



SEKOLAH BINA CITA UTAMA NEWS

The First National Plus School in Central Kalimantan

Rungan Sari, Kalimantan, June 2009

BCU Students Give Malaria Presentations

This term, BCU high school students visited six local government schools within the Bukit Batu district to give a presentation about malaria. This was a culmination of their health studies which was the result of a collaboration between Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM) and BCU School. The students researched, created a power point presentation and performed a short play, which included information about the disease distribution, signs & symptoms, treatment and prevention of malaria.

The play was written by the students and Lucy Thallon, from YUM, with assistance from Redman Gleeson. The drama provided a clear message to the students about the dangers of malaria and the importance of prevention. The costumes and props were designed and created within the classroom.

Staff from YUM, BCU School, Puskesmas, (local medical centre) joined the students at each school presentation. Staff from the medical center assisted the students to answer questions about malaria from the audience. The presentations took about 1½ hours and were delivered in Bahasa Indonesia. The presentations received very positive feedback from all who attended, and has reached an audience of 360 local students so far. Many thanks to Lucy and YUM for making this meaningful project possible.

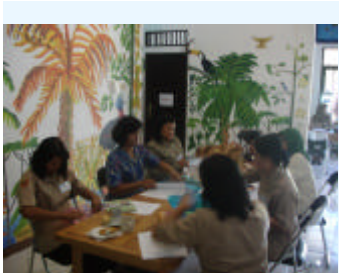


BCU MISSION

To develop a high-quality learning environment which nurtures and educates children, so that, as adults, they will be able to make real and positive contributions to the development of their communities and the world.



Barclays Teacher Training Program



The Barclays sponsored Teacher Training Program is now half way through the one year project. Two groups of 20 teachers and principals from local government schools in neighboring Bukit Batu educational district have already followed the 9 week training that covers child centered education, classroom management, multiple intelligences, project based learning, lesson planning and resource making and report writing for students.

Throughout the sessions, a participatory approach has been used, encouraging group and individual activity and production as much as possible. It is expected that, through their direct experience of child centered education and active learning, participants will acquire a range of skills and an understanding of appropriate strategies and approaches, enabling them to successfully implement the objectives of the program within their schools. The feedback has been very positive.

The team of Pak Muhsin Maltezos, (Teacher trainer) Pak Gunarjo (BCU principal) and Pak Teguh Santosa (Coordinator) have done an excellent job and this project has strengthened the good reputation of BCU and YUM in the local area as well as developing close ties with the local government.



New Classrooms

BCU school has been very fortunate that two new and larger classrooms have been finished and are ready for the start of the new school year in July 2009. We extend many thanks to Bachrun and Daniela Bustillo for their generous and active commitment to completing the buildings at cost and ahead of schedule, and also to all the people that have contributed in many ways to the realization of these buildings. In particular we want to thank an anonymous Australian member whose generous donation made it possible to purchase the school house land last year and many thanks to Subud Melbourne for their facilitation.

The workers rushed to complete one of the new classrooms when the head of the Education Department asked the school to host ten high school students from Palangka Raya for a week of exchange study at BCU. The students were overjoyed at the new building and even though the classroom was designed for 15 students, that week it had 21 students as well as three teachers observing.

More good news is that Hamid and Isti da Silva have offered to make a donation which will enable BCU to build two further class rooms. With these extra facilities we hope that we can accommodate more pupils and get close to a financial breakeven situation in 2010.



BCU and Palangka Raya students inside and outside the new class rooms



Boarding House Review

After reviewing the first year of operation of the Boarding House, the School Board has decided not to continue its operation for now. There are three main reasons for this decision: the benefit of the boarding house versus the risks and responsibilities; higher running costs; and the impact on school management resources.

The original decision to have a boarding house was to increase student numbers at the school and to enable students to attend who otherwise could not have because of the distance. This has not proven to be the case, as many of the current residents of the Boarding House are from Palangka Raya or have families there, and they can be transported back and forth on a daily basis. It also became clear over the duration of the year, that the running of the boarding house was a far larger responsibility - and carried more risks - than first envisioned. The school simply does not have the manpower resources needed at this time. The duty of care of young children and teenagers is a serious undertaking and one that can have repercussions in the event of an emergency or accident.

The school is going through an important period of growth, and management personnel need to concentrate all their strategic efforts on ensuring that the process goes smoothly.

Thirdly, the costs of running the Boarding House were considerably higher than anticipated. During this time of constrained budgets, we cannot afford to carry this added expense.

This was a very difficult decision for the board to make but was unanimously decided by all present at the meeting. We are grateful to the dedication and hard work of Renee and Teguh Santosa, who have been running and managing the Boarding House from its start up. We thank them for all they have done in looking after the children.

While we had hoped that Renee and Teguh would stay on in their teaching positions, they have decided to move on, and we wish them well in their new endeavours.



Renee and Teguh

The School Board extends a warm welcome to Hugh Lynn for being willing to help the school management in an advisory capacity and expresses their gratitude to both Hugh and Murianti for their generous work as volunteer teachers at the school. We also thank volunteers Maia Jones, Maya Purbo, and Immanuel Bryson-Haynes for their valuable help and the many wonderful teachers and other staff at BCU.

Thank you to all our friends for your support.

From the School Board and Management,

Hamid and Isti da Silva, Mansur and Utami Geiger, Bardolf Paul, Mhd. Bachrun Bustillo, Litha Mustafa, Michael van de Matten, Pak Gunarjo, Ibu Endah, Karim and Rashidah MacDonald

PHOTO GALLERY



Visiting students from Palangka Raya and BCU Students



New Classrooms (above, background) and Grade 1 Students (below)



School Bus donated by Japanese Subud members



TO SUPPORT QUALITY EDUCATION IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, DONATIONS ARE MOST WELCOME:

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