

Dragon Tales

Volume 10 Issue 24

Friday, February 26, 2010

FREE

2010 VIS Fun Fair

10am - 3pm
SATURDAY 27 February
Entry is Free!



Pony Rides
Jumping Castle
Dunking Machine -
Dunk your favorite
teacher!
Many games - Speed
Fishing, Wheel of
Fortune, Balloon
Darts, Neptune's
Treasure and more!
Many activities - face
painting, Henna hand
designs, hair braiding,
plaster painting
and more!

Don't miss the VIS Entertainment hour at
Dragon Café, with performances by VIS
students and professionals at 12pm-1pm:

- Lao Dance
- Ballet
- Gymnastics
- Taekwondo
- Belly Dance
- Lao Circus
- Japanese Bon Dance
- Hip Hop Dance
- Primary Dance Competition

Food and drinks on sale.

RAFFLE TICKETS: The PTA Haiti Relief raffle tickets will be on sale at the Fun Fair. Each ticket is 20,000 Kip or 100,000 Kip for a book of 6 tickets. For those families who already have tickets to sell, please return sold and unsold tickets to a member of PTA. All profits of the Raffle will go to the UNICEF Haiti Relief Fund.

Director's Message

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

First, I want to thank you for the many kind words and notes people have sent me during the past few days. I appreciate your concern about my health very much. Last Saturday after the Student Council Gala evening, I was riding home on my motorbike when I was suddenly confronted by another motorbike straight on. Since the oncoming bike did not have a headlight on, I had little time to react and quickly swerved to the right to avoid colliding with the bike. I hit the curb quite hard which forced me off my bike onto the ground. If anyone needs a reason to wear a helmet on a motorbike or a bicycle, my experience should be convincing. Wearing my helmet likely prevented much more serious injury or even death. I had two serious cuts, a deep gash in my right knee and the other above my right eye.

I owe a big thank you to Stuart and Bryndis Chapman who came along soon after and found me. They arranged for me to get to Mahosot Hospital where my cuts were quickly stitched and bleeding stopped. I am also grateful to Dr. Justin Denny for coming to examine me at the hospital and advising me to go to Udon to have a more extensive examination and care. And another thank you to Philip Graham and Kim Green for getting me to the hospital in Udon and to Rick Reece and Nalin Meckdala for getting us through the border late at night. Thanks to Else Veum for recovering my motorbike which apparently fared much better than me.

After a Cat-Scan, several X-rays, cleaning and re-stitching my cuts I was told by doctors that I had no serious injuries beyond the cuts. By the time I made it to Udon, infection had already set in. Because

I am diabetic, doctors have insisted I stay for one week to receive antibiotics and observation to ensure the infection is eliminated. I also had ligament and tendon damage in my knee that had to be corrected by an operation.

As of yesterday I am feeling much better and can now move about with crutches. I expect to return to Vientiane on Sunday and be back at school on Monday. In about a week I will begin daily physical therapy on my knee.

I also want to thank Ben Chayuti for bringing necessary items to me in Udon. Again I thank all of you for your concern. I am disappointed that I will miss the Fun Fair, but thanks to a great PTA for organizing the event. I know it will be a big success and lots of fun for everyone.

WHAT'S ON?

FUN FAIR

Saturday 27 February

MARCH BREAK

Monday 8 March to
Friday 12 March 2010
School closed.

STAFF WORKDAY

Monday 15 March 2010
No school for students.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Postponed to another day

MRISA SENIOR BASKETBALL

Thursday 1 April to Sunday 4 April

DP INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 6 April at 7pm

MYP PRE-AUTHORIZATION

Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 March

FUN FAIR GAMES & ACTIVITIES

How to pay for Games and Activities?

Ticket books or "Stars" will be required to pay for each game or activity your child participates in at the Fun Fair.

Ticket books will be on sale for 10,000 Kip (5 Star card) and 20,000 Kip (10 Star card) at the entrance to VIS and on the Fun Fair grounds.

Each "Star" will be worth 2,000 Kip and games and activities will range from 1 to 3 Stars in cost.



