



# Eagle's Eye

Dalat International School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia December 2004

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## When God Doesn't Speak ...in His still small voice

By Nathanael Matanick

Sometimes God speaks in a still small voice. Sometimes we as his children come to expect nothing more. And then sometimes we as his children pray for Him to do something bigger than our usual expectations. And then, sometimes when God follows through, we get surprised.

This relates to how God has begun working on campus concerning the death of Mr. Doug Brokaw. God has come and harshly shoved us out of our comfort zones that helped to define our faith. "We always know that people are dying all the time, but we never feel the reality of it until someone close to us dies. It was shocking. In a way it made us realize how much more we need God because we can only find any comfort in this through Him," said Joyce Wong (12).

When Mr. Brokaw brought his family back to Dalat in 2003 for the second time after living three years in Ohio, he realized the need for more of God among the school community. This is not to say that Dalat in itself had gone "down hill," but it simply needed its next dose of spiritual prompting. Mr. Brokaw and his wife spent many hours in prayer together, asking God to move among the community.

As the band teacher and head of the entire music department, Mr. Brokaw took advantage of every opportunity to bless people with the gift of music that

God had given him. He went past what his job expected of him. He took the band, not only to their school concerts, but out to churches in the community as well. "Mr. Brokaw was unique from the other staff members because he got the most involved in the community. He inspired the rest of us to get involved in the community," said Aunt Shannon McCabe.

Mr. Brokaw's desire to get involved in people's lives in-

spired staff and students alike to live more fully for what matters in life and to better use the gifts God had given them. "I chose to take band this year simply because Mr. Brokaw was the teacher. He has always been so patient and encouraging to me. He set a standard of musicianship that inspired us to press on but was never judgmental when we would fall short. I was extremely surprised when he asked me to play keyboard in jazz band because I'm not at the level to meet his expectations yet. He's the sort of guy whose expectations you want to meet," said Christina Robertson (12).

Mr. Brokaw had a knack for drawing the best out of people, and he sacrificed many hours to serve others whenever he could. As he went about his day to day responsibilities, he continued to pray for God's movement in the community.

Not very long ago God answered Mr. Brokaw's prayers. On Tuesday, 9 November, Mr. Brokaw died of a severe lung infection. "Through Mr. Brokaw's death, I think God truly united this campus. He brought together students and teachers in prayer and tied us together with love, teaching us to completely depend on him. Individually, we were each brought closer to Him, yet we also were able to challenge each other and grow (Continued on page 2, col. 1)



**Concert Maestro Mr. Doug Brokaw prepares to conduct the high school band during its graduation week performance on 22 May 2004.**

# Go Green!

By Sam Lee

# APES Spring Out

By Cathy Lin

As sweat slipped off his hair onto the ground, Steven Ong (10) finished the last step of the 400-meter race, taking first place once again. "Steven is my evil shadow except he is always in front of me," Andrew McClary (11) said after finishing the race second. Under the heavy canopy of very humid air, students had Track and Field Day on 4 November.

Students in four brightly colored shirts gathered around the canteen early in the morning, patiently waiting for the bus that would take them to USM.

As each team piled onto its own bus, the excitement grew as each anticipated winning the events of the day. During the long ride, team captains, using the incentive of a pizza party, encouraged young and old to sign up for as many events as possible.

When everyone finally arrived at the USM stadium, an atmosphere of intense rivalry filled the air.

Track and field provided opportunities for individuals to show off in their area of physical fitness. Some students earned

numerous ribbons because of their excellent physical skills. "This year I did really well, and as a result I got six ribbons. I guess working out helped a little," said Howard Kao (11).

This school event included more than just individual skill competition. Some students signed up for lots of events so that their team would get participation points and win overall for the day—even if they didn't place first in the individual competition. Also some students encouraged others so that they would do better. "I didn't know I could come this far. I won both of my races, but I know that I couldn't have won without the support of my team," said Chris Kim (9).

Regardless of team results, students enthusiastically cheered each other on and gave their best effort. By the time everyone loaded onto the bus to go home, each person could sense genuine team solidarity. Ong said, "I really had a great time today, not only did our green team win, but I also saw lots of people caring for others and hoping for their wins." •

"How are we going to get in there? Where do we step? Oh man, my white shoes!" Eric Jung (12) exclaimed as he tried to walk into the mangrove.

The rest of APES class turned towards him, not knowing whether to laugh or to pity him.

"Eric, I am worse than you. You have just splattered mud on my legs. Stop complaining and keep going!" Lindsay Loehden (12) shouted at him from the back.

On 2 December, Mr. Dean McClary, along with Mr. David Loehden, brought the APES class to the back of the island for the first semester "spring out" field trip. The trip focused on applying scientific knowledge students had learned in classrooms to a living environment.

At 10:00 A.M., as soon as all APES students had grabbed the snacks from the canteen, the vans headed off to the first destination, Chin Waterfall in Batu Ferringhi. Mr. McClary used the hot, dry, and sandy environment at the waterfalls as an example of primary succession as he explained the techniques the life forms, especially plants, had used to survive in nitrogen-deficient environment.

The survival techniques used by pitcher plants amazed all APES students. "I can't believe that the plants trap ants using the slippery hair along their lips and decompose them with their digestive enzymes. The spiders in the tube really scared me. I didn't expect to see them," said Sam Lee (12).

Under Mr. McClary's instructions, the students went to the top of the waterfall to take some water quality and species diversity readings.

Lee and Andrew McClary (11) finished their assigned job before the rest of the class and challenged each other to climb up a steep slope nearby. Remembering how the two boys got to the top in a split second, Jordan Gaddis (12) said, "It was so funny looking at Andrew being stuck on the cliff, helplessly calculating how to get down."

Lee showed his bruises and commented, "I thought I could show off my courageous landing in front of the girls, but the steep slope made me fall really badly."

