

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SHANGHAI COMMUNITY AND HANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

# COMMUNITAS

OCTOBER 2010

## Welcome Back!

**Back to School,  
Back to SCIS-HIS**

**FEATURING:  
Our New SCIS-HIS  
Web Portal**

**PLUS**  
**Our New  
SCIS Partner:  
the Essential  
Learning  
Group**

**The SCIS HQ Marching Band  
Performs at the World EXPO**

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# Welcome Back SCIS-HIS Community!

by JEFFRY R. STUBBS, Superintendent of Schools

**W**e welcome you all back in this first edition of our “Communitas” magazine, a monthly magazine that features some of the initiatives and accomplishments at our individual campuses and within our sisterhood of schools.

The translation for the Latin word *communitas* is “together, a gift”. It is in this spirit that we celebrate our unique commitment to value the contribution of our communities in supporting the teaching and learning at and between our schools.

The theme for this month’s Communitas magazine is “Back to School”. Our aim within the following pages is not only to feature some of the smiling faces of students, parents, and staff at each campus, but to also highlight the efforts we make to bring our schools together. Through this unity, we take advantage of the opportunities presented in being three schools with one common vision and mission.

The annual start of school Open Houses at each of our campuses were all well attended. Due to the tight knit communities at each of our campuses, it is not surprising that each were so successful. These events are a time to “catch up” with our school family and check out what is new with the campus, with the faculty and with the community as it begins a new year. This year, as in all of our past years, there was plenty new to share.

While most of our campuses received their annual summer cleaning and maintenance, our Hongqiao campus went through the most change. SCIS-Hongqiao launched a new Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center at a new site on Hongqiao Road. In addition to this, the Upper School Fine Arts Annex and High School building moved into newly renovated or retrofitted spaces on the Hongqiao Campus. The net effect of these changes has been very positive for SCIS-Hongqiao and attests to the resiliency, support and commitment of our entire community.

That said, SCIS and HIS schools are not primarily about buildings, we are fundamentally about people and learning. On the following pages, we focus on the faces and efforts of the people within our Shanghai and Hangzhou communities.

A few new faces in charge of senior levels of responsibility within our mission were brought on this year. I am pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Robert van der Eyken as our Head

“SCIS and HIS schools are not primarily about buildings, we are fundamentally about people and learning.”

of School in Hangzhou. Mr. van der Eyken joins us after postings in Canada, Namibia, and Mexico. Also joining our system levels of administration are some familiar faces in new positions. Mr. Dan Eschtruth will serve as our Director of Development in addition to his role as the new ECE Principal. This shift will see many of the Admissions responsibilities shifted over to Ms. Shelley Bragg. Finally, we have appointed Mrs. Tammy Rodabaugh as our new Director of Curriculum. Mrs. Rodabaugh takes over this most important post after serving in the capacity of Lower School Principal at our Hongqiao Campus.

As well as strong communities within our SCIS-HIS schools, we also maintain relationships within our greater city and world communities. We will continue to enjoy strong partnerships with Roots and Shoots, the Clinton Climate Initiative, Habitat for Humanity, and our sister migrant schools, and this year we welcome our newest partner, the Essential Learning Group (ELG). The ELG will have a center located at our Pudong Lower School campus and will provide learning support to all 5 of our campuses.

On a final note, I am pleased to announce that SCIS and HIS schools will now follow a single joint-accreditation process with our American-based accrediting organization, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and our Chinese accrediting organization, the National Center for Curriculum and Textbooks (NCCT). Effectively this will allow our Shanghai and Hangzhou communities to work together rather than separately towards school improvement and the WASC Focus on Learning protocols. Rather than a full self-study and reauthorization visit, Hangzhou will join the SCIS accreditation cycle and have a special visit this spring.

Again, welcome back to the 2010-11 school year! Enjoy!



# Shared Educational Vision Guides SCIS – HIS Growth

by DANIEL ESCHTRUTH, Director of Development

Shanghai Community International School (SCIS) and Hangzhou International School (HIS) are a system of schools with a shared vision of education. The belief that students want to learn, create and discover themselves and their world is shared amongst faculty, staff and administration and is a cornerstone of every decision made on each campus in every division. It is this belief and the understanding that today's realities of globalization and continuous change in every dimension of everyday life demand an authentic, innovative, holistic, meaningful, and harmonious education program.

It is in the experience of the whole school community that students are nourished and learn the habits of mind and heart that they may use to make their life choices as they grow and develop. The expectations and principles that guide daily activities and interactions hold a critical role in the teaching and learning process. "Our faculty members are the foundation for such an educational experience and, with the guidance of our administrators and the program, ensure that students will obtain an exceptional educational experience."

However, no opportunity or accomplishment would exist, no program offered, no discourse had without the greater community... the families that choose SCIS and HIS to be the educational environment for their children. It is because of these families that the system of schools continues to provide leading edge programs, rich in resources, and within state-of-the-art facilities.

SCIS and HIS saw expansion, improvement, and beautification projects carried out from the last day of school in June to the first day of the new school year in August. Listed below are a just a few of these projects and accomplishments:

## Projects completed, Summer 2010

- A brand new Early Childhood Education campus was completed in Hongqiao. The location offers a pre-school to kindergarten program in an early childhood focused atmosphere. The spaces were arranged and decorated with natural elements and neutral colors, the learning spaces are ideal for children to concentrate in a safe and creative environment.
- Construction of a Fine Arts Annex on the Hongqiao Campus for Upper School Band, Drama, Choir, Ceramic and Visual Art classes.

“The belief that students want to learn, create and discover themselves and their world is shared amongst faculty, staff and administration.”

- Newly refurbished Pre-School classroom at Pudong Lower School
- A Media Lab (Audio Visual lab for Film and Photography classes) was completed at the Pudong Upper School campus.
- A Fitness Center was constructed on the Pudong Upper School Campus
- Newly refurbished exteriors on all buildings on the Hangzhou Campus
- A Score board and system were placed into the Hangzhou Campus' Gymnasium

## SCIS-HIS accomplishments, Summer 2010

- SCIS-HIS marks their fifth year of increased enrollment. In June of 2005, SCIS-HIS had 889 students. In June of 2010, enrollment was at 1,856 students. Currently, we are expecting to surpass 2,000 total students during the 2010-2011 school year
- The SCIS Pudong Campus begins its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- SCIS and HIS are granted single accreditation status with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Council of Curriculum and Textbooks (NCCT) accreditation bureaus
- In addition to the Master's Degree program offered by the State University of New York, SCIS will now also host a Doctorate program for Shanghai area international educators

Though proud of these recent achievements, growth is a never ending process. As the SCIS - HIS community grows and evolves, so does our vision. Thus, the development of our leading edge programs, resources, and state-of-the-art facilities will continue to grow to answer the challenge of these ongoing changes.

# Helping Students Who Struggle

by ESSENTIAL LEARNING GROUP, SCIS Partner

International schools devote most of their resources to developing the best curriculum and school programs that they can based on educational beliefs, culture, focus, and goals. Research tells us that most schools can meet the needs of 80% to 90% of children based on their established programs but there is always a small but significant group of students that will struggle in school. Many factors can impact a child's ability including undeveloped social skills, anxiety, depression, learning disabilities or other conditions that affect a child's ability to learn. Most children can cope well with the typical group environment but in some cases children will need extra attention or special interventions to help them succeed.

