

## RIS New Teachers' BBQ



**RIS** Parent Auxiliary (PA) hosted a BBQ get-together on August 5th from 3 to 6 PM at Godbout Hall for the 40 new RIS teachers, administrators and their families. PA President, K. Sittisak gave a warm RIS welcome to the approximately 80 attendees. Frs. Travis and Pattarapong also spoke and thanked the PA for their wonderful support and continued generosity.

The RIS PA was proud to host such a first time event. It was a great opportunity for parents, teachers, administrators and family members to eat and network and for the new teachers to just relax after an intense few days of orientation.

Dr. Brook McNamara, RIS's new Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, said "We want to express our deep appreciation to the parent council for sponsoring the welcome BBQ for our new Faculty. Many of our faculty traveled from long distances, leaving friends, families and homes to join our team at RIS and RIST. You made their transition a happy one and your warm welcome confirmed that joining our school was worth the sacrifices they made to join our school. Thank you for taking time from your summer holiday to provide such a wonderful afternoon for all of us."

Marc Saab, HS Science teacher commented, "This is my first teaching job overseas, my first trip to Asia, AND my first time living abroad. I have traveled overseas quite a bit but living overseas is VERY different than being a tourist. In other words, I have been inundated with new experiences every day and I have been tossed out of my comfort zone, sometimes violently, on many occasions. The organization of RIS has been very helpful and the individual staff have been more than accommodating in dealing with my many mini-traumas.

So, it was very nice to see that the parent community shares that same sense of accommodation with the warm reception they hosted for us before school even officially started. The BBQ was not just a nice dinner, it was a physical demonstration that the parent organization values us as people and understands that many of us needed a virtual hug. On a more personal note, our parent organization at home also provided us with free meals on occasion, so it was also like a small taste of home when I really needed it."

William and Sharon Thro, MS Special Needs and MS Language Arts teachers noted, "One of the highlights of our first week here at Ruamrudee was the wonderful BBQ dinner provided by the parents association. We can't thank you enough for making us feel so welcome and for the delicious food. It is such a joy to teach at this school, and working with parents that truly cherish their children is an integral part. Thanks for your involvement."

Megan Goos, ES grade 2 teacher said, "It was a great surprise to be welcomed so warmly by the PA in our Orientation Week. After an exciting and sometimes overwhelming week of meetings, the New Teacher BBQ was a pleasurable afternoon of great food and people! Many thanks to all those involved in making us feel so very welcome to RIS."

The PA Executive Committee (EC) wants to thank K. Jake, RIS Canteen Manager, for her immense help and coordination of the food and facilities and Fr. Pattarapong for suggesting this great idea to PA. In fact, the 2008-2009 PA EC would like to continue this brand new tradition going forward, pending future PA EC approval.

## Nicole "School Bus" on campus

**Nicole**, famous recording artist and RIS alumnus visited our campus Thursday, 25 September to film an episode of the popular television show *School Bus*. Nicole spent all day on our campus in preparation for the show which will be aired on Channel 5 at 1:00 October 5. In the evening Nicole and co-stars of *School Bus*, Ball and Top raised money for charity by selling bags and shoes at the Mall Bang Kapi featuring her original art work with the help our current RIS students Chawisa (Belle) Deesomboon, Ploychompoo (Ying) Nithipaisakul, Sirada (Ice), Kulphaisal, Win Leerasanthanah and Peyanuch Tatiyampap. Special thanks go to Shirley Seiverling, Aor Wangveranusorn and Golf Suriyapattaratham, who coordinated the shooting schedule with our High School Students.



A check for 20,000 Baht was presented to RIS to support the Learning in Motion Program. Learning in Motion is a community service project that transports RIS High School students to area schools to help children in local day-care facilities learn English and provide them with books. The program is directed by Matt Sipple, High School Academic Dean and Michael Ryan, High School IB English instructor.

Nicole told the audience at Mall Bang Kapi that she was very proud to be a graduate of RIS and that she received an excellent education here. We are very proud of her too!