

September Events

- Sept. 8 Open House
- Sept. 15-16 Half Day
- Sept. 20 Int'l Picnic

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QISS Accreditation

I am pleased to report that QISS accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has been extended for another 3 years - until June 30, 2011. This is a very significant event for the school given the challenges last year that involved a change in the school's ownership. The WASC Visiting Committee issued a formal report in June, 2008 that outlines the schools areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.



*Jeff Fischmann
Director*

improvement process and do our utmost to improve the quality of education offered to all of our students. ☺

QISS Lower School: 2008-09



*Tim Green
L.S. Principal*

"Education is progress. Progress is change."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

It will truly be a great pleasure to see the faces of your beautiful children as they once

more return to school! Their excitement and exuberance is contagious! Your children's inner spark is an inspiration to our teachers, as well as a sobering acknowledgement that they are here indeed, entrusted to us, and it's our responsibility and task to provide for their intellectual and emotional growth within a safe, nurturing environment. We do not take this entrustment

lightly. I can promise you we will provide the very best education and the most positive, warm, learning environment that we can for our children.

We are making many positive strides as a school, and we have many initiatives "in progress." Let me take a moment to review them:

Last November (2007), QISS completed and submitted the "Notice of intention to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP) to the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The IBO has established a world famous curriculum framework, assessment guidelines and requirements, and "best practices" framework for international schools over the past twenty years,

The IB was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. Its original purpose was to facilitate the international mobility of students preparing for university by providing schools with a curriculum and diploma recognized by universities around the world. Since then its mission has expanded, and it now seeks to make

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What's New in the Upper School?

Each year as we reflect on our school's results, we try to keep the best of what worked, and modify everything else. After all, if you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten. I have highlighted below some of the program changes for this year as we strive for continuous improvement.

Toward IB and AP

The IB diploma is among the most prestigious high school programs. It is recognized by universities around the world and is comparable to first-year college coursework. I will be doing a "feasibility study" this year to investigate the costs and timeline required for QISS to offer the IB diploma. In the meantime, we are beginning to adopt AP courses, which are also college-level. This year, students will have the opportunity to prepare for and take AP exams for Literature and Composition (11th and 12th grade), Calculus (12th grade), and Chinese (high school).



*Peter Burnside
U.S. Principal*

Vocabulary Notebooks

All students in grades 6-12 will be issued "vocabulary notebooks" for each class. As key terms are introduced, students will

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Scott Garbus



My name is Scott Garbus. I grew up in a suburb of New York City, and attended the University of Rochester where I studied Political Science. After graduation, I moved to Tempe, Arizona and formed a Garage-Rock band called 'The Brakemen'. I also began my teaching career. I have taught in a lot of different settings and every new class that I teach gives me the opportunity to grow personally, as well as professionally.

Over the course of my career, I have worked with special education students, gang members, and also high-achieving AP students.

More recently, I spent seven years living in Taipei, Taiwan. While in Taipei, I earned my Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. I am looking forward to working with the students and faculty at Qingdao International School, and I am excited about my new home in China.

better understanding of the program. We came back enthusiastic as well as energized: it's a great undertaking, but like all good things in life – we saw that it would require a considerable investment of money and time to truly become an IB school. Both of our directors, Jeff Fischmann, Educational Director, and Principal Li, Chinese Government Executive Director, have strongly supported our initiative, having the vision to see that it will truly benefit the entire school community: students, parents, and teachers.

Last March, an IB Asia-Pacific Representative, Ms. Julie Lawton, Elementary Principal at Beijing Community School, conducted a "Preliminary Visit," identifying QISS' philosophical basis, organization, pedagogy, and

L.S. Principal (continued)

an IB education available to students of all ages.

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

I will be offering workshops to parents this coming September that go into more depth about IB and PYP, and how exactly it will benefit you as parents, your (our) children, and the greater good of the school. I promise to have translators available for Chinese and Korean parents.

