



## Principal

*Late February 2013*

Dear Parents

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable New Year, and that students have returned to School ready for the six weeks of work before our next break (the last day of term is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, which is a Parent-Teacher conference day).

As always, there will be a range of activities over the next six weeks, beyond the “normal” classroom activities, some of which are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. One activity I have been following closely is our trip by a group of MYP students to Japan, to take part in a conference about using advanced technology in the classroom. There was a similar conference students attended last year, in India, and this one will take the debate a stage further.

Activities which actually started in the first week back were the ever popular mock exams for DP2 students (a vital part of their preparations for the real DP exams in May), and the Mother Tongue week in PYP. The latter has proved very popular with the students, which has made the very large amount of extra work needed by all PYP staff worthwhile. It should also be pointed out that many of the parents have made the time to come to School and offer their help in a range of activities to make the Mother Tongue week go even better (one of the benefits of having thirty-two nationalities in the parent body!).

Currently, much of my day is taken up with getting the school ready for the forthcoming PYP accreditation (at the end of May), and the DP re-accreditation (in April). Both of these make big demands on the staff (especially the coordinators), but are a guarantee of our quality and suitability to be an IBO school, compared to any other IBO school in the world.

Another big demand on my time is the recruitment of new staff for September 2013. This makes me aware, yet again, of the quality of staff we have in the school at the moment, and the need to find new teachers who will at least keep that standard in the classroom. It also makes me realize how wonderful an invention Skype is – to see and speak to a teacher anywhere in

the world as a first interview is invaluable. And it seems likely we will increase the number of nationalities in the staffroom above the current nineteen, in September.

Bryan Manditsch, Principal

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## PYP Newsletter

February 2013

### Community

February is well under our wings with children and teachers very engaged in their activities in and outside the classrooms. The first day of school after the break – 16<sup>th</sup> February, was also the first day of our International Mother Tongue Week Celebrations (16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February). Ever since 21<sup>st</sup> February 2000 (date set by the United Nations) this time has been used to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

For the past week our students and teachers have organized and engaged in activities promoting the use of their mother tongues in the media, literature (telling and reading stories), speaking, writing and performing.

CAIS supports dissemination of mother tongues as it will not only encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

### Programme

Most of the children completed their third unit already, so parents can observe student initiated action at home reflecting the unit's key ideas and receive the next report card. If you see your child involved in any activities or tasks relating to the unit or being inspired by it please share them with our homeroom teachers.

Currently we are working on the following units:

Pre-K *Different places have different functions.*

K-1 *Knowing how our body works helps us understand and enjoy the world around us.*

K-2 *Communities make efforts to create systems that meet their needs.*

PYP1 *People apply their understanding of science to invent and create.*

PYP2 *Exploration leads to discoveries, opportunities and new understandings.*

PYP3 *People develop rules and laws for the common group.*

PYP4 *Understanding how materials change allows for a diverse production of goods.*

PYP5 *Distribution of wealth affects communities' and individuals' access to equal opportunities.*

We encourage all the parents who have any knowledge/experience in the listed areas to join us in the classroom or share their resources with the homeroom teachers.

### Professional Development

Our Early Years grade level teachers will go on a study visit to Western Academy of Beijing that has been working with PYP for over 8 years now. We will spend two days working with their teachers, observing classes and taking part in training sessions. We hope these two busy days will take our PYP expertise to a new more practical level.

### Projects

I would like to encourage parents to suggest good children's books in their mother tongue for the classroom libraries – it's important that we support our children's reading skills and nurture their excitement and interest in reading in all languages. You can share your suggestions with your homeroom teacher or the PYP Coordinator.

### Communication

**If you have any questions concerning the standards and practices of the Primary Years Programme, please go to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) or contact the coordinator at [achojnacka@caischina.org](mailto:achojnacka@caischina.org)**

**THANK YOU!**



## DP Newsletter

February 2013

### Community

Dear parents and teachers, I hope you enjoyed the Chinese New Year Break. To all Chinese members of our community 祝愿你□在新的一年里，一切□利，身体健康，万事如意。新年快□！

### Programme

The DP 2 students will take their Mock exams. This exam session will be held from February 18 until 22, 2013. During this exam session, students will simulate the “real” IB Exam that will come up in May of this year. Therefore, the official IB exam regulations will apply during this exam. Please find the IB exam regulations and the exam schedule on Managebac.

For our DP 1 students, classes will continue according to the regular schedule.

This year, our school is undergoing the 5 year review by the IBO. That means the school has to report to the IB how we run the Diploma Programme and how we ensure that our students can complete the program successfully. Therefore, the opinions of all parties involved are required to evaluate our Diploma Programme. In order to gather your opinion, we developed a questionnaire for parents. We will send this questionnaire home with our students and ask you to complete it until Friday, March 1, 2013. You can also find the questionnaire in English and Chinese on Managebac.

We will also give a questionnaire to the DP 1 and DP 2 students in order to inquire upon their opinion about the Diploma Programme at our school.

### Clubs

#### Creativity

Yearbook, MUN, Ukulele, language classes, DP Music Band

#### Action

Badminton, Dance Club, Tennis, Gym, Sports Night

#### Service

Sister School, Reading Buddies, Baby Sitting, Assisting PYP classes, MYP Math Club

### COUNSELOR's CORNER!

DP1 students will start a SAT preparation class in March. We will have different specialists train in different categories which will help all students prepare for any kind of exam, not just the SAT.

DP2 students should be completing scholarship applications, and any additional college applications. Most deadlines are spring. Colleges/Universities around the globe will start sending acceptance notifications from regular applications mid March-May. Remember to keep Ms. Kari updated of all offerings!

MYP5 students should ALL have their 2013 DP2 Subject Choice Form & signed Information Acknowledgement Form to Ms. Jana or Ms. Kari.

Remember, “Never Give Up! Go over, go under, go around, or go through. But never give up.”

Kari Weileder – College/Career Guidance Counselor

### Communication

CAIS uses managebac platform for all programme information and communication purposes. For individual concerns, please contact us:

Shelley Zhang (DP Assistant):

[zshelley@caischina.org](mailto:zshelley@caischina.org)

Jana Brümmel (DP Coordinator):

[jbruemmel@caischina.org](mailto:jbruemmel@caischina.org)

### PTC

The next Parents-Teachers Conference will take place on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will be published.

### THANK YOU!