

# OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 8

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2013



*Our Global Classroom students gather in the Quad for a photograph with Chris Share, Head of Secondary, Kevin Foyle, Principal, T.Raani Yamuna, Global Classroom Coordinator and Ross Hill, expedition leader.*

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

### PLAY IS LEARNING TOO!

This week has been an exciting time in Primary as the amazing new playground climbing equipment has arrived – all the way from Sweden!

### YEAR 4 AQUARIUM TRIP

Year 4 have been on an underwater adventure with jellyfish and giant sand sharks!

### 13 TALES OF TERROR

Don't forget that next week we'll be having the IB Film students' Halloween

film screening of '13 Tales of Terror' for students in years 10 – 13.

### HOW'S YOUR MANDARIN

There's still time to register for the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) that we're offering at BISS Puxi on Sunday 1 December.

### GLOBAL CLASSROOM EXPEDITION TO TANZANIA

Seven of our students have been selected to represent our school as part of the exciting Global Classroom Expedition

to Tanzania next February along with students from other Nord Anglia Education schools from around the world.

### PASTRIES FOR WORKING PARENTS

The next Pastries for Working Parents is coming up next Friday. If you're a working parent, take the opportunity to come into school early for breakfast with your child and meet other working parents, Mr Foyle and other senior staff.

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# HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNING

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*Our new primary playground equipment has arrived from Europe and construction has already begun. Look out for pictures and an update in next week's newsletter...*

## PLAY IS LEARNING TOO!

BY NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY

There is great excitement and anticipation in each of the primary playgrounds as we watch the recently delivered boxes begin to reveal their hidden treasure. Our amazing new playground climbing equipment has arrived (all the way from Sweden) and the challenging, age appropriate frames are rapidly being installed and should be operational by the end of next week.

We have great expectations that this equipment will help us to really enhance the “learning through play” experience for all our students, as we strongly believe that play is not a relief from serious learning but rather that play IS serious learning and the work of childhood!

Playgrounds and play time give children opportunities to play freely and have fun without adult direction and this time really helps children to learn more about themselves – their strengths, abilities, and limitations. It is also a great chance for them to learn about how to problem solve, communicate, collaborate and get along with others. The new climbing equipment will definitely stimulate the children but also add a new level of physical challenge where they will be able to improve their motor skills, balance, coordination and confidence. The fantastic climbing frames will also give them a chance to learn about taking and assessing risks, and encourage children to persist and persevere, even when things are a bit hard or tricky. We look forward to seeing some of the children's mental and physical energy being focused on exploring the equipment and inventing all sorts of new games and role plays in these great new environments. If we



want our children to grow to have confidence and skills to survive and thrive in an increasingly challenging world, we need to let them explore and take risks, and their playtime experiences should help them on this journey. When the installation is completed, we will invite parents in for a look and play too!

## SUPPORTING OUR LEARNERS

BY CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

*“The teacher must orient his work not on yesterday’s development in the child but on tomorrow’s.”*  
- Vigotsky

Part of the process that led to our outstanding academic results last year was the identification work to improve underperforming or struggling students to help them prepare for their exams. Identifying students in need of academic help early in the school year gives all students a chance to progress and rectify where mistakes have been made or are being made.

You will be aware of the reports and data that the school sends home twice a term updating you on your child’s progress and setting targets for students to achieve in effort, behaviour and homework. Students who are seen to be underachieving trigger what is known educationally as an intervention.

In Key stage 3 an intervention may simply be a Student Led Improvement Plan (SLIP) or a change of set. For the exam years (Years 11 and 13) a more inclusive approach is practiced to provide additional support for anyone in the year group who may need or want it. The school has a mentoring programme that will allocate every Year 11 and 13 student to a teacher who they will meet with on a weekly basis to discuss revision strategies, coursework deadlines, workloads and exam skills. After the mock exams next month all departments will offer revision classes and parents and

students will be given a revision class schedule. Last year we also held sessions at the weekends closer to the exams. Staff will also recommend the best revision websites, apps and software so that students are able to continue to develop towards the individual targets that are set for them by their teachers and mentors. Students are also actively encouraged to work with other students, as peer learning and tutoring helps the student tutor and tutee to make rapid advances in learning and understanding.

