

QINGDAO NO.1 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SHANDONG PROVINCE

QISS

DEVELOPING A MINDFUL HEART



ONE OF THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

By William Corey, High School Principal

It was a cold day last November when I first visited the future campus of QISS. The buildings were mostly unfinished but a new artificial soccer field glistened in the distance surrounded by the golden color of the straw that was to protect the young roots of grass from the upcoming winter added to the color palate that suggested great things to come...

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Mr. King and Grade 3 Students

WELCOME TO THE NEW QISS

By Jeff Fischmann, Director

August 18th marked the first day of school at our new campus. It was great feeling to greet our returning students and welcome our new students.

We also had an Opening Ceremony that was presided over by Mayor Xia, Vice-Mayor Zhang Hui and General Manager Zhang from Chen Tou, the new owner of QISS. Leaders from many of the governmental offices that work with the school on a regular basis were in attendance along with about 40 members of the press. Our school enjoys such strong support from the upper levels of the municipal government that it sends a strong message to our school community that QISS is indeed considered a critical factor in attracting foreign investors to this city. It has been a long journey from where the school was three years ago to where it is today.

QISS is indeed a new school in many respects. We have assembled an outstanding faculty of highly qualified professionals who have brought a new spirit to our enterprise.

We are committed to providing our students with an engaging, challenging and relevant international education that is based upon... *Continued on page 2*



WELCOME EVERYONE

By Alberto Gutterez, Lower School Principal

I would like to welcome everyone to our QISS Lower School community. Students and teachers are participating in unique and personalized interactions, which will promote dynamic, energetic and caring learning environments within their classrooms...

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPTEMBER 1: Student half-day; student dismissal at 1:00
- SEPTEMBER 18: QISS International Day/Open House 8:30-2:45
- SEPTEMBER 22: Mid-Autumn Festival Holiday: No Classes
- SEPTEMBER 29-30: Parent/Teacher conferences; student dismissal 1:00



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current research and best practices. At QISS we strive to have all of our students actually understand what they are studying on deeper levels of cognition rather than to just memorize information that is quickly forgotten for lack of relevancy and usage. We assess our students understanding in several ways, including the use of standardized tests. However by far the most important means of assessing our students' understanding is to have them demonstrate what

they understand in debates, speeches, plays, scientific experiments, musical performances and other real-life situations.

The best way for parents to understand what is going on at QISS is for them to attend their children's demonstrations and performances (key assignments). We encourage all parents to maintain good communications with their children's teachers and to faithfully attend school wide events, parent-teacher conferences and most importantly their children's key assignments. Seeing your students perform their understandings will give their parents the greatest insight into the educational program.

“At QISS we strive to have all our students actually understand what they are studying on deeper levels of cognition...”

Accountability is a very important consideration at QISS. Our term of accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is scheduled for renewal this year. WASC is one of the world's premier accreditation agencies. Among the institutions they accredit are Stanford University, the University of California, most public and private high schools in California and Hawaii and most of the major international schools in China, Northeast and Southeast Asia. We will be engaged in an extensive self-study to present to WASC when they visit in the spring. Our self-study will examine all aspects of our curricular and extracurricular program as well as our systems of governance and management. The purpose of the self-study is to evaluate our strengths and weakness and to develop a plan to turn our weakness into strengths. The fruit of the self-study will be a 5 Year Action Plan that will chart our course of development into the future.

We invite all parents to become involved in the life of the school. By working together we can truly develop an excellent school that will open up doors of opportunity for our students.



PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The QISS Parent Advisory committee is an organization of parents who meet regularly to discuss and address any issues of concern regarding the school. This group also takes an active role in numerous social events on campus. We would like to have a culturally diverse committee and invite all parents to participate. We are hoping to have all grade levels and countries represented. If you are interested in participating or have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the members listed below. We'd like to invite all parents to attend our next scheduled meeting on Wednesday Sept 29 at 1:00pm in Room 505. With your support, we can make the 2010/2011 academic school year a great one!

Marcela Lickova: marcela.lickova@gmail.com

Jana Halikova: jaikahalikova@gmail.com

Aihua Gu: ahua525@hotmail.com

Laura Xiang: lauraxh@northernoverseas.com

Lena Nordstrom: persson-nordstrom@bluemail.ch

Maria Schneiter: desesperado@bluewin.ch

Kim Hartwig: khartwig02@yahoo.com



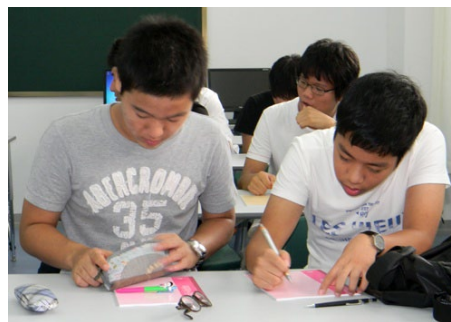
Continued from page 1: **One of the New Kids on the Block**



The foot paths were a combination of unfinished tile walkways and open ditches where future pipes would be laid. This was definitely not a safe place for an inquisitive student. The indoor pool was not complete, void of any water. All I could see in the new theater was a darken projection booth that hinted that there might be a theater below, somewhere. The gymnasium was complete. I was impressed with its size and possibilities that it represented to any PE teacher.

