



NEWSLETTER

The Principal

Bryan Manditsch

The month of January is an interesting one for the School, because we start the month by discussing the festivities of the "western" world, and end it by looking at the festivities of the "eastern" world. In between the two we try to squeeze in as much education as we can, and a look through this newsletter will give you a good idea of how much has been covered, and how many of them have been after school hours: thank you to all participants in those evening events.

Please note the date of the rescheduled PTA is Wednesday 12th February (6pm). The PTA Secretary will be collecting agenda items at a later date.

Best regards,
Bryan Manditsch
Principal

PYP

Aga Chojnacka

Community

Coming back from the various destinations we visited during our winter break both the children and teachers were excited to share their new experiences and knowledge, and immediately apply them in their unit work. Our excitement grows even stronger as we prepare for the Chinese New Year celebrations. Local students do their best to introduce this special holiday to their international friends

Programme

Currently our work with the unit ranges from pre-assessment to final assessment stage. Listed below are the units we have either just introduced or we are currently summarizing:

Pre-k: Through our five senses we express our ideas and feelings

K-1: Celebrations and traditions are expressions of shared beliefs and values.

K-2: Water plays an important part in our local and global environment.

PYP 1: Signs and symbols communicate ideas and information between the past and the present.

PYP 2: Stories can be passed on, engage their audience and communicate meaning.

PYP 3: Where we come from and live affects who we are and how we see the world.

PYP 4: People can create or manipulate messages to influence a target audience.

PYP 5: Health is affected by a variety of mental, physical and spiritual factors.

To keep our students challenged and ignite their further interest in the units, we've done the following:

Pre-k and K-1 students have visited the local ice sculpture exhibition in the Culture Square. K-2 have been experimenting with water in all its forms and types of condensation in and outside the school. PYP 1 have gone on sign and symbols hunts around the CAIS building. We had visits from parents in PYP 2 showing us the importance of storytelling in different cultures. Our own Mr. Bryan Manditsch visited PYP 3 to share the experience of his time spent in Kenya, Africa. We had MYP and DP science teachers visiting PYP 5 to support them in the unit research.

Still this month, we will hold our **Chinese New Year celebrations, January 26**.

PYP teachers and students will prepare special activities on this day. We would also like to encourage the parents to join in the celebrations by coming to their children's classroom at 12.15 (Sunday, **Jan. 26, 2014**) and presenting some of their traditions and celebrations connected with the New Year (songs, dances, stories, photos, music etc.).



JANUARY 2014

After parents' presentations children will perform for the parents at 13:15 in the school cafeteria.

Professional Development

This month, the theme of our PYP staff collaborative is Action Planning. We are looking at the advice given to us in the PYP Authorization Report and implementing the recommendations in CAIS PYP Action plan for the New Year. We will prioritize our duties within areas such as: Programme Philosophy, Organization, and Curriculum.

PYP Events

Soon after the Chinese New Year break, we will hold a meeting **important to PYP 5** and their parents. **Thursday, February 13** -

Exhibition introductory meeting, will take place at **17.00** in the cafeteria. We will take our time to explain the concept of the exhibition, its rules and responsibilities for students, teachers and parents. I cannot stress enough how valuable is parents' support in the Exhibition. To learn more please attend our meeting!

Also in February we will hold our successful celebration that was introduced last year,

Mother Tongue (Appreciation) Week –**Feb 17-21**. The week will be organized into the following themes:

Media and Music Monday, **Feb 17**

Talking Tuesday, **Feb 18**

Writing Wednesday, **Feb 19**

(Creative)Thinking Thursday, **Feb 20**

Festive Friday, **February 21**

If you would like to prepare an activity or a presentation supporting any of the mentioned themes in your mother tongue, please contact your homeroom teachers.

Communication

If you have any questions concerning the standards and practices of the Primary Years Programme, please go to www.ibo.org or contact the PYP coordinator at achojnacka@caischina.org

If you have difficulties receiving emails from homeroom teachers via Managebac please contact PYP Department Assistant Ms. Lena Liu at lliu@caischina.org

MYP

Ann Gaillard

So many things to do yet so little time." This rings true especially in an IB world school offering an academically rigorous program. However, we also are aware that from time to time, we need to reflect on the challenges we have faced and celebrate the accomplishments of our students. On December 2nd, we had our first Celebration of Learning Assembly wherein MYP students shared the highlights of their first term learning experiences.



[The MYP community watched a Science experiment on osmosis](#), a video performance of the Beatles' 'Hey Jude' song produced during Music class, a reenactment of the American Revolution as part of a unit in Humanities, and some fancy gymnastics moves learned in P.E. This term, it is MYP4's turn to showcase their learning in Math, Information Technology, English and Community and Service.

[On the 8th of January, we recognized](#) the efforts of our students who have been trying to live the Learner Profile attributes. **The Principled Award** went to MYP 4 Kevin and King for responsibly running the Movie Club on Wednesdays. MYP 3 Coco received the **Risk-taker Award** for hosting the two-week December lunchtime concert. **The Caring Award** was given to MYP 3 Leo who organized a two-day beverage sale in order to raise funds for students in

local schools who were in dire need of books and school supplies.

[MYP iPad Pilot Parent Student Night](#)

On the 23rd of January, MYP 2 and 5 students were able to share with their parents some of the exciting things that **iPads** could do to enhance learning in the classroom. They showed how **iPad's** flexibility, versatility and mobility has made the classroom more hands-on and interactive.