FUN FAIR RAFFLE

Win a Nintendo Wii, a Kindle or a Rip Stick Skateboard!

Prizes will be drawn and announced at the Fun Fair, during the Show Time between 12pm and 1pm.

Raffle tickets will be available from the main ticket booth or from roaming Secondary students. **GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!**

All profits from the Raffle will go towards the UNICEF Haiti Relief Fund.

FUN FAIR VOLUNTEERS

We welcome all members of the VIS community to volunteer to assist in making the 2010 Fun Fair a fantastic fun day for all. Please contact your child's Class Parent (Primary only) to see how you can help.

FUN FAIR FOOD

Lots of food to choose from!

There will be a range of food available at the Fun Fair, to purchase and enjoy. Enjoy food from Taste of India, Japanese lunch boxes from IV Japan, sausages from German Farmers, Singaporean food from Simply Me Cafe, Lao food from The Jukebox, Korean food by VIS parents and Dragon Café will be selling western food. Also, Sinouk Coffee, Paradise Ice Cream and PTA Cake Stall will be offering desserts and coffee.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Board Update

By Bobby Allen
BOARD CHAIR

In February the VIS Board decided to:

1. Adopt a Capital Development Plan to build a pool in 2010-2011, an extra school wing in 2011-2012 (the need for this will depend on student numbers) and a creative arts centre in 5 to 6 years.

This decision was made after reviewing and discussing various models for financing such a plan via the Capital Fee. The next step is for the Facilities Development Committee to present a proposed design of the pool and surrounding area to the School Board. As part of this process, preliminary drawings will be displayed at the Fun Fair this Saturday. A Board member will be available to discuss our planning process with you. You will have the opportunity to give your comments and suggestions.

In March the Board will need to make final decisions for the Capital Fee structure to enable the funding of this plan. Following this decision the Board will present the overall plan and financing to the VIS community.

During February the VIS Board have been working on:

1. Mother Tongue programme and the process for the introduction of a 2nd foreign language at VIS.
2. Tuition Fee structure and procedures for 2010-11 to account for estimated cost increases for next year and to address some administrative issues that have arisen due to increased enrollment at VIS.
3. Exploring ways to engage the Lao community and attract more Lao students to VIS.

On behalf of the VIS Board I look forward to enjoying the Fun Fair with you this Saturday. It is a great opportunity for the entire VIS community to have some fun.

Primary Update

By Carmel McCormick
PRIMARY HEAD

Grade 4 hosted the Primary Assembly on Thursday this week. Thank you to parents for attending and being a great audience. The Prep classes sang a song about being Thinkers, with interviews being held about the Sports Day and Grade 2 field trips.

Ms. Isabelle on behalf of the Fun Fair Organizing committee did a great job at encouraging us to attend the Fun Fair. Student Action Group invited us to

participate in some dance competitions which will be held in the entertainment area (at the canteen). Thank you to the class parents who have organized parents from each grade level for each class activity. It is great to see such involvement and a great way for you to meet and spend time with the grade level community. The teachers and assistants will also be at the Fun Fair donating some time to the other stalls. Thanks to Ms. Jamie and Ms. MoeMoe for organizing these rosters for us. Events such as the Fun Fair are a great example for our students of "How We Organize Ourselves", one of the 6 transdisciplinary themes of the PYP.

This weekend Mr. Eric (Grade 3 Teacher) and Ms. Alison (Grade 3 Teacher and Math Coordinator) are attending a 3-day workshop on Math in the PYP in Singapore. We have been work-

ing steadily over the last year and a half on the VIS Math Curriculum and have recently begun using the IBPYP planner for documenting Math stand-alone units. This is the same planning tool that is required for all transdisciplinary and stand-alone planning in the PYP.

There are many students and staff currently not feeling too well. It is encouraging that the children love school so much that they want to come even when they are sick, however please err on the side of caution and keep your children at home until they are 100% well. It is natural to worry about children missing too many days of school, however, if they are not 100% well then they will not be able to reach their potential in class. It is therefore best for them to make a full recovery and then return to class. We appreciate your cooperation.

