



APU International School

THE EAGLE EYE

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 21 - APU Spelling Bee
- April 2 - Parent Teacher Conference
- April 2 to 3 - APU Basketball Tournament
- May 7 - Prom
- May 16 to 20 - Yearbook Sales Week

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Dear Parents and Friends of APU,

Welcome to our school. Welcome to the world of quality education. Here at APU we are proud to continue our commitment to academic excellence and personal growth of each student. This has been the goal since we began.

Here at APU International School, you will find a comprehensive educational program just as you would find in the United States to meet the educational needs of students from kindergarten through 12th grade. We know that our parents expect their children to go on to the finest universities around the world and our goal is to prepare each one to be successful at university and in life.

We admit students from around the world as well as Vietnam and therefore we are prepared to assist those that need intensive English language instruction; however our program allows them to be fully enrolled and participating in regular classes as they develop fluency in English. We consider all of our teachers to be English language teachers as well as teachers of mathematics, history, or science. We believe that every student can be successful and our teachers are committed to meeting the needs of each student.

We are currently involved in the process of becoming a fully accredited school and have achieved candidacy status. We expect to gain full WASC accreditation in the near future.

We welcome you to visit the campus of APU International School of and observe our teachers and students engaged in the learning process. We offer bus service for the convenience of our families and have well developed boarding school program for families who do not live in Ho Chi Minh City.

Please come for a visit or email me (principal@apu.edu.vn) for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



TET HOLIDAY

Tet is an extremely significant and popular traditional Vietnamese holiday. Vietnamese people spend a great deal of time and hard work for this start of a new year. Tet is a time for people to celebrate and gather together.

For Tet, my family went to Cu Chi and we stayed there for about 10 days, and then we went to visit our neighbors. The day before Tet, my sisters and I went shopping and bought some new clothes which we were going to wear for Tet. Then we went home and re-decorated our house beautifully to welcome the New Year. We painted the walls, planted flowers in the garden, and cleaned up everything. Additionally, we made some cakes such as Banh Chung and Banh Tet. Banh Chung and Banh Tet were very delicious. They are traditional Vietnamese foods which are very famous.

The night of February 2nd, 2011, we had a happy time walking on the streets and watching the fireworks. The fireworks were beautiful but the streets were too noisy. At that time, the streets were crowded with people so my family couldn't go to anywhere for about two hours. Finally, we went home to sleep.

The next day, I went to the market and played games until afternoon. When I returned home, I received a lot of lucky money from my parents, my sisters, my grandma and my neighbors. Then we had a good time talking and playing together. That was the best New Year that I had ever had!!!

VALENTINE'S DAY

To a single person like me, Valentine's Day is a just normal day. Going to school, watching guys give flowers and chocolates to girls and confessing is kind of sad. But it's Valentine's Day, so who can stop them? On Valentine's Day, I still attended classes like normal. My classmates are all single, just like me, so we're kind of on the same page, no sign of chocolates, flowers, or romance at all.

My little sister's birthday is Valentine's Day, so it was not an entirely boring day. Instead of spending my time with a guy, making out or having dinner, I spent my time with my family and friends, and that's ok with a 15-year-old girl, I don't mind. That night was pretty fun. I ordered a big-size pizza from Pizza Hut and bought a beautiful birthday cake. I decorated my room and prepared a little teddy bear as a present for my little sister. When she returned from school and went to my room, I shouted out "Surprise, Happy Birthday!" She absolutely freaked out! For a moment, she calmed down, but then she started to shout out, "Oh My God! What a cute teddy, and that cake looks yummy! Thank you so much, sister!" This gave me a big smile. I felt really happy that at least I could do something for my little sister. She turned six this year.

When my parents came back from work, we ate the pizza for dinner, and it was delicious! After that, my dad had a romantic moment with my mom. He bought a huge flower bouquet, kneeled down and gave it to her. "Happy Valentine, honey!" my mom was really surprised that she nearly burst into tears. That was an amazing moment that my family had this year on Valentine's Day! Not bad, huh?

