



Eagle's Eye

Dalat International School, Tanjung Bunga, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

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What's Inside:

A Tropical Winter? 3

Juniors wow seniors, staff, and sophomores with an enchanted JSB

I Witness News 3

Elementary news team reports on battle of Jericho

So Long, Farewell 5

Staff commission colleagues at farewell banquet

Gold Fever 9

Varsity girls take home the gold in basketball tourney

Youth Invasion 11

Local bands help break the "Dalat bubble"

Eagle's Eye Staff

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The Furious King Fu Fighting Cow Within

Seven Staff Members Compete for "Staff Idol" Title

By Casey Caldwell

Peacefully grazing on the green grass, a cow stands placidly while Aunt Mary Latsha walks up. Suddenly, the cow snorts, stands up, and begins making threatening "mooing" noises; and it becomes apparent that no ordinary cow stands before her, but the dread bovine Mr. Greg Stenlund! He strikes a classic kung fu pose. Aunt Mary, a martial arts master herself, responds in kind. Suddenly, the cow leaps through the air in a lightning kick; Aunt Mary falls to defending herself, and they both begin the epic battle of the century.

Such scenes became commonplace at Staff Idol, a competition held by the Student Council from 12-14 May. The competitors—Mr. Dake Erwin, Aunt Mary Latsha, Mr. Clay Moss, Mr. Dean McClary, Mr. Karl Steinkamp, Mr. Greg Stenlund, and Ms. Ruth Strong—battled it out in four events: interpretive dance, movie-scene reenactment, story telling, and singing. The students voted on their favorite for the day, and the competitors who received the fewest votes did not move on to the next round.

On the first day, staff competed in interpretive dance. Mr. Erwin, the favorite of the day, rocked it out to the classic rap song, "Ice, Ice Baby." Said "Josh Manfred (9), Mr. Erwin's dancing was pretty impressive. I especially liked his 'water sprinkler' move."

The following lunch, the staff tested their skills at movie-scene reenactment. Here Aunt Mary and Mr. Stenlund had their epic battle. Mr. Moss, another favorite of the day, acted the part of Jasmine from the movie *Aladdin*, singing "A Whole New World." "Mr. Moss as Jasmine was pretty darn good," said Zach Hansen (12). "I've never seen anyone flutter his eyes so hard. It was totally out of character for him compared to how he acts in class."

At lunch on the third day, StuCo asked the remaining four competitors—Mr. Erwin, Mr. Moss, Mr. Steinkamp, and Mr. Stenlund—to come on stage and respond to a few revealing questions. All arranged beforehand, this event had the purpose of getting the staff to tell their best life-stories. Mr. Stenlund said, "My favorite part was telling a story about my son Kaden's poopy diaper. That was a big part of my life, and I enjoyed sharing it with people."

The final event of the com-

petition kicked off on the afternoon of the same day. The final two contestants, Mr. Erwin and Mr. Moss, tried their skills at singing. Mr. Erwin sang and danced to a Tamil song; Mr. Moss played an American classic on the "geetar." Said Matt Hansen (10), "Mr. Erwin's Bollywood dancing was just too good. My favorite part of the event was him dancing around Mrs. [Amy] Erwin [who was] dressed up as a tree." Mr. Erwin's dancing skills finally brought him victory in the competition, winning him everlasting fame and a 60 ringgit coupon to Mario's Restaurant.

Back at the stage, Aunt Mary and Mr. Stenlund furiously fought it out, fists and feet flying. Mr. Stenlund got a good kick in, but Aunt Mary countered with a deadly shot to the face. Finally, the music faded out, and both fighters stepped apart, smiling and sweaty. They bowed to the cheering crowd and then walked off the stage. •

Baptism by the Beach

By Dan Walter

"Tony, I was there when you decided you were going to be a Christian; and I've been here as you decided to get baptized. But next year, when I go off to college, I'm not going to be there to take

care of you. So it's good you've got God," said Zac Riggerbach (12) to his house-mate Tony Chuang (12) as everyone waited for Chuang's baptism.

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Jazz-fest

By Andrew Altice

"Who's in the band room?" asked Rachael Caldwell (12).

"The Jazz Band; they have a concert tomorrow," replied Zac Riggerbach (12).

Every year a group of students who enjoy playing musical instruments get together to form an alternative musical group that plays exclusively jazzy music. Though some students have schedules that limit them from taking band after school, others have pushed their musical talent to the highest limits through Jazz Band.

The Jazz Band played a concert for the local women's association known as the International Women's Association, or IWA, on 5 May. Arrangements allowed the group to leave school early. As they arrived at the E&O Hotel, their hearts raced with the knowledge that they would play their instruments in front of the entire IWA.

"Nobody really paid attention to us," Than Matanick (11) said as he arrived back at school. "We were just like background music. But I liked it because it made me feel professional," he said.

Despite the fact that no one knew for sure if anyone had noticed them, it went pretty well. "No one clapped after any of the songs," Gaonou Kue (12) said.

"It was pretty cool that I got to show off my skills," said Joshua Manfred (9). Whether people noticed them or not, they all agreed that it was a good experience. •



Day for Fools

By Chris Chu

"Where did my books go?" asked John Kao (12) as he opened his locker to grab his books before class started. "I remember putting them back before heading home yesterday."

"Oh, I think you might want to go look around the vicinity of the girls' bathroom; I have a feeling they might be there," said Matt Mah (9) with a smirk on his face as he passed by.

"Whoever did this better watch their backs; they'd better not let me get my hands on them," said Kao not knowing he had just talked to one of the culprits.

April Fools' Day has always been a day of dread and amusement for students and teachers alike as all sorts of interesting and often hilarious "misfortunes" would dawn on certain individuals before the day ended.

Seniors came onto campus in the morning ready to pick up their books from their lockers before heading to class only to find the books mysteriously "teleported" into the bathrooms of

the opposite sex. "My class did it, and my only regret was that I couldn't join them in the fun," said David Robertson (9).

Other calamities visited the campus as teachers found the doorknobs to their classrooms covered with shaving cream and lockers covered with toilet paper. "The best part must be the 'bubbling' fountain as it started to spew out soap," said Terry Hsiang (10).

Although the day seemed like a lot of fun, the national staff had to put in a lot of extra work to restore the looks of the campus. "I feel sorry for the national staff; I don't think they understand what's going on," said Mr. John "Tommy" Tompkins.

The day ended favorably for Kao as he managed to find all his books before his class started. Not all students had Kao's luck as the celebrities involved in entertaining the school got in trouble with the principal and received fitting punishments for their pranks. •

Beach Baptism...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4)

During the Sunrise Baptism Service at seven in the morning on Easter Sunday, 11 April, several dozen Dalat students and parents gathered together to watch the baptism of six students: Chuang; Pam Hidajat (9); Joey (9), Jake (8), and Anna Latsha (6); and Laura (8) and Nathan Danneker (4). During the course of the school year, each of these students had asked Pastor Dave Latsha, the Dalat Chaplain, if he or she could take this opportunity to make his or her faith in Jesus Christ public. After confirming the reality of their decisions, Pastor Dave let them proclaim their faith during the Easter sunrise service, a once-a-year opportunity.

"[The baptism service] was one of the best services I've been to at Dalat. Everyone was sincere, honest, and shared their hearts. I also thought it was good to have others affirm the people being baptized," said Jodi Harrison (12).

In keeping with one of Dalat International School's more uplifting traditions, the friends and family of the students undergoing baptism had a chance to share verses, challenges, and

encouraging thoughts with the "baptizees." "This is just beautiful... I don't even know how special this decision you've made is," Pam Lesmana (12) said to Hidajat. And others quoted verses ranging from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" to Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing, and perfect will." Staff, students, and parents gave different verses to the students, tailoring each challenge to apply to the person they spoke to.

God works in the hearts of every person that chooses baptism, but this year, God did something special in two families. All of the Latsha and all of the Danneker children chose to make their relationship with God public during this Easter Sunrise Service.

