

# Dragon Tales

Volume 10 Issue 20

Friday, January 29, 2010

FREE

## WHAT'S ON?

### MRISA SR. SOCCER ISPP

Thursday 28 to Sunday 31 January

### PTA MEETING

Thursday 4 February at 8am

### MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Wednesday 3 February to Sunday 7 February at UNIS, Vietnam

### SECONDARY SPORTS DAY

Friday 12 February

### STAFF WORKDAYS

Monday 8 February and  
Tuesday 9 February 2010  
No school for students.

### SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 16 February

### GRADE 5 EXHIBITION MEETING

Tuesday 16 February at 6:45pm

### PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Thursday 18 February

### VIS CHARITY GALA

Saturday 20 February

### SCHOOL PHOTOS DAY

Wed 24 and Thu 25 February

## VIS Charity Gala

By Corry Foppes

SECONDARY STUDENT COUNCIL  
COPRESIDENT

A major event held in the past three years by the Secondary Student Council at Vientiane International School has been the Annual VIS Secondary Student Council Charity Gala. This year the Secondary Student Council will help a trained team of Lao students from Lao Ngam Secondary School who volunteer to work in remote villages by educating families and raising the awareness about human trafficking.

Through this Charity Gala, we will raise funds to support the Lao Ngam students by donating items such as two new computers, a printer, printer cartridges and fabric for costumes. We will invite several volunteers from Lao Ngam Secondary School to Vientiane so we can work with them to design, develop and then print promotional material that they can use to raise the awareness of human trafficking in the remote villages. We also plan to work with

them so they will know how to use the programs and software purchased and so that they can take these skills back their school.

At this year's Annual Charity Gala we will have a book signing by our special guest speaker, Collin Cotterill. Similar to last year's Charity Gala, we will hold another auction with outstanding items up for auction such as helicopter flights over Vientiane and golf tuition. The Charity Cocktail Gala will be held at the Singaporean Embassy from **7pm to 10pm on Saturday 20 February. Tickets will be on sale on Monday 1 February at the VIS office.** Please help the student body support the Lao Ngam students by attending this spectacular event. Feel free to ask the Secondary Student Council any questions about the Charity Gala at [stu.co@vislao.com](mailto:stu.co@vislao.com). We hope to see you there!

## Closure of library

By Jeanette Brooker

LIBRARIAN

Due to the CIS/WASC staff meeting on **Tuesday 2 February** the library will be closed after school. Students waiting to be picked up at 3pm will need to wait in other areas of the school. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Calendar 2010-2011

Please find attached the school calendar for 2010-2011. Note that the first day at school is **Wednesday 11 August 2010**.

Coming soon...

The 2010 VIS  
FUN FAIR!

Saturday 27 February  
10am-3pm



## From the Director

By Steve Alexander  
DIRECTOR

### Republic of Korea - Embassy Donation to VIS

I want to thank the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for their generous donation of an electric piano to the VIS Music programme. This excellent piano has been placed in the Primary Music room and will be used a great deal by both Mr. Paul and Mr. Tony, our Music teachers.

### Music Lessons at VIS

Any student at VIS who has private Music lessons with a tutor is welcome to have those lessons at VIS during our after school activity programme. We have several practice rooms and can offer them for Music lessons after school. Anyone interested in doing this should contact Mr. Tony Watters at [tonyw@vislao.com](mailto:tonyw@vislao.com) to schedule lessons.

### Language Presentation

Thank you to all parents and staff who attended our Language presentation at VIS on Tuesday evening. If you could not attend this meeting to learn about important changes in our language programme beginning next year, we will be scheduling another presentation within the next month during the day (lunchtime). If you would like a copy of the 18-slide presentation, please send a request to me at [stevea@vislao.com](mailto:stevea@vislao.com).

