



# Eagle's Eye

Dalat International School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia October 2003

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## Second Place in Tourney... First Place in Our Hearts

By Gao Nou Kue

Swishing across the dewy field, Coach Steve Liss stood on the battlefield where his soccer girls would fight for the gold. He breathed in the cool, grassy-smelling air, reflecting on the week's events to try to keep his mind off the game.

"Right here girls!" Bringing in 13 anxious girls just minutes before a game, Coach Liss led his soccer team in a short prayer. Following his prayer, a burst of energetic chanting broke the thin air of the closing game for the Women's Under-18 National Football Tournament.

From 5-10 September, the varsity girls' soccer team took a trip down to Kuala Lumpur—not to shop, but to play some serious football in a national tournament. On this five-day trip though, the players missed three straight days of school; but they had no trouble keeping up with their classes. With mandatory study halls, they easily completed their assignments.

"The varsity girls' team and coaches are really grateful that the administration allowed us to miss three days of school to attend the tournament," said Coach Liss; "we're also grateful to the teachers who worked with the girls ahead of time so that they would be able to keep somewhat caught up with their work."

prised," exclaimed Wolfe as she remembered her birthday.

A few nights before, the team had gone to KLCC and secretly chipped in to buy Wolfe a gift and a gigantic card. During a banquet, held to honor the teams and coaches, the girls invited all the teams to sing to Wolfe again as she stood on stage with her

**"I really enjoyed watching the girls  
...I admire how hard they played..."**

Though the girls attended an hour of study hall each day, it did not keep them from having fun. Things like dancing, talking to players on different teams, and shopping added more excitement to their trip as well. They also planned a surprise birthday party for Tina Wolfe (12). "We went to McDonald's for breakfast one day, and I found out that they had planned a party for me! I was so sur-

teammates.

Activities such as mini birthday parties, shopping, and playing jokes on each other not only helped them have fun but it also brought the team and coaches closer together. "I loved dancing around with the girls and Coach [Liss] at the banquet; and I had a lot of fun getting to know the team and the coaches better. It was a great bonding time (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

## Smiling, Happy Freshmen

By Jodi Harrison

"Happy smiling faces...." The music rang across campus, welcoming students to Happy Week on Monday, 6 October. The lunch bell sounded and soon

high school students began gathering around the white tables to enjoy lunch outside on upper campus. StuCo set up Ping-Pong and foosball tables to create a

fun atmosphere. Freshmen and upperclassmen challenged each other to games of foosball, obeying the one rule of the week: a freshman had to be included in every game or activity. "The foosball table is crooked," said Christa DeVette (9); but this (Continued on page 2, col. 3)



# Extemporaneous Acts

By Amber Hill

At around 8:30 A.M. on 23 August, the energetic drama cast awoke to birds chirping, a cool breeze rushing in the windows, and the smell of fresh mountain air filling the room. "It was cool to have our drama retreat this year on Penang Hill. Being up in nature helped us to think past our busy daily schedules, so we could better get to know our characters," stated Than Matanick (11).

Having the drama retreat on Penang Hill made for an exciting change from the normal retreats held at Batu Ferringhi. "[At the Methodist Centre] the guys practiced their humility by allowing the girls to have the beds. As about half the beds were infested with ants, the guys slept on the floor so girls could have the beds," said Ms. Nancy McMahan.

Despite the anticipation to stay awake for more fun acting, the drama cast struggled to open their sleepy eyes because of the previous late night of fun activities and improv. games. Mr. John Hinton attended the drama retreat with bubbly enthusiasm and contagious excitement. He led the improv. games as seen on the TV show "Who's Line Is It Anyway?"

One particular game involved a scene with Matanick and Caleb

Masters (11) sitting in a jail cell carrying on a conversation until the words, "Line . . . . Line" came from Hinton. Matanick and Masters then had to replace their last line with a different line.

"The improv. games were my favorite because it broadened my acting horizons; I had never done improv. before," said Masters.

Aside from the acting games, the drama cast also looked into the lives of their characters to get a glimpse of whom they would become in this semester's play.

To close the dramatic night before hitting the beds, the cast played a game of sardines (hide-and-go-seek) at midnight, in the pitch black of Penang Hill's jungle life.

"Sardines was so fun, but it was kind of freaky. It was so dark that it would take half an hour just to find people! At one point I went out looking for two guys and later on was told that I was steps away from them, but it was so dark I couldn't see anything," Rachael Caldwell (12) exclaimed.

Much laughter echoed through the hills that night as cast members enjoyed the humor of the games and the fellowship of their peers.

"When I woke up I loved looking out over Penang and watching the beautiful sunrise above the island. The orange glow of the sun reflected off the

ocean. It made for a fresh start in my day," Christina Robertson (11) reminisced.

Taking advantage of the cool wind and sipping hot Milo, the drama cast conducted their own church service with singing, praying, and an enactment of

the Bible beginning with creation. Overall, the retreat provided a chance to grow as a cast and enjoy each other's acting abilities. The time ended with a hike back to the tram station, a ride down the hill, and a van ride back home. •

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## Close Encounters

By Jimmy Pham

On 28 August students gathered by the vans to take a look at a peculiarly bright planet above Chandler Dorm—Mars.

"Mars will not be this close to earth for another 250 years," said Mr. Dennis Tyas. Kids of all ages looked in wonder at the red planet. Seeing it so close acted as a reminder of God's awesome power.

Telescopes, set up by dorm parents, served as a great way

for students to stare into the cosmos and gaze at the fourth planet's beauty. Although the sky shone crystal clear, some people had trouble seeing the planet because of other intrusions. "We had a hard time looking into the telescope because people would always move it," explained Karen Wong (12).

Although the students missed the night where Mars drew near- (Continued on page 3, col. 1)

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### Joining Freshmen...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) complaint didn't interrupt the intense battle that raged.

"Happy Week makes me feel happy because I get to know the freshmen better!" said Yoko Shimizu (11) as she ran to help her team win the Human Pyramid contest planned by the seniors. StuCo worked hard to make Happy Week a positive time for freshmen.

Everyone also enjoyed other more traditional games, such as Six-Square, jump rope, and hopscotch.

On Thursday the juniors planned wrestling, a game of strength and wit. Pillows were duct taped to the stomachs of senior, junior, sophomore and freshmen boys. They took off their shoes and stepped onto the mats provided. The goal of the game? Knock your opponent off his feet and sit on him so he can't get up! The battle didn't last very long as Rama Kolkman (10) soon found himself squashed by Esther Vaughn and Lynda Ermis (9) who claimed victory. Vaughn stood up ready for another challenge. "I enjoy taking out the guys," she said with a smile.

"Friday's game, Hug-a-fresh-

man, created an atmosphere of community. It was something out of the ordinary that provided time to bond," said Jessica Friesen (12).

The more freshmen hugged, the more points gained; and to prove the points, the freshmen gave their signatures.

Happy Night concluded the week with relay races with a twist—everybody got tied together with a buddy; then that couple had to finish the relay together. They even had to eat their ice cream together! "I enjoyed it," said Lindsey Nagel (11). "It was a good bonding experience and a chance for all the classes to eat and laugh together while playing pointless games in the sun!"

After tallying the points, StuCo declared that the juniors and "their" freshmen had won by a convincing lead. Everyone gathered around to congratulate them as they received free sundaes.

"It makes me happy to see the freshmen getting involved; that's what our school needs—cool freshmen," said Seth Galloway (11) as Theo Love (12) fixed the crooked foosball table and once again an intense game broke out between the freshmen and their upperclassmen. •

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### Girls' Football in KL...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) for all of us," stated Esther Vaughn (11).

Not only did the players enjoy the bonding, but the coaches did as well. Said Coach Mrs. Lyn Holden, "It was a great trip in several different areas: soccer, cultural exposure, learning flexibility, and team building."

The bonds that the girls created with each other brought the team all the way to the national championship game. With this accomplishment came supporting fans from Penang who willingly took the four-hour drive to join the biggest audience a game in the tournament would have. "I really enjoyed watching

the girls. I admire how hard they played even though they lost," said Eric Jung (11), one of the fans who rode down to support the team.

