

Upcoming Events

Sep. 15-16 Moon Festival Holiday
 Sep. 20 Int'l Picnic
 Oct. 1-3 National Holiday

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Vocabulary Notebooks:

6 Steps to a Larger Vocabulary

The average 6-year-old has a working vocabulary of about 5000 words and continues to learn about 3000 words per year. Adults know approximately 50,000 words.



Peter Burnside
U.S. Principal

I have often wondered how we maximize our learning experience

to be sure our students keep up a rigorous pace of vocabulary learning. This year we have launched a 6-step program for learning and practicing new academic vocabulary.

Central to the program are the vocabulary notebook (see diagram) and practice with the terms. All upper school students have been given three vocabulary notebooks to get started. In most cases, the students will have one book for Math/Science vocabulary, one for Language Arts/Social Studies, and one for special courses. The steps for learning vocabulary are as follows:

1. The teacher provides a description, explanation, or example of the new term.
2. The students write the term and restate the description or explanation in their own words. They write this description in their notebooks.
3. Students construct a picture, symbol, or graphic representation of the term.

Continued on page 3

New QISS Campus



Jeff Fischmann
Director

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new QISS campus was held on August 28.

It has been announced that the new campus will be ready to occupy in 2009. The new campus will be located on Songling Road about 4 km from our present location and right next to the new campus of Ocean University.

The Municipal Government of Qingdao will build a modern international school campus that is designed to accommodate up to 2000 foreign students in grades pre-K to 12th. Of course it will take many years before the school can grow to that size. The design group has promised to meet with parents and students to gather their ideas before the final plans are complete.

We will keep the community updated as new information becomes available to us. The drawings of the new campus will be made available on the school's website: www.qiss.org.cn



Homework and Your Child: Developing a Home-School Partnership

Learning at home is an essential part of any good education, and Q I S S acknowledges the importance of consistent and meaningful homework assignments.



Tim Green
L.S. Principal

As you know, homework gives students the opportunity to practice at home the tasks done in class, and helps the students work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become

confident and independent in their learning, which will be of benefit throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

At the primary ages, the focus of homework should be on the important skills of literacy and numeracy. Regular reading at home, especially reading with parents, is encouraged.

Older students in the Lower School are given other tasks, such as finding and preparing information, or being assigned a traditional writing task. This helps prepare students for the transfer into secondary school.

Continued on page 2

International Day Celebration at QISS

Our upcoming International Picnic is at QISS on **September 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Come and join the fun as one big family at this colorful and joyous event, which promotes the QISS community spirit.

Please bring the colors and excitement of your home country to this celebration by dressing in traditional dress/costume. In addition, please bring with you samples of the delicious tastes from your home country.

A shuttle bus will be provided for everyone from the main gate to our campus. The shuttle bus will operate as needed from 10:45 to 14:00.



L.S. Principal (continued)

Yuki, G11



At the secondary level, the emphasis is on consolidating learning and completing various in-school projects.

Research suggests that children should spend 10 minutes per grade level on homework. For example: Grade 1 = 10 minutes; Grade 3 = 30 minutes, etc.

What is Homework?

There are basically three types of homework that are commonly assigned from teachers at QIS, and they can be referred to as: practice, preparation, and extension.

Practice Assignments

Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills or knowledge. Students who have learned about a particular writing skill, for example, may be asked to write an essay applying the recent learning. These assignments are most effective when carefully evaluated by the teacher, and matched to the ability and background of the individual student.

Preparation Assignments

Intended to provide background information, these assignments can include readings in the class textbook, internet research, collecting materials for a class demonstration, and other

activities requiring the gathering or organizing of information before a class discussion or demonstration. For effective preparation, teachers include guidelines on why and how the assignment should be completed.

Extension Assignments

These assignments encourage individualized and creative learning by emphasizing student initiative and research. This type of homework is frequently long-term, with projects that parallel classwork. Extension assignments require students to apply previous learning.

Lucy, G11



Homework may be overbearing at times for busy parents and children. But it is clearly the key to school success. Homework reinforces classroom learning and shows teachers that students want to succeed. But how can busy parents help?

Understand that your children are responsible for their homework, but you can help them with organization.

Set a regular study time for homework and stick to it. For example, study right after school or dinner. Have a beginning time and an ending time. If

your child finishes early, have him read until the set ending time.

Provide a quiet place for study. Do not have the television on in the background.

Provide necessary materials to complete homework assignments (i.e., paper, pencils, calculator, reference books, computer, etc.)

Help your child with organization by continuously reviewing their QIS Weekly Planners with them.

Encourage your child to take notes concerning homework assignments at school.

After the homework is completed, check the assignments.

Praise your child's efforts.

