



## The Principal

Dear Parents

It is the end of our first month of the Academic Year, and I could write pages about what has been happening. It has been a very busy, but mostly positive, start to the year and the increased level of parental contact with the school has been noticed: thank you for that.

I should immediately recognise two areas that have not gone smoothly: one is the bus service on some routes, and the other is the late arrival of three classroom teachers (one PYP and two MYP/DP). The bus situation has involved slower than desired arrival times at the end of the day, caused by a combination of new routes, large buses, road construction, and general congestion. Finding the quickest routes has become a game of chess as we look at alternative routes on a daily basis. The new staff who are coming out have now obtained their paperwork from the Changchun authorities, and are currently getting their visa in their passports. The delay is not, of course, their

fault, but mainly due to some other teachers deciding not to travel to China only a few days before the start of term.

Positive news will be found in the other sections of this newsletter (we hope to produce one at the end of each month) and I don't want to repeat what the other staff write, but I would like to echo what has been said about the warm welcome our new staff have received from the parents and the students: it has greatly helped them settle into their new homes.

An item of news that many parents have been waiting for is that CAIS is now a recognised centre for the Cambridge (UK) University English exams. This has been made possible by several members of our English language department and EIP section working hard over the past nine months to gain the accreditation from Cambridge University, and by the nine teachers who have trained in their own time to become qualified examination officers. You will be hearing more about how this will be of benefit to the students in October.

Finally (though I could continue all day) I would like to wish the new PTA Committee the best of luck in the year ahead, and hope you all take the chance to work with them to enhance the School.

Best regards,

Bryan Manditsch  
Principal



## Primary Years Program

### Community

We are happy to welcome you back in 2013/14. Ahead of us a new school year, new challenges, new adventures for the PYP community in and outside the classroom.



We are excited to welcome the new members of our PYP family:

Ms. Karolyn (K-2), Ms. Greta (K-2), Ms. Francine (PYP1), Ms. Monica (PYP1), Ms. Monika (PYP 3), Ms. Marsha (EAL Support), Ms. Rebecca (Music).

It's our pleasure to have these experienced educators join our team and share their ideas and initiatives with our existing staff.

Moving away from academic towards more practical issues - we had some time to enjoy our playground after lunch with the weather treating us fairly well for the first three weeks of September but the sunny days seem to be mostly over now, which means we will be spending more of our recess time in the library and gym area.

### Programme

The first units and their inquiries are well underway, with children now investigating:

**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)

**Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities.** (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.

This year our final unit for PYP 5, under the theme of Sharing the Planet, will be an Exhibition unit, which means that students will choose their own central ideas and lines of inquiry to investigate and work independently towards their final projects. The Exhibition is the culminating event in the PYP, compared to the Personal Project in MYP or the Extended Essay in DP.

### **Professional Development**

As you know the school has successfully undergone PYP authorization, with one of the commendations and words of praise commenting on our impressive range of professional development opportunities available to our teaching staff. To keep up with our reputation (and to support our teachers in their ongoing development) our new PYP staff will be going to Beijing, October 18-20<sup>th</sup> to attend a "Making the PYP Happen" Regional Workshop.

All of our PYP teachers will take part in an IBO in-school workshop on "Assessment in the PYP", which will take place on November 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We also have planned for teachers to be involved in on-line training for PYP in the Early Years, Transdisciplinary Teaching and Learning and Preparation of the Exhibition.

These are only some of the professional development opportunities we prepared for our team this academic year. We are also looking into preparing workshops for parents to help you better understand the inquiry process and concept based teaching and learning.

### **Projects**

We currently have 58 iPads in the PYP, and technology is a natural part of our classroom routines, which is why we are discussing ways of raising student, parent and teacher awareness of the safe and healthy use of iPads.

We are now in the final stages of creating our "Digital Literacy – Use and Awareness Policy" that will help both teachers and parents safely manage the use of iPads by our children.

## Events

**International Day** is on our doorstep with artifact tables' preparation starting 7<sup>th</sup> October and our half-day all-school event on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

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

**THANK YOU.**

## Middle Years Program

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome new teachers like myself have received from the entire CAIS community. We appreciated your presence during Parent Orientation, Back to School Night and Saturday Barbecue. We enjoyed all the goodies from the PTA's welcome basket.





This year, sixteen new students joined the MYP, attending classes in Humanities, Sciences, Math, Art/Music, Languages, Design and PE. It is said that the sign of a true international school is the

importance the school places on languages. One of the wonderful surprises that greeted me here is the number of language choices available for our students at various levels - English, Chinese, German, French and Spanish.

Seven MYP students are currently enrolled in the English Immersion Program (EIP), receiving intensive English support from Ms. Faye and Mr. Sal, while joining their grade level peers during PE and Art. In November, all MYP students will have the opportunity to sit for the prestigious Cambridge examination of English proficiency. Ms. Catherine, our Cambridge Center Examinations Manager, will be giving us more details as the event comes nearer.