After defeating the two-year defending champs and four other teams, the girls lost their last game against a tough Sabah team. All in all, the girls represented Penang-Dalat well and had no regrets even after receiving silver in the national tournament.

As Coach Liss walked off the now battered field reflecting back on the week's events, a smile of contentment and satisfaction slowly spread across his face as he asked himself, "Who could have thought you could have so much fun with 13 girls?" •

# With Doors Wide Open

Eagerly entering into Eckman Dorm, Grace Lee (8) decided to inspect the boys' rooms. Stopping at the first door, Lee curiously peeked into the lighted room. "AHhhhhhhh!!!" she screamed when she saw the sight

rooms, others toured the dorm rooms. Since Open House gave students the privilege to look into rooms they normally couldn't enter, students took advantage of this opportunity to see who had better rooms and furniture.

"I was jealous!" stated

**"The girls had bigger rooms, pillows, and couches"**

of Josh Manfred (9) trying to put on a pair of clean shorts. Both embarrassed and amused, Lee slammed the door and quickly ran out to announce the story to her friends.

This episode happened on 22 August at 5:00 P.M. in an event called Open House, where dorm staff and students, along with teachers, opened up their dorms and classrooms for parents, staff, and students to view. This traditional event gave parents a chance to meet and to talk with teachers about their child.

"It was fun to see children bring their parents around to show them what they have done," said Mrs. Karen Robertson, the fourth grade teacher. That night she had displayed the maps that her students had made out of dough in their geography lessons. "The maps really attracted people because the room was overcrowded with parents!" Andy Thompson (4) stated.

As some looked in class-

Mars Encounter...

(Continued from page 2, col. 4) est, some people did see the grand spectacle. "I saw a bright star next to the moon; it was really beautiful," Aunt Nellie Koethler, who didn't need a telescope to enjoy this rare occasion.

But some students didn't share Aunt Nellie's enthusiasm. "It was pretty dumb; I couldn't see anything," Joan Lin (9) exclaimed. Though one could spot the planet with his or her naked eye, some could not see it no matter how hard they tried.

Seeing the planet filled the students with disbelief and awe. "It was an amazing opportunity for students to see Mars so close," said Mr. Tyas, knowing that he will never see such a marvellous sight again. •

an unhappy Brian Colfax (9). "The girls had bigger rooms, pillows, and couches than ours did."

Other students gained new insight from going through different rooms. "I found out how boring the guys' rooms were. Girls' rooms are much more interesting," Sarah Garratt (10) said proudly.

Not only did it provide a once-in-a-year opportunity to

As the shimmering stars illuminated the heavens above, the mellow ocean waves rolled onto the beach, creating a soft symphony for the peaceful night. The swaying palm trees rustled as a gentle breeze brushed the quiet beach. The night seemed almost perfect until a streak of lightning suddenly flashed in the distant sky and shattered the utopian atmosphere that had enveloped the camp. A powerful roar of thunder followed, and everyone began to brace for the fury of Ombrios, the rain god.

On 12 September the class of 2004 faked a sneak and ventured to Monkey Beach for an overnight class trip. Although not performed very stealthily, they succeeded in escaping campus before school ended and tricked a couple people. Aunt

Erica Gordon said, "I was standing at my doorway and I saw Crystal [Tsai, 12] go into her room. I was confused because school wasn't out yet."

After reaching their destination, some explored the region,

By Sally Tsai

compare rooms, but it also served as a bonding factor for many students. Large and small groups walked together to explore each room, laughing uncontrollably over humorous arrangement of the furniture. "My friends and I thought it was so funny how people arranged their room in the weirdest fashion," said Naomi Tami (8) giggling.

Eun Bee Chung (10), who went with a group of 10 sophomores, agreed as well: "We laughed so hard over Jonny's [Kue, 10] room. He had this Shanghai Knights poster hanging up on his wall. His room was small with this big poster that took up all his space. It just looked really funny!"

After this tour around campus, students, staff, and parents all gathered at the white tables to eat Dalat's famous meal: fried chicken and potato

salad. Voices slowly filled the night air as both kids and adults, while hungrily devouring the tasty chicken, took turns sharing their new discoveries.

"Overall I enjoyed myself. Open House brought me closer to my class. It gave us something funny to laugh and talk about," Chung said with a smile as she reflected back to Kue's hysterical "superman toy."

"Hey!" Manfred shouted as the door quickly slammed shut leaving him once again alone. Zipping up his shorts, Manfred glanced at the clock and gave an astonished yelp, "It's already five? No wonder Grace had come in."

Feeling confident with his fresh clothes on, he went out to meet his friend, Matthew Nyugen (6). "I heard about your incident with Grace," laughed Nyugen.

A feeling of embarrassment overwhelmed Manfred as he answered, "Well, something new and funny always happens at Open House." •

## One Step Below Paradise

By Jamie Cheng

some tried their luck at fishing, some paraded around shirtless (albeit the cool surroundings to flaunt their debatable muscles), and some, unable to resist their cutthroat nature, competed in building a fire. Casey Caldwell (12) said, "Mr. [Karl] Steinkamp thought he made a cool fire, but everyone knew that my awesome inferno wasted his puny little flame."

When the sun began to set, the class gathered by the fire for supper: fried chicken

Despite the discomfort caused by the insects, the trekkers fell asleep one by one as the night grew deep. Praveen Thomas (12) said, "I was so upset with the bugs and sand itching me that I wanted to grab an axe to chop off my leg."

A small number of students, however, stayed awake throughout the night roasting marshmallows and talking. Philip Houmphan (12), who maintained the fire, named it Hell's Gate after accidentally lifting a plank of wood and unleashing the immense heat confined inside. Said he, "The fire was so intense, it almost blew my pants off."

Before dawn, rain began to fall, and everyone split up, seeking ways to avoid the downpour. A couple people sought shelter in the tents, a few remained by the bonfire, two hid under a blanket together, and the rest jumped into the ocean. Those who tried to use the ocean as a refuge against the cold soon discovered their mistake as jellyfish stung Caldwell and Karen Wong (12).

"Even though most people (Continued on page 4, col. 1)



en breasts and potato salad. After supper, a few people hiked up to the lighthouse while others relaxed on the shore and exchanged stories of their previous "crushes."

# Adolescents Retreat

By Tony Chuang

On a calm, sunny Friday morning, Cindy Hsieh (8) hopped on a bus crowded with rows of enthusiastic kids ready for the annual retreat. "I'm so excited; it's going to be so much fun!" said Hsieh.

As soon as she leapt off the bus, she threw her bags down and sprinted into the CCC, totally unaware of the series of activities awaiting her. The middle school retreat held on 15 August provided every middle schooler with an evening of fun and entertainment.

After the short, initial meeting that explained the purpose of the retreat, they darted outside to play sports like bench ball, Ultimate, and also beach soccer. "It was really a great time to get to know the new kids," said Mr. Michael Holden.

The 66 middle-schoolers also separated into their SAT groups to compete in a series of events. They played musical chairs, made up fun skits they had to perform, and painted their own team posters. One team came up with the funny name "The Beauty Queens."

"The best part was just fooling around with my friends,"

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## Seniors "Sneak" Away...

(Continued from page 3, col. 4) hated the rain, I loved it because I knew that in 10 years time, we'll all look back on this experience and laugh our pants off," said a cheesy Jamie Cheng (12) [as he quotes himself in his own article].

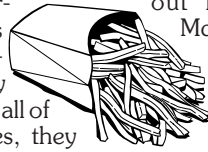
Like a swarm of locusts, the dark clouds advanced slowly from the horizon and swallowed up the clear, blue sky. A light drizzle began to fall but before long, the sprinkle turned into a torrent. Unable to do anything, the seniors cuddled together under Ombrios' wrath.

But after the bad always comes the good. The rain gradually stopped after half an hour, and people started crawling out of their holes into the rays of light. The candle in the sky once again shone upon Monkey Beach, filling it with warmth and making the trip just one step below paradise. •

said Sung In Kang (8).

The middle schoolers worked with their team to overcome different obstacles and to solve mind-boggling math problems. By the time they completed all of the activities and games, they had to succumb to the night and their own fatigue. The chaperones scurried everyone to bed.

