



Eagle's Eye

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

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Eagle's Eye Staff

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Five-Day Beach Bums

"Seniors escape to Redang Island

By Joyce Wong

As the boat got closer to the deck, Esther Vaughn screamed at the top of her lungs, "OH MY! Look, Linds [Lindsey Loehden]! The water is so CLEAR!" The seniors cheered up as they finally arrived at their destination after an eight-hour bus and an hour-long boat ride.

On 15 September, all 21 seniors headed for Redang, an island with beautiful sunshine and white sandy beaches: the perfect vacation spot located off the east coast of Malaysia. The seniors did a lot of activities during the sneak such as snorkeling, scuba diving, and fishing. Christina Robertson said, "It was so funny; Kim [Gross] wasn't heavy enough for scuba diving, so she had to get more weight. When she finally got the weight, she had forgotten the weight belt!" These kinds of mishaps helped the seniors get to know each other better.

"Once we were able to dive, we saw this really cool sting ray!" said Robertson as she recalled the fun memories from sneak.

Sneak created an opportunity for seniors to get better acquainted with one another as well as to have the privilege to experience the incredible wild sea world. At the end of each day, students gathered together to share the exciting events they had encountered. The class enjoyed such quality time that they spent each evening together while they relaxed.

Senior sponsors Ms. Ruth Strong and Aunt Shannon McCabe relaxed and lay on the beach to get deep suntan. Ms. Strong said, "Sand fights were the highlight—got that right! It was quite the sight!"

Aunt Shannon added, "This sneak gave me a chance to get to know the seniors in a fun and different way. It was a very refreshing and relaxing time for everybody."

"When we went fishing in the early morning, I wanted to catch a big fish; and that is what I expected, but there were only small fish," Eric Jung laughingly said. "I did catch some fish, but I was still a little bit upset."

Each day the seniors woke

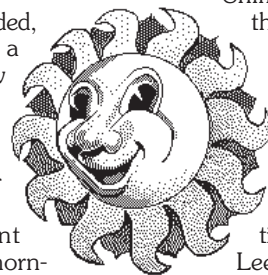
up to a new adventure. The mornings gave the class a chance to see wildlife and to find better coral. "Everything was so beautiful, [but] I never saw dolphins!" said Yoko Shimizu as she recalled

the beautiful scenery.

Because of the arrangements at the resort, 3-5 seniors squeezed in each room.

These tight quarters made for a fun time of bonding. Sam Lee said, "Surprising-

ly, Uncle Brian [Weidemann] and Kazu [Komatsu] had the cleaner side of the room compared to Eric and me. It was like we had two different worlds in our room!" Despite the tight (Continued on page 2, col. 1)



I Keep on Falling...

into a Mass of Details

By Lydia Ng

With her life flashing before her eyes, Joy Walter (10) held her breath and braced herself for the impact of her body hitting the floor. After what seemed an eternity, she opened her eyes to find herself lying on top of the arms of the rest of the sophomore class excom. "Phew," sighed Walter, "Thanks for

catching me, guys! Let's do it again!"

After school on 26 August, the students in class excom and student council positions assembled with their sponsors in the chapel for the Student Leadership Retreat. James Hawthorne (11) commented, "I really en- (Continued on page 2, col. 3)

Red Spot

By Sam Lee

With his eyes focused on the ball and quickly calculating the angle, Ben DeVette (11) released the stick and sent the last ball into the pocket.

"Ben! You cheater! Re-match! Double or nothing!" exclaimed Ted Fung (11) in a vain attempt to avoid paying for the game.

Ever since the Red Spot, a new pool club, opened up in Gurney Plaza, a group of pool-

playing students visited the place out of curiosity and marveled at the excellent quality of facilities. Gregory Kolkman (9) said, "I was really glad to find out there was a nice pool place in Gurney because there wasn't really anything to do there."

Sung In Kang (9) added, "Red Spot is pretty decent; it's better than any other pool places in Penang."

Red Spot has greatly risen in

popularity among students, and now exists as the unofficial hang-out in Gurney for some students on weekends. "Every time I need to look for someone, I just go to Red Spot and all the guys are there," said Lindsay Loehden (11).

"It is a good place to hang out in your spare time because it is very relaxing. You can also work on your pool skills—plus there are good-looking girls playing pool there," said Eric Jung (12).

Some students have given in to the obsessive side of pool; consequently, they end up spending too much money on the game. Rama Kolkman (11) commented, "One Friday I played with Terry [Hsiang, 11] and Howard [Kao, 11], and got wasted. I had to pay for four games!"

After a heated quarrel about the fairness of the match, Fung reluctantly paid for the game that he and DeVette had played; and DeVette walked off with a huge smile on his face. •



A Stressor or a Challenge?

By Cathy Lin

At 12:25 P.M. the bell rang as punctual as usual, reminding students of lunchtime. A group of seniors walked ponderously out of Bible class with expressions of agony on their faces.

"How can I make a tedious topic sound interesting? Do colleges only accept weird people who can come up with the most hilarious way to express themselves? Uhh, I have to rewrite all my essays again!" Julia Cheong (12) said after listening to Ms. Ruth Strong's lecture on college application

and essay-writing skills.

Ms. Strong organized several talks about college applications after seniors came back from their five-day "sneak" to Redang Island. Overwhelmed with all make-up work, these college essays placed seniors in extreme agony.

"It's too stressful [to cope with school and college application at the same time]. A college essay should not be a stressor for us," said Eric Jung (12), unhappy with the burden the essays had brought to him.

Not all seniors considered college essays as a stressor. Some students found them as a challenging way to express their very true selves. "College essays help admission officers know their applicants in a very short time [so they can] select the best-fitting students to their college. That's why I'm working very hard on my essays to make them sound funny and interesting so the admission officers won't fall asleep when they read them. Hopefully, they will still accept me to their

school," said Kim Gross (12) with a big smile on her face.