SMS Blacklist

By Jamie Touttavong
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

You may have received mobile phone text messages (SMS) from VIS during the past couple of months. These messages are sent to remind parents about upcoming important dates, information about the school and most importantly, for the purposes of advising parents of an emergency.

We are creating a 'blacklist' for the SMS service which is a list of parents who **do not** wish to receive SMS from VIS except in cases of emergency. If you would like to register for the SMS blacklist, please email jamiet@vislao.com with 'SMS blacklist' in the subject.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO POSTPONED

The Whole School photo scheduled for Wednesday 3 March has been postponed. You will be advised of the new date shortly. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Primary Sports Day

By Dan Foggo
PE TEACHER

On the morning of the 18th February we were greeted with cool, overcast conditions - perfect conditions for the Primary Sports Day. Children from EY4 to Grade 1 participated in a variety of fun based activities, while Grades 2 to 5 took part in more traditional athletic based events. Many of the teachers commented on the enthusiasm and house spirit shown by the children. Points were awarded both for house spirit and placings in events. The Nagas came out as the winners on the day with 582 points, followed closely by Catfish with 556 points, Geckos with 509 points and finally Gibbons, with 474 points. Thank you to all of the parents who came to show their support.



11th grade Mathematics Day

By Rowland Jepson, Patrick Durkin and Nick Broom

On Wednesday 24 February, all the 11th graders spent the whole day on Mathematics. This was an opportunity to focus on one subject for the day, without having to change teachers, rooms, or perspectives all day.

On Wednesday, the Grade 11 Math Studies class spent a day together in the library. During our time together the students began thinking about a Math project that will take them the better part of one year to complete. The project has many purposes but most notably it strives to help the students make connections between some aspect of the mathematical concepts they are studying in class and the world they live in.

As it is a year long project, the students are encouraged to choose a topic that really interests them. Torje is looking into how he can use his knowledge of motorcycle performance to see if there truly is a connection between exhaust pipes and the overall performance of the bikes. Jin decided he would explore the topic of professional basketball. One idea he came up with was to study the best re-bouncers in the history of the game and see if there is a credible connection between the height of a person and their ability to rebound. Sherwin, after toying with the topic of food, decided to test the theory that the length of time a person can hold their breath is directly related to their height.

The project requires the students to do a large amount of research and collecting of data in order for them to per-

form the mathematical analysis needed to prove or disprove the hypothesis. Please be willing to give assistance to the students as they embark on their research. Don't be alarmed if Torje comes asking to borrow your motorbike to make a few 'adjustments' or if Sherwin wants you to hold your breath until you turn purple!

The other group worked in Mr. Durkin's room to pursue an understanding of the 'Portfolio pieces' they are expected to complete over the course of their two-year IB Standard and Higher Level Mathematics Programmes.

The pieces are detailed mathematical investigations into topics taken from the students' normal course work. Investigations they can choose from range from finding a general formula for the result of adding matrices and then raising them to an unknown power, to predicting the patterns that occur between intersection points of straight lines and parabolas.

The portfolio pieces can be daunting and many students have never had to investigate mathematics in such a complex way. They are given ten days to investigate the topic and develop a hypothesis, which then must be rigorously tested using the many number systems the students know. The Grade 11 Standard and Higher Level students focused



HL Math students hard at work with their GDCs

well for the day and managed to come to grips with the understandings that are needed of them, as well as completing a detailed study of the processes and investigative skills needed, which will enable them to achieve to the best of their ability when completing their assignments.

Overall, it was a very successful day, with the Grade 11s committing themselves to the job of coming to grips with the approach needed to complete these tasks.

So, if you happen to see any Grade 11 students walking around looking a bit baffled, it is probably because they are trying to understand the idea that if 'k' is an integer that can be multiplied by 4 and added to 1, then square rooted, then 'k' is the set of all numbers that are the product of two consecutive positive integers, and 'k' is the only number that can be placed into an infinite addition surd to produce another integer!



The Math Studies class worked in comfort in the Library!



SL Math students discussing the problem of 'k'