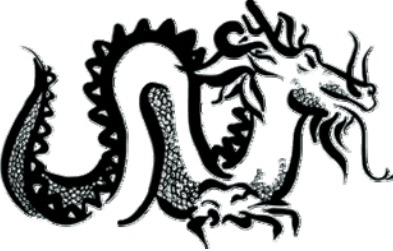


Dragon Tales



Volume 10 Issue 26

Friday, March 19, 2010

FREE

WHAT'S ON?

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Thursday 25 March at 8:10am
Grade Prep hosting

MRISA SENIOR BASKETBALL

Thursday 1 April to Sunday 4 April

DP INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 6 April at 7pm

PI MAI LAO

Monday 12 April to
Friday 16 April
School closed.

SECONDARY CONFERENCES

Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 April

VIS IDOL

Saturday 24 April

DUTCH QUEEN'S DAY SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Saturday 1 May
See article page 4.

VIS COOKBOOK

in English & Lao

Available for purchase
this afternoon at the school
entrance

US\$15

Call Richelle on 020 2530813
or Loretta on 020 5003489

School Photos

By Paramy Vilayvong
PHOTOS COORDINATOR

Sample class photos are now on the notice boards at the school entrance. You may place an order for class photos from today until the end of March. The order form is attached and is also available at the guard house at the entrance of the school.

If you have ordered individual photos, please collect your order from Ms. Song in the office.

Chicken Pox

By Moe Moe Fennema
SCHOOL NURSE

The school has recently reported a case of chicken pox in the Secondary school.

Chicken Pox Symptoms appear as a generalized itchy rash with small fluid-filled blisters, followed by mild fever. Chicken pox is contagious for a period of five days before the onset of blisters and continuing until the blisters dry up, about seven days after the rash first appears. It is spread by direct contact and by droplets in airborne secretions (coughing or sneezing), being especially contagious in the time frame immediately before and after the appearance of the blisters. Incubation period ranges from 13 to 21 days.

Feel free to contact the infirmary if you have specific questions or concerns.

Youth Night

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

We will have a Youth Night from 6pm to 8pm on Friday, March 26th at VIS for all Grade 6-12 students. Entry fee is 10,000 Kip.

MAP Testing

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

We will implement our initial pilot programme of the standardized test, Measure of Academic Progress, to students in grades 4, 5, and 6 during the month of May. MAP tests will be taken in Language, Reading and Math. Each test will be approximately 50 minutes and be taken on a computer. The purpose of the tests is to give teachers diagnostic data about their students. Next year the tests will be given twice; once towards the beginning of the school year, then again at the end of the year. This will give teachers valuable information about student progress. We expect to add other grades to the testing programme next year.

Language Programme

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

On Wednesday, March the 31st, at 8am in the VIS conference room, we will be presenting an overview of the changes to our Language Programme for next year. This will be similar to the presentation our staff made in January. We are hoping that parents who could not attend the previous night session will come to this morning session.

Library Closure

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

IB Asia-Pacific Annual Regional Conference

By Carmel McCormick
PRIMARY HEAD

Next week I shall be attending the 24th IB Asia-Pacific Annual Regional Conference from 25 to 28 March 2010, in Singapore.

“Educators play a pivotal role in helping to develop existing and future generations who are committed to making the world a better place. The theme of the conference “**Unlocking the Treasure Within**” encapsulates the challenges and successes of educators around the world, who strive to promote broader knowledge, deeper understanding and meaningful action. The following sub-themes relate to key ideas from

the IB mission statement each day:

- ♦ Day 1: “Others with their differences can also be right”
- ♦ Day 2: “Developing Inquiring, Knowledgeable, and Caring Young People”
- ♦ Day 3: “A More Peaceful World Through Intercultural Understanding and Respect”
- ♦ Day 4: “Works with Schools, Governments, and International Organizations”

The conference provides strategies that:

- ♦ feature different educational strategies to promote these themes within the context of the IB programmes and schools;
- ♦ offer practical demonstrations from

individuals or groups regarding strategies they have been implementing, the lessons they have learned and the challenges ahead in education for these themes

<http://www.ibo.org/ibap/conference/index.cfm>

The biographies of the key note speakers can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/ibap/conference/Speakers2010.cfm>

Following the conference I have been invited by the IB to be involved in a training day for being part of the PYP School Visiting Team. I shall return to VIS after school on Tuesday March 30th.

