



DALAT NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 6

21 Sept, 2007

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Water Is Warm: Television

There are five areas where our modern media is having a dramatic impact on our culture today. Bob Demoss in his book *Learn to Discern* talks about the "new center of learning" for our youth in today's culture. In the past the center of learning was the home and school but today much of the "learning" that is taking place for kids is coming from the advertising, TV, film, and music industries. The Internet should also be mentioned. Although the Internet itself is not an industry, it is a powerful conduit for the other four.

Each of these industries in and of themselves can have a book written about the influence they are having on our culture and our children, many books have. I want to very briefly highlight these over the next couple of weeks starting this week with television:

Television:

We have all heard the statistics but let me give some to help in the discussion: (I have highlighted ones in red that should cause us serious alarm.)

I. FAMILY LIFE

Percentage of households that possess at least one television: 99

Number of TV sets in the average U.S. household: 2.24

Percentage of U.S. homes with three or more TV sets: 66

Number of hours per day that TV is on in an average U.S. home: 6 hours, 47 minutes

Percentage of Americans that regularly watch television while eating dinner: 66

Percentage of Americans who say they watch too much TV: 49

II CHILDREN

Approximate number of studies examining TV's effects on children: 4,000

Number of minutes per week that the average parent spends in meaningful conversation with his/her children: 3.5

Number of minutes per week that the average child watches television: 1,680

Percentage of day care centers that use TV during a typical day: 70

Percentage of parents who would like to limit their children's TV watching: 73

Percentage of 4-6 year-olds who, when asked to choose between watching TV and spending time with their fathers, preferred television: 54

Hours per year the average American youth spends in school: 900 hours

Hours per year the average American youth watches television: 1500

III VIOLENCE

Number of murders seen on TV by the time an average child finishes elementary school: 8,000

Number of violent acts seen on TV by age 18: 200,000

IV. COMMERCIALISM

Number of 30-second TV commercials seen in a year by an average child: 20,000

Number of TV commercials seen by the average person by age 65: 2 million

Percentage of survey participants (1993) who said that TV commercials aimed at children make them too materialistic: 92

Compiled by TV-Free America
1322 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 887-4036

<http://www.csun.edu/science/health/docs/tv&health.html>

One of the most chilling statistics is that over half of our children 4-6 years old would rather watch TV than spend time with their dads. If we as families are averaging approximately 4 minutes of *meaningful* conversation with our children a week and they are watching TV **420** times more than that why are we surprised when they follow the values and morals that are espoused each and every day through that "little" black box? Why are we not utterly shocked by these statistics and why isn't the Christian community taking active steps to combat these trends? Why are not more pastors leading their communities in taking the TV off the family altar and giving families specific skills on how to use this medium in positive and effective ways? How hot is the water?

Have a good weekend.

[Karl Steinkamp](#)

Director

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Each Friday afternoon all of our middle school students gather together for an activity. This is a fun time to do some team building, celebrate middle school, and do something different than normally done in the classroom. We have already had a wide range of activities this year. We had a Merdeka day scavenger hunt where kids researched the answers to questions about Malaysia in an attempt to win a prize. We had student government speeches for those running for office. Last Friday students spent time learning 10 simple steps for reducing the energy consumption in the home. Hopefully, you are well on the way to implementing some of these in your own house. This Friday students are spending time building and flying kites. If you are an expert in something, or have a suggestion for an activity that students will enjoy, we welcome your participation and input. Just let us know.

[Brian Brewster](#)

Preschool-Gr 8 Principal

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Occasionally I will use this space to discuss issues not specifically related to the school, but that you might find relevant. My note today addresses the safety of the latest footwear fad. Yes they are comfortable (and ugly) but here is a reason to be careful what you put on your feet. This is the shortened version of a news story from CNN's web page, or you can link to the full story here...

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/09/17/crocs.escalators.ap/index.html> .

Crocs, kids and escalators a bad combination?

At rail stations and shopping malls around the world, reports are popping up of people, particularly young children, getting their toes caught in escalators. The one common theme seems to be the clunky soft-soled clogs known by the name of the most popular brand, Crocs. One of the nation's largest subway systems -- the Washington Metro -- has even posted ads warning riders about wearing such shoes on its moving stairways. Four-year-old Rory McDermott got a Croc-clad foot caught in an escalator last month at a mall in northern Virginia. His mother managed to yank him free, but the nail on his big toe was almost completely ripped off, causing heavy bleeding.

