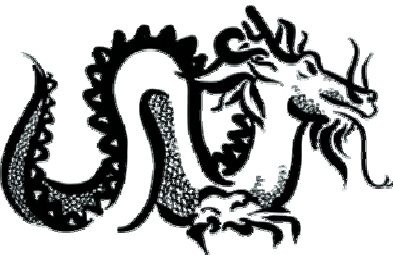


Dragon Tales



Volume 8 Issue 24

Monday, March 3, 2008

FREE

TODAY'S QUICK READS

PYP Forum: April 30 - 7PM

MYP/DP Forum: May 14 - 7PM

Author Visit: Margriet Ruurs visiting March 5 and 6.

VIS Fun Fair - March 29th

The Importance of Reading

By Vivian Scott

An assessment to determine the reading ages of EAL students across the High School has recently been completed. A number of common concerns became apparent. Many students' reading comprehension is many years below their age level. This has huge implications for their ability to achieve in all subject areas. It means that many of the texts they are expected to read in class will be very hard to fully comprehend and thus gain the more complex meaning from.

There were two key areas of difficulty for these students. One was limited vocabulary, which was apparent in either not knowing words or in giving the wrong definition for words. Another major difficulty occurs in inferring the deeper meanings of the text, which entails arriving at a conclusion from the information presented. Both these areas are vital in developing aca-

ademic understandings and more abstract thinking required to succeed academically.

You can help your child develop their reading ability by ensuring they read a variety of texts at home. It is also important to discuss what they read. For example reading the newspaper or current affair magazines together and discussing the events and the way they are written about can help your child enormously. Buy books as presents, read and cook from cook books together, limit time on the internet and television so children are more inclined to read, model reading as a pastime.

Also, don't forget to encourage your child to read in their first language!!! It is equally important for children to be literate in their mother tongue. Research is clear that children who can read and write well in their mother tongue find it much easier to be successful readers and writers in their second language.

CANTEEN LUNCH ONLY 16,000 KIP!

By **Stephan Aeschbach**
BUSINESS MANAGER

Starting next week, our school canteen supplier, Universal Sodexo will be providing daily lunches at a crazy 16,000 per meal! For 16,000 you get a main course, fruit and a syrup drink. To be eligible for this special, you must pre-pay on a monthly basis and payment must be in Kip.

Prices are as follows:

March - 256,000 kip (16 school days),
April - 272,000 Kip (17 school days),
May - 320,000 Kip (20 school days) and
June - 288,000 Kip (18 school days)

Students will be issued with a monthly canteen card and no refund is available for any meals missed.

To purchase a canteen card, please provide the VIS office with one photo and the payment in Kip.

The school canteen will continue to offer menus for single purchases and the price will be 20,000 Kip per meal. The *a la carte* menu (snacks, sandwiches, salads, etc.) re-

Grade 11 program options for next year

Parent Meeting
Thursday, March 6th, 2008
7:00pm in the VIS Library

If you are a parent of a 10th Grade student or if you would just like to find out what changes are taking place in the final two years of High School next year, don't miss this evening session! Topics that will be covered:

VIS Diploma

IB Diploma

**The Main Differences
Between the VIS and IB Diploma**

The characteristics of a successful IB student

For more information, please contact Mr. Don.

From the Director

By Steve Alexander

DIRECTOR

Construction Progress on our New Facility

Late in 2006 VIS began construction on Phase I of our new facility. This phase included leveling of land with fill, drainage and construction of the perimeter wall around the main campus. This was completed in early 2007 and Phase II began soon thereafter. Phase II consisted of building the main campus buildings: primary building, secondary building, sports facilities, cafeteria, library and the administration building.

The schedule for completion was originally to be at the end of June 2008, however, we expect Phase II to be completed at the end of May. The completion of Phase II will allow us to move entirely from our present campus and start the next school year in August with everyone at the new campus.

The new campus will feature 32 purpose built classrooms including, art rooms, 2 modern equipped science labs, 2 computer labs (one in the library) with wireless internet connection throughout the campus. There will be 2 music classrooms with 5 separate music practice rooms, a general assembly room in the primary that will eventually be converted to more classrooms when needed.

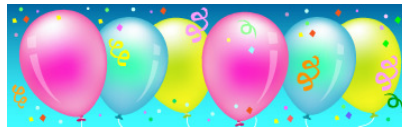
One of the most significant improvements will be the library which will be on two floors in a separate building between the Primary and Secondary buildings. The library will have 560 square meters of space – over four times the size of our present library. A large cafeteria will be adjacent the administration building.

The overall size of the campus is close to 4 hectares – about 4 times the size of our present facility.

The sports facilities will be exceptional. 2 covered full size basketball courts – one a stadium with bleacher seating.

Adjacent the basketball stadium is a full size football pitch and there is a great deal of open space behind the cafeteria for more sports fields and play. With these sports facilities we will be able to host any MRISA (Mekong River International Schools Association) tournament competition on campus without using outside facilities. We expect to host a parent forum and open house at the new facility before the end of this school year. As soon as we set this date we will let all in the community know.

On Saturday, September 6, 2008 we will celebrate our new campus with a Grand Opening. Details will be forthcoming soon in Dragon Tales about this special event .



FUN FAIR

Put this date in your diary

29th March

2pm – 6pm

Class Stalls

Many classes have started organizing their games. Notes asking for help have been sent home with students.

PLEASE help as much as you can.

Cake Stall

If you like to bake we need you! We are asking for donations for the cake stall. You can sign up on the sheet on the notice board or simply email Ben on vis_facilities@etllao.com and she will be very happy to add your name to the list.

Oral Presentations

Mr. Gordon's Grade 11 English Class

I was privileged to receive an invitation from the Grade 11 students to watch their Oral Presentations from a recently finished play they studied called the Syringa Tree by Pamela Gien. It has won awards and is currently playing in many theaters around Europe and North America. By the end of the class it was as if I had read the play. The assignment asked for the students to choose a scene or two and act it out. They also had to give a brief description at the beginning of their presentation of the scene and why they picked this particular piece.

With the move towards the International Baccalaureate it pleased me to witness these students stepping outside of their comfort zone and performing scenes with such emotion and passion. The confidence and knowledge they displayed while acting out the scenes was pure magic. From the presentations you could really feel the pain and happiness, and the hope and despair of the people in South Africa during the Apartheid years.

Well done Grade 11's for meeting the challenge of your curriculum with vigor!

Student Welfare Survey

By Nick Lennaerts

This week the Student Council's Student Welfare division will be conducting a school-wide survey in order to inform the Student Council on a variety of issues. Selected information will be presented the School Board. This survey will provide the Student Council with important feedback from the student body.

Dragon's Den Has New Supplies!

Come and see our exciting new range of stationery. Dragon's Den is open at recess time and will also be open at the Fun Fair on March 29th. Come and support our charities!