## Do you work in production?

By Terese Sheers  
GRADE 2 TEACHER

Grade 2 are currently investigating the process of production. We are seeking anyone willing to be a guest speaker in our classroom. Please contact Ms. Terese at [tereses@vislao.com](mailto:tereses@vislao.com) or Ms. Catherine at [catherineo@vislao.com](mailto:catherineo@vislao.com).

## VIS website

By Karel Campbell  
IT COORDINATOR

The VIS website ([www.vislao.com](http://www.vislao.com)) needs work. If you would like to be part of that process, please contact the IT Coordinator, Karel Campbell in room 324 in the Secondary building, on 486001, or at [itcoordinator@vislao.com](mailto:itcoordinator@vislao.com). Please make contact by February 19. Once interested parties are identified a meeting time will be set.

## School photos

By Paramy Vilayvong  
SENIOR SECRETARY

VIS will have its annual school photo days on **Wednesday 24 February for Primary students** and **Thursday 25 February for Secondary students**.

All classes will have group photos taken but individual student photos will be taken on request only. If you would like to order individual photos of your child, please fill in the attached order form and return it along with payment to the Business Office by **Friday 12 February**.

Class photos will be exhibited at the school entrance after Tuesday 16 March. Another order form will be issued at a later date for the purchase of class photos and additional individual photos.

Please ensure your child/ren are dressed appropriately on the day.

## ASV reunion

By Jamie Touttavong  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & MARKETING

On Monday 25 January, nineteen ex students and teachers from the American School of Vientiane (ASV) visited VIS as part of their 35<sup>th</sup> year all-school reunion. It was a very special occasion for the ASV alumni as for some, it was the first time they had seen one another since being at ASV and for others, it was their first return to Laos.

The ASV alumni received a guided tour of VIS and then exchanged stories of their time at ASV and in Laos. It was amazing to hear that at one stage, the school had about 700 students and a library that contained tens and thousands of books! They even had a 25m swimming pool!

We are pleased to announce that a couple of the alumni members will soon be joining the VIS community. The others we may never see again but we hope that they will remember Laos and their short time at VIS.

We have since been inspired to start our own alumni at VIS. We already have a number of ex VIS families who still read our newsletter so it's a start! More details of the VIS alumni will be provided at a later date.

*Photo: The VIS Director with the ASV Alumni*



# Primary Exhibition

By Carmel McCormick  
PRIMARY HEAD

“The Primary Years Programme (PYP) exhibition represents a significant event in the life of a PYP school and student, synthesizing the essential elements of the PYP and sharing them with the whole school community. As a culminating experience it is an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile that have been developing throughout their engagement with the PYP” (IBO 2007).

This year will be the 1<sup>st</sup> PYP Exhibition at VIS. The planning stage is underway with the inquiry unit commencing Monday 1 March and culminating on Friday 5 May 2010.

An information workshop will be held on **Tuesday 16 February** which will involve all **Grade 5 students, parents, teachers, and staff** who work with Grade 5. It will be essential for students to attend with their parents. We ask the Grade 5 community to make every effort to participate in this important part of Grade 5 and understand that families may have to reschedule other commitments that evening.

The session will be a workshop with a guest speaker and interactive activities with students, parents and staff working together in mixed groups. We envisage having lots of fun learning together and sharing ideas. It will not be appropriate to have siblings attend this workshop.

# Modeling Action

One of the five essential elements of the Primary Years Programme is ACTION. Taking ACTION is modeled and promoted right from Early Years throughout all curriculum areas.

“Students learn to choose to act, and to reflect on their actions, so that they contribute to their own well-being and that of the community and the environment” (Standard D1 from the IB Standards Practices and Principles)

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our community who are key role models for taking action. Two examples are the great band of parent volunteers who are working together to plan the February 27 Fun Fair. Another example is the Secondary School Council who is planning the VIS Charity Gala for Saturday 20 February. I would very much encourage our Primary parent community to support both these events.