"I bet I have the weirdest topic. For one of my colleges, I have to write the inspiration I got after looking at a building. I have no idea how I am supposed to write this essay so that it will reflect my personality," Esther Vaughn (12) said as the seniors stood by the lockers exchanging their college essay topics.

Back in her dorm that night, with anxiety and reluctance, Cheong started her essays all over again, racking her brain to think of a way to make them as weird and hilarious as she could. •

Senior Trip...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) quarters and varying living styles, they enjoyed their time away from school as they bonded with their friends.

On Monday morning, the seniors woke up and packed their bags. As the sun shone on beautiful Redang Island, the boat started its engine and the tourists began to board. In the crowd of seniors, Lydia Ng spoke aloud the thoughts of every senior: "I don't want to go back. I can't believe we are leaving now!" She gave her friends hugs and cherished the last moments.

As the captain of the boat called for people to board, Vaughn said, "I learned that anywhere you go, and whoever you're with, if you make the best of it, you'll have a blast." The seniors held these thoughts and memories in their hearts as they left the beautiful beach and returned to Penang. •

Student Leadership Retreat...

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) joyed the theme 'It's in the details' because as the food coordinator of the [junior class] excom, I have to make sure to get all the details straight. I mean, if you forget the eggs when you make an omelet, you don't have much of an omelet."

To start the retreat, each excom made up one team to participate in an activity that included working through a series of puzzles on Rat Island as well as a massive puzzle in the chapel. "One of the highlights of the retreat," Caleb Masters (12) said, "was floating in the ocean for about an hour and a half with Ms. Ruth Strong. It taught me patience and perseverance because we had to wait for the tide to wash the kayak back to shore."

While some had troubles at sea, other excom members had troubles with the puzzle in the

chapel. "At first the puzzle seemed impossible, but once we got the details right, it was easier to finish it," said John Kim (11).

The sophomore excom went to the Roadhouse Grill for dinner for winning the activity, while everyone else went to Domino's. After dinner the group took the tram up Penang Hill and trekked to the Methodist Guest House to spend the night. "It was really scary to walk from the tram station to the Methodist Guest House because it was dark and slippery," said Walter.

Shortly after their arrival, they watched the movie *To End All Wars*. Joyce Wong (12) said, "The movie was very meaningful because it taught me how to be a better leader."

The next morning, the student leaders played various games intended to teach them the fine points of an ideal leader. "During the leadership retreat," Esther Vaughn (12) said, "I had to contribute to the team

by putting my mouth on a dirty hose and sucking water through it to put in a bucket. Gross!"

Kimberly Gross (12) added, "For one of the games, half of the StuCo excom had to write a description of a couple of random items placed in a certain way and the other half had to build the same contraption using our description. I had a really hard time holding back laughter when the other half of StuCo's replication of the original invention looked really bizarre and not at all complete."

The sky opened, and down poured torrents of rain during the tram ride back down Penang Hill. As everyone did a mad dash towards the van, David Robertson (10) said, "It was cramped and hot inside the tram; my bags got all soaked on the outside!"

"Yeah, but at least we didn't have to hike up the whole hill like they did last year," said Walter, trying to look at things in a more optimistic light. •

Everybody! Shavah, Shavah!

By Yoko Shimizu

"Where is my invitation? Am I the only one who didn't get one?" Cathy Lin (12) cried out, as she searched her locker for an invitation to the After-Sneak Dinner.

As the seniors returned from their enjoyable time at Redang Island, they immediately dashed to their lockers in expectation of the invitation card. "Subaidah!!" Esther Vaughn (12) jumped up and exclaimed as she saw the pink and green print on the card.

Seniors, excited about the night of the After-Sneak Dinner, had a hard time concentrating in their classes that day. "It was relaxing not to have to do any work [preparing this event] this year," said Caleb Masters (12), who relaxed in his position as a senior.

The juniors, however, ran around campus as soon as the 3:35 bell rang. They had prepared the night in honor of the class of 2005. "It was busy preparing for the night, but it was all worth it because we got to see all the seniors excited," said Ted Fung (11).

The juniors, in attempt to make the night perfect, hired the workers from Subaidah (a local Indian 24-hour restaurant), showed Bollywood movies, and decorated the chapel with Indian décor. Moreover, they created entertainment which heated up the night.

Bollywood music welcomed the seniors as they entered the chapel on Tuesday, 21 September. "I look good in pink!" Mr. Steve Liss said, satisfied with his

Subaidah uniform. With scrumptious food and amusing entertainment, both juniors and seniors had an exciting night.

"I can't believe they actually hired the guy from Subaidah! It was so great," said Kimberly Gross (12) excitedly.

"Bollywood dancing [Shavah, shavah!] was a good one!" exclaimed Lindsay Loehden (12).

"I liked doing the scavenger hunt with Ted and Terry [Hsiang, 11], but the best part was getting the Subaidah hat as a prize for all that strenuous physical

work. I was sweating like a mad cow by the end!" exclaimed Natalie Herring (12), still excited from the tension of the game.

The night felt like a dream passing by very quickly. "I was skeptical about the whole Indian theme at first, but it turned out to be awesome; and I had a blast!" said Christina Robertson (12) as she remembered the night.

Still immersed in the pleasant mood of the dinner, the class of 2005 went back to school, fighting the battle with a great amount of work to catch up.

"I found it, guys!" cried Lin as she dug out her invitation from her locker at last. •



Gagging for Goals

By Kimberly Gross

BRRRRIIIINNNG! The study hall bell echoed across campus, ringing in the deep depths of the dorm corridors and reverberating off the building's walls. Prayer meeting in the Student Center came to a close, and students dispersed. The small cluster of friends that had gathered earlier outside the computer lab slowly dissipated as the adviser opened the lab; they began their homework, leaving one lone student lingering aimlessly near the lockers, breathing in the fresh night air.

"Ahhhhh! Are we going to be late?" A screaming Pamela Hidajat's (10) voice broke the silence of the peaceful campus.

