

DEVELOPING A MINDFUL HEART

QISS

QINGDAO NO.1 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SHANDONG PROVINCE

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PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Invites all parents to attend the Open House/International Day...

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Upcoming COLLEGE VISITS TO QISS

University of Alberta
Visit on Friday, September 17th

The Hong Kong Polytechnic
Visits us on Thursday, September 30th



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

By Alberto Gutierrez, Lower School Principal

Students need a balance between work and play, and our after school activities at QISS help develop that balance for our young learners.

For example, students have the opportunity to participate in basketball, soccer, dance, kung fu and many more engaging activities on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please visit our web page for the latest schedule of after school activities at the following link: www.qiss.org.cn/activities.html

On Mondays, kids participate in outdoor/indoor team sports with Ms. Laney

Rweyemamu. Some students chose to engage in fun ESL activities under the direction of Ms. Yulia Sumarokova for Grades 1-3 and Mr. Patrick King works with Grades 4-6.

On Tuesdays, children stay active with basketball with Mr. Allen Miles; soccer with Mr. Patrick King and Mr. Joshua Doyle; Chinese dance with Ms. Kelly Du; kung fu basics with Ms. Jenny Fang...

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- OCTOBER 1-8: National Day Holiday: No Classes



SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING ESL STUDENTS

By William Corey, Upper School Principal

Every teacher at QISS is a language teacher. Their language skills are especially important for our English as Second Language (ESL) or English Language Learners (ELL) students.

Teachers provide a range of strategies to assist our ESL students including increasing the wait time for responses, not being overly demanding or critical of grammar mistakes, grouping with more proficient English speaking students and encouraging extensive book reading with understanding.

ESL students generally have to work harder and often longer to complete their homework compared to native English speaking students. Not only are they trying to cope with everyday academic and non-academic subjects, but they also have to do this in a language they are not sure about or understand the subject's terminology.

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“ESL students may take two or three times longer to do their homework.”

STUDENT REFLECTIONS Studying Hard

By James, Grade 5



Hello, I am James. I am in Grade 5. First, I like the new surroundings of my school. I like my new teacher, Mr.

Bertholet and my new classmates. I like to study science, physics, geometry and other classes. I like art and physical education. Because of our new surroundings, we can study and learn better. So I'm thinking of a new dream for my future. Sometimes, we study hard. But anyway, you will feel that studying is the easiest. So study hard.

Continued from page 1: After School Activities By Alberto Gutierrez, Lower School Principal



On Thursdays, students have two more physically engaging activities. One is basketball with Mr. Kyle Purpura and outdoor/indoor games for Grades 1-2 with Ms. Laney Rweyemamu. But that is not all. Children in Grades 3-5 have a unique opportunity to practice Model UN for elementary students provided by Ms. Tammy Wang and Ms. Grace Hyun. Also for the discriminating Chinese learner, there is a class to study about the world famous art of Beijing Opera also known as Peking Opera taught by Ms. Jessy Yin.

Finally on Fridays, Grades 4-5 students are fortunate to apply math skills in friendly competition with kids around the world under the guidance of Mr. Brooke Bertholet, and for the students that love literature and drama, they are having fun with Mr. Alberto Gutierrez as they read and discuss the book titled *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.



Overall, teachers offer their time and expertise after school for the benefit of our students. It is a pleasure knowing that kids are offered needed socializing activities throughout the school year. This year we will offer three sections for our after school activities. If your child did not find an interesting activity this first offering, there is a good chance he or she will find something during session 2 or session 3.

SAT TESTING INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO QISS:

I am happy to say that half of our seniors have applied for the SAT that will be administered on October 9th. Since QISS is a testing site, students will take the test on the QISS campus. The SAT is a recommended assessment for all 11th and 12th graders who plan to attend college. While 11th graders can take the SAT at any time during the year, we highly recommend that they not take it until the spring of their junior year. They will be better prepared and more successful if they wait until they have been exposed to higher level classes. Seniors should take the SAT during the fall of their senior year. All students are encouraged to take the SAT at least two times during their high school careers. The SAT is a standardized assessment that is globally recognized by

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colleges as part of the admissions process. If you are a student or the parent of a student who is preparing to take the SAT within the next year, you should access the College Board web site at <http://www.collegeboard.com> for information regarding free practice tests, study skills tactics, and general information regarding the college search.

GENERAL SAT INFORMATION:

The test takes approximately 4 hours and consists of 10 separately timed sections. The SAT covers critical reading,

mathematics, and writing with an emphasis on learned information and problem solving skills. The question format includes multiple choice questions, essay questions and student produced responses (math sections).

TESTING DATES:

October 9, 2010
November 6, 2010
December 4, 2010
January 22, 2010
May 7, 2011

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the above information. email: dpurpura@qiss.org.cn

Article by Dana Purpura, Counselor & Director of Admissions

STUDENT REFLECTIONS WHAT'S NEW

By Vivian, Grade 11

Hi everyone! My name is Vivian. This is my third year of school at QISS. It's my junior year now which is important. The school is full of happiness. We have a lot of new teachers this year and we moved to a new campus. This gives every student the challenge

of fitting into a new environment and concentrating on their studies. As a whole, I think we are doing a great job. I started AP economic and literature which are pretty challenging subjects. I will also be playing on the girl's volleyball team. I hope I can get the chance to go to the ACAMIS volleyball tournament. I was attracted to our new pottery classroom, which has about 20 pottery machines. I enrolled in the class and starting making vases. We are lucky to be in a school that has perfect facilities for learning. I think we will learn a lot and have a lot of fun this year because we have great teachers that will help us learn many new things in a beautiful campus.