As a team, teachers, parents and students work together to ensure that learning continues at an optimum level. The responsibility of each child's education is jointly shared by each team player, and together, we celebrate each child's success! 🌈

Mary, G9

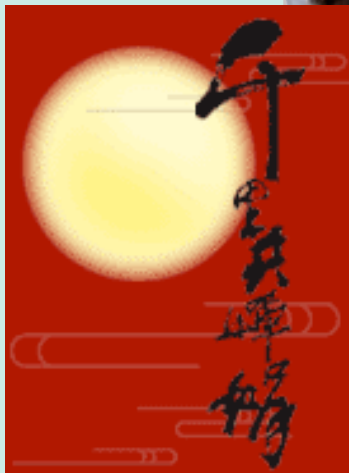


The Moon Festival

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar, the moon is round and the Chinese people mark their Moon (or Mid-autumn) Festival. In the Western calendar, the day of the festival usually occurred sometime between the second week of September and the second week of October. The round shape to Chinese means family reunion. Therefore the Moon Festival is a holiday for members of a family to get together wherever it is possible.

This day was also considered a harvest festival since fruits, vegetables and grain had been harvested by this time and food was abundant. With delinquent accounts settled prior to the festival, it was a time for relaxation and celebration.

F o o d
offerings
w e r e
placed on
an altar set
up in the
courtyard.
A p p l e s ,
p e a r s ,
p e a c h e s ,
g r a p e s ,
p o m e g r a n
a t e s ,
m e l o n s ,
o r a n g e s
and pomelos
might be seen.
Special foods
for the festival
included
moon cakes.



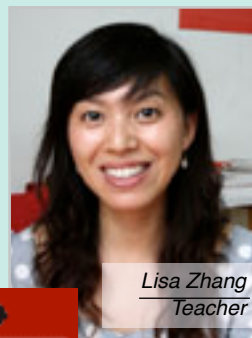
The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional festivity for both the Han and minority nationalities. The custom of worshipping the moon (called xi yue in Chinese) can be traced back as far as the ancient Xia and Shang Dynasties (2000 B.C.-1066 B.C.).

In the Zhou Dynasty (1066-221 B.C.), people hold ceremonies to greet winter and worship the moon whenever the Mid-Autumn Festival sets in. It becomes very prevalent in the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) that people enjoy and worship the full moon.

BaiLee, G9

In the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279 A.D.), however, people send round moon cakes to their relatives as gifts in expression of their best wishes of family reunion. When it becomes dark, they look up at the full silver moon or go sightseeing on lakes to celebrate the festival.

Since the Ming (1368-1644 A.D.) and Qing Dynasties (1644-1911A.D.), the custom of Mid-Autumn Festival celebration becomes unprecedented popular. Together with the celebration



there appear some special customs in different parts of the country, such as burning incense, planting Mid-Autumn trees, lighting lanterns on towers and fire dragon dances.

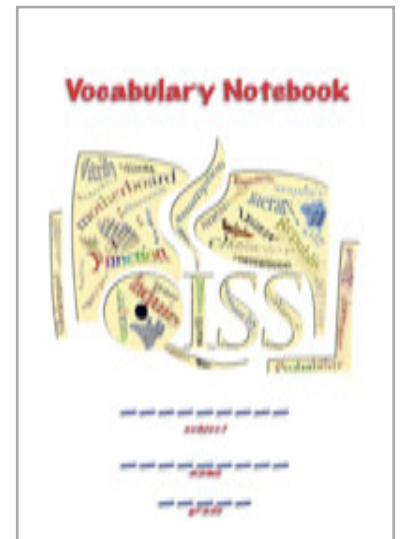
However, the custom of playing under the moon is not so popular as it used to be nowadays, but it is not less popular to enjoy the bright silver moon. Whenever the festival sets in, people will look up at the full silver moon, drinking wine to celebrate their happy life or thinking of their relatives and friends far from home, and extending all of their best wishes to them.

Today, festivities centered about the Mid-Autumn Festival are more varied. After a family reunion dinner, many people like to go out to attend special performances in parks or on public squares. In South China, a huge lantern show is a big attraction for local citizens. Thousands of differently shaped lanterns are lit, forming a fantastic contrast with the bright moonlight. 🌕



U.S. Principal (continued)

4. Students are periodically engaged in practice and review activities that help them add to their knowledge of the terms in their notebooks
5. Students periodically discuss the terms with each other
6. Students periodically play vocabulary games which reinforce the terms.



Providing long lists of vocabulary words and asking students to look up the definitions does not work. The 6-step approach leads to retention and understanding because students have numerous opportunities to use words in meaningful ways.

Here are a few examples of Step 4, which allow students to deepen their meaning of words.

Making Analogies:
Bone is to Skeleton as word is to _____.

Comparing Terms:
Monarchy and Dictatorship are similar because...
Monarchy and Dictatorship are different because...

You can help you child by asking him or her to compare and contrast two terms from his or her vocabulary notebook. 🌕