Faces and arms painted with the words "Malaysia boleh," Hidajat, Michelle Nagel (10), and Christina Robertson (12) rushed out of the girls bathroom to find a small crowd had only started to form around the fountain, still awaiting the arrival of the vans.

On the night of 8 September, a group of about 45 students and staff assembled in the

center of campus bearing Malaysian flags, t-shirts, and other Malaysian pride paraphernalia to demonstrate their support of the Malaysian Professional Soccer Team as they headed it off against China at the preliminary World Cup 2006 game.

Getting into the arena and finding a seat proved no easy task, as students hung together as not to lose themselves in the crowd. "We were walking around the crowd, trying to find a seat, and every single person started cheering for us as we passed. So we started cheering, 'Yeah, Malaysia boleh!' I guess they were just so thrilled to see a bunch of foreigners at a local game," said Christa DeVette (10).

Finally, having found empty seats only in the front row, everyone crowded in as close as possible, hoping to find seats higher up on the bleachers as to see more than just the player's heads. Nagel and Joy Walter (10) finally found two spots, where a group of chain-smoking Malaysian surrounded them.

"Even though the smoke was horrible and I could hardly breathe some of the time while

I was cheering, I thought it was cool when the local guys let Joy and me hold up the massive Malaysian flag and then use it to cover our heads when it started raining," said Nagel.

In the intensity of the action, with the score still zero to zero, Malaysia's strikers continued to edge nearer and nearer to the goal each play, yet shooting and missing time and time again. A petty riot broke out in the crowd, arguing against a call made in favor of China. Then, as the sky began spitting little drops of rain, the crowd dwindled; and the final minutes had begun, keeping the crowd sitting in suspense on the edge of its seat.

With one swift kick, China scored. BUUUZZZZZ. The game ended with the scoreboard reading: Malaysia zero, China one.

"Malaysia played a far better game than China. China played cheap," said Jason Pohl (12).

"I didn't really care who won. I just cheered for China because everyone, I mean everyone, cheered for Malaysia; and I felt bad for the China team and wanted to support them," said Josie Steinkamp (6). "So, the best part was when China won."

"I think everyone needs to go to something like that sometime when they get the chance," said Aaron Steinert (12). "It was the first time I'd ever watched a live professional soccer game anywhere in the world, and it was such a fun experience."

Shoving through the crowd after the game, Hidajat, Nagel, and Robertson reunited. Once outside, the girls took in gasps of fresh air that the crowded, smoke-filled arena had deprived them of. Paint smeared across their faces and streaming down their arms, the girls yawned as they climbed into the vans.

Pulling out of the parking lot and into a crowded lane of traffic, Hidajat called out her open window, "Malaysia boleh!" Her raspy voice winning her smiles and cheers from her new Malaysian "friends." •



Go Pirates!

By Kazumasa Komatsu

"Back to home base! Back to home base!" shouted Kazuki

Takahashi (10) from second base, telling Haruki Shinohara (10), in left field, where to throw the ball. The catcher caught the ball just in time to get the runner out. "Good throw!" said Takahashi. (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

What? Uniforms??

By **Lindsay Loehden**

Several people reacted with hesitation or even shock last year when the school stated that the students would wear a uniform this year. To get the perfect design, the school set up a committee, had several tailors come display their clothes, and then chose what they wanted. Everyone went on vacation and placed school and uniforms out of their minds.

When the students returned to campus, they picked up their uniforms. Some had gone on the Dalat website before school to see what the outfits would look like. "When I first saw the uniform on the website, I thought that the skirts were too long; but I thought the shorts were hot. When I went to try them on, [however], I realized that either a) I am fat or b) the people who made them didn't get the sizes right. But I do love my shorts,"

stated Natalie Herring (12).

"It doesn't fit," wailed Joyce Wong (12). Something must have gone wrong at the factory because the regular sizes did not fit; and because of this, students wasted many hours trying on and taking off the different sizes.

Even some staff expressed their opinions. "I think the students look like clones," said Mrs. Donna Hansen, who thought that the school should have just stayed with a dress code.

Other staff thought the uniforms could use a little decoration: "I think that we should call for a Saturday afternoon "Bedazzling" session (Remember the 90's infomercial?). We would drink Milo ice with glue guns at hand as we applied rhinestones, studs, glitter, and other general bling-bling. The uniforms would be to-die-for!"

declared Ms. Carolyn Janssen.

Even after adjusting to the uniform, some students still missed the old dress code. "[Uniforms] are okay, but [they are made of a] kind of thick material; and they're hard to run in," said Hung Yi Song (8).

"I think it's good that we don't have to think about what to wear in the morning, but personally I don't like it [that] we all look alike," said Eric Jung (12).

"It's discomforting, yet so much easier on the mind. You

don't have to choose what you wear in the morning," said Aaron Steinert (12).

"Uniforms do save you the hassle of trying to get something to wear at the last minute, but as the same time they rob you of the individualism that you express through your clothing styles," said Chris Foster (11).

Despite the mixed reviews, the flood of navy blue and cranberry tops and khaki shorts, skirts and pants did give students a truly uniform look! •



SENIORS Yoko Shimizu, Jason Pohl, Sam Lee, Joyce Wong, Kazu Komatsu, and Cathy Lin model the new school uniform.

Goosey Mucus Madness...

or Pretty Polka Dancing?

By **Lindsey Nagel**

"Guys, grab a girl and let's get going! This is a great social activity and a fantastic workout for

the calves!" Mr. Gerry Steiert said as he galloped off to crank up the volume level.

Pirates' Softball...

(Continued from page 3, col. 4) hashi, giving him a tap on his back.

On weekends, some students had softball practice on the field at Uplands. They practiced not just for fun, but for a tournament they would compete in. Takehiro Toyama (10) led a team called the "Pirates."

