



From the Principal

January 2013

Dear Parents

As I write, we are three-weeks into our five week session between two major holidays, but the School is very busy both inside and outside the classroom.

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter of events in PYP and DP, so I will leave those items of news to the coordinators. The MYP section of the School is currently being coordinated by myself, as Mr. Neil had to leave the city following long-term issues about his work visa. We are sorry to have lost his knowledge and enthusiasm for the MYP program, but the staff knows what is needed in the months ahead and are being hugely supportive in keeping the MYP running as usual.

The PTA held a morning meeting (9am) on Wednesday 23rd, and you will have been sent the minutes already (thanks to Rose, our new PTA secretary, for those). One of the points raised was the concern over air quality in Changchun (something which has not been a serious concern before, but seems to be a growing issue). The School policy, in common with most International Schools, is to monitor daily, and if the level (on the PM2.5 index) goes above 300 the PYP students stay indoors and the MYP/DP students have the option of being indoors.

A very good news item that came up at the PTA meeting was the small number of teachers who are planning to leave the School at the end of the year. Two of the major reasons given for teachers wanting to sign another contract are the quality of the students they work with, and the fact they are getting invaluable experience in an International Baccalaureate school.

Looking ahead, after we return from the break for Chinese New Year, we will be attending school for lessons on Saturday and Sunday (16th

and 17th). For timetabling purposes, these days will be a Tuesday and a Wednesday. That means the Sunday lessons (Wednesday timetable) will end at the usual Wednesday time of 2:45pm.

On Saturday 26th the School and workers from Transpace got together for the annual Spring Festival party (Wei Ya party), and this year we had an addition to the usual introductory speeches, when we gave a special award to one of our students, Kei Wing "Kelvin" Tsang, who came third in the (short track) speed skating championship held in UK. It is an excellent example of success outside the classroom, and serves to remind us all of the dedication needed to be the best in our chosen field.

This week is the final week of what we call the "Winter Intake", where a small number of students from local schools join classes in PYP 1 – MYP 3. The students who join us find it fascinating to see how an international school operates, and our students get to work along-side children they might not usually have much contact with. It is an experience very much in-line with the ethos of the IBO, and another example of what an international school should be doing.

I hope you all have a safe and peaceful break over New Year (especially if you are travelling) and I look forward to seeing you all back at School on Saturday 16th February.

Bryan Manditsch, Principal

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PYP Newsletter

January 2013

Community

We are happy to have most of our children finally back in their classrooms involved in unit work. January is a month of many new beginnings: new units starting, new clubs opening, new school events and projects being organized.

Programme

Most of the children completed their second unit before Christmas and are now starting their work on a new unit. We always encourage the parents to share any resources or visit the classrooms of guest speakers if they feel that they can support the inquiry and understanding of the central idea.

Currently we are working on the following units:

Pre-K Through play, we express our feelings and ideas and come to new understandings.

K-1 Celebrations and traditions are expressions of shared beliefs and values.

K-2 Homes reflect cultural influences and local conditions.

PYP 1 Signs and symbols communicate ideas and information.

PYP 2 Stories can be passed on, engage their audience and communicate meaning.

PYP 3 An understanding of our home and host countries develops our identity and perspective.

PYP 4 People can create or manipulate messages to influence a target audience.

PYP 5 Creating and responding to art develops an understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

Professional Development

Staff members new to PYP have successfully completed their online workshops. We are now preparing for an in-school IB workshop on Reading and Writing through Inquiry, which will take place 2-3rd February.

In this workshop participants will further develop their understanding of the following:

- Children have beliefs about what good reading/writing is which affects how they learn.
- Inquiry is a philosophical stance that underlies everything we do in school.
- The PYP holds a specific philosophy and belief system about the teaching of reading and writing to which we have a responsibility to adhere.
- Reading and writing are tools for thinking about the self and the world.
- A balanced literacy curriculum is comprised of the three interdependent aspects:
 - learning the language
 - learning about the language
 - learning through the language

Projects

I would like to encourage parents to take part in the Big Readers Project, listed below you will find the times available at which we already have some moms coming in to support children's reading skills.

PreK: Thursday 12.35-1.15,
K1 & K2: Thursday 2.05- 2.45,
PYP1: Friday 2.05- 2.45,
PYP2 &3: Thursday, 2.05- 2.45,

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 coordinator at achojnacka@caischina.org

THANK YOU!



DP Newsletter

January 2013

Community

Dear parents and teachers, I hope you had a smooth start into the year 2013 and enjoyed your holiday. The school community has the pleasure to welcome two new teachers who will support our team: Ms. Deborah Battin who will teach DP1 English B and Ms. Carmen Romero who will teach DP 1 Math Studies.

Programme

Most of the DP2 students have finished their Extended Essay before we left for Christmas break and will now focus on completing their Internal and External Assessment tasks.

In addition to that, the DP 2 students will take their Mock exams. This exam session will take place 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 our website:

<http://www.caischina.org/Down37.html>

Projects

DP 1 students have the chance to improve their essay writing skills during a project that was initiated by Mrs. Catherine Murau. From Monday, January 21 until 25, 2013, students received individual counseling on their essays that were written for the TOK class from Jackie Raymond and Catherine. Both have plenty of experience in this area and hope to share their knowledge with our students in order to help our students to improve their English writing skills.

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!

NEW YEAR! NEW GOALS!

NEW DEADLINES! NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

DP2 students are continuing with college AND scholarship applications! See Ms. Kari for any assistance with this, I am happy to help from start to finish! If you haven't started, it is never too late to apply.

MYP5 – Thank you parents and students for attending the Career Mapping & Schedule Selection night! Please turn in your 2013 DP2 Subject Choice Form & signed Information Acknowledgement Form to Ms. Jana or Ms. Kari.

Remember, "January is the start of many opportunities! Create a path where there is none. A world of possibilities lies ahead!"

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

Jana Brümmel (DP Coordinator):

jbruemmel@caischina.org

PTC

The next Parents-Teachers Conference will take place on Friday, March 27th, 2013th. The agenda will be published.

THANK YOU!