"The sunrise baptism service is always my favorite service, but this year was extra special because I got to baptize all three of my children," said Pastor

Dave. Others appreciated the fact that Jake, Joey, and Anna had chosen this day for their baptism. Referring to Joey, Joy Walter (9) said, "I love seeing other people get baptized, especially people that I'm close to. It just makes me feel even closer to them, no matter who they are, knowing that they are now a tighter part of the family of God. It's just such a great feeling, and the testimonies that people shared really gave me a new view on some of the people being baptized."

As the youngest person to choose baptism at Dalat this year, Nathan Danneker already drew attention; but by the end of the service, the audience appreciated both his and his sister Laura's decisions to make their relationship with God public. "I thought it was really cool that Nathan and Laura each chose to be baptized together without knowing about each other's decision—and that they were baptized together when their parents were there," said Joyce Wong (11).

Aunt Val Weidemann agreed, saying, "I loved [the baptismal service]. It was very special for us as a dorm family because two of our kids were baptized, and their parents were here."

But even though the service focused on the people making the decision, other people learned from and enjoyed the service. Lesmana said, "These people don't know what they're getting into—in a good way. I mean, how many of us really know the grandeur of what we were getting into when we said we wanted a relationship with God? Some of the 'baptizees' were answers to my prayers, and God really encouraged me by answering the prayers I have had for those people."

As the "baptizees" headed out to the beach for the actual baptism procedure, Christina Robertson (11) summed up one of the most introspective and rewarding aspects of the sunrise service: "It's always fun to see people get baptized because it reminds me of when I was baptized. I made a commitment then, and it's been interesting seeing how, as time has passed, my relationship with God has changed."

And Riggerbach's comment, "It's good you've got God," applied to more than just the "baptizees." It applied to everyone, from the fourth graders who decide to be baptized to the chaplain whose children all chose baptism for the same day. •

Winter in the Tropics

By Karen Wong

Christmas music and scenery covered the ballroom of Park Royal Hotel. Did someone misplace the ornaments or insert the wrong music? No, the night of the Junior-Senior Banquet had arrived. The Christmas trees, snowmen, sled, and classical Christmas music followed the theme of the banquet, Winter Enchantment. The junior class had brought the winter season to the tropical Malaysia, allowing the students and staff to enjoy a night of laughter, tears, and enchantment on 16 April.

"My first impression was 'wow!' I didn't think it would be a Christmas season theme, so it was a surprise. I first saw the castle, so I had no clue what it was and tried to avoid looking at

the decoration in the ballroom before I entered," said Tina Wolfe (12) as she recalled the excitement that she experienced that night.

Despite the anticipation of the seniors for their special night, the juniors waited with nervousness. Lydia Ng one of the juniors who worked hard for this night remembered how she felt: "I wasn't sure how the whole thing would turn out and worried if the [seniors] would enjoy it. It gave me comfort when I saw the expression on their faces—they all looked surprised and happy, and that made me feel that all my hard work was worth it."

Each junior contributed to this night, and some even received physical injuries. "I broke my tailbone falling on the floor during the scene in the skit when I had to chase after Esther [Vaughn]. I also gave myself a concussion, but it was all worth

it," said Caleb Masters (11) as he proudly told of his injuries.

"They must have spent a lot of time on the castle; I can't believe they actually made most of their decorations—they were just fantastic! I could just see all the work they had put into it, and that really made me feel special and honored," Amber Hill (12) remarked excitedly of her wonderful memories from the banquet.

The banquet and its decorations received much praises from many; so did the outfits of some couples. "I think Tina and Theo [Love, 12] looked so cute; their clothes totally matched. I think if I could give them an award, they would get the best-dressed-date award," commented Yoko Shimizu (11) with the agreeing nods from many others.

In response to the many praises, Love proudly claimed, "We are just too good; everyone should get a picture of us!"

No one would have thought they could have experienced winter in tropical Malaysia. But the juniors' decorations created a mood that allowed the seniors to enjoy a wonderful night of Winter Enchantment. Those "winter" memories, they will carry with them as they continue their journey in life. •

versus human saliva project.

With a look of disgust on her face, Ng glared at the bacteria in the Petri dish and said, "I think I'll go brush my teeth and rinse my mouth now that I have seen the truth about my own saliva!" •

I Witness News:

Live from Jericho

By Amber Hill

Three news reporters, seeking an exciting news story, find their way to Jericho where they experience the tumbling of the walls. Afterwards, these reporters believed in the miraculous works of God by seeing that He can do anything!

With a few fun songs thrown in, those sentences sum up the Elementary Musical "I Witness News: Live from Jericho!" On 13 May, the elementary students enthusiastically put on a musical that told the story of the falling of the walls of Jericho. All the kids enjoyed themselves and confidently strutted their musical talents on stage. Ms. Nancy McMahan said, "I liked the message that God can do anything!"

Excitedly, Andi Thompson (5) reflected at recess, "This was the second play I've done in my whole life. I really had fun with it since I got to be a guard!"

One of the dramatic stars, Grace Walter, (5) said, "This was definitely the most fun musical I've ever done, and I enjoyed it very much."

The vibrant colors of the costumes, the nice scenery, and the upbeat, catchy songs left the audience in suspense toward whatever would happen next. "It was an original depiction of the battle of Jericho with an assortment of excellent actors and actresses," said Robert Whiting (11) as he remembered the performance.

"Dalat's kids are the world's best, and I'm honored to have worked with them in this production!" exclaimed musical director Mrs. Valeri Brokaw at the end of the performance. •

Got Dog Saliva?

By Sally Tsai

"Ewww! I can't believe human mouths are nastier than dogs' mouths!" cried Lydia Ng (11) pointing at the amount of bacteria in the Petri dish.

"I know; I was pretty grossed out as well when I did the experiment," Kristen Westergren (8) said laughing. "I took samples of a dog's saliva and a human's saliva with a cotton wad. Then I mixed this separately with gelatin on a Petri dish. After 24 hours, the result showed that human mouths have more bacteria than dog mouths."

Like Westergren on 26 April, science students from grades 6 to 12 presented their projects and experiments in the chapel to parents, staff, and students in a one-hour event called the Science Fair. "I was impressed with how hard the students worked on making their project look neat and presentable," said Mr. Dake Erwin. "Most of them had either a poster to show their

testing process or an object to define their experiment."

"In our Biology class, Mr. [Dean] McClary asked us to partner up with someone and come up with a simple experiment. Julie [Harrison, 10] and I tested how different food effects hamsters' race performance," Nancy Duclos (10) said.

Other experiments from the ninth graders in Physical Science included Eric Westergren and Josh Manfred's testing the best material used in a parachute by measuring velocity of different samples.

Brian Colfax (9), however, tested the color of a Bunsen burner's flame. "All I did was add baking soda and chloride to the flame. The baking soda turned bright orange and the chloride turned green, which proved that the flame is both orange and green," he said.

Eighth graders like Jon Masters (8) experimented with a

soap that could wash vegetables. He took samples of bacteria and compared the soap's ability to remove the bacteria. "I made graphs to show the consistency of the soap's effectiveness," said Masters.

"I was really impressed with the younger classmen's experiments, especially Lars Hottentot's (8) test reactor," said Grace Kim (10), the winner of Biology class.

Even Bruce Mak, a six grader, agreed with Kim's observation. "My favorite at the science fair was the one with the pretty coils. It made my tornado movement experiment look bad," he said.

"I really thought Mrs. [Carla] Loehden's model of human body system made by her health class with clay was really cool," Liesl Williams (9) said.

At the end of the hour, Mr. Erwin, Ms. Maike Horn, and Mr. McClary gave out medals to the group or individual with the most interesting experiment from each class. Kristen Westergren ended up winning the All-Around-Award for the entire Science Fair with her dog



The Self-Inflicted Cages of Rambunctious Teenagers

By Zac Riggensch

Blanketed by darkness, Josh Friesen (7) tiptoed along the firm carpet. His illuminated watch read 3:00 A.M. Aunt Corinna Spangler's catching him would read trouble. His bare feet ruffled against the fibers of the carpet as he continued to slide toward the door and freedom.

