



LAOS

Des Moines Public School
ESL Department

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Geography



- Laos is a landlocked country on the Southeast Asia. It is bounded by China on the north, Vietnam on the east, Thailand and Burma on the west and Cambodia on the south.

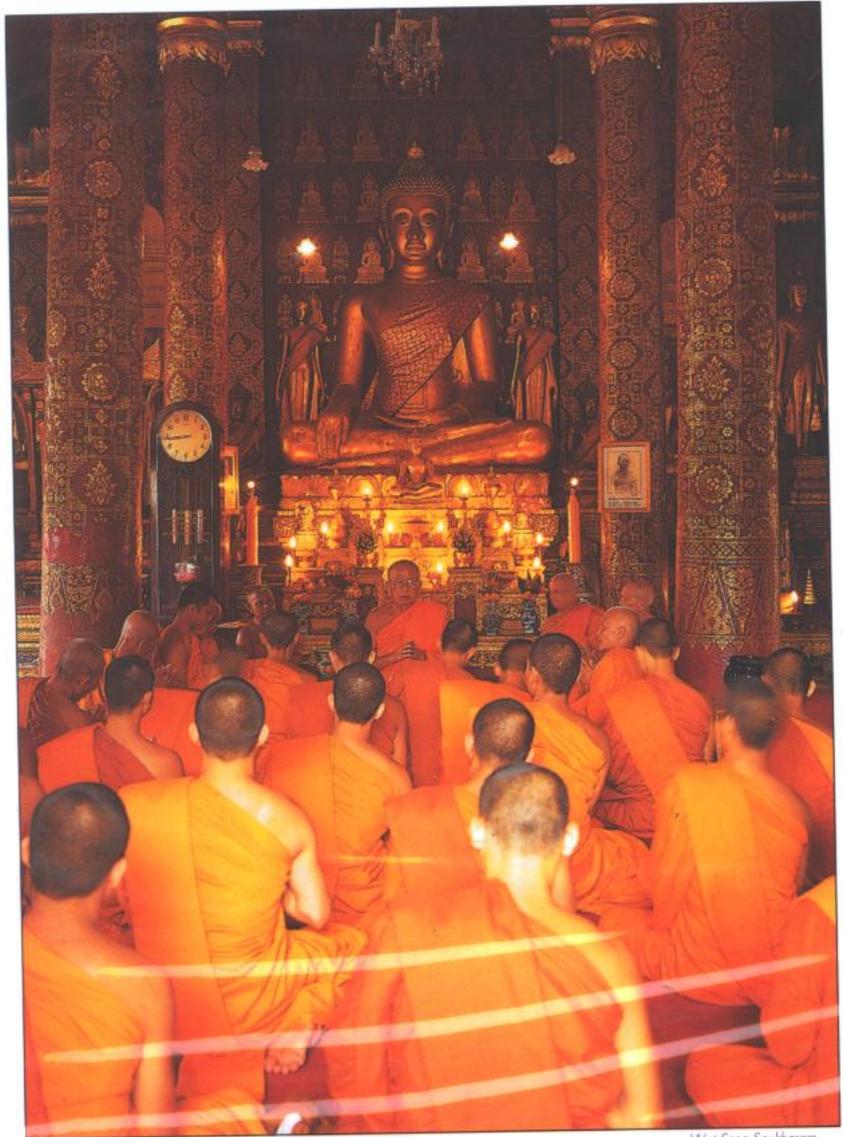
- Area: 91,424 sq miles. Population 4,000,000. Laos sits in the rice bowl of Asia, the Indo-Chinese peninsula. Capital city Vientiane. Official language is Lao.



- Former a French colony, this country was given independence in July 1949. Rich soil has made it an agriculture nation.



- It's predominately Buddhist.