After submitting the "Notice of Intention," to the IB office, our school began the "Feasibility Study," (November – April, 2008), where we reviewed PYP materials, examined the PYP philosophy and curriculum to determine how it may be interpreted and applied at QISS; in addition, both myself and Keith Snider, Grade 5 teacher, attended workshops in Hong Kong to get a

compatibility to PYP philosophies and requirements. A full written report was then submitted to the IB headquarters.

Last month, I received notification that the IBO has accepted QISS as an official "IB Candidate School." This means that we now begin the formal implementation phase of the program, which entails a lot of teacher training, establishing "Units of Inquiry," as well as further intensive curriculum development. In September, 2009, a Pre-Authorization visit by IB Representatives will provide additional support, suggestions, recommendations, etc. The tentative 'Authorization Visit' is scheduled for September, 2010.

Teachers will work daily throughout the year on developing and executing PYP "Units of Inquiry", (I'll explain more about these later), collaborating with other teachers in putting together meaningful, substantial lessons, as well as continuing to incorporate all of our other "good practices," viz. Guided Reading, 6 + 1 Traits of Writing, effective ESL instruction, "Authentic Instruction," Key Assignments, etc.

Most of the Lower School teachers will be receiving PYP training this September 13 – 16, in Hong Kong and Singapore. We will also have training for the entire Lower School staff (including specialists and teacher assistants) for two days in February. In addition, at least one half-day per month will involve additional training and construction of PYP units of instruction.

Yes, lots of work, but it's exciting, because we know it's so beneficial for our students!

I realize this letter has become a bit lengthy; actually, my intention was simply to welcome you back, and to welcome all new parents and students. Please feel free to stop by and visit anytime! ☺

Sharon Ammerman

My name is Sharon Ammerman and I am looking forward to teaching the QISS 2008-2009 Grade 4 class. I received an Ed.M. in English for Speakers of Other Languages and a B.A. in International Studies, as well as teaching certification, at SUNY University at Buffalo, located in my snowy hometown of Buffalo, New York, U.S.A. I have applied the tenets of my research area, Multicultural Education, while teaching ESL in the U.S. and China at all grade levels. I love learning, language, kids, and culture, and I know this will be a fabulous school year!





Verena Theimel

Guten Tag! My name is Verena Theimel and I am from Stuttgart, Germany. I love to explore other countries: I have lived in Australia as a child and was an Au Pair in the United States. Working in China is truly exciting for me! This year I am going to be teaching ESL for the 4th grade and will start the German program at QISS.

In my free time I like to meet friends, read and scrapbook photo albums.

This is an incredible opportunity for me- and I will put in all my effort to make this year's school life outstanding for the kids as well.

I will be teaching first grade at QISS. More than twenty years ago I began teaching in California. I taught fifth, fourth, second, first, and kindergarten classes. Then in 2003, I began teaching overseas at Shekou International School in Shekou, China, which is near Hong Kong. At SIS I worked for three years as a first grade teacher. Next, I moved to Suzhou Singapore International School in Suzhou, China, which is near Shanghai. I worked for two years at SSIS. My first year, I was a first grade teacher, and last school year I worked as a kindergarten teacher at SSIS. Now I am pleased to join the wonderful staff here at QISS.

I look forward in meeting every parent of each of my first grade students. Each parent is welcome to visit our classroom and I hope to maintain effective communication between us. I am expecting a fabulous school year working with YOUR CHILD and you here at QISS.

EACH CHILD IS A UNIQUE LEARNING INDIVIDUAL

Alberto Gutierrez



Allen Miles

Hi! My name is Mr. Allen R. Miles and I come from Buffalo, New York. Buffalo is the 24th largest city in America, and we are famous for cold winters, hot chicken wings, and record snowfall (over 4.82 meters per year!).