Story by Lizzie



CLUBS

APU International School offers many interesting after-school activities, especially clubs. Clubs are places where students can learn or release pressure after stressful hours studying in class. Clubs are really helpful. In school, there are many clubs that were created by students and teachers such as Instrument club, Music club, Ms. Mia's club, Business club, Chess club, and Sport clubs (soccer and basketball), etc.

In instrument club, students can show their music talents by sharing their songs that they composed, or playing songs of famous composers like Beethoven, Mozart, etc. Here, students play piano, guitar, violin, or any instrument they can play. Sometimes, there are exhibitions that combine many kinds of instruments played between students and teachers.

Students who love singing and performing, can join music club. Mr. Lito helps students to sing well and find a way to express their emotion through song. Students can choose a song and practice for music shows in important events at school. Music clubs are where the best singers at APU go to showcase their abilities.

If you want to learn about economics, and become a leader in the future, you should join the business club. Business club will help you improve your public speaking and some abilities that you need for universities. You will be prepared to become a successful business person in the future.

If you are interested in chess, you should join the chess club. You will find great chess teachers here. Besides that, you will have fun playing with other talented students. They are all awesome.

For students who have troubles and pressure, and want to reduce stress, you can meet Ms. Mia and sign up for her club. Ms. Mia and Ms. Bridget always have exciting and interesting games for students. Ms. Mia's club was created because students need a comforting place to release stress after school.

If you are a good basketball player, you can join the basketball club. Some girl basketball players in this club have become champions at various Tournaments. In basketball club, you will often see a basketball match between students, or even students and teachers. You will have lots of fun here.

There are lots of other clubs you can join. So if you are interested in any clubs, you can participate or create a new club by yourself. Hope to see you there!

Story and photo by Joannma



HO CHI MINH CITY

Why do I always want to live in Ho Chi Minh City? I always want to live here because the people who reside in Ho Chi Minh City are very friendly. They usually help poor people displaying their benevolence. Ho Chi Minh City is a crowded city, but I love it. The hustle and bustle of a busy city makes it more invigorating. Motorbikes travel the roads in swarms and the smell of spices fills the air. The women in Ho Chi Minh City look very beautiful and lovely. Also, the men are handsome and diligent. The holidays are an especially nice time in HCM. I like Tet holiday because of the beautiful flowers on Nguyen Hue Street, and many people cannot help but take pictures of the scene, including me.

At night, many people hang out and enjoy a variety of entertainment options around the city. Ho Chi Minh City has a lot of shopping centers. In District one, there are many markets and shopping malls, such as Ben Thanh market, Tan Ki market, Cho Lon market. I live in Tan Phu District. At night, I can go to the fair and I can also go to Dam Sen Park, near my house, and do exercise. When I have free time, I go to one of the cities' numerous coffee shops with my best friend. Thus, I always want to live and work in Ho Chi Minh City. I love it here; it's my home!

Story by Joyce



SPELLING BEE

Recently, you may have noticed a strange buzzing sound in the hallways. The sound you heard was not angry yellow jackets, but rather, students practicing for the upcoming spelling bee. On Monday, March 21, 2011 the 4th Annual APU International School Spelling Bee was held on sixth floor of the old building. The spelling bee is a competition where participating students are asked to spell English words. It is a contest designed to help improve spelling, increase vocabulary skills, and develop correct English grammar usage that will be useful throughout students' academic and professional careers.

In the middle school spelling bee, eight contestants represented each grade in the middle school. Grade 6 contestants were Janisa and Brian; Natalie and Jennie represented grade 7; Michael and Hy stood in for grade 8; and grade nine was represented by Lizzie and Minh. After a hotly contested first few rounds, only two people remained: Michael and Janisa. They were extremely excited and nervous. Finally, the 1st place prize was awarded to Michael as he correctly spelled boulevard to win the competition, and 2nd place was claimed by Janisa. The top two finishers received a big prize. Students enjoyed the fun game and also learned many new words.

If that wasn't enough spelling action for you, then you only had to wait a short time because the high school spelling bee was next. Students from grades 10 – 12 participated in the finals of this competition. Once again there were a number of difficult words spelled but unfortunately only one person could win the spelling bee. Sapphire and Ryan made it into the final round. Ryan, an 11th grader, correctly spelled melancholy and was crowned champion of the high school spelling bee. Congratulations to all the participating students!