All of these strategies must be undertaken in a structured and co-ordinated way and communication between school, student and family is very important to its success. Getting the whole family involved ensures the continuation of the encouragement and progress when the student gets home. There is no doubt that interventions lead to a lot of hard work for all involved but testimonials from our teaching staff and students, as well as academic research and our school results indicate that it is a worthwhile exercise - an exercise that will become increasingly active in the next few weeks.

## Year 4 went under the sea

MICHELLE HILLS YEAR 4, LOWER KS2 LEADER



Last Friday, the Year 4 students ventured off to the depths of the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium. Armed with pencils, workbooks and cameras, the children set about finding out about animals and their habitats. The children marvelled at the range of patterns on the wide variety of aquatic animals, quivered in the tunnel as giant sand sharks glided above them and were hypnotised by the gentle rhythmic movements of the jellyfish. The children explored the aquarium with awe, thoughtfulness and great manners. Our classes made some great observational drawings, collected some interesting facts



and even more questions to find answers to! A great day, enjoyed by all. Well done Year 4!

## 13 Tales of Terror - IB Halloween Screening

RUS EKKEL, IB FILM TEACHER

Staff, parents and students from Year 10 upwards are invited to IB Film's Halloween film screening '13 Tales of Terror'! Each Year 13 IB Film student has made their own horror-themed short film, which we will present as an anthology on 31 October in our Secondary Auditorium. The screening will start at 3:40pm and end at 4:30pm.

The screening is open to students from Year 10 to Year 13 - while our focus is on creating tension and not showing anything too gory, we don't want our younger students having nightmares!

This is a new event for the school and our Film students are hoping for a big audience to start off Halloween with a bang! Join us if you dare!

## Registration for the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)

Registration for the HSK on 1 December 2013 is now open. This is for our students (mainly secondary school) as well as parents who are interested in taking this test. The closing date for registration is Friday 1 November. Letters will be going home with students giving full details of how to apply.

## Year 11 Mentor Programme

DANIEL GROCCOTT, HEAD OF YEAR 11

In the coming weeks we will be rolling out our Year 11 Mentor Programme. This programme offers our students an opportunity to meet weekly with a member of staff to talk about their work and get support and advice to prepare for exams, such as revision tips and managing course work deadlines. We are rolling out this programme across the year group and shortly all students in Year 11 will have a mentor. I feel that the mentoring programme really adds value to students' progress at such a critical time in their education. I'm very grateful to all of the staff who have volunteered their time to help support our students in this way. A parent from last year recently gave feedback about the Year 11 mentor programme:

*"I think it was excellent programme. It helped focus my son's mind on his examinations, helped set him goals, made sure he was on top of all his subjects (not just his favourites), pushed him to be organised, helped him identify areas/topics he was struggling/behind in and made him accountable to someone as to where he was at in his progress towards the exams. So overall I definitely believe it was of great benefit to my son."*

## News from the Nursing Team

We are happy to announce that we will soon be offering our yearly visual screening for all pupils at our school. It is carried out at the school by an

## COMING SOON

### FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

8:45-10:30 PTA New Parent Tea Time\*  
10:30-11:00 Visit from Ecole Hotelier Lausanne: Y12-13  
15:30-19:00 Dutch School: Kinderboekenweek\*

### SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

6:45 SAS Pudong Swimvitational: Y3-11  
9:00-12:00 SISAC Girls Netball: Y10-13  
9:00-15:00 SISAC D2 Boys and Girls Tennis: Y10-13  
11:40-17:00 Shanghai 7s Rugby Tournament: Y10-13\*

### SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

6:45 SAS Pudong Swimvitational: Y3-11  
9:00-17:00 Shanghai 7s Rugby Tournament: Y4-6  
Monday 28 October  
12:50-13:45 Whole School Council Meeting

### TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER

13:00-14:00 Visit from Chinese University of Hong Kong: Y12-13  
16:00-17:00 CISSA C1 Boys Football: Y7-9  
16:00-17:00 CISSA C2 A Boys Football: Y7-9  
16:00-17:00 CISSA Junior 1 Boys Football: Y5-6  
16:00-17:00 CISSA Junior 2 Boys Football: Y5-6

### WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

8:40-15:30 Suzhou Art Trip: Y5  
13:15-13:45 Lunchtime Maths Club: Y7-8  
15:45-16:45 Mad Science Event: Y7-9  
16:00-19:00 Student Parent Teacher Conference: Y9

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





# PLEASED TO MEET YOU

DANIEL GROCCOTT, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER, HEAD OF YEAR 11



*How long have you been at BISS Puxi?* This is my third year.

*What do you love about Shanghai?* Like other cosmopolitan cities there is always something to explore but with Shanghai new spaces keep emerging.

*What's your favourite region to visit in China?* My favourite place so far has been Inner Mongolia – I loved the vast landscapes. There are a lot more places I'd like to travel to while I'm here such as Yunnan province and Xinjiang province but I need to get my Chinese up to scratch first.

*What do you miss about the UK?* A good Sunday roast!

ophthalmic team, from the New Vision Eye Clinic, consisting of Optometrists and support staff specialising in paediatric ophthalmology and who are experts in childhood vision problems. The cost of the test is 200RMB. The screening has been offered in previous years and has proved to be very successful. The screening is quick, painless and follows strict international infection control standards. It will take place on Monday 4 November and Tuesday 5 November 2013. Your child should already have brought home a consent form. Please ensure you have completed the form and returned it to the box at either Primary or Secondary School receptions desks in an envelope marked "Visual Screening, Accounts Department" by Monday, 28 October.

could you please RSVP to [m-chapman@bisspuxi.com](mailto:m-chapman@bisspuxi.com) with your preferred choice of muffin.

## MAD SCIENCE HALLOWEEN SHOW

On Wednesday 30 October we are hosting a Halloween special Mad Science show for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. This will take place in the Secondary Auditorium from 3:45 - 4:45pm and will showcase some spooky science. The show is free of charge and may result in an ECA in the future if students enjoy it. Please look out for a letter coming home to sign up for the event.

## PASTRIES FOR WORKING PARENTS

We would like to invite our working parents to join their children for breakfast at school on Friday 1 November from 7:30am until 8:30am in the secondary dining hall. This is an opportunity for parents who cannot usually come to school, to be part of their children's morning routine and meet informally with other working parents, Mr Foyle and other senior staff as well as members of the PTA. The breakfast menu will include assorted pastries, bacon butties, bacon-and-egg or egg muffins, coffee, tea, and juice. For catering purpose,

## PTA CORNER – HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

The Parent-Teacher Association is getting excited about the upcoming holidays – and we don't mean Halloween! The cooler weather is a sign of the winter season coming soon and this year the PTA is pleased to support the CAS student-led Winter Wonderland event on Saturday 7 December. Save the date and look for all the details in the first week of November.



Parent volunteers needed – To be involved in the planning over the next six weeks, or to donate one hour to help on the big day, send a message to [pta@bisspuxi.com](mailto:pta@bisspuxi.com).

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE – The Winter Wonderland event seeks sponsors. This is an excellent opportunity to present your business to the whole BISS Puxi community during a fun, family-oriented seasonal party. Contact [pta@bisspuxi.com](mailto:pta@bisspuxi.com) today.

ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE - The PTA is happy to announce this year's plans for the Christmas Charity Raffle! Along with all sorts of holiday festivities for children of all ages, the primary school parents are preparing the Charity Raffle of gift baskets that will be awarded during the Winter Wonderland event. All funds raised via the Charity Raffle will be donated to Mifan Mama, a local charity, providing orphanages for blind and homeless children in Shanghai. The PTA is currently seeking private or corporate donors and volunteers for the Christmas Charity Raffle. If you would like to get involved or donate, please email the PTA at [pta@bisspuxi.com](mailto:pta@bisspuxi.com) or speak with your Primary Room Parent today!