This year, Mr. Daniel, the school librarian, is offering an Information Literacy course to help students when it comes to selecting and evaluating sources, and organizing information. These skills will be useful in writing research papers in different subjects, as well as preparing them for the written requirement of the MYP 5 Personal Project.

I am happy to be this year's Personal and Social Education (PSE) teacher, as it gives me the opportunity to get to know each and every student in the MYP. This past few weeks we have been talking about the Learner Profile attributes and setting goals as we strive to live the Learner Profile both in our personal and professional lives.



Mr. Luis, Ms. Roli and Ms. Susie are busy preparing some exciting field trips around Changchun to make science more alive for our students through active inquiry.

MYP 2 and 5 classes are now experiencing the new capabilities to do research and complete work in more creative ways through the iPad Pilot Program. Mr. Jason, our IT manager, is supporting both teachers and students develop sophisticated communication skills, new media literacy, and enjoy the benefits of enhanced student-centered learning.

Aside from offering an academically-challenging curriculum, it is also our priority to make sure that our students lead a balanced lifestyle. The Wednesday clubs are in full swing. Many of the activities - Do It Yourself Arts and Crafts, Jazz Club, Movie Club, basketball and soccer – have been organized by the students, with teachers acting as supervisors.

If you have any questions or concerns, I hope that you won't hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to seeing all of you during the Parent – Teacher Conference (PTC) on the afternoon of the 12th of October (a Saturday "make-up day").

Best regards,  
MYP Coordinator  
Ann Gaillard

## Diploma Program

Dear Parents and Teachers,

September is one of the busiest months we have, even though we are just starting the new academic year. However, we have to keep everything on track, especially if you are in DP.



These are highlights from some classes in DP

**Korean A:** Students will finish all works in Part4 and DO Individual Oral Presentation at the end of next month.

**Music:** The DP1 students are new to the course but very keen and hungry to know more about music. They are working on basic music knowledge and the students are learning English music vocabulary, though they know most concepts in their first languages.

In DP 2, this month we were reviewing knowledge previously covered and with the hope that the students get a fuller picture than the first time round last year. Both students are preparing 2 pieces to

perform to an MYP class at the end of the month (On Friday 27th Sept) in period 9 playing their flute and guzheng respectively to a small audience. If you wish to take a picture, you are welcome.

CAS: DP students will be on the stage sharing their talents with the school community on the International Day on Friday 11th October 2013. Parents, please be there, if you can.

Other than that, in general for all of us in DP, I would like to share you some important information

- The DP calendar this year has been communicated to students, and it is also available in Managebac. This will give all of us information on the dates of important events in this academic year. Please support and encourage your child to meet all the due dates on time. If you have difficulties to obtain it, please feel free to contact the DP coordinator at [santo@caischina.org](mailto:santo@caischina.org) to get a copy.
- Extended Essay for DP2 students. The first Extended Essay draft was due on 13th September 2013.
- Progress Report: If students cannot meet deadlines, or if there are behavior issues or other concerns, a Progress Report will be sent home via the student. Parents should please sign and return it to school (to either Mrs. Shelley or the DP Coordinator) to indicate that you have read and are 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. The exception is on Friday, which is a non-uniform day, where students have the option to either wear uniform or give 5 RMB to the class representative (for a charity fund) if they choose non-uniform.

If you have any further questions about the DP Programme, do not hesitate to contact us:

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

Shelley Zhang - DP Assistant: [sshelley@caischina.org](mailto:sshelley@caischina.org)

Michael Hayes – University Counselor: [mhayes@caischina.org](mailto:mhayes@caischina.org)

Nancy Li – DP liaison for Chinese parents : [nli@caischina.org](mailto:nli@caischina.org)

James Linder – Homeroom DP2 and TOK coordinator: [jlinder@caischina.org](mailto:jlinder@caischina.org)

Julia Kang – Homeroom DP1 and CAS coordinator: [jkang@caischina.org](mailto:jkang@caischina.org)

Santo Kurniawan

DP coordinator



## Counselor

### Recent College Fair Trip to Beijing

On September 21st Changchun American International School, University Counseling Department took a trip to Beijing with four students. Dave, Sophie, Ron, Kevin all DP students who will go on to attend great universities after they graduate. The college fair was sponsored by Linden an American Educational Services company that often brings American universities to China to recruit students from China. This fair was a good opportunity for all of us from CAIS to learn more about the college application process in the US.

We took the train from Changchun to Beijing on sat. Sep. 21 to Beijing and stayed over night near the college fair site. On Sunday Sep. 22 we attended the fair and students had the chance to ask questions about the application process. There were 30 universities attending the fair. Students who attended the fair had the chance to learn about scholarships, application deadlines, SAT requirements, and many other aspects of the college application process.

It is our hope that this will become a yearly trip for students here at CAIS.

- From the University Counseling Department