

Dragon Tales

Volume 9 Issue 35

Monday, May 25, 2009

FREE

WHAT'S ON?

FOR THE LOVE BBALL CAMP
Monday May 25 - Friday May 29

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM
Friday May 29 & Friday May 30

STAFF WORKDAY
Monday June 1
No school for students.

FINAL PRIMARY ASSEMBLY
Tuesday June 2 at 8:15am

FINANCE MEETING
Tuesday June 2 at 12pm

YOUTH NIGHT MEETING
Wednesday June 3 at 7pm

GRADUATION 2009
Friday June 12 at 6pm

Class of 2009



(back left-right: Adam Mather, Tom Bott, front left-right: Sang Joon Park, Amanda McAlister, Apinapa Ounon, Jessie Baroi, Han Sol Kim)

ART EXHIBITION FOR VIS STUDENTS

By Jamie Henderson
SECONDARY ART TEACHER

VIS will be showcasing artwork from graduating Grade 12 and current Grade 11 students this Thursday evening from 6pm to 8pm. The venue will be the conference room in the administration building on campus. All are invited to help celebrate our young artists' achievements.

Light refreshments will be served.

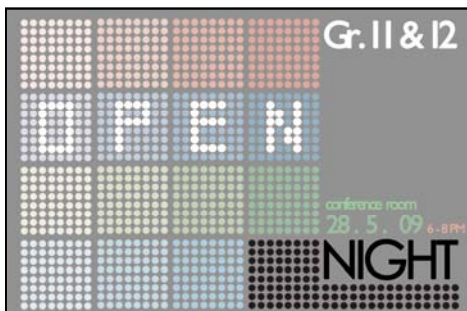
By Jessie Baroi & Mr. Fernandez

The seniors will be graduating very soon and it is time to reflect on their lives before they all head off into new directions. High school graduation is a time for the graduates to think back on their life when they were growing up and living under their parents' roof, to remember the happy and sad times, the laughter as well as the arguments and the smiles as well as the tears.

Graduation is a time to remember what

students have done in their last few years of school. It is a time to consider their future. It is time to say goodbye to old friends and an old life and saying hello to the future. High school graduation comes only once in a person's lifetime so come and celebrate Gradation with the Class of 2009!

Tickets per person cost 200,000 Kip and we would like to request everyone to buy their tickets as soon as possible. You can purchase your tickets from Ms. Paramy at the office. The ceremony is definitely an exciting event to look forward to!



PUBLIC NOTICE

Finance Meeting Budget 2009/2010
Tuesday June 2nd @12pm
Conference Room, Administration Building
All parents welcome

LIBRARY ALIVE WEEK

By **Jeanette Brooker**
LIBRARIAN

Last week's Library Alive celebrations certainly brought about a library alive with students. Activities were enjoyed by students of all ages and we even got in the *Vientiane Times*.

Congratulations to the following people. The winners of the Come as a Character Day were Ella from Grade 6 for her Willy Wonker costume and to Mr. Pichet at the guardhouse for his wonderful original tree-man costume. Keep an eye out for photos of other highly commendable students and staff. Jacob McNamara was our lucky winner of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* set of 4 books.

There were many happy faces after the Big Book Swap and both the treasure hunts on Thursday saw the library

swamped with students looking for clues and demolishing bookshelves at the same time! There were some wonderful creative people wearing t-shirts on Friday with the winners to be announced on Tuesday. Unfortunately we did not have enough Secondary students sign up for the hip-hop competition so this has been postponed until this Friday and will only take place if we have more than 4 students taking part. Students wishing to participate must sign up in the library before this Friday.



TIME TO BRING THOSE BOOKS BACK!

By **Jeanette Brooker**
LIBRARIAN

It is that time of year again when the Library stops lending books. From this Tuesday onwards no more books can be borrowed. Please ensure that you return all your books by June 2nd at the very latest. Please remember that Library books that are not returned will need to be paid for. You will not receive your school report cards if you have outstanding library fines.

Primary News

By **Carmel McCormick**
PRIMARY HEAD

The past week was a busy one indeed and we have many more events in the next few weeks.

Congratulations to the Library staff and Library Alive committee for a successful week. Thank you to teachers, students and parents for your involvement in the Library Alive Week. We saw lots of creativity, imagination and risk-taking. The Grade 2s entertained us in readers' theatre in the Library during lunchtime. It was lovely to see students young and old attend as the students from 2C read the play "The Emperor's New Clothes." Thank you to Rebecca Cameron and her team of parent volunteers for facilitating the Book Swap on Wednesday. The children were thrilled to be able to choose "new" books.

