is very special and meaningful in the eyes of God so that HE was born in the world to save the people from their sins. So that each student and the BCU Big Family can see each other as valuable people.

While the pandemic was still high the Christmas Celebration was conducted virtually through YouTube live streaming and filled with various student and teacher performances such as dances and songs by the students, short drama and choir by the teachers.

Santa Clause appeared at the close of the celebration sharing goody bags to the students via drive thru. It was a quite memorable event to close the year 2021!





Biology Experiment – Grade 6 & 10

At BCU, we try our best to make the learning process interesting and pleasant for all students so that they are inspired and motivated.

Science for grade 6, the students were asked to experiment with creating an electromagnetic device using simple materials around their daily lives such as batteries, paper clips, and other stuff.

They were also requested to observe and analyze various factors that could affect the strength of the electromagnetic field of the device that they created.

Meanwhile, in grade 10 for Biology, the students were asked to create a Herbarium. Herbarium is a collection of preserved plant specimens and collects related data that can be used for scientific studies. The Herbarium can also be used as research material for florists or taxonomists.

Herbarium is a tool that can also support other scientific studies such as ecological surveys, phytochemical studies, chromosome counting, perform comparative biological analysis and play a role in uncovering evolutionary studies.

The project to make this Herbarium was carried out at BCU's School Kitchen Garden so that students can easily obtain specimens and build bonds between students and the natural environment.





Pre-semester holiday activity: Sports Day & Making Robot from Recycled Materials.

At the end of the first semester of the 2021/2022 academic year last December, before getting into the holiday season, BCU students participated in various pre-holiday fun activities which were also very useful in honing students' soft skills. Two of the activities carried out are Sports Day and making robot-themed crafts from used materials.

During the Sports Day, all BCU students from grades 1 to 12, were divided into several teams differentiated by colours and they took turns playing the games. Few of the games carried out during this event include mini soccer and walking using balloons without breaking them. It is not the competitive behaviour that was encouraged from this activity, but cooperation within the teams that do not prioritise personal interests and how students promote cohesiveness among team members. Thus, students are expected not only to be healthy due to participating in outdoor activities but also to form good character & behaviour.

The following day, students were assigned to make robot-themed crafts made from recycled materials. Their creativity is honed by creating joint designs & products. The collaborative work was carried away tremendously, Grade 9 and Grades 1-3 students worked alongside to produce amazing results crafts. What a truly fun activity, isn't it?





Mayor's Wife and Deputy Mayor's Visitations to Bina Cita Utama School.

On 12th January 2022, Ibu Avina Triani Almira, the wife of the Mayor of Palangka Raya – Bapak Fairid Naparin visited the school. She was very impressed with the School Kitchen Garden and interested to hear that BCU school enriched the curriculum with environmental issues. According to her, the environment is a serious global issue. It is essential that children are introduced to the conservation of the environment early on.

Ibu Alvina who was accompanied by the protocol team and the Head of the Municipality was also impressed by the murals around the school. made by the students. It is important to let students express themselves in art/

In the framework of monitoring the restricted face-to-face learning (PTM) in schools, the Vice Mayor of Palangka Raya, Ibu Umi Mastikah Sriosako came to the school bringing with her hampers of milk and face masks. During her dialogue with the students, Ibu Umi's special message to them was: "... by studying well, means to contribute to the City of Palangka Raya because you will be the future of the city. Once you graduate from Uni you should return to Palangka Raya, build and develop your own hometown. You must always be happy, healthy and remember to be grateful."

The students are very happy to be back in school. They have missed their classmates and teachers. The school's choir being grade 7 and 10 students sang the BCU hymn for the guests during their visit. Ibu Umi and team left for Palangka Raya after joining lunch together with the students, teachers and staff at the school canteen.





Back to School: The First Day of Face-to-Face (Offline) Learning.

On Monday, January 17, 2022, our school resumed learning activities in the 2nd semester of the 2021/2022 academic year after going through the Christmas and New Year holidays. We implemented a Hybrid learning system so students who were unable to come to the school physically could still participate online from their homes.

