



CHANGCHUN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GRADUATION EDITION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014



The Principal

May seems so long away now, but so much happened then it is worth reflecting on. Of

course, the whole month was IB exam month for the DP2 students (they may never work so hard again), followed by an **emotional graduation in the school and The Sheraton**

Hotel. PYP ended the month with the PYP5 Exhibition – the first one the school has staged and a roaring success it was: everyone swelled with pride at the confidence and ability of the

students. MYP, of course, put the finishing touches to the MYP Person Project whilst preparing for the week of exams in June. We also had the final PTA meeting of the year (more about that below) and I would like to extend my thanks to the whole PTA for the amount of time and energy they have put into helping to move the school forward this year.

June will be the usual frantic finish to the academic year; with exams, projects, trips, performances and the Dragon Boat BBQ (thanks to the PTA for that one). Also from the PTA were the ideas that we should conduct a survey amongst the parents to see if we should take a longer break for Chinese New Year in 2015, and another to see which date we should return after the winter break. These two surveys will go out very soon, so please take this opportunity to have your say in the shape of the school calendar next year. Best regards for the remaining days of the academic year.

- **Bryan Manditsch, Principal**

Primary Years Program

June is usually the last month of the school year for us (although exceptionally this year we will hold our final PTC on July 3rd). It's a month of reflections, summaries, changes, improvements and planning for next year.

We have a possibility to look into ways our PYP 5 students reflected and summarized their thinking and skills through their exhibition project. May 29th we all came to celebrate their media presentations and discuss their information boards and use of media with them. It was a proud and cheerful moment to see our students take the stage with so much confidence and commitment. Thank you to all those members of CAIS community you took the time to join us in this celebration of learning in PYP.

We are currently working on the following final units of this year: don't hesitate to join us in inquiry into:

- **Pre-k** Animals and people interact in different ways
- **K-1** Journeys help us discover the world, people and their stories
- **K-2** Weather affects our lives
- **PYP 1** People take responsibility for their actions towards themselves and the planet
- **PYP 2** Not everyone has equal access to resources
- **PYP 3** People use art to communicate and support culture in a society
- **PYP 4** The effective interactions between human body systems contribute to health and survival
- **PYP 5** The history, the resources and the needs of a culture are reflected in its art and designs





Now that the weather is good we've been doing our best to outsource the local community for inquiry. We've visited Moonlake Park, DangDang Town, Oceanarium, The Zoo, The Sculpture Park, the movie park to provide our students with ideas, observations and experiences that would guide their investigations and learning.

Professional Development

The PYP team has completed the review of the POI, which will be re-published on CAIS website before the Summer of 2014. We've introduced some updated units and further aligned connections and integrations between all curriculum areas. We've also been working on updating the format of our report card to provide parents with more comprehensive feedback on all five essential elements of the programme: attitudes, skills, knowledge, concepts and action.

We will also be releasing the latest version of the CAIS *Language Policy* and *Digital Literacy Awareness and Use Policy*. You will find them on our website before the summer break.

Events

June is also a month of new initiatives taking root. On June 18th we will hold our first **Morning Coffee with PYP** - which is a PYP dedicated section meeting of the PTA, where parents can express their ideas and opinions and ask questions specific to PYP. On June 21st we will be introducing **Parent University** - a new workshop series for parents who can enjoy learning and playing with us to better understand how their kids learn and play at CAIS. You can find more details about both of these events on Managebac.

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

We would also like to remind you that groups such as K-1, K-2, PYP 1 and PYP3 have strong representation on WeChat, where you can see children's photos and latex updates from the children.

- Aga Chojnacka, PYP Coordinator

Middle Years Program

The last term has been extremely busy and exciting. Here are just some of the highlights of the last term:

IB Virtual Global Summit

In spite of some technology challenges, the MYP 4 class has successfully participated in the **Virtual IB Global Summit on the security situation in Afghanistan**. From 12 to 30 May, our students followed a journalist's adventures in Afghanistan where they met Afghan teenagers living in a refugee camp. Through videos, interviews and journal entries, CAIS students gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of the problems in Afghanistan, which hopefully changed the way they view the world and created an interest in world affairs. Mr. Micheal and Ms. Catherine posted

highlights of class discussions in the online forum. Students also exchanged thoughts, observations and ideas with other IB schools around the world. This project was made possible through an educational non-profit organization called **Children's Culture Connection** (www.childrencultureconnection.org) dedicated to fostering world peace through educational programs that instill deep understanding and trust between youth all over the world.

Internal Assessments in the MYP

On June 9 to 11 June, MYP students sat for assessments for Language A, Language B, humanities, sciences and math. These assessments take place for three reasons: to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate important knowledge and skills that they have been working to develop in different subject groups; to develop the important habit of revision; and to provide students with the experience of taking a series of subject-specific examinations under strict examination conditions to prepare them for public examinations such as the **IB Diploma**, **Cambridge English Proficiency** or other external examinations.