Some people didn't go to bed right away though. Instead, Kang and Matt Ermis (8) stayed up and danced just for fun. Eventually, lots of people gathered around them and laughed so hard they lost their breath. "They were like clowns, being funny and doing stupid things!" said



Jesse Ens (8).

Eventually, even they headed for bed; and the spectators left for their separate rooms too.

In the morning, after Pastor David Latsha gave an inspirational speech, he pulled out his homemade

McDonald's milkshakes to demonstrate a point. He talked about how everything in life blended together to make one big milkshake; so he blended lots of McDonald's food, including fries, Coke, and burgers, to make the kids realize how messy they live their lives. "It tasted like mushy cheeseburgers!" said Sophia To (7). But she actually enjoyed the milkshake.

As they finally climbed on their buses on the Saturday morning to go back home, they

all thought about how much they had enjoyed the retreat. "That was really fun; we should do it again!" said Hsieh, fully satisfied. •



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Looking for someone to...

## Lead the Way!

by Jacqui Steiert

"Hurry up guys! I can hear the juniors behind us!" said a sweaty and tired Theo Love (12). The StuCo team carefully climbed over fallen trees, trying hard not to lose their footing or team attitude as the annual Student-Leadership Retreat began.

On 28 August the high school excoms climbed Penang Hill with the full intention of saving Mr. David Carmichael from "terrorists." Thinking that they would just hike for half an hour, many students left their Special Agent Rehydration Source, or SARS, in their team's van. Two hours later, these students deeply regretted their decision.

"It was so hot and humid, but I felt sorry for Uncle Brian [Weidemann] because he was wearing jeans," said Esther Vaughn (11).

When the teams finally got to

the bottom of the hill, they still had to use their clues to find Mr. Carmichael. Using the phone numbers given to them in the Special Agent List of Equipment, or SALE, most teams shared information.

"I called Mr. [Karl] Steinkamp, and all he said was 'The fly has swallowed the buffalo, over,' and then hung up," said Gao Nou Kue (12).

After the StuCo and junior class teams found Mr. Carmichael in his apartment, all of the excoms headed up to the Christian Convention Center (CCC) in Batu Ferringhi only to find it locked. After eating U.S. Pizza, some students decided to go shopping while others preferred to lounge around outside the CCC. Some students even found themselves dancing and singing karaoke.

"Ms. [Ruth] Strong taught us the 'Sprinkler' and the 'Lawn Mower,'" said Tina Wolfe (12), referring to two dance moves; "and then Amber [Hill, 12] taught us line dancing!"

The next morning, students ate a wholesome breakfast and attended a workshop on leadership with the theme of "Get Outside Yourself." Mr. Carmichael, Mrs. Lyn and Mr. Michael Holden, Mr. David Latsha, and Mr. Steinkamp spoke on various aspects of leadership.

"I really liked when Mr. Holden used the shape test to help us understand our strengths as well as our team's strengths," said Kylee Spangler (11). "Now we'll hopefully be able to work together more efficiently."

Each excom had a short meeting before heading back to the school at 3:00 P.M.

"We're right behind you," responded Christina Robertson (11) while swiftly moving her feet over the dead branches. "Just lead the way!" •

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## Feel Good Time

By Crystal Tsai

"Again, again, again!" shouted Jacqui Steiert (12) as she re-played the music.

Steiert started a club supervised by her mom, Mrs. Beth Steiert, to teach elementary girls how to dance. Every Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30, seven fifth graders—Angela Steiert, Josie Steinkamp, Grace Walter, Ylo-

na Hottentot, Andi Thompson, Beth Nguyen, and Lakshmi Meyyappan—and one third grader, Noriah Matanick, headed down to the chapel to dance.

When the girls first came in, they started off with some stretching. Then they got into position and learned how to jazz dance for the rest of the hour.

But the club did more than teach the girls how to dance. Said Nguyen, "It is a good way for us to release extra energy."

"And a good way to pass our time," added Thompson.

The elementary girls found this a great opportunity to learn to dance and to make friends with a senior. Angela said to her sister, "I think it was a good idea for you to come up with it, and (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

# How Can There Be This Much Water in the Sky?

By Casey Caldwell

“Aaaah!” yelled Caleb Caldwell (8) as he sprinted through the rain, clutching his backpack to protect it from the onslaught of water. “Phew,” he said as he arrived to class. “It’s really pouring out there.”

It has always rained a lot in the tropics, but the last few weeks in Penang seemed almost ridiculous. With nearly constant rain, this much “sky juice” as the locals call it, made people like Uncle Mark Hill wonder, “How can there be this much water in the sky?”

Rain changed everything. People could not just walk to class normally. They skirted puddles, and the smart ones totally avoided the quagmire the soccer field had become. Some, like Caldwell, dashed madly to try to avoid getting wet. Others crowded around the few with the foresight to bring umbrellas. A hardened few merely hunched over and walked, ignoring the damp and cold.

Students and staff canceled or rethought events like the soccer tournaments scheduled to take place Saturday, 4 October. The varsity girls and guys played their tournaments indoors in the gym, but the JV girls’ and guys’ games never even happened. This didn’t completely displease everyone though, because, in



the words of Praveen Thomas (12), “Indoor soccer is more exciting than outdoor. There are more goals and faster action.”

In fact, many people didn’t find the rain bad at all. “Rain makes it really cool, so you don’t have to turn on the fan. You can just listen to it,” said Tina Wolfe (12).

“Yeah,” responded Rachel Caldwell (12). “It’s so soothing and calming being able to sleep to the sound of rain outside.”

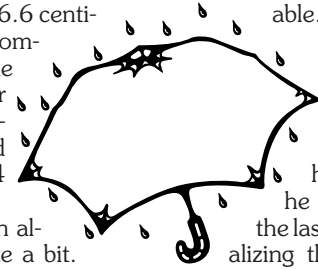
So just how much rain did

the skies dump on the island? According to resident meteorologist Mrs. Karen Robertson, from 1-6 October 46.6 centimeters fell. This compares with the whole month of September when Penang received 47.6 cm and August with 30.4 cm.

All in all, the rain altered Dalat life quite a bit. People had to change even little things like walking to class. But the cool drops provided a wel-

come retreat from the heat and made drifting off to sleep just that much more enjoyable.

Caldwell dripped on into class, his hair plastered to his head. As he took a seat, he reflected over the last few weeks, realizing that the stormy weather made Penang just that much more of a special and unique place to live in. •



As Paul Revere *didn't* say...

## The Canadians Are Coming... the Canadians Are Coming!



By James Lo

“The school is now run by Canadians!” said Pastor David Latscha on the first day of school. Canadians now officially run Dalat International School—not because we got all new staff members, but because we got a whole new Mr. C.—Mr. David Carmichael.

Mr. Carmichael, who is 62 years old, had worked in public education in Canada as both elementary and high school principal for along time before his retirement. Two years ago, after his retirement, he and Mrs. Shelia Carmichael went to work at an international school in Bandung, Indonesia. Now, God has called them to come to Dalat to serve as Director.

Mr. C’s sense of humor in his work and words caught many students’ attention; they like his way of communicating his message and his sense of responsibility. “He makes sure things are done; he is also a person who keeps to a time schedule,” says Nancy Duclos (10).

“I really like his guidelines,” said Chris Chu (12).

On the first day of meeting the high school students, Mr. Carmichael gave his first new rule: no more special dress code for chapel. According to Mr. Carmichael, he thinks that Dalat has too many rules; he wants

fewer of them. For the best of the school and for students, he asked all students to help him work toward that goal.

“He told us that it matters in the inside, not the outside. If we had to wear chapel dress, then we are just pretending,” said John Kao (12). “I really liked that idea and the way he says his thoughts with humor but also seriousness.”

Mr. Carmichael, when asked about where Dalat should improve, simply answered “image. Dalat needs to improve its image.” To the outside world, he explained, Dalat seemed to be a closed Christian school only for

specific people.