The first step to helping children is to proactively identify those students who need extra attention. Usually it's the teacher who sees that a child is struggling with academics, is not completing assignments or is having trouble making or keeping friends. The child may have behavioral problems or have trouble paying attention. Curriculum based measures, standardized tests like the NWEA, or school wide screening can also provide clues before the child starts to fail.

The second step is for the teacher and other supports in school to try various interventions to help the student. Examples at SCIS of these services are counseling services and ESOL programs. Teachers will also try modifications or accommodations in the classroom, provide extra tutoring, or teach at different levels in the classroom.

When the first levels of interventions are not successful then the next step is to call in specialists or try more advanced interventions. Specialists may include educational psychologists to provide assessments, speech-language therapists, occupational therapists, and learning support specialists. These are the kinds of specialists provided by The Essential Learning Group.



## About The Essential Learning Group

The Essential Learning Group is Shanghai's only multi-disciplinary practice that places an emphasis on working within the educational setting.

ELG has a genuine understanding of the challenges faced by schools, teachers, parents and children. ELG can assist in identifying, assessing, diagnosing and treating academic, communication or social problems using evidence-based systems. Founded in 2006, ELG has a growing team of over 15 professionals. They have both Pudong and Puxi clinic locations, on-site school programs, and a full day alternative program, Creative Garden. ELG has a clinic on the campus of SCIS/Pudong Lower School and provides services throughout the SCIS system.

## Working Memory: The New IQ

The Essential Learning Group offers services for improving working memory including a pre-test of ability, an eight week web-based program, and a post-test to measure improvements.

## Gifted & Talented Children: Off the Charts & Twice Exceptional

Marisol Cappello is an Educational Consultant who specializes in working with gifted and talented children. She provides consulting to schools and families, as well as leading after school enrichment programs.



## Educational Psychologists: Detectives at Work

Dr. Amanda Dahir has her PhD in educational-psychology and is a certified behavior specialist. She is the Clinic Director for the Essential Learning Group



## Speech-Language and Communication: Express Yourself

Dr. Shari Rosen has her PhD in speech-language disorders, is the founder of The Essential Learning Group, and consults in international schools throughout Shanghai.



## Occupational Therapy: Finding Balance in the World

Anne Gerber is an Occupational Therapist who has worked with ELG for over four years and has extensive experience working in school settings.



## Academic Learning Support

### - Learning Differently

ELG has a team of learning support specialists that can work with young children up through high school. It's never too late (or too early) to identify different learners and give them the tools they need to be successful.

# Mandarin Department Achieves and Prepares

by HELEN HE, Mandarin Coordinator, Hongqiao

**T**he Mandarin Department at SCIS has made great strides at SCIS during the last year.

Beginning in school year 2010-2011, a new curriculum for the entire Mandarin department (Lower School through Upper School) will be implemented. The curriculum has been rewritten and will now be a fully comprehensive and integrated course of study through all stages of learning and every grade.

We are proud to have graduated our first group of AP Mandarin students from the Pudong campus and IB Mandarin students from the Hongqiao campus. The groups scored well in both IB exams and AP exams.

Also, in the 2009-2010 school year, we saw our students perform well in both the ACAMIS Chinese Talent Show and the Chinese Spelling Competition. We were able to bring back several trophies to our campuses from both of these competitions.

Professional development of our Mandarin teachers is a key factor to our success. In April and May, we organized two workshops for our Mandarin teachers from all three campuses, with intensive sessions over two weekends at the Hongqiao campus, focusing on writing unit plans, lesson plans and assessments. A third week-long workshop was again organized at the Hongqiao campus in the second week of August, during which all Mandarin teachers from all three campuses got together again to share experiences and learn new skills.

We are looking forward to realization of our curriculum this school year as well as many other wonderful achievements this year from our exceptional Mandarin students and faculty.

## Mid-Autumn Festival

MID-AUTUMN IS A TIME FOR FAMILY MEMBERS and loved ones to get together and enjoy the full moon – an auspicious symbol of abundance, harmony and luck. This festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar. For the year 2010, Wednesday (September 22) was the Mid-Autumn Festival. Those who cannot return home will watch the bright moon and feel deep longing for their loved ones. Adults will usually indulge in fragrant moon cakes of many varieties with a cup of piping hot Chinese tea, while the little ones run around with their brightly-lit lanterns. People also enjoy guessing the riddles on the lanterns with family and friends. - **Helen He**

## National Day

OCTOBER 1, 2010, MARKS THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The PRC's National Day was declared on October 1, 1949, in front of 300,000 people during a ceremony in Tian'anmen Square. Chairman Mao declared the founding of the People's Republic and waved the first five-star PRC flag.

In the past, the day was marked by large political gatherings and speeches, military parades, state banquets and the like. Last year marked the 60th anniversary, therefore a grand ceremony was held in Beijing with a massive military parade followed by a civilian's parade involving 100,000 citizens and 60 floats. This year the celebrations will be low key, but certainly there will be fireworks in some parts of China. - **Helen He**



China's Changing Role  
in a Global Society

Join us for a Global Discussion

Shanghai Community International School and The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations are proud to co-sponsor this program designed to create a deeper understanding of China and its global relations. Join us for an international web simulcast meeting and a speech about China's Changing Role in the Global Society.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010,  
8:00 – 9:00am

1161 Hongqiao Road (in the Auditorium)

Shanghai Community International  
School

For more information, contact:  
jkoenig@scischina.org

# Mandarin Summer Workshop

by HOLLY XI , MANDARIN, Pudong AND HELEN He, Mandarin Hongqiao



The workshops also included many group discussions, with topics ranging from class room strategies, to improving learner's motivation, to collaborative working. All the Mandarin teachers worked together to develop the common placement assessments for different levels, unit topics and unit plans. A range of group discussions provided a good forum for the teachers to exchange experience and opportunities to learn from each other.

Dr. Lily Shu joined us for the final day of the workshop. Dr. Shu serves on the WASC (Western Associate of Schools and Colleges) committee. She gave a workshop entitled "How to Become an Effective Mandarin Teacher", which was really inspiring to all of us. Dr. Shu has over 20 years of experience in teaching Mandarin and promoting Chinese cultures in the United States of America and in China. Her insights into the differences between Chinese teaching styles and the Western educational philosophy really opened the eyes of the Mandarin teachers, especially the ones who are new in the international education business.

This workshop, which was inspiring and influencing to all the Mandarin teachers at SCIS, was a wonderful way to begin our 2010-2011 school year.

**T**he Mandarin teachers from all three campuses of SCIS and HIS gathered for a one -week workshop from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

The workshop started with those teachers who attended ACAMIS conference sharing their learning. Next, Helen He and Holly Xi, the Mandarin program coordinators from the Hongqiao and Pudong campuses made presentations on Classroom Management and Assessment and Evaluation. Daisy Ye, a LS Mandarin teacher from Pudong campus, shared her experience using podcasts in her Mandarin program. Linda Zhang, a LS Mandarin teacher from Pudong campus, shared her experiences in how to establish positive relationships with the students and their parents. Chris McAnally, the Director of Technology at SCIS, led a workshop introducing Moodle and other applications, such as imovie, garageband, and podcasts in Macbook providing the Mandarin teachers with technology tools for teaching in the classroom.



