

Education
beyond
the Ordinary



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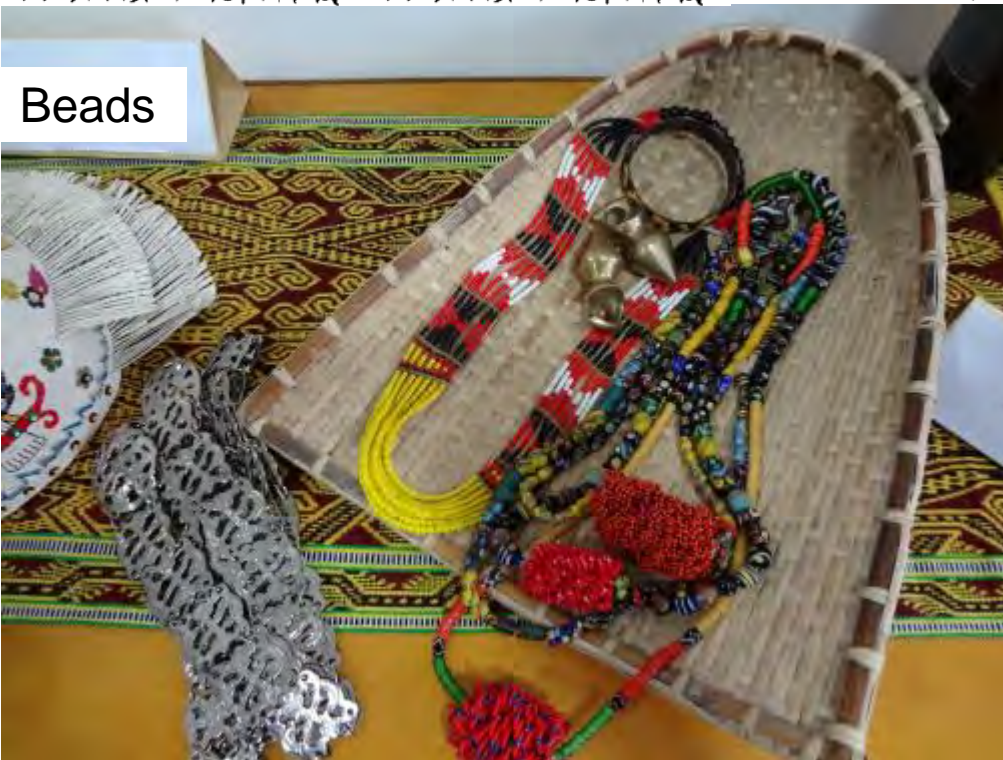
News
& Updates

Issue 2014/5A
(MAY GAWAI)

Happy Gawai Dayak

Gawai Edition

Gawai Holidays
1 & 2 June



Beads

An exhibition on Dayak culture was put up by the Dayak teachers of the school from 14 to 22 May in the Meeting Room. The initiative was coordinated by Ms Christine Stephen Jussem from the secondary school and Mr Nichol Thomas from the primary school. It was held in conjunction with the annual celebration of Gawai.

The other teachers involved were Ms Angela Sating, Ms Christina Michael, Ms Bining Nudong, Mr Kelvin Harry, Mr Felix Alla, Ms Gloria Tieh, Ms Felicia Koh, Ms Juliet Dominic Nawe, Mr Raphael Barita Ligok, Ms Carinth ak Elbes, Ms Jeyslind ak Gago, Ms Evelyn Harold, Ms Helena Elesia and Ms Felicity Dara.



Gawai Dayak is a religious and social event celebrated annually in Sarawak on 1st and 2nd June in the longhouses of the Iban and the Bidayuh. During this time friends and family would visit each other and to renew old ties.





Kuih Jala



Pinyaram



Lemang

FOOD



Kuih Cap



Sagon
(Bidayut Traditional Cereal)



Kasah



Bario Rice

Brown Rice



Glutinous Rice
(Beras Pulut)



Padi Grains



Lemang



The word “Gawai” means a ritual or festival whereas the word “Dayak” is used as a collective name for the native ethnic groups of Sarawak: Iban, Bidayuh, Kenyah, Kelabit, Penan, Selako, Murut and etc. This harvest festival, gives thanks to the gods and spirits for the bounty of the land; marks the ending of the harvesting season and ushers in another year of generous goodness and of the new planting season.

A traditional Gawai celebration in an Iban and Bidayuh longhouse would kick off on the evening of 31st May where an offering ceremony called ‘miring’ would be conducted to honour the spirits. The Dayak people living in the cities would normally travel back to the longhouse for Gawai eve. Most rooms in the Iban longhouses would be decorated with the beautifully woven Pua Kumbu.



After the miring ceremony is over, a big feast would start. Every family in the longhouse would contribute towards the food. Here, mouth-watering traditional Iban delicacies such as ‘ayam pansuh’ or bamboo chicken and glutinous rice ‘lemang’ would be served. The famous Iban rice wine, known as ‘tuak’, which is brewed one month prior to Gawai would be served. Tuak is a welcoming drink to the visitor who came upon visiting to their long house.

As the night carries on, the celebration becomes less formal with traditional Iban dances and poetry being performed.

During this festival, almost everyone dresses in traditional costumes while the elders perform the traditional dance - NGAJAT. Ngajat dance have been in existence along with the Iban tribe since the 16th century and is believed to be performed by warriors on their return from battles. Music for the Ngajat dance is played using Gongs and other ethnic percussion instruments such as the ‘enkeromong’, ‘bendai’, ‘canang’ and ‘dumbak or ketebong’.