Wat Sene Soukharam

L A O S



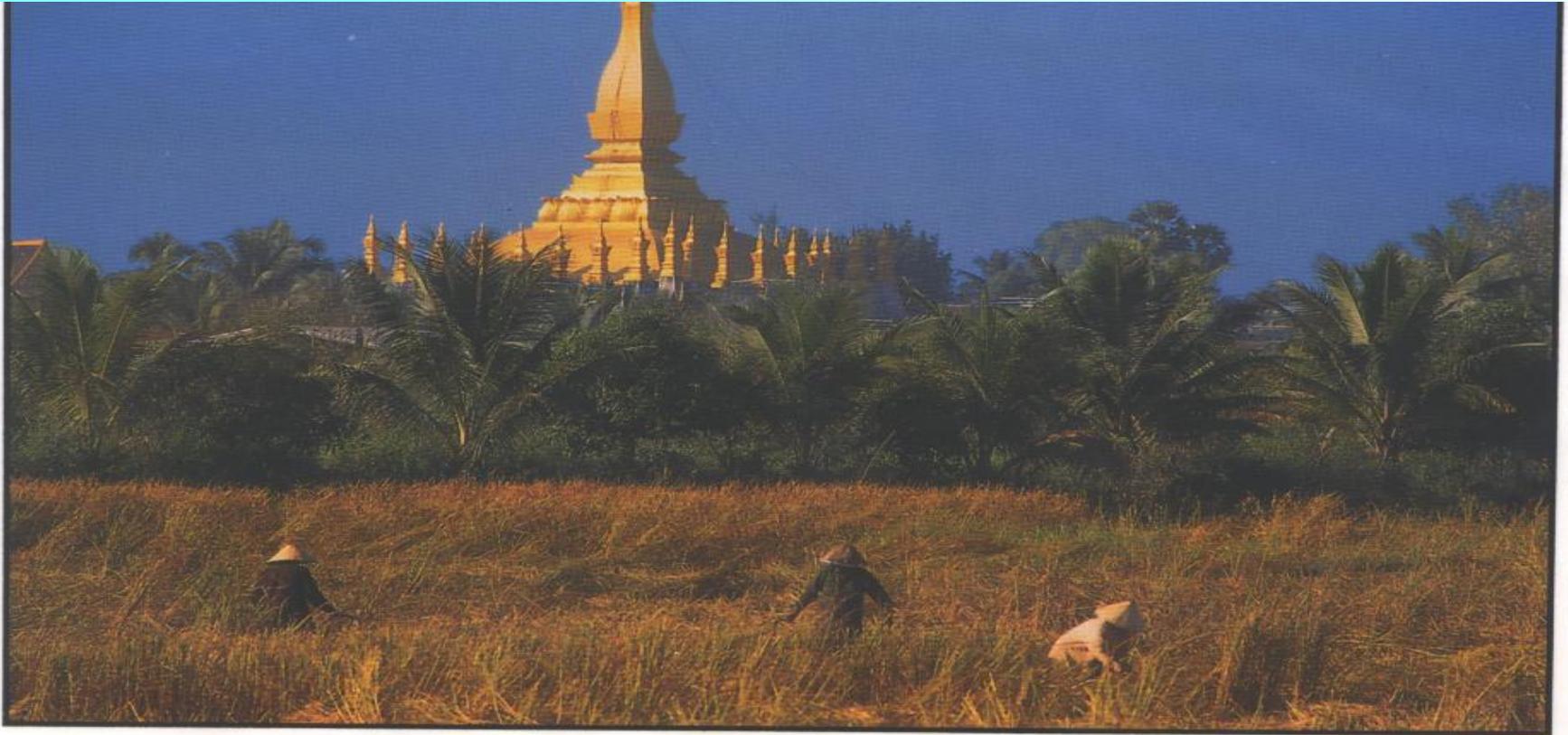
- Lao New Year or PI MAI, governed by Lunar calendar; April 13th -15th. People celebrated by pouring water on each other and go to temple to worship. Animals are freed.



- Lao greet each other by “Nop”, Raising their folded hands to their forehead or chest accompanied by the expression “SA BI DEE” which mean “how are you”

Education

- The French introduced a secular school system of Laos during World War II.



Laos

- After students finish the primary grade (1st to 6th), they must pass an exit examination in order to receive a certification of completion.



- An entrance examination must be taken to enter junior high school (grade 7th to 10th)



- At the end of the first cycle of secondary high school at grade 10th there is an exit proficiency examination in order to enter to the second cycle of secondary high school grade 11th to grade 13th.



