



Dear SAT Test Takers,

Below is an email from the ETS Test Coordinator regarding the postponement of SAT testing on November 19th. ETS has now rescheduled it for November 26th throughout Bangkok.

Dr. Peter

16 November 2011

Dear Administrators,

In times of uncertainty such as this national flood disaster, circumstances have affected test centers not only in Thailand but also in Vietnam, Australia, and Japan. Educational Testing Service (ETS) is concerned about the possibility that test materials will not be delivered to all test centers in time for Nov 19th testing.

So, I am so sorry to tell you this, but I have just received the most up-to-date announcement from ETS confirming that the November 5th SAT, which ETS had moved to November 19th, is now definitely set for **Saturday, November 26 for all test centers in the region.**

Therefore, as of today, all three tests (SAT, GRE, and Praxis) will be administered on the same day, Saturday November 26, unless ETS itself makes further changes. I have already informed the test center staff and they are available and willing to help me on that day.

ETS College Board is currently informing by email every student taking the original November 5th SAT (413 of them) about the move to November 26.

With this recent change, the SAT on December 3rd is happening immediately the weekend after November 26th. However, the 465 December 3rd SAT examinees are an entirely different group from those taking the November tests.

Regards,

Ms. Marcelina Sawatsewi
ETS Test Coordinator

9 November 2011

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

I thank all of those for the positive input I have received. We are anxious to get students back into class so that their learning may continue, but new information may have to delay that day further.

As I mentioned in my last letter, we are evaluating this crisis on a day-to-day basis.

Yesterday we surveyed the main access points in and out of the school and although Soi 164 was experiencing flooding, Soi 184 was almost totally dry. However, this morning I've been informed that the situation has changed dramatically and that flooding near the khlong on that street has increased substantially. Due to this, we cannot guarantee safe access to and from the school. In addition, we received notice this morning from the MoE recommending that schools remain closed until November 21st.

Therefore, school will not be able to reopen tomorrow, November 10th, and will remain closed until November 21st.

Section principals will send out notices concerning e-learning today or tomorrow morning.

Over the next few days if the situation intensifies we will update you via email, SMS, and the website with more details concerning this closure.

I'm deeply sorry for any confusion or unneeded anxiety this process may have caused, but remain committed to finding solutions that will enable our students to continue their learning safely and successfully.

I hope that you and your families continue to remain healthy and dry.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



November 8, 2011

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

We've received an overwhelming amount of support from our teachers concerning our meeting on Wednesday and the reopening of school on Thursday and Friday. We've also heard from quite a few parents and some students as well.

This was an extremely difficult decision, but we felt that for those teachers and students who are already here getting back to school will give them a great opportunity to reconnect emotionally and academically. It also gives us a chance to find out each family's *exact* situations, crucial at this time like this.

As for those families that are away, as I stated in my email yesterday, we are sympathetic to your circumstances and understand that you may not want to come back to Bangkok at this time, and if you're in Bangkok, your children may not be able to attend due to flooding. **If these are you circumstances, please stay where you are for now and notify your child's principal.**

No student will be penalized for absence due to this emergency. Over the next few days we will assess attendance and then decide how to move forward so that we can interact with as many of our students as possible and fairly assess their progress.

In all instances we will work diligently to ensure the safety of your families and the academic progress of your children.

Wow, what a month it's been. I look forward to the opportunity to reconnect as a community.

Please stay safe and dry.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



7 November 2011

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

The sky is blue, the air is hot, and the school remains dry today, however; water is slowly creeping into roads around the school. I've heard from many of you and know that some are suffering in flooded areas, while others have extended stays outside the country or Bangkok proper. My heart goes out to all of those families who have been impacted by this crisis.

Today, the Admin Team met to reassess our situation. The Ministry of Education has now approved for all international schools to open as they see fit as long as they can reasonably assure the safety of their stakeholders. Although the water level is rising, we don't feel that, at this point, any immediate danger exists. What we do feel is that it's time to reconnect with our students.

Consequently, *unless the situation changes drastically*, we've decided to reopen school on Thursday, November 10th.

Faculty and staff will return to school on Wednesday, November 9th at 8 AM for a day of preparation. This will give us time to collaborate and begin to plan for the upcoming weeks.

We do realize that many of our families are either immobilized by the flooding, or dispersed around the country and the world. We ask parents to use critical judgment when deciding whether or not to return to Bangkok, or if in the area, to send their children to school. We understand that the safety of your children will always be your first consideration. Therefore, those students who cannot attend will be able to continue their learning online.