After doing all the hard work and having some excitement at the waterfalls, the students took (Continued on page 3, col. 1)

Mr. Doug Brokaw...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) with each other," explained Marie Giezendanner (10).

What Mr. Brokaw had so diligently prayed for has finally begun to come true. And though as a whole we as a community grew closer, it caused some of us individually to stumble. "What's the point of even praying if God doesn't answer?" voiced frustrated students after having prayed so steadily that God would heal Mr. Brokaw.

The hard truth of death can shake our foundations. But as long as God stays in the center, His ways will prove better than ours. Yes, we prayed for 10 long days that God would heal Mr. Brokaw.

And while it seems safe to assume that God heard those prayers, we must remember that Mr. Brokaw had prayed even longer than we did that God would do something tremendous. God answered his prayers in a way that shocked us but forcefully grabbed our attention. God didn't ignore our prayers, but seeing so much more than

we could, He answered them in a way that went beyond our current understanding. God blessed Mr. Brokaw by allowing him to be the means by which God chose to move.

"This has been so eye-opening. It has forced me to realize just how frail life is and how much I take for granted. Now I see how unprepared we are when it comes to dealing with death," said Lydia Ng (12).

"I miss Mr. Brokaw," said Tokihito Shioya (10). "He was always so nice to me. He would sit with me after school in the band room and help me practice tuba and trombone. He encouraged me to learn quickly because I had just started. But with his help I was able to play in the Easter concert. Mr. Brokaw was always very encouraging."

Sometimes God gets our attention in a still small voice. And then He sometimes surprises us when He pours out His power. Sometimes we assume that God's ways must be similar to our ways—but when He sometimes shows us some of His ways, we grow so much in the process. •

## Rudolph, the Spineless Jellyfish

By Apryl Siemens

Santa hats, lots of smiles, jingle bells, and trumpets! The middle school Christmas concert—impossible! So students, teachers, and staff thought. As Mr. Gerry Steiert shared, "I was quite amazed how well [the middle school participants] did with having to change from Mr. [Doug] Brokaw [as the teacher] to Mr. [Kerry] Mahoney."

The participating students admitted the difficult change, but with Mr. Mahoney's help and devotion, they did more than just pull it off. Mr. Mahoney even possessed the energy for a joke as he introduced the middle school band's next piece: "Rudolph the Spineless Jellyfish."

Mrs. Valeri Brokaw did wonders with her choir and beginners band. The choir started with plenty of nervous giggles,

but their acapella song, "Calypso" took a hold of the audience's hands for a grand applause.

And Grace Walter (6) shared her unusual but fun talents with the crowd by playing a solo on pots and pans.

The evening concert warmed the school's hearts and prepared everyone for the glorious season to begin! •



# Guilty as Charged!

By Robert Whiting

"All rise. The Honorable Judge [Kimberly]Gross[12]presiding," said bailiff Chris Foster (11). "The court is now in session. I call the case *Dalat International School vs. Mrs. Shannon Smith.*"

The mock trial prosecution charged Mrs. Smith with the premeditated murder of Mr. Gerry Steiert, Mr. Karl Steinkamp, and Ms. Nellie Koethler on 30 November.

After two months of analyzing information, investigating crime scenes, following witnesses, and interviewing suspects, the Chemistry and American Government classes pulled to-

gether the second mock trial in recent school history.

Under the guidance of Ms. Maike Horn, the Crime Scene Investigation teams explored the depths of human knowledge by testing metals, measuring blood samples, analyzing pens, comparing fingerprints, and evaluating handwriting samples. They then compiled all the evidence into professional reports for the mock trial court.

Mr. Karl Steinkamp divided the senior American Government class into four sections: a judge, prosecution team, defense team, and jury.

The prosecution, Than Ma-

tanick, Natalie Herring, and Aaron Steinert, first introduced the jury to the unyielding evidence at hand; and the defense, Christina Robertson, Lindsey Nagel, and Robert Whiting, attempted to instill doubt into the minds of the jury members.

Herring said, "It was a lot of work, but in the end it was worth it. We put on quite a night."

The prosecution called CSI members to the stand. "I was nervous at first, but as [Matanick] asked me more questions I grew more confident in my testimony," said inspector Nathan Rice (11). "Even when the defense attempted to shake my certainty, I was able to recover and nail the scientific support of the prosecution."

After the closing statements, the jury retired to make a verdict; upon their return, the Hon-

orable Judge Gross said, "Has the jury reached a verdict?"

"We have your Honor," replied Esther Vaughn, foreman of the jury. "In the case of first-degree murder of Nurse Nellie, we find the defendant not guilty. In the case of Mr. Karl Steinkamp, we find the defendant guilty of first-degree murder. And in the case of Mr. Gerry Steiert we find the defendant guilty." •



APES' Gooney Shoes...

(Continued from page 2, col. 4) a 15-minute journey to the Tropical Fruit Farm to have their lunch. Accompanied by the beautiful scenery and the cool atmosphere, the students enjoyed their lunch, tropical fruits, and the wonderful time outside school. As soon as everyone had finished eating, they hopped in the vans again and continued their journey.

At 1:00 P.M. the class came to a harbor on the Malacca Straits. This remote and neglected area made the class wonder what exploration it could have there. As they walked along the path to their destination, a stench gradually filled the whole atmosphere. Jung exclaimed, "Oh no! It must be the mangrove."

Mr. McClary led the class to the entrance of the mangrove and briefly introduced the area. To show the class more about the mangrove ecosystem, he carefully guided them into the stinky muck.

Seeing that walking on the brittle wood was the only way to get into it, Gaddis questioned Mr. McClary earnestly, "Can we not go in? I don't want to fall into the swamp!" Nevertheless, she still managed to get into the mangrove without staining herself.