# Primary Sports Day

By Dan Foggo  
ASA COORDINATOR

The Primary Sports Day is happening on Thursday 18 February. It will run from 8:15am to 11:15am. Children are reminded to dress in house colors and to bring a hat, water bottle and sunscreen. Parents are encouraged to come and show their support. We are looking forward to a fun day!



Active Parenting  
*We need a minimum of 5 parents!*  
2, 16, 23 February  
2, 16, 23 March  
*Sign up in the school office*

*Dear Leslie,*

I am a student and need some help. I feel like I am almost invisible at home, like I am last on the list. My parents seem to only care about their money worries or my older brother because they are all about helping him think about college. I also have a younger sister and they are always helping her read and stuff. But what about me? I feel like they just think I am a trouble maker because sometimes I don't do so well in school and I just hate the way they bug me about that...I feel bad enough already.. so I guess they think I'm rude. But really I wish one of them, my mom or dad, would want to give me some real time, just listen to me or really talk with me, not only about the homework I sometimes forget. I feel pretty lonely at home.

Signed,  
Just not important

*Dear Just not important,*

Thanks for writing! I wonder if your parents even realize how you feel? In my experience most parents want their kids to feel loved and important and I bet yours do too. What about finding a time when they are feeling calm and relaxed to tell them what you have told me? If it is too hard to actually say it perhaps you could write them a letter and put it under their pillow before you go to bed and tell them its there. The first step to moving forward is for your parents to know how you feel, then you can all talk about what you need from each other in order to feel the way you would all like to feel. That talk may mean some compromise, finding ways to meet each others' needs, so be ready to describe what is happening for you in school because that obviously concerns them. Hope this helps and good luck!

Leslie

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Semester One Secondary Honor Roll

Academic Honor Roll		Diligence Honor Roll	
11	Alan Meckdala Reece	12	Subin Hwang
11	Elinor Dixon	11	Chris Wan
11	Lukas Glaeser	11	Noah Chao
11	Maurice Schill	10K	Masaki Kobayashi
10K	Emily Nhkum	9T	Pan Keobolith
10K	Julie Foppes	9T	Praew Wiriyandomphon
10K	Sean Lennaerts	9P	Bhawana Chopra
10K	Soo Yun Hwang	9P	Jonas Grimm
9T	Anne Mai Baan	8W	Alex Phongoen
9T	Blake Gardiner	7	Chelsea Baroi
9T	Hanh Nguyen	7	Jenny Kim
9P	Aditi Shrestha	7	Nana Edo
9P	Henny Kim	7	Rosy Nhkum
9P	Toni Phongoen	7	Rupina Baek
8D	Silayan Bertomeu	6J	Emily Pierce Thompson
7	Ardin von Rechenberg	6J	Kimberly Flint
7	Ella Maynard	6R	Nathan Willimzik
7	Haniza Zainal	<p align="center"><b>BOOK SIGNING WITH COLIN COTTERAL @ VIS CHARITY GALA</b></p>	
6J	Aldo Baan		
6J	Jungmin Park		
6R	Alexander Volden		
6R	Ben McAden		
6R	Julia Usher		
6R	Molly Maynard		
6R	Wesley Wan		

**By Kim Green & Rowland Jepson**  
IB COORDINATORS

At VIS we believe that it is important to recognize and celebrate the successes of our students. At the VIS Secondary School Assembly on Tuesday 26 January we proudly awarded Honor Roll to students from Grade 6 to 12. Unfortunately an error was made in the classification of a certificate and we would like to apologize and recognize Ella Maynard's achievement in gaining Academic Honors. It was an exciting assembly where the smiles on the student's faces showed they were very proud of their achievements. You will be able to see the smiles in the photos on the VIS Website Image Galleries at [www.vislao.com](http://www.vislao.com). Honor Roll is awarded to

students who have demonstrated academic excellence or demonstrated an excellent level of participation and effort in their learning during Semester One. Students who received Academic Honor Roll are now eligible for the 'Golden Dragon High Honor Award' which is awarded to students who meet the criteria for Academic Honor Roll in both semesters.

