



# NEWSletter

May 2010

## Coming Events

- May 3: Labor Day Holiday
- May 10-14: Festival of Words
- May 12: L.S. End of Unit 5
- May 17: Staff Development, students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
- May 29: Entrepreneur's Day

- Jun 7: Staff Development, students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
- Jun 8-10: Semester Exams
- Jun 11: Talent Show
- Jun 12: Senior Graduation
- Jun 14: Field Day
- Jun 15: Last Day of School

## Mathematical Reasoning at QISS

Alberto Gutierrez, LS Principal

When a student applies mathematical reasoning, students, of any age, engage 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.

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 students 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 math-

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## PAC News

The survey PAC conducted at the beginning of 2010 gave interesting results about how parents consider communication in the school and what they would like improved. All the results were given to the principals. The PAC choose to focus on specific items, which were the most important regarding answers. First we worked on lunch and library to take direct actions.

Lunch : 14th April some parents of the PAC had lunch with the children and a discussion with the staff. The parents found out that the kitchen is very clean. Furthermore no MSG is used in the food, which we were very happy. Another good point is that the staff helps children get served. During the discussion the parents pointed out that the food is sometimes cold, which doesn't help the taste. The manager promised to keep the food warm, make enough food in order that every one has the day's choices.

We didn't want to talk about the taste of the food. There are many cultures in the school, so it is difficult to find

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## Festival of Words

**Coming this May 10-14th, QISS will celebrate its 7th annual Festival of Words. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their achievements in English and other languages. There are many different formats represented: creative writing, poetry readings, satirical essays, plays, readings, games, and spelling bees.**

**There will also be a native language book donation drive held during the week of the Festival of Words. All donated books will be added to the school's library. Books can be dropped off in the library.**

**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 during the first week of May. Come join the fun!**

## Mathematical Reasoning (continued)

emational reasoning. 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 active thinking process. On the other hand, computational skills lean heavily on 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.

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 reason 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.

## PAC News (continued)

a middle way to satisfy all the tastes. But we agreed with the management to prepare only one spicy dish per day. Some parents will check again after some weeks for the improvement. We will keep you up dated.

Many requests came from the surveys about the fact there were still not enough books, that some parents wanted a better card and they didn't agree with the idea of paying for a new card when lost.

Regarding the number of books in the library, Mrs. Arnold had just received approval to purchase more books for next school year. More than 1,500 books for all interests in both fiction and nonfiction have been ordered. With the spaciousness of the new campus, we should have plenty of room to display books, yet be able to provide



Mr. Snider and Jackie Chan's Wax Manikin

Scenery of Jiuzhaigou



Klara, the coloring contest winner

room for students and parents to use the library better than today.

Moreover, the PAC has decided to spend most of the money collected this year to buy new library books. During the Festival of Words, each class will pen down a wish book list for PAC to purchase and donate books for the library.

The main office which is in charge of the students' ID card has informed us about the new card fee is a matter of taking care of one's belongings. However regarding the quality of the card, the school will look for a different card for next school year.

There were two contests running since the China Day; the New Year's Drawing Contest for lower school, and the Photo Contest for parents, teachers and students.

The winner of the coloring contest is Klara Kim, Gr. 3. All participants got a small reward. Thanks for the beautiful decoration of the wall you offered us!

The vote for the photo contest took place last week during parent-teacher conferences. Two pictures stood out, showing two aspects of China. Mr. Snider with a smiling Jackie Chan and a scenery of Jiuzhaigou, in Sichuan. The winners are Mr. Snider and the Croix family (Maëlle, Gr. 1, and Louis, Gr. 3)

Another round of applause for all the beautiful pictures. Surely it gave us the willing to travel around China, or just to look better around us!

# ACAMIS Soccer Tournament April 22-24

*Dominic Adie, 2010 ACAMIS Organizer*

*Thank you for coming and supporting our players this past Friday and Saturday at the ACAMIS Soccer Tournament. It was an exciting event, and a successful one for QISS.*

*The boy's team did very well and made it to the finals. They played some tough and smart soccer, but were they unable to beat BCIS Beijing. The girl's team played with brilliant team sprit and had a great time. They placed 5th and won the team sportsmanship award. Congratulations to all!*

*Please join me in also thanking the parents who came and helped with selling snacks and drinks to the players. You're help was greatly appreciated.*

*The season has not yet come to an end. We will have two more tournaments to attend for Middle School and High School players. The first will be hosted by KISQ and QMIS on May 14-15. The second will be hosted by YCIS in Huangdao on May 22. More details will be provided when available.*

*I encourage everyone to continue to play soccer as often as possible. All you need is a soccer ball to start having fun.*

*Thank you again for a fun season and successful Tournament.*



*John Han, Marc Fulterer, Hee Jun Hwang and Michael Nielsen celebrate after beating HIS*



*Saskia Bunte going in for the tackle*



*Ema Halikova, Mary Choi and Bailee Kim playing against BCIS*

## **Tournament results**

### **Boys**

<i>Sportsmanship Award</i>	<i>Access International Academy - AIAN</i>
<i>1st Place</i>	<i>Beijing City International School – BCIS</i>
<i>2nd Place</i>	<i>Qingdao No.1 International School Shandong – QISS</i>
<i>3rd Place</i>	<i>Hangzhou International School - HIS</i>
<i>4th Place</i>	<i>International School of Ulaanbaatar – ISU</i>
<i>5th Place</i>	<i>Access International Academy Ningbo – AIAN</i>

