

# OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Helping others to be the best that they can be*

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 8

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2013



*Year 4 students celebrate Roman Day*

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

### SPORT IN EDUCATION

#### Shanghai Rugby 7s

Last weekend our BISS Lions rugby teams joined international teams at the YuanShen stadium and played exhibition matches in between the international games.

### THE GIVING TREE

The Year 12 CAS students are organizing the Giving Tree project this year for secondary students to give a Christmas gift to children from the Fu Hang Migrant School.

### PTA CORNER

The PTA have been busy working with the CAS students on our Winter Wonderland Extravaganza and there's been a lot going on.

### PRIMARY CELEBRATE BOOK WEEK

Next week is Book Week in primary and we're gearing up for a fantastic week of exploring the wonderful world of books.

### CALLING ALL WRITERS!

This year students from our secondary school will be participating in the Hong

Kong Young Writers Award. If you're in Years 7 – 11 you could showcase your talent and creativity in fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

### TRIATHLON CHAMPION

Our very own Alard Schroeder fought off the competition to come 1st in the under 29 age group in the Anting Triathlon last weekend – and did we mention he's only 12 years old!

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# HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNING

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PICTURED BELOW *Year 3 students get their first taste of the new outdoor playing equipment*



## OUR PRINCIPAL WRITES

BY KEVIN FOYLE

**As many of you are aware one of my main tasks year on year is ensuring that we are able to employ, develop and retain a high quality team of academic staff.**

We have enjoyed a good deal of success in this undertaking over the last five years and this has been reflected in the academic results that our students have achieved. Our school community has diversified and broadened significantly during this period and this is also a reflection of the passion that staff have brought to their work.

Partly as a result of the new tighter Chinese immigration regulations, but also in order to ensure we do not miss any opportunities, we have decided to begin our staff recruitment programme a little earlier this year.

A great deal of work has been done across the family of Nord Anglia Education schools through a programme called Outstanding Teachers for Outstanding Schools (OTOS) to sharpen and develop our staff recruitment processes. This project has involved hugely experienced staff from around the world and the resultant systems and processes will greatly assist us in this important undertaking.

We will be advertising our vacancies before the Christmas holiday as well as attending recruitment fairs in January and we hope to have completed the bulk of our recruitment by the middle of February.

We do have a number of new staff joining us in the coming months. At the end of November Mrs Sue Smith will take up the post of PA to the Principal having previously had a successful career in HR. Mrs Smith is a mother of one of



PICTURED BELOW *Year 4 dress in costume to celebrate Roman Day*



our students and she has a strong educational background having served as a school governor in the UK. I am very grateful to Mrs Kelly for all of her hard work and we wish her well with the new challenges she is undertaking. We will also be welcoming Mrs Helene Toogood to our team as the new Head of Admissions. She also has a child at school with us and a background in education having worked for the Warwickshire LEA. She replaces Mrs Christine Bacon who has enjoyed six nearly seven highly successful years in post firstly at our sister school in Pudong before joining us in August 2011. We wish her and the Bacon family the very best of luck in their new life in Australia.

In January our new secondary teacher of chemistry will be Ms Madeeha Pitcher who joins us from the New English School in Cairo. Ms Pitcher was educated in the USA and the UK. She has a BSc from the University of Massachusetts and a teaching qualification from the California State University. She has taught in the UK and overseas. She is an experienced and very successful teacher of IB and IGCSE and we are looking forward to her joining us.

We also have a Belgian teaching couple joining us next term. Mr Kris Van Der Mynsbrugge who will replace Ms Lies Verstaete in teaching History, Geography and Dutch Language. He is a graduate of Ghent University with both masters and bachelors degrees and has taught in Belgium for the last eight years. Ms Cindy de Borger who is also a graduate of the University of Ghent with a masters degree will join our team in March next year to take on the maternity cover for Ms Chris Samsom over the course of the summer term.

We have once again succeeded in securing some excellent new members of staff and I am looking forward to their contributions.

## PTA CORNER

There's been a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity in the Parent-Teacher Association lately. Here is a little peek in, and a warm welcome to all parents to help out with some small projects as we prepare for Christmas.



A big THANK YOU to those who have volunteered to be parent advisors to the CAS student teams who are planning the Winter Wonderland Extravaganza. This is a new event at BISS Puxi, a fun, family-centred party to celebrate the upcoming holidays. Giving is an integral part of the celebration for many of us, so all proceeds of the event will benefit the CAS charity and the PTA designee: Starfish Foundation and Mifan Mama, respectively. Please contact [PTA@bisspuxi.com](mailto:PTA@bisspuxi.com) to find out how to get involved yourself.

Sponsorships are available, either to offset the operational costs, or to directly benefit the charities. Either way, you'll have the very best opportunity to showcase your business and to do good at the same time. Individual sponsors are also welcomed. Contact [PTA@bisspuxi.com](mailto:PTA@bisspuxi.com) today to find out more!

The Primary Room Parents are busy elves, preparing the Christmas Charity Raffle baskets. No matter what your interest, there is a basket that will tempt you to buy a chance to win – sports, play, food, wine, and more! Winners will be selected by random draw of all entries during the Winter Wonderland Extravaganza. If you or your business wishes to make a donation of a prize, please e-mail the PTA.

