



Happy Horseriding!

On the morning of Monday 9 May 2016, the SSiS third-graders embarked on their Class Camp at Riders Lodge in Malaysia. It was a week filled with fun, friendship and exciting equine encounters.

FAREWELLS AND FORMALITIES

At around 9am, the students assembled in front of the school. After a short photo-taking session, the kids boarded the bus, the parents waved goodbye and off we went.

The first challenge presented itself very early on. Passing immigration and handling their own passport was a first for most of the children, and all were relieved once it was over. Compared to that first hurdle, the rest of the bus ride was a piece of cake. The kids passed their time playing games, telling jokes and laughing.

When we arrived at Riders Lodge we were welcomed by Senne, Agnes and their team, and were briefed on the house rules. The children moved into their comfortable rooms and the adventures began.

HANGING OUT WITH HORSES

As expected, the horseriding was the highlight of the camp. Most of the children had never ridden on a horse before and were quite anxious at the prospect. After spending some time each day on the horses and in the stables, they finally got used to moving around the majestic animals.

Not only did the children learn how to ride a horse, they were also educated about horses' diet and how to saddle and

clean them. On one occasion they even observed a farrier fitting a horseshoe on one of the horse's hooves. By the end of the camp, everyone felt quite comfortable on horseback.

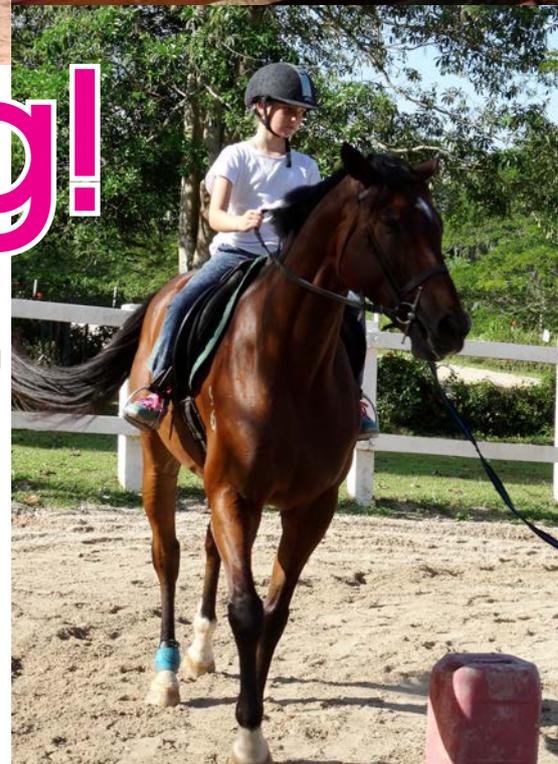
CREATIVITY UNTETHERED

A major part of the week was also spent being creative. On one occasion the children had the opportunity to draw a batik painting with a local artist. On another one they created their own hat out of large piece of paper, which they had to present in a fashion show in front of the judges later that evening. In their free time, the children made 'land art', built huts and decorated them.

FREE TIME AND FRIENDSHIP

Despite the packed schedule, the children got to enjoy some free time. Many played football and dodge ball, jumping into the small pool for relief from the heat and humidity.

In the course of the camp, the children of both third-grade classes got to know each other much better. Friendships were forged over laughter, card games and silly jokes. Although there pangs of homesickness and a few tears, all the children overcame their fears, nerves and doubts and thoroughly enjoyed the week with the help of their roommates and friends.



From the 'Horse's Mouth'

Here are some of the children's comments, overheard at Riders Lodge...

"I liked feeding the horses."

"At first I was scared because my horse was a bit wild."

"We had to ride around the entire arena by ourselves, I was very nervous."

"The riding was very cool, because it was a bit bumpy."

"The hat parade was great fun; we laughed a lot and saw very creative hats."

Article and photos contributed by Denise Budry and Rashne Athayde