



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER # 17 (2009-10)

7 June 2010

**ANNUAL REPORT
2009-10**

Re: Reflections on The Year – A Goal Oriented Review Linked to School Improvement

Dear Parents of Bangkok Prep Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write this final “Headmasters Message for 2009-10” as I reflect on the significant progress the school has undergone these past 12 months. The school has endeavoured to increase its level of communication again this year – in the written form, meetings, notices texts, through the website, and informal conversations. I believe that we have kept our parent community informed on all major issues and thank those staff members who have been actively involved in the communication process. Many of our parents have also been actively involved in ensuring communication has been ‘effective and accurate’. In particular, I would like to thank **Mrs. Savita Sriram and Mrs. Kathryn Noble** (Co-Presidents of the FOBPS Parents Group), and **Prof. Anucha Chintakanond**, (Parent representative to the Executive Board).

On Friday 25 June, the final school presentation/award day will be held to acknowledge all our student achievers and we look forward to seeing as many parents as possible as we “celebrate our success”. The Heads of Primary and Secondary will soon release details, times, venue, etc.

In several of my previous Messages this year, I stressed the points of Strategic Planning/Directional expectations and goal orientated vision. Evolving schools only succeed if sufficient time is given to these key areas, rather than just focusing on ‘daily operationalisation’.

I would like to highlight the schools significant achievements this year under these key areas which form the ‘platform’ of our preparation for the CIS/NEASC/ONESQA Accreditation Self-Study process:

A: Philosophy and Objectives (P&O)

- Re-affirmed our Philosophy and Objectives and ensured that it was disseminated and understood across the whole school community
- Developed Action words and developed strategies to raise student awareness of P&O by ‘putting our words into action’
- Ensured our Vision and Mission was at the forefront of our goals for self-improvement and continued to develop further ‘Pride’ as part of our Prep Pride

- Continued to develop school policies that are aligned to our P&O
- Established a three year review cycle of our P&O

B: Curriculum

- Successful completion of the first Key Stage 4 IGCSE Year 11 Examinations for Cambridge, UK
- Successful preparation for the opening of the first Key Stage 5 "A levels" Year 12 programme in August 2010
- Exponential growth in the success rate in both the Primary and Secondary extra-curricular 14 member schools TISAC interschool competitions (Champions or Runners Up in Basketball, Table Tennis, Athletics, Football, Swimming, Academic Quiz, Battle of the Bands)
- Successful management of KS1 and KS2 SATS assessments and Years 2-6 Pupil Tracking Standards according to National Curriculum of England requirements
- Highest recorded SAT achievements for Year 6 students in the history of the school
- Implemented comprehensive learning support programmes (SEN) to assist students with learning needs in Primary and Secondary
- Implement ICT specialist teacher classes for Years 1-6
- Implemented extended LOTE (French/Mandarin/Thai) classes and planned for the extension down to Year 2 from August 2010
- Implemented a comprehensive Music programme into Years 7-10
- Enhanced the profile of the Arts throughout the school with 'Visiting Specialists' in Drama/Art and visits by IGCSE Art students to external Art Studio
- Continued to celebrate both our diversity and host-country culture through increased special events
- Encouraged the students to 'celebrate our success' in academic, creative and sporting achievements
- Increased access to the after school activities programme in secondary, including community service opportunities
- Increased parental involvement in student learning in Primary through parent workshops and portfolios

C: Governance, Management and Finance

- Completed and approved the 2009-12 School Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Approved additional classes to open at Years 1,6 and 12 in August to cater for increased enrolment
- Maintained the Board endorsed student-teacher class ratio despite the slow down in the economy
- Continue to make significant progress in the Self-Study for Accreditation for CIS/NEASC/ONESQA (the external Accreditation Validation Team Visit is scheduled for February – March 2011)
- Updated and implemented the 2009-10 Action Plans within the projected timelines.
- Secured additional funding through our "Buy a Plate Donors Scheme" to purchase substantial fitness equipment for the new Sports Complex and the electronic scoreboard.

- Ensured finances were in line with our mid-sized enrolment and maintained our fee levels below our major competitors, whilst still implementing targeted areas of development
- Secured funding via the main Shareholders on the Board of Directors to finance the planned construction of the new Auditorium/Theatre/Music Practice rooms from July 2010 **without** the introduction of a Campus Development fund levy to parents.
- Reviewed the teachers remuneration package to ensure sufficiency to secure and retain highly experienced educators
- Implemented the funding for the external subsidized scholarship scheme to attract high academic standard students to the Secondary School
- Monitored expenditure to ensure efficiency in financial procedures
- Assigned significant funding for the ICT 2010-11 development plan
- Allocated funds for the construction of the new Early Years Outdoor learning area (over the July vacation)
- Implemented a Provident Fund for Thai employees
- Implemented Board and Headmaster appraisals to complete the cycle of whole school employees evaluations
- Ensured cohesiveness between ownership/governance and management to enhance positive working relationships
- Implemented an external School Board training programme to promote awareness of roles and responsibilities
- Implemented the "one school, one product" approach to whole school operation from Primary to Secondary.

