

DEVELOPING A MINDFUL HEART

QISS

QINGDAO NO.1 INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF SHANDONG PROVINCE

In this Issue

- 1 Governance at QISS
- 2 Parent representatives on BOT
- 3 Model United Nations
- 4 Lower School ESL
- 6 Science Fair
- 7 New Director Search
- 8 QISS Winter Program Helps Feed the world



GOVERNANCE AT QISS

By Jeff Fischmann, Director

QISS is governed by a Board of Trustees (BOT). The structure of the BOT is outlined in the Articles of Association which is posted on the home page of the school's website under the 'school' tab. These articles were largely developed about four years ago when the school went through its transition from a private school to a government-owned school. A group of parents were selected by the community to work in conjunction with the director and a representative of the Qingdao Education Bureau. These parents were part of a Special Task Force assigned to develop a document to address governance. The current document posted on the website was updated this year to consider the views of the new owners of QISS. Essentially the revised document follows nearly all the provisions of the original document with only minor changes in the text.

Continued on page 6

DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAY 14: QISS Varsity Girls Soccer Tournament at QISS
- MAY 16-19: Upper School Table Tennis Tournament at Lunch
- MAY 19: Band students leave for ACAMIS Cultural Convention in Suzhou
- MAY 23 - 29: Festival of Words
- MAY 25: QISS Drama Festival at QISS



Parent Representatives on the Board of Trustees:

Kai Askan Bünthe

My name is Kai Askan Bünthe, and I was born in 1958, in Hamburg, Germany.

Since 2003, I have been working in Qingdao as Managing Director of GERB (Qingdao) Vibration Control Co. Ltd., also being a shareholder in the German mother company.

I am married to YunTao Yan Bünthe since 1993 and we have two daughters at QISS – Saskia in Grade 10 and Celia in Grade 2.

During the transition from QIS to QISS (take-over of the school by Qingdao Education Bureau in 2007) Mr. Fischmann asked me to support the school by establishing a Board of Trustees structure and since drafting the Articles of Association I have been a Board Member.

Since end of last year Mr. Gao is now Chairman of the Board – ChengTou has taken over

the responsibilities from the Education Bureau and we can see a new approach to the school's development. The new owner has promised to keep the tuition at the present level for at least another 3 years and we shall see new marketing activities in the coming months and years to help our school to grow from the present size to maybe 500 students in 5 years from now.

On the Board we all agree that in order for QISS to become a better school (the best International School in Qingdao) it is essential that we grow in size. We already have the best school facilities in Qingdao - now we look forward to see that students, parents and teachers develop in the same way.

The next major step for our school will be to select a new director – a very critical step in the development of our school and the

Board Members will do their part in the selection process.

Thanks to the good cooperation between Mr. Li and Mr. Fischmann we have managed to sail through these difficult times – it was all new and untested waters – but thanks to the Board structure we have managed this transition.

Ms. Aihua Gu

I am happy to introduce myself to you. My name is Aihua Gu. I am originally from Shandong province and have lived overseas in Canada for about 8 years. I have two children and my daughter is in third grade and plans to be with the school long term.

I graduated from Shandong Textile Industry College with a bachelor's degree and have worked in the Shandong Art...

*Continued from previous page: **Parent Representatives from the BOT** By Ms. Aihua Gu*

and Craft Company ever since. I am an engineer. I am the director of both LG-tech Canada Company in Canada and Nutribio Biotech (Jinan) Company in China. Aside from operating my own business ventures, I have done a lot of volunteer work for the local kindergarten, elementary school and high school in Canada.

As a member of the board, I am very confident in the future of QISS. I will represent all parents accurately and work with the school administration and Chengtuo closely to reach QISS objectives. I will do my best to help the QISS community develop a first-rate western-style international school that focuses on the needs of the students. Most importantly, I care about our children and their education.

Model United Nations *of International Schools of China*

By Grade 10 - Leo Lee



MUNiSC, Model United Nations of International Schools of China, 2011 was my first experience at a MUN conference. MUNiSC was held in Qingdao at the Le Meridien, and it is similar to the United Nations, but the participants are students. Before this year, I didn't know that much about MUN. Therefore, I looked for information on the Internet in order to speak in front of an audience and I got some useful help from Mr. Purpura, our teacher.

I was the delegate of Andorra, a small country in Europe, and I spoke in General Assembly, the largest stage of MUN. As people knew little about Andorra, it

gave me some freedom when speaking. There were four issues discussed and I chose to write a resolution about racism. I became the second speaker of my resolution, and answered most of questions. I was nervous but after several rounds of debate, our resolution finally passed.