According to reports appearing across the United States and as far away as Singapore and Japan, entrapments occur because of two of the biggest selling points of shoes like Crocs: their flexibility and grip. Some report the shoes get caught in the "teeth" at the bottom or top of the escalator, or in the crack between the steps and the side of the escalator. The reports of serious injuries have all involved young children. Crocs are commonly worn by children as young as 2. The company introduced shoes in its smallest size, 4/5, this past spring.

In Japan, the government warned consumers last week that it has received 39 reports of sandals -- mostly Crocs or similar products -- getting stuck in escalators from late August through early September. Most of the reports appear to have involved small children, some as young as two years old. In Singapore, a 2-year-old girl wearing rubber clogs -- it's unclear what brand -- had her big toe completely ripped off in an escalator accident last year, according to local media reports. And at the Atlanta airport, a 3-year-old boy wearing Crocs suffered a deep gash across the top of his toes in June. That was one of seven shoe entrapments at the airport since May 1, and all but two of them involved Crocs, said Roy Springer, operations manager for the company that runs the airport terminal

[Brian Brewster](#)

Preschool-Gr 8 Principal

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Join Dalat's Prayer Team!

The Development Department sends out a list of weekly prayer points for Dalat and its students. If you would like to be added to the email list please email Larry Chinn at: lichinn@dalat.org.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, 23 Sept	6.3pm Community Praise & Worship in the Chapel
Wednesday, 26 Sept	6.30pm Prayer Meeting
Friday, 28 Sept	JV Soccer Tournament
Saturday, 29 Sept	JV Soccer Tournament

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Monday	Corn Chowder, Chicken Pasta Salad, Whole Wheat Rolls Sandwich Bar - PB&J, Fried Rice Salad Bar, Ice Cream, Milk/Milo
Tuesday	Sweet and Sour Beef, White Rice, Glazed Carrots Sandwich Bar - Tuna Salad and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Juice
Wednesday	Pork Korma, Lime Rice, Veggies Sandwich Bar - Chicken Salad and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo
Thursday	Honey Mustard Chicken, Peas, Roasted Potatoes Sandwich Bar: Ham & Cheese and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Juice
Friday	Chicken Rice, Vegetables Sandwich Bar: Egg Salad and PB&J with Homemade Bread Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo



CHOCOLATE FRENZY

PTO's first bake sale is coming up next Friday. The theme this time is just chocolate. So, Parents, please donate anything that is chocolate based (cake, cookies, brownies, etc).

Event: Bake Sale
Date: Friday, Sept 28 2007
Time: 3 – 4:30pm
Venue: Canteen

Donations can be dropped off to Amy anytime Friday, or brought directly to the sale table, by 3pm.

Thank you for your support
[The PTO](#)

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Varsity Boys Soccer Mon, Sept 10th 4:30 – Mike Holden & Brian Merusi welcomed the visiting team from Morrison Academy Thurs, Sept 20th, @ College General in the pre-tourney match by handing the travelers a 3-0 loss. Accompanying the team as Ass't coach is former Dorm Parent Steve Stacey & son.

Varsity Soccer Tourney @ Polo Grounds: Thanks to Marsha Yost there is a link to the full schedule on our Dalat home page. Help yourself!
Fri/Sat, Sept 21st & 22nd:

HS Boys: 10 male & 6 female teams will meet up this weekend for a combined total of 38 games. At the point of writing, Jit Sin has just cancelled so I am scrambling to find another entry.

3:00: Dalat JV vs. Chung Ling; Dalat Girls vs MKIS;

4:00: Dalat vs. MKIS

6:00 Dalat JV vs. Alice Smith

Penang State Ladies & our MS team + adults begin action on Sat @ 10:00

Fri/Sat, Sept 28th & 29th:

MS Boys. Dalat; ISKL; Alice Smith; Jit Sin; Heng Ee & Han Chiang have confirmed.

