



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Christmas Around the World

Christmas is celebrated around the world and in many different cultures. Here is a short list of different ways that Christmas is celebrated around the world: ¹

- **On January 6, the three wise men come to visit and also leave gifts for the children. (Spain)**
- **It is tradition to leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness out as a snack for Santa. (Ireland)**
- **Children sometimes leave their shoes out to be filled instead of stockings. (Mexico)**
- **On Christmas Eve, a bowl of porridge called "nisse" is left in the barn for the gnome who protects the farm. (Norway)**
- **Churches are decorated with balloons, ribbons, flowers and green plants as well as Christmas trees. (Kenya)**
- **At Christmas dinner, a plum pudding is served with little treasures hidden inside that bring their finders good luck. (Britain)**
- **On Christmas day most people go to "Christmas Church" and afterwards visit the grave sites of their loved ones and light candles for them. (Finland)**
- **It is tradition to give a bag of dried lentils to your good friends to make lentil soup. (Italy)**
- **Christmas dinner is eaten outdoors and is followed by a visit to the beach or a game of cricket. (Australia)**
- **Children decorate their Christmas lists with pictures and then leave them on the windowsill overnight, weighed down with a little sugar so they won't be missed by Father Christmas. (Germany)**

At the core of the Christmas season is the idea of giving gifts. This is based on the fact that God gave the ultimate gift to the world in His Son Jesus. Over the last century or so that idea has been commercialized in many parts of the world and some of the story is lost in all the Christmas paper and toys tucked under the Christmas tree. What you will find however in cultural Christmas celebrations around the world is still the primary reason for celebration – that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. During this Christmas season we are encouraged to celebrate God's gift by giving gifts to each other. The toys and other gifts we buy from the stores are one way of showing our love. However, we can also give gifts that are not just *from* us but *of* us - gifts that are not just "presents" but gifts that present our love to those around us. These can come in the form of time, effort, or other personal sacrifice. For example:

- a certificate for a one hour back rub (one of my favorites)
- a commitment to make supper once a week for your wife
- a homemade gift that shows thought and love
- a skill you have being offered to them (baking, tutoring, etc.)

Interestingly enough these are the gifts that often get remembered for years after the others have been forgotten, thrown out, or sold at a garage sale.

To all of the Dalat community I want to wish you a wonderful Christmas season, a happy New Year, and a restful school break. The staff at Dalat looks forward to partnering with you again next semester.

Have a great weekend,

Karl Steinkamp
Director

¹ <http://northpole.net/world.htm>

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The final HS exams for this semester will be taking place Monday the 17th through to Thursday the 20th. Students with exam conflicts or doubles should make arrangements with their teachers to take their exam at an alternate time during the exam week. During the exam schedule school is over at 12:30 each day. Local students are encouraged to go home and study for the upcoming exams the next day. If students do choose to stay on campus they are expected to use the time to study. The final exam schedule is available for download off the school's web page (<http://www.dalat.org>). Also, students and parents will not have access to PowerSchool from December 15-23. PowerSchool will be "blacked out" to allow teachers the ability to complete their semester end grades and comments.

[Fred Colburn](#)
High School Principal

ELEMENTARY / MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

It was a packed house at the Middle school band and choir concert on Tuesday where the MS students had a chance to show case their musical skills. Thanks to all of the parents who came out to listen and to cheer on students. The atmosphere was "cozy" but festive and it was a wonderful chance to see how far the students have come this semester. On Friday afternoon the middle school drama team will present their play. Next Tuesday night is the elementary school musical and the 5th grade students will be performing on Monday at the Kwan House. This is a busy time of year.

There is a lot of hard work going on...but there is still time to play! Students had a great chance to do that this week as we visited the "Adventure Zone" play park at the Golden Sands resort in Batu Ferringi. Students tested their bravery going down the

slides, enjoyed chasing each other through an obstacle course and had fun playing with their teachers. Everyone came back sweaty and tired, but wearing big smiles on their faces.



Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Sasse and Ms. Bodley racing to the bottom.

