



NEWSLETTER

Dili International School

Issue Three, 2011

Principal: David Key
dckey@hotmail.com

Manager: Carmel Bates
managerdis@gmail.com

website: www.distimor.com

11 March 2011
Term 1, Week 8

Transition to make the Transition!

Please note that Grade Transition and Grade One will be moving to the Upper Campus at the beginning of Term Two. Parents please drop children off there on Tuesday 5 April.



Year Three student Diana Cordell watches the Carnival last week from the vantage point of her dad's vehicle roof, with brothers Dylan, left, and David. Right: part of the amazing Carnival procession. More photos page 5.



See note re late fees penalty Page 4.



From the Principal . . .

It was great to see so many parents at the Esplanada for the Parent /Teacher social event last Friday evening. All of the DIS staff and management who attended agreed that it was nice to be able to talk to parents

socially, and that we will have more of this type of event in the future.

For international schools such as ours, we feel that it is particularly important for all of us to work collaboratively so that we can provide the best education possible for our students and your children. With this in mind we are working on forming a group which is parent based to organize social events for students as well as staff and parents.

A meeting was held last week and we thank those parents who attended. This group will be a core group who will work collaboratively with the management and teachers to ensure that the events we arrange are successful. The group's first assignment is assisting with the Student Representative Council disco on Friday March 18th.

Thanks to the parents who came to the School Advisory Committee meeting on Monday evening. I feel that it was a successful meeting and the group resolved to hold meetings twice each term rather than once as was previously the case. One of the ideas put forward is to conduct a survey of parents as to the design of a school sports uniform or PE kit and whether we should have a regular school uniform. We will prepare a survey form to go home next week and would encourage all parents to return the survey so that their opinion is counted.

The meeting also decided that it would be a great idea to have a whole School Parents' Information evening toward the end of Second term. This meeting would give parents the opportunity to voice their views on the school and to put questions of a whole school nature, to the school management. This will help to ensure that parents feel that they are being heard.

The school is now holding class assemblies every two weeks. At each assembly one particular class will present an item and take responsibility for

... continued page three

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAB IS COMPLETE!

Well, as you will have noticed things at DIS have been growing and changing and this is not just limited to it's buildings!! Although there are a few final adjustments to be made we now have a much upgraded computer lab, which includes 16 new computers.



We have decided to use Ubuntu (Linux) as an operating system and Open Office's various programs as a way of avoiding viruses and licensing issues.

Students from primary school classes have been concentrating on building basic computing skills and getting familiar with using its various components.



The year 3-4's have recently started working on their typing and word processing skills, while the 5-6's have been using the Internet and improving their searching skills.

Next term they also hope to complete a science project online as a part of a virtual classroom, which will contact them to other school all around the world.

The secondary students have spent most of this term consolidating their word-processing skills and working through tutorials in order to build upon what they already know.



Students recently completed personal profile posters in Word and designing philosophy statements and logo's for each of the school's houses.

It is amazing how - because young people today are so readily exposed to technology - we assume that they know how to use it properly. Yet the internet has grown so big that these days using search engines effectively is a skill.



In the high school we have been trying to refine internet search skills and to improve the student's ability to reference when using the internet as a source of information within assignments.

Feel free to check out the new computer lab any time!

Olivia Soares
IT Teacher

Parent/Teacher interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held in Week 10. Teachers will send home information about available times next week. We encourage all families to attend these very useful meetings.

Fruit Salad

Fruit Salad for recess snack 50 cents.

The Lower Campus fruit salad is now available to Upper Campus students. Please place your order with Ms Jessica from 88 Restaurant and your fruit salad will be delivered to the fridge.

SCHOOL BUS -

Expressions of Interest

DIS has been approached by an external operator to run a school bus. Please email Carmel and advise if your family is interested in –

- Morning pick up
- After School drop off
- Midday preschool/playgroup drop off
- After Extracurricular drop off

LANGUAGE REVIEW

We are conducting a review of the languages offered to both primary and secondary students.

The major problem faced is staff turnover and sustainability to ensure standards are maintained. Before a decision can be made on which languages will be offered. We wish to speak to people who would like to work at DIS teaching a language. The positions will be part time and average approximately 5 hours contact time per week.

So, if you can or know of someone who can teach Tetun, Portuguese, Indonesian or French, please contact Carmel on managerdis@gmail.com or 7299115

Asia Foundation

We are very grateful to the Asia Foundation for their recent donation of some beautiful science books.

DISCO FEVER!!

The Student Representative Council annual Disco will be held next Friday evening March 18.

Teacher and parental supervision will be provided for the middle and senior groups. Parents or carers will attend with children for the junior group.

Children may bring friends who do not attend DIS however names must be given to Ms Yvonne by Thursday afternoon so as to be registered with Security.

The Junior Disco is for children in Lower Primary and Preschool, cost is \$3.00.

Middle Years and Senior Disco is \$5.00 which includes a sausage sizzle and drink. Food will be available for purchase from the Parent Teacher Association Barbeque and ice cups, drinks and pop corn will be sold by the SRC.

Times:

Lower Primary and Preschool 3.30 to 4.30

Middle and Upper Primary 5.00 to 6.30

High School 7.00 to 10.00

Funds raised will go towards school resources as well as a charity identified by the SRC and approved teaching staff. We welcome any parents wishing to help out with decorating, supervision or barbeque duty. Please phone Carmel on 7299115.

... from page one.

organizing the assembly. Parents of the organizing class will be advised and invited to attend. All other parents are also welcome to attend even if your child's class is not presenting. These assemblies give us the opportunity to meet as a large group, as well as providing the perfect opportunity to share the work of our students and to celebrate their successes.

We mentioned at the Parent/Staff gathering that Grades Transition and One would be moving to the Upper Campus starting Term Two. This will be going ahead and parents should prepare their children. Also, there will be a change to the daily routine. All classes (including secondary) will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15 pm. The recess break and lunch time will be bought forward. We will inform you of the exact timing for classes before the end of this term.

Cheers, David.

For you to ponder, an African proverb: 'He who is carried on another's back does not appreciate how far off the town is.'

Technology time

Every Tuesday after lunch Transition and Year One put on their thinking caps and become designers.



Technology is all about creating an object to suit a purpose; a house for mice or a machine to pick up toys.

The students work through the process of designing, creating then reviewing their creations to see if they work.

These last few weeks we have been looking at flags from around the world and designing our own using shapes and repeating patterns.

First we drew our design on paper.

Then we chose our colours and began to glue on crumpled pieces of paper (this took a long time).

When we were finished we shared our flags with the class explaining the design.

Left: Thomas and Boci. Below: Kaiya and Gunda



Fees penalty

It is now the end of Week Eight and still many fees remain unpaid.

A Meeting of the Parent Advisory Committee last week directed a penalty would be imposed on fees still unpaid by this coming Monday afternoon.

It also directed that the Fees penalty policy would be enforced from the start of next term. This means the following Policy WILL be enforced next term.

DIS Fees Policy states: "Regrettably there are still many families whose fee payments are regularly paid late. For this reason the School Advisory Committee has decided on a penalty for late fees.

"A \$30 per week penalty will be imposed on fees which remain unpaid after the end of Week Two.

"We regret the need to take this action but late fee payments create great difficulties for managing day to day activity as well as longer term planning, and impacts on the education provided to all children.



Carnival!

The people of Timor Leste, both locals and expats, took to the streets of Dili last week to celebrate Brazilian Carnival in real style. Photos courtesy Jeff Prime and Mick Cordell.



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
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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)*