

Up Coming Events

- Feb 11 End of 2nd Quarter
- Feb 13 U.S. Report Card #2
- Feb 16, 17 Teacher Inservice Day

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A Momentous New Year

The Year of the Ox will present QISS with many challenges and opportunities. The new campus should be ready to occupy in the fall of 2009. The exact target date is September 1st and it is quite possible this target will be met. Construction of the new campus is progressing quite rapidly now and it promises to be a fantastic facility when completed. Once it is safe to do so, we will schedule tours for the community to see for itself.



We have received confirmation that our accreditation agency, the Western As-



Director: Jeff Fischmann

sociation of Schools and Colleges (WASC), will visit QISS on May 7 and 8. The head of the visiting team will be Dr. David Brown,

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Interesting + Exciting = Learning

Last week I asked students to describe a time when they felt in charge of their learning—A time when they were working hard not for a grade, but because they were so interested and excited about what they were learning. By reading their responses carefully, we can understand our students better, and learn how to have more students more excited more of the time. Here’s a sample of what students had to say:



U.S. Principal: Peter Burnside

“Last year in Mr. Johnson’s communications class we put on a production of Cinderella. We were learning, but having a fun time doing it. We all ended up getting good grades, but that didn’t even matter because we all had fun do-

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What Do We Want Our Students to Feel, Value, and Demonstrate?



L.S. Principal: Tim Green

At QISS, we recognize the importance of knowledge, concepts, and skills, yet we know that these alone do not make an internationally minded person. It is important to also focus on the development of personal attitudes towards people, our environment, and towards learning itself. The IB-PYP Programme has developed a list of value-laden attitudes that contribute to the well-being of the individual and of a group. We as a school have adopted these attitudes, and we encourage students to demonstrate these characteristics in their daily lives in order to raise an awareness of, and build an appreciation for them.

The PYP Attitudes:

Appreciation: Appreciating the wonder and beauty of the world and its people.

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L.S. Principal (Continued)

Commitment: Being committed to their own learning, persevering and showing self-discipline and responsibility.

Confidence: Feeling confident in their ability as learners, having the courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate decisions and choices.

Cooperation: Cooperating, collaborating, and leading or following as the situation demands.

Creativity: Being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas.

Curiosity: Being curious about the nature of learning, about the world, its people and cultures.

Empathy: Imagining themselves in another's situation in order to understand his or her reasoning and emotions, so as to be open-minded and reflective about the perspectives of others.

Enthusiasm: Enjoying learning and willingly putting the effort into the process.

Independence: Thinking and acting independently, making their own judgments based on reasoned argument, and being able to defend their judgments.

Integrity: Being honest and demonstrating a considered sense of fairness.

Respect: Respecting themselves, others and the world around them.

Tolerance: Being sensitive about differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others.

As educators, we believe that education must extend beyond the intellectual - to include not only socially responsible attitudes, but also thoughtful and appropriate actions. Successful inquiry should lead to responsible actions, initiated by

the students as a result of the learning process. These actions will extend the students' learning. At QISS, teachers offer students the opportunities and power to choose to act responsibly, to decide on their actions, and to reflect on these actions in order to make a difference in and to the world. It's good practice; after all, we realize that our young learners are the very same leaders in our future.

Director (Continued)

who is the Executive Director and highest officer within the WASC organization. This is extremely good news for the school.

WASC has been very instrumental in helping QISS chart its course into the future. In June, 2008, WASC granted QISS a three year term of accreditation until June, 2011. The formal letter of accreditation and the WASC report is available on the school's website.

QISS has a rather unique status among the international schools in China as it enjoys a level of financial and political support from the local government that is quite unusual.

However, our particular model may become more common in the future and this is one of the reasons that WASC is particularly interested in our school's development. During these challenging economic times, it is reassuring to know that the long-term stability of the school is secure.



Zion, G3: Water Color

Guten Morgen

I am very pleased to introduce myself to you and tell you about the German program that I set off at QISS at the beginning of this school year.

I am teaching German speaking children in four small groups that have been grouped by age. Even though their language levels are very diverse, they manage given tasks with individual problem solving strategies.

One group is from outside QISS and gets two hours of German on Fridays and the youngest group from PreK and Kindergarten comes in three times a week

during the school day, while the other two groups from Middle and High School get two hours during the week after regular school hours.

All my students already know German, but in the future it would be nice to have students to start German as a foreign language at QISS, too!

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions about the German program or would like to see some of the students' work.

Auf Wiedersehen und bis bald!



German Teacher: Verena Theimel

Science Fair

This year's QISS Science Fair will take place on April 4, 2009.

The Science Fair is an exciting event for the entire school! Students demonstrate their scientific inquiry skills by performing experiments and presenting the results.

This year's Science Fair focus is on the steps of the Scientific Method. Students will learn what the Scientific Method is and how to properly implement it while doing experiments.

Now is a great time to start thinking and planning for the perfect Science Fair project! To help you get started, visit these websites: <http://www.sciencebuddies.org>, <http://www.kids-science-experiments.com/>.

Happy experimenting!