[Brian Brewster](#)

Preschool-Gr 8 Principal

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Elementary School Pajama/Movie Day Tuesday, 18 December



Please have all Elementary School students come to school in their pajamas this Tuesday, 18 December for Pajama/Movie Day at Dalat! Students may bring a stuffed animal and pillow for the movie which will be at the end of the day!

[Brian Brewster](#)

Preschool-Gr 8 Principal

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Construction on Campus During School Break

Dalat has some exciting changes coming during the Christmas school break this month and in January that we wanted to make you aware of. Some of these have been improvements that the school has planned for some time and some are the result of last school year's Annual Fund!



- **Outside Basketball Court** will be resurfaced this school break. The actual covering will be built off campus next semester and be installed next summer break.

- **Student Center Renovations** to include expansion and added air conditioning to make the facility more comfortable and useable for our students. This is being accomplished because of the Annual Fund.
- **Gym Floor** will be resurfaced with newly painted lines and school logo to benefit our athletic programs and PE department. Half of this project is made possible because of the Annual Fund.
- **Power Station will be online** in the next few weeks and will be ready to use for the start of our next semester. Approval has been obtained and we will be working with TNB to get it connected soon.
- **Painting:** interior and exterior painting will be done to many of the middle school and high school classrooms as well as some of the campus dorms.

You may see workman around before the semester ends or at the beginning of next semester; and if so please keep children away from work areas. We will make sure work areas are blocked off appropriately. **In a few months we will have some great new additions to our campus!**

[Larry Chinn](#)

Director of Development

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, 18 Dec	Elementary Musical in the Chapel, 7:00pm
Wednesday, 19 Dec	Elementary Sport Day
Thursday, 20 Dec	Grade 5 Christmas Presentation (Chapel, 8:30 AM) Last Day of School – ES Out at 12:30pm

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Monday	Chicken Curry, White Rice, Veggies Sandwich Bar: Egg Salad and PB&J, Salad Bar, Ice Cream Milk/Milo
Tuesday	Potato Soup, Whole Wheat Rolls, Chicken Pasta Salad, Sandwich Bar - Tuna Salad and PB&J, Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo
Wednesday	Hokkien Mee, Fried Rice, Veggies Sandwich Bar - Chicken Salad and PB&J , Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo
Thursday	Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Corn Sandwich Bar: Ham & Cheese and PB&J,

Salad Bar, Fruit, Juice

Adventure Zone

Adventure Zone Provides Endless Fun for Dalat Students!



The brand new Adventure Zone at the Golden Sands Hotel in Batu Ferringhi invited all Dalat students from Preschool through Grade 6 this week to enjoy a few hours of fun playing on exciting slides, running through the obstacle course and enjoying refreshments all courtesy of the Golden Sands Hotel. This experience has provided a great athletic opportunity for Dalat kids as well as a place to have a great time! The Adventure Zone is an air conditioned, indoor facility for kids of all ages with breathtaking slides for the more adventurous and ball pits and obstacle courses for younger guests. They also have facilities for birthday parties, team building activities, game room and soda shop for parents to relax and get something to drink.



The Dalat students were broken up into three groups of 60 over three days. The kids were most impressed with the various slides and all came back exhausted from a rigorous morning workout. Take a look at their website at www.adventurezone.com.my.

It is a great place to visit during the school break!

[Click for more pictures of Dalat students at Adventure Zone](#)

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



ISAKL Swim Meet – Bukit Jalil Stadium Dec 7th KL:

Congratulations to our single Dalat entry Simon Karing who competed in this annual competition. This would be our 1st athlete to participate from Dalat for quite some time. Certainly the 1st in my brief history here at Dalat. As the youngest entry in the U13 category Simon managed to stay in the top ½. 50M Breastroke/Free: 4th/7 & 4th/8 respectively. 100M Breastroke/Free: 3rd/7 & 4th/8 respectively. Many thanks to his highly motivated mother/coach Sue Hee for entering her son & accompanying him all the way to KL. We could not have done it without her motivation & dedication! Plans are already in effect for several others to participate in the 2008 version & Sue Hee tells me we will have enough boys for a relay which is very exciting.

