



Primary Years Program

Autumn is here and so is the first PYP Newsletter of the year. As we start our school year of 2014/2015 we're glad to have so many returning families and teachers and excited about cooperating with our new teachers and students. The new teaching staff in our PYP family are:

- Pre-k Ms. Asni
- K-1 Mr. Peter
- K-1 TA Ms. Amber
- K 2 TA Ms. Elle
- K 2 TA Ms. Coco
- PYP 2 Ms. Candalyne
- PYP 2 Ms. Jordan
- PYP 4 Ms. Cherie
- PYP 5 Ms. Anna
- EAL Support Ms. Marie
- German Support Ms. Aya
- PYP Art Mr. Bruno
- Library Ms. Missy
- PYP Music TA Ms. Faye

With our team expanding we know we will be able to create amazing teaching and learning opportunities for our CAIS community. Most of you have had a chance to meet our new teachers and TA during the Back to School Night, those of you who didn't will do it this weekend (October 11th, 2014) during the Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Program

The first units and their inquiries are well underway with kids investigating how:

- **Human relationships** contribute to shaping our identity (Pre-k)
- **People use a variety of skills** and strategies to help build a community of learners. (K-1)



- **Awareness of who we are** and the people around us inform our learning and development. (K-2)
- **The choices people make** affect their health and well-being. (PYP1)
- **Cultures celebrate as a way to share** their beliefs and bring people together. (PYP2)
- **Human activities have an impact** on natural habitats and the living things in it. (PYP3)
- **Biodiversity** relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems. (PYP4)
- **Government systems** influence the lives of their citizens. (PYP5)

If you think your experience would make you an interesting guest speaker or you know of

any places or materials that could support our research please share it with us.

Professional Development

CAIS makes continuous professional development of our teachers a top priority, which is why, October 17-19th, all PYP staff will take part in Concept-based and Play-based teaching and learning workshops provided by IB workshop leaders. We are also excited that our Parents actively participated in the PYP Parent University Session September, 23rd learning about visible thinking, multiple intelligences and power of play. We will be hosting our next PYP Parent University Session this November.

Projects

CAIS has just opened it's new creativity and learning spaces for student use - **Mac Studio** is open to PYP 3-5 students who will work on their movie and green screen projects there



and the Auditorium will be used by all PYP during their art, drama and theatre projects as well as final assessment presentations and sharing sessions.

In September we also shared a new initiative proposed by the parents - after school clubs for PYP. Parents and children participated in 7 different club presentations, including : Lego, Soccer, KunFu, Diabolo, Watercolour painting, Fencing and Capoeira. Children will have an opportunity to participate in those clubs from Mon-Thrs from 15-17 o'clock.

Events

International Day is October 24th this year, so please be prepared to help your child choose family souvenirs and artifacts symbolizing your home country, we will display them on our international gallery tables from October 17th onwards.

As every year we want to encourage the parents and children to wear their national costumes or outfits in the colours of their flags and share their national cuisines delicacies with us during lunch on that day. More info will follow on **Managebac** and in homeroom teachers' newsletters.

Communication

If you have any questions concerning the standards and practices of the Primary Years Programme, please go to www.ibo.org or contact the PYP coordinator at achojnacka@caischina.org

If you have difficulties receiving emails from homeroom teachers via Managebac please contact PYP Department Assistant Ms. Lena Liu at lliu@caischina.org

- Aga Chojnacka, PYP Coordinator

Middle Years Program

This has been a 'super busy September' as students return from their holidays and start to settle into the routine of school. We are glad to welcome new and returning students, plus the 21 students from the German section joining our visual arts, music and PHE classes. Ms. Zita, Mr. PJ, Ms. Kate and Ms. Missy join our growing academic staff this year.



During the first two days of school, students inquired into our school policy and the new MYP curriculum. Some of the changes include new courses like drama for MYP 1 to 3 and media in MYP 4. The new auditorium and media center are near completion and we are excited to be able to use them for these new courses.

Community of Readers

The International Literacy Day on September 9th was our first international celebration. Language and Literature teachers took turns sharing their personal stories on how they had become passionate readers. Hopefully, students have been inspired by these recount to pick up a book during their free time. In continuing our efforts to heighten literary skills, the MYP 1 students are now working on their independent reading contract which involves choosing their own book and responding to it through various prompts and reflection. Ms. Missy, our new librarian, will be working with the MYP students to improve their information literacy skills.

Teachers' Professional Development

On the third weekend of September, MYP teachers were in school to learn about Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning. Being involved in an interdisciplinary learning experience is one of the new changes in the curriculum. Although it is rather a big task to undertake, we are committed to making interdisciplinary teaching and learning to happen as it promotes academic rigor by providing a holistic approach to the study of complex issues and ideas.

