

# Dragon Tales

Volume 10 Issue 25

Friday, March 5, 2010

FREE

## WHAT'S ON?

### MARCH BREAK

Monday 8 March to  
Friday 12 March 2010  
School closed.

### STAFF WORKDAY

Monday 15 March 2010  
No school or after school  
activities for students.

### WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

*Postponed to another day*

### SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 16 March at 1:30pm  
Showcase of Grade 6 and 8 Study Trips  
in room 323

### MYP PRE-AUTHORIZATION

Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 March

### MRISA SENIOR BASKETBALL

Thursday 1 April to Sunday 4 April

### DP INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 6 April at 7pm

### VIS IDOL

Saturday 24 April

## LIBRARY CLOSURE

The library will be closed on Tuesday  
16 March and Tuesday 30 March from  
2:30pm. We apologize for the  
inconvenience.



### By Secondary Student Council

VIS Idol this year will be held at the school on 24<sup>th</sup> of April at the front court of the school. This event is held annually to give an opportunity for students to show case their talents whether it's singing, dancing or even a small standup comedian. Winners will be judged by three judges and can win fantastic prizes including sparkling glass trophies or other mystery prizes. Friends and family are welcome to join this evening and watch their friends and family perform. There will be two divisions for this event, one set of prizes will be awarded to primary performances and another set will be awarded for secondary performances. On behalf of student council we will be delighted to see you there.

## MYP Pre- Authorization Visit

By **Kim Green**  
MYP COORDINATOR

As part of the application procedures for the MYP we are required to host a pre-authorization visit. The purpose of the visit is to see whether the school is ready for authorization. Our visitor will tour the VIS facilities, review documentation and speak to administrators, teachers, students, parents and board members. On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March to Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March,


Mr. Curtis Beaverford the Regional Manager for the Middle Years Programme, Asia Pacific, will be visiting VIS and undertaking our pre-authorization report.

### Enrollment as at 26 February

Primary:	196
Secondary:	134
<b>Total Enrollment:</b>	<b>330</b>
New Students:	2
Departed Students:	4
Total Fee Paying:	317

### Teachers (expatriate)

Primary:	17
Secondary:	20
Specialists:	7
<b>Total teachers:</b>	<b>44</b>



US\$15

## VIS COOKBOOK

in English & Lao

Available for purchase

# US\$15

Call Richelle on 020 2530813  
or Loretta on 020 5003489.

# A FUN FAIR IN EVERY SENSE

By Jennifer Eckert  
PTA MEMBER

Wow! What a fantastic day Saturday turned out to be! PTA members began planning in January for this year's event and all along, we wanted it to be a great day for the VIS community! I think we really achieved our goal!! PTA Members have heard a lot of positive feedback and everyone really did enjoy themselves! Between the many games set up by the staff and classes, the pony rides, bouncy castle, a chance to dunk your teacher, and the great entertainment, it was truly a Fun Fair in every sense!

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the planning, organization and running of the annual VIS Fun Fair. To individually thank everyone who contributed so much time and energy would take awhile, as there were many heads around this project. From our regular PTA contributors to the VIS staff and our class parents in the Primary grades - **Thank you all!**

Also to the VIS students who were involved in the Fun Fair games. The stu-

dents were fantastic! The enthusiasm, organization and cooperation these students displayed was amazing. As parents, it was very impressive to see them working so well together.

To all the teachers, staff and parents, without your help we could not have run the 2010 Fun Fair. Thank you for a truly fun day!

Each year, PTA's purpose for Fun Fair is to do just that, have fun with our community! It is not to raise funds, but to hold an event bringing everyone together for a day of games, food and entertainment. Throughout this school year, PTA has held events such as bake sales, Family Halloween Evening, Fun Fair, an after school activity, and the creation of the VIS Cookbook in order to raise funds that we can give back to the school in useful ways.

This year, because of the devastating earthquake that happened in Haiti, together with the School Board, PTA decided to raise funds for Haiti through UNICEF. Thank you to everyone who graciously donated to the fund by buying a raffle to win some wonderful prizes!

