



## The Principal

Dear Parents

You may be happy to read that I am not going to write much this month, and that is because the other contributors to this newsletter have got so much to say that I want to leave them space. I would echo all they have said, and make special mention of the excellent work already done by the PTA committee putting together the Christmas Market (which will be in the School on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, from 11am), and to thank all parents and staff for their contributions to both the International Day and the Parent-Teacher Conference. Finally, good luck to all students taking exams and tests during November, whether it be the DP students taking SAT, or MYP taking Cambridge English language exams, or any student taking the wide range of in-house exams in the middle of the month.

Best regards,  
Bryan Manditsch  
Principal

## Primary Years Programme

### Community

October is on its way out and cold mornings and shorter days are definitely on their way in. However, here at CAIS PYP our mornings are always warm and welcoming and our days and weeks seem to have a magical capacity to stretch endlessly to provide enough time for 1001 initiatives and projects the PYP community members have.

In the beginning of October we were joined by Mr. Rhys –our new EAL (English as an Additional Language PYP2-5) teacher and Ms. Monika – our PYP 3 homeroom teacher. Both of them have now settled and made very positive impressions on all their students and other members of CAIS staff.

### Programme

Some of us have already begun or are about to start exploring new units.

**K-1 Light is all around us and we use it in many ways.**

## **PYP 1 Learning about previous generations helps us understand the connections between the past and the present**

PYP 2 All living things go through a process of change.

## **PYP 3 Choices of the role models reflect the beliefs and values of individuals and societies.**

## **PYP 4 Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems**

## **PYP 5 Distribution of energy resources affects communities' and individuals' access to equal opportunities.**

Others are well into their final assessment stage (Pre-k, K-2). Which means planning and collecting resources and provocations is underway and parent engagement, feedback and active support is very much appreciated.

The PYP team are currently spending their collaborative meetings (every Wednesday 15.00-16.15) discussing and reviewing our Language Policy, and our Assessment Policy to make sure that we describe and apply practices to truly benefit our students learning experience at CAIS.

We have also drafted and are working on our own Digital Literacy Policy, which would guide us in the safe use and successful integration of technology in the classroom (iPads, Smartboard, laptops, etc.)

All these new or updated versions of documents will be soon available on our website.

### **Professional Development**

The upcoming weeks will be very busy for PYP staff in terms of professional development. As mentioned in the September's issue all of our PYP teachers will take part in an IB in-school workshop on Assessment in the PYP, which will take place November 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We will work on providing various strategies to observe, track, record and feedback children learning and progress as well as investigate ways in which children can self-assess themselves and use their reflections to motivate and guide their future learning. We will also describe successful tools used to provide:

- Assessment **as** learning
- Assessment **for** learning
- Assessment **of** learning

We are also beginning a series of 8 workshop sessions on iPad use and integration in the PYP classrooms. Twice a week all PYP staff will work on using iPad hardware and software in and outside the classrooms, to engage children in safe and informed use of technology for inquiry.

All of us also meet weekly in a 1-1 setting with the PYP Coordinator to reflect and plan the development of our units.

### **Projects**

We are now working with DP and MYP students in **Reading Buddies** programme and are

looking for ways of working with parents towards inquiry in mother tongues of our students, possibly taking a step further from our last year's Big Readers' Project. More details on that will follow.

Ms. Krista (pre-k) and Ms. Aga (PYP Coord.) are actively promoting Scholastic book orders, which allow the parents to buy reading, phonics and inquiry content books that would normally be very hard to acquire in Changchun. We have already had one very successful order dispatched and are currently collecting the next one. Altogether we will run 4-5 order sessions a year.

Also Ms. Krista supporting the local "Caring Spirits" organization has encouraged our PYP 5 students to give back to the community by spending their Wednesday Club time working with children in a local kindergarten.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, "Caring Spirits" held a **bake sale** to raise money to help out the poor schools that we will be assisting this year. Thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who stopped by the table at lunch and picked up a yummy treat and you can eat it knowing that you helped make a difference in someone's life.