I will be teaching art, coaching boys' basketball, as well as helping put together the art calendar. I have lived in Okayama, Japan, and twice in Taipei, and have traveled much of North and South America. My sculpture and paintings reflect my time spent in Asia, and I am very excited to teach ceramics and how to "throw" pots on the potters' wheel.

I love to explore new places, and I look forward to learning more about the country with the longest continuous history in the world, China!

U.S. Principal (continued)

record the term and definition in their own words, draw a picture or representation of the term, and rate their own understanding of the word. Terms will be reinforced in Communication Skills courses.

Communication Skills Classes

Communication Skills courses will continue this year but they have been restructured. Courses will meet by grade level rather than by language level. This will facilitate the reinforcing of grade-level vocabulary and assignments. Students will also receive individualized feedback on their writing skills and will be required to read several books of their choosing at an appropriately challenging level.

More Elective Options

High school students will have two elective periods this year. New courses include Extended Essay writing, Media Studies, and Computer Graphics. We will also continue to offer the college course Philosophy 111: Critical Thinking and Writing, in conjunction with Santa Barbara City College. Other elective courses include PE, Art, Choir, Chinese, video production, ESL, and Yearbook.

English Only Policy

Whether to have an "English-Only" policy is the subject of heated debate at International schools around the world. Last year, QISS had a "red-card" policy for speaking any language other than English. This year we will no longer enforce the red-card policy. However, we will closely monitor students' use of language. It is appropriate and necessary for students to use their native tongue to define, clarify, elaborate, and compute numbers in math. At other times, English will be the common language of the school. Students will be expected to use English when working with each other in class. It is never OK to switch languages to exclude, tease, or bully another student. 🌈

New Face for the Library

Welcome back to the new school year! This year the library will use the automated system that we started working on last school year.

The borrowing process and looking up books will be much easier for students and teachers. Students can look up books to support their learning from any computer at school with ease. Teachers will also be able to search for all kinds of library resources from their desktop computers. This will not only improve student support but also help us build better resources for years to come.

Additionally, we now have ten computers in the library for research. Students will be able to do research with computers and other materials in the library. Another great step forward!

This school year, your child will be

able to borrow three books at a time from the library. All books are due in 14 days.

We would like to encourage every student to use the school's Library Bag to carry library books between home and school. The bag will help protect books from dust and sunlight. In case of rain, we recommend students put their library bag in their school backpack.

All your support will help us maintain books in good condition for the better development of our learning environment.

Enjoy reading everyone! 📖



Mal Arnold
Librarian



Lisa Woo

I am happy to be here in China, in the land of my ancestors. I was born in Vancouver, Canada but I have been living and teaching overseas for many years. I am the new PE teacher here at QISS working with Mr Dominic.

I hope to learn Mandarin while I am here and I also hope to enjoy all that Qingdao and China have to offer !

David Cotter

I'm an American from Michigan, and I've lived in China for three years teaching English, first in Shanxi province, then in Suzhou, in Jiangsu Province. I graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a teaching certificate and a double major in history and social studies.

I love chess, strategy games, travel, music, hiking, biking, kung fu.



Hello everyone! My name is Hector Flores and I am from Oregon. I enjoy photography and traveling. Prior to coming to wonderful Qingdao, I spent 3 years in Suzhou. I am married and have a little girl named Maya.

I am looking forward to this year and meeting the wonderful students of QISS!



Hector Flores

Paul Crowder

My name is Paul Crowder and I will be teaching 6th grade math and science and 8th grade language arts and social studies. My home is in Seattle, Washington (U.S.A.) but my wife and I have spent the past two years teaching in the city of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Working as an international teacher has allowed us the unique opportunity to travel the world and experience many different cultures first hand. Many of the things that interest me have to do with the out of doors such as kite flying, hiking, skiing, windsurfing, backpacking and whitewater river rafting. I have heard great things about the students at Q.I.S.S. and look forward to working with them in the upcoming school year.