However, due to the spiking in Covid-19 cases, in the middle of last February, we decided to pause the face-to-face learning activities and re-implemented the online learning system for a few weeks until the situation was better.

Currently we are gradually restarting the face-to-face learning system by only allowing students from grades 6, 9, and 12 to come to the school. We truly hope that the situation will get better soon enough so that all students can participate in face-to-face learning 100%.





BCU Open House 2022

On Saturday, February 26, 2022, BCU School opened its doors to welcome prospective students and parents in the BCU Open House 2022 activity. We are very grateful that this year's open house activity was greeted with great enthusiasm by students and parents within the Palangka Raya society and around. This open house aims to provide an experience for prospective students and parents so that they could get a glimpse of how exciting it is for their children to go to BCU.

Activities carried out during the open house include:

- Presentation & interactive discussion related to BCU's programme and curriculum.
- Fun kids activity.
- School tour.
- Special discount offering.

During this activity, we carried out strict health protocols such as checking body temperature, providing a place for washing hands + hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and maintaining distance to maintain the safety and comfort of all parties involved.





Recent Achievement: Athar Cairolu Yusuf

Athar Cairolu Yusuf is a BCU Kindergarten student who surprisingly possesses various achievements in the field of motocross.

Athar's mother, Mira mentioned that since the age of 2, Athar has been participating in balance bike competitions in Jogja, Bogor and Jakarta.

At the age of 3, Athar became interested in following in his father's footsteps to practice motocross, and since then Athar seemed inseparable from this hobby of his. Almost every afternoon Athar trains with his father to constantly improve his skill.

Athar has made quite a number of achievements. At the last championship, The Jogja Motocross Grasstrack Championship 2022, he snatched the 2nd position. We are truly proud of you and keep going, Athar!



Tim Milik Walikota Palangkaraya Siap Tarung, 125Z Korekan Ari V-Reinz, Rider?

By **otoinfo** - July 12, 2020



Balap Perdana Athar Cairolu Di SE50cc Motocross Sleman, Usung Nama Dits Racing Palangkaraya

By **Hafid Hapid** - 15 Januari 2022



Athar Cairolu Yusuf Ingin Ikut Jejak Ayah Jadi Pembalap

PALANGKARAYA (12/07/2020) - Sebuah tim balap yang baru saja dibentuk oleh Walikota Palangkaraya, Ari V-Reinz, siap untuk mengikuti ajang balap sepeda di Sleman, Yogyakarta. Tim ini akan mengikuti ajang balap sepeda di Sleman, Yogyakarta, yang akan berlangsung pada tanggal 15-16 Januari 2022. Tim ini akan mengikuti ajang balap sepeda di Sleman, Yogyakarta, yang akan berlangsung pada tanggal 15-16 Januari 2022. Tim ini akan mengikuti ajang balap sepeda di Sleman, Yogyakarta, yang akan berlangsung pada tanggal 15-16 Januari 2022.





Recent Students' Work



How to Conserve Energy Poster

Grade 4 Science Class



Aina



Keira



Rania

Work Description

Subject : Science

Grade : 4

Topic : Energy Conservation

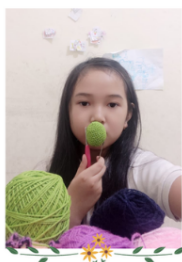
Project : Create a poster of ways to conserve energy.

Aim : Students understand how they can contribute to energy conservation.



Crocheted Easter Eggs

Amigurumi Extracurricular



Starting off this semester, we opened a new extracurricular class in grade 5: Amigurumi class. Amigurumi is the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting stuffed creatures or dolls.

It was a bit uncertain for us to begin at first, since the school suddenly had to close down again because of the increasing pandemic cases in the neighbourhood. But we decided to carry on with a few tweaks of method here and there, like preparing the crochet kit and sending them to each student and using YouTube and live google meet tutorial as we go.

Surprisingly, such an online method works quite well and by the end of the first term, they have managed to develop the essential skills for making an Amigurumi doll.

Although it is an extracurricular activity and it may seem unrelated to the academic activities at the school, Amigurumi art is beyond just crocheting. There is a wide range of learning involved in this class. For one, it helps them to move away from the screen, but the nature of crocheting in Amigurumi also helps to improve their creativity and self expression, develop and refine their fine motor skills, and even facilitate their learning to follow direction and a bit of mental maths calculation.