I have received the MSSPP Schedule of events. Anyone interested in Track & Field

needs to tell me before the holidays because entries are due Jan 21st before our 2nd Semester resumes & competitions begin Jan 28th! Cross Country is scheduled to happen Jan 21st which is the earliest I can remember. Soccer is next up scheduled to begin Feb 18th.

HS Girls & Boys will have the opportunity to travel to a tourney of the basketball variety at ISKL the weekend of January 24th-25th. Then the local MSSPP season will begin with Cross Country, Track & Field, Boys Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis & Softball to mention some of the major sports.

That's all for this week folks. Have a wonderfully restful but hopefully active Christmas Holiday.

CU next semester.

[Gerry Steiert](#)

PE Dept HP 012-430-6896

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Upcoming Fine Arts Department Events:

Middle School Drama

Friday, December 14, 3:10 PM

Grade 5 Christmas Presentation at Kawan House

Monday, December 17, 12:00 PM

Elementary Christmas Musical

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 PM

Grade 5 Christmas Presentation for Elementary Chapel

Thursday, December 20, 8:30 AM



GRADE 5 CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

Dalat's 5th Grade will be providing Christmas entertainment for the people who come to Kawan House for lunch on **Monday, December 17th**. Located in downtown Georgetown, Kawan is a ministry to needy street people, providing food and facilities for rest and refreshment. Our 5th graders will perform a Christmas program and pass out treats to an estimated 80 homeless people that day.

The same program will be performed at Dalat for the Elementary Chapel on **Thursday, December 20th**, at 8:30 AM. Parents are invited to attend the performance on Thursday.

CHARITY AND COMPASSION

It is in giving that we receive.



Charity & Compassion

It is in giving that we receive.

Our refugee relief donations have been delivered and very much appreciated by the recipients. We will be continuing to support them on a long term basis and so I will be making their needs known in the future through this newsletter.

We are still in need of the following items for our 2007 Christmas projects.

- *Large bags of rice, Milo and milk powder for Sunshine Home in Kulim and the Dhyana Ashram Boys home in Kulim.*
- *Cash to purchase necessary items for poor families.*

If you would like to help out either financially or physically please contact Beth Steiert bsteiert@dalat.org 012 430 2231

Where Charity & Love exist, God is there. Thank you for your donation

MOVIE REVIEWS

Movie _____ Rating _____

Acceptable

Alvin and the Chipmunks US-PG, MY-U
Strong sexual content, crude humor and language

Enchanted US-PG, MY-U
Some scary images. Overall great Disney film.

I Am Legend US-PG13, MY-U
Very scary with disturbing images but otherwise clean. High school only

***The Golden Compass** US-PG13, MY-U
Sequences of fantasy violence, anti-religion themes.

Not Acceptable

The Ferryman US-NA, MY-18PL
Intense horror, inappropriate images and language

The Heartbreak Kid US-R, MY-U
Strong sexual content, crude humor and language

Hitman US-R, MY-NA
Strong violence, language and sexuality

The Kingdom US-R, MY-NA
Graphic brutal violence and inappropriate language

*Please note that **The Golden Compass** is an adaptation of part of an objectionable trilogy of novels. Titled *His Dark Materials*, the books were written to be an influential atheistic counterpart to "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "The Lord of the Rings." They are aimed at children and were written by anti-God activist Phillip Pullman.

Larry Chinn
lchinn@dalat.org

DIS DAILY BULLETIN

The Dalat International School Daily Bulletin contains announcements for students, staff, and parents. You can subscribe to receive the bulletin by email. To subscribe simply send a blank message to DALAT-BULLETIN-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@netpals.lsoft.com.

DIS INFORMATION

Online back issues are available at <http://www.dalat.org/news.html>

Dalat International School
Tanjung Bunga
11200 Penang, Malaysia
+60 (4) 899-2105

info@dalat.org

Copyright © 2007, Dalat International School