

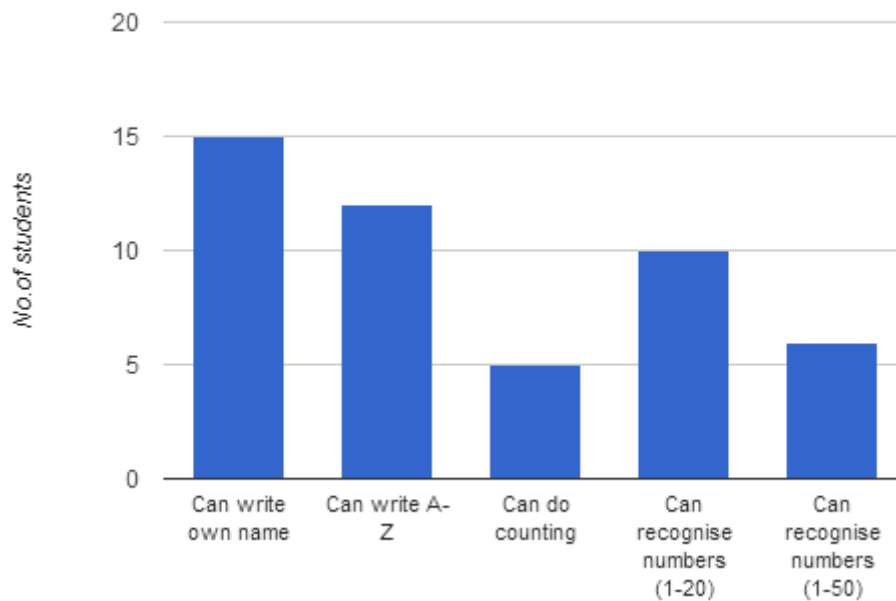
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Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to our first edition of Iskul's e-newsletter that we promised to deliver.

As many of you know, all this started with a simple question to find out if [the stateless Bajau Laut children in Omadal](#) would like to learn how to read and write from their friends. After a [trial class](#) in August 2015, Iskul was set up with four Mastal Arikik (little teachers), a Headmistress and three members of the Board of Trustees (Trustees), with about 21-25 students.

How have our students fare after attending more than 80 weekend classes the [past 12 months](#)? You can get a glimpse of our students' [test result](#) conducted during the Trustees' [Assessment trip](#) in September 2016 below.



As Iskul celebrated our one year anniversary, we also held an [Awards Day](#) to celebrate our students' learning the last one year during the [assessment trip](#). In this e-newsletter edition, we would like to introduce one of our students, Rubiniah who hopes to be able to read and write so she can work in the Semporna town. As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we had published our [financial summary](#) from August 2016 to September 2017 on our [Facebook page](#).

The Trustees met online and offline for a two-day Strategic Planning Workshop in January 2017, as Hui Ling brought back her experience from YSEALI's GO NGO's workshop to facilitate the session. It was important as it helped us to relook at our commitment and priority towards Iskul, refine our vision, mission and plan for the next 12 months. As a result, we have stepped down from the Trustees into the Management and Operation Team instead. Shaffiyah sits in the Operation Team to monitor Iskul as she is based in Semporna. Adzmin, Hui Ling and Ee Chia are now in the Management team, working on funding-raising and communications, while supporting the Operation Team from afar.

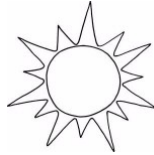
For 2017, we finally managed to raise fund to hire Iskul's Field Coordinator and had a successful [Bak Kut Teh fundraiser](#) campaign sponsored by Eng Chun Bak Kut Teh. We are grateful to our friends, Yee Keong for spearheading the fundraising campaigns, Gene Harn and Christine in helping us to develop our fundraising kit and reviewing this e-newsletter's content. We are also thankful to Sean for designing our first e-newsletter and for sponsoring and managing Iskul's website - [iskul.my](#)

Lastly, we want to welcome our Field Coordinator, [Roza](#) into the family! With her on the ground supporting our little teachers (Mastal Arikik) and

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It's been a colourful journey ever since!

Please follow the links below to catch a glimpse of what went through since day one.



The Beginnings of Iskul

Sakinas became my translator as she can speak both Malay and Bajau. Through her, I learned more about the Bajau Laut children.

[Read more](#)

The First Annual Assessment Visit

It was a joy to see our students eagerness in learning and wanting more classes. They were proud of their new Iskul's t-shirt and wore it for all classes.

[Read more](#)

Iskul Anniversary & Award Day Celebration

Iskul's milestone belongs to everyone, namely our students, our Mastal Arikik, our Headmistress, and our donors.

[Read more](#)



Iskul Sama Di Laut Omadal | Sekolah Bajau Laut Omadal | 2016

Malaysia Day

What a way to start a morning! They were all quickly changed and were dressed in an enthusiastic red for the Malaysia Day class.

[Read more](#)



@eechia

Why are there sea-nomads in Sabah?

Their history is a complicated one. Some of them have been around the islands of Semporna before the formation of Malaysia.

[Read more](#)

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Get to know our student, Rubiniah

Age: Estimated 8yo (with 1 younger sibling)

Parents: Asri & Saban (Father collects abalone for a living. Mother is a domestic helper and also collects sea products.)

A typical meal at home: Fish, Tapioca and sometimes rice

Favourite subjects: Drawing / Art Class

Likes best about Iskul: Learn to write and read

Happy moments in Iskul: Laughing at friends when they read out wrongly

Unhappy moments in Iskul: Teased by cousin (who's also a student in Iskul) when reading

Hopes & dreams: To be good in writing and reading so that she can work in Semporna.

Been to Semporna: Yes, with my aunt. I like to go to Semporna because it is beautiful

Afraid of the police: Afraid to be detained by the police because no passes.

We wish to thank the following concern citizens and organisations who have supported Iskul since we started from Aug'15 to Sept'16

Friends of Iskul (Aug '15 - Sep '16)

Monetary Support

ORGANISATION

Attune Band

INDIVIDUAL

Kai Sim. Fong Yoke Yin. A. Jayanath. Lilian Tan. Jinny Chua . Evelyn Ho. Gan Pei Ling. Leng Ching. Justin Chua. Lee Siu Wei. Ang Lai Imm. Tan Joo Lee. David Keong & Friends. Elizabeth Adams. Shaileshwori Sharma. Cristina Corduneanu-Huci. Wei Wei and Friends. Yeow Sin Kah . Teh Yee Keong. Jayne Ng.

Donation in-kinds

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Raymond Jew (Imprint Sdn Bhd), Czip Lee Sdn Bhd

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Stanley Sie. Michelle Triggs & Friends. Choo Hui Chuin. Lee Siu Wei

Operation Support

ORGANISATION

Schubaholics. WWF-Malaysia Semporna Field Office.

INDIVIDUAL

Sean Ho

Iskul would also like to record gratitude to donors who wished to remain anonymous in their support to us.

A very big thank you from the Iskul Team!

Adzmin, Ee Chia, Hui Ling & Shafiyah



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