This and other heart-quicken- ing scenes littered the seventh grade's lock-in on 23 April. The day had started when the entire class piled into a van and drove to Midlands to go bowling. Once they had sufficiently bruised their fingers and the pins, the class headed back to campus and down to the chapel.

Under the direction of Aunt Corinna and Mr. Evan Persons, the class entertained themselves

with a rowdy game of tag. Sweating and breathless, they returned to the welcoming air-conditioning of the chapel. Its cooling surveillance monitored the class the rest of the night.

The sixth grade housed itself in the chapel as well when it partook of its own lock-in on the night of 7 May. Before the members of the middle school class filed into the chapel, however, they endured a glorious time of games, one representing the oppression of the early church. Then, with the guidance of Mr. Doug Brokaw and Ms. Maria Titus, they moved onto a series of "dirty games." Each classmate suffered many dirtying environments, and the cleanest at the end won.

A few quick showers later, and the class settled down for a night of movies and munchies. "I ate half the time," said Nathan Rague (6). "We had pizza, Pringles, Jolly Ranchers, and other candy: a healthy diet!" The movies and lights switched off at 2:00 A.M. and the chaperones suggested that the class grab some sleep. Some didn't heed this advice.

"I stayed up till 3:30. But I wasn't flirting," said a defiant Andy Jung (6). "They separated the girls and guys."

Cooling down in the air-con, the seventh graders watched movies too but also an episode of "Survivor." The entire class paid no attention to the screen though. "The

best part was when the girls put makeup on the guys," said Carolyn Whiting (7).

"I don't always get to stay up talking to my buddies, so that was nice. We talked a bunch after 2:00 when they turned off the movies," said Thomas Koo (7).

Prying open the door, Friesen grimaced at its creaking. Squeezing himself through the smallest and bravest hole he could muster, he pulled the door closed behind him. The sea breeze from the ocean swished through his hair. A grin covered his face. He had completely destroyed the purpose of a lock-in!

A short bathroom break later, Friesen crept back into the chapel. •

Friends Forever

By Jacqui Steiert

"OK, everyone! The kids are going to be down soon," said Mr. Greg Stenlund. "Have fun, but remember that we're trying to portray a message here."

On Friday, 2 April, the senior class gave a presentation during elementary chapel using the theme of "friendship." The presentation began with two action worship songs which Pam Lesmana (12), Amber Hill (12), Rachael Caldwell (12), and

Tina Wolfe (12) led.

"The kids were so cute when we were doing the action songs," said Gaonou Kue (12). "You could definitely tell which kids had done the songs before."

Next, split into four groups, the class of 2004 presented various aspects of friendship: how to treat your friends, how to love your friends, how Jesus is our ultimate friend, and how to have good friends.

"I liked the skit about treating your friends how you would want to be treated," said Beth Nguyen (5), "because Dan [Walter, 12] was really funny when he was pretending to date Tina [Wolfe, 12]!"

"No way," said Angela Steiert (5). "The Veggie-Tales skit about loving your friends was the best. I liked how they made themselves look like the characters on Veggie-Tales with the paper cutouts."

"The skit about how Jesus is our best friend was really good," said Sally Tsai (12). "It was really creative to present it without talking. Plus I liked Chi

Wei [Lo, 12] as Jesus."

"I liked the one about how you have to be a good friend to have good friends, but I didn't get the part about 'under' and 'over' and 'beside,'" said Gabby Erwin (3).

Although the elementary children enjoyed the chapel, adults who came to watch got something meaning out of it too. "The seniors did a great job," said Aunt Corinna Spangler. "I had no idea that Chris [Chu, 12] was so funny."

"You guys were awesome," said Mr. Stenlund. "The kids really enjoyed it. Now grab your things and go back to class." •

The Last Dance

...for the Kinetic Kids

By Tony Chuang

Twelve little kids stood in the middle of the gym and waited with the utmost anxiety for the music to come on. As the first beat bounced out from the loudspeakers, their arms and legs danced in perfect rhythmic unison to the pop music playing in the background. Their bodies, dressed in sunny and beautiful shirts, moved about elegantly with the dozens of dance moves Jacqui Steiert (12) had taught them. The Kinetic Kids displayed everything they had learned in the five

minutes of their final performance here at Dalat.

Steiert began this dancing club for little kids over a semester ago. The club started from a small eight-people cluster of little kids to the now twelve-people dancing group. "I had never learned how to dance before, so this club was really new and interesting for me," said Ylona Hottentot (5).

The club included Steiert, the professional trainer, eleven girls grades three to five—Gabby

Erwin (3), Chanel Huang (3), Noriah Matanick (3), Ylona Hottentot (5), Sunny Lee (5), Lakshmi Meyyappan (5), Beth Nguyen (5), Angela Steiert (5), Josie Steinkamp (5), Andi Thompson (5), and Grace Walter (5)—and one courageous guy, Chi Yuan Lo (6). "I am the only guy that ever joined the club, so I am really special," said Lo.

"Chi Yuan was really cute and funny; his split was super crazy," said Praveen Thomas (12).

Overall, the show looked great according to everyone's reaction. "The performance rocked! I had no idea kids could do that!" said James Hawthorne (10).

Their T-shirts made them look even more professional. "The girls look really good in

uniform," said John Kao (12).

Sunny Lee (5) agreed, "The uniform suits me perfectly!"

The Kinetic Kids had trained for their special performance since the beginning of the semester. "We worked really hard for our performance everyday; my sister [Jacqui] was awesome," said Angela Steiert (5). They practiced every Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. in the chapel under the guidance of Steiert, who actually made every move up by herself.

"It's good to see that a senior is actually investing time in the future generation," said Zac Riggensch (12).

The Kinetic Kids' hard work finally paid off when the crowd (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

So Long, Farewell...

By Tina Wolfe

Intently gazing upon the black and white squares, Aunt Shelly West pondered its meaning. "The Spangler's will live in _____ next year." She thought to herself and finally filled in the letters Y-O-R-K in each box, checking the surrounding letters to see if it fit; she grinned to herself. "I've found another one," she said to her table.

Solving a trivial crossword puzzle competition about departing staff made up only a small bit of the 6 May's Dalat School Staff Farewell Banquet. The night, intended to honor

the departing staff and 5-year Honorees, played on the theme "So Long, Farewell" from *The Sound of Music*. To tie the night together, songs from the movie played, filling the Copthorne banquet hall with a musical atmosphere.

"The room was decorated to the musical theme—with instruments as centerpieces. Every table was labeled a note on the musical scale going from DO to a high RE, which was my table," said Mrs. Lyn Holden.

After honoring the eight individuals who have been here

for five years, close friends of leaving staff presented a special tribute to them. Each of the 19 leaving staff members appreciated and laughed throughout their tributes.

"The funniest thing was when Justin and Shannon Smith did the Carmichaels' tribute. They wrote it as if the Carmichaels were a Lord and Lady of Kingdom Dalat. I especially liked the part when Justin mentioned how Lord Carmichael had joked with the Uplands' principal that the reason for a visit he and Justin were making was to "steal" his students. The whole thing was very creative; we were all on the floor laughing—it was so hilarious," said Mr. John "Tommy" Tompkins.

After presenting each tribute, the staff took time to commission those who would leave Dalat, to pray for and support the new ministries that God was opening up to them. Each table took the privilege to bless their fellow friends on their new journey.

"I loved the tribute that Aunt Shannon [McCabe] and Ms. [Ruth] Strong gave me. The night was well planned, and the skits were creative; it was a good way to go out," said Aunt Mary Latsha.

Happy to have conquered another trivial word problem, Aunt Shelly, along with her table, went on to more challenging questions, "So long farewell, _____, good-bye." •

Rub-a-Dub-Dub

By John Kao

"Hey, vote for us!" shouted Eric Jung (11) from behind the "Mc-Soap" booth.

"We have nice buns here!" yelled Seth Galloway (11) from the other end of the line.