MYP Projects

This year, the MYP 3 students will embark on a Community Project to give them an opportunity to develop awareness of the needs of the school or local community and address those needs through service learning.

The MYP 5 students have started their Personal Project. They have chosen their topics and are now communicating with their advisors.

Both the community and personal projects are student-directed and age-appropriate. They will be involved in inquiry, action and reflection. It is a good way for them to develop the Learner Profile attributes, pursue their interests, demonstrate the ATL skills and foster the interest and development of life-long learning.

A Day of Fun and Games

This year we are very excited to introduce a Color House system. It is designed to help build our community and give students a sense of belonging and ownership in the school. Each student is assigned to a Color House, identified by one of four colors: Orange, Green, Red and Blue. The first three colors come from the school's symbol, the tree of life, while the blue represents our status as an IB-world school committed to the mission and philosophy of the IB.

Within their Color House designation, students will be participating in special events like Spirit Week, Color House Day, socials, assemblies, and day outs. These house events will be running throughout the year, and they are a great way for students to get to know other students across different grade levels and extend their collaborative skills. The House



with the most points wins the House Cup at the end of year.

The first opportunity for the houses to win points was on 30 September when we held our first Whole School Sports Day. Students from pre-K to DP participated in a series of outdoor games, which were meant to create positive interactions and opportunities for our community to support each other in relays, dodge ball and cheering competitions.

Parent Teacher Conferences

On October 11, we will hold our first parent-teacher conferences. Please note that this is a non-school day for students. At 11:30 – 12:00, our director of university counseling, Mr. Michael Hayes will be answering questions regarding, SATs, TEFL and other college-related questions that you may have,

From 1:30 - 2:30, Ms. Eva Yuan, curriculum leader for Language Acquisition, will be delivering an interactive presentation on the do's and don'ts in living in Changchun for expat families. We hope to see you soon!

- Ann Gaillard, MYP Coordinator



Diploma Program

Welcome back to this new academic year 2015/2016. September is one of busy months we have even though we are just starting the new academic year but we have to keep everything on track especially if you are in DP.

For DP 1 student, we have many new students and so they were introduced to the curriculum and specific requirements of the Diploma Programme. We are glad to have these new wonderful DP1 students and I am sure we are going to do a lot of things together. We encourage you to share your knowledge and cultures in class. My advice to DP1 students is that they should develop discipline skills in order to get good grades without tension.

One more thing that is also important for DP1 students is that they need to use the experience in the past few weeks to get the feeling of their current subject selection. Students are able to make switch or adjust



their subject/level in term 1, however the sooner this subject selection can be fixed the better.

CAS Community Action Service

We are offering one CAS project this is named "Habitat for Humanity" in Luohe City, Henan Province at 12-17 October 2014. We have sent the letter to you with the details. If you have further queries, please contact our CAS coordinator Mrs. Julia Kang (jkang@caischina.org)

DP Calendar

DP calendar this year has been communicated to students especially DP2 students. It is also available in Managebac (file: DP Calendar 2014 2015.pdf). This will give all of us information of the dates on important event in this academic year. Please support and encourage your child to meet all the due dates on time. If you have difficulties to get it, please feel free to contact DP coordinator at santo@caischina.org to get a copy.

Extended Essay and Progress Report

For DP2 students, the first extended essay draft was due this September. If students cannot meet the due date, behavior issues and other concerns a progress report will be sent home through the student. Parent please signs and return it to school (Mrs. Shelley or DP Coordinator) to indicate that you have read and well informed about the case. Parents are encouraged to have a supportive conversation with the student and if necessary could make an appointment to talk further with the teacher.

Uniform

Please remind your child to wear school uniform properly every school day except on Friday which is a non-uniform day where students have option to wear uniform or give 5 RMB to the class captain (for charity fund) if they choose non-uniform

- Santo Karuniwan, DP Coordinator

Counselor's Corner

During the fall break I was in Bangkok, Thailand at an American College Fair on Oct 4th. As Director of University Counseling, I gathered current information about universities and I met with over 25 college admissions officers. I brought back pamphlets and flyers about schools in the US, and I also had a chance to mention all the great things going on at CAIS to college admissions representatives. Plus it gave me the time to invite everyone to visit us at CAIS here in Changchun.

I also had an opportunity to visit a Canadian College fair and again, I had a chance to speak directly to admissions officers about the great students we have here at CAIS. I will be sharing all of this information with the DP students in class on Tuesdays and with parents in the weeks to come. So if you have any questions about your future college plans please come by and speak with Amy or myself. We have a lot of new information to share.

- Mike Hayes, Director University Counseling

Communication

CAIS uses Managebac for programme information and communication. cais.managebac.com.

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