



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Water is Warm Part IV

This is our fourth week of looking at the power of media in our world and asking the question “how warm is the water?” – an analogy of how much impact the media is having on our culture and our children. So far we have looked briefly at television and advertising and this week will focus on the movie industry.

Unlike television and advertising the movie industry does not seem to consume the large amounts of time that these other two mediums do. So does this mean that the film industry is less influential than the others in our children's attitudes and perspectives? That is an assumption we dare not make. The film industry is an incredibly powerful medium that has captivated our culture and is preaching a message that our youth are embracing through the emotional rush that comes from the movie experience. Every movie ever made is making a persuasive argument about how we should live and in the darkness of the cinema our children are buying into that argument. Should we be concerned about what that argument is? I believe so. Take a look at the movies on any given weekend at a theater complex and you will see an argument for how we should live, the attitudes we should adopt, and the behavior we should participate in that I do not think we would wish for our children and their future.

I will give only one statistic related to the movie industry to illustrate the *warmth of the water*.

MarketCast of Reed Business Information, which also owns Variety, found that religious people who were "conservative" in their religious doctrine were more likely to see violent R-rated movies than "liberals", 29% compared to 18%. (Ted Baehr - Movie Guide)

Let me leave this section with the following quote about film that illustrates the incredibly powerful influence of movies:

"Television and film have become the storytellers of our generation: these stories tell us about who we are, what we believe, and what we want to be."

Source: *Media and You: An Elementary Literacy Curriculum*, by Kathleen R. Tyner and Donna Lloyd Kolkin.

For those of you who have found this series interesting and thought provoking I would encourage you to purchase a book that makes a very powerful case for parents being more involved in their children's media consumption.

- *The Media –Wise Family* by Ted Baehr

- <http://mediawisefamily.com/>
- <http://www.amazon.com/Media-Wise-Family-Theodore-Baehr/dp/0781403014>

Have a great weekend.

[Karl Steinkamp](#)

Director

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

It was with great pleasure that this past Wednesday at the start of Chapel I presented Andrew Jo with “A Letter of Commendation” from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Andrew is being recognized for his exceptional academic promise after placing in the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who wrote the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) in 2006. “The young people named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program are distinguished by their strong academic performance in this rigorous competition,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. We congratulate Andrew for his strong performance and making Dalat proud.

[Fred Colburn](#)

High School Principal

ELEMENTARY NEWS

“It takes a village to raise a child”. Some might quibble with the nuances of this phrase, especially in the political context that the quote is often used. However, in the educational setting it is true that no one entity can fully educate our kids. The school does its part, but we as educators also know the importance of having parents involved in the process. I want to share a summary of an article that discusses some the reasons that your involvement in an education are important and how you can make a difference.

What is parent involvement and does it make a difference? The researchers define it as “parents’ commitment of resources to the academic arena of children’s lives” and say that it occurs in two places:

- Involvement at school includes general school meetings, attending parent-teacher conferences, initiating contact with teachers, attending school events like open houses and science fairs, volunteering in the school, and taking part in school governance. The research says that this kind of parental involvement often has a positive impact on achievement; it is more common among more economically advantaged parents.
- Involvement at home includes helping children with homework, helping choose a course or a project, talking about what happened in school, encouraging hard work and achievement, and activities not directly related to school work, such as reading to children or visiting a library or museum. Research says that reading to children and taking them on enriching trips

helps school achievement, but some studies show that direct help with schoolwork can actually have a negative impact on achievement.

By what mechanism does parents' involvement influence children's achievement? The authors cite numerous studies that say this can happen in two ways:

- It can develop skills because: (a) being involved gives parents insights about what children are learning in school, which allows them to be helpful as they work with their children; (b) being involved helps parents understand their children's level of achievement; (c) being involved informs parents' efforts to help their children; and (d) teachers tend to give extra attention to children whose parents are involved.
- It can develop motivation because: (a) parent involvement tells children that school is important and helps develop their intrinsic motivation to do well; (b) parent involvement represents an active strategy for dealing with an external agency (school), which can give children a sense of control over academic performance; and (c) parent involvement can help children become more familiar with school tasks and see themselves as more competent in the academic arena.

Summary from the Marshall Memo 199 "The How, Whom, and Why of Parents' Involvement in Children's Academic Lives: More Is Not Always Better" by Eva Pomerantz, Elizabeth Moorman, and Scott Litwack in Review of Educational Research, September 2007 (Vol. 77, #3, p. 373-410).

Many of you already recognize the benefits of helping your children without the need for research to back up what you are already doing. For those of you who are not regularly involved, perhaps this will be your motivation. Thanks for your help!