I spoke three times on the floor, the place where we give speeches. Every time I went there, I was full of apprehension. I was afraid of delegates who might ask me about information, or other questions. My speeches were successful, and I became more confident as the conference continued.

And now a piece of advice for the people who are going to take MUN next year: I would like for you not to be frustrated about your positions and your topics. Advantages exist everywhere! So, even though you might become the delegate of an unknown country, don't be depressed. Also, I hope you speak up more than I did, especially when you have the chance. The more you speak, the more you gain confidence. MUN is really fun; you learn what is going on in the world and you have debates about it. I hope more students join MUN next year to make a fruitful class and a fruitful MUNiSC experience.

LOWER SCHOOL ESL: DEVELOPING LANGUAGE THROUGH CONTENT

By Patrick King and Yulia Sumarokova, ESL

The lower school ESL program strives to promote language development while providing students with the support and practice they need to succeed in their homerooms. This means that ESL units are meant to develop stronger communication skills within the Units of Inquiry building upon common themes and concepts. The vocabulary we learn, the grammar we practice, and the language activities we engage in all relate to these themes. Our purpose is



to provide our students with ample opportunities to actively use the English language and also help them to access content that can be challenging for them to understand. In one word, in ESL we teach students to learn by the means of the English language. Our smaller class size allows each student more opportunities to actively engage in class. We also strive to promote co-operative learning because this allows students to teach and learn from each other.

Our goal of developing strong oral language skills means that many of our assessments are performance-based. This might mean making an oral presentation, acting out a drama, or writing an essay and reading it out loud. While we do incorporate quizzes and tests, we want to assess our students' ability to use the English language not just their knowledge of the English language.



But, our role isn't limited by ESL in-class time only. All teachers are aware of the ESL strategies and we collaborate to promote better learning. We also think that students will master the English language more painlessly and to a higher level, if supported at home as well. Here are some suggestions from the ESL teachers to boost your child's English capacities during quality family time.

- Read aloud with your child and discuss the story afterwards, starting with your native language and gradually taking up English books at your child's reading level.
- Promote diary-writing on a daily or weekly basis in English. A complete diary will be a nice addition to your family archive and will be a great celebration of your child's academic growth.





- Give your child with the responsibility of being your “personal interpreter” or family spokesman, making sure he is comfortable with the content of the situation in his mother tongue first.

- For lower elementary kids, look for English sight words all around your house, let's say in your kitchen, on the food packages, and count them.

- Make vocabulary words accessible in your home in the most visited zones; mirrors in the bathroom and bedrooms, room and closet doors, or even windows to activate your child's learning styles.

For more ideas or suggestions, emails us at pkling@qiss.org.cn or ysumarokova@qiss.org.cn and visit our school's web site for extra language related activities.

*Continued from page 1: **Governance at QISS** By Jeff Fischmann, Director*

The BOT is composed of 4 members: The chair appointed by the school's owner Chengtou, the director, and two parent representatives chosen by the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). It is mandated by the Articles of Association that one parent must be from the Western Community and one parent from the Asian Community. The current members of the BOT are: Mr. Gao Wen Qiang (chair), Mr. Jeffrey Fischmann (director), and the parent representatives, Mr. Kai-Askan Buente and Ms. Aihua Gu.

The BOT meets four or five times a year to discuss matters such as budget, tuition and fees, governance policies, accreditation issues, curriculum and instruction guidelines, salary and benefits issues for the faculty and staff and other management issues that impact on the development of the school's facilities and program. The BOT remains responsive to the needs of the parent community. Generally speaking, the BOT communicates with the parents through the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

SCIENCE FAIR

By, Lena Nordstrom, Upper School teacher

On the morning of March, 19, QISS was hustling and bustling with activity. Students were setting up their boards, PAC members organizing their baked goods, drinks and snack- sale, judges, teachers and assistants were moving around checking last minute details and other staff were helping with practical arrangements.

At 9 o'clock, everything started. Students began presenting their projects to the judges, parents and fellow students, 12th graders were helping selling snacks, parents were walking around trying to find their sons and daughters, camera in hand, or listening, filming.

I walked around, talking to some of the participating students. Here are a few comments from them, on questions like

- What was your project about?
- Why did you choose this project?
- What did you learn?
- What do you think about the Science Fair?

YOSHIKI, 9th GRADE

I have been working on a Natural Water Purification system, together with Jeff. I was surprised to learn that natural things like sand and pebbles can be so useful. The water was a lot cleaner after being filtered, although you still could not drink it.