Every October and May, the Japanese Association organizes a softball tournament. This year the tournament will play at the Penang Free School on 24 October. Normally, the tournament only includes Japanese companies; however, students put together teams so others could join.

"We are young, but we will win the tournament! I believe we can do it because we started practicing two months [ago]," said Takahashi. The team wants

to win—not for money, but for team pride.

Ten years ago, some students from the Japanese School came up with an idea that they should start a softball team. They passed this tradition down to Toyama last year. The Pirates have 16 people—five from Dalat, two from Uplands, and nine from the Japanese School.

"I'm not really good at softball, but I like playing with my team; and I enjoy playing softball. Since I do not exercise, I can maintain my health level by playing softball," said Tokihito Shioya (10).

"The Pirates are a team of Dalat students, but also a team that is outside Dalat. We need and would really appreciate the people from Dalat to come and support us. If anyone is interested in cheering, come and enjoy the game," said Toyama excitedly. •

Every Tuesday around 3:10 P.M. a group of fun-loving, eager teenagers toddled into the gym curious to see what groove they would learn next in their high school dance class.

After a day of hard work—slaving away in the heat of the day walking from air-conditioned classroom to classroom—students became exhausted and enjoyed floating to their refreshing P-block each day. In much need of a break from subjects that required immense brain power, they had signed up for various creative P-block options made available to them.

Although Mr. Kerry Mahoney labeled his students "scum-sucking weasels," as leader of the Stock Market P-period, students respected and learned much from him. "Without Mr. Mahoney the stock market just wouldn't be the same!" said Ben DeVette (11). "In Stock Market we look at companies' earnings and profits and at their financial problems. A good company would be one with a new product coming out soon. Plus, it's also

a glimpse into the real world; and we learn about something we've always heard about but never been really familiar with. If you're competitive then you'll fit right in!"

Talking about her synchronized swimming P-block, Apryl Siemens (12) said, "We do one position called 'the tub.' You curl in a ball so your legs are parallel to the water. It's a lot harder than it looks; we also do lots of floating and spinning."

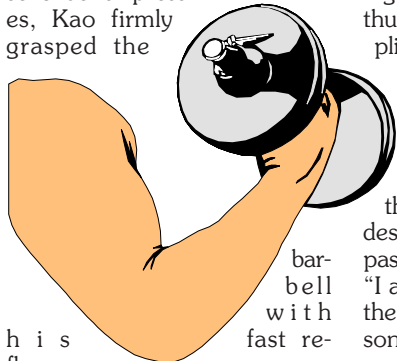
Girls made up the majority of the attendance sheet in the Cool Science Experiments P-period. "We only have one guy in our P-period; that's sad, but it's true!" said Grace Kim (11) referring to Sung-In Kang (9), the only male representative. "We do really weird stuff. Once we made green mucus with water, cornstarch and other gooey things. But after we put it into the refrigerator, it hardened; so we had to reboil the mucus to get it out of the flask," continued Kim. "[Mrs. Corinne Rogers] gave us a Zip-lock baggie to take it home if we wanted to, but I didn't want to."

The addition of P-periods proved to get students more excited about exploring different cultures through language, music, dance, and art. P-periods helped students stretch out of their normal comfort zones, whether they include concoc- (Continued on page 5, col. 1)

Fitness First

By Eric Jung

"This is the last one; let's finish it Sam [Lee, 12]," said Howard Kao (11) as he positioned himself behind the machine. As Lee struggled to complete the last set of bench presses, Kao firmly grasped the



h i s barbell with fast reflexes.

"Whew, that was a close one; my left shoulder just could not keep up," said Lee, wiping off the sweat from his forehead.

Everyday after school, a group of eager boys stepped into the weight-room, striving

to add more mass to their lean bodies. Students took full advantage of the easily accessible weights, especially the athletes who always enjoyed weight lifting the most. A number of enthusiastic upper classmen disciplined themselves to exercise for health benefits.

Students had different reasons to participate in weight-lifting. Although some wished to enhance their athletic ability, others just desired to look attractive. Kao, a passionate basketball player said, "I am trying to gain muscle for the upcoming basketball season. I want to get buff so I can push people around in games."

Students enjoyed exercising in groups rather than working out solo. Ben DeVette (11), an experienced weight-lifter, said, "Going to the gym not only builds up your muscles, but it also deepens your friendships.

Plus, I have more fun working out with friends than by myself. We push and motivate each other while exercising, so I think it is definitely better in groups."

Looking good and staying healthy concerned more than just the boys. Mrs. Lyn Holden organized a women's weight-training class during P block to introduce formal weight-lifting to girls. "Although weight training alone does not make me healthy, it makes my body stronger. I think P-block weight-training class is a good time for me to just focus on exercising and forget about all my stressful concerns," said Cathy Lin (12) as she walked out of the gym with sore arms.

"Women's weight-training class is a good opportunity to tone my muscles and build my relationships with other students," said Yoko Shimizu (12), flexing her biceps.

People could exercise anywhere with or without weights. For instance, Natalie Herring (12), who exercises in the dorm

with her roommates, said, "Well, since my roommates and I wanted to lose a little bit of stomach flab, Mary [Kuffel, 11] tried to get us to do sit ups every night. I exercise because staying healthy should be a top priority."

Although exercising could make students look more attractive and fit, it does have a downside. Intense weight training could possibly damage muscles. Exercising also takes up a large portion of students' busy schedules. But even with the possible downsides, the extra 20 minutes of exercise everyday will pay off someday with an "Usher-like six pack" or a stronger body structure.

After a long work out, Kao and Lee ended their routine by posing in front of the mirror. Visualizing and hoping for a "perfect" body, they gazed at their daily results and laughed. As the two boys left the gym, they had not only gained sore muscles, but also built deeper friendships. •

Tight-Rope Jumping

By Christina Robertson

Eye-balling the required acceleration to clear the chest-high rope, Deon Gouws (8) sprinted towards his cheering classmates and hurled himself over the rope. The team-building exercise required the group of five middle schoolers to each clear the rope onto the other

side. Gouws flew through the air; gasps replaced the cheers as gravity regained control, slamming his shoulder into the rocky earth of Gunung Jerai.