The Grade 1s took part in their Arts

night on Wednesday evening at 5pm. This earlier timeslot seemed to suit us all. Thank you to Mia for treating our artists young and old with your delicious treats. A special thanks to Ms. Patrice and Mr. Paul for organizing and preparing the children for the evening and to Mrs. Roslyn and Mrs. Jill for your help.

The Grade 4s and 5s enjoyed a dance at VIS last Thursday from 6pm to 8pm. Thank you to Ms. Jodi, Ms. Catherine and the SAG for organizing the dance and the pizza! This was Ms. Jodi's last SAG event. Ms. Catherine has been assisting Ms. Jodi the last month and will take on the role of facilitator next year.

We finished the week off with a Primary Assembly on Friday morning. The Grade 4s showed us that being a successful artist is worth taking a risk! Students hit the *VIS runway* in creations they had designed themselves with their peers being real life commentators. Finally, the Grade 2 botanists shared recent work from the "Sharing the Planet Unit".

The weeks ahead

Ms. Moe Moe will be spending time in classes to go through "careful hand washing" procedures. She will also be inviting the students to participate in a game to encourage them to read the posters she has placed around the school in

regards to health and safety.

We wish our Grade 5 students well on their study trip this Wednesday to Friday. Acknowledgment and thanks goes to Ms. Paula and Mr. Phou who have spent many hours preparing for the trip. We are also very grateful that Ms. Patrice, Mr. Ron and Mr. Durkin are able to assist us by taking part in the study trip.

This week the transition program for Grade 5s finishing Primary school and preparing for Secondary school officially begins. Grade 5 parents and students will receive more information on this from Mrs. Kim and Ms. Paula.

We are nearing the PYP Authorizations visit. Our visiting team Ms. Tania Lattanzio and Mr. Peter Kenny will be at VIS on June 4th and 5th. The visiting team will be conducting class visits and having meetings with teachers, students, management and parents.

Keep Friday June 12th 8:15am to 9:15am free. This will be a special end of year Primary Assembly for all Primary students, teachers and parents. We will celebrate the Grade 5s completion of Primary school, give thanks to all those who have helped us this year and pay special attention to the families and teachers who will leave VIS at the end of the school year. The Assembly will be in the Canteen.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

MRISA Participation Survey for Grade 6-12 Parents

Attached to Dragon Tales today is a survey for Grade 6-12 parents about student participation in Mekong River International Schools Association (MRISA) exchanges. We ask that you please fill this out and return it to the office. Thank you.

Meeting for Youth Night

There will be an organization meeting for parents of Grade 6-12 students who would be willing to commit with helping run a Youth Night at VIS next year. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7pm in the conference room of the Administration Building.

Pandemic Action Plan

We have recently completed a major revision of our Pandemic Response Action Plan. It can be viewed on our website www.vislao.com. We ask that all parents visit the website soon and review our action plan. At present we are at Phase 3 (from WHO) and this means that there is no threat and we should all be going about business as usual. Steps are being taken to ensure that we are prepared for an emergency situation including installing an emergency phone contact system (sms). We have stockpiled disposable face masks and we are organizing a team to carry out monitoring of anyone (for fever and cough) should this be necessary. We

have also identified an emergency isolation room and have upgraded and increased our cleaning program to help eliminate potential problems.

Ms. Moe Moe, our nurse, will be updating the billboard at the entrance walkway to keep everyone informed. We will also send information via Dragon Tales when necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on 020 7872820, director@vislao.com or alexandersteve@hotmail.com.

VIS Strategic Plan

Please be sure to visit our website later this week to view the VIS Strategic Plan. A summary is posted and you can download the plan in its entirety. An updated report of the Strategic Plan will be given at the Annual General Meeting this September.

Class Splitting Priorities

We are now well into the planning process for next year. One of our tasks is to begin constructing the homeroom lists for the 2009-10 Academic Year.

The Management and Teachers spend considerable time on this task and consider a wide range of issues including those relating to: language needs, balance of gender, nationalities, abilities, self-management and relationships with peers.

