

CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE



Education's
purpose is to
replace an
empty mind
with an open
one.

— Malcolm Forbes

3BOYS
CLANDESTINE

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Editor:

Muneesh Priya

Designer:

Muneesh Priya

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Fare Thee Well



Farewell to Yogamalar and Jezreel. It was time to say goodbye and we did it in style and with lots of steamboat and barbecued seafood at the Monster Planet Restaurant, Putra Heights. It was a time for superb eating and valuable bonding.

Our wish for both of you is that you will attain success, feel fulfilled in all that you do, and reap nothing but pleasant results with each completed effort.

CEL is going to be different without the cheerful attitude that you bring in every single day. We will cherish our working relationship to the last moment.

We know that both of you are going to spread smiles and light up lives wherever you go. May progress, success, and happiness follow you everywhere you go.

Hopefully, we will remain friends forever. Wish you a bright future and all good things to come your way. Last but not least, remember to always "Let your dreams be greater than your fears".

From: Assoc Prof Azian Abdul Kadir and all at CEL

CEL UNDERTAKINGS

Be a Volunteer at the National Zoo of Malaysia

By Bukhari Shafie, Lecturer of English

I once came across a life-changing quote when I was watching an American film and it goes, “adulthood happens when you put others’ needs before yours.” This is unquestionably relevant in today’s society where people are preoccupied with the worldly matters at the expense of others. Kindness is often scrutinized and questioned in this digital age and those who possess it are normally associated with having ulterior motive. It is so precious and rare that people start questioning its authenticity. This phenomenon has raised the issue of morality and the value of education. It all boils down to the question of how education is imparted and disseminated among the millennial. Hence, volunteering to help lighten the plights of others is a good move to enhance the belief that kindness is highly accessible in so many ways.

Centre for Education and Languages (CEL) takes this matter seriously to align with the university effort to inculcate a sense of responsibility among the students of MAHSA University. English for Academic Purposes (EAP) students participated in a programme called ‘Be a Volunteer’ organised by the National Zoo of Malaysia on the 8th of November 2019. Kindness is not only restricted to humans but can also be extended to animals. This effort brings to light the issue of animal cruelty that has garnered attention from many parties lately. The purpose of this trip was to educate the learners on the importance of conserving the natural world that includes the multitude of animal species that need constant protection and utmost care.

CEL hopes that this activity will help spark the students’ interest to protect the animals at all cost for the future generation to appreciate. In light of the phenomenon occurring in Australia, wildfires are raging forests, killing at least 500 million wildlife and risking their disappearance from the face of the earth altogether. It is high time for students to participate in this effort since they are the new generation. They need to join hands and their forces to salvage the world which is facing multiple threats on a daily basis. Animals are susceptible to these threats as they cannot fend for themselves; we as responsible adults should be able to strive for the best in order to co-exist with other creatures for common good.





Poster Presentation Event by Professional Development Students

By Muneesh Priya Venkiteraman, Lecturer of English

What is a Poster Presentation? Posters are often used to share information and are an important part of many conferences, seminars and exhibitions. They may be used to present quite complex material, and so it is important that the information on them is well laid out, legible and attractively presented.

A Poster Presentation event was scheduled on 20th November 2019 from 2 pm to 6 pm for the Pre-University (FIS) students. This one day event was held at The Spine, Level 2, Humanity Block. The July and September 2019 batch FIS students were involved and participated in this one-day event. 102 students were formed into 16 groups and it took one day to complete the continuous assessment for Professional Development course.

The principal objective of this event was the completion of part of their assessment which contributes 15 marks to their final examination. This event enhanced students' knowledge and honed their creative skills and facilitated them to express their ideas using the colours of imagination. This assessment also kept the students engaged and offered them a platform to showcase their skills by presenting in front of the public.

Students were allowed to select any topic which was related to their area of studies. They were given a 4 weeks' time frame for the preparation. Students were assessed through their design of the posters and also through their speaking/presentation skills according to set rubrics such as design, organization, content, creativity and delivery.

We provided poster boards for each group. Students were dressed up according to their topics and themes and they entertained the audience well with their informative and creative presentation. Students prepared Q&A sessions and

interesting activities for the audience during the presentation. Many MAHSA students from different faculties joined in the event and participated in the activities. They also received goodies and door gifts from each booth. The artistic endeavor of the students was highly praised and encouraged by the assessors, lecturers and students who came.

