

DEVELOPING A MINDFUL HEART

QISS

QINGDAO NO.1 INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF SHANDONG PROVINCE

In this Issue

- 1 Year of Transition
- 3 Summer Water Safety
- 4 A Time to Laugh and A Time to Cry
- 4 Never Forget QISS
- 6 Recent PAC Events
- 7 This is not Goodbye
- 8 Its Up to You
- 8 13 Years
- 9 Art Exhibition at QISS



YEAR OF TRANSITION

By Jeff Fischmann, Director

The 2010-2011 school year was a major year in the evolution of QISS. There was the move to a new campus, the transition to new ownership, and a reinvigorated faculty of many new teachers who, in collaboration with our returning teachers, brought a fresh perspective to the scene. The school also took a close look at its own operation as part of the reaccreditation process with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This process included an extensive self-study report and a renewed action plan that is designed to take the school to the next level.

Continued on the next page...

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 9 - 14: High School Exam Week

JUNE 11: High School Graduation

JUNE 15: QISS Field Day

JUNE 17: Last Day of School. Awards and QISS Memories Slideshow



Actually, this school year represents the culmination of events that began nearly four years ago when the school went from being a privately-owned international school to a government-owned international school. Four years ago few would have predicted that QISS would emerge in the form it has presently taken. Throughout the previous years, no matter what the challenges were, QISS was able to develop a rather individualistic nature and program. The program is based upon practices that are meant to teach for understanding through backward design in the pursuit of developing a mindful heart. QISS is a place where teachers can experiment with different methodologies as long as they address the school's mission, which is to provide an academically challenging program that develops the core characteristics of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence and compassion.

QISS aims to retain the nature of a 'lab school' that is receptive to current research about how students learn in the Digital Age, while remaining firmly rooted in traditions that stretch back to ancient Greece. Indeed, much of our mission statement and emphasis on character development can be traced back to Aristotle. In truth, QISS has a long way to go to fully realize its own ambitions to become a school that not only prepares students for entry into the best universities around the world, but also a place that prepares them for their lives beyond the schoolhouse walls. A mission of this nature can never be fully realized. This is a good aspect because it reminds those who come to QISS that this school considers itself as a work-in-progress and a place that provides each willing individual with the opportunity to help build a better school and a better world.



SUMMER WATER SAFETY

By Laney Rweyemamu,
Physical Education Instructor

The weather is beginning to warm up and hanging out at the pool or the beach is a great way to beat the heat. All too often we are preoccupied with the fabulous weather and having fun with friends and relatives that we forget about water safety. Being well versed in water safety can alleviate accidental drownings, trips to the hospital, and worry about your child's well-being. There are a few simple guidelines that we can all follow to make our summertime pool and beach experience an amazing one.

FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

GET SKILLED

Be a prepared swimmer. Learn the proper way to swim. Take swimming lessons or swim regularly with a parent who can help you along the way. If you are a skilled swimmer, keep an eye out for friends who are not as skilled as you are.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Swimming is tons of fun, but know where you are in the pool at all times. If you are an unskilled swimmer, don't go in water that's so deep that you can't touch the bottom and don't try to keep up with skilled swimmers.

KNOW WHEN TO TAKE A BREAK

If you are getting tired or a little uneasy about the water, take a break.

BUDDY UP

Always swim with a buddy. Do not swim alone and if you see a friend swimming by themselves ask them to join you.

SWIM IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY

Make sure you are swimming in safe areas only; it is

best to swim only in places that are supervised by a lifeguard. At the beach, make sure you are swimming close to a lifeguard stand and you never turn your back away from the water.

FOR PARENTS

CONSTANT SUPERVISION

As a parent, your child's safety is your business, not the lifeguards. Actively supervise your children around or near water and do not trust your child's life to another child – even if they can swim.

ARM'S REACH

Always stay within arm's reach of your child while at a pool or the beach.

ASKING PERMISSION

Teach your children to ask for permission to go near the water so that you can actively supervise them. Most child drownings occur in less than five minutes with both parents around.

DO NOT RELY ON SAFETY TOOLS ALONE

If your child uses a life jacket, aqua vest, aqua belt, or water wings they can still get themselves into trouble. Your supervision is a must!

A TIME TO LAUGH & A TIME TO CRY

By Sharon Ammerman,
QISS Grade 4 Teacher 2008–2011



Teaching at QISS, I was blessed with the honor of working with three very unique Grade 4 classes, but I have found that what makes us laugh and cry together stays pretty much the same from year to year.