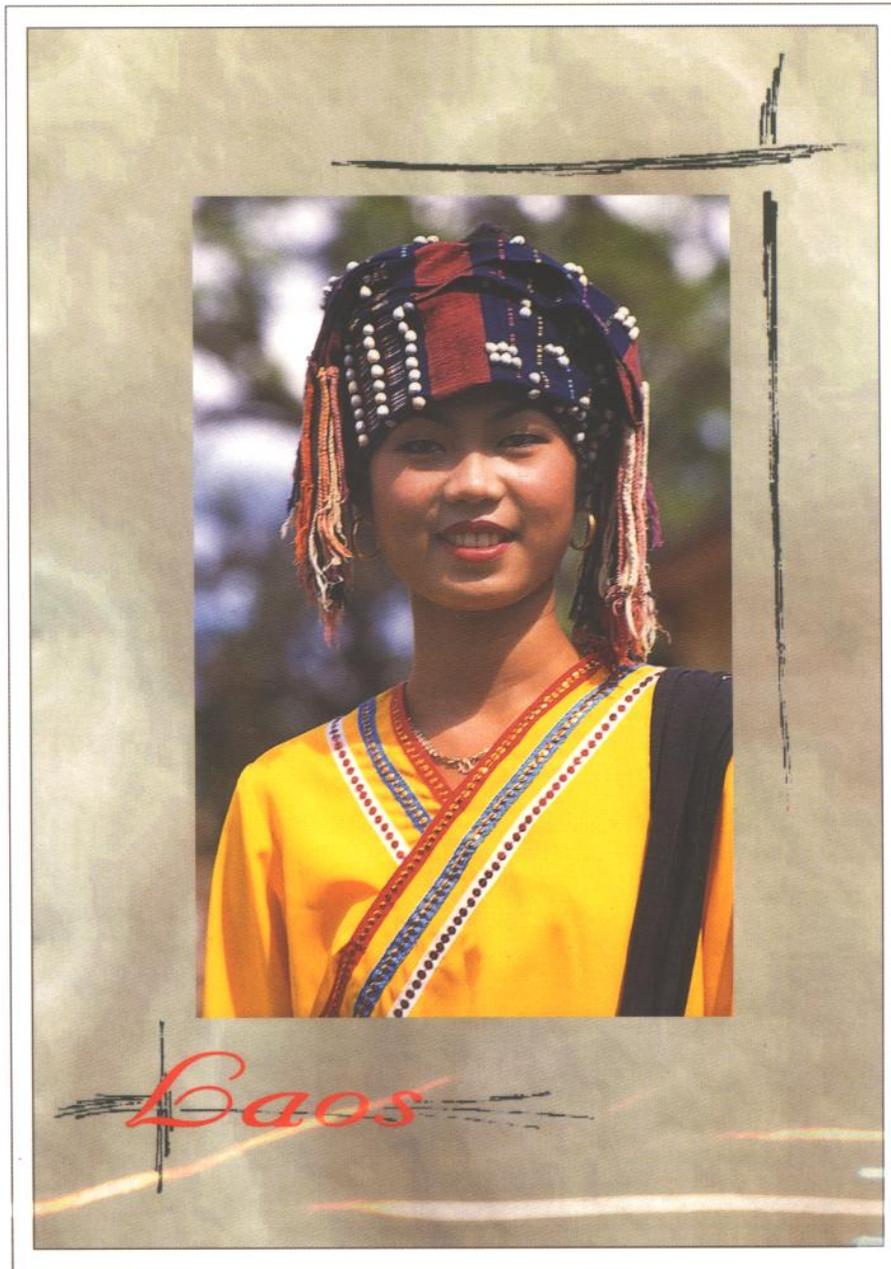
LAO

Pakse

- At the 12th grade there is an exit proficiency examination called the first part baccalaureate, also at the end of the 13th grade the second part of baccalaureate examination must be passed to complete high school diploma requirement.

The cultural manners
in the classroom one
must be cautioned
about are the
following:

- Lao students are exceeding quiet in the classroom and seldom ask questions.



- Lao students will not question the teacher's knowledge or position.

- Lao students avoid to look into the eyes of the teacher, it indicates rudeness.



- A smile and apology are meant to avoid embarrassment.

