

Parent Survey Response

The Dalat International School School Management Team (SMT) would like to thank all the parents who participated in the Annual Parent Survey conducted in May 2007. We have reviewed all the statistics and comments and have identified some areas that we intend to focus on in the coming year. We want to let you know what is being done to address these issues.

We hear you! This is what we are going to do:

Education

Caring Teachers – Many comments have been received about the wonderful, caring teachers at Dalat. We want to make sure conditions exist so that care for our students continues.

Foreign Languages - The principals will be looking at ways to expand our school foreign language offerings especially into the Elementary School and Middle School grades.

Career Planning - Dalat will look into offering more “life skill” courses. Already offered at Dalat are sewing, cooking, health and first aid, and boys and girl scouts.

Homework - Amounts and timing of homework will be addressed with teachers at all grades.

Spiritual Life

Course Offerings - Two new online Bible courses have been added as well as a new Bible course for Juniors exploring college and career choices and their unique place in God’s design.

Communication - We will communicate events, needs, and prayer requests to the entire Dalat community.

Community - Optional small group discussions are being offered to follow up on Spiritual Emphasis Week.

Chapel Space - Improvements have already been made this past summer to provide more seating and better viewing and sound in the Chapel. One of Dalat’s next major projects will be to renovate the Chapel to increase its capacity.

Facilities

Current Facilities - Dalat occupies a “well loved”, “well used” , open, scenic campus. Some of the most recent improvements include:

- Bathrooms renovated and painted (computer labs, high school boys and girls)
- Middle School classroom flooring replaced
- Middle School computer lab expanded to 24 computers from 12.
- Middle School buildings recently painted
- Elementary School playground surface replaced (Annual Fund)
- Awning in front of music building providing cover for students
- Cafeteria serving lines made more efficient
- New video projectors in all computer labs and some classrooms

- More frequent campus fogging for mosquitoes (bi-monthly)
- New roofs on Ziemer and Jaffray dorms

Future Plans - On the drawing board for the near future:

- Renovate Student Center to include air conditioning (Annual Fund)
- Resurfacing the gym floor (Annual Fund)
- Covering of the outside basketball court
- Upgrade white table seating area
- Repainting: school fence and guard house, amphitheatre, education buildings
- Planting of grass on bare areas of the field
- New plants and flowers

School Development

Needs of Families - The school is looking into options for parent liaisons that can speak languages other than English to provide support for our families through translation and building understanding. We have also begun parent language classes.

Permanent Home - We are currently looking at other land options in Tanjung Bunga as well as the possibility of purchasing our current location to provide a permanent home for Dalat. We still have six years remaining on our current lease agreement.

Communication - More information on our school website; school materials being translated; clearly communicating the schools vision, mission and goals.

Community - Looking into ways of getting parents more involved with school activities.

Improvements - This is the purpose of the Annual Fund. Better technology, more tools for our students to use to learn, and providing an enjoyable, comfortable atmosphere.

Residence Life

Communication - Updated website information; communicating with parents of dorm students regarding facilities, activities and connecting with dorm parents.

Technology - Looking for ways to improve technology in the dorms by using Skype and other methods to enhance family communication while addressing internet concerns.

Food - In the last year cafeteria food has become healthier: more vegetables and fruit, less sweets and sugar. Will look into providing some Asian food options that will provide for authentic tastes. Pleasing everyone is a difficult task.

Administration

IB Program - Dalat will not offer an IB program at this time but will possibly consider it in the future as a parallel program as the school grows.

Curriculum - “Education for Life” trains students in life skills beyond the classroom. There are many Dalat activities with a “hidden agenda” that teach integrity, teamwork and compassion.

- Teaching Staff -** It is an encouragement to see so many positive comments about our teaching staff. These will be communicated to our staff.
- Communication -** Dalat is taking steps to make sure all parents are properly informed about our school and their students. Foreign language liaisons and translation of materials is an ongoing project for us.
- Dalat's Standing -** It is good to see that Dalat parents have such a positive opinion of Dalat and what is happening at our school; parents feel welcome, will recommend us to their family and friends and rate us well against other international schools around the world. Thank you!

The Dalat School Management Team (SMT) is:

Mr. Karl Steinkamp – Director

Mr. Brian Weidemann and Mrs. Valerie Weidemann – Residence Life Supervisors and Deputy Director

Mr. Larry Chinn – Director of Development

Mrs. Jacki Steinkamp – Head Counselor

Mr. Fred Colburn – High School Principal

Mr. Brian Brewster – Elementary and Middle School Principal

Mr. Rich Gwaltney – Spiritual Life Director

Mr. Steven Koo – Financial Comptroller

Mr. Patrick Rogers – Facilities Coordinator

Mrs. Lydia Roberts – Admissions Officer

