



Coming Events

- Sep 5: Open House & International Day
- Sep 7: Staff Development Student dismissed 1:00 p.m.
- Sep 24-25: Staff Development
- Sep 30: L.S. End of Unit 1

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Prevent and Provide

Jeffrey Fischmann, Director

The health and safety of our students are our utmost priorities at QISS. Once we've met that goal, we can provide a rigorous and challenging academic program that develops the core characteristics of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence and compassion.

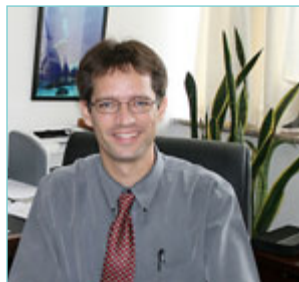
Every year we have been faced with health challenges to overcome. We were faced with the SARS outbreak several years ago and the following year we had the Bird Flu to deal with. We faced both challenges without ever having to close the facility. This year the H1N1 (Swine Flu) presents us with a new challenge. Our first line of defense begins at home. Parents must monitor their own children's health and keep them at home if they have a fever or other symptoms of illness.

The faculty and staff are working hard to provide a credible on-line or long distance program in the event students are not able to attend classes because of illness. Our goal is to take advantage of the modern technologies we have for delivering instruction as part of our regular program. If we are forced to temporarily close the facility because of an epidemic, we can turn to our on-line or long distance program to be sure that our students continue with their education no matter what happens. Of course, we want to do everything we can to prevent the temporary closure of school for the obvious reason that it is better if students can attend classes as they normally would.

Finally, the completion of our new campus is progressing at a rapid pace. The construction company has informed me recently that we should

be able to occupy the new campus before the end of 2009. We will only occupy the new campus once it is safe to do so. A parent and faculty group

Jeffrey Fischmann, Director



Peter Burnside, US Principal



Alberto Gutierrez, LS Principal

will be formed to determine when the new campus is ready to occupy. More information about the new campus will be distributed over the coming weeks and months. We call upon our parent community to work with us to make this the best year in the history of QISS.

Welcome Everyone

Alberto Gutierrez, L.S. Principal

This is a new and exciting school year at Qingdao No.1 International School of Shandong (QISS). I am honored to be this year's lower school principal. Please feel free to contact me with your feedback, comments or suggestions. I can be contacted via email at agutierrez@qiss.org.cn or amdgutierrez@yahoo.com. My mobile number is 151-9258-4910. However, the best way to com-

Continued on page 2

What's the right question?

Peter Burnside, U.S. Principal

Seeking the right answer has been the singular goal for students around the world for years. But the world is very complex. As adults we learn that in the real world, there are very few simple right answers to life's tough questions. The real challenge is to grapple with the right question.

At QISS, units of instruction and daily lessons are designed around Essential Questions --big, open-ended, thought-provoking questions designed to hook and engage students.

Good essential questions do not have one right answer. Instead they lead to other questions and drive inquiry into the subject matter. As students tackle tough essential questions, they are encouraged to discuss and debate, and form other questions.

Here are a few questions that students will be exploring in the first quarter:

Grade 6 Music: "How does the choice of instrument, tempo, and rhythm patterns affect the mood of music?"

Grade 7 Math: "How can we use math to describe the natural world?"

Grade 8 Science: "What is the evidence for what we know?"

Grade 9 World History: "What are the lasting impacts of colonization?"

Grade 10 World History: "What is social justice?"

Grade 11 World Literature: "What makes ordinary people extraordinary?"

Grade 12 Physics: "How do we know if we are moving?"

Ask your child what essential questions he or she is exploring this month.

Diana Teng

My name is Diana Teng. I am teaching second grade at QISS. I taught second grade for several years at a public school in California. This is my first time teaching abroad. I have always loved to travel, so I thought teaching at the international school would be a great opportunity for me to experience a new culture.