### **Girls**

<i>Sportsmanship Award</i>	<i>Qingdao No.1 International School Shandong - QISS</i>
<i>1st Place</i>	<i>Hangzhou International School - HIS</i>
<i>2nd Place</i>	<i>International School of Ulaanbaatar – ISU</i>
<i>3rd Place</i>	<i>Access International Academy Ningbo – AIAN</i>
<i>4th Place</i>	<i>Beijing City International School – BCIS</i>
<i>5th Place</i>	<i>Qingdao No.1 International School Shandong Province – QISS</i>

# Chinese Culture

Willow Yang, Chinese Teacher

April 5th is Tomb-Sweeping Day of China that is called Qing Ming. Qing Ming is a time to remember the dead and the dearly departed. More important, 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.

Qing Ming is popularly associated with Jie Zi Tui, who lived in Shanxi province in 600 B.C. Legend has it that Jie saved his starving lord's life by serving a piece of his own leg. When the lord succeeded in becoming the ruler of a small principality, he invited his faithful follower to join him. However, Jie declined his invitation, preferring to lead a hermit's life with his mother in the mountains.

Believing that he could force Jie out by burning the mountain, the lord ordered his men to set the forest on fire. To his consternation, Jie chose to remain where he was and was burnt to death. To commemorate Jie, the lord ordered all fires in every home to be put out on the anniversary of Jie's death. Thus began the "cold food feast", a day when no food could be cooked since no fire could be lit.

The "cold food" festival occurs on the eve of Qing Ming and is often considered as part of the Qing Ming festival. As time passed, the Qing Ming festival replaced the "cold food" festival. Whatever practice is observed the basic observation of Qing Ming is to remember one's elders by making a special effort to visit their graves, ashes or ancestral

tablets. To make the visit even more meaningful, some time should be spent to remind the younger members of the family of the lives and contributions of their ancestors, and the story of Jie Zi Tui who choose death over capitulation.

清明节是一个纪念祖先的节日。主要的纪念仪式是扫墓，扫墓是慎终追远、郭亲睦邻及行孝的具体表现；基于上述意义，清明节因此成为华人的重要节日。

谈到清明节，人们都会联想到历史人物介子推。据历史记载，在两千多年以前的春秋时代，晋国公子重耳逃亡在外，生活艰苦，跟随他的介子推不惜从自己的腿上割下一块肉让他充饥。后来，重耳回到晋国，作了国君（即晋文公，春秋五霸之一），大事封赏所有跟随他流亡在外的随从，惟独介子推拒绝接受封赏，他带了母亲隐居绵山。

晋文公无计可施，只好放火烧山，他想，介子推孝顺母亲，一定会带着老母出来。谁知这场大火却把介子推母子烧死了。为了纪念介子推，晋文公下令每年的这一天，禁止生火，家家户户只能吃生冷的食物，这就是寒食节的来源。

寒食节是在清明节的前一天，古人常把寒食节的活动延续到清明，久而久之，清明取代了寒食节。拜介子推的习俗也变成了清明扫墓的习俗了。无论以何种形式纪念，为了使纪念祖先的仪式更有意义，我们应该让年轻一代的家庭成员了解先人过去的奋斗历史，当然，还要学习介子推宁死不屈的气节。



Robin Park escaping a tackle against BCIS



Michael Nielsen saves a shot against BCIS

## Ugga

Ms. Studniski and Mr. Thorpe

The QISS's High School Drama Group is proud to present the musical theatre performance of *Ugga: A Play About A Girl With A Paper Bag On Her Head* by Chris Lambert. Starring Anny Han, Joyce Ying Wang, Marc Fulterer, Hyun Park, Sophia Ha, Vivan Hou, Kevin Kim, Hee Jun Hwang, Bailee Kim, and Sabrina Jian."

The play is a black comedy about the cosmopolitan obsession with looks, cosmetic surgery, diets and obesity. It challenges the audience to recognize the way in which the media influences our feelings about our own body image and can cause insecurity, bullying and eating disorders.



There will be three performances of *Ugga*, all taking place at the new QISS Theatre. The first performance is specifically for QISS students at 1:00 on Thursday, May 13 as part of the Festival of Words.

That will be followed by a performance for other local international schools on Friday, May 14th at 9:30 am, as well as a performance that is open to the public, on Saturday 15 May at 2:00 pm. The campus is located at 232, Songling Road (about 4km north of Number 2 Middle School). There's no admission charge, and every one is welcome.



# May 2010

**Get ready for the QISS Talent Show 2010, June 11.**

**Sign up coming soon!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labor Day Holiday	4 Day 5	5 Day 6	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8
9	10 ← F e s t i v a l	11 Day 4	12 Day 5	13 Day 6	14 Day 1	15 → d s
16	17 Day 2 Staff Development/ Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.	18 Day 3	19 Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Day 6	22
23	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Entrepreneur's Day
30	31 Day 6					