

RIST COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by Steve Summerfield, New RIST Counselor



Wow, what a difference a couple of months make! I'm beginning to feel more at home now that I've had about 8 weeks to get my feet planted here at RIST, along with adjusting to a new home and community. Thus far, my view of the school, the administration and faculty, the educational resources, and the wonderful students at RIST make me feel quite fortunate to be here! I have also enjoyed the hospitality and friendliness of the Thai people just about everywhere I have ventured so far.

I introduced myself briefly at Parent/Student Orientation but the administration encouraged me to say a few more words for the newsletter about my background and experience living abroad and working in international schools. My wife and two young children first boarded a plane back in 1990 for Tokyo, and I served as elementary and middle school counselor at The American School in Japan. My family then returned back to Oregon, USA to support parents with age and health related issues.

assignment at Hong Kong International School for 3 years, and after a year off to chart another road less traveled, I accepted the school counseling position here at RIST. To be honest, Dr. Penny was instrumental in 'reeling' me in, and her enthusiasm about RIST was a major selling point for me when I attended the ISS Job Fair in Bangkok. I was heading back to the airport to catch my return flight to the states, but I had just enough time to drop by for a morning visit to the school. That walk-about sold me, especially after meeting the students and staff. RIST students live in a very supportive environment during their instructional day and I'm very excited to be here!

Parent Discussion Series-starts up in late October following PTC

Thank you RIST parents for completing the surveys at Parent Orientation and below is a list of parenting topics I plan to cover as part of the Parent Discussion Series:

- Parenting Styles – Giving Orders, Giving In, Giving Choices
- Understanding the behavior and nature of young people who attend international schools in today's world
- Enhance communication, manage anger, conduct family meetings with a focus on problem solving.
- Personality/birth order traits in children. How can two children from the same family be so different? What other factors contribute to a child's sense of belonging and confidence as they navigate through school?
- Setting clear boundaries, love and logic principles, and setting consequences for inappropriate behavior all teach personal responsibility. This will be a general wrap-up session but other sessions/topics may be added as we start the new year in January.

A schedule for these workshops will be sent out to RIST parents including details of language support for Thai, Japanese and Korean parents. Hope to see you at some of these sessions!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!

TAPS (Theater Arts Program Symposium) is coming to RIST! Nearly 100 students from surrounding Asian countries participating in intensive workshops on our campus!

November 20 – 23, 2008

Accommodate 2 students in your home for 4 nights and show them our Thai hospitality!

Please contact Deborah Yogachandra at deborahw@rism.ac.th and volunteer to give these students a great experience!