My next visit in late June was as a new member of the QISS faculty. I was given the opportunity to see the newly completed campus. The buildings were complete and ready for occupancy and

the grounds had green natural grass, shrubs, and planted trees. All that was needed to complete the picture



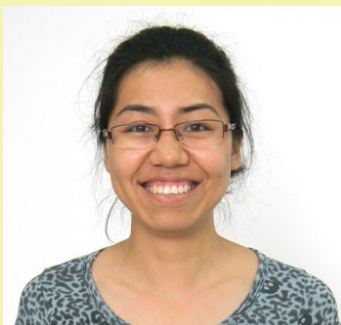
were teachers and students. My wife and I were among the first new staff members to arrive in mid-July. We were followed shortly by other new staff members. All of us were amazed at the

size and scope of the facilities and the endless possibilities for future growth.

This will be the third international school that I have had the pleasure of opening up a new campus. I look forward to once again having this opportunity and challenges that this presents.

As the Upper School Principal my main priority is to guarantee that our students receive a quality education with a curriculum that prepares them for the future. QISS is a school that students look forward to coming to every day. Our students like our emphasis on “Key Assignments” where all students become experts in communication skills that promote the use of acquired knowledge, acquired skills, learning for understanding and public speaking/ performance skills throughout the school year.

All of us are “new kids on the block” this year with a new campus for everyone to enjoy and explore. Please stop by for a visit. We would love to show you why we are so proud of our next school and campus.



INTRODUCING SAM SUN AND MARY MA

Sam and Mary share their knowledge, hard work ethic and enthusiasm when working with all colleagues, parents and

students at QISS. Most individuals do not get the pleasure of engaging in conversations with either Mary or Sam because they are both so busy and responsible for keeping our technology and web pages active and running smoothly. With our move to this new facility, they have been working almost around the clock getting systems ready for our faculty and students. With the many new challenges opening up a brand new facility, both Sam and Mary joyfully provide courteous help to all that ask for help. Thus, it is a great honor to introduce both Mary and Sam to our entire QISS community. If you happen to catch a glimpse of either Sam or Mary, please give them a big thank you to acknowledge all their dedicated hard work for the benefit of our students at QISS.

WELCOME QISS

By Dana Purpura, Councillor

Hello all,

I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and to thank you for warmly welcoming me to Qingdao. Your hospitality is a testament to the friendly community that you have created. My name is Dana Purpura and I am the Admissions Director and the School Counselor. I am originally from the U.S. where I worked for ten years as a Pre-K through 12 counselor and a middle and upper school learning support specialist. As the new Admissions Director, I am



I fill a variety of roles that include developing and teaching classroom guidance lessons, providing support for QISS students, parents and faculty, facilitating small group activities, and providing college preparation assistance.

here to answer questions about the QISS admissions process and to help new families integrate into the QISS community. As a School Counselor,

I believe that a counseling program should be comprehensive in scope, preventative and proactive by design, and developmental and intentional in nature. One of the fundamental keys to a successful counseling program is the support of all participants in developing healthy, intelligent, inquisitive, and active children. I believe strongly that we achieve far better results when we focus on the "whole" child, addressing emotional, academic, social, and physical needs, through a team approach involving students, teachers, counselors, learning specialists, and parents.

I look forward to getting to know you. Please feel free to contact me at anytime. email: dpurpura@qiss.org.cn

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Time is utilized effectively for the benefit of each student's learning progress. Students are responsible for learning as much as possible by interacting with peers and teachers, asking questions, making sound judgments, taking risks, being respectful to everyone and having fun in the learning process.

Each knowledgeable and professional teacher is providing students with a safe learning environment that will make learning engaging and worthwhile. There are many examples of student work on the bulletin boards of each classroom. It is refreshing to see the wide variety of student work proudly displayed.

Homeroom teachers are sending home a communication book for the purpose of keeping parents and students informed of classroom news, activities and updates of student's progress. Please use this communication book to write important information for your child's teacher. Of course, parents are also invited to make appointments to meet personally with the teacher or write an e-mail to the teacher. E-mail addresses can be found on our school's web page for each staff member.

Our teaching philosophy involves guiding students in the inquiry method, which promotes the search for the right question to seek the needed information to acquire more useful information, to make personal connections, to

stretch the child's existing knowledge, to see the ethical considerations for making sound judgments, to develop English language communication skills, to learn in an interesting way that builds each child's self-esteem and care for their world around them.