*Photos coming soon...*

AGE GROUP / SPORT	WHEN
Snr Basketball Boys, grades 9-12	Monday and Thursday 4-5 pm
Snr Basketball Girls, grades 9-12	Tuesday 2:30-4pm and Wednesday 4-5pm
Jnr Soccer Boys and Girls, grades 6-8	Monday and Wednesday 3-4pm

# Secondary Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

By Kim Green and Rowland Jepson  
IB COORDINATORS

Semester Two conferences are approaching quickly and it is time for you to let us know what appointments you would like. You will find attached to this week's Dragon Tales an appointment sheet that needs to be returned to the VIS Office.

The purpose of the conferences is to keep you well informed about your

child's progress in school, to learn from you about your child's attitudes towards learning and study practices at home, to work with you to analyze concerns identified in the semester and interim reports and prepare plans to address concerns. This is your opportunity to find out how we can work together to best support our learners at VIS.

You should review the semester reports carefully and use this information to guide your selection of appointments. We will endeavor to meet your needs but in some circumstances you may not be able to meet with all of the teachers you have selected.

**All** students are expected to attend the conferences so that they can take more responsibility for their own learning, can add to the quality and accuracy

# SAFE BREAK

By Carmel McCormick  
PRIMARY HEAD

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for a very successful Fun Fair. A special thanks to the Primary Class parents for the role that you took in organizing the event.

I wish everyone a restful and safe break.

# MRISA

By Philip Graham  
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

The next two MRISA events are currently being prepared for and students have started practicing for these two tournaments. The times for practice are below. Please note that from Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Junior Boys and Girls Soccer will practice twice a week on Monday and Wednesday.

of the discussion, can better understand any conclusions and so they can better implement plans developed at the conference.

Interim reports will be distributed to all students in Grade 6-11 prior to the conferences and are intended to be a tool to prompt discussion at the conferences between you, your child and the teachers. The VIS office will be provided with details of all students who receive an "At Risk Letter" (Grade 9-11) or who have conferences requested by teachers on their interim report. The Office will then ensure that appointments are scheduled for you with these teachers.

The teachers at VIS want to discuss your child's present and future levels of achievement and look forward to meeting with you.

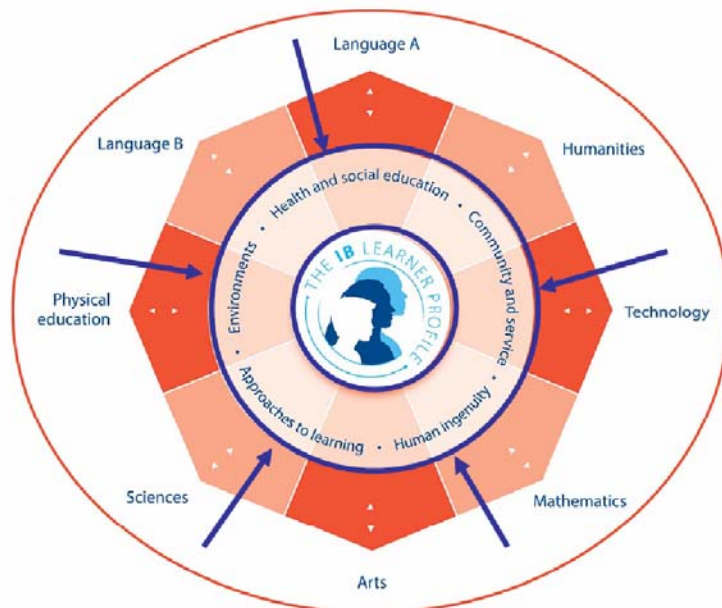
# MYP Area of Interaction (AoI)

## Community & Service

By Kim Green  
MYP COORDINATORS

### At the core the MYP are the five areas of interaction. What are they?

The five areas of interaction provide five distinctive and different lenses used to explore subject matter, to see connections between subjects, to forge meaningful links between subject content and the real world and so students can build understandings of how knowledge is an interrelated whole. They are the organizing elements of the curriculum. The MYP curriculum model below clearly shows the central role of the areas of interaction within the learning and teaching of the MYP.



### The five areas of interaction are:

- ♦ Approaches to Learning
- ♦ Community and Service
- ♦ Human Ingenuity
- ♦ Environments
- ♦ Health and Social Education

### Featuring this Week: Community and Service

The IB mission statement emphasizes that learning should extend beyond intellectual achievement and the 'students should develop a personal value system that guides their own lives

as thoughtful and active members of local and global communities'. Through this Area of Interaction students are encouraged to make connections between their intellectual and social development and the benefits that they can bring to the community, as well as the benefits that the community can bring to them. When learning through this area of interaction (AoI) in all of the subjects students can discover the social reality of self, others and community. This area of interaction fosters the affective, creative, ethical and cognitive development of the student.