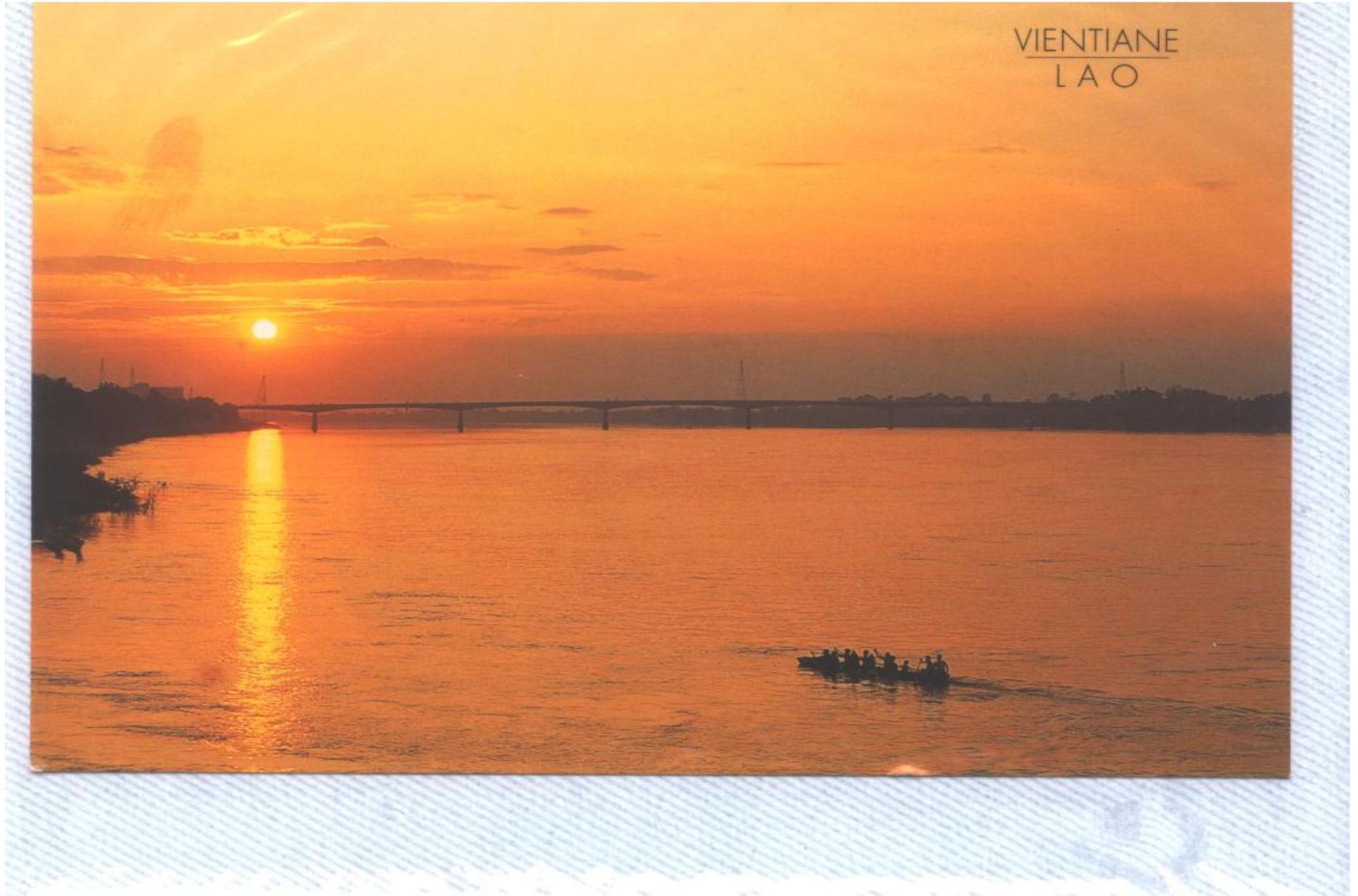


- Lao students never displease their teachers when responding to question on face value.



- Lao students wear uniforms to school.

- Classes are all day from Monday through Friday and Saturday noon.



Classroom Behavior



*Bygone Visions
of Forgotten Laos.*

- It is considered bad manner to toss, throw or slide paper to another individual.



