



Coming Events

- Oct 1-7: Autumn Festival and National Day Holiday
- Oct 14-15: Parent-Teacher Conferences (afternoon); Students dismissed at 1 p.m.
- Oct 22-25: ACAMIS Volleyball
- Oct 30: End of Quarter 1

The Heart of the Educational Program

Jeffrey Fischmann, Director

The entire community is eagerly awaiting the move to the new campus. I spent several hours walking around the new campus last week. It is breathtaking how much progress is being made on a daily basis. Hopefully, we will be able to conduct tours of the new facility in the latter part of October and we'll be able to occupy the new facility by the end of 2009. We will keep the community informed as to when it is ready to visit.

However, the buildings themselves are not the most important part of a school. What goes on inside the buildings is what is most important. This year the school's objective is to focus more diligently on fulfilling our stated mission to "provide a challenging academic program that develops the core characteristics of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence and compassion." The most important assessment tool we have to do so are the Key Assignments, which "require students to demonstrate all the elements of the

school's mission." This means the students must demonstrate that they have acquired all the necessary academic skills in their subject areas as well as the core characteristics.

At QISS we believe that knowledge and skills are, indeed, important. But what is more important than knowledge or skills is how we use our knowledge and skills. At QISS we greatly value the creative and imaginative use of knowledge and skills over the mere recall of information. This is the distinguishing aspect of our program.

We want parents to understand what their children are doing at school. The best way for parents to understand is for them to attend the Key Assign-

ments. Lower school parents are very good about doing so. However, we have had low attendance at upper school Key Assignments. Therefore, we urge all parents of upper school students to attend these Key Assignments whenever they can. Once your children can see that their teacher, the principals, the director and their parents are all paying attention to their performances, they will perform at a higher level. We invite all parents to join in our efforts to accomplish our school's mission and thereby bring about a more effective and meaningful program for their children.

Asking Good Questions For Understanding

Alberto Gutierrez, LS Principal

When we engage students in asking and answering meaningful questions, children communicate their understanding of an opinion, concept or lesson. Therefore, all teachers at QISS prepare worthwhile questions that challenge students in higher leveling thinking skills.

Throughout the day at QISS, teachers require students to actively participate in all subjects. Likewise, parents may also engage in this process at home by asking questions that require children

to analyze and reflect before answering. As students participate in answering challenging questions, they activate their acquired knowledge and make connections to questions.

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Jeffrey Fischmann, Director



PSAT--Preparing for the SAT

Peter Burnside, US Principal

The SAT is the well-known and often dreaded test of mathematical reasoning, critical reading, writing, and vocabulary used for college admissions in the United States and other countries. The full test takes 3 hours and 45 minutes. Students typically take the SAT for the first time in the spring of grade 11 and may retake the test in grade 12.

On October 14, all QISS students in grades 10 and 11 will take the PSAT, or Preliminary SAT. The PSAT is shorter (2 hours and 10 minutes) and slightly easier than the SAT, though it does contain actual SAT questions. Students will receive a detailed score report after taking the PSAT which will help guide their studies in preparation for the SAT.

One of the best ways to prepare for

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PAC

As you have maybe noticed the PAC continues activities in the current school year. We were happy to see you all during International Day and we are looking forward seeing you during following events.

For this school year the members of the PAC (and their spoken languages) are: Helene Lagendijk/van Oosterbosch (Dutch, English); Gwen Croix (French, English); Jana Halikova (Slovak, English); Marcela Lickova (Slovak, English), and new members are Satoko Takano (Japan, English); Aihua Gu (Chinese, English); and Jeong Sook (Korean, English).

The new school year has brought us new classroom parents too; they will be introduced in the next issue.

As we have 26 nationalities represented by students in the school, the recent idea of a **BOOK DONATION BOX** will help fill the shelves of the multilingual section in the school library so the students have opportunities to read books written in their first language or a language in which they are interested.

For more information about the PAC please see: <http://www.qiss.org.cn/pacsc.html>



Senen, Leah and Susan; My Community and Me



Mia, Robin and Anna; My Community and Me

Counselor's Corner

David Addicott, Counselor

This month, I will focus on the first of the **ESLR's** (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results or schoolwide goals). The complete wording for this **ESLR** is as follows.

QISS students will be Passionate/Active human beings who:

- Demonstrate a positive attitude, enthusiasm and active participation.
- Set and pursue personal goals with vitality and persistence.
- Seek intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

The first **ESLR** addresses **VITALITY** – one of the QISS Core Character Traits. We want students to be actively engaged in life, in the process of self improvement and achieving excellence. We want them to have energy, motivation and a sense of competence. And, we want students to know how to attend to their physical and emotional health, in order to remain energized, positive, and vital.

Tips for parents to help children become passionate/active human beings:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Notice when your child has worked toward a goal. This is such a natural thing for kids to do that they may not even be aware of. "Wow, you were determined to learn those words and you did it!" Pointing this out can help kids to see themselves as capable and competent in individuals.
2. **Give Recognition:** Acknowledge your child's persistence, especially when the results of her efforts are not what she had hoped. The effort may prove, in the long run, to be more important than immediate results. Through your words, ensure that your children give themselves credit for their achievements. "You did an amazing job! You never gave up, even when it got hard!" Your praise should be specific and address the child's effort.
3. **Be a Model:** Tell your kids about your goals and how you are working toward them. Be a model by maintaining a positive attitude about the difficult or frustrating things in your

life and by pursuing a balanced lifestyle for yourself.

