

NEWS CLIPPING

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GAB Foundation recently spearheaded a unique holiday camp specially designed to help primary school students use and practice English in an innovative and interactive manner. The camp, which was held at SJK (T) Taman Permata, was officiated by YB Senator A. Kohilan Pillay, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

200 students from five schools took part in the camp. The participating schools were SJK (T) Bangi, SJK (T) Ladang Semenyih; SJK (T) Tan Sri Dato' Manikavasagam, Tanjung Malim; SJK (T) Taman Permata, Dengkil; and SJK (T) Batu Caves.

The Camp is an extension of GAB Foundation's on-going English Programme that provides students with additional lessons over and above their regular curriculum to help students improve their command of English. To-date, the GAB Foundation has contributed more than RM770,000 towards the English Programme.

Speaking at the launch of the camp, YB Senator A. Kohilan Pillay said, "English is a crucial factor in Malaysia's international competitiveness. With this in mind, it is heartening to know

that GAB Foundation is committed to working hand in hand with the public sector to spearhead efforts to improve English proficiency levels amongst the younger generation," he added.

Aimed at creating interesting opportunities for students to use and learn English, the camp saw students working in teams to solve puzzles and mysteries as they write reports, present their findings and interact with each other in English. On top of that, the camp activities also featured elements of river rehabilitation to encourage students to understand and appreciate the need to care for the environment which is in line with the Foundation's environmental conservation pillar.

According to Renuka Indrajah, Director of GAB Foundation Management Committee, the Holiday Camp is an opportunity for students to practice what they have learnt in class.

"Mastering the English language is key to a brighter future and we hope that this Camp will help students gain the confidence and skills they need to communicate effectively in English," she explained.

When students were asked

about what they learnt from the Camp, G. Haritharan from SJK (T) Taman Permata, 9, said, "The Holiday Camp has taught me to speak and write better English through fun and games.

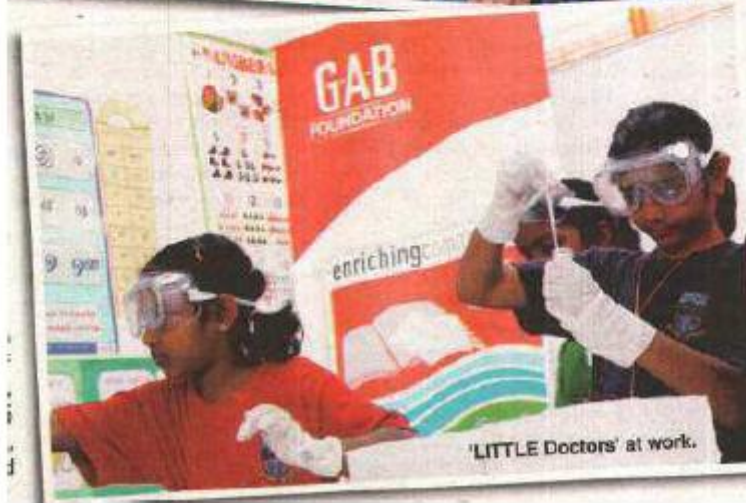
I really enjoyed myself at this Camp!" he concluded.

To complement the efforts to raise the level of English proficiency, GAB Foundation has also sponsored reading corners in schools to help students nurture the reading habit by giving them access to English reading materials. Each reading corner features custom-build furniture and is equipped with a collection of reference books, encyclopaedias, general knowledge books, dictionaries and English storybooks.

The five participating schools of the Holiday Camp were among the recipients of the reading corners. In total, the Foundation has set up 36 reading corners in Malaysia, including 19 in Sabah and Sarawak.



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