## Events

**International Day** has yet again proven to be a very joyful, colorful and positive event leaving our children with a great sense of pride and joy of representing their individual cultural and national identity. Thank you for joining us on that day and celebrating together with the children.



**Halloween** is just around the corner with messy pumpkin carving, face painting-dressing up and parading. Children will enjoy Halloween activities and festivities Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

## 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 PYP coordinator at [achojnacka@caischina.org](mailto:achojnacka@caischina.org)

If you have difficulties receiving emails from homeroom teachers via Managebac please contact PYP Department Assistant Ms. Lena Liu at [ljiu@caischina.org](mailto:ljiu@caischina.org)

## The Middle Years Programme

### October is a fun-filled month

Several MYP students danced and sung on stage during the International Day concert. Most of the students had been using their club time to prepare for this big event, and it was a pleasure to see the result of their efforts. The MYP 2 students showcased their technology know-how and collaborative skills by producing an amusing video. It was an enjoyable experience watching the students take center stage and entertain an appreciative audience.

On 25 October, through the initiative of Mr. Luis, Curriculum Leader for the sciences, our MYP5 students participated in a 20-minute radio broadcast that was aired around the world.

Entitled "Under the same smile", this annual event is organized by Gimnasio del Norte, an IB-world school in Bogota Colombia.

This year's theme is "Under the Same Smile" as a way to highlight that even though unfortunate events do happen every day, there are still a lot of good news which abound in different cities. The goal is not to deny our everyday reality but to look at it from another perspective. Our students shared good news and stories happening in Changchun.



### November is assessment month

As an IB school, assessments play an important role in our programme. Assessments not

only help us gather information about what our students have learned, but they also serve to inform the next stage of teaching and learning.

On 11 – 13 November, MYP students will be taking their formal written assessments in Sciences, Language A, Language B, Humanities and Mathematics. These formal written assessments is just one of the tools that we use to collect data on student learning.

After the examinations, teachers will provide students some feedback and the time to reflect on their performance.

There are 47 MYP candidates for the Cambridge Preliminary English Examination (PET) and 21 for the First Certificate Examination (FCE). The oral communication test is scheduled on 22 November. The written examinations will be administered on 23 November for PET, and 26 November for FCE.

Please help your children get ready for these assessments by making sure that they get enough sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

### **Being principled and caring**

We are soliciting parents' support in enforcing the uniform policy by making sure that their children are wearing CAIS-issued top and pants/skirts. The Uniform Shop is now open from 8:30 – 9:30 to allow students to procure uniforms if needed.

It has been called to our attention that some students are using offensive language in their mother tongue. We can show that we are caring to others not just with our actions but with our choice of words as well.

Students are requested to prevent too much food wastage in the cafeteria by taking the amount of food that they can actually consume. It is alright to return for seconds or thirds if they are still hungry. We just want to avoid the situation where students pile up food in two or three plates, only to find out that they could not finish everything.

### **Home-school partnership**

Finally, I would like to thank all parents who came to the Parent-Teacher Conferences on 12th October. Teachers agreed that it was a very fulfilling day as the information you had provided had given them the chance to get to know their students better, and you have also answered questions that they had about learning conditions and work habits at home. We hope to see you again for the second Parent-Teacher Conferences on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Best regards,  
Ann Gaillard  
MYP Coordinator

## Diploma Programme

Dear Parents and Teachers

The school community has the pleasure to welcome two new teachers who will support our team: Mr. Jorg Strehler, who will teach DP German Language A, and Mr. Micheal Predmore, who will teach DP Psychology and MYP Humanities.

### PROGRAMME

#### *International Day*

It was another successful event this year where everyone enthusiastically involved in the event through participation on displays, flag parade and a concert. Even the concert was run by our MYP/DP students. This is a good exercise for our students, to hone their leadership skills as well as international mindedness.

### Classes

The due dates for DP2 students are coming shortly. They are going to start submitting their final tasks after this winter break and for EE and TOK their draft must be done before that break. Thus it is important to encourage our students to use this time as wisely as possible. At the same time, as we close in on due dates, I would like to ask you to support student with a lot of encouragement and with whatever parental support you can give. I believe they do need it at this time.