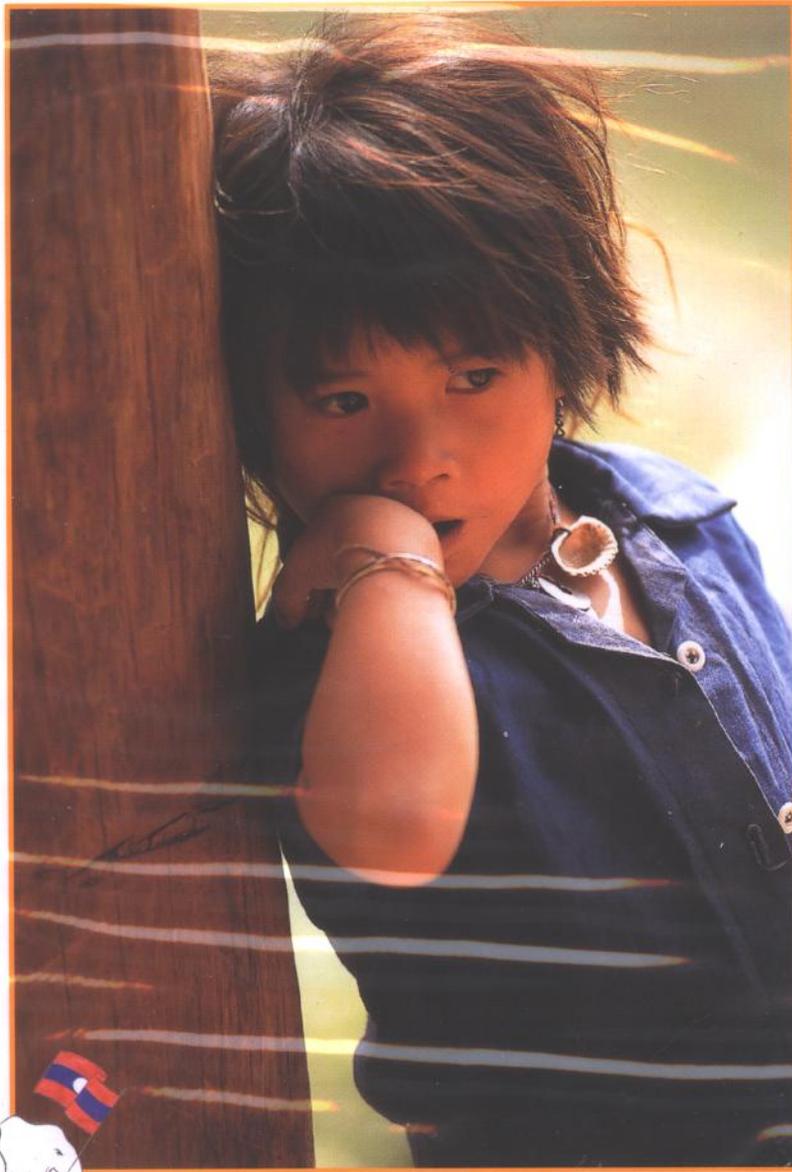
- Pointing your feet to another person is to be considered a great insult.



- Touching the head of a person may effect an immediate and often hostile respond.

- Lao students are not used to being hugged by teachers.





- Lao students may wear Buddhist symbol for good luck on their neck.



- Lao students' names are considering long and multi-syllabic:
For example: Chanthamaly Dengmanivanth

- It is the responsibility of the teacher to take care of the students' education and behavior at school until they have graduated.



Language

- The Lao alphabet is derived from India, Sanskrit and Pali.



- **Lao is a tonal language with 3 to 5 tones. One word can have 3 to 5 meanings depending on the raising or lowering of the pitch or tone.**

For example.

**“Phor” with the regular tone, means
“enough”**

**“Phor” by raising the tone means
“father”**

**“Phor” by stressing the tone heavier
means “meet”**

- Parents seldom inject themselves into discussion or share ideas.