Besides being a teacher, I was also the English Language Coordinator at my school site. My job was to help English Learners acquire language as quickly and efficiently as possible, monitor the progress of the ELs at school, and prepare the documentation to reclassify them as Fluent English Proficient once they met the English Language Standards. I also coordinated the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC),



which was responsible for EL assessments and maintaining communication with EL parents.

I was educated in Taiwan, Costa Rica, and the United States. I am able to speak, read, and write in four lan-

guages. I also play piano and viola. I was the viola vice-principal in the Claremont, California, Young Musicians Orchestra. I was also a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic High School Honor Orchestra.

I love my new life in China. I look forward to all the new adventures that are awaiting me.

Welcome (continued)

communicate with me is by coming and talking in person. Thank you for your support. I welcome everyone to our QISS community of learners.

What is QISS?

Qingdao No.1 International School of Shandong Province (QISS) is a premier learning center in the beautiful city of Qingdao, China. QISS offers numerous challenging learning possibilities for each student. As we make the transition to a new state-of-the-art campus, the bright modern facilities will provide learning opportunities for everyone.

At QISS, all students explore learning possibilities under the careful guidance of credentialed, knowledgeable and nurturing teachers. Each teacher creates a dynamic and challenging learning environment. As a result, everyone is seen as a teacher and everyone is seen as a student. This means that teachers at QISS continually engage in activities, university course work and other professional development as they acquire more "best teaching practices" for improving student learning and understanding.

Learning for understanding as students develop a mindful heart is the foundation of everything we do at QISS. Students acquire new knowledge, which can be transferred and applied in new situations. That is learning for

understanding. Likewise, all students become experts in communication skills at QISS by engaging in "Key Assignments," which promote the use of acquired knowledge, acquired skills, learning for understanding and public speaking/performance skills throughout the school year.

L.S. PE Reminder

Lisa Woo, PE

Greetings from the PE department to all new and returning students and families. We look forward to another year of fun and exciting activities in PE class. An important reminder to parents: Please make note of the days in which your child has PE and make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the class on those days. Appropriate attire means sportswear: t-shirts (no blouses or collar shirts), gym shorts or sweatpants (elasticized waist with no belts, buttons or zippers) and athletic shoes (cushioned soles and arch support). Proper sportswear will help to ensure a safe and comfortable exercise experience for your child. Many thanks and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Lisa Woo, Lower School PE Teacher, lwoo@qiss.org.cn.

Joshua Doyle

My name is Joshua Doyle, and I am the kindergarten teacher at QISS. I have been working in education for nearly twelve years. This will be my fourth country and my eleventh year teaching kindergarten. I began my teaching career in California. For the past four years, I have been teaching kindergarten in Taiwan where I was helping develop a kindergarten program. While in Taiwan it was always an adventure riding my scooter through the mountains and even more of an adventure riding through the city. I am always ready for a challenge and to learn new things. I have fun exploring new places, but most importantly, I have fun hanging out with my family and watching my daughter grow and learn. We are really enjoying our new neighborhood and making new friends. We are looking forward to exploring more of China in the months to come.



It all began in hot and humid India. After being in an orphanage for two and a half years my younger sister and I were made aware that we were going to be adopted by an American family in Washington State. Thus when I was eight years of age, my little sister, our caretaker, and I made the long flight to the United States of America. From being raised in the small town of Centralia, Washington, I grew up learning the value of education and of the privileged society of America. My family of two had grown to become a family of seven people.

After I graduated from Centralia High School I went on to the beautiful city of Bellingham, Washington, to attend Western Washington University. During my academia as a college student my desire to learn and grow as an educator became of the upmost of importance to me. Teaching courses came easily and naturally to me, so I stayed on track to become a



Sami Hendrickson

I had caught the travel bug, where I wanted to explore as much of the world as I could.

After traversing the mountains of Nepal, volunteering at an HIV AIDS clinic in Africa, staying in Thailand, and London for a bit, I find myself wanting to come to China. And here I am starting a new adventure.

teacher. Some would say that I followed in the footsteps of my adopted parents, but I would like to think I made the decision on my own.