The chemistry class had worked on the soap project for over three months, and it finally came to judgment day after school on 17 May, "Suds Off Day."

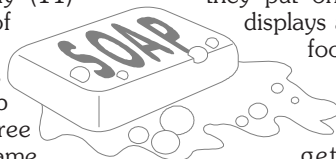
Ms. Maike Horn assigned each member of the class to different groups and gave them the freedom to design their own company names, soap names, and advertisements. Two "engineers" from each group had to search for soap making recipes from books and the Internet to study. Each group came up with their own unique soaps using different chemicals and oils.

"I had to spend so much time working on the soap because everyone else in my group was busy. I should get the best engineer award," joked Kazumasa

Komatsu (11) as he talked to his classmates at the lockers.

Four different companies competed against each other as they put on their best displays and offered food to attract seniors and staff. With the goal of getting the highest points for their products, each group strived to either impress the onlookers with their soap or bribe them with their munchies.

"Oh man, two more points for you guys. Those are some good cheese cubes!" exclaimed Philip Houmphan (12) while visiting the "Hmm...?" booth.



Kinetic Kids...

(Continued from page 4, col. 4) rose and roared in applause at their amazing feats. Their tiny little feet had danced to a slow halt and ended in their final position. Proud of what they had done, Steiert showed a sign of happiness, satisfaction, and pride for her well-taught Kinetic Kids. •

Honorable Mention

By Theo Love

"What is a leader without followers?" Mr. Mike Holden enthusiastically asked as the middle school students eagerly anticipated the disclosing of this year's new National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) inductees.

On Wednesday, 28 April, a special ceremony honored this year's nine new NJHS inductees and also marked the three-year anniversary of Dalat's first NJHS. Since 2002, 25 students have become members

of this elite group of high achievers.

Mrs. Vicki Gross organized the event with the help of three eighth grade members: Brendan Frentz, Tiffany Steinkamp, and Laura Danneker.

After an opening speech by Ms. Sharon Hodgson, the Middle School Coordinator, last year's NJHS inductees read five short stories. Following each story, a staff member gave a short speech about the charac-

teristic portrayed in the story and the importance of NJHS members' displaying that quality as well.

After the first story, Mr. Holden spoke about leadership. The second story, about a conceited woman, preceded Aunt Corinna Spangler's introduction of the topic of character. Mr. Joel Steinkamp's speech covered the importance of service. A story about a lamp lighter helped enforce Mr. Dennis Tyas's topic of citizenship. Ms. Hodgson's speech about scholarship followed the last story read.

Each of these stories and speeches helped identify the five characteristics needed in NJHS: leadership, character, service, citizenship, and scholarship.

The most anticipated part of the program came when Breanne Hansen (7), Anna Hodgson (7), Tanya Krishnamani (7), Susheela Meyyappan (7), Kelsey Rague (7), Sophia To (7), J.P. Octavio (8), Jesse Thompson (8), and Kristen Westergren (8) were inducted into the NJHS.

Mrs. Hodgson said, "It's a good way to recognize and encourage students who demonstrate high levels of academic achievement with qualities of leadership, character, service, and citizenship."

As the ceremony came to an end and students filed out the chapel doors into the tropical heat, some proudly gripped their new NJHS certificates; but others had a new goal to work towards for next year. •



Winter Wonderland Awry

By Crystal Tsai

Laughter filled the chapel, as juniors and seniors howled as Praveen Thomas (12), Jamie Cheng (12), and Philip Houmphan (12) danced all around the room to Indian music.

On 17 April, the seniors woke up early to put together the After-JSB Dinner to thank the juniors for their efforts in preparing the Junior-Senior Banquet the night before.

The senior class divided into three general groups. The first

group had to decorate the chapel, the second group cooked food under the supervision of Mrs. Donna Hansen, and the third group typed up the script.

The senior class took the JSB theme "Winter Enchantment" and warped it into "Winter Blunderland." The once-elegant castle on the night of JSB sagged against the wall of the chapel, held up by a few pipes and a ladder.

"The room looked so good

with all of our props all mixed up in weird positions," said Lydia Ng (11), "The seniors did a good job making the chapel look somewhat like our night."

As the juniors and their sponsors ate Greek salad and shish kebabs, the seniors put on a skit that reflected the storyline of JSB night, including scenes of the junior's frustration and stress in preparing JSB. A continuous "showing" of the famous "blue screen" created chuckles.

"The best part of the skits was when Zac Riggensbach (12) acting as Uncle Brian (Weidemann) beat up that keyboard," said Tony Chuang, chuckling,

"Zac was going crazy with that crowbar!"

The night ended with dessert and some picture time. Then the juniors made their way home.

"The whole night was very entertaining," said Joyce Wong (11), laughing. "The senior's rendition of our skit was almost better than our actual skit."

Quite proud of what they had done that day, the seniors finally ventured home after a few hours of cleaning Christmas trees and snow men. As they fell asleep, each saw Bollywood dancing, keyboards smashing, and people laughing in his or her dreams. •

Juniors for Sale

By Philip Houmphan

Cheers filled the air around the basketball court as juniors yelled their approval for the ongoing auction taking place. "Do I see an 800 for Yoko [Shimizu, 11]?" cried Mr. Tyas. "Yes! I see a hand there from Chi Wei [Lo, 12]!"

The excitement of the hour grew as Lo bid against Yoko's father, Mr. Shimizu, for the highest bid of the afternoon.

Every year, the Food-and-Fun fair includes "Junior for Hire" as part of the fair on campus: an event where juniors offer three hours of any sort of labor to the highest bidder. Junior for Hire gives the year's juniors a chance to raise money to pay for the JSB as well as their sneak next year. Junior for Hire, better known as the "Slave Auction," had

enormous successes in the past, allowing previous juniors to raise a lot of money. This year, because of a large expenditure on the JSB, the juniors had to raise an extra amount of money so that they could have enough money for sneak and other senior activities.

"Since we spent so much money on the JSB, we needed a lot of money from the slave auction, because no money would mean no sneak. We were very desperate," said Joyce Wong (11).

"We really needed the money because we had none," stressed Caleb Masters (11).

Although the juniors had high expectations for the much hyped-up fund-raiser, the auction itself let a lot of people down, with the majority of the

bids clinging to near minimum prices. Instead of the usual excitement that surrounded the basketball courts, only a handful of people showed up: resulting in lower bids and not much money for the senior sneak.

"I think it was sad how not very many showed up to support the kids," said Simeon Garratt (12).

"I just hope that they have a good sneak," chirped in a smiling Praveen Thomas (12).

"I actually was surprised at how much money we made because I didn't think we were going to make that much," said Masters.

"Even though they might not have made a lot of money, it's OK because sneak is always fun with or without money," said Christabel Kim (12).

"Sold to Mr. Shimizu!" cried Mr. Tyas as Yoko stepped of the bench.

"Yeah Yoko!" yelled junior class president Seth Galloway as a smiling Shimizu returned to the class huddle. •

Mac G5 computers, Ms. Siew Ping, the graphic designer, showed the students finalized samples and explained a few techniques on design.

Going back downstairs, the group then toured the main factory immersed with massive machines ranging from a high tech, multimillion ringgit plate-making device to one that automatically folded huge sheets of paper to a "guillotine" that trimmed the edges. The most popular equipment, the blower, which blasted air from every direction to clean dirt off people, malfunctioned, however, and left frowns on students' faces.

"Inside the factory, there was this constant hum of the collective machines noises. The mixture of all this different banging and clattering sounded like music, and I really liked it," said Christina Robertson.

As the tour came to an end, Mr. Tan led the group back up to the conference room where they indulged themselves in cakes with an interesting layer of gelatin, and coffee that the press had provided. During the feast, the students received the opportunity to ask questions concerning the factory and processes of printing.

"I kept thinking of really inappropriate questions to ask the tour guide like 'On average, how many of your workers flip out per year because their jobs are so boring' or 'How many miles of priceless natural habitat are cut down to produce all the paper this factory uses?'" said Casey Caldwell afterwards.