## Teacher's Day Annually Celebrated in China

by HELEN HE, Mandarin, Hongqiao

TEACHERS' DAY WAS OFFICIALLY CREATED IN 1985 to improve teachers' social status in China and called on the entire nation to respect teachers and to seek knowledge. On January 21st, 1985, the Chinese government formally decided to fix September 10th of every year as the Teachers' Day. In 2010, this day was observed on September 10th. This day was commemorated

in China as a way of encouraging society to respect teachers who were then severely underpaid. A lot of you were shocked when I told you that my monthly salary as a first-year Middle School teacher in 1988 was only 56RMB!

Twenty-five years on, teachers are now widely respected in today's society in China and they are called "engineers of human souls".



# IB Programs Underway on Pudong Campus

by DON MACMILLON, Principal of Upper School, Pudong

SCIS Pudong has begun the first year of delivering the IB program to our students. When the decision was made to pursue authorization 18 months ago, we entered upon a journey of challenge and reward, one which continues as the first group of students joins us.

The IB program brings many benefits to students. They engage in a rigorous program of study that pushes them to think critically, to clearly articulate their thoughts and to reflect upon their own learning. With CAS, theory of knowledge and the extended essay at the core of the program and six subject groups to choose from, students develop their talents in a wide variety of areas. At the same time, the two-year span of the courses allows students to explore subject areas in depth. Once earned, an IB Diploma is a solid indicator that a student is well prepared for higher education and life in general.

Delivering the program to the high standards expected requires a school to proceed through a substantial authorization process. Teachers and administrators attended workshops to train them in their subject areas and in coordinating the program. Information meetings were held for parents and students, handbooks and other documents were created, new master and daily schedules were developed and new resources ordered. The school was visited twice by IB representatives, once last fall to check that our preparatory plans were in place and again in

the spring for a three day visit to ensure that our facilities and personnel were ready. Thanks to the hard work of our teachers in their workshops and in developing course and unit plans, we met all standards and achieved authorization last May.

Now the real work begins of teaching classes, meeting with students to develop their CAS programs, keeping students and parents informed of progress and plans and, most critically, making sure that students are put in a position to successfully earn the diploma. This part of the journey is the most rewarding as we watch students discover their capabilities within themselves. The IB program pushes students out of their comfort zones in many ways. Academically, they will be challenged to think at the highest levels. Personally, CAS requires that students engage in activities that they may have previously chosen to avoid. Activities such as becoming physically active, performing on stage or getting involved with less fortunate members of society through service work, are a required part of the IB program. IB is all about growth, which students will demonstrate in a myriad of ways.

Students at SCIS Pudong have demonstrated a solid record of academic achievement over the years, with AP scores the envy of all. We expect similar success for our students in the IB program and are looking forward to our students meeting the challenges and reaping the rewards of their efforts.



# SCIS Pudong Celebrates Academic Achievement

by RYAN BLANTON, Head of School, Pudong

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT SCIS PUDONG celebrated the return of Advanced Placement results at the conclusion of the past school year. For the fifth year in a row, SCIS students scored well beyond the U.S. National average on all Advanced Placement tests.

AP Score	2010 U.S. National percentage breakdown on Advanced Placement Test Scores:	2010 SCIS Pudong percentage breakdown on Advanced Placement Test Scores:
5	14% of test takers	39% of test takers
4	19% of test takers	24% of test takers
3	24% of test takers	22% of test takers
2	22% of test takers	9% of test takers

On the heels of these outstanding results, SCIS introduced the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program this month to high school students on its Pudong Campus. The beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year marks the start of the second SCIS campus in Shanghai to become an IB World School. Working in partnership with the SCIS Hongqiao campus, SCIS Pudong now offers a broad range of IB course options, including the general range of Arts, Sciences, Mathematics, and Language courses, complimented by classes such as IB Film, Economics, Korean A1, and Theatre Arts.

As school got underway on August 23rd, SCIS Pudong Principal Don Macmillan commented, “We are extremely excited to be adding the IB diploma program to our high school offerings, and look forward to the well balanced and highly academic challenges that it will provide to our students.”

# The Dragons March at the World EXPO

by SHELLEY BRAGG, Admissions and Public Relations Officer

The beats sounded through the air, and the crowds applauded on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, as Shanghai Community International School's Hongqiao Marching Band represented the USA Pavilion in the World EXPO parade. With almost 100 SCIS students taking part, the band marched for over 40 minutes with continuous well-timed playing, and in front of thousands of spectators.

Countless hours of preparation and practice were given in order to make their performance a success and the results of which could clearly be seen. Directed by Ms. Mindy Ruskovich, the SCIS Hongqiao Band Director, the SCIS HQ Dragons Marching Band were an excellent representation of the quality and standard of the SCIS Arts programs, and the students walked away feeling proud and somewhat famous. It was clearly a won-

derful experience for them, a wonderful opportunity for the school to represent the USA, and a wonderful event for all the EXPO visitors to enjoy.

Well done SCIS HQ Marching Band for all your talent, your hard work, and your fine display of both.



# Hongqiao Shows School Spirit

by JESSAMINE KOENIG, Language Arts, Hongqiao

SCIS-HQ'S "HONGQIAO GAMES" was a positive event designed to increase school spirit, kick off the year's student council sponsored activities, and generally build connections and friendships amongst the high school students. SCIS/HQ's second class of seniors dominated this year's Hongqiao Games with their desire to win a free dress day as the ultimate prize!

Although not everyone was able to participate due to alternative activities, events, and educational opportunities, a good majority of students participated and had a great time. High school students received their class shirts donated by the Student Council and will be able to wear these at spirit days.

Overall, the sophomores (class of 2013) dominated the tug of war event with their enthusiasm and strength, but the seniors were able to outmuscle the teachers who had gathered to supervise and interact with the kids. Thanks to the HQ Student Council group who organized and prepared the event.





# Multi-Age Learning at Hangzhou International School

by ROBERT VANDEREYKEN, Head of School, Hangzhou International School



small, mixed age classes actually tend to outperform students in single age groups.

She then discussed the fact that in any class regardless of whether it is single-grade or multi-grade, there exists a huge range of abilities, especially in an international school setting like HIS where students are arriving from different systems with a range of mother tongues. Such an environment forces a teacher to differentiate, to accommodate each student's needs, just like a composite class. It is the teacher's task is to build on each individual's abilities and gently push them to the next level. In any class, students are teaching each other, watching others, learning from each other.

Composite classes are not unusual and not restricted to just smaller schools like Hangzhou International School. I have collaborated with administrators around the world in a wide variety of schools on the merits of such classes.

It just so happens that I myself, am the product of participating in such an education having studied grade one in a First-Second composite and fifth grade in a Fourth-Fifth Combined class.



Dr. Denise Sue White compared the performance of the few students in the United States who still study in extremely small schools, where one teacher teaches students of not one or two grade levels, but three, four up to eight grade levels in the same room. In total, her studies involved 17,000 students. The finding:

Students in one-teacher (multi-grade or composite class) schools achieve at a higher level than students in the other school types in: language arts, mathematics, sources of information, and the composite score."