I look forward to sharing more about these events on my return.

After School Activities

By Daniel Foggo
ASA COORDINATOR

The third quarter for after school activities (ASA) finishes on Friday, March the 26th. The fourth quarter will begin on Monday, March the 28th. Please return the sign-up sheets to Ms. Paramy or Ms. Song in the office or to Mr. Dan in the PE office. At VIS we are always looking for activity leaders from the community. If you have specific skills in an area and would like to offer an after school activity, please email Mr. Dan at danielf@vislao.com.

There has been great demand for activities that cater for the younger grades, EY4 to Grade 2. In some cases children have had to miss out on their chosen activities.

We would love to see more parent involvement in ASAs. The activities can be as simple as a supervised ‘play’ time

or reading group.

If you have the skills and the willingness to help out with an after school activity, please contact Mr. Dan.

MRISA

By Philip Graham
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

The next two MRISA events are being prepared for and students have started practicing for these two tournaments. The times for practice are below.

Please note that from Monday March the 22nd Junior Boys and Girls Soccer will practice twice a week on Monday and Thursday.

Basketball Tournament

By Philip Graham
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

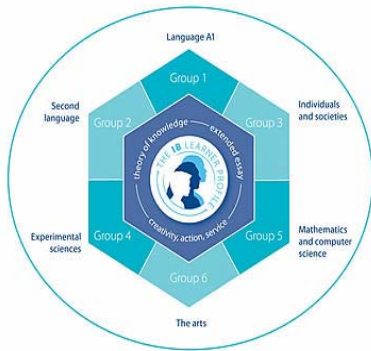
On Friday the 26th of March and Saturday the 27th we will be hosting our annual Basketball tournament at the school. Games will commence Friday afternoon and evening and play will continue Saturday morning and finish in the afternoon. This year we have invited some Laos schools and hope they will add some local color to the tournament, along with our traditional rivals from Hoffet and Kiettisack. More information will be available next week.

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

IB Diploma Programme Evening

for Grade 10 students and parents

By Rowland Jepson
DP COORDINATOR



On Tuesday the 6th of April at 7pm, there will be a meeting for all students who plan to continue at VIS in the 11th grade, and for their parents. At

this meeting you will learn about the IB Diploma Programme. These are some of the questions we will answer:

- ◆ Why do we offer this programme?
- ◆ What are its benefits?
- ◆ What subjects will you study?
- ◆ What will be expected of you?
- ◆ What do you need to do to succeed?
- ◆ What is CAS?
- ◆ What is TOK?
- ◆ What is an Extended Essay?
- ◆ Can I study any language?
- ◆ As a parent, how will I be able to help my son/daughter succeed?

And there will be plenty of opportunities for you to ask further questions!

Please make every effort to attend, as this will be the best forum in which to learn about the programme and its implications for you.

Workshops

By Steve Alexander
DIRECTOR

Three VIS staff members will be attending workshops in the U.S., sponsored by the U.S. Department of Overseas Schools this summer.

Nick Broom will be attending a two-week study at Cape Kennedy in Florida. This workshop focuses on the Science of Space Technology and will provide Nick with materials to use in teaching his IB Physics classes.

Peter Markham will be attending the JOSTI institute for Information Technology teachers in Washington, D.C. This workshop brings together 25 IT teachers from international schools to learn about the latest IT practices and resources available to schools.

Leslie Corcos will be attending a summer workshop for guidance counselors at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. to learn about the latest information for assisting students with university applications, especially applications to North American universities.

All of these workshops are generously funded by the U.S. State Department of Overseas Schools.

global study of SUCCESS STORIES features the IB

Hamish McRae, author of the "The World in 2020" explores the global success of the International Baccalaureate in "What Works: Success in Stressful Times"

Cardiff, UK, International Baccalaureate, 25 January 2010 – Publishers Harper Collins release a new book by Hamish McRae, award winning journalist and author of "The World in 2020". His latest venture "What Works: Success in Stressful Times" is an investigation and analysis of success stories from around the globe that include the International Baccalaureate.