D: Staff and Human Resources

- Retained existing teaching staff with the lowest percentage turnover rate in the history of the school
- Retained all senior academic administrators and all Key Stage middle level management co-ordinators
- Retained all senior Thai administrative staff and secured the appointment of experienced Thai middle level managers.
- Secured the appointment of a Whole School Teacher Librarian to overview both Libraries from August 2010
- Secured additional experienced teachers to cater for growth positions from August 2010
- Secured an exceptionally well qualified and experienced Head of Thai to lead the Thai department from August
- Headmaster and License Holder elected to senior executive positions on the Board of the International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT)
- Commenced the process of application for the school to become a member of FOBISSEA (Federation of British International Schools of South East Asia)
- Several staff members invited to join as members/Team Chairs of Accreditation Teams in China, Hong Kong, Australia and Korea

E&G: Student Support Services and Student and Community Life

- Implemented enhanced EAL and SEN programmes to support student language and learning acquisition
- Researched the need for a Counselor/Guidance Office for the Secondary School, with planned implementation in August 2011.
- Included, as part of a specialist teachers allotment, a more comprehensive PSHE programme and community service programme within the secondary school to commence in August 2010
- Further developed student leadership and responsibility roles with House Captains and Student Councils
- Promoted Student achievement and excellence via website, newsletters, Chambers of Commerce and other external publications within the wider Bangkok Community
- Enhanced student interaction within other international schools through greater TISAC participation
- Ensured students safety and well-being during the uncertainty of the political crisis
- Reviewed and monitored the school catering, cleaning and security to ensure students have a calm, safe and secure friendly environment to engage in good learning practices
- Enhanced the schools Summer School programmes, both on site and in UK, to enable access to students requiring additional learning programmes.
- Encouraged, supported and acknowledged the significant contributions to the school by the Parents Group "FOBPS"
- Extended the profile of the school within the Bangkok Community through memberships and attendance by staff and/or students at numerous events, Chambers of Commerce gatherings, Embassy national days, television programme, magazines, ISAT and other educational Fairs
- Upgraded the quality of the school Website, Prep@53 termly Newsletter, School Brochure/Prospectus and Yearbook
- Successful Spring Fair with all community involvement
- Hosted a successful CIS Accreditation Trainers Workshop with over 55 participants from international schools within the Region

F: Facilities and Resources

- Constructed the new Multipurpose Sports Complex
- Constructed the new Shop@53 school uniform and supplies office.
- Developed an outside users policy for facility rental of the MPSC from August 2010
- Completed the plans and successfully tendered to construct the new Auditorium/Theatre/Music practice rooms (to commence in July 2010)
- Completed the plan to construct the new Early Years Outdoors Learning Centre (to commence in July 2010)
- Completed the plans to construct two new Secondary Science classrooms (to be completed by end of August 2010)
- Extension of schools sport facilities to Arena 10 for football
- Implemented a master room plan to accommodate the growth of Year 12 'A' level classes (as of August 2010).
- Continued to improve the aesthetics of the school and the 'greening' of the site.

- Planned for the enhancement of the ICT facilities with the purchase of 20 laptops for Secondary (from August 2010)
- Reviewed and updated Emergency/Crisis Management strategies to ensure facilities are secure and operational.
- Allocated sufficient funds in the 2010-11 Budget to enable further development of the libraries.
- Ensured adequate resources were available to enable students to access programmes in line with the National Curriculum of England.

In Conclusion

The school has once again made considerable progress towards achieving its clearly defined goals as identified and endorsed in its Annual Action Plan.

The school has grown from 438 students in June 2009 and reached 501 students in January 2010. This represents a further **14%** increase in enrolment this school year. Enrolment is predicted to increase towards 540 students during the first Term of the new school year.

May I thank all members of the Bangkok Prep Community – Board, SMT, Staff, Parents and Students – for your individual and collective contributions towards making **Bangkok Prep an even better school** as we strive towards our Vision to be the “**best mid-sized international school in Bangkok**”.

Yours Sincerely,



Keith B. Wecker
Headmaster