And after the session, the general manager presented each (Continued on page 7, col. 1)

Not Just a Prequel

By Jamie Cheng

"Hey! Hurry up! You take as long as a girl!" yelled Zac Riggensbach (12) to Evan Persons as Persons dashed out the counseling office.

"I'm so hyped to be out of my uniform and actually in normal civilian clothes! Plus I get to hang out with you cool Journ. nerds on this trip," replied Persons.

Packing into a Dalat van and a Proton Wira, the Journ class made the yearly visit to Phoenix Press. Though a legion of cars

jammed the Penang Bridge, hindering the students for about half an hour, their spirits remained high as they listened to music, shared lame jokes, and conversed about absurd ideas.

"The best part of the ride was Evan's story about how we pick up the yearbook. [Mr. John] 'Tommy' [Tompkins] pulls up to a deserted warehouse that looks like its been closed for years and says a secret password. Immediately a horde of

little munchkins scramble out carrying the yearbooks, load them into the van, and lock up again really quickly after the whole process. How Evan told it had me cracking up and restless to pick up our very own masterpiece," said Riggensbach.

After taking a few wrong turns and feeling a little anxious about losing their way, the group finally arrived at the press. Welcomed by Mr. Alan Tan, the general manager, the class first went upstairs to look at the graphics department. Swamped by the latest

Priceless

Seniors find adventure at...

Glorious Genting

By Jessica Friesen

"Woh, look at this!" said senior sponsor Mr. Karl Steinkamp to the thirty plus seniors who gathered outside Genting Resort's Pizza Hut. As the seniors packed closer to see the nonexistent phenomenon in the middle of their huddle, they tried to see how many people they could draw into their crowd. One by one Asian tourists wandered by, slowly poking their heads into the mass, curiously searching for the cause of the large group's undivided attention.

Not often does such a mix of 31 Asian and North American students along with four American sponsors assemble anywhere in the world, but from 19-21 March, the senior class headed off to Genting Highlands for their mini "sneak." Though the trip hardly deserved the adjective sneaky, the vacation up to Genting provided the seniors with both adventure and relaxation.

Traveling via tour bus, the class hustled off campus promptly after school on Friday, immediately heading towards their destination.

"I'm so glad that we got to go to Genting. It was relaxing, and it was fun getting to wear sweat-

Journ. Field Trip...

(Continued from page 6, col. 4) member of the class with a cardboard "briefcase" filled with note pads, paper, and pens before the class pulled out and traveled back to Penang on the ferry.

Stopping for lunch at the Temple of Fine Arts, the students finished the trip by pushing their stomachs to the very limits with an exclusive Indian vegetarian cuisine.

They finally headed back to campus with new knowledge of how a press works and with some good curry in their bellies.

Riggenbach tumbled out of the Wira, feeling satisfied through a combination of the trip and fond memories with his closest of friends. Catching a glimpse of Tommy he blurted out, "Tommy this trip was awesome; we should do it again when the supplement comes out." •

ers in the cold weather," said Gaonou Kue.

As the seniors stepped off the gondola that brought them to the resort, they entered another world—a place with a cooler climate and loads of action-packed activities. With attractions ranging from the amusement park to a series of climbing walls to a Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum and a bowling alley—the resort provided the class

with many new experiences.

"I've always wanted to go rock climbing. It was great getting to use the climbing wall—it was almost like the real thing," said Rachael Caldwell.

A large number of seniors also enjoyed the Sky Venture, a wind tunnel that simulates the experience of sky diving. "Sky Venture was so awesome. The wind was so strong that it was hard to control your movement; but as we got more and more turns, it got easier and easier," said Andrew Altice.

From the activities to the meals and the bus trip, the seniors and their sponsors, the Stenlunds and Steinkamps, enjoyed a relaxing weekend break from the hectic

routine of school activities.

Gradually, more Asian tourists assumed the massive group meant an exciting spectacle; though the class often did provide the entertaining spectacle the tourists sought, after realizing that the group stood gawking at nothing, they gradually left. Bursting into laughter, the class grinned over their mission accomplished.

"OK!" said Steinkamp after the confused tourists left. "Let's meet back here in three hours to go bowling."

Dispersing, the class of 2004 split into its respective groups, heading off to three more hours of entertainment and laughter. •

HAVING FUN YET?

By Andy Yang

"Come try the best Japanese food you'll ever taste!" said Yoko Shimizu (11) as she shouted over the noise of the crowd to grab their attention. Despite the overwhelming noise, she stunned and paralyzed many people with her overwhelming vocal strength. Trying to help out the stalls, Shimizu courageously walked up to her friends, teachers, and even strangers asking them to buy the delicious food the Japanese moms had made. Other children followed her example and began to advertise for their stalls, too. But the excitement didn't stop there; it had just begun.

Students, parents, and teachers had put a tremendous amount of time and energy to bring the traditional Food & Fun Fair together on 24 April. The Food and Fun Fair helped many students to relax from the intense school work-load they received throughout the

year. It also created an opportunity for the parents to get to know each other.

"I was tempted to try all of the food they were selling because it looked so good!" exclaimed Mr. Greg Stenlund. The crisp aroma captured many people and tempted them to try the scrumptious food. Not only did the food play a major role in the Fair, it had brought the Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Indian, and American foods together.

Aside from the food, the entertainment excited many people. "Man, there are so many people who can really throw those darts, while I have been trying to aim for the bull's eye for the last hour," said Howard Kao (10).

Every time the shooter made over a hundred points, he or she would receive a reward of a toy. And if the shooter did not make over a hundred points, he or she

would receive candies as an encouragement to continue.

Aside from the dart shootings, some had a pleasurable time horseback riding, an event that hadn't happened for many years. Many kids couldn't help but beg their parents into letting them ride the horse. "I wanted to ride on it, but I was too small for the horse," said Kristian Stenlund (K).

With the extreme effort, Shimizu managed to help her mother and her friends sell all of their food. Pleased and proud with her efforts, she strode off with a happy smile toward her classmates and got prepared for the juniors' "Slave Auction." •



Bronze Ain't Bad

By Michael Chan

"I'm open!" shouted Howard Kao (10), and in less than a second he found himself holding the ball. He quickly spied a hole in the Berapit defense and took the initiative. Driving in before they closed up the opening, he leapt into midair to do a lay-up.

Leaving his fingers, the ball

hit the backboard and fell onto the rim. The rest of the Dalat team watched in anticipation as the ball, seemingly stuck in slow motion, gradually circled the hoop.

MSSPP basketball heralded the end of a successful season for both the girls' and boys' teams. With each placing third

on the island, no one had that much to complain about.

"I think that it's cool how both the Dalat teams got third. It really proves how good our athletic program is," said Jessica Friesen (12).

Both teams played at the Union and Phor Tay schools on the island and ranked high enough that they continued on to the mainland to compete for a title in Penang State.

Because of the way Penang (Continued on page 8, col. 1)

Unexpected, Unbelievable Blessings

By Christabel Kim

"Honk, honk!" Uncle Keith Henderson impatiently rang his Klaxon as he waited for people to gather in the van so the party of 30 could leave. Humid air filled the van as students awaited the departure, damp and wet from the rain that had fallen; however, that did not stop the enthusiasm of this rare occasion.

The Full Gospel Assembly (FGA) organized a rare worship concert at the FGA Central Zone on Sunday, 18 April. With hopes that it would become an opportunity where nonbelievers could experience something besides the regular church service, they invited many locals as well as expatriates. A worship band from Whitford Church in Perth, Australia—a group touring around Asia and performing in places where people may not have many worship opportunities—visited Penang.

Finally, around 6:10 P.M., Uncle Keith's Peugeot led the way, followed by two other Dalat school vans, driven by Aunt Shannon McCabe and Mr. Doug Brokaw. After little delay in the traffic and some detours, the party arrived at the FGA Centre. Rushing up the stairs, they seated themselves in the first three rows, hoping to seize the most out of it.