Overall, it was a good experience for the presenters and they have artistically presented their ideas which were captured in posters. Last but not least, allow me to share some moments which were captured during the event.

Thank you.





TIME TO WRITE

Floating Senses

By Abdelmoezz Sabry, FIS

While the teacher was leaving the class, the students would follow in groups and discuss how fun their last outing was, or how hard the next test might be. Everyone but me was talking to someone and I was left shaking, but in the middle of my tiredness and confusion, which were clearly shown by my dizzy head falling back and forth, a voice reached out to me, "Hey aren't you late?"

I turned around to find a classmate interacting with me. "Oh?" I responded in confusion. "The bus over there" he continued to point at the window "it goes to your home right? It's been there for about 5 minutes already..... Aren't you late?"

A silence roamed for a few seconds before my tired head recognized the situation and I stood up with another "oh" that eventually turned into a panicking scream...

I took off running after the bus driver who in his boredom didn't recognize me dashing forward with my full might of a maximum speed of 2.5 km/hour (that's slower than a snail going at 2.7km/hour). After all, I didn't sleep. Anyway the driver, ignorant of my efforts, took off at what seemed to me as much speed, leaving behind a disappointed teen and a trail of dust.

I took a deep breath, "it's okay I'll just switch on my phone and..." I looked at the battery level of just 3%. I recalled how unfortunate I was to charge it yesterday night. That's when my systolic pressure reached 0, which translates into a large beeping sound on a heart rate machine. In other words, my mind, body, and everything went silent. I stood in shock for minutes which never seem to end.

The next bus is coming in 2 hours. Having noticed my classmates who were starting to catch up, I had an off-putting reaction that caused me to backtrack silently into the vacant classroom. On my way my negative thoughts would haunt me; that mixed with my loneliness and exhaustion made the perfect recipe for a mental break down. I sat down speaking to myself about how lonely things are; how many stupid mistakes I made. About how everyone would rather not choose me for anything.

I placed my head on the table while continuing to say to myself, "if only I bought a different shirt"; "if only I charged my phone"; "if only I was aware of the bus earlier". "If only". I closed my eyes.

Shortly after a different voice came into play; a subtle call of help begging me to support its weak "please". It calls out to me, "We don't have to go through this again". In the midst of my dark sight and thoughts an image weaved to be. A small white wolf and it was gazing into me with its crystal blue eyes...

Depression

By Nurul Najwa, Lecturer of English

I'm sure you have heard about the Korean actress, Sulli, who committed suicide when she was only 25 years old. Not long after that, Goo Hara, who happens to be a good friend of hers was also found dead in her house and recently, Cha in Ha was also found dead by his manager. Their deaths are said to have a connection with depression that led them to commit suicide. So, what is depression?

Depression is a mood disorder that involves a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest in activities that were once enjoyed. Depression, which is a major depressive disorder, is a common and serious medical illness that can negatively affect how you feel, the way you think and how you act. It can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems and can decrease a person's ability to function at work and at home.

The symptoms of depression can include a depressed mood, reduced interest, loss of sexual desire and appetite, and weight loss or gain. Other than that, they could be sleeping too much or too little, feeling anxiety and restlessness, and they have slowed movement and speech. Moreover, they experience loss of energy, feel worthless or guilty, have difficulty in thinking, concentrating, or making decisions. People who suffer from depression might also have recurrent thoughts of death or suicide, or an attempt at suicide, so that they can get away from depression. To diagnose whether or not anyone suffers from depression, symptoms must last at least two weeks.

Fortunately, depression can be treated. The symptoms or signs of the disorder can be managed by involving in psychotherapy, taking medication and getting support from important people like family members and close friends. Therefore, it is important that we as human beings to take part in leading a healthy lifestyle and taking care of the people around us. We should look at ourselves and other people that we know whether they have these kinds of symptoms and take appropriate actions if they happen to have the signs. We should always treat people nicely so that people will not feel uneasy or sad, which can lead them to feel experience stress.

In conclusion, depression is a real illness and help is available. With proper diagnosis and treatment, the vast majority of people with depression will overcome it. If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, a first step is to see your family physician or psychiatrist. Talk about your concerns and request a thorough evaluation. This is a start to addressing mental health needs.



Painting the Town Red

By Nik Mazleen, Lecturer of English

Initially we should think about it: "What is happiness?" A lot of people think that love, health and friendship are happiness. For other people career is happiness. But we find that people also tell us that money is the most important thing in life. In my opinion, money cannot give us happiness. I will try to present arguments which support my thesis.