## PRIMARY CELEBRATE BOOK WEEK

Next week is Book Week in Primary, a week designed to celebrate the wonders of reading. There will be lots of activities going on throughout the week designed to celebrate the incredible world of books and get children excited about reading, including a visit from author Sarah Brennan and Dress Up Day, and we want parents to get involved too! Some parents have volunteered to be Mystery Readers to read to the children throughout the week. If you would like to become a mystery reader please get in touch with your child's teacher. You could read to your child's own class or with other classes. You could read a book in English or share a book in your native language, explaining the story to the children as you go or asking children to tell the story back to you in English at the end. You could read with the whole class or smaller groups. The children would really enjoy it if you brought the story alive by being dressed up or bringing some props to help with the story telling – this of course is optional!

The primary library will also be open each evening between 3:30 and 4:30pm for parents to come and use this time to select some lovely books and read with their child. Milk and cookies will be provided! Please inform your child's class teacher if you plan to pick up your child to go to the library.

### Secondary Room Parents

Last week we sent a special request to all secondary parents to become form representatives in the new secondary room parent network. Thank you to those parents that have volunteered so far. The aim is to get one volunteer parent for each form and this room parent would be an additional and less formal link between the school and parents. We are still looking for room parents to join the network, if you are interested in being a room parent, please register your interest by sending an email to [secondaryroomparent@bisspuxi.com](mailto:secondaryroomparent@bisspuxi.com).

## COMING SOON

### FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Silver International Award Expedition continues:Y11  
7:30-8:30Pastries for Working Parents  
8:40-15:30Roman Day:Y4  
9:00-14:00ACAMIS D1 Rugby Tournament:Y10-13

### SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Halloween Film Festival  
CANCELLED  
Silver International Award Expedition continues:Y11  
9:00-12:00SISAC Girls Netball:Y10-13  
9:00-14:00ACAMIS D1 Rugby Tournament:Y10-13

### SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Silver International Award Expedition returns:Y11

### MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER

8:40-15:30Book Week begins:Primary  
9:00-15:30Visual Screening

### TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

8:40-15:30Author Visit - Sarah Breenan:Primary  
8:40-15:30Book Week continues:Primary  
9:00-15:30Visual Screening  
16:00-17:00CISSA C1 Boys Football:Y7-9  
16:00-17:00CISSA C2 A Boys Football:Y7-9  
16:00-17:00CISSA C2 B Boys Football:Y7-9  
16:00-17:00CISSA Junior 1 Boys Football:Y5-6  
16:00-17:00CISSA Junior 2 Boys Football:Y5-6  
16:45-17:45SISAC D1 Boys Basketball:Y10-13  
16:45-17:45SISAC D1 Girls Basketball:Y10-13  
18:30-19:30Parent Information Evening-Succeeding at KS3:Y7-9

*Please check our school website for the most up to date details of all our events...*



# PLEASED TO MEET YOU

ISABELLE VANDERSLAGMOLEN, SCHOOL NURSE



*Where are you from?* Belgium

*Where else have you worked?* I've worked as a nurse and midwife in hospitals and private clinics and also as a clinical research associate for the pharmaceutical industry.

*How long have you been at BISS Puxi?* I've been working here just a couple of months, but my children have been at the school for 1.5 years and love it here.

*What do you enjoy about working in a school?* I am passionate about health education, both physical and psychological, so working in a school is great for me.

*What is your favourite thing about Shanghai?* Since moving to Shanghai I've started photography and oil painting classes – I love that there is so much to do here!

## YEAR 5 SUZHOU TRIP

Always eager to know more about everything, on Wednesday Year 5 spent a fabulous day exploring Chinese history in Suzhou. We saw some amazing artifacts from various Dynasties, including three thousand year old mirrors (yes, many discussions were held about how useful a mirror made from bronze could be) and a rather fine tricolour water jug from the Tang Dynasty so delicate that it was held upright by wires. From tankards and swords to lily pads and silk worms, students' pencils barely left the page as they furiously sketched and made notes of all the exciting sights from both museums, desperate to capture every moment.

A buzz of excitement flowed through the air as we watched ladies climbing over wooden looms in their quest to re-create the ancient art of silk weaving. We were awe-struck by the intricate designs created in the silk by such machinery. Out of all of the amazing sights throughout the two museums, seeing the plethora of silk worms eating their way through copious amounts of mulberry leaves was definitely deemed the highlight of the trip! A fabulous day was had by all. Thanks Year 5!



## CALLING ALL WRITERS!

GEMMA TREEBY, ENGLISH TEACHER

Our school is entering the Hong Kong Young Writers award this year. It is an annual competition for young writers to showcase their talents and creativity in fiction, non-fiction and poetry, and this year is based around the theme of



PICTURED ABOVE *Alard Schroeder, age 12, raced an astonishing triathlon finishing first in the under 29s age group.*

'The Gobi Desert.' There are two age categories that this competition is open to: Years 7 -9 and Years 10-11. The word limit is up to 1,500 words for Years 7-9 and up to 3,000 words for Years 10-11. We will be submitting 10 entries from the whole school and the final deadline will be Friday 10 January. A panel of staff will then shortlist before submitting our final entries. If you're interested in getting involved, look out for more information or talk to your English Teacher or Ms Treeby for more information.