"Let's go talk to those peo-

ple," whispered Simeon Garratt (12) to Philip Houmphan (12) as they headed over to the CD stand with the band's CD "Unbelievable" on display. The concert started a little later than scheduled; however, the students used this spare time to introduce and chat with the band members.

As the band finally stepped up, the crowd sprang to their feet in anticipation and excitement. "Oh man," gasped Houmphan as the lead guitarist strummed away the theme song, "Unbelievable."

"Their accents are so cool. It really makes the songs sound

different, huh?" commented Sarah Garratt (10) to Sam Lee (11) as the Auzzie band began to play. The band—an electric guitar, bass, drum, keyboard, and three vocalists—jammed away in worship that rocked the building.

Away from the mandatory chapels and services, people who had come of their own willingness of heart freely and tirelessly worshipped God by lifting their hands and dancing in joy. Their overflowing enthusiasm became a more evident expression of the sheer joy of worshipping God.

"I felt uplifted as the over-

powering Holy Spirit stirred up evidently and vividly in me. I am thankful to the band for facilitating the renewal of [my] spirit. I believe many left the building with a new and fresh commitment [to God]," said Pam Lesmana (12).

After three hours of worship, people hugged one another, overwhelmed with God's grace and presence. Many of them also raced to purchase a CD and to get autographs from the band members.

The night became a memorable time for almost everyone who had attended. Awesome accents, people, music, and concert—altogether, however, the awesome presence of God had caused them to gather for the same purpose, to worship God, and made it possible for this bonding to have happened. •

A Chance to Get Away

By Chi Wei Lo

Long weekend gave staff and students an opportunity to do many different activities. Most staff and students wanted to just get away for awhile and forget about the stress of school. Many left Dalat for getaways at different locations. Others changed their routines and did special activities on campus.

Some of the seniors decided a night out doing karaoke would allow for a great way to unwind and relax. Singing at impressively high pitches, Karen (12) and Joyce Wong (11) and Crystal Tsai (12) filled the room with their loud voices. Karen stated, "I had a great time singing with my friends; it was a great way to release the stress that had built up from a week of school work."

"Since the weekend was right before AP exams. I thought going to Red Box karaoke was just a relaxing way to spend my long weekend," said Tsai.

Many of the staff decided to get away at one of the local hotels. Miss Shannon McCabe, Miss Ruth Strong, Miss Nellie Koethler, Mr. & Mrs. Jus-

tin Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Earl Case spent time at the Park Royal Hotel. Mr. Case stated, "We had a great relaxing and splashing time."

Miss Strong added, "It was a wonderful get away to work on my tan."

Chandler Dorm pulled off a dorm sneak. On Thursday at lunchtime the dorm "snuck" into vans and headed for Kuala Lumpur. They all had a weekend filled with great food and sight seeing. Gaonou Kue (12) said, "The best part of the trip was eating at Chili's and TGI Friday's."

Jackson Dorm spent the weekend eating well and having sleepovers. Uncle Ron and the boys spent the night in the chapel playing PS2 games. The girls and Aunt Shelly had a sleepover at the Wests' apartment. Aunt Shelly said, "The ladies time together was really fun; we enjoyed just having girl time." Jackson finished the weekend by enjoying a delicious buffet at the Mutiara Hotel. Uncle Ron said, "The mile long buffet offered hungry students lots of wonderful choices."

Some of the staff enjoyed the long weekend with a relaxing game of golf. Mr. Joel Steinkamp, Mr. Greg Stenlund and Mr. Karl Steinkamp travelled to Butterworth to play at a local golf course. Mr. Joel Steinkamp stated, "It was a really fun day of

golf as we were the only players on the course. Golf is always a lot more fun when you don't have to rush."

The last long weekend provided a much-needed break for staff and students alike. Whether singing karaoke, getting off campus, doing special activities on campus, or golfing, everybody had a great time. Long weekends provide a chance to get away and unwind. This last long weekend proved no exception to this rule. •

MSSPP Basketball...

(Continued from page 7, col. 4) conducted MSSPP, Dalat could not play on their home court. And playing on unfamiliar courts made their mark on the Dalat teams, as many times they had to adjust their playing to fit the area.

"The courts on the mainland were so uneven that when it rained there were big puddles of water pooled up all over the place making dribbling really hard," said Philip Houmphan (12).

Meanwhile, as the ball crept along the rim, Kao landed back on the ground and looked up in time to see it fall into the basket.

Clapping their hands as they ran back, the Dalat team concentrated on not giving the Berapit team the same chance to score. •



Gold Fever

By Gaonou Kue

“Pass! Pass! Pass!” yelled Grace Sun (10) as she beat the other team down the court for a fast break. Looking up to find where the voice had come from, Jessica Friesen (12) found herself face to face with her challenger.

On 14 to 15 May, Dalat held its annual invitational basketball tournament, asking five other teams to join Dalat’s varsity girls. Three teams from the island accepted, including two teams from the mainland. All together, six teams fought against each other for the gold, all in one grueling day of basketball.

“I was really excited about our tournament, especially our very first game against Convent Green Lane. We had a lot of fans; and I got to play a lot and scored some points, which helped my team win to move on in the tournament,” said Allison McClary (9).

After a short recognition assembly for all the sports teams and the finale of StuCo’s very

own, Staff Idol, the tournament held its first game, where Dalat crushed their opponent, CGL (Convent Green Lane), 49 to 16.

Moving on in the tournament, the varsity girls thrived through the day beating each team they played. Reaching the championship game, Dalat faced a tough ISKL team in a vicious battle for the gold. The varsity girls became the champions defeating ISKL 42-33. “It felt really good to win a trophy; it was an awesome way to end our season,” said a proud Friesen.

Not only the varsity girls, but the JV girls had also hosted a tournament as well, the weekend before on 8 May.

In the JV girls’ tournament, only three other teams had participated in the competition. “Even though there weren’t a lot of teams to play, I still had fun. It was awesome how much we improved as a team and that



we got so far in the tournament,” said Charis To (9).

The JV girls took second. Their fans admired their strength and growth as a team. “They displayed great determination and teamwork. My sister was the best,” exclaimed Andrew McClary (10).

As the sports seasons came to an end, the JV boys basketball team hosted one last tournament on 22 May. The much-anticipated tournament made the boys work hard and grow together as a team. Coach Greg Stenlund explained confidently, “I think our boys have a good chance to win the tournament. We have a strong team not only in strength and size but also in quickness and agility. And we have excellent team unity.”

“Three!” As Friesen hears the crowd start counting down, she easily lobs the ball over the players’ heads. “Two!” Sun catches it and approaches the basket making an easy lay-up. “One!” HONK! Adding more points to their winning score, the ball swished through the net as the buzzer went off ending the game.

Sun walked off the court as if she owned it and returned to the bench where Coach Steve Liss praised her and her team’s great teamwork. •

Advancing Their Merit

By Praveen Thomas

As the clock struck 4:00 P.M., the sound fiercely shook Michael Chan (12) as he prepared to talk about the AMD project that he had worked on for the past month. He knew that a slight mistake could destroy him in the eyes of judges as they focused on him for the next 20 minutes. But his friends gave him some encouragement—especially his girlfriend Karen Wong (12), who said, “Don’t worry; it will all be fine.”

Last year Dalat introduced a new program called AMD, an abbreviation for Advanced Merit Diploma. The AMD provides a higher diploma for elite students. At the beginning, half of the senior class joined the program thinking of the benefits. AMD increases the chances of getting into a better college, a better scholarship and a better future. Unfortunately, when they realized the amount of work they had to put in for the next two years, they began to leave like bunch of girls when they see cockroaches. At the end of the second year only two survivors remained: Tony Chuang and Chan.

To sum up all of the work they had accomplished, they had to make a final presentation of their project. Chuang, known for his computer skills, chose to write a mind-blowing game using Visual Basic. Even the great computer gamer of Dalat John Kao (12) said, “Tony’s game is crazy; I can’t believe he wrote his game with Visual Basic.”

