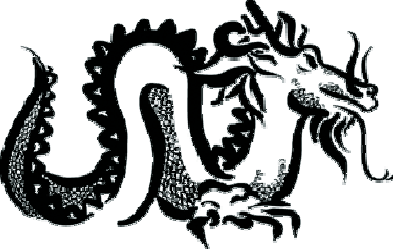


Dragon Tales



Volume 9 Issue 20

Tuesday, January 27 2009

FREE

WHAT'S ON?

START OF SEMESTER 2

Monday January 26

START OF ASA QUARTER 3

Monday January 26

PRIMARY SEMESTER 1 REPORTS and PORTFOLIOS SENT HOME

Friday January 30

PRIMARY OPEN HOUSE

2 pm

Friday January 30

VIS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

*Friday January 30 & Saturday
January 31*

SECONDARY PARENT FORUM

Tuesday February 3

SECONDARY SEMESTER 1 REPORTS SENT HOME

Friday February 6

PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Friday February 6

MRISA CULTURAL EXCHANGE

*Wednesday February 18 to Sunday
February 22*

From the VIS Director

Procedure for use of Sports Facilities at VIS

With the excellent new facilities we now have we want parents, staff and students to have the opportunity for using them as much as possible. We are getting more and more requests. In order to ensure safety and responsible use of our facilities we ask that the procedures below are followed when requesting use of our football pitch and the basketball court near the parking lot.

- Reservation must be made through the PE office with Philip Graham, our Athletic Director – preferably by email philipg@vislao.com.
- Philip has organized a calendar for scheduling the use of these two facilities
- Use of the facility is available weekdays during non-school hours and weekends.
- Priority for scheduling will be for VIS student team and event use.
- Any person or group must have a VIS parent responsible during the time of use. The parent must contact Philip requesting the time of use and provide a mobile phone number. Students cannot use the facility during non-school time without a supervising, responsible parent present.
- Individuals and groups need to provide their own sports equipment; e.g. footballs and basketballs
- When arriving to use the facility, the responsible parent must have a VIS photo identity card and register at the front guardhouse. All using the facility should sign the register at the main guardhouse. Parents may sign as a family.
- Non VIS parents and students must pay a fee of 10,000 kip per time for use. This is to be collected by the responsible parent and given to Kaysone, our accountant during a school day.

Non-VIS groups wishing to rent and use the facility must contact me directly and a terms-of-use agreement signed. Again priority will be for VIS community use. There will be no charge for VIS community members to use the facility.

If you have any questions regarding the use of our facilities please contact me directly. director@vislao.com

Steve Alexander

MRISA EXCHANGE - BILLETS REQUIRED

Thank you to the families who have offered to take students for the Cultural Exchange.

We have 97 year six to twelve students from MYRISSA schools in the region coming to take part in a fantastic educational program at VIS from 18th to 22nd February.

Your help is needed. . . . we need families to billet students while they are in Vientiane.

This means families will need to provide the students a place to sleep, breakfast and dinner. They will also need to transport them to and from VIS each day.

Our students receive the same hospitality when they attend these events in other cities.

It is a great opportunity to meet new students and learn about the schools they attend.

We URGENTLY need to hear from you if you are willing to accommodate 2 or more students.

Please contact Olwen Millgate 020 248 5340 or olwen.millgate@yahoo.com.au if you are willing to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Congratulations to all our Primary students for completing a wonderful 1st Semester and for the superb job the teachers have done in ensuring they have met their goals.

Celebrating our Children's Learning .

At the end of the week Primary children will proudly take home their first Semester Report Card and their Portfolio.

This is a special time and I ask that you dedicate specific time over the coming weekend for each of your children to guide you through their portfolio. The Portfolios are collated throughout the semester and show ongoing learning. The students have had input into certain selections and will be able to tell you proudly all about their selections. Very often the work in the portfolio is an assessment but not always. Sometimes it is a draft or a reflection. I would also ask that you talk about the report cards with your children, as there will be no secrets or surprises in them. Together you can talk about their strengths, and areas needing development and their learning goals for 2nd Semester. The Prep—Gr 5 Portfolios should be returned by February 5th so the children and teachers can continue them for 2nd semester.