However, it is not only students who undergo assessments. Last March, we submitted samples of assessed student work to the IB Office in order to receive feedback if our teaching and assessment practices are aligned with the MYP standards and requirements. I would like to thank Ms. Catherine, Mr. James, Ms. Monica, Ms. Nicola, Ms. Carolina and Mr. Sanjeev for their work on the IB Monitoring of Assessment. We



have received a fair amount of commendations, as well as some recommendations which we will address in the next academic year.

Promoting our Host Country's Language

It is wonderful to know that both our Chinese and expat students place a great value in learning and developing their proficiency in Chinese.

The **Chinese National Curriculum Education Research Center** organized an essay writing competition for primary and secondary students so that they could demonstrate their writing skills acquired during their course of study of the Chinese language. With the support of our Chinese teachers - Ms. Eva, Ms. Nancy, Ms. Monica and Ms. Leer – 31 students entered the competition. Out of the 31 students, 21 earned the national certificate. Out of the 21, six of them are foreign students.

On 14 June, we also had 16 students from PYP, MYP and DP who took the **HSK examination at Jilin University**.

Open House Days

On 23 June, MYP 1 to 4 parents are welcome to join their children from 8:00 to 4:15 for our Curriculum in Action Day. The day will start with a **Celebration of Learning** hosted by Mr. Alex's MYP3 students who will highlight their learning engagements in different subjects.

From 16 – 20 June, the MYP 5 won't be at school as it is their internship week all around Changchun. Mr. Hayes and Ms. Amy organized this great opportunity for our students to experience how it is to be part of the work force.

On 27 June, the MYP 5 students will be sharing their Personal Project to the school community. Finally, we will have our **Parent-Teacher Conference on 3 July**, where we can reflect on the students' successes and challenges during this school year.

- Ann Gaillard, MYP Coordinator

Diploma Program

Congratulations to all DP2 students who have finished their final examination on May. The results will be announced online at <https://candidates.ibo.org> 6th July, Cardiff time. Please contact DP Coordinator assistant, Mrs. Shelley, to get the login details.

Extended Essay day (DPI students)

First due date for the Extended Essay first draft is at 14th June 2014. Parents can take part in this process by encouraging our students to work on their Extended Essay (EE). It is important for students to work seriously on their EE. EE is one of the DP core subjects, together with Theory of Knowledge (TOK)



On the other hand, **DPI students will have their final examinations on 9-16 June 2014.** The schedule will be uploaded on Managebac and distributed to all DPI students. Please be informed that DPI Students do not have to be at school if they don't have any exam at the day, or they can go home once they have done their exam. This information may be needed to arrange their own transportation, as they may not go to school or go home at the same time with other students.

and Creativity Action Service (CAS), which is a compulsory component to the Diploma award, where TOK and EE combination scores will also give additional bonus points to the final grade.

Uniform

We are trying to apply our school policies to create a better place for educating our children, in this case, the school uniform. It is a good opportunity for them to show the **IB Learner Profile attribute of being**

principled. Please remind your child to wear school uniform properly every school day, except on Friday which is a non-uniform day where students have option to wear uniform or give 5 RMB to the class captain (for the DP 2 fund) if they choose non-uniform. Principal and coordinators will do routine inspections in the morning, at the school lobby. Students who are not wearing their uniform properly will be asked to meet the uniform requirement either by buying the uniform at the school store, or waiting for someone from home to bring their uniform before they are allowed to enter the class. We do appreciate your support.

- **Santo Karuniwan, DP Coordinator**

Counselor's Corner

Changchun American International School held its yearly **CAIS Career Fair** on May 26th to promote greater career awareness amongst our students. CAIS invited 20 guests from the Changchun workforce to visit our school and speak to our students. Various community members spent 2 hours talking with students in MYP 4 and 5 and many DP-I students. Four main speakers gave presentations explaining their careers. Then our students had the

chance to meet the presenters and ask questions of the invited guests.

Students were given a list questions to help them get the interviews going after the presentations. Armed with 10 questions students had been instructed by Mr. Hayes how to approach the guests and inquire about the person's career path. Students will continue to receive more classroom instruction on interviewing and public speaking by Mr. Hayes in **preparation for college visits and internships scheduled for June.**

By eight pm students had spoken to many people with a wide range of employment backgrounds from photographers to engineers to marketing managers, lawyers and many other professions. This is a particularly important activity for our students who may not have had any prior exposure to the world of work. Talking with someone in a profession that students are interested in will help shape our students future and help them better use their time here at CAIS.

For students in the MYP-5 who are about to move into the IBDP they need to think about course selection and future career goals. The two objectives are intertwined as the students here at CAIS progress thru the IB program. Parents can feel confident that

students are getting a world class education by attending CAIS and the recent Career Fair night demonstrates the excellence that we all strive for here at CAIS.

- **Mike Hayes, Counselor**

Communication

CAIS uses Managebac for programme information and communication.

cais.managebac.com.

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