Implementing best educational practice programs like composite classrooms is simply one of the many ways in which HIS pursues excellence in its program. The HIS faculty and administration are committed to providing opportunities to our students to learn, be challenged, and excel within a small school environment surrounded by an active and caring community.

**H**umans learn through social interaction. We are social animals and throughout our development as a species and society we have learned in cross-generational environments. The bulk of human educational history, the huge period of our development before the invention of schools a little over a century ago, was in an extended family setting. We learned from our elders, we taught our younger siblings; we interacted throughout the day with people of different levels of maturity.

Dr. Sandi Balli, Professor at La Sierra University School of Education conducted a workshop for all teachers on cooperative learning prior to the commencement of the new school year. The workshop was engaging and fun. Teachers from very different academic backgrounds and levels of experience worked on group activities in a variety of forms.

One of the focal points for the teachers at HIS was based on the implementation of Composite Classes. There are many names to describe these classes - Blended, Multi-age, Combined - but they all essentially describe a class where two or more grades of students work in the same class but learn at different levels. There are two reasons for implementing such classes. From an administration perspective it makes more sense to combine a very small class of second graders with an equally small class of third graders as small groups present a myriad of issues. However there is a more profound, meaningful reason for implementation of multi-age, blended composite classes - it is natural, and it makes sense.

Dr. Balli discussed how hundreds of research papers support the fact that students in composite classes have better behavior, higher self esteem, develop greater tolerance for differences, etc. These are all affective advantages of working in multi-age groups. But there is also a lot of research that supports the fact that far from having a negative effect academically, students in

# SCIS-HIS Libraries Strike a Balance

by MARGIE DEVILLIERS, Head of Libraries

The SCIS-HIS libraries are continuing to look at an effective balance between technology and books as we work at meeting the changing needs of our community. Our libraries are places where students are encouraged to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners.

In all our libraries, a love of reading is fostered, and the important role that literature has in an educated society is nurtured. Students are guided through the flood of digital information that confronts them every day. The libraries provide physical and intellectual access to our resources and the tools required for learning. School librarians (in collaboration with others) provide instruction on learning strategies and practice in using the essential skills needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

SCIS-HIS libraries have been putting in system-wide procedures and programs that will allow individual campus libraries to retain their unique characteristics and yet ensure that all our resources are accessible to all our students. SCIS-HIS has a common library system, "Destiny", and each student is able to see and access through our inter-library system what is available at all our campuses.

Destiny, the library database can be accessed at home and there is a virtual library feature that allows students to search the shelves and then to create their own reading lists. Virtual browsing in our developing 21 Century Libraries!

SCIS-HIS has acquired online databases that are attached to the virtual online library resources. All these are being promoted to teachers and students alike. IB students have been refining their research topics and extended essays through the research they are doing via EBSCOHO, which has abstracts and access to multiple journals, newspapers and articles.



The libraries are promoting academic literacy across all campuses through visiting authors and storytellers and book fairs, as well. Margriet Ruurs will be visiting all our campuses teaching writing workshops and sharing her books that reflect her interest in the natural environment and sharing her love of reading and writing.

Each campus library still has their own individual programs to suit their own community. Pudong Library has begun a Saturday Open House with Guest readers. Hongqiao Campus has begun a Family Lecture Series inviting parents to meet with Hongqiao Counselors, technology co-coordinators, and librarians. Hangzhou library has created an atmosphere where parents enjoy participating in all the library programs and book fairs. Separate but fabulous programs each meeting the individual campus' needs.

PAFA

## Parents and Friends Associations Active at SCIS-HIS

by MAUREEN NI, Parent, Hongqiao

The Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) coordinates parents' involvement with the school. All SCIS-HIS parents are by definition members of this organization.

PAFA sponsors various activities and events for students, parents and faculty.

PAFA is interested in creating an open and welcoming atmosphere as well as a dialogue between parents and administration. PAFA works only in an advisory capacity and does not establish policy.

Becoming involved with PAFA is a great way for parents to connect with each other.

### In Hangzhou, please contact:

- President: Francis Spiekerman- pafa\_hz@scischina.org

### In Pudong, please contact:

- Lower School PAFA Chair: Renae Darling  
darlingfam@yahoo.com
- Upper School PAFA Chair: Karla Quartuccio-Kluexendorff  
karlygirl@hotmail.de

### In Hongqiao, please contact:

- Co-Presidents: Angela Anderson -  
angelia\_marlin@hotmail.com or Gayle Thams  
thamsmgr@mac.com

# Back to SCIS-HIS for an Exciting 2010-11 School Year

by STAFF WRITER



On the 23rd of August 2010, the classroom doors on Shanghai Community/ Hangzhou International School's 5 campuses were opened and the students and faculty embraced the start of the 2010-11 school year. While some of these children are returning SCIS-HIS students, many of them are new to the school and to China, and some are entering their first year of school altogether. All of them, however, are now SCIS-HIS Dragons.

The day saw each campus come to life, as proud mothers and fathers on the ECE campuses watched their little children begin their very first day of school, and happy Upper schools students received their Macintosh laptops; Juniors began their first classes in the IB Diploma and AP Programs, and the Lower school students started forming friendships with their brand new classmates. From Mandarin lessons to

Band classes, from assemblies to after school activities, it was evident that this year will provide each student with the opportunity for success, enjoyment, development and personal achievement.

Although this day was the first for the students, it was certainly not the first for the school's faculty and staff. A vast amount of preparation was put in over the summer months to ensure a successful 2010-11 school year. One of the major developments was the opening of the brand new ECE Center in Hongqiao. This 3-story center currently caters to students from Preschool through Kindergarten and is equipped with the perfect facilities to accommodate the needs of these young learners. It has indoor and outdoor play areas, a well-stocked library, a cafeteria, an indoor gymnasium, music rooms, spacious classrooms, and a parent's activity lab. On account of the



“It is clear to see that this environment and the opportunities for the students to achieve success are prevalent for yet another year.”

growth of their toddler and preschool programs, the ECE Center on the Pudong side also renovated a new preschool room, and created the ideal environment to stimulate and encourage their students' development.

What is so distinctive about both SCIS ECE Centers is the environment, which was created specifically to provide opportunities for learning while also engaging, stimulating and nurturing their students. The classroom layouts allow for social interaction, independent choice activities and a variety of creative and visual activities. The facilities have been designed especially with the younger child in mind, and within smaller sized campuses, which foster physical development in safe environs.

Daniel Eschtruth, Principal of the Hongqiao ECE Campus, shared a few words about the overall aim of the SCIS' ECE programs. “At SCIS, we believe that children should be developed in all areas, we encourage children's creativity through music and art, develop their language skills, and we recognize the need for ample physical activity and overall enjoyment in learning.”

However, the ECE programs are only part of the highlights that students have seen for the 2010-11 school year. The SCIS IB Diploma program continues to prosper and last year SCIS celebrated their first year of IB graduates, with students having gone onto Universities world-wide. This year will also be the first year of the IB program at the Pudong campus, and the grade 11 students are already engrossed in their extensive IB course material.

