



Report on Recent WASC Visit

Director: Jeff Fischmann

The recent visit by Dr. Marilyn George, the assistant director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and Andrew Watts, the principal of TEDA International School in Tianjin, was very valuable for the school. As mentioned before in previous correspondence, WASC needed to visit the school to evaluate the "substantial changes" that had occurred this summer in regards to the ownership, school name and location changes. In particular, WASC needed to see how these changes may have impacted upon the educational program. Dr. George and Mr. Watts will be issuing their "substantive change" report in the near future and this will be distributed to the community once it becomes available.

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We Are Student Centered



Upper School Principal: Peter Burnside

You have probably noticed the acronym "WASC" in many of our school publications and documents referring to accreditation. Officially, WASC stands for "Western Association of Schools and Colleges". But Marilyn George, Associate Executive Director of WASC, told us last Monday that it really means "We are Student Centered."

A WASC accrediting team, made up of volunteer professional educators, last visited QIS in 2005 and awarded the school's first term of accreditation. Sometimes needlessly feared by school

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December & January

Dec. 1	Winter Holiday Program
Dec 11-13	High School Exams & Mid Yr Assessments
Dec 17-Jan 4	Winter Vacation
Jan 16-17	Parent - Teacher Conference
Jan 18	End of Second Quarter
Jan 25	U.S. Report Cards #2

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The Emerging Butterfly

Lower School Principal: Tim Green

As QISS evolves out of the chrysalis of our former school, QIS, I've been continually reassured that the Chinese government is indeed committed to seeing us become a 'model international school,' and 'one of the best in China.' I believe our new owners are sincere. And yet I know that becoming one of the best international schools in China goes far beyond the outer trappings of a large piece of land and a new, modern campus. Don't get me wrong – these pursuits are certainly important if we're to flourish and grow into a mature educational facility. But along with that part of the vision, we must strive to foster improvements in the school's programs and operations that ultimately support student learning.

Marilyn George, the Associate Executive Director of WASC, and our guest last week, emphasized this very important aspect. We must set effective systems in place that uphold the integrity of the school's philosophy and curriculum, way after the current staff and administration are gone.

We must truly be envisioning the QISS of the future.



Sharon, Grade 8: Miro

At the Lower School level, we have just begun the long, arduous process of becoming an IB school. Both of our directors, Mr. Fischmann, and Principal Li, have endorsed our plan to move ahead in this direction. It will entail committing a very substantial amount of time, training, work and

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Director (continued)

On November 19th, the entire faculty, several parents and Jason Lee, our student body president, attended an informative presentation by Dr. George regarding the purpose of the WASC accreditation process. We also received specific advice from Dr. George on how to prepare for our re-accreditation report that must be submitted by the end of Feb, 2008.

On this same day, Dr. George, Mr. Watts, Executive Director Li, Peter Burnside, Tim Green and I had a very productive meeting with Vice Mayor Wang Xiu Lin and officials from the Education Bureau. Most of that meeting was focused on the WASC governance and resource allocation standards, as these two areas are critical to everything else we do as a school.

Vice-Mayor Wang is Qingdao's most senior official in charge of education and the man who is overseeing the development of our new campus. During the meeting, the vice-mayor clearly stated to Dr. George and Mr. Watts the government's strong commitment to the future of QISS. That includes adherence to the WASC school improvement process.

It was very encouraging to hear the vice-mayor express his vision for the school. The government has already sent a design group to visit the International School of Beijing, the



Joyce, Grade 8: Miro



Robin, grade 8: Miro

The Art of Joan Miro

Art Teacher: Danial Gosnell

As part of a unit in learning watercolor painting, Grade Eight students studied some examples of the Spanish painter, Joan Miro, and learned about his life as an artist. Students also learned about various watercolor techniques as we painted our abstract works of art. We reviewed relevant elements of art such as color, line, and shape, and how they relate to balance and repetition in

working abstractly. The result was many whimsical works of art.

Spanish painter, Joan Miro, is known for his playful art. His symbolic images appear naïve and childlike at first glance, but when studied deeper, one can see an entire universe in his paintings. His art is characterized by brilliant colors combined with simplified forms that remind one of drawings made by children at the age

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QISS Explorer: Check it Out!

See your child's work and watch key assignment clips through the QISS Explorer. This year the school newspaper is being published entirely online and is being updated regularly. You can go there by [clicking here](#) or by checking the Publications link on the QISS homepage. Don't forget the user name is: QISS, and the password is: friend.



Western Academy in Beijing, and Shanghai American School, to obtain ideas for the master plan of the new campus. I will keep you informed as these plans develop.

Finally, Dr. George has informed me that her spring visitation committee will include Dr. David Brown and Andrew Watts. Dr. Brown is the Executive Director of WASC. The WASC visitation will be scheduled for early April. Having the top two officials of WASC and Mr. Watts on the visitation committee constitutes an extremely influential team. WASC will stay committed in helping QISS establish a strong foundation to support the stable development of the educational program. This is extremely good news for the school.