U.S. Principal (Continued)

ing it. It's in those projects that I learn the most and do the best." --Victoria, G11

"Being in charge of the Global Issues Group has been teaching me loads. I have no teacher that tells me what to do and I get no grade for my actions. But having so many students join makes me happy and shows me that I am doing my job well. I learn from every decision and I am always happy when it is Tuesday again. I have learned how to take leadership, made decisions, and think for myself." --Onnika, G11

"I think I felt in charge of my learning when I started to learn about the history of Rome and Egypt. I was really excited and happy I was focusing in class and I finished my all of my homework. I love history of Rome the most." --Angela, G8

"The time when I felt in charge of my learning in school was when I did Sponge Bob typing in computer class with Mr. Arnold. The reason was the Sponge Bob typing was so much fun and it was very simple to learn about English typing. I practiced my typing and tested how fast it was. My fastest speed of was 30WPM. I want to Install Sponge bob typing at home and practice more." --Eric, G7

"When I learned about global warming I was very excited and interested because I like to know new information about global warming. Also I like to help the world to be better." --Julia, G7



Jennifer, G4: Water Color

"I remember that last quarter the LA Key Assignment really interested me. We were supposed to write about the similarities and differences between the struggles of the African Americans and the South Africans. I have always loved history. I have a biography of martin Luther King Jr. at home. I admire him and Nelson Mandela a lot for their courage and determination for freedom. I did my best with the essay because the topic was just great. I really enjoyed it! I was rewarded with an awesome grade but that didn't really matter to me. I was just happy, I enjoyed the experience so much!" --Saskia, G8

"The time I feel interested and excited in school is during the music period. During that time I feel joy and interest in learning. As I learn new songs and improve my vocal skills, I really get the feeling learning music fits to me and dissolves all my melancholy. I really like music." --Sera, G7

Thank You

High School Choir greatly appreciates the QISS community for supporting the music trip fundraising activity. We have been able to reach very close to our goal. You have helped provide our students with an experience and a great opportunity to perform songs in Hong Kong. Our students will rehearse and perform A. Vivaldi's "Gloria" with other international schools from various places.

Thanks again for your wonderful support!

Festival Of Words

***Coming this April, 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!

PAC News

To see the results of the Book Fair Survey please [click here](#).

***The PAC would like to wish everyone a Happy Chinese
New Year and a great holiday!***



Johnie, Pre-K: Water Color



Mirai, G1: Water Color

QISS China Day

On Jan 23, 2009, QISS will hold its annual China Day. On this day, our students can experience the traditional Chinese Spring Festival. It is also a chance for students to show their talents to the whole school community.

There will be plenty of cultural activities for students to watch, or participate in, including:

- *A guest artist show in the multifunctional room on the second floor from 12am until 1:50pm.
 - *The Chinese games are in Room 209.*
 - *Lantern riddles displayed in the lobby.*
 - *There will also be a Chinese calligraphy show, traditional paper cutting, traditional painting, candy apple making, Chinese magic, PAC Shop, and a chance to work with clay.*
 - *Lower school students are welcome from 12am until 1:20pm.*
 - *Upper school students can come from 12:30pm until 1.50pm.**
- *A performance by all the students of Chinese class and their teachers! This will be at No. 2 Middle School's Media Room from 2:10 to 3:10.*

Please note that:

- *All children should bring 10 or 20 RMB to buy snacks and souvenirs on China Day.*
- *Grades 1 and 2 should ALSO bring 25 RMB more for costume rental. Please turn it into their homeroom teacher on Jan 15th, 2009.*

We invite everyone- especially parents- to get in the spirit of China Day by dressing up in traditional Chinese clothing, and speaking Chinese if you can.

It will be a fun filled day of Chinese culture!

We hope to see you there.



Chinese Spring Festival: 过年 Guònián



Chinese New Year (Chinese: 春节, or 过年, Guònián), also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It consists of a period of celebrations, starting on New Year's Day, celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar, The Chinese New Year period ends with the Lantern Festival, the fifteenth day of the month.

The origin of the Lunar New Year Festival can be traced back thousands of years, Some Chinese believe that Nian was a reptilian predator that could infiltrate houses silently like the infamous man-eating leopards of India. The Chinese soon learned that Nian was sensitive to loud noises, and they scared it away with explosions and fireworks. To keep Nian away, red-paper couplets are pasted on doors, torches are lit, and firecrackers are set off throughout the night, because Nian is said to fear the color red, the light of fire, and loud noises. Early the next morning, as feelings of triumph and renewal fill the air at successfully keeping Nian away for another year, the most popular greeting heard is "gong xi fa cai", or "gongxigongxi", "guo nian hao".

The Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

A reunion dinner is held on New Year's Eve where members of the family, near and far, get together for celebration. The New Year's Eve dinner is very large and traditionally includes chicken. Fish is included, but not eaten up completely (and the remaining stored overnight), as the Chinese phrase "nian nian you yu", or "every year there is fish/leftover", is a homophone for phrases which could mean "be blessed every year" or "have profit every year", since "yu" is also the pronunciation for "profit".

The New Year's Eve celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors.

New Year's day is also celebrated within the family. Usually family members gather on the morning of New Year's Day. It is at this gathering that red packets are given to unmarried members of the family. Red packets are also given to unmarried visitors but the sums are often smaller than the packets given to family members or close friends.

Second Day of the New Year

The New Year celebrations ended on the 15th of the First Moon with the Lantern Festival. On the evening of that day, people carried lanterns into the streets to take part in a great parade. Young men would highlight the parade with a dragon dance. The dragon was made of bamboo, silk, and paper, and might stretch for more than hundred feet in length. The bobbing and weaving of the dragon was an impressive sight, and formed a fitting finish to the New Year festival. When is Chinese New Year celebrated?



Teacher: Lisa Zhang

Chinese New year is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar, which falls on the day of the second new moon after the day on which the winter solstice occurs, unless there is an intercalary eleventh or twelfth month in the lead-up to the New Year. In this case, the Chinese New Year falls on the day of the third new moon after the solstice. The next time this occurs is in 2033.

The New Year season lasts fifteen days. The first week is the most important and most often celebrated with visits to friends and family as well as greetings of good luck. The celebrations end on the important and Lantern Festival on the evening of the 15th day of the month.