SCIS was also glad to welcome a few key members of the administration, namely a new Upper School Principal and Middle School Vice principal at the Hongqiao Campus, Greg Schellenberg, and Mr. Daniel Kerr respectively, and a new Head of School and Vice Principal at the Hangzhou Campus, Mr. Robert Van der Eyken and Mr. Kory Indahl respectively. The Administration on each campus provides the accessible leadership and support needed for the teachers to focus on their roles and for parents to feel comfortable and willing to become true partners in their child's learning, and the new team has done well to ensure this continues.

The school was also pleased to have Ms. Tammy Rodabaugh take on the role of Director of Curriculum, while Mr. Daniel Eschtruth became the Principal of the new ECE Hongqiao Campus and the Director of Development. With ample experience in their fields and within SCIS, families can look forward to continuing strength in program and advancements.

School community is an unquestionable strength of SCIS and continuing to foster this sense of collaborative work and learning, they arranged for a variety of activities for the faculty prior to the start of school. There were workshops, Mandarin based and on cooperative learning; there were social functions, teacher orientation evenings, weekend activities and ample opportunities for everyone to meet each other, learn from each other, and to develop strong working relationships. A strong school community creates a strong learning environment and in turn, this results in strong students.

It is clear to see that this environment and the opportunities for the students to achieve success are prevalent for yet another year, at Shanghai Community/Hangzhou International School.





# New SCIS – HIS Web Portal

by CHRIS MCANALLY, Director of Technology

In January, SCIS-HIS will be unveiling its new educational web portal, a project we are calling the **School Network System (SNS)**. The site is intended to take advantage of social networking technologies to help foster our community online and direct information to the families who are interested.

scribed to. Finally, we can send out a nightly e-mail digest which summarizes all of the announcements for the day.

### For Parents

Parents can sign into the site with their Powerschool username and the initial password **scis**. They can then change their password. Parents will be able to connect with their children’s teachers and receive school announcements and check calendar events. Campus groups such as PAFAs can create calendars, which they can manage and share with other parents. Parents can also download pictures that teachers have shared. The nightly e-mail will also reduce inbox clutter and allow parents to keep up with school events.



We have several goals associated with this project. First of all, we wanted to create a central place for parents and students to find information including school and class announcements. Also, we wanted to synchronize with Powerschool to automatically place students and parents into groups with their classes.

The idea is to make content come to the user, not force parents to search several websites for the information needed to know what activities are going on at school and how their children’s classes are proceeding.

Within this single site, we can also post pictures and files and allow community members to share them online. We can also host a single page with all the calendars a family is sub-

### For Teachers

Teachers will have one location, which they can use to send announcements and messages to students & parents. It also provides a class calendar to which students can subscribe to help keep students on task and organized. Lastly it provides a way to host files online so students can download assignments and notes online. If a teacher wants to use Moodle, Wikispaces or other sites, they can do so, but need to provide a link on the portal and update the calendar.

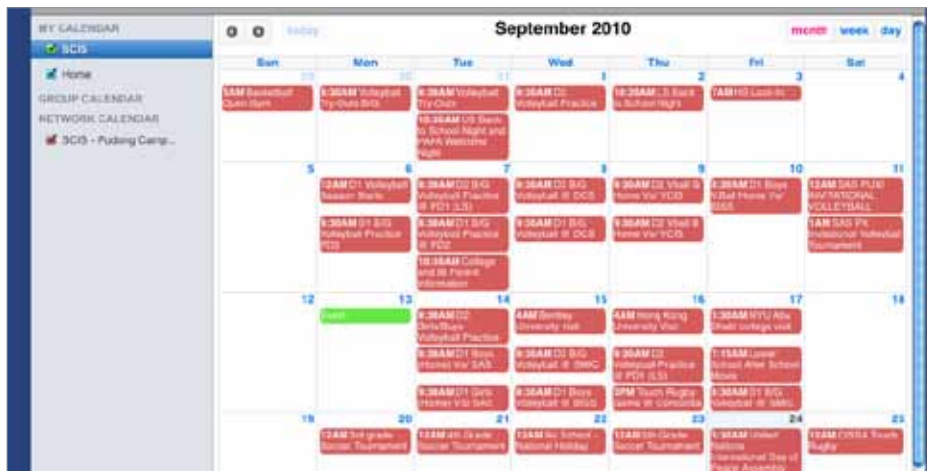
### For Students

The new portal will provide a way for students to connect with each other, download assignments and notes, and keep up with school events. It also provides a simple way for students to keep up with school news.

### For All

This website will eventually replace [www.scisdragons.net](http://www.scisdragons.net). However, until the SNS site is established, the current site and the [scisdragons.net](http://scisdragons.net) will host some minor services until the School Network System can replace it.

The SCIS Technology Department is very excited to be unveiling this program and feel that this will be a major enhancement to our community.



# Educational iPhone & iPad Applications for Small Children

by CHRIS MCANALLY, Director of Technology

**W**e have all been there. You are traveling or in a line and your child is bored. He grabs for your phone and you let him play a game. It keeps him happy and out of trouble better than your Aji. However is it the best thing for him? Why not load up your device with games that will keep him entertained and educate him at the same time. The following are a set of iPhone games that combine educational value with entertainment.



**Oregon Trail** is a classic game from the 1980s that many of us will remember from the Apple II. The game focuses on the struggles of your family of pioneers. The game teaches planning and illustrates the difficult struggle of families crossing the continent on their way to Oregon and a better life. It is American-centric naturally but it illustrates American history well and introduces children to a variety of historical figures. Price 0.99 USD



**KosmicMathHD Family** is an iPad application (also available for iPhone at several prices and versions) that is designed to teach math concepts to children ages Preschool to grade 4. The game is a space exploration game in which student progress by completing math exercises. There are two modes Exploration and Drill which encourage students to master their math tables and chart their progress. The application integrates with a web portal which allows you to chart your child's progress and see how it relates to grade levels (compared to the Australian benchmarks). Price: 4.99 USD for iPad version (also comes in a free Light version for iPhone)



**Music Learning Adventure** is an application which teaches children about music and Harmony. It has several videos and interactive tasks. The content is a bit light, but so is the price: Price: FREE



**Solar Walk** is not exactly a game, but rather a way for children (and adults) to explore the solar system and even roll-back time to see how it all began. It works for both iPhone and iPad, but the application really shines on the iPad's larger screen. The best part of the application is it's 3D capability. You can wear 3D glasses and have an entirely new experience in the palm of your hand. Price: 2.99 USD



**Build a Word** by WordWorld lets your child build and experiment with letters. As children build a word, letter-by-letter they morph into "WordFriends," and this builds immediate positive feedback to early spelling. It's a great way to teach children to read. Price: 0.99 USD

# Tropic Lightning Band Plays for SCIS

by MEGAN ROCHLITZ, Music, Pudong

**O**n Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, band and choir students from the SCIS Pudong Upper School attended a concert at the Hongqiao campus. This concert was performed by the 25th Infantry Division US Army band, the Tropic Lightning Band, based out of Wahiawa, Hawaii. The previous day, the band had performed in an international parade at the 2010 World Expo.

After finishing 'Stars and Stripes Forever,' band members walked around the auditorium and engaged with students. Collectively the band represented a number of States within the U.S. including Michigan, Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri, California, and Texas. Though these musicians were from all parts of the country, they all shared two things in common - a love for music and the job of a soldier.