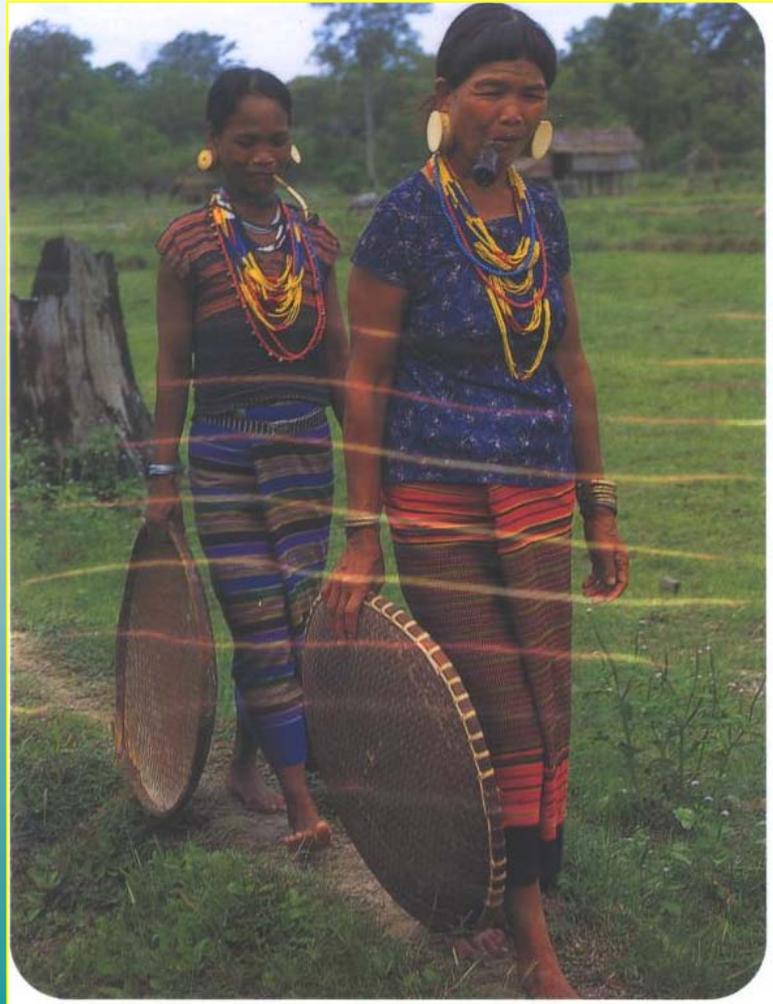


How School Can Improve Parent Involvement

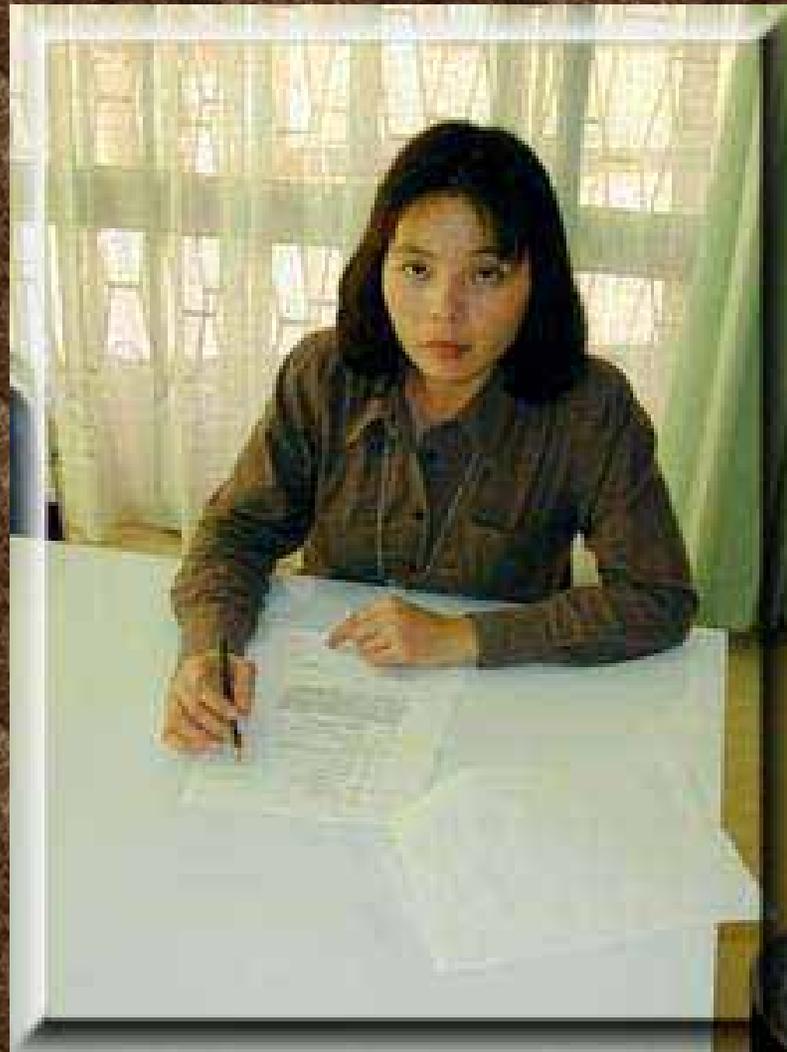
- Letter should be written in simple language when sent home.