Many member of the Dalat community have volunteered their home as billets for members of the ISKL teams. **Big Thanks** to these people who view the inconvenience as a chance to help out the Dalat players. I will include the full list in next week's edition. When we go to ISKL for their tourney in October they return the favor by hosting our players.

That's all for this week folks...Hopefully we will see you at the tourney this weekend.

[Gerry Steiert](#)

PE Dept HP 012-430-6896

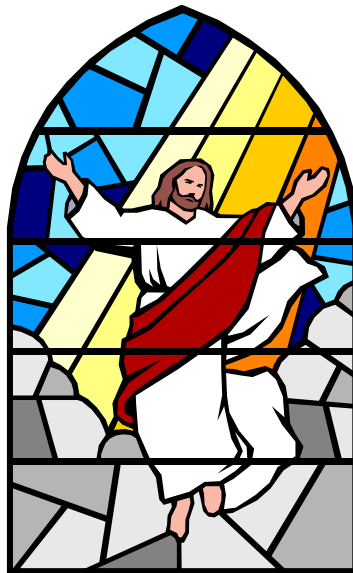
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

PRAISE & WORSHIP

This Sunday, September 23, at 6:30

**“I have seen You in the sanctuary
and beheld Your power and Your glory.”**

—Psalm 63:2—



Our lives are most in balance when we focus on the One who created us. Dalat's monthly Praise & Worship nights are a time for celebrating the blessings and presence of our awesome Creator. Our first P & W of the year is this Sunday, September 23, at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. Students, staff, parents, siblings, friends--the whole community is invited, so please join the Dalat Ambassadors worship team for an hour of music and Scripture proclaiming the glory of God.



BAND INSTRUMENT OFFER

Praise-Yamaha Music Shop of Penang is offering high quality instruments at a discounted rate for any Dalat band students who desire to purchase their own instruments. This special offer is valid until September 23rd and includes a free instrument care kit. Instruments can usually be delivered to the school within a week or so after they are ordered. Please contact Mrs. Brokaw or Mr. Mahoney for further information.

Mrs. Valeri Brokaw, Beginning Bands

vbrokaw@dalat.org 899-2105 ext. 7326

Mr. Kerry Mahoney, HS and Intermediate Bands

kmahoney@dalat.org 899-2105 ext. 7033

FROM THE LIBRARY

Featured New Books in the Library: Check it out!

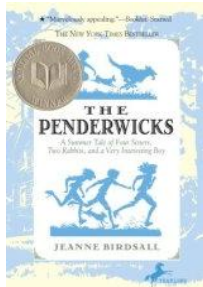
Young Adult



The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol.1 : The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson . This national book award winner received a starred review from both *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*, which wrote that this historical fiction book is an: “episodic, highly ambitious story deeply rooted in eighteenth-century literary traditions, which examines, among many other things, pre-Revolutionary slavery in New England”

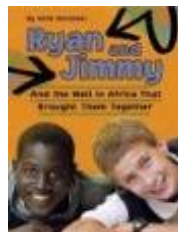
Middle School

The Penderwicks : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters , Two Rabbits, and A Very



Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall. *School Library Journal*'s starred review states: “Problems are solved and lessons learned in this wonderful, humorous book that features characters whom readers will immediately love, as well as a superb writing style. Bring on more of the Penderwicks!” This 2005 National Book Award winning book is sure to please our young middle school students.

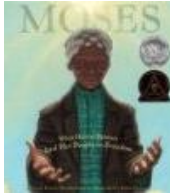
Ryan and Together by



Jimmy: And the Well That Brought Them
Herb Shoveller is an inspiring book that provides an

example of the impact that youth can make on the lives of needy people around the globe. Ryan was determined to raise enough money for a well in Africa, and that he did, and so much more. I've seen that very same enthusiasm on campus here at Dalat, as the middle and high school students raise money to help others in need. Keep up the good work!

Elementary



Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford is a beautifully illustrated and written book. This Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Award winning picture book depicts Tubman's physical and spiritual journey as she leads slaves to freedom.

There are many more new books in the library. Come on in and check one out!

CHARITY AND COMPASSION

It is in giving that we receive.



Charity & Compassion

It is in giving that we receive.