At the end of Semester Two we will be holding the Awards Ceremony where we will acknowledge student successes across many areas of their school life.

VIS congratulates all Semester One Honor Roll recipients on their achievements and we look forward to all of our students striving for Honor Roll in Semester Two.

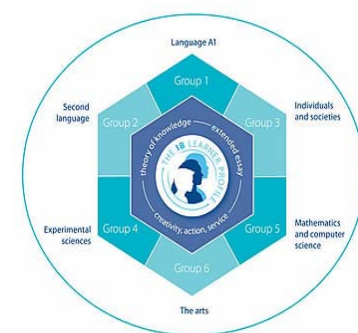
## Planning for next year has started in Grade 10

**By Rowland Jepson**  
IB COORDINATOR

Moving from MYP into DP (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades) involves some important decisions for students: all students must choose 6 main subjects from a list of more than 12 possible subjects. On Thursday 28 January, I met with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to explain the options to them. They have all been given a form to fill in giving their initial choices. Students should discuss these with their parents and parents should sign the form where they have written the subjects they wish to take.

We need to know these choices at this early stage so that the school administration can schedule the right classes and teachers for the courses chosen by the students.

The forms must be returned to me by **Monday 1 February**.



### A date for your diaries:

On **Tuesday 6 April at 7pm**, there will be an information evening for parents and students about the Diploma Programme where a Guide will be given out, and questions can be asked. All students hoping to go into 11<sup>th</sup> grade at VIS and their parents should attend.

## WHAT'S ON

- ◆ **Active Parenting of Teens**  
Begins 2 February
- ◆ **MRISA MUN**  
3-7 February
- ◆ **Secondary Sports Day**  
Friday 12 February
- ◆ **Secondary Assembly**  
Tuesday 16 February
- ◆ **VIS Charity Gala**  
Saturday 20 February



By Rowland Jepson  
MUN ADVISOR

For the first time this year, VIS will participate in the MRISA Model United Nations which is taking place at UNIS Hanoi, Vietnam. Five students have been working hard at improving their debating skills and learning diplomatic terminology. Subin Hwang, Jackie Keobounphanh and Kent Okumura will be representing Uganda which is a member of the Security Council, while Lukas Glaeser and Hanh Nguyen will represent Cuba.

Among the issues they will be debating are militarization of the Arctic, the Middle East, nuclear terrorism, the problems of marine litter and landmines, and the question of the effects of climate change on international security. In the last week before we go, the delegates are hard at work writing their policy statements and drafting resolutions. The MUN will take place between 4 and 7 February.

## Charity Gala

By Kim Green  
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR

The Secondary Student Council is working hard towards creating an exciting and successful evening on Saturday 20 February. For the Live Auction they have already secured helicopter flights, golf tuition and a full set of autographed Colin Cotterill books including a collector's edition. Our students are very fortunate to have such a supportive community and I encourage you to come along to the Gala on Saturday 20 February. It will be a wonderful cocktail evening with live entertainment, COLIN COTTERILL, prizes and of course the auction.

Tickets will be on sale at the VIS office at a cost of \$25 per person. All of the money raised will be used to support the Secondary students at Lao Ngum who volunteer their time to educate young women and families about the dangers of human trafficking. We look forward to seeing you all at the VIS CHARITY GALA this year.

## MYP Preauth Visit



17 & 18 March 2010

By Kim Green  
IB COORDINATOR

We have had our Pre-Authorization Visit date for the MYP confirmed. The visit will take place on the **17 and 18 March 2010**. The IB are now in the process of identifying the visiting team and putting a programme into place with VIS for the visit. It is exciting to be able to have this upcoming feedback and feed forward from the visiting team.

### Why Pre-Authorization Visits?

"As part of the authorization application procedure, a pre-authorization visit is compulsory for each school during the period between submission of Part A Application and the authorization visit."