After a brief intermission, band students were treated to a jazz and pop performance, with music by Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson. Students were invited to dance during one or two of the songs. Later a question and answer session was conducted and students inquired on such topics as, "Who plays the most instruments?" and "Have you been trained to fight?" One member of the band plays multiple instruments, and as for the second question, the reply was clear, "We're soldiers first and musicians second."



# SCIS Faculty and Family Float Trip

by JESSAMINE KOENIG, Language Arts, Hongqiao

On September 4, about 130 SCIS faculty and family members from all three campuses journeyed to the Shuang Xi River near Hangzhou for a float trip and barbecue. The weather was amazing, the water was clean, and the water gun fights were vicious. The bamboo rafts poled down river by a guide were an easy way to enjoy nature and just relax from the busy urban lifestyle we all are part of in Shanghai.

Once we finished the hour long float, we adjourned to the barbecue pit where we grilled our own burgers and hotdogs while the kids enjoyed the rest of the games and activities offered around the area. It was a great day to meet new additions to our SCIS staff, renew acquaintances from other campuses, and generally to enjoy a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Here's to hoping that this tradition will carry on for a few more years. Next time, though, I'm getting a larger water gun. Mine didn't have enough oomph to get everyone who got me!



## Hongqiao Campus Bustles with Community Activities

by MICHAEL DONALDSON, Head of School, Hongqiao

Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25th saw the Hongqiao campus as busy as it's ever been. A variety of events occurred over the course of a 24-hour period, including the annual Back to School Barbecue which filled the school's soccer pitch with sun and fun seekers of all ages.

Hosted by the school, the intention of the annual barbecue event is to provide all members of the school community with an opportunity to greet, meet and spend time with their friends in a simple, music filled, and hopefully sun-drenched atmosphere. In addition, let's not underestimate the importance of food and refreshments! Burgers, hot dogs, burritos and free cotton candy along with margaritas for mom and dad were on offer and combined with the sweet sounds of Studio 188 to make the day a great

kick off to the outdoor program list for the 2010-11 school year.

The organization of the event was shared between the school and our community friends at Big Bamboo. The weather wasn't perfect, but it was pretty close, considering that Head of School Michael Donaldson came within a few minutes of cancelling the event earlier in the week as thunderstorms had been forecast for Saturday. Fortunately, the weather report changed and the event went ahead.

Our next major Saturday event will be the International Food Fair coming up on October 29th, 2010. This event is another annual celebration, in this case organized by our Parents and Friends Association (PAFA). Watch for communication from the school and from PAFA regarding this exciting and delicious celebration of our school's diversity.

# And the Dragon Cup Goes To...

by JEFF MARTIN, Athletics and Activities Coordinator, Hongqiao



**T**raditionally the Dragon Cup has been a opportunity for our Upper School sport teams to get together in the spirit of friendly competition and to test the early season skills in each of the three main SISAC (Shanghai International Schools Athletic Conference) seasons. They are Volleyball, Basketball and Soccer.

Each school in our system hosts one of the events and with the variety of facilities, SCIS HQ is best suited to court sports and thus volleyball. Hongqiao went through some renovations over the summer and with the additional gym facility is now a very good indoor facility boasting some excellent playing facilities.

Pudong has typically sported very strong teams. With the growth of the campus and development of the programs, Hongqiao is catching up. Hangzhou has sent their strongest teams ever and was a strong school at the Dragon Cup Volleyball tournament this past September.

The decision was made to combine the "Back to School BBQ" with the Dragon Cup. It was a logistics challenge, but Mr. Donaldson pulled off the very popular BBQ and got some help with the weather. Big Bamboo supplied the food, tents and music as

families enjoyed the community and afternoon listening to music and enjoying the BBQ.

It was exciting to see the young athletes sporting their newly designed uniforms and mixing among the BBQ. It was also a great opportunity for parents to watch some of the exciting volleyball action in the gyms.

## What about the Dragon Cup...

Last year, for the first time, SCIS HQ stole the cup away from the dominant SCIS Pudong Green. Hongqiao managed a win in the volleyball and soccer tournaments last year and would have been considered the cup owners for the year. This put a bit of pressure on Hongqiao to step-up and try to hold on to the cup.

The Volleyball Dragon Cup started on time and saw some exciting play in both the Junior and Varsity sides. The tournament came down to the final match with Hongqiao Varsity Boys vs. Pudong Varsity Boys. There are movie scripts that could not have come out better than these two schools and their finish. More on that later...

Hangzhou girls went through undefeated this year and created some pressure from this, the smallest of our three schools. This is a tribute to the dedication to sports and the commitment of the Hangzhou parents, students and coaches. Well done HIS.

The final match ended in a straight sets win by the Hongqiao boys, but this did not secure the Dragon Cup victory. With the combination of wins by the boys and girls, Pudong and Hongqiao teams were deadlocked. As the tournament organizer, Mr. Martin, had to visit the SISAC tie-breaking procedures to determine the winners. The teams, HQ and Pudong, were tied after sets won. Tied in head-to-head matches and now had to go down to point differential between the tied teams. After tallying all the points scored by both boys and girls in their games, Hongqiao and Pudong differed by only 2 points. The winners of this year's Dragon Cup Volleyball Tournament- SCIS Pudong.

Well done Green Dragons.



# Activities Abound at SCIS-Pudong

by MIKE DENEFF, P.E. and Co-Curricular Coordinator, Pudong

In Pudong we take great pride in our co-curricular program; the part of education that doesn't occur in the classroom but is equally as important as any subject lesson.

In 2010, the Pudong campus of SCIS is once again proud to be presenting a myriad of fantastic opportunities to its students. We are once again competing for (and in some cases defending) SISAC (Shanghai International Schools Activities Conference) championships in all the organization's core sports such as soccer, basketball and volleyball (tournament Oct. 16th). We have been treated to our first major drama production (The Nerd) for which the thespians had to prepare diligently over the summer. Jazz Band is also in 'full swing' with a community performance scheduled for October 16th

As part of our regular quarter one weekly activities, the school's new student-created Acappella Group has begun their rehearsals along with other musical activity groups such as the Rock Band club and the beginning Guitar club.

SCIS is proud to be offering important service opportunities to students as well through our long standing Interact and MUN clubs, our new high school focused National Arts Honors Society and our middle school focused Challenge 20/20 environmental awareness group.

While our upper school students are involved in SISAC activities, our middle school students will be a part of CISSA (China International Schools' Sports Association), an organization dedicated to increasing the involvement level of students in fair and equitable athletic pursuits. Through this organization, our students will compete in rugby, soccer and basketball among other sports. SCIS/PD has also recently added swimming and tennis to our repertoire of quarter one activities.

International schools need strong, vibrant after school programs. The lessons learned on the stage or on the field prepare students for the real world of successes, failures, networking, deadlines, communication and commitment. The school benefits from an increased sense of community (an SCIS trademark) and pride.



The coaches and activity leaders benefit from being able to see students in a different light, to have opportunities to stretch their personal abilities and to become more tightly connected to the school. The real purpose of 'school' is to produce well-adjusted, confident and able young people who have a sense of the world beyond themselves – the co-curricular program helps schools do this.