Moving Forward Together

Tech Coordinator: David Casler

As winter vacation approaches, it is a great time to ask ourselves "How are things going now?" and "What next?". In the computer department, we are often asking these questions to ourselves. This year has been different from any year that I have taught in the past. Only a few months ago, I was wondering if we would have computers or the internet in our new school at all. Now I look at the amazing progress that we have made in such a short period of time and say "whew!" "Amazing!" We now have a whole school filled with new computers: in the library, and the science lab, and two full computer labs for students. We have new multimedia projectors in every room and four new Apple computers for the new Media Lab. The student servers are working, the new website is virtually complete, and we all have Moodle and new QISS emails. After a bumpy ride, we have gone from good to pretty great and it seems to be getting better every day.

So now the question is "What next?" Are we happy with the computer department and what the students are learning? Is everything perfect yet, or can we get better? I know my answer. I always say "when we stop moving forward, we start moving backwards." It seems in life that we must always strive to become better, and the computer department is no exception. Soon, I hope to have wireless routers for laptops, new

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Angel, Grade 8: Miro

Upper School Principal (continued)

administrators, accrediting teams not only evaluate the status of a school, but provide generous help and guidance to help the school continually improve.

This April, we look forward to a three-year revisit to renew our accreditation. Of course, we have had some major changes and challenges, but as we prepare for this visit, we are also reflecting on our progress over the three years. The comments and “Critical Areas for Follow Up” below are from the WASC visiting committee report in 2005.

The key issues are offered in the sense that QIS is a developing school with a fine potential. The key issues capture the professional judgment of the Visiting Committee— derived from countless conversations, observations and meetings with QIS staff. The issues are critical focal points in developing the school. The good news is that much has been accomplished. And more good news is that there is plenty of interesting work yet to do.

1. *The Director of QIS should establish an organizational structure to integrate the WASC process into the culture of the school, thereby assuring program continuity and continuous school improvement.*
2. *The administration and staff should ensure the effectiveness of the ESL program*

by standardizing educational delivery methods, utilizing assessment tools for screening English competency and establishing ESL exit policies.

3. *The administration and staff should put in place means of assessment to determine the extent students are accomplishing the ESLRs.*

4. *The QIS leadership team should establish a long-range plan whereby measurable learning objectives are specified throughout the curriculum and a process is instituted for measuring student attainment of the objectives.*

5. *The administration and staff should pursue a variety of professional development opportunities that will enable teachers to keep abreast of current educational trends and utilize research-based findings in the classroom.*

6. *The administration and staff should establish a curriculum that flows sequentially through the grade levels.*

Following the 2005 visit, the school leadership team developed an action plan to address these critical areas. Over the next several weeks, we will be reviewing our progress, and asking ourselves “How has this affected student learning?” We will invite student, staff, and parent input in this process, which will lead to a revised action plan for the next five years— with students at the center.

Tech (continued)

software, and more fun and exciting school programs that allow students to enjoy learning media, video, publications, graphics design, and digital art in even more innovative and creative ways. QISS is improving all of the time, and our students are growing more than ever in so many ways.

This year is proof again that when we all work together we can do anything. I feel that the future of QISS and the technology department will become even more than we could have dreamed – moving forward, together...



QISS Winter Program!

Date: December 1, Saturday!
The dinner is from 17:30 to 18:45!

Come and join us
for a fun and
joyful atmosphere!

Place: QJingdao #2 Middle School Auditorium
Watch Pre-K through Grade 12 perform!

Lower School Principal (continued)

money toward achieving this goal.

For those of you unfamiliar with the International Baccalaureate program, the IB Organization is the result of the vision and efforts of a grass-roots movement of school teachers and administrators in international schools. Its purpose was (and still is) to produce a common international curriculum, and to develop an international-mindedness on the part of the children in those schools, in the belief that the nature and quality of children's learning are the means of promoting that type of awareness and sensitivity. The IB works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand other cultures, and develop a tolerance for other people's perspectives and differences.

The IBO works with 2,145 schools in 125 countries to offer 3 IB programs to approximately 573,000 students. The 3 programs of IB are: The Primary Years Program (PYP), for students aged 3-12, started in 1997 and now offered by 394 IB World Schools; the Middle Years Program (MYP), for students aged 11-16, started in 1994, and offered by 585 IB World Schools, and the Diploma



Carel, grade 8: Miro

Program, for students aged 16-19, started in 1968 and now offered by 1,608 IB World Schools.

The IBO concentrates on four major areas: 1) the development of curriculum; 2) the assessment of students; 3) the training and professional development of teachers; and 4) the authorization and evaluation of schools.

In the months ahead, I will be sharing more about the International Baccalaureate Program, specifically the PYP component. You may also visit their website at www.ibo.org, which provides a lot of information in multiple languages. For now, I would like to list several of the most compelling benefits for pursuing an IB program:

- IB ensures a world-class education through a standardized curriculum and a balanced array of assessment methods.
- The rigorous curriculum and inquiry-based approach to learning prepares students to move to the next level of their education, and eventually, for

college level work.

- IB schools are widely respected throughout the world.
- IB involves ongoing professional development of teachers and administrators.
- Offering an IB program is a way of assuring expatriate families that their children will receive a quality education with transferable credits and entry qualifications for schools around the world.