### The Purpose of the Visit:

"The purpose of the visit is to see whether the school is ready for authorization."

### The Details:

"This visit, will last two days and allow the school to benefit from the advice given by the IB approved visiting team. The visiting team will tour the facilities of the school, review documentation and speak to administrators, teachers, students, parents and board members or their representatives."

Source: IB Pre-Authorization Visit Guidelines for Schools



## Snapshots of Learning

By Kim Green & Mala Dorset

### *Are micro-organisms useful and can they assist us in the understanding of and prevention of disease?*

Have you ever wondered where the delicious yoghurt that you buy in the mini marts comes from and how it is made? If you want to know, the Grade 7 students at VIS can tell you! With the focus of their inquiry on discovering if microbes, specifically bacteria, can be good, the Grade 7 students headed to XAO BAN on Wednesday 27 January. The students were led through the process of making yoghurt and Nongnut Foppes, the entrepreneur and scientist who established and currently operates the yoghurt factory, explained to the students how the microbes are transported, encouraged to multiply and how they can be used in the production of yoghurt. They also explored how the PH levels of the yoghurt can change the taste and how a variety of variables can alter the PH levels.

"The best part of the trip was getting to eat yoghurt" and discovering "that yoghurt was so good for maintaining a healthy digestive system". Each student had the chance to make their own pot of yoghurt which was delivered to VIS on Thursday. VIS and Grade 7 would like to thank XAO BAN and especially Nongnut Foppes for helping us with our inquiry.



## Sports Day

By Philip Graham  
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

*Friday 12 February*

On Friday 12 February on the front field at VIS we will be holding the Secondary Sports day for all Grade 6 to Grade 12 students. The purpose of the day is to encourage students to participate in physical activity in a competitive and non-competitive environment. The sports day will be based around the house system.

The event will start at approximately 8:30am with Track and Field type events, stopping for lunch at around 12:30pm. At approximately 1pm fun house activities will start which is timed to finish at approximately 2:30pm.

It is important that all come properly prepared for the event and here are some items that will be necessary:

- ♦ Hat / sunscreen
- ♦ Water bottle
- ♦ Sports footwear
- ♦ Money for lunch if purchasing or a prepared lunch
- ♦ House colors
- ♦ Snacks to eat between events as there will be no designated morning interval

I encourage any parent who is interested in attending the day to come along and support their children. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

## Upcoming MRISAs

The next two MRISA events are described below. Students will be contacted shortly to start arrangements. If any student is interested in attending either of these two events they need to get a sign up sheet from Mr. Philip now.

AGE GROUP/ SPORT	DATES	VENUE
Snr. Basketball (Boys and Girls, Grades 9-12)	1-4 April	SSIS
Jnr. Soccer (Boys and Girls, Grades 6-8)	6-9 May	HIS

## Snapshots of Learning

By Kim Green  
MYP COORDINATOR

### *Production of energy and its consequences*



On Thursday 28 January the Grade 8 Science Classes were in the middle of a quest to find answers to their Unit Question: "How are we still in the dark in terms of energy production?" Yesterday they were testing for the production of



starch in leaves after they had been exposed to the light. Was starch produced? It was interesting to watch the students, along with Mr. Smith, working through a scientific process to determine if the exposure of a leaf to light in to promoting photosynthesis, led to the production of starch. Through Mr. Smith's questioning, the Grade 8 students were able to explain reasons as to why they were using a particular method to test for starch. They accounted for why they boiled the leaf and then soaked it in ethanol before



putting iodine on the leaf (the indicator that would show if starch was produced). Mr. Smith also facilitated a discussion with the class which enabled groups to learn from the experiments of others. The Grade 8 students modified the method of their experiments by altering variables throughout the process as a result of the discussion. What did they find? Did they find the starch? I suggest you ask a Grade 8 student what they discovered!



## Active Parenting

*We need a minimum of 5 parents!*

2, 16, 23 February  
2, 16, 23 March

*Sign up in the school office*