

Dragon Tales



Volume 10 Issue 17

Friday, December 11, 2009

FREE

WHAT'S ON?

SECONDARY YOUTH NIGHT

Friday 11 December 6-8pm

GRADE 11/12 SCIENCE PROJECT

Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 December

SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 15 December 1:30pm
Study Trip Showcase in room 323

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Thursday 17 December at 8:10am

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 21 December to
Friday 15 January 2010

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Thursday 21 January at 8:10am

Safety and Security Committee

By **Bryndis Chapman**

BUSINESS MANAGER

We are appealing to any parents that would like to join the school safety & security committee that will commence in semester 2. The committee will be looking at improving and further developing the school's safety and security procedures. Please contact Bryndis at businessmanager@vislao.com for further details.

After School Activities

By **Dan Foggo**

ASA COORDINATOR

- ♦ Soccer cancelled 8-15 December
- ♦ Last day of activities before holidays: Friday 18 December
- ♦ First day of activities after holidays: Monday 18 January
- ♦ Last day of activities for 2nd quarter: Friday 22 January
- ♦ First day of activities for 3rd quarter: Monday 25 January

The activity list for the third quarter will go out to parents on Friday 18 December. Please return the sign-up form on Monday 18 January to Mr. Dan in the PE office or to Ms. Paramy in the school office.

The Giving Tree

By **Kendis McAden**

PTA MEMBER

As the holiday season approaches, the PTA would like to encourage the VIS community to recognize those who may not be as fortunate as we are. Donkoi Children's Development Center and Ban Saphanthong School are two local schools that can benefit greatly from our contributions. Items desired by the schools include:

- ♦ **uniforms for grades Prep through 5** (white shirts/navy blue shorts or sinhs - available for purchase at the Talat Sao or other local markets)
- ♦ **pencils**
- ♦ **blank writing books**

The PTA will be setting up a 'Giving Tree' on the school campus on Monday 14 December. Students, parents or faculty who wish to contribute one of the items listed above are asked to wrap their gift and bring it to school during the week of 14-18 December to place under the tree. Alternatively, the PTA will also accept cash contributions that will be put towards a larger project (the specific project will be chosen by VIS students, and will address much-needed facilities, such as a toilet-block or library). These contributions will be recognized with an ornament bearing the donor's name, which will be hung on the tree. Donkoi Children's Center, Ban Saphanthong School and the VIS PTA will be very grateful for any item or cash that you are able to contribute. Please help make the Giving Tree a successful tradition that VIS and the local community can look forward to in years to come!

*Church of the Holy Spirit
presents...*

Carols by Candlelight

Bring your family and friends for
carol singing by candlelight

**Wednesday 16 December at
5:30pm**

- ♦ On the football field, VIS
- ♦ Bring a mat to sit on
- ♦ Bring food and drink
- ♦ No alcohol permitted
- ♦ Candles provided

SALE OF PTA COOKBOOK POSTPONED UNTIL NEW YEAR

Language programme next year

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

We will be hosting a whole school Parent Evening on Tuesday 26 January to present to the VIS community the language programme that will be in place next year. The purpose of these changes is to align our programme with the philosophy and requirements of the International Baccalaureate Programmes and will support our accreditation work for CIS/WASC. One of the key elements of change will be offering Mother Tongue Instruction during the school day. Mother Tongue Language is a student's strongest native language. Mother Tongue Instruction is central to the IB's Mission. Every IB school is required to have "a written language policy (including its provision for second language teaching and mother tongue support) that meets the needs of the students

and reflects the principles of the programme."

There will be 3 language areas of presentation:

- ♦ English Language Instruction
- ♦ Mother Tongue Instruction
- ♦ Foreign Language Instruction

Prior to the meeting we will send an overview of the programme and its elements to help prepare parents for this meeting. We hope to see many parents at this meeting.

Staff Appointments 2010-11

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce the following appointments on our staff for next year:

Secondary Head: Ms. Kim Green
Kim has been at VIS for the past 4 years as a Middle/High School Humanities

teacher, our MYP Coordinator for the past 3 years, and most recently she has taken on the Steering Committee Chair for our re-accreditation with The Council of International Schools/Western Association of Schools and Colleges (CIS/WASC). Kim is an excellent administrator and we are very pleased to have her serve as our Secondary Head.

