

Up Coming Events

- Apr 13Half-day Inservice
- Apr 17 U.S. Report Card#3
- Apr 20-24 Festival of Words
- Apr 24 L.S. Report Card (Unit 5)
- Apr 29-30 Parent-Teacher Conf
(1/2 Day of School)

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Preparations for the Future

Preparations for the 2009-2010 school year are well underway. Compared to past experiences, QISS will have a lower turnover of teachers this year. I greatly appreciate the many contributions made by of our departing teachers as they move on in their careers.



Director: Jeffrey Fischmann

Services (ISS) and Search Associates. These well-established agencies only represent qualified international school teachers. Staffing for the next school year was completed during my recent recruitment trip. I interviewed teachers who had traveled from all over the world to

attend recruitment fairs in Thailand, Hong Kong, the United States and Canada. The new teachers joining us next year will bring with them a wide diversity of skills, experiences and languages to further enrich our program.

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QISS primarily recruits teacher candidates who have registered their employment files with International School

Earth hour was first celebrated in Sidney, Australia in 2007. It is an annual international event created

by WWF (The World Wide Fund for Nature/ World Wildlife Fund). The main purpose of this event is to save energy to prevent Global Warming. Another goal is to raise awareness and educate people about climate change. QISS will have its own Earth Hour on Thursday April 16 from 2:30-3:30.

Earth Hour

Mathematical Reasoning at QISS

When a student applies mathematical reasoning, each student, of any age, engages to explain, discuss and understand math concepts. The act of mathematical reasoning promotes higher level thinking skills because each child reflects on his or her understanding of the math topic, the math lesson or the math concept. As a result, students can explain to others their logic and the path taken to solve a math problem. When a student explains his or her thinking strategy, that student participates in effective communication skills. As parents, you

can engage your child in discussing how an answer was obtained through his or her thought process. It is felt that the thought process and explanations of the understanding is vital to grasping math concepts well.



L.S. Principal: Tim Green

Confidence grows as students easily explain their thinking process. As children discuss and explain their understanding, students become confident and take many risks as they tackle more complex problems. At QISS stu-



Jane, G11

Earth hour takes place every year on the last Saturday of March. This year, Earth Hour was from 8:30pm to 9:30pm, Saturday, March 28, 2009. During this event, people turned off all lights and electric appliances for an hour. Most people decides to use candle-light during Earth Hour. This year,

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Director (Continued)

In regards to our program, our faculty is engaged in reviewing, clarifying and strengthening our curriculum. We will be making several critical improvements to the way our instructional program is being delivered and assessed.

Progress in implementing the IB Primary Years Program (PYP) continues at a brisk pace and the school hopes to obtain full authorization by end of the next school year. The Upper School will study the feasibility of implementing in future years the IB Middle Years Program (grades 6 - 10) and the Diploma Program (grades 11 and 12). This plan is in line with the recent decision by the Board of Trustees to implement the entire IB program within the next five years.

These programs require substantial investments that will greatly invigorate our academic and extracurricular programs and thereby result in making our students stronger candidates for admission to excellent universities worldwide.



Jakub, G4, Chinese Painting

In regards to the new campus, progress on construction continues at a rapid pace. We plan to occupy the new facility sometime in the fall when, of course, it is safe to do so. The exact dates for the move have not yet been determined. We will keep the community informed as these dates come into focus.

In early May, our accreditation agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), will send a team to evaluate the school's progress in implementing its 5 Year Action Plan. The team will be headed by Dr. David Brown, the Executive Director of WASC. During the WASC team's visit, we will be meeting with the top officials in the Qingdao Municipal Government who are charged with overseeing the construction of the new campus. At that time we hope to obtain a much clearer picture of when we will be able to move. We will keep the community informed of all new developments.

Earth Hour (Continued)

hundreds of cities took part around the world. If you missed it, you can have your own Earth Hour at home any time. Instead of using electricity why not:

- Take a walk in the moonlight.
- Talk to your parents about other ways your family can help the earth.
- Enjoy dining by candlelight.
- Sing or play a musical instrument with family or friends.
- Take up knitting.
- Ask your parents what life was like when they were kids.
- Use your imagination.



U.S. Principal:
Peter Burnside

On Thursday, April 16, from 2:30-3:30, QISS will have its own Earth Hour. Lights, computers, and other electric appliances will be turned off at this time. We're looking forward to using our imaginations, talking to each other, reading by natural light, making our own music, and using pencil and paper, just like the good old days.

Mathematical Reasoning (Continued)

dents engage in effective mathematical reasoning as they discuss their understanding with others or in a self-reflection paper. Each component of the mathematical reasoning process challenges students, which is the goal at QISS: provide a challenging program.