Chan, on the other hand, chose to do a website on depression. And Chuang and Chan had to prove to the judges that they were eligible for AMD by making their presentation. All of their work and sacrifices for the last two years finally came to a conclusion.

Since granting AMD is held at great importance, the judges gave the boys their full attention. After making their presentations, the boys had to answer the judges’ questions thoroughly. As Simeon Garratt (12) said, “Tony did a great job with his game and explaining the concepts, but Mike had a hard time.”

Pressure from the judges caused Chan to make some fatal mistakes. When Chuang fi (Continued on page 10, col. 1)

Passover Lamb

By Rachael Caldwell

“Passover’s Lamb, blood upon the door, forming a cross to seal us from death’s jaw...” sang the members of the ensemble during the Good Friday service.

At the onset of Easter weekend, Pastor David Latsha organized a Good Friday service in hopes of setting aside a special time for the school as a whole, to meditate on the awesome gift offered us through Christ’s death on Calvary. With the lights put on dim to give the room a somber atmosphere, students filed into the chapel one Friday morning before going to class.

“It was very dark and sober inside the chapel. I thought it was cool to go there in the morning and to set aside our time to just reflect on what Christ went through on the cross,” recalled Christina Robertson (11) with a look of contemplation on her face.

Bright and early Friday morn-

ing, students sauntered to the Good Friday service before the start of the school day. Some of the events scheduled for the service included: a performance by the ensemble of “The Passover Lamb,” a time for congregational worship, a performance by “HizHandz,” scriptural reading, and a clip from Mel Gibson’s movie “The Passion of the Christ.”

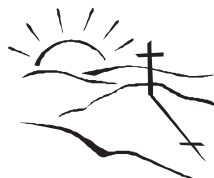
“I liked the clip from “The Passion” because it reminded us of the full extent of what Christ did for us,” Lydia Ng (11) said.

Perhaps one of the most powerful and symbolic events of that morning came at the conclusion of the service. During this time, Pastor Dave challenged the congregation to surrender any sin in their lives to the Lord and to “lay it before the cross.” As a physical expression of this inward decision, Pastor Dave encouraged the student body to write their

prayers of surrender on a piece of paper and then to nail them to a wooden cross lying across the stage. As more and more people came forward to attach their pieces of paper to the cross, the wooden frame soon disappeared from view beneath all the layers of paper.

“Tears came into my eyes when I looked at the cross, now completely covered with slips of paper, which could easily be my sins. It was then that I was struck with the awesome love that Christ has for us and His willingness to have so much sin placed upon His sinless shoulders,” mused Caleb Masters (11). With this symbolic act, the service came to an end.

“...and by the blood of the pure and spotless lamb, we’re free; we are all set free,” sang the vocal ensemble as the service came to a close. •



No Boys Allowed

By Pam Lesmana

Daniel Walter (12) sat almost paralyzed in fear. His eyes opened wide and his muscles tensed as he trembled at the thought of the senior and junior girls invading his apartment for a girls' sleepover party. "I'm going to run away. Please, someone, rescue me!" he pleaded after his mother asked her to be guests to bring snacks for the night.

"Bring lots of carrot sticks to the party" Karen Wong (12) suggested to her friends. Wong had debated whether she should go to the sleepover, fearing the food would tempt her to break her diet.

Walking into the Walter residence, Wong found her mouth gaping open. Many dishes brought in by various students lured her appetite. "I couldn't help myself!" she said ashamed after Rachael Caldwell (12), Lindsay Nagel (11), and Gaonou Kue (12) caught her with a mound of food on her plate. "It was one time.

Man the slippery slope is really slippery. I found myself looking at the food and the next thing I knew I was putting it into my mouth as a form of catharsis," lamented Wong.

In addition to the food, the night offered many other forms of entertainment. "Mrs. Walter was a professional *henna* or *mind* painter!" Amber Hill (12)

exclaimed, awestruck by her teacher's hidden talent. Wong and Ms. Ruth Strong learned fast to draw their designs on some of the girls who stood in line for *mind*. They also drew on each other.

"Look at the tattoo Karen drew on my feet," Ms. Strong said, proudly displaying her feet "It's funny that she's running around tattooing everyone at least twice. It takes a lot of trust for people to let her do that," she added jokingly.

After everyone had her turn to have someone draw on her, the group sat and watched the movie *A Walk in the Clouds*. As they watched, some girls dabbed lemon juice on their designs to enhance the effects of the *henna*, and others painted each others' toenails. After the

dye dried, the girls removed the excess *henna*. Many used olive oil to help scrub it off.

Dark chocolate, caffeinated drinks, and the late hour amplified the normal behavior of the girls.

Some went to the pool to swim and caught up on each other's lives. Through this, they provided support and laughter for each other. In fact, some had too much laughter during the night. "Jessica [Friesen, 12] got really excited and threw up in the pool," Tina Wolfe (12) reported. Friesen refuted Wolfe's statement saying that she did not throw up, but merely choked. Apparently, Friesen had laughed so hard while sitting in the pool that she snort-



ed in some of the pool water.

"It went down to the wrong tube so I looked like I was going to throw up," Friesen clarified so that people wouldn't remember her as the girl who threw up in a pool.

As they ran out of energy, the girls slowly went to bed. One by one, tired bodies occupied the space provided for sleeping. Soon the three rooms for the girls became quiet as they rested peacefully.

In the morning, they felt refreshed, waking up to cereal and a beautiful view of the sun reflecting off the ocean. They regretfully left the party and went to school. "So was it worth the calories Karen?" asked Daniel Walter, who had gladly missed the party.

"I liked how we got to take our minds off work during a weeknight. It sure was worth it," Wong said, grateful for the blessedly fun time she had received through the night. •

A Dolphin Rider

By Simeon Garratt

At the beginning of this quarter, a group of swimmers emerged from the tiny little microcosm called Dalat. Inspired by the ingenious mind of Zach Hansen (12), who brought about the question, "How come we live on a beach on an island in the tropics, and we never use the beach or the heat? I think we should swim or something." Because of that, a group began to meet almost everyday after school at the Paradise pool to "take a dip."

At first "taking a dip" consisted of swimming around for a couple minutes then heading out into the sun to get some well-needed tanning; but they soon found out that guys can only tan for so long. After awhile, more people started to grasp the amazing concept of swimming. Slowly but surely more students began to show up at Paradise after school.

One relaxing day Po Lai (10) curiously asked, "Guys, how come all we do is tan? Why can't we play some water polo or something?" And then it began. From then on the peace vanished, and the once-quiet group of tanners transformed into an army of beating, bashing, slash-

ing, punching, poking, prodding, polo-net-destroying hooligans. Day after day the war continued; bruises and scratches sprang up ubiquitously.

Each player had his own special talent, and nicknames quickly arose. Hansen also known as "Hands-Not-Too-Slow" played the ultimate defensive role because of his amazingly quick hands. Lai became known as "The Dolphin" for his ability to carry players to various places in the pool. Players such as Ben DeVette (10) also had unfair advantages—because who really wants to play water polo with an "Olympic swimmer?" And the rest of the crew had nicknames as well, but the *Eagle's Eye* must remain content-friendly to the general public; so their names will remain unmentioned.

The swimmers have made a place for themselves in the hearts of all and will keep on swimming in hopes of inspiring younger



youth to carry on the tradition and to spread the love. Nothing shows camaraderie better than watching someone get pelted in the head with and overly pumped water polo ball. A sunny day at a hotel with a cool pool no longer just spells relaxing; it conveys a life-style, and in the words of Jimmy Pham (12) "relax guy!" and live on the edge. So just keep the pools filled and this crew of polo-playing pranksters will live on forever. •

Fun in the Sun

By Jodi Harrison

"Wahooooooooo," screamed Yoko Shimizu (11) as she whizzed across the clear, blue ocean on a jet ski.

"Go faster, Yoko, go faster," encouraged Joyce Wong (11), who rode behind her, holding tightly to the bright orange life jacket.

