

# Language Center

## News

Issue 15 - May 2009

### A Message from the Editor!

Welcome to the May issue of the language center news; and a special welcome to all the freshmen who joined the college for the intensive English and math classes that started on April 20. I am sure that you are finding your way around the college by now and I hope that you have already visited the language center to see what it has to offer you. There will be a full programme of free workshops in the center starting in the middle of June leading right up to the college's academic fair week which starts on September 28<sup>th</sup> including "How to Make and How Not to Make a PowerPoint Presentation" which will help you perform better in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual DTC English Speech Contest. So what are you waiting for...don't miss out!

Guy Ridgeon

**Coming Soon**

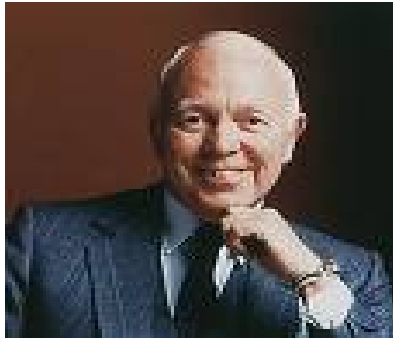
**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual DTC Speech Contest**

**"Making your Point with PowerPoint"**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**Watch this space for more details!**

## Tony Buzan in Bangkok



**Image: [www.buzan.ahead.com](http://www.buzan.ahead.com)**

**Tony Buzan** is the world's leading author, lecturer and adviser to governments, businesses, the professions, universities and schools on the brain, learning and thinking skills. In addition, he is founder of the Brain Trust Charity and the Use Your Head/Brain Clubs, President of the Mind Sports Council and the Buzan organization. **He is the creator of the concepts of Mind Mapping**, Radiant Thinking and Mental Literacy.

Among his 85 best selling books which have sold over five millions copies worldwide, the classic Use Your Head and other books in the Mind Set series has catapulted him into position as one of the BBC's top-selling international authors. His books have now been published in over 100 countries and translated into 30 languages

Arj. Guy attended a workshop given by mind-map guru Tony Buzan at Siam paragon on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## Visakha Bucha Day - 8<sup>th</sup> May



Visakha Bucha Day honors three significant events of Buddha's life - his birth, his enlightenment and his passing away. All three occurred on full-moon day of the sixth lunar month of the Thai calendar - around May.

## **Thailand Royal Ploughing Ceremony - 11<sup>th</sup> May**



The Royal Ploughing Ceremony is the annual ploughing ceremony which is celebrated every year during the month of May and is presided over by the King of Thailand. The ceremony has been performed since ancient times and is designed to give an auspicious beginning to the new planting season. The government of Thailand has declared the day as an Annual Agriculturalists day in order to encourage farmers to take part in this ceremony.

The ceremony is performed in the month of May but not on a fixed date. So, an auspicious day and time are set by the royal Brahmin astrologers. Once upon a time even Kings used to take an active part in ploughing, but nowadays the King no longer takes an active part. Instead he has appointed a “ploughing lord” as his representative to carryout the rites and rituals.

During the ceremony the amount of rainfall in that particular year is forecasted by the royal astrologers. The forecast is done through a tradition method. In this method three lengths of cloth are offered. The three cloths are similar but vary in length. If a cloth of long length is selected then it means that Thailand will receive a great amount of rainfall in coming season, and if the short cloth is selected, it represents limited rainfall while the medium cloth represents medium rainfall.

After the forecast, ploughing starts with a sacred plough drawn by white bulls and followed by women carrying gold and silver baskets full of rice seeds. In front of the plough a Brahmin walks chanting the sacred words to ensure that the next harvest is fruitful and plenty.

A postcard from...



New York

Hi everyone!

Here in New York visiting my family. Just took my niece and nephew to see The Lion King on Broadway. It was great! I love all of the different kinds of food that they have here.

The weather has been quite bad. It was nice and snowy the day I got here, but it warmed up. It has been raining every day since then. But it's still nice to get some cool weather for a change.

See you soon.

John