

## PATT Newsletter

End of Term 3, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

You will have seen the announcement in the June 2009 Traill Newsletter, of the formation of the Parents and Teachers of Traill group, (PATT for short), along with the names and "mug-shots" of the present committee.

The committee has now met twice, and after well over six hours of cumulative interchange of ideas, we are well on the way towards meeting initial targets in respect of at least three of PATT's constitutional Aims, viz:

"2.2 To promote a sense of community amongst teachers, parents/guardians and pupils";

"2.4 To allow parents of current pupils the opportunity to discuss views and ideas for the benefit of their children at the School";

and

"2.5 To act as a forum for both teachers and parents/guardians to allow the exchange of views and ideas for the benefit of the teaching and learning of the pupils".

In particular, we have focused on the many comments, criticisms and general feedback that a number of you so kindly provided at the General Meeting of the Friends of Traill, (FoT now renamed PATT), on 27 May 2009. Specifically we can report on the following planned action points:

**SCHOOL CANTEEN** – PATT has offered its ideas to the School for canteen improvement such as a possible change to the outside catering company or decrease the number of catering companies. The topic of healthy food was discussed and suggestions made that snacks and junk food should not be an option in the school canteen. However, there are many parents who feel that students should be able to have a choice whether to buy snacks or not. This issue is pending a further survey with more parents.

**CLEANLINESS of TOILETS** – it was felt that although the toilets are cleaned several times a day, this is an area for improvement.

**TEACHING and LEARNING:-**

– PATT recognises the huge improvements made to the school campus and the quality of Teaching and Learning through the high calibre of teaching staff that work at the school. This is as confirmed through the week long inspection by CfBT from the U.K., and also by the MOE. PATT congratulates the School for achieving the International Recognition of Accreditation status

with an overall 'Good' and with many areas of School graded as 'Exceptional and Outstanding'.

– PATT was also informed that areas such as the Primary and Secondary School where International Exams are taken, the School achieves higher than the International Standard for IGCSE and above the U.K. Standard in the Primary School.

– PATT recognises the difficulty and very high standard of achieving an Internationally recognised U.K. accreditation. Most of all the guarantee it brings of good teaching and learning practice in the school, including sports, extra-curricular activities and all-round development of students at Traill.

– Discussions also resolved around the advantages of completing a School Education and that completing of Year 11 (Mor 4 equivalent) is only pre-high school and does not prepare students properly for university or the real-world. As normal in schools around the world, graduating means completing Year 13 (Grade 12 equivalent) – without which students will be disadvantaged from not completing their full educational program. Over the years, many students that left school early, had problems going to a top university to do a Masters or getting certain jobs due to their records showing they had not completed their school education (i.e. not graduated from school).

#### COMMUNICATION:-

Issues with Communication were discussed. There are currently many forms of communication:-

- 1) Hard Copy sent home with Students (e.g. letters)
- 2) Email direct to Parents' email addresses
- 3) SMS Messaging Service
- 4) Internet and Blog Site
- 5) Telephone for important calls
- 6) Open Days/Careers Days
- 7) Weekly Home Diary

The School is taking every step to ensure Parents are well informed. To further improve communication please support the school. Parents need to :-

- i. provide their up-to-date and main email (that you check regularly)
- ii. provide their main mobile number for important announcements by SMS
- iii. make sure your child/ren give you any school letters, announcements etc.
- iv. check your child's home diary regularly and make comments.

- v. come to school events such as Careers Day, Parent-Teacher meetings and Performances.

#### UNIFORM and SCHOOL SHOES:-

- Traill has a school uniform and it is an important part of schooling that students learn to be responsible to dress properly in the correct uniform.
- PATT supports the school regarding the shoe Policy, that all students must wear black leather shoes, which is part of the Traill School uniform. Parents have already been given over a 6 months notice where the rule will be properly enforced onwards from 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The shoes can be with or without laces (no sandals or slippers are allowed).
- A link for pictures showing examples of black leather shoes shall be put on the school website.
- Sports Shoes and safety was discussed. And that students must not have one pair of shoes for all activities. Students should wear the correct shoes for a specific sport. Using the incorrect shoes for a sport is not safe. For example, shoes for football should not be used for basketball or worse still, normal dress-shoes should not be used for sports.
- PATT urges parents to support the school and take care that their children are dressed in the correct school uniform for study, sports and activities.
- PATT has recommended that the School is careful that the new lockers, to be put in the final phase of construction, should be bigger than the current ones to hold sports shoes and a school bag.

Turning now to two more of PATT's constitutional Aims, i.e.:

"2.1 To promote and support events for Traill International School, which are normally outside the school curriculum, but within the aims and ideals of the School";

and

"2.3 To raise funds to support activities, including charitable and/or educational causes".

We are planning to hold the initial such event, the very first **Traill International School Fair, on Sunday 22 November 2009**, on the school campus. That date may seem a long way off, but this is to be a major event in the school calendar and there is much detailed planning to be done and lots of arrangements, (complex or otherwise), to be made before then, so as to ensure a really successful day.

Yes, a day of fun for the whole family, that is the intention, so please reserve this date in your diaries and get ready to invite relatives and friends to join.

There will be a great variety of stalls, games, food and drink, competitions and raffle, entertainment and performances by the students (and maybe talented teachers/ parents?), plus anything else we can think of....

And that's where you come in! We would welcome, (yes, we really would welcome!), any and all ideas you may have for this special day - just send the PATT committee an e-mail, (in English or Thai), at <[patt@traillschool.ac.th](mailto:patt@traillschool.ac.th)>, with your comments, ideas, suggestions - oh, yes, I almost forgot - also your offers of sponsorship, (of any sort, so that we can make this fundraising event a huge success), and your offers to help, (we need lots of volunteers to organise and run this big day, please!). Don't wait until the new term has already commenced - we need your responses now, so that we can get started on the planning and preparations during the holiday!

Proceeds from the Fair will be used by PATT to fund additional facilities for the students - maybe more books for the library, sporting equipment, after-school clubs facilities, etc., the potential list is quite long! - so this is a very worthwhile cause and certainly merits your full support....

More news about preparations for the Fair will follow, as we progress, so "watch this space"!

In closing, let me add an invitation of a different sort: please feel free to approach any of the PATT committee members - we don't bite, honestly! - about any concerns or suggestions you may have about anything to do with your children and the School. We don't promise to be able to solve all problems, or to implement all ideas, but we will do our very best to promote a better experience for all our children at Traill.

Yours sincerely,

David Burn

President  
Parents and Teachers of Traill Committee