Before I finished my Elementary Art Education degree I traveled back to my homeland of India to reconcile with the missing pieces of my childhood. Although I did not find my birth parents, my volunteer time at my orphanage was extremely moving. Seeing the beautiful children and caring for them made me feel connected. After traveling to India

Scott Craig



Growing up in a small town of Kansas (U.S.A.), I had no clue that one day I would find myself in the middle kingdom, a place that we all know as China. How did I get here, you ask? Well, to be honest, I am not sure but all the right paths aligned and now I find myself doing something that I have always had a passion for, teaching. Is it a challenge for me? Yes, because not only am I living in a foreign country but also my educational background is in life science and pharmacy.

Did I think I would teach Grade 6 Earth Science and Math? No, but I welcome the challenge and look forward to my growth as an educator, a professional, and most importantly as a human being.

It is going to be a great year, and I am going to work my hardest to ensure that my students meet the expectations of this school.



WEMUN

Marc Fulterer and Tao Tao

From 2-6 of August, twelve QISS upper school students participated in the WE Model United Nations conference in Beijing.

During those four demanding days of debate, our delegates sat down and worked together with delegates from around the world to come up with resolutions to help solve many international problems. Before the conference began, they worked hard to prepare for the serious debates and negotiating ahead. Our delegates sat in committees that discussed disarmament, terrorism, the financial crisis, international trade, and issues related to the development of youths.

Our head delegate, Tao Tao, gave a speech in front of the General Assembly presenting the policy of Sierra Leone. About the conference, he had this to say: "It was a difficult meeting since so many people were involved, but it was fun because there were many nice people there and all of us have made new friendships. Another student, Cheng Han Kuan, received the Best Delegate [award] from his committee. It was a good conference overall."

We finished the conference proudly, learned more about how the world works, and had a good experience.

Healthy School Snack

Dominic Adie, PE

Serving healthy snacks to children is important for providing good nutrition, supporting lifelong healthy eating habits, and helping to prevent costly and potentially disabling diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity. Snacks play a major and growing role in children's diets.

Below are ideas for parents for serving healthy snacks to children in the classroom, in after-school programs, and elsewhere.

Fruits and Vegetables

Most of the snacks served to children should be fruits and vegetables, since most kids do not eat the recommended five to thirteen servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Eating fruits and vegetables lowers the risk of heart disease, cancer, and high blood pressure. Fruits and vegetables also contain important vitamins A and C and fiber.

Try lots of different fruits and vegetables and prepare them in various ways to find out what your kids like best.

Note: Cookies, snack cakes, soda drinks and chips should be saved for occasional treats, given their poor nutritional quality.

Fruit is naturally sweet, so most kids love it. Fruit can be served whole, sliced, cut in half, cubed, or in wedges. Canned, frozen, and dried fruits often need little preparation.

- Apples
- Apricots
- Bananas
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Cantaloupe
- Cherries
- Grapefruit
- Grapes (red, green, or purple)
- Honeydew Melon
- Kiwis
- Mandarin Oranges
- Mangoes
- Oranges
- Peaches
- Pears
- Pineapple
- Plums
- Raspberries
- Strawberries
- Tangerines
- Watermelon

How can you unwind from a busy week?

Try Yoga

Where? QISS Room 208

What to bring? Comfortable clothes, a belt or scarf, and a yoga mat or towel

Who is teaching? Tamara Studniski (trained dance teacher—has practiced yoga for over 15 years)

Who can come? Any parent, teacher, or upper school student

When? 4:00 to 4:55 on Fridays

How much? FREE

If you have questions, please email tstudniski@qiss.org.cn or call 8890-9802 during school hours



Peter Thorpe

Hi! My name is Peter Thorpe and I come from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For the last eight years, I have been teaching Music (as well as Math and Science) at an international school in southern Germany. I was also the Middle School Principal for the last five years. Prior to working overseas, I taught in the public school system in the province of Alberta for seven years. I can play many instruments and look forward to working with the students at QISS. I am married and have a seven month old son. We are all very excited about living in China and are looking forward to a wonderful year.