To get rid of this perspective, Mrs. Carmichael joined an organization called the IWA to tell people what Dalat really represents. Recently, the administrators have made visits to Uplands and to the other international schools in Penang to let people understand that Dalat is not closed; it is open to anyone.

Throughout this year, the new Mr. C. will face more challenges such as increasing student enrollment or seeking building permits; but under his leadership, Dalat will strive to continue its 75 years of excellence in education. •

Feel Good Time...

(Continued from page 4, col. 4) I’m glad that you take time to teach us what you know.”

“I really enjoy the opportunity to share my dance knowledge with other people,” said Steiert, “and it’s nice that the girls are so excited about it.”

The girls hope to perform at the Christmas Talent Show and will work hard to get there.

“Good job girls! Be sure to practice the dance throughout the week,” said Steiert to her pupils as the hour they had together drew to an end. •

## Mind Boggling, Don't You Think?

By Tina Wolfe

“Oh Jodi, I just remembered; we don’t have school tomorrow because of the seminar!” Amber Hill (12) said with bright eyes and a smile.

“O snap!” Jodi Harrison (12) replied. “I think we’re going to hear some pretty interesting things tomorrow.”

Instead of going to school on Friday, 26 September, the jun-

iors and seniors attended a college-and-career preparation seminar. The speaker, Mr. John Schwaiger, started the seminar with a mind boggling and persistent question in a wispy voice, “Who are you, huh, who are you?”

With that question, Mr. Schwaiger gave each student a (Continued on page 6, col. 1)

# Whose Idea Was This Anyway?

By Dan Walter

"All right guys, we are going to learn how to walk today. When you walk, you lead with a particular part of your body. That leading body part changes the way you walk. Start by leading with your feet," John Hinton explained.

Casey Caldwell (12), Brian Colfax (9), Marie Giezen-danner (9), Christopher Irwin (9), Caleb Masters (11), Than Matanick (11), Zac Riggenbach (12), and Daniel Walter (12)—the regulars—sighed and sauntered feet first around the room. So began "Don't Think Twice."

Without John Hinton, Dalat would never have formed Don't Think Twice. Hinton, who had some experience in improvisational drama, decided to share some of his dramatic skills. He created Don't Think Twice to allow students to experience the joy of ad-libbing.

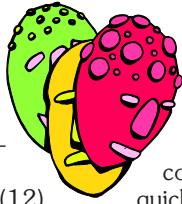
Don't Think Twice, more commonly known as Improv. Club, focused on improvisational drama—drama on the spot. When these actors per-

formed a scene, they never had a script; they made it up as they acted it out.

Actors in the popular TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" use this method of performance, and some members of Improv. Club wished they could emulate the show's quick wits Ryan Stiles and Colin Hanks.

Despite rumors to the contrary, skill like that doesn't come naturally; so the Improv. Club began with half an hour of "warm-ups," ranging from learning how to walk to holding five-second arguments. These exercises accomplished their one main purpose: to teach the students to think on their feet. They also helped loosen the members up. Hinton felt that this time "encourages students to stretch themselves." Zac Riggenbach said, "I enjoy practicing being spontaneous."

After the warm-ups ended, the games began. The students moved from simplified activities to full-scale improvisation. In one rehearsal, Masters, Matanick,



## College & Career...

(Continued from page 5, col. 4) personality test. All the students laughed and talked among themselves about their results. "It is really interesting to learn about my personality," said Esther Vaughn (11) as she laughed almost uncontrollably. "I found that I'm an extra-extravert!"

The juniors and seniors also found the interest test amusing as each person received a list of occupations that best fit him or her. Lydia Ng (11), for example, found that the test results only confirmed her interests.

Jessica Friesen (12), on the other hand, learned that she would make a good policeman or farmer—and Seth Galloway (11) found that he could do well working as an interior decorator!

With all the tests and lectures about resumes, jobs, and college applications, the juniors and

seniors at times had difficulty concentrating. But Ms. Ruth Strong and Mrs. Nan Walter divided the seminar up with short breaks. They gave the group a chance to stretch their legs, eat snacks, talk together, and play games.

Overall the seminar gave the upperclassmen a different kind of day filled with helpful tips about their future and a fun experience to look back on.

"Mr. Schwaiger gave a lot of valuable information; he also enjoyed sharing with the students. Dalat is where he got the vision to do these seminars in the first place. Now I'm just looking forward to grading all those papers he assigned!" Ms. Strong said with a smile.

"Not having school Friday is a nice change, and Ms. Strong is going to be there. Yea! I'm so ready," said Hill.

"Right on!" Harrison said as they exited their class. •

and Caldwell ad-libbed a scene about a train careening out of control. To make it more interesting, the rules of the game dictated that one of them stood, one sat, and one knelt at all times. They created a scene as they acted it out, their improvisational skills honed by all the warm-ups.

"Improv. Club helps me to broaden my acting spectrum," explained Masters.

Irwin added, "[In Improv. Club] students have fun; they also learn to be more creative."

As Hinton explained more styles of walking, the group strutted around the room, now leading with their hips. •

## Girl Talk

By Jessica Friesen

A high-pitched scream split the Sunday afternoon silence as it erupted out the doors of Theo Love's house (12) and echoed down Medan Tanjung Bunga. A closer look would reveal the source of the scream where a seemingly placid Lindsey Nagel (11) sat on the floor of Loves' living room, bending over a string and a pile of mismatched beads, the remnants of which had been her bracelet creation. "Kylee [Spangler]! You ruined my bracelet again," Nagel said, only causing Spangler and the rest of the girls in Loves' living room to double over with yet another fit of laughter.

Sunday afternoon: a time for naps, swimming, basketball, and some serious studying—and a day that many students guarded religiously from scheduled, school-sponsored activities. Sundays provided a free afternoon to relax and prepare for another busy week ahead. So what caused these girls to congregate at Loves' house? The answer: a girls' Bible study.

Aunt Val Weidemann and Aunt Rachele Henderson offered a "Sabbath Retreat" for seventh through twelfth grade girls on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5:00. Not only did the Bible study provide a time to watch movie clips, eat

brownies, and make crafts; more importantly, the girls discussed important issues relevant to their lives. As each girl entered the Bible study with varying expectations, each left with a different life lesson and piece of wisdom. "I had wanted to go to Bible study to keep the Sabbath for God and to grow in Him. So far I have seen how God has used these meetings to teach me how I can be a woman of God in the world that we live in," Rachael Caldwell (12) remarked.

"The Bible study provided me with a time to get closer to the other girls and to God. It really opened up my mind and helped me think about how girls fit into the world," Nagel said.

Laura Danneker's (8) enjoyment of the Bible study reflected the same sentiments. "It was fun to get together with other girls and discuss life," she said.

As the laughter subsided, Spangler bent down to help Nagel pick up her beads. Less than a minute later another scream erupted from the other side of the room as more beads spilled and scattered across the concrete floor. Again, the girls burst into laughter. "Dang it," Esther Vaughn (11) cried; "now I have to start the bracelet all over again." •

## SIX-SQUARE SERGEANTS

By Philip Houmphan

"Give me a Hoo Ha Sergeant!" ordered Jamie Cheng (12).

"Hoo Ha Sergeant!" replied the voices of many.

When looking around, one could see that these embarrassing army-like commands came from the basketball court, where students surrendered to and battled for the power of kingship.

Every so often a product of the past reappears in today's

world. The product of the past that has had Dalat obsessed for the last quarter appears in a game called "Six Square."

In fact, Six Square has captured the hearts of Dalat so much that students from all grades have found themselves playing this simple, yet addicting game almost every moment of spare time.

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

# Bend It Like Brendan

By Zac Rigenbach

Bending and spinning the ball, Brendan Frentz (8) curves his cross over top of the defense and into the path of Po Lai (10). Realizing his opportunity, Lai smashes a volley past the helpless keeper to put the JV boys' soccer team ahead of the varsity girls.

After playing the varsity girls three times this season, the JV boys came away with two stellar victories.

Defeats to Uplands International School and Penang Methodist School, however, added a bleak edge to the season; but captain Frentz remained upbeat.

"We were going to play a tournament on October 4, but we had to cancel because of the rain. We had a good chance too. Most JV teams are under 15, but this tournament was under 14. That could have helped us because our best players are younger."