Activities like jet skiing provided the P.E. and Fitness classes with opportunities to do exciting outdoor physical activities. Mr. Gerry Steiert organized these activities to give students a break from the monotony of classroom work. He stressed the importance of physical education as well as intellectual learning.

(Continued on page 11, col. 1)

Advanced Merit Diploma...

(Continued from page 9, col. 4) nished his presentation, his relief was so overwhelming that he commented to his mom, "I am glad it's over."

Unfortunately, in the end only the best could make it. Chuang qualified by putting in 40 hours of work for his RPG game, and he demonstrated it with his attitude and in his presentation. Filled with happiness, he said, "I feel relieved and that I have accomplished something."

And Chan commented on his failure: "Man, I messed up so much." But his beloved girlfriend Wong encouraged him by saying, "I know—but at least it is over now." •

Discovering Talent

By James Lo

At 4:30 P.M. on 10 May, parents and students walked quickly down to the chapel to catch their kids' and friends' performance. The music recital of 2004, with new participants and old, allowed students to perform what they had learned about music through out the year. Students from elementary to high school did a variety of different musical performances like singing, piano, violin, and the wind ensemble was one of the night's main event. "I was really nervous" said singer Rachael Caldwell (12). "But not as nervous as I was before."

"I thought the little ones were so adorable, and some were quite talented!" said Lydia Ng (11). The recital night also helped the little ones to know their classmates' talents and to know them better. "I was so surprised! An-

gela [Steiert, 5] and Edwin [Tan, 5] are so good," exclaimed Chi Yuan Lo (5).

Pianists like Ms. Diane Vanderpool and Josh Lai helped out with the students who sang for the recital. "It was a bit tiring to play so many songs, but I really enjoyed doing so many voice shows," said Lai, a Dalat alumnus.

"It was musically challenging," said Eun Bee Chung (10). For the people who played an instrument, they gave themselves not only a big challenge, but also a comfortable environ-

ment for their audiences. "Even though there were mistakes, everyone tried [his or her] best!" said Hilary McCaskill (9).

As Karen Wong performed the final piece of music "Duetto, Op 38, No. 6" for the night, the recital ended in a calm and wondrous mood. •



Symphony of the Night

By Jimmy Pham

"Hurry," said Kristen Westergren (8) to her friend Mari Maxey (8), "Mr. [Doug] Brokaw said to be down there by 6:45!"

"I'm coming! I just need to grab my clarinet," replied Maxey.

Few moments later the two girls burst into the chapel to join the rest of the band as they tuned their instruments for the night. Soon parents and other students crowded in and prepared to listen to the Middle School Spring Concert.

Shortly after seven o'clock, the ten girls from the Middle School Choir grouped together on stage. Directed by Mrs. Mary Latsha, the choir sang three songs including a piece from the Disney film *The Lion King*.

After the choir finished their songs, the Beginning Band conducted by Mr. Doug Brokaw marched up on stage and waited for Mr. Brokaw's instructions. He led them through a scale to

help them do some last-minute tuning. They played through five pieces that they had practiced during the semester.

"I am very proud of the Beginner's Band," said Mr. Brokaw. "They started out not knowing how to play a single note [and ended by] completing a whole concert."

Lastly, the Intermediate Band took the stage to play four songs, including one from "The Star Wars" saga. The band had played their instruments for over a year, so their pieces required more skills.

"The Intermediate Band played very well, too," said Mr. Brokaw. "They were playing high-school-level music, and I was very impressed."

As the Intermediate Band finished their song "Workin' Out," the crowd applauded with glee. Maxey turned to her friend and said, "Well, glad we got that over with." •

Fun in the Sun...

(Continued from p. 11, col. 4)

One such trip began with an early lunch, and then students piled into a school van and headed to the End of the World, where the hike to Turtle Beach begins. A beautiful beach lay at the end of the many sets of stairs climbing the hillside as an enticing reward. Students slipped out of their shoes, into swimwear, and walked down the beach towards the dock that stretched from the middle of the beach into the ocean.

"My favorite part of the hike was jumping off the end of the dock into the ocean. It was scary because you never know what is lurking in those murky waters!" said Drew Steiert (9).

P.E. and Fitness students also enjoyed bowling at the Midlands Mall, despite the malfunctioning of the lanes. Since the classes were small, students bowled two to a lane and finished in time to enjoy mangos and sticky rice at the Thai Food Fair.

"P.E. is the best class ever; you get time to break away and run around. Mr. Steiert is awesome!" said Tina Wolfe (12).

Seeing the Paradise worker waving his hands, Shimizu reluctantly decelerate, turned and headed back to the beach. "That was the most awesome Fitness class ever," she said to Wong. •

Spearheading the Invasion

By Zach Hansen

"I came to get down, I came to get down, so get up out yo' seat and jump around!" rapped MC Be Free covering House of Pain's song "Jump Around," encouraging the crowd to jump to the beat.

With bands from Dalat, Uplands, and St. Xavier's as well as

several locally established bands, Youth Invasion on Saturday, 15 May, granted Dalat students a chance to break the "Dalat bubble" and reach out the local community. "I was really pleased how well the entire evening went," said StuCo President Theo Love (12). "I was especial-

ly proud of the mix of people that came out to support the island's youth talent. There probably aren't too many places in the world where Chinese, Indian, Malay, and white people show up and have this much fun."

The evening progressed with styles ranging from punk rock to hard-core metal, from nu-metal to rappers with DJs and break dancers. "The break dancers totally stole the show. They were doing moves that I only saw in movies before. I had no idea that anyone in Penang could do that kind of thing," said Eric Jung (11).

The lone Dalat band, NEEVUS, headed by Love, Than Matanick (11), and Evan Persons, came out to a roaring crowd by throwing beach balls into the masses and donning '70's wigs and costumes. "The beach balls were really tight because it totally got everyone pumped up and into the performance," said Esther Vaughn (11).

Despite the skill of the bands, certain groups stood above the rest. "Like a shining star amongst dy-

ing black holes, Oceans of Fire made every other band in Youth Invasion look like sissy, little girls," said Jamie Cheng (12) with his usual flare for making everything as deep as humanly possible.

"The drummer, especially marvelous with his double-bass pedals and lightning-speed hands, redefined the meaning of percussion as he not only rocked the house but made me want to eat *wan tan mee*."

Whether going crazy in the mosh pit of the NEEVUS, just "chilling" with new local friends to the sounds of White Light, or jumping to the rhymes of Top Squad, Youth Invasion 2004 brought the best of Penang to one place. •



Eighth Grade Escape to Genting

"It was the best time I've had throughout the whole year! I had so much fun with my class at Genting," said Cindy Hsieh (8) as she passed by Janice Hung (7) on her way to Bible class.

On 22 April, the eighth graders took a trip to Genting Highlands, a dazzling hilltop resort filled with fantasies, excitement, and adventure. Along with Mr. Justin Smith, Mrs. Donna Hansen, Mr. Joel Steinkamp, and Mrs. Vicki Gross, the students

took a break from the hot dusty city to enjoy the surroundings of lush green tropical rain forest and the chilly yet refreshing windiness at Genting Highlands.

On the first day, the students visited the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum at Genting's First World Plaza. In the museum, bizarre, astonishing, and out-of-the-ordinary collections by Ripley during his travels around the globe amazed and entertained both students and teachers. "I had a lot of

fun in there. It was really cool to see the world's tallest man!" said Brendan Frentz (8).

Students also enjoyed themselves at the indoor and outdoor theme park the next day. A number of them danced to the music in front of the country bear. "I thought it was cool and funny. When we were dancing, a group of people crowded around us and started taking pictures," said Frentz with a smile on his face.

At night the eighth graders played the Jello game in their hotel lobby. "Many people started watching us after awhile. They probably thought that we were weird, but I had a lot of fun," said Paul Wang (8).

The next morning, the students regrettably packed their bags and got on the bus, each carrying a little sack of golden memories.

"Wait for me after school? I'm not done with telling you the stories about my trip yet. I have some pictures I want to show you as well. Let's meet up at the lockers," said Hsieh as she rushed off trying to make it to class before the bell. •