As Gouws lay on the unfamiliar soil, 84 other sweaty feet trampled the ground nearby. Not an army or an invasion—simply

43 middle schoolers and eight adult chaperones made Gunung Jerai their domain on 13 and 14 August. Masterminded by Mr. Michael Holden and Mr. Justin Smith, the seventh and eighth grade Middle School Retreat included fun, games, and lessons in the mountains of Kedah.

Several activities involved team-building and trust. Riley Mahoney (8) said, "Ms. [Carolyn] Janssen told us to lead blind people, and so we covered each others' eyes and led each other on this steep incline with all these boulders. We were all against each other, and I made Josh [Friesen, 8] fall. I didn't fall, but he made me walk in circles."

In the free time after the activities had finished, some adventurous students went exploring in search of a waterfall. Chet Bright (8) said, "We started hiking in the woods and got lost. So we split up into three groups, and our group jumped over barbed-wire fences and climbed over rock walls. Then Mr. [Doug] Brokaw and Mr. Holden finally found it and yelled for us to come."

Tanya Krishnamani (8) said, "We went into a cave that overlooked the waterfall. It was quiet

and freezing cold—it was different from the rest of Malaysia."

"We didn't have swimming stuff on, but we jumped in with our clothes on anyway," said Hung Yi Song (8).

After sharing a reenergizing meal together, the seventh and eighth graders played Capture the Flag. The darkness added in an extra factor to the game, and the trees created sneaky hiding places, according to Anne-Claire Ruh (8).

With one spare hour of free time left, Naomi Matanick (8) took the initiative to get to know her other classmates better. Matanick said, "I had everyone in our chalet/bungalow-thing come over, and we all sat around drinking tea."

The next morning, the two classes returned to the school, somewhat tired but very excited about the coming year. Estefania Diago (8) said, "I chose to miss a wedding in the States in order to go to the retreat, and I think it was the greatest decision I've ever made."

Even Gouws, after having fallen in front of his peers, brushed the dust off his shirt and accepted Bright's extended hand. Despite the slight pain in his shoulder, he laughed with the group over his fall; and they all gloried in each person's successful clearing of the rope. •

P-Period Excitement...

(Continued from page 4, col. 4) ting mucus in a flask, rolling balls of dough to make *naan* (Indian bread), creating a family flag, or learning how to polka dance.

Moist faces and sweaty hands continued to frolic across the gym floor but this time in groups of fours in a dance known as the Schottische. When invited to share how dance had made Robbie Mangham (10) a better man he said, "We had to be real men to stick with this class. Taking this class just shows our masculine security; everyone who didn't take dance is just insecure. I can't wait until my sister comes back from the States so I can show her my cool moves. It's a shame not more men signed

up for this class."

"Yeah," Drew Steiert (10) chimed in. "Without guys, you end up having girls dancing with girls; and by the time you dance with one, she starts taking the lead."

"And then you end up spinning when you're not suppose to," Mangham added.

Bouncing over to address a group of dancers, Mrs. Beth Steiert said, "Ladies, typically with the jive, guys tend to do more of the fancy footwork; and girls tend to have more of the hip action."

Laughing and hanging on each other's shoulders, the guys continued to toddle out of the spacious gym with warm faces eager to share their new grooves with the world. •

IT WAS A DARK AND

Stormy Night

By Robert Whiting

"Say, this place looks better from the outside," read Caleb Masters (12) from his drama script as he observed the Methodist Guest House. "No offence."

The drama retreat lasted from 21 to 22 August on Penang Hill for fellowship among the freshly established cast.

The cast squeezed into two trams and slowly ascended up the steep hill.

After arriving, Joy Walter (10) demonstrated how to play a game called "Ride Around My Small Pink Pony" until she collapsed with exhaustion.

Because someone forgot the sandwich-contents box on the tram, Chris Foster (11), James Hawthorne (11), and Brian Colfax (10) walked to the distant stalls to order food for everyone.

Surrounded by darkness, the cast discussed accents, played games, and read through their drama parts from the script. Foster said, "[Accents] start off a little rocky, but the more often you do them the more natural it is."

Near midnight everyone drifted off to the bunks in the old guest house, but the voices of Walter and Kimberly Gross (12) continued to echo through the rafters: "Caleb can you hear me?"

Walking to the homeward tram proved more difficult when a dark cloud covered the hill with a storm, but the downpour didn't slow the energetic cast.

They ran out into the rain for one last game of "Ride Around My Small Pink Pony."

Despite how the Methodist Guest House looked better on the outside, Foster said, "Even though it rained a little bit, it wasn't enough to stop us from all having a good time." When they arrived on campus they realized how much they had enjoyed that dark and stormy night. •



Prison or Greenhouse?

By Aaron Steinert

Students everywhere came in and out. Talking filled the air and laughter penetrated the heart and brought a sense of happiness. The front door didn't get a break from opening and closing during the day. The constant flow of people in and out indicated a fairly successful life in the dorms.

Dorms allowed individuals to get to know their "dorm family" a whole lot better than they would if they had lived off campus. "I like living in the dorms. I get more siblings this way. The Strong boys are like little brothers to me," said Robert Whiting (12).

A person can make friends that he will have for the rest of his life. Chris Foster (11) said, "Even though you aren't related, you get pretty close to the people you live with. They become like family to you."

A good dorm won't exist without dorm parents who take the place of students' parents while the students are enrolled at Dalat. They make rules so that students can grow up with the discipline and skills they will need when they move out on their own.

Just because they live under their dorm parents' regulations

didn't mean that everyone agreed with them. Esther Vaughn (12) said, "Sometimes it creates problems having to adjust to your dorm parents' rules since they are different from your own parents' rules."