[Brian Brewster](#)

Preschool-Gr 8 Principal

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Time to Squash the Rumor Weed Again!



Is Dalat International School Moving? No. Not for another six years at least. With the Administration discussing our search for a permanent home for Dalat International School many people around Penang, including parents, are wondering if Dalat is moving to another location or even out of Penang.

The Dalat School Board made its goals and vision for Dalat International School clear last year; to find a permanent location for the school and that **Dalat will be a permanent resident of Penang.** We currently have six years remaining on the lease on our present location and our expectation is that the lease will be renewed. However, Dalat is considering its options in Penang as we secure a permanent home for the school and its future. Our

preferred option is to remain on our present location but there are other local options in the Tanjung Bunga area that are being explored.

Please be in prayer with us as we seek a permanent home for Dalat to secure its success for many years to come in Penang. If you have any specific questions about our school location or hear any other rumors you want to know are true or not please feel free to contact Larry Chinn directly at lchinn@dalat.org. Get the real story.

[Larry Chinn](#)

Director of Development

THIS WEEK

Monday, 8 October	Canadian Thanksgiving
Wednesday, 10 October	6.30pm Prayer Meeting 10 th – 13 th October School Band Trip to Bangkok
Saturday, 13 October	Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)
Monday, 15 October	Hari Raya Pusasa (School Holiday)

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Monday	Beef Rendang, White Rice Sandwich Bar - PB&J, Fried Rice, Salad Bar, Ice Cream, Milk/Milo
Tuesday	Chicken in Spiced Coconut Sauce Yellow Rice, Steamed Veggies Sandwich Bar- Tuna Salad and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Juice
Wednesday	Beef Burgandy, Egg Noodles, Corn, Sandwich Bar-Chicken Salad and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo
Thursday	Tomatascioli, Peas Sandwich Bar: Ham & Cheese and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Juice
Friday	Steamed Chicken, White Rice Sandwich Bar: Egg Salad and PB&J Salad Bar, Fruit, Milk/Milo

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

All parents of Dalat International School are invited to attend a presentation on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00p.m. in the chapel. The presentation will be on the Special Services Code of Practice (SSCOPE). Come join us and learn about how we service students with special educational needs. If you have any questions, please

contact the Special Services coordinator, Rachel Abraham at rabraham@dalat.org. See you there!

FACILITIES

In our continuing efforts to make things safer for our children on campus we will be installing a chain barrier similar to the new one by the gym in front of the office on both sides of the road. The intent of this barrier is to encourage the students to use the designated crosswalks (Black and White striped) during those times of the day that vehicle traffic is very busy on campus and at the same time protect them from crossing in front of vehicles in areas that are not supervised. On an initial trial basis the chains will be in place during end of the school day only, between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm. We thank you in advanced for your patience and cooperation in making this a safe place for us all.

Have you checked out the pool lately? Thanks to Jenny Chan and her family for donating all the plants around the pool area, in front of the gym and in several other places around campus. Thank you Chan family!

Patrick Rogers
Facilities Coordinator

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



MS Boys Soccer – Sat, Sept 29th:

The teams in attendance this year were quite strong & despite some fine play from our home boys, Dalat did not make it into the playoffs. Alice Smith took home the Gold to sit alongside their U18's winnings from last weekend; Silver medals went to Han Chiang & Uplands, with no practices at all yet this season, managed to convincingly defeat ISKL for the Bronze medals.

Yet again Dalat Community members offered sleeping quarters for players from ISKL this past weekend: Steel, Steinert, Boshoff, Munson, Nollan & Case deserve a BIG THANKS! The U15 Boys & their coach, **Ben Stutzman** really appreciate your assistance.

Varsity Boys: Will be playing a visiting team from Australia Wed, Oct 17th, 5:00 @ City Stadium. If you are interested in attending & need more info, please contact me & I will help you.

Floorball Sat Sept 29th & 30th: Homegrown talent **Jason Selva**, along with the Penang Floorball association once again organized their annual tourney this past weekend featuring 10 teams. Dalat 1 managed to place 1st in their pool and advance into the final round against the #1 ranked team from Subang, featuring a couple of National/world players. Unfortunately the outsiders proved too strong, claiming a

shutout in their 4-0 win for the Gold over our hometown heroes who were happy to receive the Silver medals.

Girls Softball: Our revived girls softball team met the parents in a friendly game yesterday on upper field. However, congratulations go out to our Dalat Staff Ladies Softball Team as they defeated the Dalat varsity squad 13-5. Lisa Munson, Jodi McKenzie, Shauna Archer and Vicky Moss each had two hits for the winners. The varsity girls were led by Chan-Mi Kim and Brittany Sasse each also collecting two hits. Thanks to all who participated!