In addition to that, the DP 1 and 2 students will have their mid-term exams from 13-15 November. This is a good opportunity to find out student's performance in each subject they have chosen. For DP 2 students, this is also a good examination practice, as 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>

### GROUP IV PROJECT 2013 – 14 TIMELINE

In Group 4 (sciences), we are in the middle of having the group 4 project. Please be informed by the schedule made by the science teachers.

### Clubs

DATE	LESSON	AIM
OCT 14th ,2013	VII AND VIII	INTRODUCTION AND SELECTION OF TOPIC GROUPING OF STUDENTS SUB TOPIC FOR EACH GROUP ACTION PLAN RESOURCES DISCUSSION ON FIRST DRAFT
OCT 21st, 2013	VII AND VIII	WRITING THE SCRIPT ORDER OF PRESENTATION RESOURCES TO BE USED DISTRIBUTION OF WORK

One of the ways we help students to prepare themselves better for the exams that, we offer Academic Club time for the first CAS hour which is every Wednesday period 6 (after

OCT 23rd, 2013	VI	PRESENTATION OF FINAL DRAFT ( WRITTEN ) REQUIREMENTS ACTION PLAN
OCT 25th, 2013	IV CHE CLASS VI PHY CLASS VI BIO CLASS	CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP GOES TO CHE CLASS FOR FIRST VIDEO PRESENTATION WATER SUSTAINABILITY GROUP GOES TO PHYSICS CLASS FOR FIRST VIDEO PRESENTATION GLOBAL POVERTY GROUP GOES TO BIO CLASS FOR FIRST VIDEO PRESENTATION
OCT 28th, 2013	VII AND VIII	VIDEO PRESENTATION IN FRONT OF GROUP IV TEACHERS AND LAST MINUTE CHANGES
TBA	TBA	FINAL GROUP IV PRESENTATION

lunch). This will be allocated especially to DP2 students. There is also an English Club for DP1 students, opened to help DP1 students improve their English.

## Uniform

To increase school discipline and save some of teacher's time, we have made a final reminder to all DP students about our school uniform. Students are expected to have the correct uniform; one upper item and trousers or skirt. Starting Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013, except on Friday when students can wear casual clothes, students without proper uniform **will not be** allowed in to class. Students will be sent to the school shop to buy the uniform or stay in the lobby's waiting room until their parent/guardian brings their uniform to school. Thank you very much in advance for helping us reinforce the wearing of uniform at school.

## PTC

The first Parents-Teachers Conference took place on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This is a valuable opportunity to build communication with you to find out what can be improved for our students in the future. If you did not make it, or you think you need more time to discuss your issues with teachers, please make an appointment with the relevant teacher for another meeting.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

From the University Counseling Office

The CAIS University Counseling Office has been actively working to attract more college visits to our campus. Back in September, Azure Pacific University from Los Angeles visited and spoke to interested students. This popular up and coming university in southern California is widely known in the US and highly respected for its quality education delivered to students.

On November 4th (Monday at 9:00am) at CAIS another hugely popular American university called George Washington University located in Washington D.C. will visit our campus. This will be an ideal opportunity for parents and students to learn about the value of a liberal arts education from one of America's **top Liberal Arts Schools**. Students will have a chance to ask questions and discover what a super location going to school in Washington D.C. can be. I want to especially invite parents of all students

who are interested in the American university educational system to join us. Please arrive early as this promises to be an exciting opportunity.

Lastly, we are currently working on bringing SCAD to visit our CAIS campus in December, another world famous American school to visit us here in Changchun. Both students and parents can benefit from campus visits. Any questions please call Amy at 86 431 8458 1234

## **Communication**

Mrs. Shelley Zhang, our DP assistant is on maternity leave until February 2014. We wish all the best for her, the baby, and her whole family. In the meantime her role will be taken care of by Ms. Emma Tang. For individual concerns, please contact us:

Emma Tang (Acting DP Assistant): [etang@caischina.org](mailto:etang@caischina.org)

Santo Kurniawan(DP Coordinator): [santo@caischina.org](mailto:santo@caischina.org)