On the way back to school, Jung again complained about his muddy white shoes, "I am going to wash my shoes right after school and bleach them back to the whiteness they were before the field trip!" he said. •

## DYNAMITE PLAYERS

By Esther Vaughn

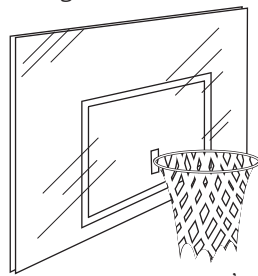
"Eagles are dynamite! Don't mess with dynamite—E-A! Eagles are dynamite, don't mess with dynamite—G-L! Eagles are dynamite don't mess with dynamite—E-S! Eagles are dynamite, don't mess with dynamite—EAGLES!" yelled Yoko Shimizu (12) from the stand as Eric Jung (12) gained possession of the ball and dribbled down court. With number 10 pressuring him, he struggled to find someone open. He needed this shot with less than a minute left in the half. Steven Ong (10) "got open," and Jung passed him the ball.

On the weekend of the 26—27 November, Dalat School hosted a basketball tournament for seven teams: Mont Kiara, Chung Hwa, Berapit, Uplands, George Town, Alice Smith, and Heng Ee.

Dalat International took second in their pool, losing to Chung Hwa 55-69. They defeated George Town, however, 41-26 and Mont Kiara, 49-24. Dalat entered the finals competing for the bronze against Heng Ee. Although they played close game, the Eagles lost, 43-48, placing fourth in their home tournament.

Coach Greg Stenlund complimented the boys saying, "This

was a good first tournament for our guys. They showed great potential. With a little more work together they would have been able to win the whole tournament."



Although Dalat did not win the gold, the team still showed talent and skill, united the school, and brought out everyone's school spirit. Jung appreciated all the support; he said, "I enjoyed the crowd cheering for our team. It gave me energy every time they cheered the 'Dynamite Cheer.' I especially liked the fact that my mom came to watch my games."

Nathan Rice (11) said, "Watching the tournament gave me great excitement. While in

the stands, you could just feel the players' passion for the game. It was very intense. They played very well as a team, and I enjoyed supporting them."

School spirit such as Lydia Ng (12), Shimizu, and Natalie Herring (12) displayed supported the boys—they had donned cheer-leading outfits for the pep rally.

Ong, listening to the fans cheer for him, caught the ball, faked out his defender, and shot. As the fans counted down the time—"TEN! NINE! EIGHT! SEVEN!" Ong's shot went up and "swish!" The fans jumped out of their seats out of excitement! "I cheered so much that day that my throat was cracking and soar. I could barely talk the rest of the week," commented Ng. Ong had tied at the half, 35-35—giving them motivation to play their best. •

## COLD MOUNTAIN

By Aaron Steinert

Cold, the one feeling students rarely enjoy here in Penang. As if in a dream, the dorm families experienced this sensation in the Cameron Highlands. From 11-13 November, the dorms breathed in cool air, marveled at beautiful scenery, and lived together as a whole. The wondrous mountains receive a group

from Dalat nearly every year. Since the Highlands have become a common vacationing spot for the school, many memories have their roots in those mountains. "I enjoyed going up there and seeing the Cameron Highlands. I had heard a lot about them," commented Ng (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

# "Up Here in Genting"

By Natalie Herring

At 7 A.M. on 18 November, the sound of Eric Westergren's (10) trumpet called all high school band and choir students to board the bus heading to the Genting Highlands for a three-day expense-paid trip with a hectic performance schedule.

After the sudden passing away of Mr. Doug Brokaw, students felt hesitant to go on the trip that he had put so much effort into and had planned so carefully. Believing that Mr. Brokaw would have wanted them to go, Mrs. Valeri Brokaw encouraged students to continue with the trip and to do their best to praise God with their talents.

After a long bus ride, the students reached the First World Hotel where they remained for the length of their stay. Cool weather and the holiday atmosphere contrasted with Penang Island, giving students a different taste of Malaysia.

Nathanael Matanick (12) said, "It was a well-needed break, and being away where it was cold made me feel even further away from everything. It was also extremely exciting to get to [wear]

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The Cool Camerons...

(Continued from page 3, col. 4)  
cle Tim Steinert.

A number of people took advantage of the cool air and caught up on their sleep. "I slept the whole time because it was cool," said Kael Steinert (9).

The atmosphere consisted of peace and calm, while the scenery amazed some. Joel Babcock (11) stated, "The Cameron Highlands were beautiful—but boring. There was nothing to do there. Aside from sleeping, students enjoyed the outdoors, played board games, or participated in basketball or soccer.

During brief points in the schedule, special trips to one of the surrounding attractions, presented themselves. Some of the attractions included: the OMF guesthouse, the strawberry farms, Tanah Rata, and the Boh tea plantation. "I really enjoyed seeing the tea plantation," said Mr. Steinert.

Overall, the dorm's break from Penang enabled the students to return to school refreshed. •

warm clothes."

Nancy Duclos (11) commented on the group of performers that preceded the Dalat band and choir, "The best part was laughing at the Genting mascots as they sang 'Up Here in Genting!' and danced in their huge animal costumes."

When it came time for the Dalat concert, a large audience crowded around the stage. Jonathan Masters (9) said, "Most of the time the audience looked dead, but after we performed for the last time, they clapped a lot."

Pleased to have had a chance to take part in the band performance, Matt Mah (10) stated, "[We] did well playing our 'Lord of the Rings' piece."

Although the band and choir

worked hard, they did have some personal time to play. With a free pass to the amusement park, the students could enjoy the rides in between concerts. Describing one of the rides that dropped people from hundreds of feet in the air, Jason Pohl (12) said, "[My favorite part about the amusement park] was listening to Joyce [Wong 12] scream on the space shuttle ride."