## Soloists' recital

Heather Brown, Head of Secondary Music Sunday saw the first three solo recitals from the music department in the primary theatre. Fifty-four students from reception through to Year 13 took it in turns to perform. There were guitars, drums, trumpets, clarinets, violins, singing and lots of piano. It was fantastic to see some students perform on two instruments and to hear students from last



year perform and hear how they have improved. Students performed at several different levels from ABRSM Diploma level to beginner students making their debut. There was a good mix of pop, traditional and classical music and

the audience was thoroughly entertained. Look out for our Winter Concert on Friday 6 December at 6pm in the secondary auditorium.

*"I had to wait for the other performers to play so I got really nervous. It was really different playing in the theatre instead of the classroom but I really liked playing in front of an audience. Next time I will practise in the theatre first." Justin Graf 6U – Trumpet and Drum Kit*

## VISIT TO KOREAN UNIVERSITIES

This week representatives from BISS Puxi flew to Korea to visit three top universities to build relationships between our schools and generate awareness of our students. They met with the heads of admissions teams from Seoul National University, Yonsei University and KAIST. One of our alumni, Kun Do Park, is now in his second year at KAIST and it was great to hear that he was doing so well.

The trip was a great success and the three universities were very interested to hear more about our students. They gave us a lot of useful tips for applying to their universities and are now all hoping to arrange a visit to our school next spring to meet with our students one to one to discuss applications to their schools.



Cooking is a great context for children to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world, finding out about different ingredients, what happens when things are mixed together and how heat and cold changes substances.

Through preparing and eating food, children can find out about other cultures and traditions. Whilst cooking, children observe materials closely and explore them with all their senses, and talk about what they see and how things change. They can gain first-hand experience of cause-effect relationships, and observe which changes are one-way and which are reversible (you can melt ice, but can't get the flour and butter back from a cake you have baked). They can also learn about healthy eating and how to keep themselves healthy.

They use tools for a purpose, supporting their physical development, and learn about keeping safe whilst



experiencing risks (e.g. cutting with sharp knives). Cooking is an excellent way for children to learn, it is hands on, exciting, collaborative and you get to eat your creations at the end! Pre-Nursery have been making cakes for Mr Grindly, the light house keeper, because he lost his lunch.

Nursery have been making 'Chocolate Marshmallow Fudge Delight' otherwise known as 'Rocky Road Squares' for their journeys this week.

Reception have been making vegetable soup for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her Grandma to make her feel better.

## SPORTS REPORT

### CISSA Football

This week there has been another round of CISSA football fixtures, with all of our teams making huge strides towards developing a passing style of football. The boys this week

recorded some incredible victories, each played with a flowing and patient approach.

#### CISSA BOYS RESULTS

CISSA C1

BISS Puxi 3 – 1 WISS

CISSA C2A

BISS Puxi 3 – 0 SAS

(Goal scorers Leo Grosjean x 2 and Robin Elia)

BISS Puxi 4 – 0 YCIS

(Goal scorers Piotr x2, Richard Treneman and Leo)

CISSA C2B

BISS Puxi 8 – 0 SAS

BISS Puxi 5 – 0 YCIS

The girls' performances have impressed all of the coaches. Some highlights from the C2a team are included below and next week we will look at how the C2b are progressing in more detail.

The C2a girls played 3 home matches this week against YCIS, SSCIS and Suzhou. Although the results remain important





to the girls I am looking more at their performance which has improved considerably. We managed 2 wins and 1 loss out of our 3 games but it is fair to say the loss was not a true reflection of the game. An Tseng managed to score some more goals for us, whilst Cammy Bowers ran the midfield. Sarah Sadiq had another great week in goal and Mhari Jervis, Phoebe Li and Issy Johnson all showed that hard work can seriously benefit your game. We continue to focus on retaining the ball and playing around teams. The girls are making great strides and I am hoping for another good performance this week as the girls travel to WISS.

The C2B team recorded a draw and a narrow defeat while the Junior team recorded a win and a draw.