Some things to note:

1. The situation is still unpredictable and we may have to alter plans on a day-to-day basis. Please continue to check email, SMS, and the website for updates.
2. The Admin Team has drafted a "Plan to Compensate for School Closures" that we'll discuss with TRC and AAC members at 10 AM on Wednesday in AD 209. We'll schedule a meeting with the PA to review it on Friday or Monday.
3. Please contact Montri bus for the updated schedule at this emergency number, **especially those families in high-risk areas**: 02-906-0160, extensions - 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306.

Thank you so much for your understanding during this crisis. I know that in times of uncertainty, it's often best to focus on positives, like the joy of learning. I hope that these initial days together help to provide our students with some relief from the frustration prompted by this situation.

I look forward to welcoming our students and teachers back to school this week.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



Update: November 3, 2011

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

I've heard from many of you over the past few days. Thanks so much for your input. Most have written to express concern over the ongoing situation in the Bangkok area. It's been a difficult 3 weeks, with so much information to digest and so little of it of use. The Admin Team has worked hard to make positive decisions that take into account safety first, while still respecting the educational needs of our students and the professionalism of our educators.

At this point, although the school and the immediate area near it remain dry, many parts of the city are flooded, with others still at significant risk. A sizable amount of roads are closed reducing access to and from critical areas of Bangkok. As a result, many individuals who have left the city are not only apprehensive about returning, but may also be incapable of navigating their way back safely.

Therefore, in order to give all our stakeholders more time to address the consequences of this calamity, we've decided to adhere to the government's mandate to close schools for another week. **Both RIS and RIST will remain closed and will reopen on Tuesday, November 15th.**

The Admin Team will meet tomorrow to devise a plan that will adequately and fairly make up lost instructional time.

SAT testing will be postponed until Saturday, November 19th.

Thank you all for your patience during these difficult times. Although the next few weeks will present us with a host of challenges, I believe that we'll not only persist, but continue to thrive.

Please stay dry and safe.

Regards,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



Update: October 31st, 2011

Good Afternoon RIS & RIST Parents,

I hope that all our families had a safe and dry weekend. The school and most of the area near it remain dry. As of today, we feel that chances of major flooding in and around the school are low.

Last week we received notice from the Thai Ministry of Education that schools should remain closed until the 15th, however; schools with special circumstances may apply for a waiver. In our case, if the area continues to be safe we will apply and feel that our waiver should be approved with both schools re-opening on Monday, November 7th.

The Admin Team will meet at 8AM on Friday, November 4th to draft a plan dedicated to making up lost time in the fairest, most logical manner. We'll share this with the school community the following week. One thing we've done already is cancel our teachers' in-service training on Friday, November 11th. This will now be a full instructional day.

Our teachers will continue this week with online learning. Contact your child's teacher or section principals with any comments or questions.

We will be open for SAT testing on Saturday, November 5th and for PRAXIS and GRE testing on November, 12th.

After we return and are able to accurately assess our own situation, we can set about developing a plan to assist others. In the meantime, please stay safe and in communication with teachers and administrators.

Thank you for your continued patience.

Regards,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



Update: October 26, 2011: School Closure Extended to November 6th

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

Yesterday afternoon the Thai Ministry of Education announced the mandatory closure of all schools private and public throughout Bangkok through November 6th.

Ruamrudee and Redeemer will comply with the decision and extend the closure of our schools. School will reopen on Monday, November 7th.

We realize these are difficult times for all our stakeholders and express our concern to everyone involved, but we remain confident in the incredible professionalism of our educators and their ability to aid in the education of your children even in the most distressing situations.

To this end, teachers will continue to contact students with information relevant to their academic advancement.

The Senior Admin Team will update the situation as soon as more information becomes available.

Thank you and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano

Head of School



School Closure Update: October 24th, 2011

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone is safe and in close contact with friends and family members. The school and its environs are still dry, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and will report any pertinent information as soon as it becomes available.

Over the next two days our teachers will be in the process of contacting students and assigning some lessons via Edline or other web alternatives.

We realize that some families are struggling with the flooding and are without the internet. Therefore, if possible, we urge those families that are experiencing internet communication lapses to try to contact teachers or the school via cellphone, or through a friend or family member who may still have web contact, so that we can stay informed of your circumstances.

As of today, school is scheduled to be in session on Monday, October 31st.

