



Dragon Tales

Volume 10 Issue 18

Friday, December 18, 2009

FREE

WHAT'S ON?

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

*Monday 21 December to
Friday 15 January 2010*

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Thursday 21 January at 8:10am

SECONDARY AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 26 January at 1:30pm

LANGUAGE PRESENTATION

Tuesday 26 January at 7:00pm

Semester 2 invoices

By Bryndis Chapman
BUSINESS MANAGER

Please be reminded that the payment deadline for Semester 2 invoices is 15 January 2010 (unless your child is enrolling in January). Please pay before the due date to avoid late payment fees. Please note that:

- All payments must be deposited into the VIS bank accounts).
- A copy of your payment confirmation must be given to the Business Office.

Should you have any queries regarding invoices, please contact me at businessmanager@vislao.com.

Enjoy the break

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

I would like to wish all staff, students and parents in the VIS community a very joyful and relaxing semester break. Everyone has worked very hard this first semester so please enjoy this time off during the semester break.

After School Activities

By Dan Foggo
ASA COORDINATOR

- 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**

**Thank you for your
generous donations**

Playgroup

By Catrin Moore
PARENT

Playgroup has concluded for the year and will resume on Sunday 24 January. New families are most welcome to join the playgroup which is held every Sunday 10am to 12pm. For more information, please contact Catrin Moore at catrin@tropmedres.ac.

VIS Office Hours

open
21-23 December 9am-3pm

closed
24 December 2009 to
3 January 2010

open
4-15 January 9am-3pm

Language meeting

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

A reminder that we will have a very important meeting to present to parents changes in our language programme for next year. The meeting will be held at VIS on 26 January at 7pm. A letter confirming parent attendance at this meeting is being sent home with the youngest child in every family with the semester reports. Please read it and respond as soon as possible. Thank you.

VIS Statistics November 09

By Jamie Toustavong
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & MARKETING

In the first issue of Dragon Tales of every month starting with this issue, we will be publishing statistics on enrollment and staff movement at VIS. The below statistics are as at 30 November 2009.

Enrollment

Primary:	194
Secondary:	130
Total Enrollment:	324
New Students:	2
Departed Students:	0
Total Fee Paying:	310
Budget Fee Paying:	315

Teachers (expatriate)

Primary:	17
Secondary:	20
Specialists:	7
Total teachers:	44

New Teachers: Candice Broom (EY3)

Primary Assembly

By Carmel McCormick
PRIMARY HEAD

To the Primary Community - have a very enjoyable break and enjoy the holiday celebrations. See you all in 2010. We have a welcome back assembly on **Thursday 21 January at 8:10am**. Grade 5 will be our hosts.

Semester 2 will be an exciting one for Grade 5s as they launch into their final semester of the PYP. An important part of the PYP is the Exhibition unit which takes place in the final year of the PYP. At VIS the final year in PYP is Grade 5, however this does vary from school to school depending on how the school is set up. Whilst this directly involves the Grade 5 students and all their teachers and coordinators, it is something that all PYP students are working towards.

It is necessary that each student take their own independent action. In the Exhibition unit each Grade 5 student will need to show that they understand and can demonstrate the five essential elements of the PYP, one of those being the Action component.

The students will commence their Exhibition inquiry unit from the "How We Organize Ourselves" Transdisciplinary theme on 1 March 2010, culminating with an actual exhibition event on 5 May. We are very excited and very much looking forward to our first VIS PYP EXHIBITION.

An information session for the Grade 5 community is planned with all Primary parents welcome. Please look out for Exhibition updates when we return to school in January.

How green is VIS?

Grade 11 & 12 Group 4 Project 14 - 15 December 2009

By Grade 11 Chemistry Class

Did you know that if every member of the VIS family travels one kilometer on a motorized vehicle, they would produce 32.5 kg of carbon dioxide in total? This seems like a small number but imagine if everyone drove 100km? The number would quickly become signifi-

cant. Remember this is only for VIS transportation: what about the lights, the AC, the kitchen and the computers? A rough average of this number is 8.62 tons per day, and **1725 tons per YEAR**. Yes, the number is great, and shocking, what do we do about this?

This information has been taken from the Grade 11 and 12 Group 4 Project. The Group 4 Project assesses how well the IB Diploma students can work together. It evaluates self-motivation, collaboration and communication, and strength and weaknesses of the group. The groups had to choose a topic that investigated the Carbon Footprint of VIS.

Different groups with different research topics set off to gather their results by using the internet, surveys, practical work and generally getting down and dirty. Some groups researched about how much energy is used and the carbon dioxide produced when turning on fluorescent light. Other groups researched about transportation emissions of carbon dioxide and other interesting topics. We enjoyed working together and overcoming the challenge that was the Group 4 IB Project. Collaboration, good communication and self motivation are the foundation of good team work to present the best of our project and are most important in successfully navigating the IB programme.