We get awfully giggly on dreary gray mornings, although the kids know they'd better not smile! April 1st foolery brings a mix of laughter and tears to the Grade 4 classroom. Each year, a few students have a hilarious pet phrase that can get us cracking up even in key assignment crunch time. And we laugh with joy when our quietest students blow everyone away at a key assignment.

We tear up over the same moving biographies in guided reading class. Someone inevitably gets a soccer ball in the face (and that someone isn't always a Grade 4 student). We cry for each other when frightening conflicts and disasters threaten our home countries. And there are tears of loss each winter and each June when dear classmates and colleagues leave QISS for new adventures.

A bittersweet time has come for me as Mr. Jack and I say "see ya later, alligator" to Qingdao and begin a new adventure in Buffalo, New York. I have a funny feeling that we won't be able to escape a few tears on the way out, but our hearts are filled with memories that will keep us laughing for years to come.



I Will Never Forget QISS

Hello, my name is Anna Woo. I'm in 3rd grade. I have had the greatest teacher in the world. I was glad to be here at QISS. It was fun and I learned a lot of things I didn't know. I had many creative and silly friends. When I leave, I will miss QISS and never forget my friends and QISS. Ms. Hyun, who was my teacher, she taught us interesting things. Everyone was nice. My favorite thing in grade 3 was having group work. Goodbye and have fun at QISS!

By Anna Woo, 3rd grade

I HAVE ENJOYED QISS

I have enjoyed so many things at QISS. I enjoyed playing with foreign friends and I also enjoyed being taught by many foreign teachers. In Korea, I only had Korean friends to play with and I've always wanted to go to an international school. I enjoyed QISS the most even if I went to a lot of other international schools. My English improved a lot after I came to QISS. Most of all, I enjoyed QISS because everyone has mindful hearts.

By Lea Lee, 3rd grade



MY BEST DAYS

I have had lots of good days in QISS. I have found many good friends and I was very happy when I came into grade 3. My friends were very nice to me. I want to thank them very much. I will miss QISS very much, but I'm not sad. In Korea, I will have many friends too, like in grade 3, and many people will be nice to me. They will be happy to see me. I like QISS and grade 3. My best days were when I had my friends, teachers and my classmates.

By Hilary Lee, 3rd grade



My time at QISS

By Nao Shiotani, 4th Grade

I came from Japan in grade 3. At QISS, I learned, I wrote, I played, I drew, I spoke, and more. It was special fun at QISS because teachers know how to teach in fun ways. In Grade 4, the homeroom teacher is Ms. Ammerman and she didn't just give us some books and make us concentrate. She let us play games, and we also did a lot of activities. I will really miss my friends, too.



Recent PAC Events

Kim Hartwig, PAC

As we reach the end of the school year, we would like to update everyone on recent PAC events. In mid May, we met with some members of the visiting WASC committee. We spoke with them regarding the purpose of PAC, our concerns about the school and the issues we had addressed throughout the year. We would like to thank all of those parents, teachers and school administrators who spent time preparing, gathering information and writing reports to prepare for the WASC visit. We are all anxiously awaiting their final recommendation.

Later in May, PAC donated money to the Prom committee to help cover the cost of the Prom. The banquet was held at a restaurant near SPR in Laoshan and was enjoyed by all who attended. PAC also used some of the funds we had earned from previous bake sales to provide prizes for the Festival of Words competitions, mainly the Spelling Bees, Speeches and Magnetic Poetry.

We have volunteered to provide all of the snacks, drinks and ice cream for Field Day on June 15th and would like to welcome parents to come out and help serve refreshments. As a surprise to the kids, there will also be a Bouncy Castle this day, paid for by PAC.

We would like to extend our thanks to those who have come out to support us this year and are looking forward to making 2011/2012 another great year for QISS!





THIS IS NOT GOODBYE

Saskia Bünthe, 10th grade

250 words are not enough for me to express how I feel. 250 words are not enough to show how much I care. 250 words are not enough to describe how grateful I am.

I don't really remember my first day at QIS; the memories are all very fuzzy. There is one thing that I remember though; when I stepped into the classroom for the very first time, all my classmates were sitting in a circle on a colorful carpet in the middle of the room, laughing and talking in a language that I had not yet mastered. From that moment on, I knew that this would be the beginning of something special.

That was 3rd grade, eight years ago. Now I'm a sophomore and on the brink of leaving Qingdao. The thought of being anywhere else than at QISS feels weird to me. I have literally spent half of my life at this school, and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. What can I say? I love this school to death. Everything; from seeing that yellow bus pull up in front of

my house to waving goodbye to Mrs. Fischmann at the end of the day, are things that I'll remember for the rest of my life.