Firstly, we can't buy what matters to us most: love, friendship or the most important of all, health. No one can sell us these valuable gifts because they are worth their weight in gold. When we have a lot of friends and they think only about our money we can't say that they are really and truly our friends.

Secondly, someone who has a lot of money will forget about the most important things in his/her life. That person is only devoted to money and will care less about family and relationships which are the source of true happiness in life.

Thirdly, money can change our character. People think that they are better than others because they have a good career or they have achieved success. People forget about the poor and the needy. They become stingy and selfish. On the other hand, sometimes people want to express their feelings by giving expensive presents or having an expensive romantic dinner. People try to give the best of everything to their family and we should remember that people are only people. They will try to fulfill their dreams and this will be impossible when they don't have money.

Finally, we should remember, maybe money isn't the most important thing in our lives, but we need money when we want to change our lives for the better. Money can't give us happiness but can help us to achieve happiness.



The Evolution of Malay Language

By Mohamad Badrul, Lecturer of MPU Studies

500 years ago, on July 25th, 1511, the Portuguese led by Alfon de Alburquerque invaded Malacca. This was marked as the end of the Malacca Sultanate's legacy. The Portuguese colonized Melaka for 130 years, from the year of 1511 until 1641. The Portuguese colonization of Malacca indirectly gave much impact, especially in terms of language. In the Malay language spelling system, around 200 words had been borrowed and absorbed from Portuguese into the Malay language.

Below are some of Malay words that were borrowed from the Portuguese:

- ✓ Almari – Almario
- ✓ Baldi – Balde
- ✓ Bangku – Banco/ Bank
- ✓ Bendera – Bandeira
- ✓ Bomba – Bomba/Bombeiro
- ✓ Garpu – Garfo
- ✓ Kemeja – Camisa
- ✓ Tuala – Toalha

Based on these examples, it clearly shows that, every language in this world had experienced an evolution of its own, and the Malay language is not exempted from experiencing the change. The evolution of a language is often influenced in terms of political, economic, social and religious factors. However, the adoption of syllables that are taken from other languages does not mean that a community imitates or steals another language. This is because, adopting a foreign language in a local language reflects the openness of a community to the outside world and this prevents a nation or a people from being conservative. The development of the Malay language allows this language to be known as the language of knowledge and it can be proved through various translation works of scholarly books from other languages to the Malay language. The importance of the Malay language in everyday life is proven when the latter was chosen as the primary language in Malaysia and the preferential use of the Malay language is also enshrined as a main element in the Malaysian constitution.





By Muneesh Priya Venkiteraman, Lecturer of English

Always Love Your Pet, No Matter How Old They Get

Pets are people, too, just like me and you.

They are little, but their hearts are BIG.

They like to go outside, get fresh air, and dig.

To the special bond between human and pet,
always by your side, forever, I'll bet.

Your faithful pet depends on you
and all the special things for them that you do.

And with our pets, I have no doubt,
that we are lucky not to have to live without.
A furry friend that's always happy to see you,
from life's ups and downs and all that people do.

Always show them love and good measure,
and reap each day a true friend to treasure.

Human, remember to be good to your pet
Be loving to them, no matter how old they get.

Never abandon them or leave them out in the cold or heat,
and you'll have a pet that's super neat!

Always treat them with kindness and love,
for they are truly a gift from above!

Be understanding and patient with them, because they will be for you.

And never, ever forget this, my friend, for pets are people, too.

LANGUAGE GAMES

FEELINGS

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.



AGGRAVATED, ANGRY, ANGST, ANNOYED, ANXIOUS, CHEERFUL, CONCERNED, CONTENTED, DELIGHTED, DESIRE, DESPAIR, DESPERATE, DISAPPOINTED, DISQUIET, ELATED, EXASPERATED, EXCITED, EXHILIRATED, FEARFUL, FRIGHTENED, FULFILLED, FURIOUS, FURY, GLAD, HAPPY, HATE, INFURIATED, IRATE, IRRITATED, JOYFUL, LOVE, OUTRAGED, PANIC, PASSIONATE, PLEASURE, PROUD, RAGE, REGRET, SADNESS, SATISFIED, SORROW, UNEASY, WORRY, WRATH.

If you have any essays, poems, news or updates, please share with us.

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azian@mahsa.edu.my