Language Coordinator: Ms. Julia Lachet

Julia is in her first year as a French teacher at VIS. Julia has extensive experience with languages and we welcome her to this position. Several changes will take place in our whole school language program next year and we are pleased that Julia will be overseeing this process.

PYP Coordinator: Ms. Alison Francis
Alison is also in her first year at VIS. Alison came to VIS this year as a Grade 3 teacher and with many years of experience working within the PYP at ISPP in Cambodia. She has an advanced knowledge of the PYP and we welcome her to this position. Alison will continue teaching Grade 3 next year.

PRIMARY NEWS

Primary Assembly

By Carmel McCormick
PRIMARY HEAD

Our next Primary Assembly is **Thursday 17 December at 8:10am**. We apologize for any inconvenience caused with the mix-up in dates sent to you this week.

The hosts for our Assembly next week will be Grade 1. There will be an opportunity for children to share their learning and for you to see the programme in action. We will also farewell the Buckley, Kawamura and Stewardson families from the Primary School and thank the students and parents for their contribution to VIS.

The PTA have generously given many hours of work over the semester

for their many projects. On behalf of the Primary students and staff I would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to the PTA. Please see the information on the Giving Tree on the front page. We look forward to your support in this project.

Primary Reports

As mentioned last week, the reports will be available with the portfolios next **Thursday 17 December**. Both are important and should be read with your child. **How do I know what the grades mean? What should I be looking for?**

Evaluation Key

This key applies to Prep to Grade 5 for Math, Language Arts, PE, Art, Music and French B.

D-Developing: The student is working towards gaining the skills and knowledge. Teacher support and differentiated tasks are also used.

E-Established: The student is working at grade level. The skills and knowledge at the current grade level are evident in work samples, contribution to class tasks and assessments.

N-Not Observed: This is used when a student has been given support and differentiated tasks, and is yet to show an understanding of the skills, concepts and knowledge needed for this indicator.

EX -Extending: This means the student is displaying an understanding of skills, concepts and knowledge beyond grade level expectations.

Please note that the report card format for Language Arts and Mathematics for Prep to Grade 5 is set up showing indicators for the whole year. There will be some indicators within each report that have no mark as that particular section was not evaluated formally this semester.

Fun Ban Chian study trip for amazing Grade 6

By Kim Flint

GRADE 6 STUDENT

Grade 6J and 6R went on their fantastic, unbelievable study trip to Ban Chiang. Our study trip started on the 16th of November and ended on the 20th. We crossed the bridge in vans and this trip seemed not to end; we thought we would not reach the world beyond us. But finally, we arrived and we started our wonderful journey together.



We did a lot of interesting, and magical things during the trip we had. We first went to Phu Phrabat to see the towers that got shifted in the Ice Age and about the myth of Na-Usa. We learned how to make handcrafts, like weaving the traditional way, making pots how they made them 4,000 years ago, we painted on silk and dyed cotton in a really terrific way... We paid a visit to the village blacksmith and realized that they use the same technique they used 3000 years ago to make tools. It is good we learned this because maybe in the future this might disappear. My helpful friends and I explored Ban Chiang. We went to the archeological site and to the Museum and learned a lot about Ban Chiang history. The beauty of the museum really blinded me. The last day the teachers smashed the pots so we could try to be like archeologists and put them



back together.

Visiting Ban Chiang and learning a lot about the history was interesting for me. I learned a lot in just 5 days. Everything on our study trip was amazing to me.



“The study trip was magnificent and I really liked it”.

Johnny 6J

“The trip was fantastic. I was laughing like there is no tomorrow. It was too good to be true, fun and magical. THE BEST!”

Steeff 6J

“I hope Ban Chiang will stay the same for hundreds of years.”

Michael 6J

“This study trip was the best study trip I ever have... we all work together and made a great work.”

Ning 6J

“I enjoyed the activities. It was amazing [...] I want to get to go to Ban Chiang again.”

Momoko 6J

“In conclusion, the study trip took us to the extreme!”

Emily 6J



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6 sessions:

**2, 16 & 23 February and
2, 16 & 23 March**

**8:00am to 10:00am in the
VIS Library on the 2nd floor.**

Cost: \$20 for the course book
Sign up with Paramy in the office.