These lists are, of course, not finalized until early August when the final enrolment is completed. Class lists will be posted on the VIS website and in the glass showcases near the main guard house two days prior to the commencement of school.

end of the school year. If your child/ren will not attend VIS next year, please fill out this form and return it by Friday June 5, 2009.

All leaving students will receive a package containing their last two year's report cards, a Letter of Attendance and a Certificate of Appreciation. Requests for any other documents must be made with at least 10 working days notice.

Should you be departing earlier than June 17, you must notify the school (put date on the form) at least 5 working days before your last day so that leaving docu-

From the Boardroom

By Steve Gluning
BOARD CHAIR

At the Board Meeting of 6 May 2009 we discussed the regular Agenda Item 'Comments from the Community'. The Board believes strongly that this is a very useful forum for anyone from the school community to offer comments, concerns and/or issues to the Board for consideration and/or information. However, while in the past 'comments' could be provided anonymously, the Board felt that in the interests of openness and fairness, 'comments' should be associated with the name of the person or group submitting the comment. While the name will not go in the minutes or be recorded anywhere, knowing who has made the comment will also allow for a better understanding of the issue resulting in a better focus for resolving the issue. At the Board Meeting of 20 May 2009, on a majority vote of 5-2 this process was endorsed. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to your continued constructive and informative comments.

STAFF WORK DAY

Monday June 1

There will be no school for students.

LEAVING STUDENTS

By Jamie Toustavong
DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Attached to this week's Dragon Tales is an Official Withdrawal Notification for students who will depart at the

ments can be issued in time, otherwise they will be mailed to you. Semester 2, 2008-2009 report cards will also be mailed to those who leave early.

Leaving documents will only be issued once all school fees and library fines have been paid and after any rented musical instruments, library books and school text books have been returned.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email me at jamiet@vislao.com.

SEMESTER TWO EXAMINATIONS

By Rowland Jepson
DP COORDINATOR

Semester 2 examinations will take place from 8 to 10 June 2009 (5 June-10 June for some 11th and 12th Grade students).

11 th and 12 th Grades			
	Exam 7:45-9:45		
Friday 5 June	Biology	Normal classes for the rest of Friday	
Normal classes <u>all</u> day for non-Biology students.			
	Exam 8:05-10:05	Break 10:05-11:00	Exam 11:05-1:05
Monday 8 June	History		English B French B French ab initio
Tuesday 9 June	English A1		Physics
Wednesday 10 June	Mathematics		ITGS
Normal classes resume on Thursday 11 June for grades 11/12			

10 th Grade			
	Exam 8:05-10:05	Break 10:05-11:00	Exam 11:05-1:05
Monday 8 June	English		French
Tuesday 9 June	Mathematics		Social Studies
Wednesday 10 June	Science		
Normal classes resume on Thursday 11 June for Grade 10			

9 th Grade			
	Exam 8:05-10:05	Break 10:05-11:00	Exam 11:05-1:05
Monday 8 June	Mathematics		Social Studies
Tuesday 9 June	French		Science
Wednesday 10 June	English		
Normal classes resume on Thursday 11 June for Grade 9			

Exam rules will be given to students in the week before the exams. When they are not writing an examination they have only two options:

1. Go to the Study Hall.
2. Leave the campus until their next examination. In order to do this a permission slip will have to be returned, signed by parents.

Each student will receive a letter on Wednesday 20 May with further details about the exams and a permission slip to be signed and returned by Wednesday 27 May.

Permission Needed During Exams

By Rowland Jepson
DP COORDINATOR

A letter was sent home to the parents of all 9th to 12th Grade students last week, with the exam schedule and the exam rules and a letter about what students can do when they do not have exams scheduled. Students whose parents sign the permission slip on that letter may leave school when they do not have exams. **This signed permission form is due back to Advisors by Wednesday 27 May.** If you have not received the letter, please ask your son/daughter for it!



Grades 11/12 Art Exhibition

28 May-4 June
Opening 6.00-8.00pm
Thursday 28 May
VIS Conference Room
All welcome

VIS Secondary Awards Ceremony

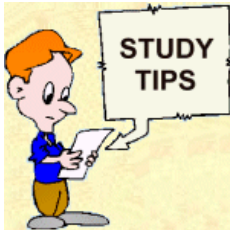


The VIS Secondary Awards Ceremony is an opportunity to recognize students' achievement over the course of the school year. This year's awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday 16th June at 8:15am. We encourage you to come and celebrate the successes of our Secondary students at VIS.