"Schools all over the world are turning to the IB as a way not just to give their students a global academic creden-

tial, but much more to equip them to be good citizens of the world in their own individual way," said Mr. McRae. "I gave a talk about the changing world economy to a group of IB people and came away thrilled by what I had learnt. Visiting schools in the UK, the USA and, by chance, Estonia totally confirmed this view. It is wonderful to know that the next generation of people who will be running the show is so good."

Mr. McRae visited two IB World Schools for his study of the IB: Sevenoaks, Kent, UK and Curtis High School in Staten Island, New York, USA, experiencing classroom teaching firsthand and speaking with students, educators and heads of both schools.

"What Works: Success in Stressful

Times' is a strong testimonial of the impact an IB education can have in demanding times," said the IB's Director General, Jeffrey Beard. "Not only do our programmes provide students from all backgrounds with the skills to succeed in the 21st century; they also provide schools with an opportunity to play a transformative role in the future of their communities.

Founded in 1968, the IB works with more than 2,800 schools in 138 countries to offer and develop its three challenging programmes to more than 775,000 students ranging in ages 3 to 19. The IB encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. It also serves in an educational advisory capacity to other educational organizations. To learn more about the IB, please visit: www.ibo.org

- IB press release

Dragon Café at VIS Is seeking two staff members immediately

PROFESSIONAL CHEF

- Demonstrated skill & experience
 - Creative & Energetic
- Able to cook Asian & Western foods
 - Focused on healthy foods
- English-speaking abilities preferred

ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting degree w/ 2+ years experience
- Responsible for stock control & orders
 - Proficient in use of computer
- English-speaking abilities preferred

Applicants please contact Nalin @
nalinmr@yahoo.com or call
020 5613825 before
March 26, 2010

2nd annual North Sea Soccer Tournament

Saturday 1, May
9am-2pm

on the VIS soccer field
for the wider community, in
honor of



Koninginnedag!

Dutch Queen's Day

Start training NOW in teams of 7,
preferably mixed gender, age 13
and up.

Register your team under a
national flag (if mixed nationality,
choose one!) with Francis at
Fran.Taylor@digitaldividedata.com.
Maximum of 16 teams, so be
fast! More details will follow.

Questions: call Nicolette Baan
020 5795282 or email
Fran.Taylor@digitaldividedata.com.



EARTH HOUR

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

8:30 P.M.

TURN OFF YOUR LIGHTS.

Grade 10 Phu Bia Mining Study Trips for MYP Assignments

By Peter Markham
MYP TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Grade 10 students recently had a once in a lifetime introduction to the mining industry in Laos with a fascinating study trip to Phu Bia Mining Limited's Phu Kham Copper Gold Project in Xaysomboun. These study trips form part of summative and formative assessment requirements for the IBMYP programmes at VIS (Humanities, Science & Technology).

The students were divided into three

groups and went to the mine site on:

- ♦ 17th & 18th of February - girls
- ♦ 22nd & 23rd February - boys
- ♦ 25th & 26th February - girls

The study trips focused on three subject areas in Secondary. A "One World Essay" for MYP Science, "Technology Used in the Mining Industry Presentation" for MYP Technology, and "Microfinance and Village Community Development Fund" for Humanities. The trips were an excellent opportunity to develop interdisciplinary links between MYP subject areas as well as for

students and teachers to experience a mine site operation and the challenges facing mining in Laos today.

Students stayed overnight at the mining campsite and were introduced to many departments within the company. These departments included Administration, Warehouse & Supply, Mining, Processing Operations, Environment & Sustainability and the Laboratory at the Plant Site. Students also saw actual mining in action as well as the local mining and village community.

Students were introduced to various processes on site, extraction of metals from ores, laboratory testing techniques, vehicle simulator equipment, the geology of minerals, micro-finance programmes for local villages and technology utilized in the mining industry in remote places.

Vientiane International School and the Grade 10 students enjoyed the trip thoroughly and would like to thank Phu Bia Mining Limited especially Mr. Alistair Maclean, General Manager of External Affairs and Mr. Rob Usher, General Manager of Phu Kham Operations, for giving us the opportunity to visit their mining operations and for the valuable orientation given to students on arrival.

We would also like to thank Phu Bia Mining Limited for providing our students with accommodation, transportation and food during the study trips. Vientiane International School would finally like to thank Phu Bia Mining for its continuing support of our students and programmes at VIS.