## Many Activities Going Strong This Fall at HIS'

by HEATHER COUCH, P.E. and Activities Coordinator, Hangzhou International School

THE ENERGY BUZZING AROUND THE CAMPUS this year is almost palpable. The Upper School students are busy with volleyball, coached by Greg Jardin and Ivy Stewart and rugby/cross country coached by the Brunners and Ms. Couch. The volleyball teams have 22 students participating while the rugby/cross-country team has 15. Both HIS volleyball teams had victories in a recent tournament and the rugby team is gearing up for their first games this weekend at SAS Pudong.

In Upper School sports are not the only activities that are taking place: MUN led by Mr. Robinson and Mr. Milton; Habitat for

Humanity led by Ms. Jardin; and Choir led by Ms. Lapwing are all in full swing. Ms. Lapwing plans on her students performing in quite a few productions throughout the year to showcase the astounding amount of talent found at HIS.

Lower School students are keeping busy by attending one of the many ASA activities available: table tennis; Spanish club; arts and crafts; intro to dance; homework club; and digital photography. Ms. Hah is also leading a production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to be performed later in the year.

We anticipate this year at HIS to be the best year yet!

# Advice from the Counselors

by LUIS MURILLO, Counselor, Pudong



**W**hat are the essential conditions for success in a college application? There are a few essentials that really help," explained SCIS Pudong College Counselor, Dr. Luis Murillo. "First, all applicants to university admission must have an honest understanding of themselves – strengths and shortcomings. Students should have the maturity to assess who they are, neither falling prey to delusions of grandeur nor underestimating their true worth. Somewhere in the middle between these two extremes, candidates will see the special talents and experiences that, with modesty, they will want to highlight in their college personal statements."

At Shanghai Community International School there is a College Counselor on each campus to ensure the success of students in the application process and to offer them the guidance they need to make the decision that is most beneficial for them. SCIS students take the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Grade 11 and 12 and have previously been accepted at Universities around the world. The SCIS mission is to provide them with opportunities to pursue personal and academic excellence within school, and beyond, and the role of the College Counselors is essential in providing them with the support to achieve their goals.

Mr. Greer Bevel from the SCIS Hongqiao Campus also had some key insights to share about the application process: "Students should keep their grade point average on a constant upward trend. This is especially important for the Grade 11 year and even more so in the first semester of the Grade 12 year. Universities scrutinize these two periods closely. Finally, at least two academic advisors (teachers or counselor) should proofread and guide the writing of university essays and personal statements. As with any writing process, many revisions are needed until a

strong, final essay can be submitted to a university."

Dr. Murillo mentions one key strength: "Students coming from schools like Shanghai Community International School have challenged themselves with the rigors of an externally assessed academic curriculum. Whatever their scores, students should value this rigor and not be shy to mention it in their applications. Students at SCIS have experienced a wide variety of cultures and working styles – arguably the strongest advantage of an international education. This has made them tolerant, flexible, and open-minded. Students at international schools are typically conversant in more than one language, and possess an instinctive understanding that the world lends itself to multiple reading. Universities

seeking to promote internationalism will actively recruit such students. It makes sense, therefore, to underscore in the personal statement the rich variety of multicultural experiences that make your application special, and highly attractive compared to someone who stayed in their home country."

"The second thing to take an honest look at is what are we looking for in a university. Status? Prestige? Social advancement? Perhaps, more idealistically, it is a broadening of the mind, an expanded sensitivity," Dr. Murillo continues. "Loren Pope, in *Colleges that Change Lives* details a number of schools committed to excellent, highly personalized teaching. These are places where professors have been selected for the quality of their teaching rather than solely on the volume of their research." SCIS has had success in placing students in a wide variety of universities and colleges from Engineering powerhouses to small Liberal Arts programs, thus the college counselors are well versed in the options available."

The college admissions process can be confusing, stressful, and expensive. It is important for students to be aware of all the options that they have available to them and considering they are expatriate children based in Shanghai, it is also important that the school can bring these options to them. Shanghai Community International School makes this possible by providing them with ample information about universities and colleges, by having university representatives visit their campuses, by using early planning strategies, by monitoring grades and standardized tests, and by carefully scouring financial aid programs. They also help to prepare the students for their first year in college, and with parents, faculty, and the College Counselors as their guides, the students should be able to find the application process as what it truly should be - exciting and empowering.

# Transitions and Adjustments - All Part of International Life

by DANIEL JUBERT, Vice-Principal, Pudong



*Sometimes homesickness blows in,  
Like a summer storm.  
But luckily,  
With each passing cloud,  
It ebbs further and further away.  
Until,  
Finally,  
I am at home again.*

*-Naomi Gross; 15 year-old international school student*

Transitioning to a new location can be an exhausting process. Constantly having to deal with the “newness” of everything, from complex issues to trivial items, can take a toll on anyone. It takes time to get used to a new place, especially if this is your family’s first experience living abroad.

With the arrival of over 75 new students at Pudong’s lower school, we have made every effort to help these new students and parents with the transition, hoping to provide a positive experience. Of first importance with new students is having them feel welcomed in our community. Teachers and school staff provided many opportunities for new students to make powerful social connections with classmates. Teachers assigned “buddies,” organized “get-to-know-you games,” and placed these students in situations where they would succeed. The effort has paid off, as our school continues to be filled with smiling and energetic students.

That being said, having difficulty adjusting to a new place is quite normal. Around this time (about 1-2 months of being in a new place) the worst phase of “culture shock” generally sets in, and yearning for your “previous life” is at its highest. Homesickness, feeling depressed, and feeling helpless are all common

emotions experienced during this time. The graph on the page details the normal progression families experience when moving from home to a new place, and vice versa. Understanding this might help you and your children come to terms with some of the emotions you may be experiencing.

If you or your children are having difficulty transitioning, here are some important items to keep in mind:

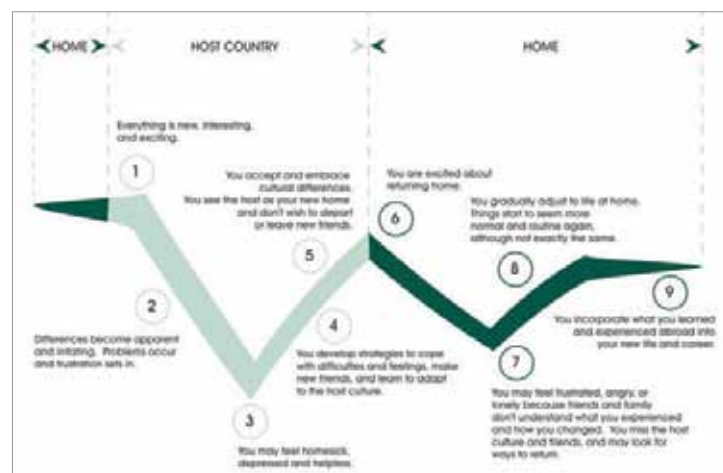
- Talk about your feelings, and continue asking your children how they feel. This is vital and sets an example for your children to follow.
- Get out and enjoy what Shanghai has to offer. If you are unsure, speak with families who have lived here for a while to get some

good tips.

- Get involved and stay busy! Students can sign up for ASA’s or other activities; parents can join PAFA or other social groups.
- Continue doing the things that you and your children love to do. It is important to maintain familiar routines and family pastimes.
- Create a safe place within your home and put a few special items that will remind your children of your cultural roots.