Understanding and the thinking process are inseparable in mathematical reason at QISS. Each child tackles developmentally and appropriately complex math problems. Math problems that involve higher level thinking skills require more than just great computational skills. Mathematical reasoning involves a person's thinking process. On the other hand, computational skills lean heavily to someone's memory skills, which can be called rote memorization. For college bound and internationally minded global citizens, the higher level thinking skills develop effective problem solving skills. Thus, teachers at QISS promote, guide and develop mathematical reasoning in all students.



Teacher: Alberto Gutierrez

Can mathematical reasoning be developed and guided at home? Yes, parents can engage in discussions at home. Each family can engage and participate in children's learning by asking questions regarding their understanding and how the problem was solved through his or her thinking process. Does it need to be done in English? Naturally, a child that can communicate in more than one language is better prepared as a thinker and as a positive influence in making this world a better place for everyone. Thus, it is perfectly advisable to engage your child in mathematical reasoning in the child's mother tongue(s). However, at QISS, we encourage communication in English because it is our school's common language, and children actually learn best from each other under the guidance of teachers.

All parents can help both in the learning process and the development of English by encouraging children to communicate in English within the QISS campus. We acknowledge that there are times a child must rely on his or her mother tongue for the understanding of a critical piece of the math lesson or of the math concept. They may need assistance from a more experienced peer. That type of interaction is encouraged and promoted at QISS, too. The goal is for all students to gain knowledge and understanding in a challenging program.

All in all, the mathematical reasoning process is alive within our campus at QISS. This process builds confidence in all students. Mathematical reasoning engages all students in higher level thinking skills and communication skills. At home mathematical reasoning can also be encouraged and developed through family interactions and family conversations. As we put all the pieces together, children understand what they are learning through the thinking process at QISS.

Sharing similar philosophies about mathematical reasoning and student learning, Alberto Gutierrez and Tim Green collaborated on this article. As the new school year approaches, Mr. Alberto and Mr. Green discuss many issues that affect student learning. In this way, there will be a smooth transition when Mr. Alberto Gutierrez assumes the role of lower school principal beginning in August.

Science Fair Date Changed

This year's QISS Science Fair was originally scheduled to be held on Saturday, 4 April 2009.

However, this date coincides with the Chinese National Holiday Tomb Sweeping Day.

*Therefore, **the date of the Science Fair has been moved to Saturday, 9 May 2009.***

This gives the students more time to prepare quality scientific projects.

We apologize for any inconvenience this switch may cause. We thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Counselor's Corner

SAT Prep at QISS

QISS is now providing a full SAT preparation program to high school students. This service was recently added to the Naviance career and college guidance program. By logging into Naviance from the QISS web site, students are able to access the SAT lessons and practice questions at any time. Students can identify specific weaknesses, learn how to approach each type of question, take full-length practice tests, build vocabulary, and more.



Counselor:
David Addicott

College Visits

On April 14, QISS will be hosting two college representatives. Students will have an opportunity to hear about the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada as well as Raffles University which has campuses in Asia, Australian and New Zealand. This is an excellent opportunity

for our students to learn about some different possibilities for their college education.

Admission Note

Re-enrollment survey forms are being sent home on Friday, April 3. These need to be signed and returned to QISS by April 13. Any parent who wants to enroll a NEW student for the 2009-2010 school year, should submit an application by the end of April to be sure of securing a place.



Sandy, G7, Chinese Painting

Festival Of Words

***Coming this April 20th, QISS will celebrate its
6th annual Festival of Words.***

*This is an opportunity for students to showcase their
achievements in English. There are many different formats
represented: creative writing, poetry readings,
satirical essays, plays, readings, games, and spelling bees.*

*All parents are encouraged to come and see the activities
that will be going on throughout the week.*

*A detailed schedule will be sent home
as Festival of Words draws closer.*

Come join the fun!

Tomb Sweeping Festival

Tomb-Sweeping Day is a time to remember the dead and the dearly departed. More importantly, it is a period to honor and to pay respect to one's deceased ancestors and family members. Because it reinforces the ethic of filial piety, Qing Ming is a major Chinese festival.



Literally meaning "clear" (Qing) and "bright" (Ming), this Chinese festival falls in early spring, on the 106th day after the winter solstice. It is a "spring" festival, and it is an occasion for the whole family to leave the home and to sweep the graves of their forebears. Chinese being practical people this sweeping of the graves is given an extended period, that is, 10 days before and after Qing Ming day. Among some dialect groups a whole month is allocated.



Counselor:
David Addicott

Tomb Sweeping Day is one of the few traditional Chinese holidays that follows the solar calendar--typically falling on April 4, 5, or 6. Its Chinese name "Qing Ming" literally means "Clear Brightness," hinting at its importance as a celebration of Spring. Similar to the spring festivals of other cultures, Tomb Sweeping Day celebrates the rebirth of nature, while marking the beginning of the planting season and other outdoor activities.