But the dorm parents helped create a place that everyone could enjoy. This included day students as well. "The dorm parents are really nice," stated Jason Pohl (12), "and they help keep the environment friendly."

Other benefits came with living in the dorm: school became easily accessible. "It's kind of nice living so close to school. I get 20 minutes of extra sleep," said Sam Lee (12).

A person living in the dorms also had a couple of privileges that other students didn't—the

main one: having fun at "dorm treat." Seniors also enjoyed "Senior Treat," a weekly event that had dorm seniors rotating through the different dorm parent apartments and enjoying specially prepared snacks.

Dorm students also had easy access to athletic facilities. Another positive: dorm students had their friends readily available—as long as they had their homework done. "Living in the dorms prepares high school students for living with other students in college," said Vaughn.

So, the constant flow of people through the screen doors indicated that something positive helped prepare these students as they "grew" in their "greenhouses." •

Ambassadors Let the Son Shine Through

By Jason Pohl

"You're awesome, amazing, you're unbelievable!" Joy Walter sang (10) as the Dalat Ambassadors performed at the YMCA-sponsored Sonfest 2 on 25 September.

Dalat Ambassadors, a P-period class, gave students who like playing or singing a chance to do it for God. Sonfest 2 gave people of all ages a chance

to display their talents for God while competing against each other for a prize of five hundred *ringgit*. "It was a little freaky because while doing a sound check both Jason [Pohl, 12] and I broke a string," said Eric Westergren (10).

"We came; we saw; we rocked!" screamed Mr. Ryan Tuck.

Sonfest first started in 2003, and the turnout became bigger than expected. In 2005 Mr. Doug Brokaw decided to enter a group to show the community what Dalat had to offer. The Ambassadors have practiced since the first week of school, learning a brand-new song just for the concert.

"It was a great experience to

worship God; I think Dalat should do it every year," said Heather Hill (11).

At the end of all the performances, the judges told who had won from each group. The Ambassadors took First-Place Runner-up.

As they exited the stage and returned to their seats, the group reflected on the amazingly awesome time they'd had praising their unbelievable God and letting the SON shine through. •

New Schedule Helps Students

By Jordan Gaddis

The new semester brought obvious change to students, including P-periods and changing the class schedule. The major differences from last year include having breaks every other day,

eating lunch at different times, classes varying in length of time each day, and school starting at 8:20 instead of 8:00.

Many students like the new schedule, but some don't. "Our

breaks are shorter, and the cafeteria is never open," said Tamin Kim (7).

The administration made the classes longer so they could count for 0.5 credits; some

courses only could count for 0.4 credits under the old schedule.

The brain works best at certain times of the day; the administrators worked on a schedule that would allow students to function at their best. "When the administration takes the time (Continued on page 8, col. 1)

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW...

THE PIRATES HAVE THEIR EYES ON THE SPARROW

By Caleb Masters

"Belt those boogers out!" said Mr. Doug Brokaw from the head of the band room. The trombones once again raised their horns and tackled a section of "Friend Me Like" for the upcoming autumn concert. On that fateful night, Charis To (10) and Jon Masters (9), comprising the entire trombone section, made their way down to the chapel. As they entered the chapel along with the rest of the Fine Arts students, they wondered if they would sufficiently belt out the boogers assigned to them.

The evening on 29 September brought about the first Fine Arts concert of this year. Tension rose as the trombones, along with the rest of the band, lifted up their instruments.

The band opened the concert with two numbers from their set; the concert choir performed next, directed by Mr. Kerry Mahoney. The choir class had a wide range of experience, and so Mr. Mahoney spent hours teaching the students the "in's and out's" of singing—like the importance of singing on key. "I thought [our performance] was a great success considering how

much practice we had," said Jonathan Dyck (11).

As the choir ended with "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," the band once again hoisted their instruments and proceeded to wow the audience with their performance of the Spiderman theme song, a Disney medley, and the crowd's favorite "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Technical problems did exist and sometimes interrupted the otherwise smooth sailing of the band. "I had gotten my braces on that morning," said Kirsten Westergren (9), "so it was really hard for me to play my flute."

After a short intermission, the audience members returned to their seats as the Vocal Ensemble marched in sporting clothes varying from the oversized basketball jersey to the absurdity of an old, small X-Men t-shirt. "Ensemble gave me a great excuse to dress gangsta—uh, I mean, 'hip-hop,'" said Lydia Ng (12) about her enormous jersey complete with "bling."

The Ensemble threw the audience for a loop with their performance of the unfamiliar jazzy arrangement of the familiar clas-

sic "Somewhere over the Rainbow." After successfully ending on the right chord, the group donned hats; and the basses began the favorite song of the evening, "Good Ol' Accapella," an intricate, but nonetheless entertaining song which received a hearty round of applause upon its conclusion.

Following the Vocal Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble took to the stage and performed a short set. Nathanael Matanick (12) said, "The concert, for me, was very busy because I was involved in all four performances; so I never got a chance to sit down. I was surprised at how much music I had memorized by the end of it all."

As the final applause faded into the background

and the Jazz Ensemble took their bows, members of the audience realized they had made a wise decision in coming. "I really enjoyed it. The highlight was probably the [Vocal] Ensemble. It was some of the better stuff the Fine Arts Program has done," said Chris Foster (11).

After the concert's completion, To and Masters carried their trombones up the stairs from the chapel, pleased with their performance, but never too hesitant to ask, "So, did you like the concert?"

As the Fine Arts students lay in their beds that night, each knew that the boogers had received ample belting. •



Timely Bubbles

By Nathanael Matanick

Two new additions to campus, two new decorative objects to muse and discuss, and yes, two new embellishments that began last year have carried over to this year, finally now coming to a completed conclusion—the fountain and the clock tower.

Although last year's fountain didn't last especially long, its multicolored lights remain in the hearts and memories of those who came to appreciate it. Last year's junior, Katrina Irwin, remarked these prophetic words over the fountain, "Wow, it's a fountain. Now we have something more expensive to pay for when a bus hits it." Although cynical, these words became truth more quickly than anyone would have expected.

When hit by a truck, the brick fountain needed rebuilding. "I really like the new pots they put in the middle of the fountain. I

like the crookedness of them. It's funny to see all the water fall out of only one side," said Drew Steiert (10). But one must assume that the "crookedness" purposely adds artistic value.

"You know," added Robert Whiting (12), "I think the fountain actually looks a lot better now. It matches the campus. The [clock] tower doesn't match anything though."

"Yes it does!" refuted Kim Gross (12). "Jessica [Friesen] wrote me and asked me if the clock tower was done yet. And she wanted to know what people think of it."

Friesen's class of 2004 had the clock tower built as their class gift—although its construction didn't finish in time for them to see the finished product. Though people have different opinions of the tower, one thing stands true: it serves as extreme-

ly helpful to all—helpful on the rare occasions that students remember they now have a clock tower.

"I'm always like 'I wonder what time it is?' while I'm standing right by the clock tower! And somebody's always like '...um, the time's right there.' And then I'm like 'oh.' I never remember we have a clock tower now," said a laughing Joy Walter (10).

Completed this year, the clock tower has a roof and most importantly two clocks. It even comes with, "...a spiffy blue light that shines real pretty in the night," said Jason Pohl (12).

These two additions, although new and sometimes hard to accept by those who still cringe at change, add a little bit more to campus personality. Though some still miss the rodeo-barrel that preceded the fountain or the small palm tree that originally stood in the clock-tower's place, when summers come and pass, most will have difficulty

imagining our campus without them, for they've now become a part of this home away from home—campus. •



Goin' Deeper with the Doctor

By Apryl Siemens

On 20 October Dr. Warren Reeves will lead Dalat into Spiritual Emphasis Week in the chapel. Mr. Ryan Tuck, the new chaplain, admitted that he chose the topic "Deeper" for Reeves partly because "it's general enough you can apply it to a lot of things."

Most staff and students look forward to this week as a break from work. Mr. Tuck, however, looks forward to the week *after*, when he has finished all his work.

"Everything you do effects like 20 people," Mr. Tuck observed. He noted that he has just begun to understand all the work that has to go into SEW.

Although SEW only runs for three days, he has had to have the kitchen staff completely remake their schedule.

He also had to work with two completely different sched-

ules—the middle school and the high school—so that the two groups can meet at the same time.

The goal of SEW "...is so students and staff can take a break from school to reflect on their spiritual lives," said Mr. Tuck.

Yoko Shimizu (12) said, "It

can just cleanse us!"

Some students, however, looked forward to more than just three days. "SEW is always a high point of the year.... Now it's SETD [Spiritual Emphasis Three Days]," Caleb Masters (12) said.

Nonetheless, many look for-

ward to this time with anticipation. Jason S., also known as the "Bagel Guy" may participate in the service by leading the worship team. Also, the vocal ensemble, led by Mrs. Nan Walter, will perform during an evening service.

Despite the odds, Mr. Tuck, Dr. Reeves, the "Bagel Guy," the ensemble, and others will work hard to make these three days a break from work to take everyone "Deeper"! •



By Julia Cheong

Schedule Changes...

(Continued from page 6, col. 4) to change the schedule, it shows they really care," said Ben DeVette (11).

Students miss the "late starts" of the past few years when on alternate Wednesdays school would start at 10:20.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday students go to every one of their classes which run for 45 minutes each. On Tuesday and Thursday, three 1 hour and 35 minute classes make up the schedule.

"It's sure nice having study hall on a block day; I love having the time to study," said Lindsey Nagel (12).

In addition to the regularly scheduled classes, teachers offer new and special "options" for students during the "P-period," the last 35 minutes of every day. The advanced placement courses use this time to let students take practice tests to help them get ready for the exam in May. Non-AP students can enroll in courses that range from "playing" the stock market to cooking to helping out with elementary clubs.

As students finish up quarter one and read this article, they may be puzzled—for everyone has adjusted to these new schedule changes, and they don't seem strange any more. •

"Orange!? Why orange?" exclaimed Joyce Wong (12), starting at President Nathanael Matanick (12) with an open mouth. The rest of StuCo sat in silence, dumbfounded and rather appalled, not knowing whether to cry or to laugh.

"Oh, Joyce, it will look just great!" said Matanick.

On 25 September, StuCo initiated its first project and activity of the year—repainting the canteen walls.

"I have a dream that the canteen will be a place that people will actually want to hang out in. The first step to making the canteen a lot better is repainting the walls, changing them from their five-year-old distasteful blue color to my much better look," said Matanick.

But students had their doubts. "I was excited to hear about the new paint job, but I was extremely appalled when I heard that the color chosen for the canteen was orange," said Na-

talie Herring (12).

"It was probably Robert [Whiting, 12]'s idea," said Ted Fung (11).

Nonetheless, StuCo went along with Matanick's idea. "We decided that getting non-StuCo members involved in the painting would open up opportunities for others to get to know StuCo better, and for StuCo to get to know them better. And the work would be done faster if more people worked on it," said Kimberly Gross (12), StuCo Public Relations Officer.

To advertise this brilliant idea, Matanick hung a paint-soaked helmet on a stick in front of the canteen.

"I thought Than was crazy, because I thought he had intentionally dipped his helmet in paint. But it sure got my attention!" said Apryl Siemens (12).

Thanks to the somewhat sensational advertisement, on 25 September, the date of the painting, StuCo had an abundance of willing students, decked out in old clothes, and ready to work. "I stood on a chair painting the

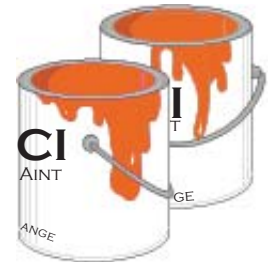
trim for two hours straight," said Robert Whiting (12).