## Year 5/6 Football teams

YEAR 6 - WRITTEN BY TOM AND MATTEO 6P

On the 22nd October BISS Puxi's Football team went to SAS to fight for victory in our two football matches. Our star players won against Livingstone 2-1 and after a very difficult match we drew 3-3 against SAS. One goal against us isn't a problem because we can always catch up. We have incredibly fast wingers, a strong goalkeeper and defence and skilful attackers. In our last game Mats (GK), Daniel (Defence), Phillip (Defence), Vini (Midfield), Matteo (Midfield/Attack) all played really well.

It's not the player that scores the goal it's the team that makes the opportunity.

YEAR 5 - WRITTEN BY KAI XIANG AND AARON 5P

That same day the Year 5 football team went away to play football against SAS and the German school. We played very well but sadly lost 3-0 and had a very competitive game against SAS. We hope this will be the last time we are defeated. Some great players that day were Tomasso (Midfield/Attack), Blake (Midfield), Ralph (Attack), Marcus (Defence).

## Rugby

The Division 2 boys travelled to the SISAC tournament this past weekend full of confidence after an un-defeated 10 a-side season. They were also accompanied by the cheerleading squad who have been practicing independently while their coach is at home with her new born baby!

This positive frame of mind helped them as they went behind in the first game against Dulwich (who they had not played this year). The response was impressive with both forwards and backs going over the line to convert good pressure in the red zone (inside the 22) with the boys notching up 29 points without response.

Next up was SCIS who were previously playing in Division 1. The Lions relished the physicality up front and put together some nice moves in the backs (despite seeing fly half Ryan Grant promoted to D1 so he was ineligible to play) to record a 19-0 win.

Their 3rd game provided a really good test and ultimately a good lesson, as fatigue set in SAS Pudong took advantage of the scrappy game to send the D2 boys to their first defeat since October 2012.

They entered the final game knowing that if they lost there would be a tie-break and the nerves showed at the start, with BISS Pudong taking a 10-5 lead, which was clawed back to 10-10 at the break. There was a good talk at half time and young Dan Simmons came on into fly half and did a great job helping to spread the ball. The Lions were able to score 5 tries in the second half with no reply.

And so there were crowned champions for the second year running.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Nikolai Strausland – Hooker
- Hom Choong – Prop
- Nils Voetgli – Prop/lock
- Sung Joon – Lock
- Richard Trinder - Prop/Hooker
- Tristan Smith – Prop
- Austin Wajs - Lock
- Elliot Bowers – Half Back
- Nick Rice –Centre/ Fly half
- Sean Hughes - Centre/wing
- Marcelo Machado– Wing
- Jack Sommers – Full Back
- Dan Simmons – Half back/fly half
- Charmaine Low – Cheer Captain





# IB ACADEMY



## MATHEMATICS IN PHYSICS

A LECTURE BY PROFESSOR DIMITRI VVEDENSKY,  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
LONDON

*Jane White, Head of the IB Academy*

IB Physics students, along with our top set year 11 Mathematicians, were treated to a whistlestop tour of Mathematics in Physics on Thursday. Professor Vvedensky covered an extraordinary range of time and thought in his lecture. He began the journey with the 'Platonic Solids' – the only five closed shapes that can be created by equal sided planes, and the 'mysticism' by which the ancient Greeks linked them to elemental forces within the world. He then progressed through Newton and the profound impact of calculus on Physics, ending up with the Standard model, the confirmation of the existence of the Higgs boson particle and string theory. He also focused on the four forces that operate

on everything in the universe and the way they started as one force and became separate from each other as the universe cooled in the aftermath of the big bang. This prompted an interesting discussion with some of our students about what might come next.

The lecture gave us an extraordinary insight into Physics and its study at university level. It stretched and challenged even our ablest students and provided a brief glimpse into the extraordinary depths of theoretical physics. We are very grateful to Professor Vvedensky for his visit.

### Save the Date for BISS Puxi's Winter Wonderland!

On Saturday 7 December, the Year 12 CAS leadership group will be teaming up with the PTA in organising BISS's Christmas festivities. This year, however, it will be done with a twist! In place of the normal Christmas Fayre, we will be having a Winter Wonderland Extravaganza, bringing forward the best parts of previous years, but now with even more fun for the whole family! More information will be coming soon, but don't forget to save the date as this event can't be missed!