As a young squad, Uncle Keith Henderson's JV team has time on its side; so he still has opportunities to mold the team

to his liking.

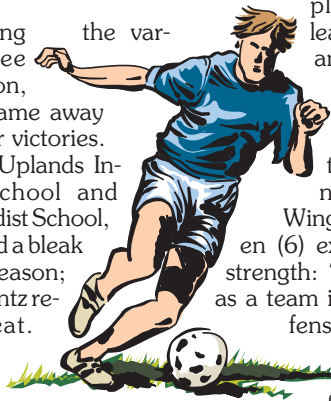
Said Frentz, "I really like Uncle Keith as a coach. He is really funny and relaxed, but he knows when to be serious and prod us on."

Bruce Mak (6) picked out forwards as the two best players, "Brendan leads the team by example. I think he is the best player, but Sung In [Kang, 8] has been captain too and has some nice skills."

Winger Matthew Nguyen (6) explains the team's strength: "Our best attribute as a team is probably our defense. We rely on our solid keeper and three defenders a lot."

Add that to the attacking talents of Frentz and Kang, and next year holds the promise of success.

Fishing the ball out of the net, Lai wheels around to thank Frentz for the spectacular assist. If Frentz ever does prosper as a professional, future students will attempt to bend it like Brendan... •



## Six-Square...

(Continued from page 6, col. 4)

Although regular sports such as soccer and basketball still occurred everyday, Six Square has blown regular sports out of the water. Students like Andy Jung (6) have played the game during school breaks, after school, and even in the rain.

Andrew Altice (12), on the other hand, drives all the way to school at around 6:00 P.M. everyday in hopes to find a good match.

"I like to play Six Square because it helps me relieve any frustration that I have when I get people out," said Jung.

The game's basic play has six players who stand in squares and who try to move up in rank by bouncing a ball in his or her square then letting it bounce in another person's square. If a person fails to do this, he or she goes to the lowest ranking square or the back of the line unless the "king," the ultimate authority in the game, makes an exception for that person and calls a redo.

Aside from allowing students to have fun through attaining kingship and having overwhelming power of peers, Six Square also provides a time for younger and older students to interact and also for new and old students alike to meet new friends.

Now that Six Square has become so important at Dalat, one might want to know some tips from experienced six-square players.

Cheng, arguably the best player in the school, gave this piece of advice: "Always try to hit the ball low into a corner where it is hardest for the opponent to get it. The key is to always try to keep the person moving, which then gives you an advantage."

Josh Strong (5), on the other hand, provided a different yet incredibly inspiring tip: "Always duel. If you don't duel, then what is the point of life?"

"Hoo Ha Sergeant is a stupid rule!" protested Jung. Asked why he didn't simply get Cheng out, he replied, "I can't! Jamie is just too good, too good." •

# Rain Gives Outdoor Team Indoor Win

By Zach Hansen

"Sam, Sam, Sam, Sam!" shouted Theo Love (12) leading a roaring crowd of Dalat students after a spectacular goal by Sam Lee (11). Lee's goal tied up an already tense game with cross-island rivals, Uplands International School. The intensity of the game set forth a weekend of zeal and tenacity.

Dalat planned to host two days of outdoor soccer on 4-5 October, but because of three days of heavy rainfall, Coaches Mr. Michael Holden, Mr. Randy McCaskill, and Uncle Ron West decided that changing from a 10-team outdoor tournament to a 14-team indoor tournament would better suit the weather.

"I'm happy that the tournament was changed into indoor because I don't think we would have won otherwise," said Andrew McClary (10).

The tournament also included several teams from Kuala Lumpur. "I was pumped to play Alice Smith," said Simeon Garratt (12); "they killed us last year, and we wanted some revenge."

Finally, after multiple schedule changes, Garratt got his wish. Behind the scoring of Garratt and McClary, the defense of Seth Galloway (11), and the goalkeeping of Ted Fung (10), Dalat finished with an unassailable 5-0 victory. "We were so quick that they couldn't stay with us," said Theo Love (12).

While sweat and tempers flared inside the gym, outside the junior class sold hot dogs, chili, and hot chocolate. "It actually was kind of nice sitting outside, drinking hot chocolate, and eating chili,"

said Mrs. Donna Hansen. "It reminded me of winter."

"The best part was when the bus got stuck in the mud," said Praveen Thomas (12) with a laugh. During the course of the heavy rain, the wheels on the Alice Smith School bus had sunk into the mud near the gym. The efforts of getting the bus out gave both fans and players a chance to laugh.

Even with all the momentum going into the deciding game, the varsity boys had a tough challenge in front of them: the undefeated Mount Kiara. After 20 minutes of hard-nosed football, goals by Garratt and McClary gave the boys their first tie game of the tournament. Despite the tie, the varsity boys finished with the gold medal because of a point-based scoring system. "Winning the tournament was awesome," said Galloway with a grin; "I can't think of a better way to have spent my weekend."

After a series of saves by goalie, Rama Kolkman (10), goals by Casey Caldwell (12), Malcolm McCaskill (11), and David Robertson (9), the Eagles #2 team came through with a thrilling 4-3 victory over Uplands. Even after the victory, Love wouldn't stop cheering, "I'm just so happy! Uplands finally got a taste of its own medicine." •



# All Diplomas Are Not Created Equal

By Chris Chu

"Hey, this is Tony. Come downstairs at 4:45," Tony Chuang's (12) voice echoed as John Kao (12) picked up his phone.

"Why?" Kao asked.

"Remember our community service? We are going to teach English this week," said Chuang.

"Oh yeah! Sure, I'll be there,"

said Kao as the light finally clicked on in his head.

Candidates for the Advanced Merit Diploma have to do 10 hours of community service each semester starting from their junior year. This new diploma first became available a year ago as (Continued on page 8, col. 1)

# The Language of Summer

By John Kao

"Bible!" shouted Taemin Kim (6) when asked about what he had learnt during the summer.

Over the summer, Dalat hosted the first ever English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) Camp. Not only did the kids become more advanced with their English, but they also became aware of Jesus Christ through daily Bible courses.

With the help of the DeVette family, the dedication of Mr. John and Mrs. Karen Robertson, and voluntary student workers from Simpson College, the camp turned out successful.

Dalat high school students also participated by acting as camp counselors to the students. One of the main counselors, Christina Robertson (11) said, "I helped plan some of the activities, and I was surprised at how well everything turned out."

During the four-week period, campers spent the mornings learning English through classroom work and the afternoons outside doing activities which applied what they had

learnt during the morning sessions. Every Wednesday the campers took field trips to extend their knowledge further. "I love the fieldtrips! It was so cool to see the sea turtles!" commented Cindy Hsieh (8) after returning from the Penang Aquarium.

The campus offered a friendly environment for the kids, and the games even helped the non-English-speaking children to mix well and make friends. "We played a lot of fun games during the ESL camp; I particularly

enjoyed the water balloon fights," said Terry Kim (9).

Both Hiroyuki Kawabata (10) and Takehiro Toyama (9) enjoyed making new friends on campus. "We only have a week left of camp! Time really flew when you're having fun!" exclaimed Kawabata before jumping into another conversation with his new-made friends.

The Summer ESL Camp attracted students not only by the beauty of the campus, but also by the learning environment the

school provided; this resulted in a few students transferring to Dalat to study full time.

The camp even taught some of our own high school students new experiences. Chris Chu (12) said after the first week, "I really liked the camp. It gave me a chance to meet some very 'interesting' people."

"I enjoyed bonding with the kids while watching the movie *Finding Nemo* with them," said Tony Chuang (12)

Everyone enjoyed the camp, especially Kim; who always yelled out one word, "GOOD!" whenever someone mentioned the Summer ESL Camp. •

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## Independence Celebrations!