And now, as Easter is around the corner, check out these cute crocheted Easter eggs we made as our first Amigurumi project!



BCU Alumni Story: Iga Puspitasari, An Alumni Who Gives Back to Society



Iga Puspitasari
BCU Alumni

Iga Puspitasari or Iga as we would call her is an influencer / content creator, entrepreneur, HR professional, a mom, and a former teacher at BCU. She is one of BCU Alumnus from the class of 2011. She was first enrolled at BCU School in 2008 in the 2nd semester of 10th grade.

She mentioned during her time at BCU she felt really cared for and she was in love with the no bullying, warm family feeling at the school, and yet everyone at the school was encouraged to always be respectful towards others. She had quite numerous unforgettable moments while she was studying at BCU. The first story she told us was back then Bapak Gunarjo would leave his car at the school just to take the bus home with Iga so he could tutor her on the road.

She felt she was always encouraged by Pak Gun to achieve her full potential and to believe that she'll be able to achieve anything she desired if she could just put her head and heart into whatever it is she was going for. She's really touched by the abundant compassion she had received during her time at BCU. During her time with BCU she stayed at the dorm provided by the school. Staying at the dorm was a memorable wonderful time for Iga, she experienced the feeling of solidarity between students and the house parents, there were no social, age, nor economic gap between the members of the school, a feeling of democracy which made her really blessed to be given the opportunity to be a part of BCU. After graduating from university, she became an English teacher at BCU for 5 years until she felt she wanted to focus on taking care of her daughter and establish another enterprise.

Today, she owns a new coffee shop, Samudera Coffee. Now, other than being an entrepreneur, influencer / content creator, and a mom, she is also working in a non-profit organisation, Fairventure, as an HR Assistant. Through her businesses today, she is giving back and contributing to the well-being of the local people in her hometown, Palangka Raya by accommodating tons of job opportunities where people are encouraged to grow personally and professionally.

"When I studied at BCU High School in 2008 – 2011, I felt that the school took care of me very well, not just by the way the teachers teach but the interpersonal relations between students and the teachers were very close, it felt almost like a real family. I could just tell everything I felt especially when I couldn't do an assignment or simply when I didn't understand a subject, there was always a helping hand, ready to pick you up. I was aware that the students were not as many as in other schools, but because of that I could unlock so much knowledge and skills that I ultimately need to be successful at my career. I took the opportunities to ask, explore, learn, and experience from great teachers and classmates, also the multicultural school environment that made me open minded, creative, and inspired, not to mention the English-speaking environment got me to speak English like a native. Trust me, being able to speak English fluently (verbal or written) could get you anywhere and mine started from studying at BCU School.

Non-academically, I got to know the things that I want to do in the future and what my talents were. The school helped me to win several competitions such as English and Bahasa Indonesia Speech for Students in Palangka Raya. Also, provided me with a special course outside the school for English Debate which resulted in me winning a place to represent Central Kalimantan to compete at the National Level. I would never forget that because that helped me gain my confidence, public speaking skills, English debating skills, and a whole lot of new experiences that brought me to where I am today, where I wanted to be.

Finally, I could write you an essay about BCU School, the school that I wished every student in the world could experience, but I hope through this writing, you get how it felt to me when I was one of the students at the school. I am very grateful to be able to be one of the alumni of BCU School and will continue to support the school however I can because I believe in the school's vision which is "Nurturing Human Values" is an important reminder for us all that to be a useful human being for others and the environment is the best legacy you can have."





Today, we still support students with a background like Iga who in the future could give back to the community and society. Help us to keep supporting these students by donating to our scholarship program through:

<http://bcuschool.org/scholarship-fund/>

No matter the amount of money, it indirectly contributes to the wider community of Central Kalimantan.

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New student registration for the 2022/2023 school year is now open!

<https://bcuschool.org/enrollment-process/>

or scan the QR code above. There's also an 'early-bird' discount for the first 10 registrants.

Go register now and get our early bird discount!

Enroll Now



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