We look forward to seeing you all on **TUESDAY 16th June at 8:15am.**

Study Tip 2

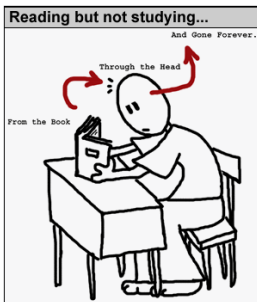
By Rowland Jepson
DP COORDINATOR



Learning and knowledge come from understanding. If you don't truly understand something, your knowledge and recall will always be a little fuzzy. The magic of understanding is that it is more efficient, and recall is much higher than with rote-learning or memorizing. Once a topic is understood the brain makes connections between lots of relevant knowledge. Maybe it's best to imagine it is a superhighway full of hyperlinks.

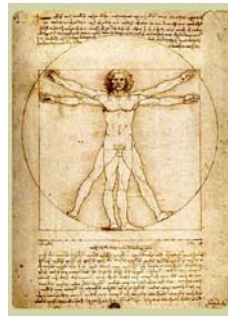
To understand a topic:

1. Break it into small, easily-managed units.
2. Focus on the topic, use revision methods that suit you and be an active reader.



3. Compile really good summaries in note form or on posters, and constantly question yourself to make sure you are understanding what you're studying.
4. Go over the notes and practice exam questions to check your recall and understanding
5. When motivation drops, think about your goals and rewards.

Give yourself time. Your ability to remember something decreases rapidly after 24 hours. To keep retention up, revise learned material regularly. The more times something is effectively revised, the better it is remembered.



Leonardo da Vinci had a 5 point technique for sharpening his wits:

- ♦ Ask questions all the time;
- ♦ Develop your senses (hearing, touch, taste, sight, smell) and use them as learning tools;
- ♦ Read widely to gain knowledge;
- ♦ Learn to draw; and
- ♦ Accept that everything is connected to everything else.

Adapted from Wise guides: Exam Skills by K Brookes (Hodder UK 2002) in VIS Library

What is change and transition?

By Kim Green
MYP COORDINATOR

We are still a number of weeks away from the end of the school year and families are beginning to become aware that they are returning home or moving to a new country. The process of transition can be a difficult one and the information over the following weeks may be useful in preparing your family for the changes ahead. But what is change?

Change is the only constant in our lives. Change is an event that is situational and continual: the new school, the new country, the new grade level, the new boss, the new house, the new job. In the book *Managing Transitions - Making the Most of Change* by William Bridges, **change** is defined as **"The process people go through coming to terms with the new situation."**

The book explains that "change is external", or comes from outside of ourselves. It can be forced or something we choose to do. **"Transition is internal."** **It is our emotional reaction and attitude we use in deciding to accept, adapt or resist change.**

Transition usually starts with an ending or the realization that things are not going to stay the same. In order for us to move forward and have some control over the outcome, we need to let go of the past and start exploring all our options and opportunities.

It is always a good idea to plan ahead, anticipate change and prepare for the transitions we will go through. This will help us to take positive action, get organized and accept change in our daily routine, roles and lives. Changes in schools, grade levels, and the country we live in affect all areas of life, including family, social activities and identity.

It can be useful to look at preparing for the transition by building a **RAFT**. Dragon Tales will feature information on how to build your RAFT. The first step is **RECONCILIATION**.

Before moving there may be a need to reconcile the differences and resolve conflicts. This may involve the need to forgive others and to be forgiven. How this process works may vary from person to person and between cultures. Resolving tensions or conflicts that exist close to the time of departure are likely to be ignored due to the thought of, "I'll be gone in two weeks, why bother sorting out the problem?"

By ignoring the need for reconciliation, closure of issues is not reached and a healthy departure experience may not be possible. In addition the problems do not always go away and when we leave, the mental baggage of unresolved problems goes with us. This may leave a feeling of bitterness, discontentment that may influence the development of future relationships and, if you ever have to face the person again, it may be much harder to resolve the issue.

Talk to your children about the changes that are coming up for them. Is it moving schools, changing countries, changing grades or moving from Primary to Secondary school? Are there people they have differences or conflicts with that they should resolve before the change occurs? Discuss with your child ways that they might be able to reconcile their differences and resolve their conflicts over the next couple of weeks.

Adapted from Pollock, D. & Van Reken.r. (1999).
Third Culture Kids.