Looking forward to seeing you at our 2nd Open House for 08-09 on Friday at 2.00pm.

Carmel McCormick

Fun Fair

28th February

1-5pm

Games

Fun

Bake Sale

Fun

Entertainment

Fun

Food & Drinks

Please assist the class parent for your child's class....they are planning games and will need help with rosters and prizes.

Bake Sale...contact Miss Moe Moe for more information.

If you can sing or have a good act and would like to be part of the entertainment program please contact Miss Ben at school.

Start saving your 2000kip notes for the games.

PTA meeting Thursday 5th
EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME
SEE YOU THERE

EY 4—Gr 5 OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY 30TH January
 2.00PM

You will be able to spend time with your children in the various learning areas in the school.

Happy New Year, welcome to Chinese Year 4706 (2009), the Year of the Oz (Ji Chou. 己丑) and Semester Two.

At **Chinese New Year** spring couplets are traditionally written with black ink on red paper. They are hung in storefronts in the month before the New Year's Day and often stay up for two months. The Chinese characters depict **good wishes of prosperity, fortune and peace**. As spring arrives, these couplets usher in a new year with new hopes and a fresh start. These poems must have the same character counts on both sides, the

same structure and harmony in sound. In fact, writing spring couplets became a way of showing off a person's literary talents.

The Vietnamese consider **Tet** to be the year's most important festival. Family members gather in their hometowns, traveling from across the country (or the world) to spend the Tet holidays in each other's company. Tet Nguyen Dan translates literally to "the first morning of the first day of the new year". Long before Tet, Vietnamese try to get rid of any "bad fortune" by cleaning their homes,

buying new clothes, resolving disputes, and paying their debts. Vietnamese also pay tribute to their ancestors throughout Tet. Each mid-day, for the duration of the New Year week, offerings are placed on the household altar and incense is burned in memory of the departed.

There are many important events occurring in the Secondary School in this New Year and new semester that we would like you to add the upcoming events for February and March to your VIS Calendars. Watch Dragon Tales for more details on individual events.

Date	Event	Time
3 rd February	Making Sense of the Marks – VIS Secondary Assessment Parent Forum	7.00pm
6 th February	Semester Reports Distributed	2.48pm
11 th February	Issan Adventures – Grade 6 Study Trip Information Evening	7.00pm
11 th February	Leadership – Grade 7 Study Trip Information Evening	7.00pm
12 th February	In Touch with Nature – Grade 11&12 Study Trip Information Evening	7.00pm
13 th February	Honor Roll Award Assembly and Cultural Exchange Performance	8.10am
18 th – 22 nd February	'Fresh' – Cultural Exchange Hosted at VIS	
25 th February	Rainforest Biodiversity – Grade 8 Study Trip Information Evening	7.00pm
26 th February	ASEAN Heritage – Grade 10 Study Trip Information Evening	7.00pm
19 th March	Secondary Assembly – Grade 6-9 Showcase of Learning	10.05am
5 th – 8 th March	MRISA Sports Exchange	
9 th 13 th March	March Break	
23 rd – 27 th March	Study Trips	



Making Sense of the Marks – VIS Secondary Assessment Parent Forum

On **Tuesday 3rd February at 7.00 – 8.30pm** in the Assembly Room we will be hosting a parent forum which will give you the opportunity to **Make Sense of the Marks**. The focus of this forum

is to introduce you to the forms of assessment used in the Secondary School. This will be occurring through a general presentation and interactive activities with the teachers. Semester Reports will be distributed on the Friday following this forum. Come and gain a better understanding of how to interpret

the reports. There will be translators in Japanese, Korean and Lao. If you are attending with other parents from another language group and would like a translator please contact either Mrs. Kim at king@vislao.com or Mr. Jepson at rowlandj@vislao.com.

Time	Activity
7.00pm	General Overview of VIS Secondary Assessment
7.30pm	Interactive Workshops with Teachers covering a variety of subject areas and grade levels
8.15pm	Question and Answers

HAPPY BELATED AUSTRALIA DAY AND REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA