



NEWSLETTER

Dili International School

Issue Four, 2011

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24 March 2011
Term 1, Week 10

A VISIT TO REMEMBER



See Page 2



From the Principal . . .

The weeks seem to be flying by as we all have become engrossed in student life and the various aspects of education at DIS.

Parent/teacher meetings were held this week. These meetings provide families the opportunity to keep up to date with their child's progress as we forge a partnership in providing a high quality education. This is a very important part of school communication. Thanks to those who were able to attend. If you missed the meetings, please ensure that you arrange to meet your child's teacher when school resumes.

This term much learning has occurred both inside and outside the classroom with several classes attending interesting excursions. As well, several other special activities occurred. The International Mother Tongue Day Celebration saw great community participation.

As well, a special event occurred last week with a visit by Prime Minister Mr Xanana Gusmao and Mrs Kirsty Sword Gusmao. This occurred at the invitation of Ms Candiece's grade 5/6 class who are currently studying the history of Timor Leste and the Prime Minister and Mrs Sword Gusmao provided their first-hand information on this topic to students from grade 1 to 12.

The Student Representative Council Disco was held last Friday and was well attended by all age groups. A great time appeared to be had by all. I was very pleased to see the interest and commitment of the members of the Student Representative Council who organized this function. Thanks too to Ms Yvonne who works with the SRC.

Another social highlight of the term was a function held at Esplanada where I was able to meet many of the School community.

Our commitment to providing holistic education saw students this term participate in extracurricular activities which range from sports, art and craft, choir, guitar group, student representative council, dance, languages, games club, Capoeira.

... continued page 3

Prime Minister visits

DIS received a visit from Prime Minister Mr Xanana Gusmao and wife Ms Kirsty Sword Gusmao last week.

Mr Gusmao spoke to the students for an hour, describing Timor Leste's struggle for independence and his part as a guerrilla in the mountains, and then being captured and jailed in Indonesia for many years.

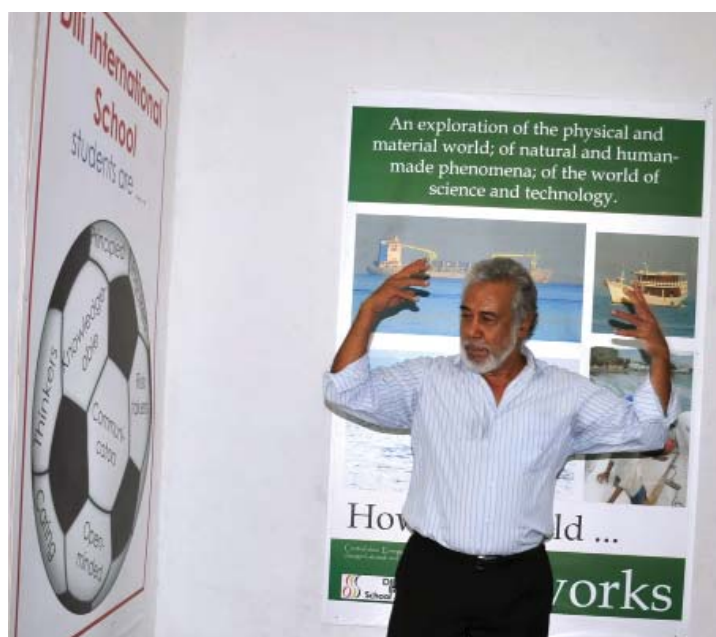
He had the students laughing many times, including when asked whether he had ever used a sword in his guerrilla days. He replied: "No, this is my sword", pointing to Ms Kirsty, who met and then assisted Mr Gusmao during his dark days in Indonesian jails.

He described when South African Independence hero Nelson Mandela came to Indonesia and asked then President Suharto to visit Mr Gusmao in jail. This event made news all around the world and pushed along the struggle for freedom. He said of Mr Mandela, who also spent many years in an Apartheid-regime prison before becoming President: often today's terrorist is tomorrow's independence hero.

He talked about the need for education, about sharing the planet with nature, about Timor Leste being such a young country (younger than some students in the room, as he pointed out) and there was much work ahead. He said he as Prime Minister had to make sure all these things happened.

He said nature had helped him when in the mountains. Once when the Indonesian troops had him and his men trapped on the side of a mountain and they couldn't get away, suddenly a thick cloud came down to engulf them and covered their escape.

These are just some of the fascinating stories he told. Thank you Mr Xanana and Ms Kirsty for visiting DIS and sharing your life experiences.



From the Principal continued from Page 1

With the end of term 1 comes the beginning of term 2 and some changes which will benefit student life at DIS.

Please find information elsewhere in this newsletter which will discuss –

- The inclusion of the transition and year 1 students at the upper campus and changes to the daily time table at upper campus
- Changes to the location of classes at the Lower Campus
- Introduction of a School Bus Run

Afternoon Preschool – Enrolments welcomed

Afternoon Preschool operates from 12 -3pm each day. The class is conducted by Ms Jane and students from both the morning Junior Preschool or Preschool group are welcome to join. The class is also available to children who are not currently attending the school. For more information please contact managerdis@gmail.com

Transition Grade 1 - Move to Upper Campus

These grades are located in the building at the back, far right of the school. Please arrive early for school on Tuesday 5th. Bring your child directly to their new classroom. See accompanying map page 4. Class teachers will meet as a group and accompany the children as a class to their new room.

Lunches – The lunch order box will be moved to the classroom area and lunch and snack will be provided as usual.

Classroom and Playground Changes – Lower Campus

From the first day of term, April 5th, Junior Preschool class will occupy the classroom beside Preschool. Children will be prepared by Ms Jane for this change. Both Preschool and Junior Preschool children will now use the play space previously occupied by the Primary school.

School Bus service – Establishing the route

The route for the bus is currently being devised with pick-up/drop-off sites already established at - Delta, DFAT Compound, Australian Embassy Compound, Palm Springs, ANZ Bank. If you wish to use the service please contact managerdis@gmail.com

Upper Campus Daily Routine

The daily time-table at the upper campus will change, with the duration of each class changed from a 60 minute session to 50 minutes. These changes have been made for sound academic reasons.

- 08:45 School starts Students may arrive after 08:15
- 10:35 – 11:00 – Recess. Please give your children sensible food for this break. They do not need a huge meal at this time. It is better to give them some healthy snacks, fruit and juices. No fizzy drinks.
- 12:40 – 13:30 Lunch :
- 15:10 School Finishes:
- 15:10 – 16:15 Extra curricular activities (weeks 2 -9)

New Library Space

The new library will open in early term 2. Ms Dee is our librarian and she is busy getting things in order. If you have any books, tapes, video's or DVD's that you or your children would like to donate we would certainly appreciate it. Books do not only need to be in English as we are also working on expanding our foreign languages section.

Return to School

Students return to school Tuesday April 5th, April 4th is a teacher planning day.

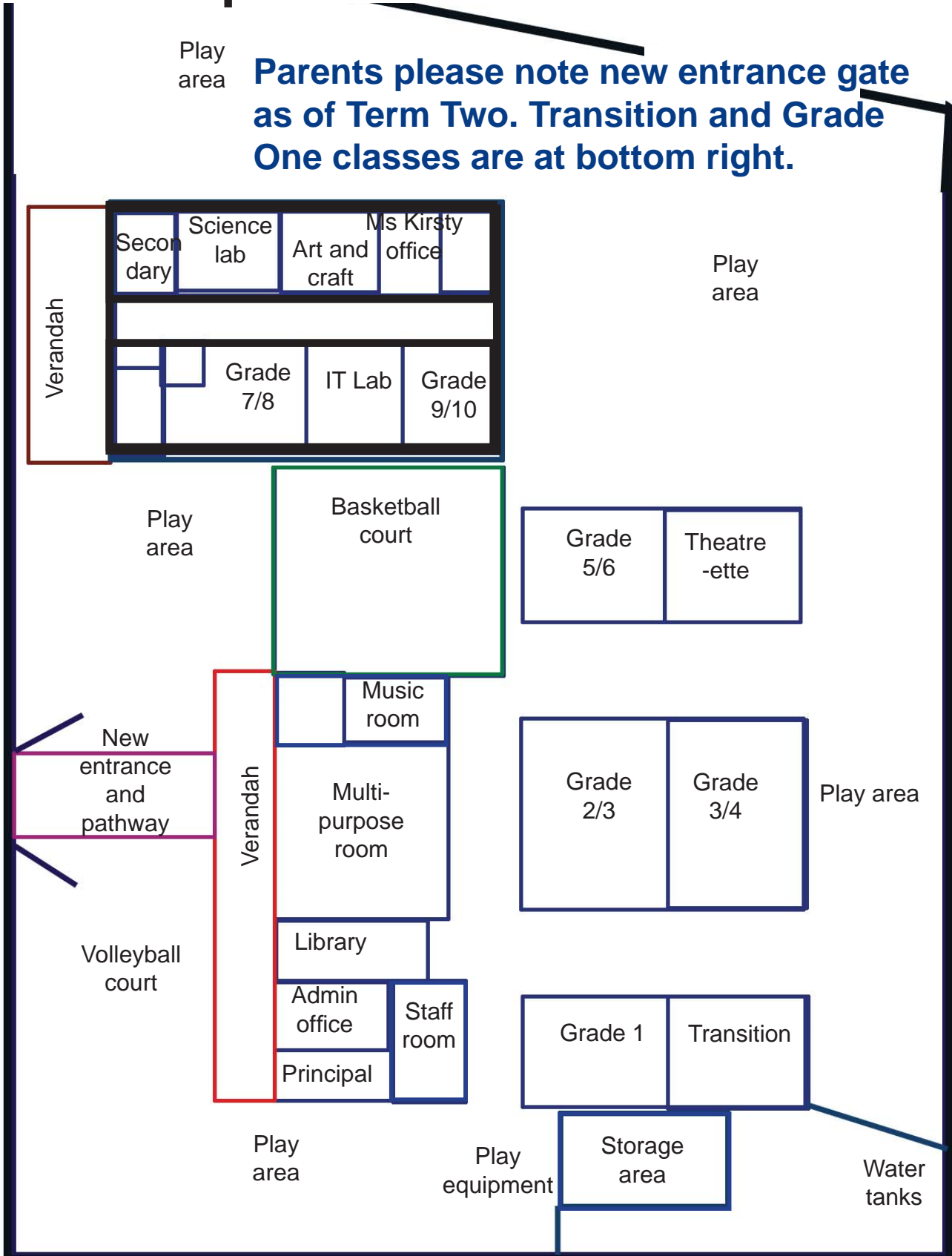
Please...

- Return all school books by the end of term.
- Advise your class teacher if you intend to return late from holidays.
- Advise administration as soon as possible if you intend to leave the school.

Map of the Upper Campus as of Term 2

Play area

Parents please note new entrance gate as of Term Two. Transition and Grade One classes are at bottom right.



Dimensions in perspective

During weeks 9 and 10 grades 2/3 have been learning about 3 dimensional shapes.

They are able identify the shapes and their features.

In addition to this they are building their own models of many different 3D shapes.

They are constructing many basic 3D shapes as well as some advanced models such as pentagonal pyramids and hexagonal prisms.

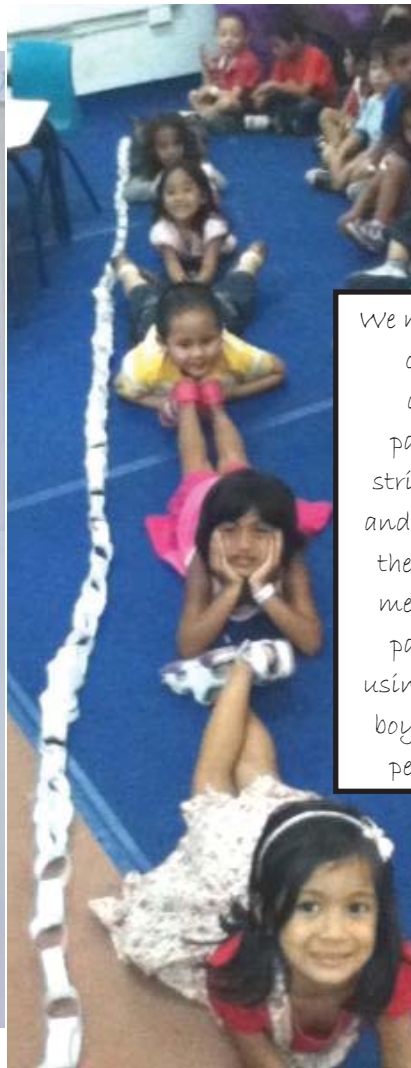
... with Mr Gus



What have we been doing in PRESCHOOL?



We have been learning about ourselves and our families this term. We practised answering questions, such as 'How old are you?' and 'What is your favourite food?' We made posters with lots of information about us.



We made a paper chain by drawing patterns on strips of paper, and connecting the strips. We measured our paper chain using girls and boys- it was 6 people long!



Our class drew a picture of Dion.

We talked about how to draw different body parts. Then we worked together to draw a big picture of Dion. We each drew one part of his body. Then we drew ourselves, with all the different body parts, including eyelashes and finger nails!



Nathan



Oliver



Mathias

Sophocles' Oedipus at DIS

Oedipus came to DIS last week with a performance by Ms Kirsty Hilson's drama class. The play was written by the Greek playwright Sophocles in 429 BC. Chipo Maupa and Mizuo Nagayama played Oedipus.





Admin in uniform

The main Admin Office for DIS has now moved to the Upper Campus. Admin manager Donia Guterres, right, and assistant Nina Cortinhal, left, are now stationed there along with the Principal David Key and management. Nina Araujo remains managing the Lower Campus office. And Admin staff are now in uniform. This is Friday's dress.

Sad farewell to Nagayama family



Left: Yasue and daughter Amara with fellow Japanese mothers as well as students at a farewell afternoon tea at DIS last week. Below left: The paper mosaic (Harie in Japanese) was created by student Khadija Fatima following instruction from Yasue.

Last week we bid a sad farewell to the Nagayama family, students Mizuo, Amara and Namiho, as well as parents Yasue and husband Toru, who are returning to their home north of Tokyo.

What makes this a richer school is when parents from the 26 nationalities become involved and share the richness of their culture with other students. Yasue and Toru were two such parents. Yasue along with other Japanese mothers held the Origami classes as an extra-curricular class. She also instructed students in the art of *Harie*. Toru held engineering excursions.

We wish the family well in their return to their home in the north east of Japan near to the area that has seen so much heartbreak these past few weeks.

The good news is their family and friends are all safe.



Right: Admin officer Nina Cortinhal with Amara Nagayama (right) and younger sister Namiho way back in Term Three 2009 dressed in Kimono courtesy of the Nagayama family.

Our Teachers ...



PRINCIPAL

David Key dckey@hotmail.com

PLAYGROUP

Leaders: Glaucia Miqueletti miqueletti.glaucia@gmail.com, Yen Serrano yenserrano@yahoo.com



JUNIOR PRESCHOOL (AND AFTERNOON PRESCHOOL)

Teacher: Jane Yon yonjane@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL

Teacher: Alison Morias alisonmorias@gmail.com



TRANSITION

Teacher: Helen Scott helenscott61@gmail.com

YEAR 1

Teacher: Leila Reilly le_reilly@hotmail.com



YEAR 2 AND 3

Teacher: Robert (Gus) Zieran rzieran@gmail.com

YEAR 3 AND 4

Teacher: Yvonne Abey yvonneabey@yahoo.com.au



YEAR 5 AND 6

Teacher: Candiece Tappin c.m.tappin@gmail.com

YEAR 7 AND 8

Teacher: Felix Goldstein felix9cat@hotmail.com



YEAR 9 AND 10, IB MYP COORDINATOR, SECONDARY TEACHER ENGLISH, ARTS

Teacher: Kirsty Hilson kirstyhilson@yahoo.com.au

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HUMANITIES, ESL

Teacher: Olivia Soares livlav@hotmail.com



DIS Calendar 2011

The school year calendar is a hybrid that caters for families from Australia, as well as those from Timor Leste, and countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

There are four, ten week terms. Students have a six week holiday at Christmas, a five week holiday the middle of the year, and a one week holiday in March and September.

DIS has eight Pupil Free Days each year, set aside for the first day/s back at the end of each holiday period, and for one report writing day each semester. DIS closes for national public holidays as outlined in below.

DIS Calendar 2011

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March						
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27	28	29	30	31		

April						
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May						
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29	30	31				

June						
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July						
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31						

August						
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28	29	30	31			

September						
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					3	
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

October						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
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					3	
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Public Holidays

Apr 22 nd	Good Friday
Apr 25 th	Easter Monday
May 2 nd	May Day (in lieu of May 1 st)
May 20 th	Independence Restoration Day
Sep 20 th	Liberation Day
Nov 1 st	All Saints Day
Nov 11 th	Santa Cruz Day (in lieu of Nov 12 th)
Nov 28 th	Proclamation of Independence Day

School Holidays

Pupil Free Days 17th, 18th & 19th Jan,
4th Apr, 18th July, 3rd Oct
Report Writing Days 23rd May, 21st Nov

*2012 school year commences Jan 25th
(Staff commence on Jan 23rd)*