After returning to campus at midnight on Saturday, the students felt generally happy about their performances but also exhausted. Long forgotten, Westergren's early morning greeting no longer resounded in the tired student's heads. Instead, Disney theme tunes and the "Up Here in Genting" song continued to resonate through their minds. •

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## Starting Fast, Finishing Strong

By Christina Robertson

Steadying her shaking hand and mentally forcing her breathing to remain calm, Emma Hofer (2) faced forward, eagerly expecting the touch of the baton in her hand. "Hurry, Garrison [Schaller, K]!" she yelled. After what seemed like eternity to this second-grader, her hand clasped the baton; and she whizzed off like a whirlwind headed for the next relay station.

Relay races finished up elementary students' "school" day experience on 23 November. The athletic department coordinated a one-of-a-kind Sports' Day for grades K-4. Sports Day allowed elementary students a chance to participate in selected traditional track and field events like shot put, long jump, and races. "I feel sorry for the high schoolers because Sports' Day was so cool! It was a whole day of sports," said Evan Peltola (2).

"I liked shot put because the ball was so heavy it almost made me fall on the ground!" said Shelina Hsieh (4).

"My favorite station was the long jump because I got to run and then jump like a birdie," said Reagan Mahoney (4).

Although incorporating a few traditional elements of a track-and-field day, the elementary

Sports Day included other creative activities like movie-making and the game of Twister. Tim Phan (2) said, "We got to make a movie about Joseph in the Bible; and then at the end of the day, we watched [it]."

Inside the gym, an elaborately designed obstacle course posed a stimulating challenge for each student. "In the obstacle course, we had to swing on a rope, climb through a tunnel, do zigzags, hop on one foot, then on two feet, and ride a scooter. But the best part was swinging around on the rope like Tarzan," said Daniel Masters (4).

After an energizing lunch, the Sports' Day staff challenged the elementary students in a giant tug-of-war. Noriah Matanick (4) said, "At first we were losing [to the teachers], but then we yelled, 'Pull, pull, pull!' and we won against the teachers!"

To cool off in the humid equator heat, the teams engaged in a water balloon game. "Before the water balloon game even started, one of the teams just dropped a balloon! But I didn't get wet," said Mariana Moss (2).

Finishing with relay races between the teams, the continually full-of-energy elementary students sprinted around the

pavement and cheered for each other. "I was cheering so loud for my team that the whole campus could hear me, and my dad told me I needed to be quieter," said Ben Weidemann (4).

Cheers overwhelmed Hofer's ears, and her legs raced ahead even faster than before. Finally she reached her finish line and breathed a sigh of relief as she handed the baton to Jessica Hsiao (K), who carried forth the Green Team's good name toward the finish line. •

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## A Happy Deepavali

By Kazu Komatsu

"In the morning at 5:00 A.M., we have to wake up and pray. It has to be before sunrise. When we pray to our god, we have to put oil on our heads. We need to put *tosai* and curry in front of ourselves because after we pray, we eat. After eating and praying, we put on new clothes and go to temple to pray again. And then we are done," explained Basccaran Raja Manikam. He continued, "Lots of relatives come and visit—so that's why there are a lot of people [in Penang] when Deepavali comes."

When Deepavali or the Festival of Lights arrives, the streets jam with people. It's like New Years for the Hindu community; they will go to temple, and after that, they will go to shop. And finally, they will get together and eat as a family.

This year Deepavali fell on 12 November, a few days after Hari Raya, the celebration of the end of the fasting month. Because of the closeness of the two holidays, Dalat had a five-day long weekend. Some students spent time with their families, and others traveled. "When I was on the way to K.L., the traffic was fine. But the traffic going to Penang was full of cars. I thought that when we came back it would take a long time," said Yoko Shimizu (12).

The six dorms went to the Cameron Highlands to get away from school. They had a great time up there together like a real family. "Mary [Kuffel, 11] and I rented bicycles and rode to town," said Julia Cheong (12). "We bought half a kilo of strawberries. When we got back, Uncle Jason [Phillips] smeared whipped cream on my head!"

Students had a bonding time with their dorm parents and their dorm brothers and sisters. •

# Are Freezies and Candy Enough?

By Lindsey Nagel

"The serve-athon is a good way! You could sell freezies and candy all year and only make around ten thousand ringgit, but with a serve-athon you could make thirty to forty thousand ringgit," said junior class sponsor, Mr. Steve Liss, in an effort to persuade the junior class to participate in fund-raising on 30 November for the Junior-Senior Banquet and other class activities.

The juniors plan to use the money received from fund-raising to put on a special banquet at the end of the year, honoring the Class of 2005. Despite his financial incentives, Mr. Liss went on to say that many juniors didn't want to send out serve-athon letters because of uncomfortable feelings about asking their relatives to sponsor them by giving money to help support their class.

At an international school, students and teachers daily encounter a blend of contrasting cultures from varying homes and backgrounds; cultural sensitivity in Korean culture may not transfer across to Chinese culture. Some of the Asian juniors felt that their culture would gladly give money to charity organiza-

tions but not just for the junior class that would keep the money for themselves. Many North American juniors also felt uncomfortable asking relatives for money. Lindsay Parks said, "I totally understand how some people don't want to ask their relatives for money. Many people think it's kind of rude to ask their aunts and uncles whom they never really talk to for money." Despite these contrasting cultures, God has woven individual threads of diversity together to create a colorful Dalat community for a purpose.

Despite reluctance to ask for money, the class of 2006 began their eight hours of service on the morning of 23 October at the Penang Home of the Aged and Infirm. Though tired and beginning to feel the weight of upperclassmen responsibilities on their shoulders, the juniors put away their own needs and focused on the needs of others. The people who ran the complex gladly put the juniors to work washing windows and cleaning ceiling fans—tasks that may have seemed trivial but had proven overly difficult for the elderly residents. According to

Ted Fung, "We were told we had mowing and painting to do too, but they ended up only asking us to wash the windows and fans." The junior class enjoyed chatting with the Chinese residents as well as a Chinese bird in the cage outside. As Fung, Grace Sun, Jan Ng, and a few other juniors enjoyed using their Hokkien to converse with the elderly, a few of the other juniors including Mary Kuffel, Po Lai, and Joel Babcock attempted to use English to talk to a mimicking bird; unfortunately the bird only spoke Chinese words in return.