Story by Hina



K-POP: BOYS VS. GIRLS

Most people love music. For many Asians, K-pop, a type of Korean music, rules the charts. Unlike other countries, which are famous for their solo singers, Korea is renowned for having many excellent groups. While girl groups are popular primarily for their attractive dancing, boy groups are celebrated, and rightly so, for their talents and unique style.

K-pop fans are overwhelmed with new girl groups. Many girl groups have appeared recently but just a few of them have real talent. That's why girl groups usually have a lot of members so that they can distract the audience. Therefore, they don't have to focus on their singing abilities. All they need to do is coordinate well with each other to make a perfect team. For example, even though Girl's Generation is the most popular girl group in Asia, there are only two out of nine members who can sing, and not even that well. According to the music critics, girl groups are famous because they have pretty appearances, and they are easily suitable for different concepts. If a newcomer is illustrious, she is probably beautiful and able to dance.

Contrary to girl groups, boy groups are famous for their real talents. Of course, a handsome appearance is an advantage, but their singing ability is still more important. Therefore, boy groups usually have fewer members than girl groups so that they can have more time to showcase their live vocals. For example, Dong Bang Shin Ki is considered the best representative in Asia because they have everything that a perfect boy group needs. All five of them can be solo singers, they can dance well and they have good looks. If you are not held to the above standards, what else could you do to stand out? The only other way to be noticeable is by having a unique concept. Recently, K-pop fans do not like the "Charming Prince" idol anymore. They still love pretty boys but the "prince" types tend to be on the decline. As a result, the new "Beastly idol" concept makes fan girls fall for them. They are strong, manly and put on a powerful performance. That's why boy groups have bigger fan clubs than girl groups do.

Music critics love boy groups more because girl groups lack talent. As less and less talented singing groups appear, the Korean music industry will be discredited. As a result, the Asian music industry as a whole will be affected. Therefore, girl groups should focus on practicing their live vocals so that they can be seen as talented groups, not just pretty girls who can dance. self-study and peer review," and 2. "award recognition to those schools that provide an educational program of high quality which is based upon a clearly defined philosophy and objectives, suitable for their unique school population, and which meets demanding standards drawn up by CIS."

While here, George and Alvarez toured the campus and conducted several meetings and interviews with APU's leadership team, teachers, students, parents, and various other APU staff members. They also observed classes that were in session. On the last day of their visit, George and Alvarez, shared their observations and recommendations with the school's leadership team and then facilitated an all day seminar to get the APU teachers and staff acquainted with, and ready for, the rest of the accreditation process.

Typically the accreditation process takes several years, but APU is well on its way to being recognized as a worldwide leader in education.



SPORTS TOURNAMENT

On Friday, January 21st 2011, APU International School had a Sports Tournament. The students from all the campuses met at Lanh Binh Thang Stadium. The two teams competed together and the winner got a prize. There were many students who cheered the players. The cheerleaders did a great job helping to support the players with their hot dance moves and pompoms. The APU Eagle mascot was running around, helping to excite the crowd too. When it seemed like it could not get any louder, the stadium began erupting with the sound of students clapping their thunder sticks to applaud the players. After that, Ms. Bridget introduced the Sports Tournament and began to call all the players to the center of the stadium. The two teams, the Brown Bears and UCLA greeted each other, the audience, and started to play. At first, we were all thinking that the Brown Bears were definitely going to lose, since they're not as tall as UCLA. But when the game started, they began making all their shots, and soon a miraculous thing happened: the Brown Bears actually WON! How awesome that they had conquered their opponents and won! Great job, guys!

After the basketball game was the soccer match. The soccer players played very good. They played until they were lying on the floor from exhaustion. Everyone was doing their best to be the winner. But unfortunately, there could only be one winner in the game. Finally, the yellow team was declared the winner after a thrilling penalty kick shoot-out.