## SPORTS REPORT

### Football

Last Thursday saw a very strong performance from the C2B girls football team. They faced matches against SAS and the Shanghai Korean School (SKS) on a blustery afternoon that saw them playing against the wind in the first match against SKS. The girls spent the coaching session with some students working on goalkeeping skills and others on passing and shooting in the opposition half of the field. This seemed to pay off and there were plenty of examples of good passing to each other and movement with the ball in wide positions. In the first match SKS went 1-0 up after a short corner was given for an unfortunate handball, however Dayoung Jin scored an excellent equaliser five minutes later, following good passing from Mia Crockhart and Ida Brandt in midfield. SKS then had a quick break and scored a very good goal to take a 2-1 lead. Julia De Klerk and Pippa Liddiard partnered each other extremely effectively in defence and Isabella Stolcis made some great saves to keep SKS from scoring more. Then, following a pass from Nayu Lam, Naya Thomsen made a break for the SKS goal and scored a powerful equaliser. The match ended at 2-2 as an honourable draw.

The second match was very exciting and BISS Puxi pushed forward for much of the game – Fien Verheyen had two efforts saved in the line by the SAS goalkeeper who played very well. Again, the defensive pair of Julia and Pippa proved resilient to SAS attacks, and the rest of the team came back to support them when necessary. This allowed Julia to push forward on both wings and she supplied Naya and Nayu with some great opportunities – all three efforts were saved by the SAS goalkeeper, pushing the ball against the post and making some tremendous stops! Just when it looked like the game would also end in a draw, Naya made a breakthrough and scored the winner with three minutes left of the game. What was most pleasing about the performance of the girls on Thursday was the fact that they worked so well as a team, with linking play, good passing to each other and supportive running and tackling back. Well done!

### Triathlon Champion

The Anting Triathlon which attracts hundreds of triathletes from all over China was held on Sunday. One of our students, Alard Schroeder age 12, who was returning to the event after a very successful outing at this event in the spring, raced an astonishing race and came in 1st in the under 29 category. After swimming seven hundred and fifty metres in 13 minutes, cycling twenty kilometres on road in 38 minutes and running five kilometres in 23 minutes, Alard showed excellent form and as well as coming in 1st in the under twenty nine category sprint distance, he also placed 4th overall in a field of 50 adult competitors. When we asked him which part was the hardest, Alard replied "getting into the cold water".

On the same day but in the longer and very competitive 'Olympic' distance event, Mr Jones finished just off the podium in 4th place and Mr Hitchings 10th in their respective age groups. Well done to them all!

# EYOC

EARLY YEARS CUBS



## Pre-Nursery

This week we explored science by making slime! We made it together then used it in different ways. One of the ways we used the slime was for testing our cutting skills. The slime is dripping through a sieve and the children cut away!



# IB ACADEMY

The students exceeded my expectations and the audience seemed to really enjoy the show.

RUS EKKEL, HEAD OF MEDIA

## IB ACADEMY

### IB Film screening review

RUS EKKEL, IB FILM TEACHER

Thursday 31 October saw the World Premiere of '13 Tales of Terror' - a horror anthology film by our Year 13 IB Film students! An excellent turnout of students, parents and staff enjoyed 13 short films, featuring vengeful ghosts, bad friendships and masked killers.

Each Film student wrote, directed, sound designed and edited their own film over a period of just three weeks and I was hugely proud to see their hard work pay off on the big screen. The students exceeded my expectations and the audience seemed to really enjoy the show.

A Best Film prize was awarded to the two-part 'Bits & Pieces' and Arne Janssen (director of Part I) and Louie Evans-Kelly (director of Part II) came to the stage to receive the Crystal Skull award!

Our congratulations go to our student film-makers, who can take great encouragement from this event as they prepare to make their final coursework films.

### University applications update

Year 13 students are now well on the way to completing their university applications. Our Oxford, Cambridge and UK medical applicants are getting started on their pre-interview tests and interviews, and our Early Decision applications to the US are being completed. Many more applications to universities all over the world are underway, and there is a real sense of purpose and excitement among the students as they look ahead to the next stage.

Next week we have visits from the University of East Anglia on Wednesday, Goldsmiths College on Thursday and the City University of Hong Kong on Friday.

Want to become the Hong Kong  
Young Writer of the Year?

# New Tales of the Gobi Desert

Become inspired by the Gobi desert, submit your creative work to us and showcase your talent. Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Cover Art entries are all welcomed.

## Winners and shortlisted students

- will have their entries published in a printed anthology
- will be invited to our awards ceremony
- will win prizes, certificates and trophies

Every submission will be published online  
and one lucky student will be named  
The Hong Kong Young Writer of the Year 2014!



All students who are interested in participating  
in the competition please contact:

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Competition launches October 2013



For more information go to your school moodle and click on the  
**theglobalclassroom**