In our next newsletter, I will describe our step-by-step plan as to how we will work toward reaching the exciting goal of becoming a PYP school. In addition, I will continually keep you informed as to where we are throughout this metamorphous period. It will take time – years, in fact. Yet, by building upon all the hard work and accomplishments from our past, we've now entered the early stages of a new development, and we're just beginning to spread our wings!

Art DIBIG



Rebecca, grade 8: Miro

QISS seeking substitute teachers and private tutors

Substitute Teachers:

Persons with teacher training or experience are invited to apply to substitute teach at QISS. If interested, please forward your resume to either:

Mr. Tim Green, Lower School Principal: tgreen@qiss.org.cn

Or

Mr. Peter Burnside, Upper School Principal: pburnside@qiss.org.cn

If placed on our Substitute Teacher Registry, you will be called when a teacher in your area is absent. Our current substitute teacher pay is 400rmb per day.

Private Tutors:

QISS students occasionally are in need of additional help with English, math, study skills, or other subjects. Persons with excellent English proficiency and familiarity with Western-style education can ask to be placed on our Tutor

List. If interested, contact:

David Addicott, Counselor: daddicott@qiss.org.cn

Along with your name and contact information, include the subjects and levels you are qualified to work with as well as relevant training and experience.

Art (continued)

of five. Joan Miro liked to integrate elements of Catalan folk art into his paintings. He often compared his paintings to poetry.

Joan Miro was born in 1893 to the son of a goldsmith and jewelry maker in Barcelona, Spain. He studied fine art in Spain, although his parents would rather have seen him go into business. Miro even took business classes in 1907, as he enrolled in several art classes. Miro worked as an accountant for two years until he experienced a nervous breakdown. His parents finally accepted their son's career choice as an artist without giving him much support. After a lot of experimenting in different styles, Miro found the style he is most well-known for, where he began to create his own abstract worlds through his personal images. Today, Joan Miro is considered to be a leader in the Surrealist art movement.

Art DIBIG



Mary, Grade 8: Miro



Business Manners

Chinese Teacher: Cynthia Xin

As more and more foreign corporations and individuals tap the Chinese market, it is good to know some Chinese practices in business contacts and negotiations beforehand.

The establishment of initial business contacts was through, introduction letters. The purchasing agent had to take an introduction letter made out by the factory director when getting in touch with other factories. After China policy of opening to the outside world was adopted, more convenient ways emerged. You can establish contacts by phone, fax, email

and more and more Chinese corporations have set up their own websites.

随着越来越多的国外个人和企业选择中国市场，那么最好先学一些中国在沟通与谈判等方面的惯例。当涉及到首次建立商业联系时，介绍信是必备的。在介绍信中，要提及一些为这个经济机构所熟悉的人。一个工厂的采购商要与另一个工厂联系时则一定要出具工厂主管的介绍信。改革开放政策实施以来，我们也逐渐采用一些更方便的方法，比如，通过电话、传真和电子邮件建立公司之间的联系。而且，越来越多的中国公司建立起了他们自己的公司网站。



Survival Chinese

Chinese Teacher: Jenny Fang

Time Telling

2 : 00

两点

liǎng diǎn

6 : 05

六点零五分

liù diǎn líng wǔ fēn

8 : 15

八点十五分

bā diǎn shí wǔ fēn

八点一刻

bā diǎn yí kè

10 : 30

十点三十分

shí diǎn sān shí fēn

十点半

shí diǎn bàn

11 : 45

十一时四十五分

shí yī diǎn sì shí wǔ fēn

十一时三刻

shí yī diǎn sān kè

1 : 50

一点五十分

yī diǎn wǔ shí fēn

Useful Words

Useful Words

1) 现在 xiàn zài
now, nowadays [n.]

2) 点 diǎn
o'clock, hour [adv]

3) 分 fēn
minute [adv]

4) 刻 kè
quarter [adv]

5) 吃午饭 chī wǔ fàn
have lunch

6) 时候 shí hou
time [n.]

7) 半 bàn
half [num.]

8) 起床 qǐ chuáng
to get up

9) 睡觉 shuì jiào
to go to sleep



Class News

Chinese Teacher: Lisa Zhang

The Grade 9-12 students in Chinese class are working hard for the Winter Program, their performance is the Chinese famous traditional Fan Dance. The Fan Dance is very popular in China, the dancers can express themselves freely through it. You will enjoy their nice fan dance soon.



Conversation

现在几点?

Xiàn zài jǐ diǎn ?

What' s the time now ?

现在七点二十分。

Xiàn zài qī diǎn èr shí wǔ fēn .
It' s 7:25 .

你几点起床?

Nǐ jǐ diǎn qǐ chuáng ?

When do you get up ?

我六点半起床。

Wǒ liù diǎn bàn qǐ chuáng .
I get up at 6:30 .

你什么时候吃午饭?

Nǐ shén me shí hou chī wǔ fàn ?

When do you have lunch ?

我十一时三刻吃午饭。

Wǒ shí yī diǎn sān kè chī wǔ fàn .
I have my lunch at 11:45 .