As time passes on, and as the opening poem highlights, this foreign place will soon become home. If you are concerned about any transitional issues you or your children may be experiencing, please feel free to contact me.

Daniel Jubert has a Master’s degree in educational psychology and is a licensed school counselor. Feel free to see him for any concerns you may have.





# Alumni Connection Established at SCIS

by GREER BEVEL, Counselor, Hongqiao

**T**he newly founded Shanghai Community International School Alumni (SCISA) encourages academic and social

connections between Shanghai Community International School alumni, families and current students.

SCISA will strengthen the connection between alumni and SCIS, offer cultural, educational, and social opportunities to its alumni, facilitate networking opportunities for alumni and enhance Shanghai Community International School's presence in the local and global community.

SCISA members hold the responsibility to contribute back to the school community by sharing their personal university and career experiences with our current student body through informal presentations and social events sponsored by SCISA. Students home from college for Winter or Summer break would speak to current students about their recent experiences with

college life. These informational sessions serve two purposes: it provides students with a firsthand account of university life and serves to excite and motivate students about the post-SCIS phase in their lives.

SCISA will maintain a directory for alumni to share information about college experiences face-to-face as well as via internet. As the SCISA grows, our knowledge base grows. For example, if a student chooses to attend university in the Boston area, SCIS alumni could be asked to provide valuable information on residence life, university programs, internship and job possibilities.

SCISA will maintain a presence on several social media sites, including Facebook and LinkedIn. A Facebook account enables alumni to receive regular updates about campus and SCISA events. SCISA will also have a group page on LinkedIn, a professional networking site that facilitates career-oriented connections between our alumni.

We are excited to begin this new aspect of the SCIS program--one that extends into the post-SCIS life of our students and yet keeps them connected to our school community.



# Counselor's Corner

by KORY INDAHI, Vice Principal, Hangzhou International School

**W**ow, what a great start to the year! I was a little anxious to take on too many roles here at Hangzhou International School, but after spending a few weeks with the up-

per school students, I clearly have my work cut out for me. All of the high school students are talented, driven, well-rounded and extremely articulate; qualities which make the University Counselor's job very easy! The only problem I foresee for our graduates is having too many options to choose from and having to make some tough choices down the road.

As much as I would love to see a student accepted to Stanford or Yale, I like to tell the parents that my job is not merely to push students into the most competitive colleges. My role is to make the students and parents aware of all the opportunities that are available and make sure they are making the choice that is best for them and their families. I firmly believe that in order for the student to be successful in college they need to enter into

that decision confidently knowing they made the best decision and having evaluated all of their options.

I am in the process of meeting all the seniors and their parents to make sure we are on the same page and that they are well into the planning process. We have a few colleges visiting HIS this fall and I plan on meeting with the juniors and their parents in early February to get the ball rolling. I truly enjoy discussing students' options for their future, it is a great reminder of how fortunate we all are and what a wonderful world we live in.

Before the winter break, students in grades nine through eleven will be filling out academic profiles and documenting their interests and activities. It is very important for students to remember that colleges and universities look at the whole student, not just a GPA and SAT score. In that regard, students should have as many and varied activities as they have time for, and it is never too late or too early to start. Sports, volunteer, travel and clubs become very important when you have your college application before you. Freshman may not realize that in a few short years they'll be looking at an application with a blank extra-curricular activities box that needs to be filled with their talents and experience.

I look forward to a successful and rewarding year at HIS. Go Dragons!



# World-Class Education

by TAMMY RODABAUGH, Director of Curriculum

**W**hat does one hope to gain from a world-class education? Perhaps, it is a medical degree from Cambridge, or a political science degree from Georgetown. Could it be to acquire the wisdom of great philosophers or famous scientists by study at Berkley? Perhaps, it is gaining an understanding of humanity or an appreciation for artistic creativity and talent by studying at Leiden. The possibilities are countless and each individually unique. Collectively these countless possibilities are the aspirations of our community. We want the opportunities for our children to be all that the world of education has to offer. This is a lofty goal, indeed, but a goal worth pursuing.

The mission of SCIS-HIS is to provide its students with the opportunities to pursue academic and personal excellence in nurturing international community environments. To achieve this mission, SCIS and HIS programs provide rigorous learning opportunities in modern languages, social studies, science, mathematics, the arts, and physical education. Concepts and

skills related to personal and social development, research and technology, as well as those related to effective learning strategies are integrated throughout our programs.

It is expected that students will take full advantage of our learning opportunities and as a result will not only gain a solid foundation of knowledge, but also will demonstrate positive learning attitudes and behaviors, effectively communicate, engage in high-level thinking, and ultimately use their education to appreciate and contribute to their community, and to the larger global community.

The world in which we live can be complicated, and what the future holds for the children of our community is anything but certain. However through “helping students develop the capacity to understand content that is complex, ambiguous, provocative, and personally or emotionally challenging,” we help students to build confidence, overcome difficulties, and to explore the world of possibilities. Exactly what one would hope from the beginnings of a world-class education.

## Mandarin Program and Faculty Excels at SCIS

**T**he Mandarin program here at SCIS has come a very long way from its modest beginnings years ago. Today, lower school students engage in Mandarin classes every day, middle school students take either Mandarin language or Mandarin culture through grade 8, and high school students have the option of 4 years of Mandarin language study which may include AP and IB level courses.

With increasing emphasis on the Mandarin program has come increasing emphasis on the pedagogy of Mandarin teaching. The majority of our Mandarin teachers is Chinese and are educated primarily in the Chinese school system. This is of great advantage when drawing on their expertise in Chinese language and culture, not to mention those amazing tones with which the western tongue seems to struggle. However, not part of their typical training, is teaching in the style that those raised in western culture are accustomed.

As part of our ongoing development of the Mandarin program is the ongoing training of our Mandarin teachers. Most recently, the teachers have engaged in a full week of training on the use of unit based lessons as an alternative to a workbook driven approach. The goal is for the learning of Mandarin to incorporate the elements of communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities into a program rich not only in the learning of Mandarin communication skills, but also as a true academic study of language and culture. Bringing forth aspects that will encourage and enable students to take what they learn



in Mandarin class and apply it to other academic endeavors and in environments outside the school setting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Lily Shu, for her encouragement, insightful suggestions, and support. Dr. Shu represents the National Center for Curriculum and Textbooks (NCCT) which assesses our accreditation qualifications here in China.

We would also like to congratulate Jenny Zhang, Juliana Zhu, and Carolyn Zhang for recently earning their Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the State University of New York. These women exemplify what it means to be successful ESOL students and life-long learners. - **Tammy Rodabaugh**



## Sam Kane

SAT score in the top 1% worldwide  
SCIS Student Council President  
Captain of the 2010 Championship Varsity Basketball Team,  
and Proud SCIS Dragon since 2003

### Inspiring Lifelong Learners

Sam's accomplishments reflect his hard work, they define his determination, and they represent the learning experience at SCIS. With an approach to education that motivates and challenges students to become well-rounded problem solvers, we prepare our students to engage the world ahead as lifelong learners. Come see for yourself the opportunities and lifetime of memories that our truly international education can offer.

***Congratulations to our graduating class of 2010!***

Visit [www.sclschina.org](http://www.sclschina.org) or call our admissions office **6261-4338** today to tour our state-of-the-art facilities.



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