[MYP students are finding the iPad](#) a useful tool in the classroom. It's more than just an advanced calculator; students use **iPad** to take pictures, make movies, record sound, take notes and understand material presented in class in new and exciting ways. Current research suggests that the **iPad** improves student understanding of complex concepts, affords enhanced creative and organizational skills, and leads to better overall learning.



[The Chinese New Year celebration will](#) also become an occasion for our students to draw attention to the cultural learning aspect of Chinese Language A and B classes. From the 23rd of January to the 30th, Chinese Language A students will be introducing different Chinese customs during lunch time. Chinese Language B students are creating posters about the lion dance which will be on display, as well as a brochure on the Chinese New Year which will be circulated in the school.

[Celebration of Learning](#)

For the MYP 5, their celebration of learning comes in the form of the year-long Personal Project. The Personal Project is a reflection of our students' interests, hobbies, special abilities, or concerns about a particular issue. We have a range of topics currently being explored – from wine-making to administering first aid. Whatever the topic chosen, MYP 5 students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the MYP and their mastery of the Approaches to Learning Skills such as organizational skills, communication skills, reflection, thinking skills, information literacy and collaborative skills. The final product of the Personal Project is the result of the student's initiative, creativity, and ability to plan and organize.



We look forward to your presence in any of the upcoming celebrations of learning, as this is also your celebration. Without your encouragement and support, your children would find it difficult to perform well and thrive at our school. Let us then celebrate their success together.

Best regards,

Ann Gaillard
MYP Coordinator

DP

Santo Kurniawan

Happy New Year! We wish you Happiness, Prosperity and Longevity.

Tasks and final assignments

By the end of this month, most of the subjects in DP2 will have mostly finish their topics. At the same time, this month is the due dates for many of their final assignments, such as Internal Assessment. It is important for you to know this, so you can support and encourage your child at home. For DP1 students, they have covered some of the topics in each subject. They also have many tasks, individual/group works that have to be done. Please check our ManageBac to monitor assignments given by their teacher, and we ask your support to encourage them to do it at home.

Mock Test

In preparation to their final examination, from 24th February until 3rd March 2014, DP2 students will have Mock tests. We are trying to simulate the situation as close as possible with the real final examination. We try to prepare our students to understand and get familiar with the examination conditions, and at the same time teachers will give the exam paper with content as close as possible to the real examination, as during this time all subjects have covered all the topics in their syllabus. Teachers will assess the papers and follow this with exam reflection in class. The Mock test result has an essential impact on the final predicted grade that will be

submitted to IBO at the end of March. This is also another method to assess where we are in the exam preparation, and at the same time it will stimulate student's knowledge and skills.

Professional Development

We have registered several of our DP teachers to IB online or on-site workshop for their subject as part of our commitment to have continuous improvement within our staff. This month IB has sent several certificate of completion to several of them. This will benefit them more by improving their understanding and skills in teaching their subjects. Definitely, this will have a

better positive academic impact on your child in their lesson.

Subject selection in DP for MYP5 Students

We had a parent meeting on Tuesday night, 14th January, for MYP5 parents, and 21st January for DP1 parents. Mr. Michael Hayes and Miss Amy covered details about DP and university application preparation. To all MYP5 students, we have distributed an IB DP subject selection form and DP entrance requirements. Good subject choices should be subjects that:

MYP5 学生的 DP 选课

1. The student is interested in
2. The student is really capable or good in
3. Are required for your child's university application.

We are collecting their subject choices to help us to prepare the programme in the next academic year. Even though these choices are still changeable until November 2014, we encourage you to discuss with your child and choose the subjects wisely. If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact the DP coordinator at school or email at santo@caischina.org

Santo Kurniawan
DP Coordinator

Community Action Service (CAS)

CAS is a two-year project. Please remind and encourage your child to be actively involved in CAS activities, regardless of the number of hours they have achieved: some students have been unexpected absence during CAS time on Wednesday. Also, some students have not wrote any reflections in Managebac, even after weeks of doing the activities, and this might cause them to fail their CAS completion requirement. Keep in mind that even though there is no Diploma bonus point for CAS, but without all the CAS requirements being completed, a student cannot get a Diploma, regardless of the total score from the other subjects.

Communication

For individual concerns, please contact us:
Emma Tang (Acting DP Assistant):etang@caischina.org
Santo Kurniawan (DP Coordinator):

santo@caischina.org

Nancy Li (Liaison for Chinese students/parents): nli@caischina.org

Julia Kang (Liaison for Korean students/parents): jkang@caischina.org

Counselor's Corner

Michael Hayes

Hello everyone. During the spring term and until the end of the school year many students should be thinking about the following types of tests: the SAT and an English test. The English test could be one of any number of exams that are available in Changchun, either the IELTS or the TOFEL. And now the School provides students the chance to take the Cambridge Language exam. For DP 2 students you may be able to still take one of these exams to use for your college application. For DP 1 students it's a good time of the year to take one of these exams in preparation for applying to universities next fall. For MYP5, a language test maybe a good idea for planning for the future. However, it is still a little early for the MYP5 students to take the SAT.

The importance of taking one or both of these exams should not be overlooked. These exams are required for admissions to top universities all around the world. Developing a plan of why you should be taking these tests is important along with when. Taking one of these exams should never block a student from reaching for their dreams beyond CAIS and attending a great university. Of course, should you have any questions about why taking one of these exams is beneficial to you, please come by and speak with Amy or myself in the University Counseling office, so we can explain all your options.

As always come and visit Amy and Michael to collect the best and latest advice to help you with your future.

Should you have questions about any of these please feel free to contact Ms. Amy or Michael Hayes by phone 8458-1234.

Thank you
Michael Hayes
Counselor