I have lost and gained countless friends. I have met people from so many different countries. I have moved from campus to campus. I have had classes with so many different teachers. But, there is one thing that they all have in common: love. Their unconditional love and support has made me the person I am today. No matter what happens, I know that QISS is my home, and always will be.

It's Up to You

To be honest, I don't feel the least bit ready for anything that's about to come next. I'm not insinuating anything—my education has taught me lots: all the classes I've taken, all the "drama" that I've encountered; they've enriched my understanding of the world and my experiences but all in all, that's about it. Down to the bottom of it, it's all because of all the unknowns. The world has practically shrunk into day-long flight hours and constant compact conversations but the truth is, when we're forced to face it head on and alone, it seems to take on the shape of a Boggart.

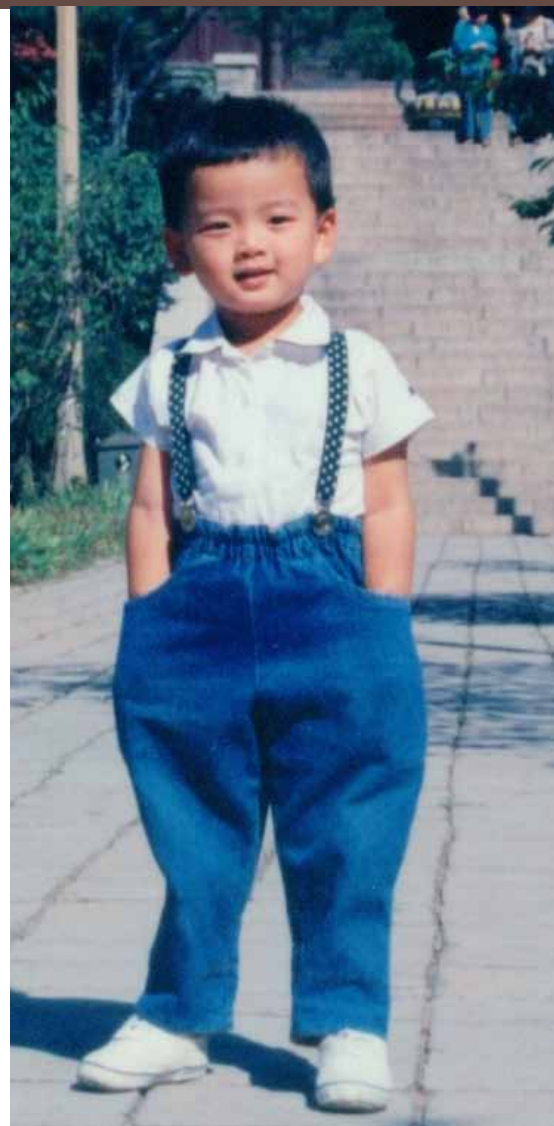
But then again, is it really that much of a surprise? Recall the first day of

Chuck, 12th grade

kindergarten, the first time you rode an airplane alone, the first speech that you've ever made—this is what life is all about: you face obstacles, you overcome them. Rinse and repeat. The way Ami Mattison words it, "Fake it until you make it. Fear is about challenge and if you are uncomfortable then you are doing something worthwhile."

So what role does school play in all this? It gives both the courage to take the first step, and the knowledge you need to back up that courage.

The rest? That's up to you.



13 YEARS

Tao Tao, 12th grade

This year I'm graduating and moving on to pursue a college education in the United States. I've been at QIS/S for 13 years, since '98, since kindergarten, since I was four years old. I've seen this school grow and I have grown with it. I've watched the school face various setbacks in these 13 years; we changed campus three times, and the chaos in '07 led some of us to think that we wouldn't be able to bounce back. But we never stopped moving forward. Over the

years, our school might not have grown in size (which is one of the great advantages of our school), but there is a steady increase in the quality, and most certainly the experience of the school.

For me, I've always had a lot of faith in our school, and it turned out to be correct. I've been here forever, and I have been to no other school in my lifetime. Living and learning in this international environment has helped me become an open-minded person and a sensitive communicator, which I think will continue to be one of my biggest attributes in the future. Most importantly, I've made friends from all over the globe. The administrators, teachers, and

students, all of whom were my friends, taught me not only math, science, history, and English, but also helped me explore my interests and guided me to become a better person.