Ex: William wrote well.

- Share suggestions or ideas how they can help their children at home.



Teachers must give homework daily to do at home.



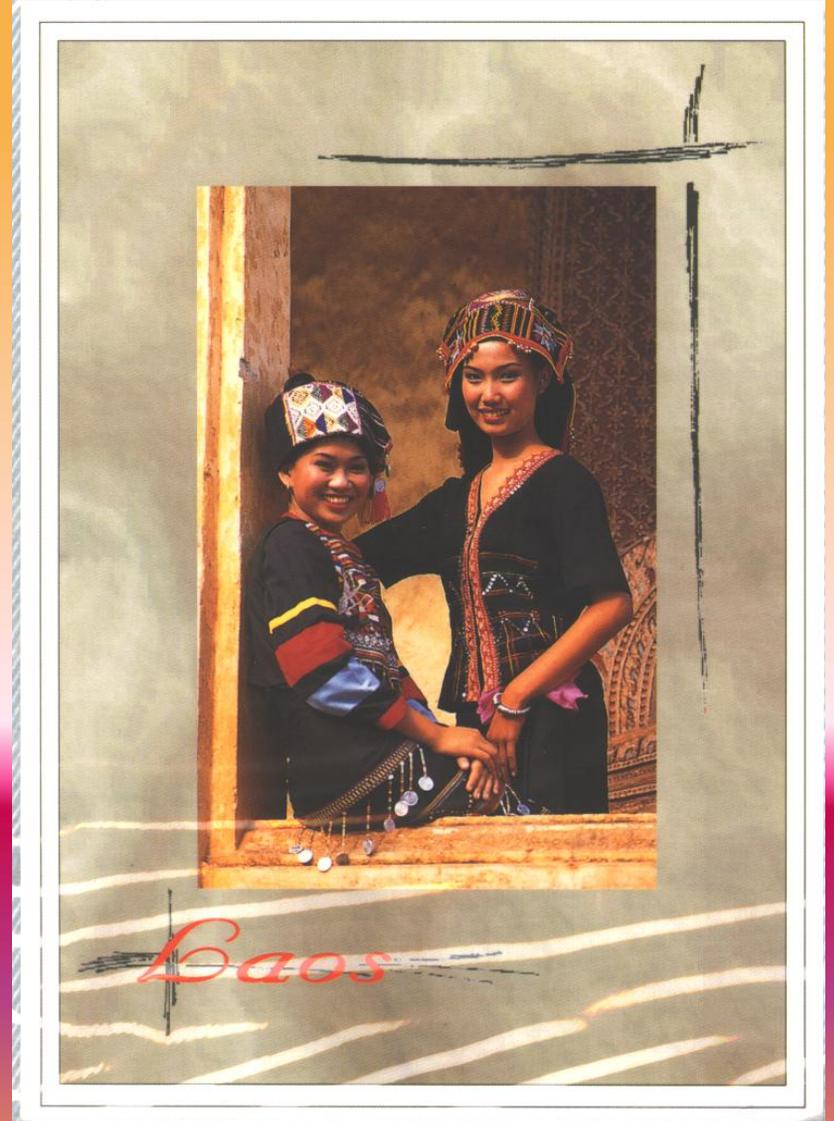
- Note or letter must translate into Lao language if possible.



- Have language interpreter call home when it is conference time.



- Help create a warm, welcome environment.



- Organize a cultural or diversity evening, day, or week.



- Invite parents to come to meet the school administrators.