4. **Teach Skills:** Help your kids turn their dreams or wishes into realities. When they are unhappy with something, help them think of what they can do to change the situation. A goal is just a dream with a plan!
5. **Be Positive:** Help kids to remain optimistic or hopeful. Research has shown that optimistic students perform better in school and life. When they are frustrated help them think of different ways to solve the problem. When they are disappointed in themselves, help them to see the situation as an opportunity to learn or grow stronger.
6. **Keep It Balanced:** Learning is enhanced when children engage in physical activity, in the arts, and in creative play activities as well as get plenty of sleep. So, to maximize your child's vitality, ensure that they are involved in a variety of activities, have time for play, and get 8–9 hours of sleep.



Lao Shan Trip

Onnika Van Oosterbosch

During the third and fourth weeks of school, the Upper School students had an over night trip at the Lao Shan Mountain and here's what they think about it.

Catherine, Grade 6: "I really liked the campfire because we cooked the marshmallows and they tasted really good."

Livia, Grade 7: "The trip brought us all together and made friendships expand."

Simon, Grade 8: " Going down we got all wet and it was fun, it also took a lot of time."

Sissi, Grade 9: "It was challenging when we walked down, but a cool experience."

Jack, Grade 10: "It was meaningful."

Tao, Grade 11: "Wormhole was awesome!"

Daniel, Grade 12: "It was a memorable trip."

Great activities like this make learning more fun and meaningful.

Technology Training for Parents

Bradley Arnold

The school works to maintain a viable on-line program in the event of an emergency closing, or if students need to stay home due to illness. To do this, we have been working to develop our on-line resources and improve the ability of our teachers to deliver content and lessons on-line. Both the students and teachers are becoming more proficient with these tasks, but we are concerned parents may not understand all of the requirements.

So, we have begun offering training for parents to learn more about the school's Moodle, email and other resources, as well as about on-line safety and expected computer requirements at home. Our first workshop for lower school parents was on September 22, followed on the 29 by one more.

On October 12 we will offer a workshop for parents of students in grades 3-8. All parents who are interested in attending this technology workshop should contact Alberto Gutierrez (agutierrez@qiss.org.cn) or Bradley Arnold (barnold@qiss.org.cn) to reserve your place.

Location: The computer lab in room 506

Time: 10:30 am

Date: October 12

PSAT (continued)

the PSAT and SAT is to take practice tests. High school students have access to SAT practice tests through one of our web-based programs, Naviance. The link to Naviance is on the bottom of our school web page. Students have been given usernames and passwords to use this program. Naviance also contains a vocabulary-building feature which keeps track of words that the student knows and does not know.

Another good source for more information about the SAT and an SAT problem of the day is the College Board <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

For questions about taking the SAT at QISS, please contact Mr. David Addicott at daddicott@qiss.org.cn

Good luck, students! With practice and preparation, you'll do well.



Peter Burnside, US Principal

Don't Miss



On September 15th, we participated in a big performance at The Olympic Sailing Theater.

Students read a Chinese poem, and they did a wonderful job. The performance will be shown on QDTV5 September 30th, 21:15 p.m. and October 4th, 20:50 p.m. to celebrate the Chinese Mid-autumn Day Festival.

Please turn on your TV and enjoy the show.

Chinese Culture

Greeting

English	Chinese Pronunciation	
Hello!	N h o!	你好
Good morning	Z o shàng h o	早上好
Good afternoon	Xià w h o	下午好
Good evening	W n shàng h o	晚上好
Good night	W n n	晚安
How are you?	N h o ma?	你好吗?
Very Good /Fine	H n h o	很好
Thank you	Xiè xie	谢谢
Sorry	Duì bù q	对不起
Excuse me	Láo jià	劳驾
Good-Bye	Zài jiàn	再见
No (not to permit)	Bù xíng	不行
No (to negate)	Bù shì	不是
Yes (to permit)	Xíng	行
Yes (to positive)	Shì	是
OK.	H o de	好的

Introduction

English	Chinese Pronunciation
My name is David	W jiào David 我叫David
I am American (Canadian or British)	W shì M íguó rén (Ji ná dà rén or Y īngguó rén) 我是美国人 (加拿大人或者英国人)
I work in QISS	W zài Sh āndōng Q īngd āo dì yī guó jì xué xiào g āng zuò 我在山东青岛第一国际学校工作
I am a teacher	W shì l āo shī 我是老师

International Day

What a fun day for students to find information about each country we represented! We all had a chance to meet and socialize.

The committee would like to thank you all, parents and relatives, for your visit and support on the event.



Matilda, G1

Larissa, G1



Good Questions (continued)

As students are engaging in this questioning and answering process, they are also practicing their English communication skills. Thus, all students develop their thinking ability in the English language.

As they participate with more frequency, students are acquiring and using a larger English vocabulary at school. Parents can continue this process at home in the child's mother tongue. It is extremely valuable for each child to continue developing higher level thinking skills and increasing vocabulary in the mother tongue. Parents play a vital part in developing higher level thinking skills through the art of asking meaningful questions and building mother tongue vocabulary at home.

Working together at home and at school, we can make a significant impact on the development of higher level thinking skills in all children. We all have a common vested interest in preparing children full of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence, and compassion to be reflective global citizens now and in the future.





October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 -----Autumn Festival—no classes-----	2 -----Autumn Festival—no classes-----	3
4	5	6	7 -----Autumn Festival—no classes-----	8	9 Day 5	10
11	12 Day 6	13 Day 1	14 Parent — Teacher Conference — half day Day 2	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17
18	19 Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Day 6	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24
25	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Day 6	30 End of Quarter Day 1	31