By I Sha Chen

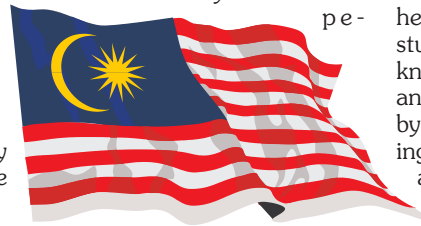
"Yea~! Malaysia *Boleh~!*" shouted Michael Chan (12) when seniors, gathering at their lockers, heard about the extra holiday. Malaysia celebrated its forty-sixth birthday on 31 August. In order to show Dalat International School's respect, the school gave students and staff an extra day off on Monday, 1 September.

"Freedom!" yelled Terry Hsiang (10) when he heard the news.

On *Merdeka* Day, malls such as Midland and Gurney held special entertainment and contests for people of all ages. Malaysia's national anthem blasted through the malls, and kids from age five to 12 used their full concentration on finishing the Malaysian flag they were drawing to win a mysterious prize on stage. "I had a lot of fun watching those kids up there drawing their flags. Some of their drawings really impressed me," commented Grace Sun (10).

Filled with joy and excitement, dorm students who live on campus also got a chance to

leave campus and experience how Malaysians celebrate their *Hari Merdeka*. It became a memorable day for some of them who had not had the opportunity before to ex-



perience how this country, filled with people from diverse races, cultures, and languages, celebrate its national day.

Malays, Chinese, and Indians got together on this special day; consequently, the main roads in Penang did become a little more crowded than usual. Traffic jams became a major issue when everyone tried to go out at the same time.

"We were on our way to Gurney that day. When we were about half way there, we all decided to get off the bus because we realized that it was

actually faster to walk there. The traffic jam was so terrible!" said Lydia Ng (11).

Many students spent this extra holiday by shopping and enjoying the distinctive events held by different malls. Others students, who hungered for knowledge, decided to use it as an extra day to enrich their minds by just staying at home studying. "I used this day to work ahead on my biology, English, and precalculus. It also gave me a chance to release the stress that had built up from school," said Cathy Lin (11) as she put a smile on her face.

Within that week, Malaysians flew their country's flag on vehicles and houses, reflecting their nationalism and patriotism. "I feel that it is a blessing for me to be born in a country which offers peaceful, stable, and prosperous living conditions. I am proud of the progress made by my country. That extra day off gave me the chance to catch up with some of my sleep," said Chan as he grabbed his bag and headed off to Gurney. •

A.M. Diplomas...

(Continued from page 7, col. 4) the school wanted to offer something more challenging for students who felt the need to prove their abilities. "I signed up for the AMD because it would be a good challenge and I want to get involved in something," said Cathy Lin (11).

"I think it will give me a better chance of getting into my choice of colleges," Michael Chan (12) commented.

Although the AMD sounds like a really good program, it does consume a lot of time. "It's a really challenging program. Students have to be self-motivated and become independent learners in order to complete this program," said Mr. Carlo Hansen, one of the AMD advisers. "It'll be interesting to see where this program may lead to in the future as it's just getting started."

Chuang summed everything thing up with, "It's like so much work."

Kao put down the phone and stretched. He wanted to be fully alert when he went to teach the eagerly awaiting kids. Humming to himself, he decided to grab a quick shower before Chuang's Mom arrived. •

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## Church Reformation

By Pamela Lesmana

Jaws dropped as PUD, alias Pastor "Uncle" David Latsha, stood in front of the chapel one fine Sunday morning. He passed on news that no messenger of God had ever told. PUD told his congregation that the chapel doors will not open every Sunday morning for services much longer. The vision of students this year has

primarily focused on preventing the Dalat community from becoming ingrown. "I go to a different church because I felt like the Dalat church was too closed or exclusive of others," Rachael Caldwell (12) said.

To support bringing influence and encouragement to other communities, the Dalat Chapel

decided to no longer provide on-campus Sunday morning services. Instead, they chose to encourage the present Dalat community to involve itself with local or international churches. Many mixed thoughts, emotions, and feelings welcomed the bittersweet news.

"I'm so glad this is happening. It's about time to reach out," said Than Matanick (11). While some Dalat church at- (Continued on page 9, col. 1)

# Birthday Party Crazyies

By Karen Wong

"Guys, I have a party this weekend. Who wants to come?" asked James Lo (12) in the senior Bible class. Students found opportunities to party and have fun with their friends.

On 17 September Tina Wolfe (12) and Michael Chan (12) celebrated their birthdays together at U.S. Pizza. Students spiced up the party with cake fights, unexpected kisses, and even a pizza-eating contest.

"My favorite part was when Jacqui [Steiert, 12] attempted to kiss Michael [Chan, 12], but he rejected her," says Crystal Tsai (12), with a smirk on her face as she remembered the event.

"I had such a thick layer of cake on my face that I had trouble opening my eyes, thanks to Jamie [Cheng, 12]!" remarked Wolfe as she remembered the experience of having cake smeared on her face.

On 3 October Lo celebrated his seventeenth birthday at the Crown Jewel Hotel. Guests had the luxury of enjoying great amounts of food and birthday songs sung in English, Japanese, Chinese, Bahasa, Spanish, and

French. Not only students but teachers joined the celebration. Mr. Karl Steinkamp plunged in the fun and started a game of "rock, paper, and scissor" with Chan; the loser would have to practice a pickup line on a girl chosen by the winner.

"Michael ended up losing, and Mr. Steinkamp wanted him to do a pickup line with a girl from Alice Smith School who was here for the soccer tournament," said Praveen Thomas (12), laughing.

Instead of having a big party, Christa DeVette (9) had a one at her house with a few friends. "We had a great time. I invited Charis [To, 9], Hilary [McCa-skill, 9] and I-Yah [Chen, 9]. We

watched *The Wedding Planner* and made fun of the stupid parts in the movie," said DeVette, smiling happily as she remembered the memorable time with her friends.

"Yeah, instead of using birthday candles on the cake, Mr. DeVette lit up a toothpick and Christa blew it out. We also had a great time just catching up with what had happened in the school year," said To with a smile.

Eun Bee Chung (10) commented on the birthday party that Nancy Duclos (10) held at the Park Royal Hotel. "I think the best part of Nancy's party was the restaurant. It was decorated with bananas, and I thought it was childish at first; but it turned out great."

"Not only did we get to eat,

but I had fun having water fight with my friends at the pool," remarked Sarah Garratt (10).

The parties just never seemed to stop. With each birthday, students looked for chances to gather with friends and just have fun. Other than walking around the mall or playing computers, students looked forward to the crazy times of cake fights, birthday songs, opening presents, and blowing out candles.

"I do!" screamed Christabel Kim (12) excitedly, as she thought over how much fun she could have at Lo's party.

"OK, just sign your name on the sheet and write down what you want to eat," said Lo.



## A Too-Short Long Weekend

By Chi Wei Lo

During the long weekend, 19-21 September, students and staff liked to relax and try out many different activities. Most of the seniors got together to have fun as a class. One such student,

Andrew Altice (12) liked to hang out with his friends and go golfing. Others spent their time at the numerous hot spots across the island.

A group of sophomores traveled to Kuala Lumpur to do some shopping. Some dorms went to the water park or hiked up Penang Hill.

Some of the staff decided to use this long weekend to look into getting saltwater marine fish. Some teachers visited the marine fish shop near Sunrise. "I saw Mr. [Dake] and Mrs. [Amy] Erwin at the fish shop; they were looking at all the different varieties of marine fish. But mark my words, all fish belong to the ocean; so don't buy them—let them go free," said Altice.

During the long weekend, staff members got to know the students better. The teaching staff had an extra day of relaxation. Some caught up on housework and others finished grading papers. Some staff said, "Sleeping in definitely starts a long weekend off on the right foot."

Long weekend gave students time to spend with their families, catch up on sleep, complete their homework, or simply a chance to play games. Jodi

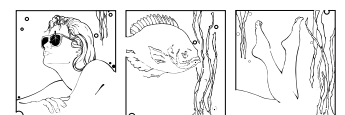
Harrison (12) said "I went to the Cameron Highlands with my family; although I felt a little sick, we still had a great time."

Some students like Chris Chu (12) and James Lo (12) slept until noon on Saturday. Chu said, "I was very tired because of all my school work, and I didn't even realize that I had slept for that long."