Laura Neagos

I am a Canadian/Romanian, who likes traveling, the outdoors, and embarking on new adventures. I was born and raised in Romania and moved to Canada 11 years ago.

I teach upper school Math and Science, and I will be the Grade 7 homeroom teacher in addition to teaching them Math, Life Science and Communication Skills. I also teach grade 11 Biology.

Most of my teaching experience comes from working with non-profit organizations where I taught HIV education and prevention to high school students.

Since I decided to become a teacher three years ago, I've been looking forward to getting my teaching credentials so I can embark on teaching adventures around the world. I'm very excited about teaching at QISS and the years that lie ahead.



Jenny Fang

Fun With Chinese

有 y u 朋 péng 自 zì 远 yu n 方 f ng 来 lái , 不 bú 亦 yì 乐 yuè 乎 h ? (Isn't it a delight to have friends coming from afar?)

This is a famous saying of Confucius. “不亦……乎？” is a rhetorical question meaning “isn't it...?” in Classical Chinese. It carries a tone of courtesy. “乐” is pronounced as [yue] in Classical Chinese, while it is pronounced as [le] in modern Chinese. The whole sentence means you are very happy when your friends come to visit you, especially when they come from afar.

有 y u 缘 yuán 千 qi n 里 l 来 lái 相 xi ng 会 huì , (If it is fated, even those separated by one thousand li will meet each other.)

无 wú 缘 yuán 对 duì 面 miàn 不 bù 相 xi ng 识 shí。 (If it is not fated, even those who are face to face will not know each other.)

The concept of fate or destiny is very important in Chinese culture. This saying shows how Chinese people emphasize the importance of their acquaintances. It is usually used to refer to couples who are meant to be together, or to remind people that friends are very precious.

QISS High School Students Prepare for University Admission

The ultimate purpose of QISS is to ensure that when students graduate they are ready and able to enter a university of their choice.

Over the past two years, we have put into place a college counseling program to prepare students for the next phase of their lives. Beginning in Grade 9, students are guided to explore their abilities, interests and values – connecting these with future careers. Students in Grade 10 investigate various careers, becoming familiar with what education and skills are required. In Grade 11 students learn how to search for and analyze information about universities they may want to attend. Finally, as they begin their final high school year, Grade 12 students are guided through the requirements and process of applying to specific universities.

In addition to an excellent high school record, admission to high quality universities may require good SAT scores, evidence of English proficiency (TOEFL), essays, interviews, and successful completion of higher level courses (Honors or AP). Many of these skills are integrated right into Language Arts and Communication Skills courses. Each year more Honors and AP courses are being offered to challenge students and enable them to enhance their school records. Students prepare for the SAT using an on-line program

purchased by the school as well as with targeted practice in class. SAT prep begins in Grade 10 and 11 with every student participating in the PSAT given in October.

While QISS provides the learning opportunities to prepare students for university entrance, the results are determined by the efforts of the students themselves. The role of the staff, counselor and parents is to assist students in making good decisions about how they focus their time and energy during high school. A well prepared student is well-rounded – having done a variety of courses, sports, arts, service and leadership – and also demonstrates high achievement in specific areas of interest.

David Addicott, Counselor



Joe Shulist

I have come a long way from my hometown in Ottawa, Canada to become part of the QISS team. I am pleased to be teaching Language Arts and Communication Skills to all of our Grade 9 and 10 students and to work with many of the Grade 11 and 12 students for Communication Skills as well.

I received my undergraduate degree in English and Geography, as well as my degree in Education from the University of Ottawa. Although this is only my first year teaching in China, I have plenty of experience working in Asia. I worked as an ESL instructor in South Korea for three years. In addition to teaching, one of my true passions is learning about new cultures and languages. I look forward to working with the energetic and diverse group of students of QISS, and I hope that they will learn as much from me this year as I expect I will learn from them.