This is my first Science fair, and I found it hard to come up with a topic. Finally I chose something totally different from what we do in Science class, but I think we will work on it in 10th grade

BRYAN AND PAUL, 8th GRADE

We have investigated what we think might be the future power source; How salt water can be used to create electricity. Many other groups studied solar power, but we wanted to do something different. The technology needs to develop to make it more practical, but we have shown that on a small scale; a doll's house or a toy car, it works.

Science Fair is a good opportunity to learn more about science stuff. We have been working on electricity and magnetism in class, but this is slightly different.



SIMON AND LINA, 9th AND 10th GRADE

Our project is about Cymatics – the visualization of sound. It is a fairly new category in science and we first learnt about it on the National Geographic Channel. We thought it was really interesting and wanted to present something new to people. This is a new way of looking at the world. Science Fair is a lot of hard work and takes a lot of time, especially to come up with a good topic.

JASON, ETIENNE, TIM, SHANNON, BARBIE AND LARISSA, 2nd GRADE

In our class we have studied Habitats and Food chains in our last unit. We have learnt the types of food animals get in each habitat, and to eat healthy food. We have also learnt what is NOT healthy to eat. Larissa comments: " I am omnivore, and I try to eat more carrots and other vegetables, but I still don't like broccoli!"

Continued from previous page...

HYUN SEO, FLORA, NAO AND JUSTINE, 4th GRADE

In our class, all of the projects are about UV rays. The school has a new machine so that we can measure UV radiation. What our group learnt is that for example a t-shirt does not protect you as much as we thought. You need to put on both sun block and clothes to be fully protected from the sun. Another group in our class found out that because snow reflects the sun light, the UV radiation is really high, and you need to put on sun block also in the winter. A third group investigated UV rays under water. We think that the Science fair is a good opportunity to tell others about UV.



MR. DUNWOODY, SCIENCE TEACHER

The idea behind the Science Fair was for the students to be able to choose a topic they found interesting and research it. We have had Science Fair during the four years that I have been teaching at QISS, and I also arranged it in the schools that I have been at previously. The content was the same, but here at QISS we added the presentations, having the students present and explain their findings. This year's theme "Back to the Future" was really wide and opened up innumerable opportunities.

NEW DIRECTOR SEARCH FOR 2012-2013

By, Jeff Fischmann, Director

Several months ago I announced to the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the faculty that Mrs. Fischmann and I will conclude our contracts at QISS in June, 2012. An international search for a new director has begun. Mr. Gez Hayden, a senior associate with SEARCH Associates, has been contracted by the BOT to conduct a world-wide search for a new director. Before Mr. Hayden joined SEARCH Associates, he was the headmaster of Nanjing International School for over a decade. He is well aware of the leadership qualities needed to run an international school in China.

An advertising campaign via the SEARCH network will commence in the coming weeks. The plan is for Mr. Hayden to help generate a list of five to eight candidates for BOT review. Three of those candidates will be 'shortlisted' for interviews to be conducted in Qingdao in September and October. There will be an opportunity for the faculty, staff and interested parents to meet with the candidates before the BOT makes its selection. The plan is to have a new director selected for the 2012 – 2013 year by November, 2011. The new director will take up his or her post in July, 2012.

Next year will be the 10th year for Mrs. Fischmann and me at QISS. We are very grateful for all the opportunities we've had over the years to work with such a wonderful group of students, teachers, parents and local officials. We will always treasure this experience. We will work hard next year to prepare the school for a smooth transition to new leadership.



QISS WINTER PROGRAM HELPS FEED THE WORLD

Article by Peter Thorpe, Upper School Vice Principal

"Feed the world...let them know it's Christmas time!" These were the words sang during the finale of the QISS 2010 Winter Program. This song was originally recorded in 1984 by Band Aid, a supergroup of Irish and British pop stars, to bring much needed attention and money to famine relief efforts going on in Ethiopia. To use popular music as a means to raise social awareness was certainly not something new, but to do so on such a grandiose level was indeed a first.

Twenty-six years later and half a world away, many of the students on stage singing and playing "Do They Know It's Christmas" had not previously heard of the song or most of the artists involved in the original recording but their message rang loud and clear. Feed the world. All those attending the Winter Program were asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Qingdao Children Welfare Institution. This institution helps care for close to 400 orphaned children, many who are disabled. In the end, three large boxes of food (rice,



oil, noodles, etc.) were collected at the performance and on January 24, 2011, the members of the QISS Middle School Student Council were on hand to deliver the food to the orphanage. This project was an excellent opportunity to promote global citizenship among our students while demonstrating empathy, compassion and a commitment to making the world a better place.