To break up their clean streak of scrubbing windows and wiping down ceiling fans and to refuel their giving bodies, the juniors decided to take a break and go to McDonald's for a quick bite to eat.

After returning back to work, the class demonstrated servant hearts by speedily bringing in the elderly's clean laundry as the sky began to open and shower the ground with soothing afternoon rain. As the rain grew harder, it became apparent that the juniors would have to depart and begin their journey back to

the school's campus.

Upon their early arrival, the seniors scurried to have refreshing treats to serve them as a cheerful encouragement to their tired bodies, and they longed to hear all about how the class had helped others with their hard work. The class of 2006 had an amazing opportunity to bless others and bring God's love into a hurting community full of many who had been living alone, separated from those whom they loved deeply.

Because the rain cut the juniors' serve-athon short, forcing them to return to campus after only six hours, they have planned to finish their remaining two hours of service next semester by serving the island of Penang by picking up trash thrown on the public beach.

Mr. Liss continued talking about the junior class' finances so far: "Because we only made about ten thousand ringgit from serve-athon, we may not have the best senior sneak, we may end up at Batu Ferringhi at a convention center—but we'll have an excellent, superb, stupendous JSB! It'll be the best JSB ever, since last year!" •

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## The Great Escape

By Lindsay Loehden

All anyone can think about these days is the upcoming Christmas vacation. "School is almost out, and I can't wait to get out of here!" exclaimed Po Lai (11). Everyone looks ahead to the moment he or she can finally hand their sign-out sheet to his or her class sponsor.

Though the vacation is only a few days off, people also dread the fact that the final exams approach. Yet in this case, the good outweighs the bad.

No matter how many finals people have, most still want the vacation to come as soon as possible. "This year I have five finals and three of them are APs; this makes it really stressful. But when I think about the upcoming vacation, I feel relieved," said Cathy Lin (12).

Teachers also anticipated the break. At the end of the school year, they begin to wear down

as well. "I can't wait; Chiang Mai here I come!" exclaimed Ms. Jennifer Collins.

"Christmas vacation is a time to relax, to catch up on sleep, to hang with friends and to visit family. I am going to be hanging in Korea this Christmas!" said Andy Jung (7).

Many have plans to travel around Southeast Asia, and a few are going to Europe or North America. "I am going to visit my friends in Taiwan for the vacation," said Ted Fung (11).

"When I go off to college I won't be able to spend Christmas with my family [in Mongolia], so this will be the last one for a while," said Sam Lee (12) sadly.

So by the time this paper comes out, most students will have shouted, "School's out! School's out!" And, they will have their bags packed and ready. •

## Diving Deeper

By Jordan Gaddis

"Deeper," the Spiritual Emphasis Week theme, provided opportunities for students to become stronger in Christ-likeness. "We were all challenged to live deeper lives," said Mr. Ryan Tuck, the organizer of SEW. Dr. Warren Reeve from Bandung, Indonesia, came as a guest speaker for these special meetings on 20-22 October.

Dr. Reeve challenged students to examine their lives for pride, humility, anger, and lack-of-forgiveness. Through activities and speeches, Dr. Reeve helped the high school and middle school students become "Deeper" in Christ. Deon Gouws (8) said, "It helped me to become a better person, to choose the right in difficult situations."

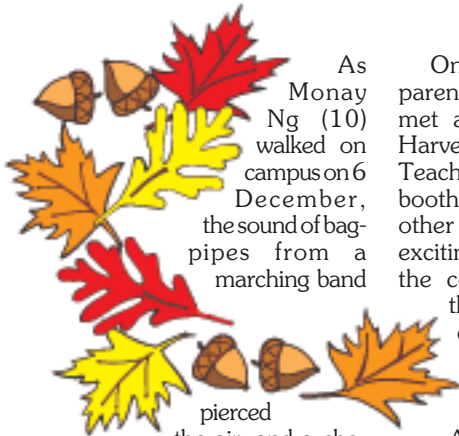
Scheduled chapel meetings took place every day during school so the students could get a break from work and concentrate on becoming more in tune with Christ. Activities after school included not only students, but parents. On Wednesday, 20 October, the Vocal Ensemble performed before Dr. Reeve spoke.

On Thursday, 21 October, the Dalat Ambassadors performed before the message. The final meeting on Friday included a free chicken dinner, a worship session with Jason's band, and a special beach bonfire where students and parents had the opportunity to share about decisions they had made. "It was very encouraging to hear the students share how they were growing in their lives as we gathered around the beach bonfire on Friday night," said Mr. Tuck.

"SEW was great," said Lydia Ng (12). "I could really apply what Mr. Reeve taught about forgiveness to my own experience." •

# Castles, Kimchi, and a Petting Zoo

By Lydia Ng



As Monay Ng (10) walked on campus on 6 December, the sound of bagpipes from a marching band pierced the air, and a chorus of animals competed to drown out the band. Walking past the gym, she heard bursts of laughter and the sound of children's voices. Curious, Ng peeked in to see children flying through the air in a castle. The aroma of sushi, pizza, spare ribs, and chicken wings filled Ng's nostrils, inviting her to indulge in a variety of delicious delicacies.

On 6 December, students, parents, staff, and friends all met at campus to enjoy the Harvest Festival. The Parent-Teacher Organization organized booths with games, food, and other such fun activities as an exciting way to get involved with the community. Appreciating the variety of people on campus, Cindy Hsieh (9) said, "It was special because so many different schools came."

A bouncy blow-up castle in the gym gave many students a chance to bounce out all their stress. "I went in the bouncy house five times; how exciting! It made me feel like a little kid again," said Michelle Nagel (10).