During this project, we became aware of the enormous impact VIS has on the environment. Our project required us to consider means of reducing these CO2 emissions and be more environmentally friendly. Such ideas include:

- ◆ Adopting a more efficient bus system;
- ◆ Promoting students biking and walking to school;
- ◆ Planting more trees;
- ◆ Using more energy efficient appliances in the kitchen and around school;
- ◆ Switching off lights and air conditioners when they are not being used;
- ◆ Switching off computers when nobody needs them; and
- ◆ Using compact fluorescent lights (more energy efficient)

In theory these ideas could all very easily be implemented so why don't we follow through???

BE CLEAN - GO GREEN!!!

Vaccination Schedule

Vaccine	Minimum Age	Schedule	Suggested Booster
BCG*	New born	Once (up to age 2)	None
DPT, Polio* Diphtheria, Pertussis , Tetanus	Infant	- 2 months - 3 months - 4 months - 18 months - 4-6 years	Every 10 years (only Tetanus Or DT)**
MMR* Measles, Mump, Rubella	9 month	-9 months first dose -18-24 months 2 nd dose (for those staying in Lao only)	If never had vaccine or disease (any age)
Hepatitis B*	Infant	- First seven days - 2 months - 3 months - 4 months (Adults: Three doses, 0, 1 month then 6 months after first dose)	5-10 years (or check titers)
Hepatitis A*	More then 2 years	- First dose after 2 years of age - 2 nd dose 6 months after first dose	10 years
Japanese Encephalitis* Not essential. International school kids low risk, low risk in Vientiane (if they have exposure to rural villages, then recommend)	18 months	- Day one - 7-14 days after first dose - 28-35 days after first dose (or after one year)	3 years
HIB* Haemophilus influenza Type B (may use as combined vaccine with DPT)	Infant	- 2 months - 3 months - 4 months (Child more then 18 month, only one dose is needed)	None
Chicken pox	More then one year	Once	None
Rabies Not essential. As JE above, those in rural area with exposure to wild animals. Those with exposure to wild animals should consider. Low risk for international school kids	12 months	- Day one - 7-14 days after first dose - 28-35 days after first dose	3 years
Typhoid Oral	6 years	- Day 1 - Day 3 - Day 5 - Day 7 (for injection, only once in children over two)	3 years
Influenza Vaxigrip Kids under 5 and over 59 years of age are recommended to receive influenza vaccine	Every one	Once a year before cold season	Once a year

School Board Report

BY BOBBY ALLEN JR.
VIS BOARD CHAIRPERSON

In November and December the VIS Board decided to:

- 1) increase the maximum entry level for new teachers by one step, from Step 3 to Step 4. This will result in an additional step increase for the returning teachers next year. Last year the VIS Board made the same decision. In addition, the maximum salary level for the teachers was set at Step 17 as this was considered the final maximum step for VIS. These decisions will be implemented in the 2010-11 school year. These decisions were made with the view of recruiting the best possible teaching staff for VIS while also expressing our appreciation for the current teaching staff and their ongoing efforts at VIS.
- 2) approve a new Mother Tongue Program for the 2010-11 school year. The Director will issue an announcement to the VIS Community regarding a workshop about this program.
- 3) approve the following new positions at VIS: Secondary Head, Primary 4 Teacher, and Lao Mother Tongue teacher. At present it is anticipated that VIS will have only one EY4 teacher next year. This decision is subject to change dependent on actual enrolment and costs for 2010.
- 4) accept the resignation of VIS Board Secretary, Ms. Emma Aguinot. Ms. Nicole Stein was nominated and confirmed as the Board Secretary effective immediately.

During November and December the VIS Board have been working on:

- 1) establishing a Facilities Development Committee. In 2010 we will focus on drafting a Development Plan that will be presented to the VIS Board for consideration before presenting it to the VIS Community for comment.
- 2) establishing a Marketing and Public Relations Committee. This Committee will work with the school administration, and will focus on drafting a Marketing and Public Relations Plan for presentation in 2010.
- 3) the newly leased land adjacent to VIS in preparation for car parking. The Board has not made any decision as to the long-term use for this land.

On behalf of the VIS Board we wish you a happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in 2010.

VIS Philosophy and Objective Committee Update

BY DAVID BOYES
P&O CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the feedback on the existing VIS Mission and Purposes. The Philosophy and Objectives Committee has taken this and developed a revised version for your comment. As guided by the CIS/WASC Accreditation Preparatory Visitors the Committee is developing a multi-leveled document that encapsulates the mission and purposes of VIS and that will include a Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives and Indicators.

The Committee is seeking your comments on the draft Mission and Goals. Objectives and Indicators are still be developed by the Committee and will be circulated after the break. Any comments on the Mission and Goals below can be emailed to jamiel@vislao.com before Thursday 21st January.

DRAFT VIS Mission Statement

At Vientiane International School our mission is to challenge, inspire, and prepare learners for life.

DRAFT Goals:

In a safe, respectful and sustainable learning environment:

- We provide a high quality holistic education
- We empower learners to be internationally minded global citizens
- We enrich learning experiences through interaction with the Lao community.