In the end, after the winners got their prizes, the students in the elementary school performed a dance to a song and cheered the players to show their appreciation. The students in elementary school were very cute. Everyone watched them carefully on every step. After the ceremony, the students had a buffet lunch of sandwiches and spaghetti on their own seat. The Sports Tournament was a tremendous success with the Student Council and every employee in the school helping.

Story by Hina

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are meetings between parents and teachers designed to help parents know about their child's academic situation, level of education, and behavior in school. This is a chance to help parents understand more about their children.

On Saturday, April 2th, 2011, APU International School organized parent – teacher conferences at Building A and B of the school. Parents were encouraged to share important information with teachers, and find out the scores and behavior of their children at APU. Teachers explained each student's strengths and weaknesses; besides that, they also provided helpful techniques about how students can improve their study habits and scores. These conferences are beneficial because parents learn what they need to pay attention to and help their children with in order to be successful in the future. Parent-teachers conferences were a very successful event. Everyone was delighted with the knowledge that they gained.

Story by Joanna Luu



APU BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (APU VERSUS SSIS)



MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The APU International School congratulates the following high school students for their efforts in earning the highest possible cumulative grade point average - 4.0: Mai Dinh Quoc, 12th grade; Nguyen Ngoc Xuan – Susan, 12th grade; Nguyen Thi Ngoc Huong – Cherry, 12th grade; Pham Quoc Hung, 12th grade; and Le Thi Ngoc Ngan – Angie, 10th grade.

The APU International School congratulates the following high school students for their efforts in earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or better:

12TH GRADE	Dinh Ngoc Quynh Van – Tina, Nguyen Truong Hoang Tuan, Luu Nguyen Bich Tram Anh – Joanna, Vo Pham Minh Trang, Le Dai Ngoc – Joyce, Le Tan Phat – Bill, Giang Vinh Phuc – Phuc, Du Thi Yen Ngoc – Kelly, Ho Trong Quynh Chau – Amy, Nguyen Phuoc Tin, Huynh Amina, Tran Huyen Tran – Atani, Le Phuong Uyen, Gia Van Phat – Rex, Huynh Thanh Huy Nguyen Thi Hoang Thuy – MONEY, Doan Quoc Cuong – Danny, Nguyen Thai Thi Yen Nhi – Tina, Ngo Tran Minh Nhat – Kevin, Tran Ky Quoc Cuong, Tran Tuan Anh – Chester, Tat My Hoa – Giselle, Chau Khiết Nghi – Maddie, Huynh Minh Phuong, Do Minh Anh – Jane, Huynh Thi Minh Thu – Amy, Tuong Minh Thuy – Connie, Pham Hong Thien Nu – Wendy, Kao Huy Tran – Ann, Chan L Anita – Any, and Vo Thi Cam Tien – Shelby.
11TH GRADE	Le Ngoc Truyen – Ryan, Dang Kim Thi – Katy, Kao Huy Thao - Jenny 1, Phan Thi Thanh Tam, Tran Nu My Nguyen – Tina, Diep Thi Khanh Linh – Kathlyn, Tran Pham Hoang Lan – Aubrey, Nguyen Thi Diep Anh – Anna, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Hang – Rain, Nguyen Minh Phuc Think – Jerry, and Huynh Hai Long – Brad.

The APU International School congratulates the following middle school students for their efforts in earning the highest cumulative letter grade possible – A+: Nguyen Van Quoc Cuong, 9th grade; Banh Thu Phung, 6th grade
The APU International School congratulates the following middle school students for their efforts in earning a cumulative letter grade of B+ or better:

9TH GRADE	Le Thi Thanh Hau, Ly Hue Phuong, Phan Tra Yen Nhi, and Ho Thuy Truc.
8TH GRADE	La Y Linh, Luc Khai An, Nguyen Van Trieu Vi, Phan Thi My Tu, and Tran Ngoc Phuong Uyen.
7TH GRADE	Le Thi Thanh Nam, and Tran Thi Anh Thu.
6TH GRADE	Ho Thach Thao, and Vo Quang Huy.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you or someone you know would like to submit a story or have story ideas, The Eagle Eye wants to know about it.
APU reserves the right to refuse publication of any story or photo.