Michael Chan (12) said, "Although it sounds boring, I spent my long weekend completing my assignments. I really appreciated the extra time."

John Kao (12) said, "I played Warcraft III throughout the whole weekend. It helped me forget about school work and relax."

The different groups of students and staff at Dalat had both a restful and active weekend. As Saturday night drew to a close and the dorm kids headed back to campus, Altice decided to go for one last round at the driving range where he spent a frustrating hour before he decided to pack up his clubs and head for home. •



Reformation...

(Continued from page 8, col. 4) tendees feel upbeat about reaching out and communing with other churches, some took more time to reflect on the change in the church. "I deeply feel that not having the Dalat church may not be spiritually good for the school. It makes it look like there is no church at the school. We need elders to look up to and lead in unity as our foundation," said Gao Nou Kue (12). "But after thinking about it for a while, I believe they are doing it with the best intentions.

"I'm bummed/disappointed because I consider [the Dalat church] one of my churches, and I've enjoyed the Sunday morning services. That's why I kept coming," Colt Corman, a regular attendee commented; "but I can see that the heart and motivation behind the change is

good. I stand with them in being involved with the rest of the Penang community."

Some may not agree the change had become the only option available to them in order to open their hearts to the Penang community, but almost everyone agreed that the decision came about out of a good motive.

In order to provide fellowship for the present Dalat church attendees, the chaplain plans to have meetings on Sunday nights frequently. Anyone may feel welcome to come to these meetings.

The change in the church prevents it from becoming ingrown and unconsciously exclusive in its attitude toward other communities on the island; it also provides the fellowship that Dalat church has always given through the Sunday night meetings. •

# Spring Cleaning in the Fall By Christabel Kim

A gentle murmur rippled through the chapel on 13 August as Mr. David Carmichael suggested that the school discontinue the practice of having a Chapel Dress Code on Wednesdays.

"Let's take a teacher vote now. All in favor of not having chapel dress code please rise." As Mr. Carmichael had requested a faculty vote, all students immediately turned to face their teachers who stood up one by one. Soon everyone except Mr. Karl Steinkamp, the high school principal, had risen.

Just as one fixes the house to his or her taste when he or she first moves in, our new director Mr. Carmichael fixed the chapel dress code rule to how he saw fit.

The new change in rules, however, caused some conflicts for the students.

"I was a little mad because I had bought pants over summer for chapel dress," said Praveen Thomas (12).

For others, banishing the chapel dress code removed the extra time they had to spend on their appearance. "When we had chapel dress, I used to have to plan what to wear the night before because I wanted to look nice; but I didn't want to spend too much time in the morning to decide what to wear. I like it better this way because I can choose to dress up or not dress up whenever I want!" exclaimed Joyce Wong (11).

Students seemed to enjoy the freedom that they had received. Although no official rules read, "Abide by the Chapel Dress Code," one could easily spot a student in former dress code on chapel Wednesdays.

"I find myself still wearing nicer clothes for chapel on Wednesdays, like wearing nicer slacks and skirts. I guess I'm so used to following the chapel dress code that it's more normal for me to dress up without even realizing it," said Eun Bee Chung (10).

Seeing the dismay on the students' faces, Mr. Carmichael strode to Mr. Steinkamp, who was seated in the left back corner of the room. Putting one knee on the floor, Mr. Carmichael gently lowered himself beside him. As they discoursed, not a single sound or movement disturbed the stillness.

"Yea!" the students rejoiced as the principal finally stood. A resounding ovation echoed off the chapel walls, and the newly changed rules echoed freedom in student hearts. •

people had to hike to the Methodist guesthouse, while some got to ride on the back of the truck.

When they reached the Methodist Centre, some people got some rest while most played games.

The Methodist bungalow provided a great view and all the natural beauty one could imagine, but it did not offer variety of entertainment except for the games that the dorms brought along. Everyone played games like cards, word games, board games and games that involved big groups to pass time and have fun with each other.

"I enjoyed playing 'Four on the Couch' with everyone," stated Gao Nou Kue (12).

Two dorms spending the weekend together not only gave them the chance to know the other dorm family but also their own dorm family.

Penang Hill also offered them refuge from Penang's city life, which contained stress, homework, and other important tasks. It gave everyone a break in a cooler climate. As Uncle Keith Henderson stated, "It was great to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the malls, and the phone and escape to Penang Hill."

On Sunday afternoon, the dorms came back to their normal routine and to the hot sun. Penang Hill had given everyone a relaxing time with fun and laughter; it also gave them an escape from hot and humid Tanjung Bunga.

Although everyone seemed glad to move back to the normal routine, each hoped for another dorm getaway soon. As Kim stated, "I wish we could do that again next time." •

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## ESCAPE FROM TANJUNG BUNGA

By Praveen Thomas

"I can't believe I woke up so early on a Saturday morning," complained Christabel Kim (12) to herself.

Usually Saturday mornings filled campus with silence as dorm kids slept soundly; but Saturday, 20 September broke the silence when bells and digital alarms began to force Ziemer and Chandler kids to rise out of their warm comfortable beds to leave for Penang Hill.

The dorm parents of both

Chandler and Ziemer dorms had anticipated this trip and carefully planned it for weeks. They woke up earlier than the sun to prepare.

As the first trip this year and also the first joint trips for both dorms, the Penang Hill outing marked a great beginning for both dorms. As Joyce Wong (11) commented, "It was awesome because two dorms could bond together and have fun with each other outside Dalat."

When the dorms reached the tram station, they found that they had to wait for two hours for their ride to the top because of the weekend crowd. Some just lazed around, but others took advantage of their free time. Philip Houmpham (12), for example, said, "The extra two hours gave us time to explore the neighborhood and spend time together."

The tram ride lasted about 30 minutes and then most of the

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## Aching Arms By Michael Chan

"I wonder why my arms are so sore?" mumbled Eric Jung (11) as he sat up in his bed, slowly rotated his aching limbs as he thought back on what could have made him so tired.

At eight o'clock on 27 September, all 25 juniors met in front of Ziemer Dorm excited to complete their Serve-athon, the once-in-a-lifetime workday that all juniors at Dalat go through. They all piled into two Dalat vans and headed off for a full day of manual labor at St. Jo-

seph's Orphanage and at an elderly folks' nursing home.

At the orphanage, the juniors swept the floors, dusted the shelves, and entertained the kids by reading them stories or playing games.

"It was fun to play games like London Bridge with the kids because they all seemed really excited and wanted to keep us company even while we worked," said Joyce Wong (11) with a smile.

After the orphanage, the jun-

iors visited the old folks' home where they talked with the residents, painted rooms, and cleaned up the area.

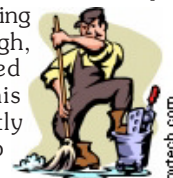
"I got pushed into the recycle bin!" said Esther Vaughn (11) with an irrepressible smile. "And I even had to hand all the trash to the other people so they could take it away."

Finally, after the work day ended, the exhausted juniors trudged back to campus; all felt ready to sleep for a week. But little did they know that a final surprise awaited them. The seniors had planned a treat of brownie sundaes in the canteen for the junior's hard work

throughout the day. As the juniors rested in the canteen chairs, the seniors graciously served them.

"The whole day turned out a lot better than I expected it to be, and this treat really topped it off," said Kimberly Gross (11) with a mouthful of ice cream.

As the memories flooded back to him, it quickly reminded Jung of why he had slept till 11 A.M. Giving a deep tired sigh, he collapsed back onto his bed, promptly falling asleep once again. •



# Preschool Learning

By Rachael Caldwell

Riiiiing!! The bell sounded and preschoolers filed into their classroom. A new school day had begun.

"I like cats and dogs. My dog's name is Dollar, and he's black," stated little Kenlee Stenlund to Ivana Smit matter-of-factly. With a smile on her face, she walked over to her desk, excited to begin a new week of preschool.

"Well, I have *three* dogs!" responded Smit that morning a little after eight when more students began to arrive.

In the past, Dalat had no preschool program. Last year, however, the first program began though it exclusively provided for the children of staff. This year, much to everyone's delight, it has opened up to the

families of the Penang community.