PARENT & SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

By Jeff Fischmann, Director

Good communications between the school and the parent community is a high priority at QISS. There are many ways the school uses to communicate with the parent community on a regular basis: the weekly blog, the bi-weekly newsletter, classroom communications with the home, attending performances of the 'key assignments', the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), community events and parent conferences. A link is sent home to each parent to log onto the weekly blog and the bi-weekly newsletter. The QISS newsletter is archived on the school's website: www.qiss.org.cn. The school calendar, also posted on the website, includes the dates for parent conferences and community events.

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OPEN HOUSE/INTERNATIONAL DAY

By The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)



For the children, it is a mandatory school day. They will go to school on the bus in the morning and return home on the busses after the event.

In order for this day to be a success, we are asking everyone to participate. We are planning an International luncheon and we would like each family to prepare a native dish to share. With over 21 different nationalities represented in the school, we are hoping to have a wide variety of delicious food. Please come out and share your favourite dishes with everyone!

We are asking that Pre-K, Kindergarten, the lower and middle schools provide the main dishes (either hot or cold) such as pizza, chicken wings, rice, dumplings kebabs, goulash soup etc. The upper school will be responsible for the desserts such as cake, fruit and other sweet treats. Please bring the amount you would make for your family.

In order to be sure that enough food will be provided we ask that you contact Beate Lorentzen at beate.lorentzen@gmail.com to let us know what dish you will be bringing.

Thank you for your cooperation. We are looking forward to seeing you all and making this year's Open House/ International Day a huge success!

The PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) would like to invite all parents to attend the Open House/ International Day at QISS on Saturday, September 18th. It will be a wonderful opportunity to visit the new campus, see the classrooms and meet the teachers, the children's classmates and other parents. The day will be filled with fun activities for everyone. Please come and join in the festivities.

Continued from page 2: **Suggestions for Helping ESL Students** By William Corey, Upper School Principal

The school's guideline of approximately ten minutes per grade level is what we would expect for an average native speaker. For example, a student in Grade 8 would be expected to do eighty minutes of homework. However, ESL students may take two or three times longer to do their homework.

Teachers and parents are partners in the education of their children. The following strategies work not only for ESL students but also non-ESL students:

- » reading with your child,
- » encouraging your child to share their assignments and school work with you,
- » talking with your child about what they did at school,
- » creating a quiet place at home free of distractions,

- » keeping your child's computer in a public place where you can easily monitor not only what they see but what they do, such as computer gaming,
- » encouraging success in non-academic abilities such as sports,
- » helping your child to find opportunities to use English outside of the school and
- » being patient and understanding that learning a new language is a complex, long term process which can take up to seven years to become fluent.

The opportunity to live, study and work in a new culture is a privilege not given to everyone. I am sure that in future years as children look back on their experiences at QISS they will find this a significant time in their life.



Continued from page 4: **Parent and School Communications** - Jeff Fischmann, Director

We encourage any parent to become involved with PAC either directly or indirectly.

We have two formal parent conferences scheduled for each school year. However, we'd like to emphasize that parents can meet with their child's teacher any time throughout the school year. All a parent needs to do is to write their child's teacher a note and request a conference at a mutually convenient time.

We recommend that all parents remain aware of what their child or children are studying at school on a daily basis. There is no better way for you to understand what your children are learning than to attend their 'key assignments'. Key assignments are the heart of the program at QISS. They represent culminating activities whereby the student demonstrates his or her

understanding of the material they have been studying. Key assignments occur throughout the school year, usually at the end of a particular unit of study. These performances include speeches, debates, plays, science presentations, athletic events and other demonstrations of their understandings.

By staying involved with your child's learning and addressing your concerns or questions directly with your child's teachers whenever you feel the need to do so, you are greatly assisting your child's learning. When children can see that their parents and teachers are paying close attention, they tend to perform at a higher level. The school will always strive to look for better ways to communicate with the parent community. Parent suggestions of how to improve communications are always welcomed.

Q&A with Mr. KYLE PURPURA

Interview by Joyce, Grade 10



Why did you choose Qingdao to teach?

It's a good growing school, and I wanted to come to China. Qingdao is not as big as Beijing or Hong Kong.

What courses do you teach at QISS?

This semester I teach Grade 12 Homeroom, AP Economics, Economics, Grade 12 Ancient Studies and Model United Nations.

What courses did you teach in your former school?

I taught AP Economics, Economics, Modern World History, AP Modern World History and Global Studies.

What goals do you expect for your graduating students to achieve?

I want them to be able to think, listen to information, be able to analyse whether it is a global, social or environmental issue.

Over all these years of teaching what do you find most fun to teach and what do you enjoy the most?

It is when students do more work than I do! I enjoy when students do most of the talking in class.

What upsets you the most while teaching?

I really do not like students walking in late to my classes. I do not like when students are not interested in their own learning. Parents pay a lot for their kids education so I do not like it when students do not show them the needed respect by not participating in class.

What do you think about QISS? Is it a good school in your mind?

Students are extremely good thinkers. Especially to tackle questions they never had. They are talented thinking like an economist. Almost all students are good thinkers. They think a lot faster than normal.



What do you enjoy the most in Qingdao?

The nice people all around Qingdao are enjoyable. All the Korean, Chinese and Asian kids are not what I had imagined them to be like. They are much more dynamic. I enjoy experiencing the students here at QISS.