I thank you all for your understanding during this difficult time. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



Urgent: School Closure, October 25th, 2011 - October 28th, 2011

Dear RIS & RIST Parents,

As you all know, Bangkok is facing the potential of extensive flooding in the upcoming days. The incoming waters may not only affect the areas in and around the school, but many internal and outlying sections of the city. Numerous parents and teachers have expressed serious concern about the situation, and the Senior Admin Team along with members of the Admin Team have been assessing it carefully, gathering input from local authorities and the government.

The situation is unpredictable. It is possible that little impact will occur, but the probability of this is minimal and Minburi remains a high risk area. Our prime concern in a situation like this is the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and parents. It is our belief that the risks of staying open outweigh the benefits, and that the longer we wait to make a decision the more difficult it will be for members of our school community to adequately prepare for the event.

Consequently, we have decided to close school from Tuesday, October 25th - Friday, October 28th. School will resume on Monday, October 31st.

The school will also be closed on Saturday, October 29th and Sunday, October 30th.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Beginning Tuesday, teachers will be contacting students and/or parents via email, *Edline*, or class websites to assign appropriate coursework.
- Continue to check your SMS, email, or the website for updates.
- We are discussing possible alternatives for making up these days. More information will be available after we return.

I hope that your families remain safe and healthy, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on October 31st.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



October 21, 2011

Dear Parents,

Although many locations in greater Bangkok remain dry, flooding is still a major concern. Presently, the school and most areas nearby have not been affected, but we will continue to monitor the situation.

Please check emails or refer to the website where updated information will be posted. New messages will be available Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

As of today, school is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 25th**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



October 13, 2011

Due to the possibility of flooding, PSAT testing is cancelled on Saturday, October 15th.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



October 13, 2011

Good Morning RIS & RIST Parents:

The Admin Team has decided that as a precautionary measure due to the risk of flooding, **school will be closed on Friday, October 14th**. Additional information will be posted on the website. Please continue to check it during the holiday.

I thank all of you in advance for your cooperation. Let's hope that the Bangkok area is spared from extensive damage, and let's come together to help students, teachers, friends, and neighbors cope with the emotional and physical stress that go hand in hand with a situation like this.

As it stands now, **school will be open on Tuesday, October 25th**. I look forward to seeing the entire school community at that time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School



13 ตุลาคม 2554

เรียนผู้ปกครองนักเรียนทุกท่าน

คณะผู้บริหารของโรงเรียนมีมติให้โรงเรียนร่วมฤทธิวิเทศศึกษาและโรงเรียนพระมหาไถ่วิเทศศึกษาปิดทำการในวันศุกร์ที่ 14 ตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2554 เพื่อรับมือกับสถานการณ์น้ำท่วมที่อาจจะเกิดขึ้นในเขตกรุงเทพมหานคร ทั้งนี้ ทางโรงเรียนจะแจ้งข่าวสารเพิ่มเติมบนเว็บไซต์ของโรงเรียน โดยในระหว่างที่โรงเรียนปิดทำการ คณะผู้บริหารใคร่ขอความกรุณาผู้ปกครองติดตามข้อมูลผ่านช่องทางดังกล่าว

กระผมขอขอบคุณในความร่วมมือของท่านล่วงหน้ามา ณ ที่นี้ และหวังว่ากรุงเทพมหานครจะสามารถผ่านวิกฤตนี้ไปได้โดยไม่มีความเสียหายมากนัก กระผมหวังว่านักเรียน คณะครูผู้ปกครองและเพื่อนบ้านของเราจะช่วยเหลือฟื้นฟูสภาพจิตใจซึ่งกันและกันในสภาวะการณดังกล่าว

อนึ่ง โรงเรียนจะเปิดทำการในวันอังคารที่ 25 ตุลาคม พ.ศ. 2554 และกระผมหวังว่า เราจะสามารถดำเนินการเรียนการสอนได้ตามปกติตามหมายกำหนดเดิม

ด้วยความเคารพ

ดร.ปีเตอร์ เอ็ม ทอสคาโน

ผู้อำนวยการ



October 10, 2011

Dear Parents & Students,

As you may be aware of there are flood warnings for some areas of Bangkok.

The administration is closely monitoring the situation and will provide necessary updates as they become available. The latest information was received today from the Minburi District office. According to this source there is no immediate danger from flooding in the Minburi area.

However, in case of a serious change in the conditions, we will get in touch with you immediately.

Please regularly check emails, SMS, and this website for further updates. For general information and advice please check the U.S. Citizen Services Unit at: <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Peter M. Toscano
Head of School