It is hard to believe that this is all about to come to an end. Unlike most other QISS students' that have been traveling around all their lives, I always stayed in Qingdao. Now I'm about to say goodbye to Qingdao, my hometown, my school, my parents, and

go somewhere that I've only seen on the Internet and dreamed about. It is difficult to leave everything you've ever known, but I have to face it and move on. I have to say, sincerely, I love this school. When I look back at my childhood, scenes from my school will be in my memories. Finally, I want to say to my school and all those who helped me over the years, thank you for all you've given me and may you prosper in the future.



ART EXHIBITION AT QISS

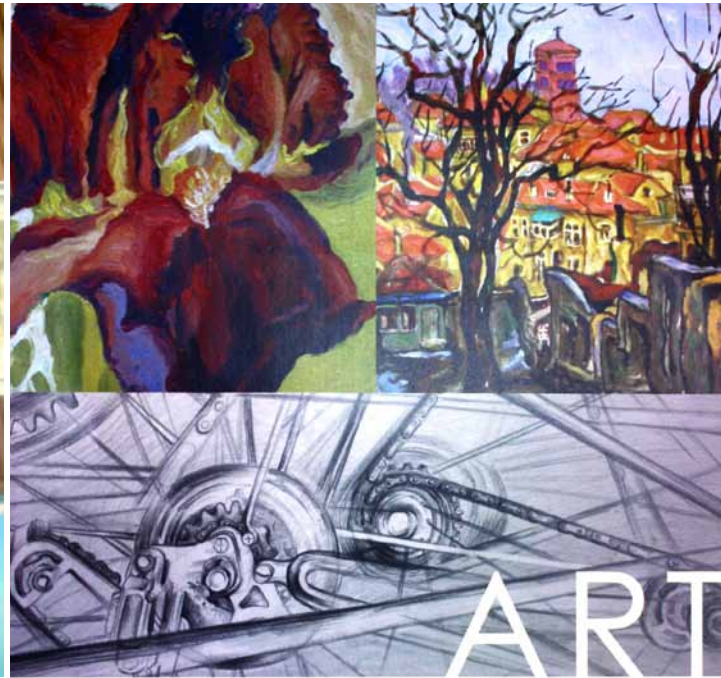
By Destiny and Emily, 10th grade

On April 23th we, along with Mary Choi, held an art exhibition at QISS, the same day as the talent show. Our Art teacher, Mr. Miles, had suggested to us that we have an art exhibition because we are leaving QISS and Qingdao soon. Before the art exhibit, we discussed our plan with Mrs. Fischmann and she fully supported all of the things that we needed.

We prepared 24 works of art for our exhibition and also easels and desks to display our work. The school helped us a lot with supplies.

During the art exhibit, lots of people visited and wrote comments in the visitors notebook. Even though several teachers wanted to buy paintings, we decided to save all of our work for our University portfolios. That was something that we felt bad about.

We successfully held our art exhibit and plenty of people took pictures of us and loved our work. We wish to thank all of the people who helped us and worked together with us on our exhibition. Because of them, it was a great success and we gained a lot of experience.



QINGDAO *Destiny, 10th grade*

My art was about Qingdao. I sketched and colored the paintings with acrylic and water colors. I tried to show a true, recognizable image of Qingdao. I made 9 paintings and spent two months preparing for the art exhibition. I chose Qingdao as a motif because I will be leaving Qingdao this month to go back to Korea, and I wanted to put all of my memories from Qingdao into my art. I am satisfied with my work and am convinced these paintings will be highly valuable to me in the future. During the art exhibition, lots of teachers and parents were interested in my work and wrote comments about it and I really appreciate all of that.

The Bicycle *Emily, 10th grade*

In this exhibition, my topic was the bicycle. I drew 10 pieces of art and spent about two months preparing for this exhibition. I drew all different kinds of bicycles. The reason why I chose to draw the bicycle is that I am leaving Qingdao and China to go back to Korea soon and I wanted to create memories from my time here. In the past the Chinese people used to ride the bicycle a lot and I wanted a something that could represent China.

I used different kinds of materials; pen, 4B pencil, pastel and crayon, to give different impressions of the bicycle. I feel confident in my art work. People came to our art exhibit and got interested in my art work and I am grateful to them.

First Exhibition

Mary, 11th grade

This was my very first exhibition and I do not quite know how I feel about it. In some ways it was a bit scary to show my work to my friends, parents and teachers, but I also felt proud of myself to exhibit what I have learnt up till now. My works contained different kinds of paintings; from oil and water color to drawings in pencil and pastel. This exhibition was an opportunity for me to explore how I can utilize different materials to express what I feel, as well as an opportunity to learn the techniques of artists that I admire.