Units of inquiry are driven by big ideas that are worth knowing and can be applied in the real world. Students will acquire knowledge through their ability to make connections to the lessons. Thus, it is important for parents to engage their children at home by asking interesting questions regarding classroom activities.

Please look over our first units of inquiry in the Lower School classes:

Pre-K is currently is investigating the uniqueness of individuals and their big idea driving their first unit is "Individuals interact



with others in many ways to develop one's identity."

Kindergarten is discovering the dynamics of people living in societies and their big idea is "Everyone has unique abilities to share with others."

Grade 1 will looking into the influences of being in China from each student's perspective and the big idea running their first unit is, "Learning about ourselves and China."

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Healthy Lifestyles

by the Grade 4 Class



To start the year off in a healthy way, the Grade 4 class is inquiring into the central idea, "Choices we make affect our health and functioning." We are learning cool facts about the body's function and reflecting on the effects of balance and vitality in our own lives. As always at QISS, we want to put our learning into action on our way to Developing a Mindful Heart.

Our class would like to take responsibility for our own health and the health of others by sharing some healthy advice

based on our learning. We are each personally coaching another student and making individual recommendations on food, exercise, and time management. While we can't meet each one of you to give you personal encouragement, we think this Six Healthiest list might be new or helpful for you. We wish you will have a happy and long life of healthy choices!

Grade Four's Six Healthiest

- ▶ Don't have the habit of chewing your fingers, fingernails, pencils, or hair because they are covered in many bad germs.
- ▶ Don't drink Coca-cola because your teeth will be brown and rotten.
- ▶ Balance your diet by eating many vegetables, and some meat, fruit, and dairy, because if you only eat vegetables then you cannot build muscle, and if you always eat meat then your blood will not be good.
- ▶ If you worry a lot, you will become stressed and your health can be affected. Avoid worrying by building

your confidence, by not bothering other people's business, and by playing or spending time doing what you like.

- ▶ To help your stomach and intestines digest better, eat more fiber and yogurt. Fiber is found in plant foods like vegetables and it can move things along. Yogurt has bacteria inside which help digest food. If your tummy aches, clear soup makes you comfortable. The soup doesn't give us much energy, but it makes you feel better because it has nothing rough and it replaces salt and water.
- ▶ Don't eat McDonald's! Eva only eats it once a year and she feels just fine. Or, you can make your own "McDonald's" at home using healthier ingredients like many vegetables, real cheese, low-fat meat, and whole grain bread. Instead of frying in oil, you can bake or use a grill.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

WHY I LIKE QISS

by Lea, Grade 3

My name is Lea and I am from Korea. I am in the third grade at QISS International School. There are lots of friends and teachers that came from many different countries. I love QISS because the teachers are very nice and they love the students very much. QISS makes me happy everyday. I hope everybody will also like QISS.



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Grade 2 is looking into the impact of inventions on human activity, and their big idea driving their first unit is "Inventions throughout history continue to impact our daily lives."

Grade 3 is investigating how people are products of their environments within the family unit, and their big idea focusing their unit is "The family structure contributes to one's cultural and personal identity."

Grade 4 is inquiring into the various aspects that promote healthy lifestyles and their big idea guiding their unit is "Choices we make affect our health and functioning."

Grade 5 is thinking about the driving forces behind belief systems and their big idea influencing this unit is "Belief systems are found throughout societies, whether they be grounded philosophically, politically, imaginatively, or religiously."

Overall, each teacher is experienced, dedicated, nurturing and cares about each of their students. Teachers and I invite each parent to be a part of this learning community. Thus, keep the communication open with your child's teacher and our school. Parents are always welcome to visit classrooms; however, it is requested that you first make an appointment with your child's teacher prior to your visit.

I hope to meet with each of you in the near future.

Sincerely,
Alberto Gutierrez
Lower School Principal

Contact: agutierrez@qiss.org.cn
amdgutierrez@yahoo.com
Phone: 151-9258-4910



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

By Jorgen, Grade 8

I feel that QISS is a very good international school. It has a good environment for all the classes like separate labs for physics and chemistry. The music room has a lot of good brand new instruments etc. Also, the cafeteria serves good food like chicken noodles and rice, as well as, fresh fruits.

The new campus is great, but even better if you compare it to the old one. It looked old and used. The gym was outside and at least 300 meters away. Now we have an inside gymnasium, a soccer field just meters from the building and all kinds of ball courts plus a ping pong room with at least six tables. The school used to have some old equipment and now it's brand new. The worst thing I feel was the food. It was only local Chinese food; no selection for foreigners. Now you can choose between Asian, Western or both.

A last real bonus on the new campus is the water fountains. We can drink water on every floor of every building if we get thirsty. Also, there are a couple of them outside so that we can drink when we are playing soccer or playing at recess. Thank you Mayor [Xia] for this school. And I hope Mr. Fischmann and the principals, and we students take good care of it so it can last many generations ❖