"Well, I helped draw the lines for where the paint needed to go, and it was a stretch for me because I'm not a perfectionist; but this job required perfection," said Christina Robertson (12). "But I did my best, and I think it ended up looking okay. I'm glad that I had my mark on the future canteen."

After all the painting, dripping, shrieking, and cleaning had finished, StuCo stepped back and admired the almost-finished canteen.

"Hey, it isn't as bad as I thought it would be!" said Wong. "It actually looks trendy!"

"See, Joyce, I told you it would look great!" replied Matanick. •



The Post Kick By Esther Vaughn

"Shoot!" shouted the fans at Grace Sun (11) from the sidelines. Building confidence from the cheers from the crowd, Sun kicked the ball with all the strength she had left. The ball soared through the air, heading right towards the goal. As the opponent team tensed up, the fans jumped, expecting the best.

On 1 and 2 October, Dalat hosted an annual varsity football

tournament at the Penang Free School for both the girls and the guys. The girls' team had four expected opponents—Kedah, two mixed teams from Penang State, and the Dalat JV girls.

The guys had five teams that accepted the invitation to play in their tournament—Tanjung Bunga, Uplands, George Town, Chung Ling, and St. Mark. During the tournament, the junior class sold hot dogs, drinks, and

freezies which quenched the thirst and hunger of the exhausted players.

Convinced the girls would place first, Lindsay Loehden (12) reassured her team saying, "No worries! We've got this tournament, especially with my rock hard, 12-pack abs! No one can go through me; I'll block all the balls. I just need you [offense and the rest of the team] to score all the goals."

With many hours put into running, sprinting, and practicing (Continued on page 9, col. 1)

Not Just Any "Normal" School

Palm trees sway in the humid tropical air. While tasting the ocean's salty breeze on her lips, Yoko Shimizu (12) strides quickly across campus to find Joyce Wong (12). As soon as Shimizu catches a glimpse of her friend, she lets out a shriek, "JOYCEEE!" Squeezing each other with amazing strength, the two girls talk quickly about all the events of their summer apart.

Very few people at "normal" schools feel warm fuzzy feelings about returning to school in August. Dalat International School, however, does not fall into the category of a "normal" school, and anyone who has spent any length of time here knows that going back does not just mean homework.

Returning to school means a reunion with long-lost friends who have scattered all over the globe for 10 weeks during the summer.

Students looked forward to the prospect of new activities and bonding times in the year to come. Seniors rejoiced about the upcoming year for the obvious reason: graduation in the near future. Still other seniors felt ready for a well-needed break after a strenuous junior year. "I looked forward to finally being a senior and making the juniors my slaves!" said Cathy Lin (12) with a grin.

Not everyone, though, could relate to the anticipation of going back to school to see old friends. New students had mixed feelings about starting in a new

place. "Being new was cool since my sister was already here," said Sophia Vaughn (9). "It made it easier for me to meet people and make friends."

Christopher Kim (9) used the words, "strange but exciting" to explain his experience as a new student. He added, "I was looking forward to making new friends and meeting my sister's friends."

No longer a freshman, and climbing the social ladder of high school, Joy Walter (10) said with a laugh, "It's cool to be sophomores because people look at us differently [now that] we are not the scum under their feet."

Middle School students had some of the same feelings. Josie Steinkamp (6) said, "I liked com-

ing back because this year I got to start middle school. So far it's been great, but we haven't had as much freedom as I thought we would."

Thinking of the how the school would change in the upcoming year, Rivka Matanick (11) stated, "I was [glad to have] a new beginning but sad to see my old friends leave."

Although full of the normal mixed feelings, students knew that along with the transition into a new school year came chances for adventures, trips, sports, laughs with old friends, and getting to know new ones. A new year meant a new beginning and more memories to treasure in the future.

"Yoko, want to come sleep over at my dorm on Friday?" Wong said laughing at the story Shimizu had just finished telling her.

"Sure!" Shimizu replied as the two walked off in search of more friends to welcome back to a "not-so-normal" school. •

Football Fever...

(Continued from page 8, col. 4) ing, the girls were ready.

While playing in the scorching sun against the first JV girls-Penang State team, the varsity girls never gave up and won 4-1. Expecting to play Kedah next, the girls found out they would be playing a second mixed team as Kedah had dropped out of the tournament at the last minute.

In their last and final game, the girls defeated the opposing team and won the gold with a final score of 1-0.

"The tournament was a great opportunity for the varsity girls

to practice playing together as a team before their KL debut," said Mrs. Lyn Holden.

On the same field the girls had played, the guys' tournament also took place. During their first game against Tanjung Bunga, the expected champions, the boys tied 2-2.

The next morning at eight, they played against Chung Ling, once again tying the game 0-0.

The boys made it to the semifinals and had to play St. Mark, the team that had just beat George Town 10-0. They stood strong and held St. Mark to five goals, losing 1-5.

In competition for the bronze,

Dalat played Uplands. "It was really weird how Uplands [had] lost to Tanjung Bunga 7-1, and we tied Tanjung Bunga 2-2—and Uplands still comes around to beating us 6-3," stated Robert Mangham (10).

"Although we lost to Uplands in this game, I accomplished the goal I have been striving for the whole season," stated Andrew McClary (11), "—a hat trick."

The boys placed fourth in the tournament, and their coaches congratulated them for their success. Mr. Tom Mangham commented, "I'm so proud of the progress our team

has made this season! The guys started out thinking they couldn't win. But now they know they can win as a team—and they are determined to make it happen [in the KL tournament]."

As the ball headed straight towards the goal, the keeper became nervous. Sun, ready to take a bow for her victorious shot, heard "Bping!" as the ball reflected off the upper right post. Embarrassed, she ran back to defense, ready to attack.

Although Sun missed her shot at scoring, the team remained motivated to win both the game and the tournament. •