Others enjoyed the activities sponsored by the student council. "The tug-of-war was the best. Student Council did a great job coming up with such a creative

game," said Yoko Shimizu (12). "The kids seemed to love it and I had a fun time getting soaked."

Kael Steinert (9) disagreed with her and said, "No way; the petting zoo was the best! The animals were really adorable, and I got to know the paternal side of myself."

Showing off the henna tattoo on her arm, Marie Giezen-danner (10) said, "Mrs. Walter did a good job with my henna, but I couldn't do much since I had to be really careful not to smear it on someone's shirt."

Other participants enjoyed the different food booths. "The best part about the Harvest Fest was all the food from many different countries, which was quite delicious," said Howard Kao (11).

Natalie Herring (12) agreed and said, "The wide variety of exotic foods intrigued my appe-

tite and satisfied my stomach."

For some, the food brought back nostalgic memories of 'home.' "It was great to taste [Korean] food again," said Chris Kim (9), who hails from Busan.

Although it started raining during the festival, students maintained a positive attitude and tried to make the best of it. Herring said, "The rain honed my multitasking skills since I had to run around trying to take journalism pictures and hold up my umbrella at the same time."

Nathanael Matanick (12) summed up the evening saying, "The Harvest Festival was a time of memories, a time for friends to gather and laugh."

After a memorable evening of satisfying food and fun, Ng reluctantly walked back to her dorm with warm and fuzzy thoughts about animals, nostalgic thoughts about her childhood, nonpermanent thoughts about tattoos, spicy thoughts about U.S. Pizza, and a heightened expectation of future food-and-fun fairs. •

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## DON'T MESS WITH DYNAMITE!

By Eric Jung

The gym filled with an outburst of wild cheering as the Dalat Eagle's basketball team casually jogged across the court. Barely able to hear his own voice, Steven Ong (10) said to a fellow teammate, "I am feeling nervous, but I hope we will be able to do well."

The untamed crowd continued to shout cheers in support of the team. As the ball tipped off, the frenzy of the fans grew; the victory depended on the performance of the Dalat Eagles.

A pep rally has become an essential part of a sport team's success. Before every major sport event, Dalat's pep chairman, Joyce Wong (12), organized a rally for the athletes, hoping for a victory.

Wong always demonstrated enthusiasm in supporting the Dalat Eagles. During the basketball tournament, she did not hesitate to raise the spirits of everyone in attendance. Although she always appeared cheerful, organizing a pep rally required a large amount of brain power and effort.

"I was very stressed out, but I was extremely happy about the way it turned out," said Wong.

Several cheerleaders who helped the pep chairman felt proud of their "peppiness." Cheerfully flashing her pom-pom's, Yoko Shimizu (12) screamed to show how much she was enjoying the moment. She later commented shyly, "It was very embarrassing to stand up on the bench

with pom-pom's, but overall, I enjoyed being part of the pep rally."

Natalie Herring (12), another cheerleader who accompanied Shimizu said, "I had fun dressing up like a cheerleader and being peppy because I felt like I had a part of cheering our guys into their fourth-place victory!"

Pep rallies gave laughter and fun not only for the cheerleaders but also for the basketball players. Ted Fung (11), a forward on the varsity squad, commented with a smile on his face, "I enjoyed all the attention from the crowd, but I didn't dare to look at the bleachers because they were too intimidating."

Many of the basketball players appreciated the motivation

pep rallies provided. "Because of the cheering from the hot cheerleaders, I was pumped up for our very first game of the season," said Howard Kao (11) with a smile.

The first game finished with a defeat of the Eagles. The wild cheering from the crowd stopped as the game ended. Although the athletes felt disappointed, they had strong determination to win their next games.

With a tenacious look on his face, Ong left the gym anticipating the upcoming games. Just as the athletes did not give up their hopes, the crowd also planned to come back the next day to cheer once again for the expected victory. •

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## Black Individuality

By Joyce Wong

"What is taking our shirts so long? When are we getting them?" an annoyed Eric Jung (12) complained to senior class president Natalie Herring (12) about the senior class uniform shirts that the class of 2005

had hoped to get at the beginning of the semester. The seniors looked forward to receiving their black shirts with the same logo as the current uniform, except with writing underneath the logo that said

"Class of 2005," because with the launching of the uniform dress code this school year, they could only express their individuality through makeup, shoes, and accessories.

The class shirts have distinguished the seniors from the underclassmen. Nathanael Matanick (12), StuCo president, confidently said, "The shirt

helps to distinguish us yet at the same time unify us. A strand of three, in this case twenty-one, is not easily broken—unless of course we don't wear the shirt very often."

Robert Whiting (12) commented, "I like our shirts not only because they are original and they make us look sharp, (Continued on page 7, col. 1)

# Ladies' Choice?

By Julia Cheong

At 12:05 A.M. on 29 December, in Robbie Mangham's (10) bedroom—Mary Kuffel (11) stood, smiling nervously, standing out distinctly in white with the 11 members of the Chandler Dorm decked out in black, singing "Away in a Manger." She tried to suppress her laughter as she approached Mangham, who stirred about half-sleep as Chris Kim (9) mercilessly rang the obnoxiously shrill Chandler summoning bell.

"Robbie, will you go to the Christmas Banquet with me?" asked Kuffel.

As he rubbed his eye and tried to adjust them to his suddenly bright bedroom lights, Natalie Herring (12) bellowed, "ANSWER!"

On 25 November, StuCo announced the second Annual Christmas Banquet—the same Sadie Hawkins style, but with a new twist. Instead of just tagging a guy and making him wear something ridiculously embarrassing to let others know that he belonged to her for the evening, each girl

had to come up with an elaborate, almost JSB-invitation-like gimmick to ask the guy—in addition to having to wear something stupid that the guy chose for her.