We are still accepting donations to purchase a van for the 13 girls at Chrystal Home, Taiping. We are very close to having enough money to purchase the van and by the grace of God I think we have found a business that has a van to sell in our price range.

There is a constant and daily need for food for many poor families. Please remember to buy local products as the families prefer this and local products are considerably cheaper than imported brands.

Please recycle; it is good for the environment and the proceeds from Dalat recycling goes to benefit the Eden Home Recycling Project and to help the poor?

Please remember our four adopted C & C families with your prayers and donations of food items.

If you would like more information about Charity & Compassion you can call me at 012-430-2231 or contact Beth Steiert bsteiert@dalat.org. Thank you for your donation.

Compassion is the ability to understand another's grief, pain or hardship and move us so greatly that we have no other option but to give of ourselves in some way.

Where Charity & Love exist, God is there.

MOVIE REVIEWS

I have had some recent requests for explanations of the Malaysian movie ratings. I will list them below along with the explanation of the US movie ratings. Hope this is helpful in making wise decisions about choosing entertainment for your family .

Malaysia

- U** – Umum or General in Malay – General viewing for all ages
18SG – Movies for persons above 18 with non-excessive violent/horrifying scenes
18SX – Movies for persons above 18 with non-excessive sex scenes or drug use
18PA – Movies for persons above 18 with religious/political/counter-culture/mature thematic elements
18PL – Movies for persons above 18 with the combination of two or more elements (18SG, 18SX or 18PA)

US

- G** - General Audiences; all ages admitted
PG - Parental Guidance Suggested; some material may not be suitable for children
PG13 - Parents Strongly Cautioned; some material may not be suitable for children under 13.
R - Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No One 17 and Under Admitted

Entertainment is a big part of our student's lives. Making sure the entertainment is safe is a big job. Every week movies are reviewed by Dalat Staff to let students and parents know what, according to our school's values, is acceptable entertainment and what should be avoided. These reviews are to be used only as a guide for your entertainment. I list features of the movie that you may be uncomfortable with so that you can make a wise choice. Keep in mind that some are appropriate for older age groups but because of certain intense situations may not be appropriate for younger viewers. I have included the US Rating as well as the Malaysian Rating. I use the website *Christian Spotlight on Entertainment* for input on reviews.

21 September, 2007

Movie	Rating
-------	--------

Acceptable

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Hairspray | US-PG, MY-U |
| Poor adult examples and suggestive content. Lively and fun musical! | |
| The Invasion | US-PG13, MY-U |
| Classic horror movie with violence, disturbing images and terror. High school only. | |
| Ratatouille | US-G, MY-U |
| Family film, mild inappropriate language | |

Not Acceptable

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| The Brave One | US-R, MY-18PL |
| Strong violence, language, and some sexuality | |
| Fracture | US-R, MY-U |
| Inappropriate language and violence | |
| Knocked Up | US-R, MY-18PL |
| Sexual content, drug use and inappropriate language | |
| Perfect Stranger | US-R, MY-18PL |
| Disturbing violent images and language, inappropriate sexual content | |

Rogue Assassin

US-R, MY-18SG

Extreme violence, sexual content, inappropriate language

Rush Hour 3

US-PG13, MY-U

Sequences of action violence, sexual content, inappropriate dress and language

White Noise 2: The Light

US-PG13, MY-18PL

Intense violence and terror, disturbing images, inappropriate language

Larry Chinn

lchinn@dalat.org

US Embassy Consular Visit

U.S. consular officers are making trips outside of Kuala Lumpur in the coming weeks and will be in Penang **Monday and Tuesday, 1st and 2nd October**. The Embassy will be setting up shop right here **at Dalat International School in Room 10**. They will be taking passport applications back to the Embassy for processing. If you need to renew your passport, your spouse or children's passports, report the birth of an American child, or just need a notary stamp, you can do it here. This is a great chance to renew children's passports, as the consular officers can do all the processing (provided you have all the right papers) without your having to take your child to the Embassy in KL. For further details or questions, please contact klconsular@state.gov



Hours available: Monday, 1 October, 2pm to 5pm; and Tuesday, 2 October 8am to 12noon and from 2pm to 5pm.

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

