

Friday 22nd August 2014



A brand new start...

IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

It was just over 8 weeks ago that I was wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday. In those 8 weeks I am sure many of you have travelled to warm and wonderful holiday destinations or perhaps returned to your home countries to spend time with your friends and families. You may have had time to do both. Wherever you may have been, hopefully, you have had the opportunity to relax and recharge your batteries.

Here at BSB Sanlitun, we never close, and throughout the summer our team of staff have been busy ensuring that all the improvements we had planned have all gone smoothly and been completed before the start of term. You will find more information about the work that was conducted in both campuses later in the newsletter.

We also took great pleasure in welcoming our new teachers and teaching assistants to the team. Our teachers arriving from the UK have now been here for almost 2 weeks and have quickly settled into Beijing life, exploring their new surroundings as well as preparing for the new academic year here at school. I know they are all looking forward to the start of the new school year and meeting all of our families.

On the next few pages you will find some useful pieces of information that will hopefully help you and your children prepare for the first few weeks of school.

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

25th August
First day of school
for students

2nd September
PA Meeting

3rd September
Meet and Greet
(Adults only event)

5th September
Chinese Parent Workshop

8th September
School closed for
Mid Autumn Festival

10th September
Reception Reading
Workshop

ASAs begin

12th September
PA Family Welcome Event

18th September
KS1 Maths Parent Workshop

21st September
BSB Family Outing

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Monday 25th August

I am sure there are some very excited children looking forward to Monday and the start of the new school year (I am sure there are some excited parents too!).

We will be welcoming almost 300 returning children and approximately 120 new children to our school during the first week of school, so there will be plenty of opportunity to reunite with old friends as well as make lots of new ones.



On Monday morning we ask that all children go directly to their classrooms when they arrive at school. New families will be met in the foyer of both buildings and will be directed to the classrooms.

There will be tea and coffee available in the Primary Campus Hall after drop off and then any parents that then wish to attend the INN meeting, 'Arrival Survival' at Capital Mansions are welcome to accompany Prue from our Admissions team who will take you on the short walk there.

For parents, ays and drivers collecting their children at the end of the day, we ask that you wait in the foyer area of each building and the children will be brought down to you by their class teacher. The teachers will only hand over a child when they see their designated adult.

WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS?

Following last year's quite extensive expansion work, we did not require a great deal of building work to be done this year. However, there are always improvements to be made and of course the summer holidays is the ideal time to get these completed. Below is a brief summary of some of the main changes that have occurred at both campuses:

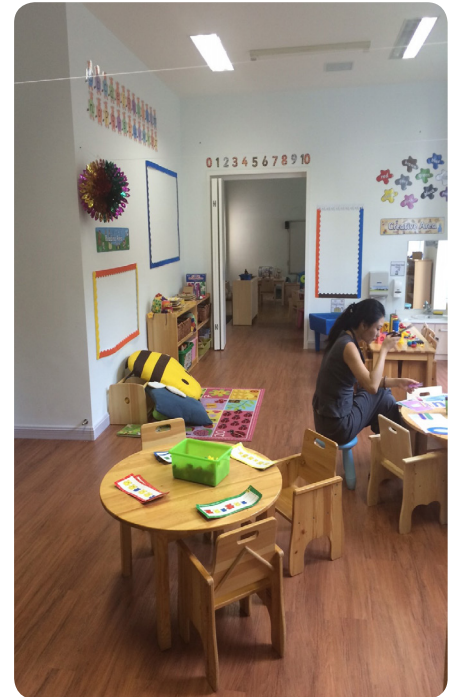


Expansion at the Early Years Campus - A new Pre-Nursery classroom has been created downstairs in the Early Years Campus, which has allowed us to create more space in the main foyer area. In order to allow 'free-flow' learning in the Nursery, the Clown Fish class and Rainbow Fish class are now connected and children can move freely between the two classrooms during Spontaneous Learning.

Left: The new foyer which now has more space for parents meeting their children

Right: Our new Pre-Nursery classroom

Below: The Primary playground has been resurfaced



Resurfacing of the Primary Campus Playground - We have had the Primary Playground resurfaced during the holidays with some brightly coloured flooring and new designs including a clock, a compass and house colour squares. We have also replaced the picnic tables and benches with new ones.

WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS?

New Air Purification System - We have had a new air purification system installed throughout both campuses which will help us to further improve the quality of the indoor air for our students, particularly in times of high pollution. This includes air curtains on the main external doors and ceiling mounted purifiers in all classrooms and shared areas.



The air curtains which have been installed above external doors



The air purification units which have been installed in each classroom

A New Stage - We have replaced our stage in the Primary Campus Hall and installed a new projector, which is just waiting for a whole host of productions and performances to take place on it during the year.



Our new stage

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Uniform

As the weather is still warm, we will begin the school year wearing summer uniform. We will give you advance notice of when we intend to change to the winter uniform. This tends to be after the October National Holiday when the weather begins to cool down.

For all queries relating to uniform, please contact Angela Xu - angela.xu@britishschool.org.cn

You can also visit our website for further information: <http://www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/beijing/sanlitun/our-students/student-life/what-we-wear>

Please note that we will be introducing a new rucksack as part of the school uniform. This should be available during the autumn term and we will continue to keep you updated. In the meantime, students are able to use one of their own rucksacks if they so wish. All students are able to use the rucksack, but we are aware this may be a little too big for our Early Years students; in which case you may prefer to use the flat bookbag instead.

School Snacks

Your class teachers will be sending you information regarding student snacks specific to your child's year group. Across the school however, we do ask that any snacks brought into school are healthy and consist of fruit, raw vegetables and cereal bars. We ask that students do not bring chocolate, cake or crisps/chips to school and that all food is nut free. Students should not share their snack with others as we do have children with allergies to different food types.

Students are able to bring an additional snack to school to eat at the end of the day before they get on the bus as we are aware that some students have long journeys home. Students are also able to bring a snack to eat before they begin their ASA on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Please contact your teacher directly if you have any queries about the arrangements for snack time.

OPEN DAYS

We have had a great couple of days saying 'Hello' to familiar faces and welcoming new families to the school. On Thursday and Friday morning new and returning students were able to come into school to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom. The new teachers in particular were very excited to meet their new classes as we have been telling them how fantastic all of our students are, here at Sanlitun.



Families also took the opportunity to relax in the library and test out our brand new bean bag chairs, which look extremely comfortable, I'm sure you'll agree.

Our new teachers and teaching assistants who have joined the team here at BSB Sanlitun