"I knew that a bunch of girls were going to ask Robbie, so I decided to 'cut the line' a little bit—I had to think of something really quickly in the dorm van on our way back from church that Sunday; letting someone else take Robbie was not an option," said Kuffel.

"Getting the whole dorm involved was Aunt Janet [Phillips]'s idea. She was so great; she even asked Mrs. [Barb] Mangham for permission to come over at midnight!" said Kuffel.

"I spent many hours of planning, worrying, fretting, and strutting about how I was going to ask Sam [Lee, 12]. In the end, I chose to write a rap for him because he always makes fun of my 'Driving in the Car' rap; but I know that deep down inside he loves it," said Lydia Ng (12).

As much as coming up with a

plan to ask the guys challenged the girls, recognizing the girls' plans to ask them became a difficulty for the guys as well. Said Tamara Herring (9) about her dorm brother Ted Fung (11): "He kept whining about how no one was going to ask him, so when I heard about Kim [berly Gross, 12]'s ingenious plan to ask dear old Teddy by sticking a note in his takeout *wan than mee*, I thought it was a wonderful idea."

"But I was so busy eating that I have never even noticed the note, until Yoko [Shimizu, 12] got so impatient and told me to read it. I never cease to amaze myself and others with my cluelessness," said Fung.

During the week of fretting, nervousness, cluelessness and surprise, some girls, managed to remain cool and indifferent in spite of the frenzied atmosphere amongst the rest of the girls. "I don't believe in girls' asking guys out. That is just unacceptable to me—that is the guys' job! But I had fun checking out the yellow list and laughing at all the random couples going together," said Cathy Lin (12).

"I didn't have to do a thing. I

was joking around with Greg [Kolkman, 9], and I said 'Greg, I'm going to the Christmas Banquet with you!' And again I emphasize, I was just joking! But next thing I know, he wrote my name up next to his on that yellow list!" said Stella Park (11). "But that was OK because I didn't have to ask anyone. He basically did the asking for me."

Still, each one of the girls who chose to partake in the activity received her benefits—a nicely dressed date for herself for the evening.

At 6:50 P.M. on 4 December—"Oh, you guys, he looks so good!" exclaimed Kuffel as she watched her date Mangham come up the steps of Chandler Dorm. As she quickly rearranged her curls, she

thought back to the week before and how nervous and awkward she had felt standing in his bedroom. She laughed, and said to herself, "It was so worth it!" •



## Senior Shirts...

(Continued from page 6, col. 4) but because they assure us that we are the perfect example for the rest of the school."

The special shirts arrived on 7 December before senior Bible class. Herring and a few excited members of the senior class ran to Ziemer Dorm to get them.

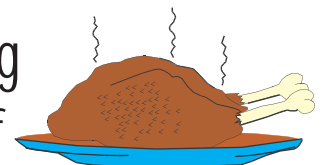
As they returned, the patiently waiting seniors heard the creak of the door and erupted into a cheer. Across the room, Jung commented, "Finally, they're here!"

After Apologetics, everyone decided to change into the new shirts because no one could wait for the moment to look sharp and different.

Aunt Val Weidemann, one of the senior class sponsors and an alumnus of Dalat, proudly said, "All of the seniors look HOT! (And I don't mean in temperature.) It is great way to build class solidarity and also gives the younger ones something to look forward to as seniors."

As Julia Cheong (12), dubbed "The Walking Dictionary" for her extensive, useful-only-for-SAT-I vocabulary said, "Those shirts represent our prominent, privileged status as seniors." •

## With Full of Thanksgiving and Stomachs Full of



By Kimberly Gross

The door to the Manghams' house standing open in front of him, the sweet aroma of turkey just out of the oven and freshly baked pumpkin pie filled James Hawthorne's (11) nostrils as the scent flooded into the carport. Strolling inside, Hawthorne fixed his eyes on the mounds of food prepared specially for the Thanksgiving feast that lay before him.

With Canadian Thanksgiving on 11 October and American Thanksgiving on 25 November, the students and staff thankfully indulged themselves in filling meals of turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce while laughing and enjoying time with friends and family. The dorm students went to staff member's houses two days later on 28 November for their Thanksgiving celebrations.

"I'm thankful because being a Canadian, I got to have two Thanksgivings—which is better

than one because of all the extra food!" said Lydia Ng (12). "And it's one of the only times I can be patriotic and show it by stuffing myself with good food—because that's beneficial to my country, you know!"

Superb food definitely topped the charts for people's favorite part of the holiday. Said Hawthorne, recalling his Thanksgiving evening extravaganza, "When we got [to the Manghams'], we ate lots and lots of turkey and other good Thanksgiving food. Then Robbie [Mangham, 10] and I ran around on the beach, jumped on the trampoline, and did some other stuff—but after the food, nothing else was really that important."

Non-Americans and Canadians took the opportunity to experience a taste of Western tradition as they too got invited to people's houses to partake in the festivities. Eric Jung (12)

and Kazu Komatsu (12) went to Lindsay Loehden's (12) house. "This was my first time actually going and having a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Some of the food was, well, interesting. But it was so good! And then we watched the funniest chick flicks!" said Jung.

Apart from the food, celebrating Thanksgiving provided a time of fellowship between students and their peers as well as staff members. Ms. Carolyn Janssen, who also celebrated Thanksgiving at the Loehdens' house, said, "It was nice see everyone together in a family setting and to be part of a family-style Thanksgiving even though my family is far away."

"The food, of course, was the best part!" said Jon Masters (9). "[But I also had] a blast singing hymns with the Walters and talking about people with funny last names, like Mrs. Win- (Continued on page 8, col. 1)

# An Old House, Crazy Cousins, and a Fake Beard

By Caleb Masters

The lights in the chapel went out, and the loud roar of conversation that had filled the room faded into a barely discernible murmur of anticipation as the audience waited with baited breath. The school had waited a long time for this night to come; hours of preparation and memorization had gone into this evening, and many had gathered to see the finished product.