"I really like kids. I've been working with them for the past 16 years. Some of those years were spent working in a day-care back home in Canada," stated Mrs. Donna Hansen.

Taught dually by Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Joy Mah, the preschool class provided a means of assisting parents in training young children during their crucial years of life.

Stated more profoundly in the preschool brochure, "The preschool years are particularly important because it is at this time that children learn social skills, develop concepts, and form values and attitudes which are building blocks for the rest of their lives."

"There is Monday, there is Tuesday, there is Wednesday..." sang the five girls and one boy that make up this year's preschool class.

Everyday, preschool starts out with the "Day of the Week" song using the tune to the "Adams Family" TV show. This song teaches the young students the days of the week in order, using a more interactive approach.

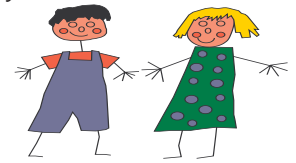
Then, using the visual aid of a weather calendar, the students discuss the various weather possibilities of the day.

Throughout the day, the children learn nursery rhymes, followed by crafts that illustrate these verses. The day progresses and the preschoolers participate in both social and educational activities. Some of these activities include: math skills, language development, science, physical education, music, drama, computer, and cooking class.

"I like PE and cooking the best, but eating is better than cooking," stated Stenlund with a rather dreamy expression on her face.

Cooking, for the youngsters—though at the most simplistic level—proved very interactive. After the two teachers measured all the ingredients needed, the students took turns pouring them in and stirring them together.

The clock read 11:15, and parents began to arrive. It became clear to all that this day of preschool had come to its end. The children reflected over their day of learning and fun. Their eyes drooped tiredly but in eagerness to return the following day. •



## Peace, Serenity, and Splashing Water

By Theo Love

Driving onto campus for the first time as a senior, Andrew Altice (12) confidently waved to the guards. Other students who relied on their parents to bring them to school looked on with envy as Altice smoothly guided his Camary through the crowded road.

As he got ready to make the turn near the Student Center, he saw what looked like a fountain in the middle of the roundabout. This new addition to the road proposed a problem for

Altice. With friends looking on, he turned sharply; but just as he feared, he hit the curb.

Although the fountain made driving more difficult for some, most students agree that it has improved the appearance of the school.

The fountain took the place of a large black and white drum that served as a traffic marker.

"When I walked onto campus for the first time, I saw a 55-gallon drum in the middle of the road. I thought that the school

held rodeos during the summer!" exclaimed Mr. David Carmichael, the new director.

After discovering the function of the drum, Mr. Carmichael decided that something needed to change. He chose a fountain to take its place, which indeed accented the beauty of the campus and symbolized peace and serenity.

Some have already started scheming about pranks in the fountain. Popular ideas include putting dye in the water to make

it red or putting soap in it to make it foam.

Others simply enjoy spreading rumors of large fish living in the fountain, and when they go to find them, the prankster greets them with a splash of water.

Mr. Karl Steinkamp, on the other hand, offered a warning about future pranks, saying, "I wouldn't want to be the one caught pulling a prank in the fountain."

As Altice put his car into reverse and prepared for another attempt, Zac Riggerbach (12) commented, "I love watching inexperienced drivers not make the turn sharp enough so they have to try again." •

## REAL MACHO MEN

By Andy Yang

When the last bell of the day rang, eager students like James Hawthorne (10) and James Lo (12) dropped their backpacks and quickly rushed to the home ec room down on lower campus. As Chris Chu (12) entered the small kitchen, he eagerly asked the "chef," "So what are we cooking today, P. Dave [Lat-sha]?"

As Matthew Hansen (10), Zac Riggerbach (12), Michael Chan (12), and Andy Yang (12) waited impatiently for the reply,

Pastor Dave said, "Pasta."

His reply filled everyone with joy and made them eager to get started.

The Real Men Cooking Club included many young and old high school guys. Pastor Dave had to divide the students into two groups: the amateur group—students who had cooking experience, and the beginner group—those who didn't.

Students in the beginner group, like John Kao (12), noted with a smile, "I've never

cooked before because I chose "WarCraft III" [a computer game] over cooking!"

Not all students felt that way, however; some, like Joey Latscha (9), had a passion for cooking. Others, like James Lo (12), confessed, "I wanted to be able to cook for my wife!"

"I love to cook, and I know there were a lot of guys here can't but would like to," said Pastor Dave. "It's fun seeing them eating their 'creation' for the first time and realizing they can do it."

Not only the chef, but also the students enjoyed the club; it allowed everyone to set aside his academic pressure for a while

and actually learn something for fun.

By the end of week, both amateur and beginner students felt like real macho men after successfully cooking pasta. "I finally know I can make pasta! Whoo Hooo!" Tony Chuang (12) excitedly said as he jumped for joy. •



# Candy, Coke, and Chaos

At 9:55....RRRING! The bell sounds and students quickly shuffle out of class and start to gather outside the student center. The sound of people screaming and yelling for their favorite soft drink and chips fill the air. Handfuls of *ringgit* fly back and forth across the counter; StuCo personnel work nonstop for 15 full minutes, making sure that every student gets his needs met.

The most chaotic 15 minutes in the day of a student happen at a little place we like to call the CANTEEN. "Break time sometimes makes me wish that I had never joined StuCo," says Theo Love (12), StuCo president.

Even though it seems like a crazy time, the students treasure every minute of it and usually spend the time talking about the latest gossip with their friends.

The canteen forms a central hub for all activity that goes on campus. "The canteen is a place where students can relax, get a drink, and chill with friends," says Eun Bee Chung (10). The sound of Ping Pong and foosball draw in a lot of the "campus wanderers," who have nothing better to do than roam aimlessly around campus.

The canteen not only provides entertainment, but it always has its fair share of action.

"Heads up!!" screams Jesse Ens (8), as he accidentally hurls a pool ball across the room. "The canteen is sweet because it's always packed with food and people, and I especially love it because my senior buddy always buys me whatever I want!" Ens proclaimed.

"Thanks to the awesome StuCo this year, the canteen has finally gained back its reputation of the cool hangout place that it once was," said Jimmy Pham (12). "I love to sit on the nice squishy pillows and talk to Crystal [Tsai, 12] and Jacqui [Steiert, 12]."

Some students just come and enjoy the breeze from the fans

and a break from the beating sun.

On the other hand students such as Sung-In Kang (8) say, "The pillows in the canteen are too smelly and old for me to lie on, so I just stay outside."

The cold drinks and candy bars slowly begin to disappear as the end of the 15-minute break approaches. The sounds of StuCo members counting money and the shuffle of people's feet fill the air. "THREE MINUTES!" yells Andrew Altice (12).

The once roar of talking and laughter has now died down to an insignificant murmur. CLANK...the canteen gate slams shut, and nothing but the wind and the leaves remain...10:10 arrives, the once-dreamt-of-break comes to an end....RRRING. •

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## The Buddy System

By Andrew Altice

"We have decided that we are going to have eighth grade buddies," Tony Chuang (12) announced as other members of the senior class excom passed out candy bars meant for their new buddies. Throughout the years, it has become a tradition for each senior to become friends with the underclassmen. The class of 2004 decided to uphold

this tradition and take the eighth grade class as its buddies.

At the end of the first week as senior buddies, the excom made sure each senior had done something for his or her buddy. "I ate my buddies candy bar, but I bought him a new one," John Kao (12) commented after being questioned by his classmates. Kao didn't act alone in eating

the candy bars. Many others soon admitted to eating the tasty treat themselves first.

Having buddies helps the middle schoolers deal with the new challenges they may face as they continue on their way to high school. Though many buddy relationships may not pass the point of giving candy and maybe the occasional note to the eighth graders, some develop into close relationships with the potential to last for years to come.

"I have gotten to know Jesse

Ens (8) really well," Simeon Garratt (12) commented. Garratt has formed one of the relationships with potential. After school the two usually get together to talk or goof off with each other.

"I think it's a really good idea; it gives the eighth graders someone to turn to if they have problems," said Theo Love (12). Whether or not their relationship stayed at just giving candy to the eighth graders or developed into a close friendship, the senior class took pride in helping younger students. •