The community and service AoI also supports the fundamental concept of the MYP - intercultural awareness which aims to encourage empathy and respect

that can lead to deeper understanding. When students are engaged in positive action and contact with other social and cultural environments they are enriched emotionally, socially, morally and culturally.

### Learning within this AoI requires students to:

- ♦ develop an awareness of what a community is and understand the complexities of a community in its different forms

- ♦ reflect and appreciate that they are individually members of various communities, and that with this membership also comes responsibilities
- ♦ consider how they can become positively involved in their communities

In summary, this area of interaction takes students on a journey from 'I' to 'we'. It requires students to take an active part in the communities in which they live, thereby encouraging responsible citizenship.

*Adapted from 'MYP - From Principles into Practice', IBO, 2008*

Examples of units at VIS where learning occurs through the AoI Community and Service are:

**Bridging the Gap:** A grade 10 Mathematics unit where students learn through the AoI to develop an awareness and understanding of how communities can come together through Math. The Unit Question: How do we use abstract thought to solve real problems?

**Talking Math around the World:** A Grade 8 Math unit where students learn through the AoI to develop an understanding of how Math is a language that is shared by the international community. The Unit Question: How do we communicate?

**Rice as a Food Resource:** Grade 9 Science students learn through the AoI to develop an awareness and understanding of the needs of communities and the role and needs of the individual within a community and the responsibilities of communities to their members. The Unit Question: To what extent can production by communities feed the world?

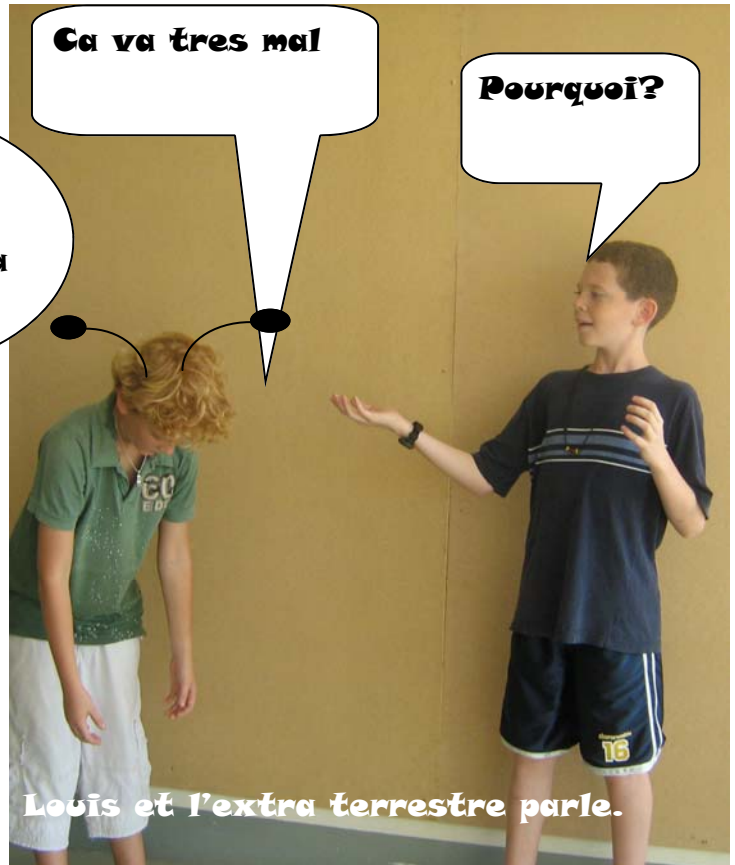
**Humanities:** Grade 10 Humanities students learn through the AoI to develop awareness and understandings of what a community means and how communities are different and similar along with reflecting on attitudes and responsibilities. The Unit Question: How do communities respond to racism?

Unit 2: Community and service

Ma grande famille - La famille et les amis, Family and Friends

Concept: People impact on people

Invasion extra-terrestre...





Louis, Fabien et Yann parle à l'école



L'extra terrestre fait peur a Fabien et Yann



**FIN**