On the nights of 3-4 December, the Dalat Drama Club made its presentation of "It Was a Dark and Stormy Night"—a farce on the "dark old spooky house" horror movies of the 30s and 40s—to a very expectant audience.

As the stage lights came up, the club proceeded to transport the viewers to Ye Olde Smoke House Inn, a creepy and odd old house in the Cameron Highlands where strange things happen every minute. The play centered on the crazy Saltmarsh family and their adventures on one dark and stormy night. The main character, Ebenezer Salt-

marsh, played by Robert Whiting (12), suffered from "moods" and "fits" that turned him into a human beast; once turned beast, he began to rampage, longing for revenge on his lost love Effie. "It's amazing how relaxing it is to put on a fake beard and yell and scream at people, all the while being extremely creepy," said Whiting about his bearded performance.

The preparation for this night of horror and humor did not come without its fair share of bumps and pitfalls. Every obstacle that could have obstructed the drama club did; cancelled rehearsals, old spirit gum, sickness, different rehearsal loca-

tions, cheap make-up, and, worst of all, memorization procrastination. A month before opening night, few of the cast members had all of their lines memorized. "It was amazing to see the kids pull in the last week, I was quite surprised," said Director Uncle Ron West, "This being my first directing experience, I had a lot of fun learning how things are done."

Opening night came, and the drama cast delivered an entertaining performances. The cast shocked even themselves at how well the performances went, considering the months of half-hearted practices. "The actors were cast very well; those who

were acting insane didn't have to stretch themselves far," said Eric Westergren (10), "The whole show was very entertaining and much more funny than I expected it to be."

As the lights came up for the final time and the curtain call began, the drama performers knew, when greeted by a roar of applause, that they had truly given the audience a dark, stormy, and sometimes nonsensical, night to remember. Joy Walter (10) summed up very well, "It just doesn't get any better than changing costumes every 10 minutes, acting like a blind-deaf-mute, and whacking people over the head with a two-by-four." •

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## FREEDOM!

By Yoko Shimizu

"STUCO SERVE-ATHON: Bring as much food you can and win a day without uniform!"

The colorful posters neatly lined the tops of the high school lockers. To show love and care for children at a local orphanage, high school students brought donations of food from 25-30 November in a class competition. They also hoped to win a day of freedom from having to wear their school uniform.

Cindy Hsieh (9), carrying a huge bag of rice, ran down the cafeteria stairs as soon as the lunch bell rang. "Cindy was the big person! She donated most of the food. We all have to thank

her," said Jonathan Masters (9), sounding proud of his friend.

On 3 December, having won the reward, freshmen enjoyed their one-day-of-freedom from uniforms. Each ninth grader dressed up in his or her own clothes, expressing his or her individuality.

"Wearing no uniform rocked! It was awesome!" exclaimed Anthony Ruh (9) enthusiastically.

Kael Steinert (9), dressed in camouflaged clothes, described his feelings as a butterfly coming out of a cocoon.

On the other hand, one freshman stood out from the crowd: Sung-In Kang (9) wore his uniform on the special day. "I wanted

attention," Kang said, desperate for everyone to notice him.

At the beginning of the day, the freshmen felt a little awkward wearing their own clothes to school; this feeling soon wore off, and they enjoyed their originality. People complimented one another as they walked past each other.

"Kohei [Shimizu, 9], looked good! I really liked what he wore," said David Im (9).

As the day ended, freshmen said their good-byes to the special day.

Having eaten her lunch, Hsieh ran up the cafeteria stairs to go to her afternoon classes; she hoped that the orphans would feel special because of their donation. •

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Thanksgiving...

(Continued from page 7, col. 4) tergreen."

"I went to the Cases' house. I spent most of the evening talking to Sung [In Kang, 9] and Mrs. [Valeri] Brokaw. It was nice just to relax and talk. I was thankful to be able to do that and be surrounded by so many wonderful people," said Marie Giezen-danner (10).

"Oh, it was so funny!" said Lindsey Nagel (12), giggling. "My family went to the Kennedys' house, and Gary [Kennedy, 9] asked, 'Can someone pass the salt?' And his mom replied, 'It's in the white pilgrim'; and he just raised his eyebrow and said, 'OK, never mind.' I thought it was funny, but I guess it was just one of those things you had to be there for!"

Laughing and joking aside, every household remembered to thank God for the food and fellowship. "Amen," said Mr. Tom Mangham. Opening his eyes, Hawthorne became all the more aware of his heightened senses of smell and taste as his stomach growled, so he took a plunge into a massive heap of mashed potatoes and gravy. •

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## Lazy Play? No Way!

By Jason Pohl

With the start of a new year, a new soccer season began. This meant new players joined the team—of every skill level from beginner to experienced. As practices went on, the team grew together and learned to work as a unit.

"I really enjoyed playing this year because we had a team that worked well together," said Ted Fung (11). The more the team practiced together, the closer it became—but too many players had turned out! Knowing this, Mr. Mike Holden and

"Peeps" (Uncle Tom Mangham) had to cut the freshmen back to junior varsity.

The team used all their practices and games to train for the big picture, the tournaments. The home tournament that took place at Penang Free School did not show Dalat's best athletics, but the team did manage to do something that had not been done in over six years: they tied Tanjung Bunga 1-1. This proved that the guys had "what it takes." Although the other games did

not go as well, the thought of that game remained fresh in the players' minds.

Because of age restrictions, two of the boys couldn't compete in the Kuala Lumpur tournament: Paul Im (11) and Jason Pohl (12). Mr. Holden drafted two players from the JV to sub for them—Tim Babcock (8) and Sung In (9).

The players went to K.L. for their tournament and came back with a third-place medal, demonstrating that they had learned to work together. •