Qing Ming Jie in Ancient Times

In ancient times, people celebrated Qing Ming Jie with dancing, singing, picnics, and kite flying. Colored boiled eggs would be broken to symbolize the opening of life. In the capital, the Emperor would plant trees on the palace grounds to celebrate the renewing nature of spring. In the villages, young men and women would court each other.

The Tomb Sweeping Day as Celebrated Today

With the passing of time, this celebration of life became a day to the honor past ancestors. Following folk religion, the Chinese believed that the spirits of deceased ancestors looked after the family. Sacrifices of food and spirit money could keep them happy, and the family would prosper through good harvests and more children.

Today, Chinese visit their family graves to tend to any underbrush that has grown. Weeds are pulled, and dirt swept away, and the family will set out offerings of food and spirit money. Unlike the sacrifices at a family's home altar, the offerings at the tomb usually consist of dry, bland food.

Honoring Ancestors

Honoring ancestors begins with proper positioning of a gravesite and coffin. Experts in feng shui, or geomancy, determine the quality of land by the surrounding aspects of streams, rivers, trees, hills, and so forth. An area that faces south, with groves of pine trees creates the best flow of cosmic energy required to keep ancestors happy. nowadays, with China's bur-



Jackline, G7, Chinese Painting

geoning population, public cemeteries have quickly supplanted private gravesites. Family elders will visit the gravesite at least once a year to tend to the tombs.

Kites

Besides the traditions of honoring the dead, people also often fly kits on Tomb Sweeping Day. Kites can come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, and colors. Designs could include frogs, dragonflies, butterflies, crabs, bats, and storks.



April 3, 2009

Dear QISS Parent(s),

The 2008-2009 school year is quickly coming to an end. The foreign resident population in Qingdao continues to grow and we have been receiving new student applications almost daily. Next year we expect to have full enrollment in most classes. Before we make any decisions regarding new student admissions, however, we need to know if you are intending to re-enroll your child at QISS for the 2009-2010 school year.

In order to secure your child's space at QISS for the next school year, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you fill out the form on the reverse side of this letter. If you check either "YES" or "UNCERTAIN," your child's space will be reserved pending receipt of all tuition and fees. A detailed letter regarding payment of tuition and fees for the 2009-2010 school year will be sent to you in mid-April as well as posted on our web site.

Only after we receive all the completed re-enrollment forms, will we be able to determine the availability of space for next year's new admissions, so please return them to the school no later than **Monday, April 13**. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

David Addicott
Counselor and Director of Admissions
daddicott@qiss.org.cn
8890-9801 or 8890-9802 (for Korean or Chinese speakers)



Re-Enrollment Survey for the 2009-2010 School Year

(Please check the box that applies and return to QISS no later than Monday, April 13)

(请在下面的方格中打勾并在星期一4月13日前交予QISS)

(4월 13일, 월요일 전까지 내용을 작성하셔서 제출하십시오.)

Name of Student: _____ Current Grade: _____

YES, I will be re-enrolling my child at QISS for the 2009-2010 school year.
是, 2009-2010学年我的孩子会继续留在QISS。
네, 제 아이는 2009-2010학년도에 재 등록을 할것입니다.

NO, I will not be re-enrolling my child at QISS for the 2009-2010 school year. **Do not mark this box unless you are certain that you are leaving!**
不, 2009-2010学年我的孩子不会留在QISS。 (在确定要离开时, 再选择此项。)
아니오, 제 아이는2009-2010학년도에 재 등록을 하지 않을 것입니다. 아주 확실하게 재 등록을 하지 않을 경우에만 여기에 표시하십시오

I AM UNCERTAIN, at this point in time, if I will be re-enrolling my child(ren) at QISS for the 2009-2010 school year.
不确定, 暂时, 还不能确定我的孩子 2009-2010学年是否继续留在QISS
지금 현재로서는, 제 아이(들)가2009-2010학년도 QISS에 재 등록할 지 확실하지 않습니다.

If you are not yet certain of your plans, please inform the school as soon as you do know, for sure, whether or not your children will return.

如果现在您还不确定, 请在确定转学或续读之后尽快通知我校。

현재 내년도 재 등록이 확실치 않은 경우에는, 상황이 확실시 되는 대로, 자녀의 재등록 여부를 빠른 시간 내에 학교에 알려주시기 바랍니다.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ASK YOUR CHILD TO RETURN THIS SURVEY TO THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 13.

让您的孩子在星期一, 也就是4月13日前, 将这个调查表交给他们的班主任。

이 양식은 학교 담임교사에게 늦어도 4월 13일, 월요일 전까지 제출되어야 합니다.

Or, you can send the survey information by email to: daddicott@qiss.org.cn

您也可以将此表发邮件到: daddicott@qiss.org.cn

또는, 다음의 전자 메일을 통해, 이 양식의 내용을 다음의 전자 메일을 통해 보내셔도 됩니다. daddicott@qiss.org.cn