HS Girls Soccer: Uplands is going to join us for a game this Mon, Oct 8th 4:45 @ College General.

U9 Soccer:

Carla Loehden's squad will be playing the team from St. Christopher's this coming Mon, Oct 8th & Tues Oct 9th.

Futuristic Tournaments:

Oct 19th & 20th: HS Girls & Boys are heading to the annual Soccer tourney @ ISKL.

Dalat Basketball Tourney

Nov 16th-17th: HS Girls

Nov 30th – Dec 1st: HS Boys

That's all for this week folks...

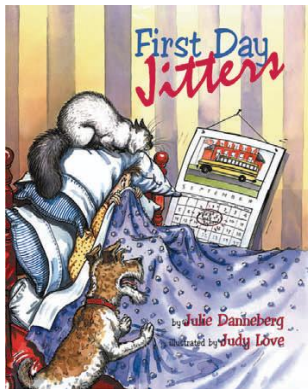
[Gerry Steiert](#)

PE Dept HP 012-430-6896

FROM THE LIBRARY

Charlesbridge Publisher included Dalat's *First Day Jitters* photos in their newsletter! Take a look at Mrs. Case and Mrs. Merussi's classes in action on the first day of school.

Here's the link: <http://www.charlesbridge.com/> Happy Reading!

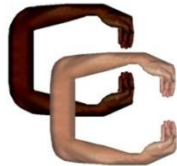


FROM THE COUNSELING DEPT

Parent Discussion Group

The parent discussion group for Wednesday, Oct. 10 has been cancelled due to scheduling problems. We will plan on having the next discussion group in November. Watch for details!

CHARITY AND COMPASSION



A Charity & Compassion Thank You

On Sunday, Sept. 30th at the end of the Penang Floorball Associations Annual Tournament held at Dalat, a special presentation of 600RM was made to Charity & Compassion by Jason Selvanayagam on behalf of the PFA.

The money will be used to help the needy in our community. Thank you for this generous donation.

“Where Charity and Love Exist, God is there.”

It is in giving that we receive.



Charity & Compassion

It is in giving that we receive.

Once again we have many blessings to pass on to all the people who have donated to Charity & Compassion. This week we would like to offer some suggestions to help teach our children how they can help the needy.

Teaching Children to Give

First of all, make your child aware of the needs of others. Visit the Charity and Compassion bulletin board on the parking lot side of room 8 to see the organizations that we are involved with.

Talk to your child and help them decide how they would like to help the needy. Offer to take them to the store and let them choose a food item and pay for it out of their own allowance. It doesn't have to be expensive.

Let them choose clothing or toys from their closet that they have outgrown and allow them to donate it.

Help them put bus fare in envelopes RM2/envelope and 5 envelopes per week. For the small sum of RM10 they have helped a child get to and from school for an entire week.

Let your children help with the families recycling and bring it to school; it is good for the environment and all 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. We have also been asked to assist 2 families in Sungei Petani for the next little while.

If you would like more information about Charity & Compassion you can contact Beth Steiert bsteiert@dalat.org. Thank you for your donation.

Where Charity & Love exist, God is there.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Movie	Rating
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Acceptable

Bourne Ultimatum	US-PG13, MY-U
Violence and some intense sequences of action. Some inappropriate language.	
Hairspray	US-PG, MY-U
Poor adult examples and suggestive content. Lively and fun musical!	
Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix	US-PG13, MY-U
Witchcraft and occultic. Fantasy violence and frightening images. Poor roll models.	
Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End	US-PG, MY-U
Action violence, scary images, some sensuality.	
Ratatouille	US-G, MY-U
Family film, mild inappropriate language	
Road to Dawn	US-NA, MY-U
Penang featured in story about Chiang Kai Shek. Mandarin with English subtitles	
The Seeker: The Dark is Rising	US-PG, MY-U
Fantasy action and some scary images	
Spider-man 3	US-PG13, MY-U
Sequences of intense action violence. Redemption and forgiveness themes	
Shrek 3	US-PG, MY-U
Crude humor, some suggestive content. Fun family movie	
Transformers	US-PG13, MY-U
Boy movie: intense sci-fi violence	

Not Acceptable

The Brave One	US-R, MY-18PL
Strong violence, language, and some sexuality	
I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry	US-PG13, MY-18PL
Crude sexual content throughout, inappropriate images, language and drug use	
Resident Evil: Extinction	US-R, MY-18PL
Strong horror violence throughout, inappropriate images	
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

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>

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