



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 1 - 2016/17



Every Friday, from 12:40-1:05pm, Secondary students have the opportunity to book a slot at Buskers' Corner — a new initiative from the music department with the aim of encouraging talented young musicians to perform to their peers.

To download a copy of this newsletter, please visit www.bsg.org.cn |  BritishSchoolGZ |  bsgnae

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the 2016-17 academic year. For many of our students this was their very first term in The British School of Guangzhou but I am pleased to note that teachers and teaching assistants have quickly made them feel part of our school community. Although we are now the largest of the international schools in Guangzhou, I am proud to say that we continue to promote the 'love of learning and core values that have helped to create such a positive learning environment.

I am pleased that our new Head of Secondary, Mr. Garry Russell, has obviously enjoyed his first term so far. Mr. Russell joined us from Regents School, one of the most successful of the NAE schools in SE Asia, where he was Head of Secondary. I know that he's excited by the challenges ahead and I am looking forward to seeing him settle into his new role.

At BSG we upgrade facilities every summer and this year has been no exception. I cannot thank the facilities team enough for their commitment in ensuring that we were ready for our first day. The new Primary canteen is extremely popular and includes an indoor coffee shop that provides parents with an area to wait when they are in school. Please note that a number of projects will be completed this term; including the Primary library, KS2 football field and new Primary playground.

I am pleased to announce that over the summer, we received confirmation, from the Council of International Schools, that our school had been successfully accredited. Their report included an impressive number of commendations about our staff, parents, students and school as well as highlighting areas to improve. We look forward to sharing the details with parents and will be using their report to help identify priorities for our new school development plan.



I would encourage all new parents to take the time to read the community charter and get to know our core values by checking out the parent essentials part of the website. We will be promoting the expectations and values of our school with your children on a daily basis and appreciate your support in ensuring that the importance of these are fully understood.

I am certainly looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead and am also looking forward to getting to know new students and parents. As always you are welcome to drop by and say hello whenever you are in school. We really do value your involvement and I would encourage all parents to offer their support to the various parental support groups that are in place.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Thomas

COMMUNITY

We Did It!

The school set a target of 250,000 RMB to raise for charity throughout the year. We are overjoyed to announce that we have raised an astonishing 252,053.4 RMB!

The school decided to support just one charity throughout the year in order to build a strong relationship and to have more of an impact. The school chose Hopeful Hearts, a wonderful organisation, whose mission is to raise money and fund life-saving heart surgery for children of low-income Chinese families.

We worked very closely with Hopeful Hearts Guangzhou who have supported the lives of 47 children (in Nanjing, Chengdu and Guangzhou) this year. With the money raised in school we have been able to support at least 7 of these children.

We have been blown away by the generosity of the school community, I would like to thank everyone for your contributions to the school's charitable initiatives, and look forward to keeping young hearts beating in 2016/17 as we set another target of 250,000RMB.

If anyone would like to join the school's charity committee please contact Gemma.campbell@bsg.org.cn.



Uniform shop is open

For any enquiries regarding uniform, please check the 'Parent Essentials' section of our website for the most up to date contact details, or you can email them via bsguniform@163.com.

Important information is often sent via email.

If you are not receiving emails, please contact our receptionist, Lily Huang at lily@bsg.org.cn



Climbing Ambition

we welcomed three-time British Lead Climbing Champion, Ed Hamer, to BSG.

Ed is preparing to trial for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, as climbing has been added to the list of events, and is in Guangzhou to catch up with his mum — our very own music teacher, Mrs. Hamer!

Ed became a silver medallist in the Youth World Championships, Austria, in 2011, and European silver medallist in Slovenia the same year, making him one of the strongest all-round climbers in the UK. His passion for climbing has now taken him on over 300 routes across mountains all around the world.

On his visit to BSG, Ed hung out with our Outdoor Education Specialist, Mr. Wildy, and got to experience the new climbing wall.

Everyone here wishes Ed all the best in his ambition to join Team GB.



TEACHER FOCUS

6 Questions with...

Nicole Torrens

Name: Nicole Torrens

Country of Residence: China

Country of Origin: Northern Ireland

Subjects I teach: Primary

Grades I teach: Year 1

Places I've lived: Northern Ireland, India, Switzerland, Scotland, China

What was your first reaction when you first arrived to Guangzhou?

"Gosh it's hot!" I remember that there were strange smells, sights and sounds which was a complete bombardment of the senses but in a fun way as well as being a little bit scary.

What is the best thing about being a teacher?

Everyday is different and it's never boring, you are constantly able to be creative and fun. The students are forever making you laugh and smile. There is no other job like it in the whole world.

What is the most challenging thing about being a teacher?

There are so many things that you want do to but it can be hard to find the time to do it all. Trying to ensure that you are doing everything to the best possible standard that you can and providing the classroom environment that you want for your children can be extremely time consuming.

How does BSG compare to other schools you've taught at?

The opportunities that students have at BSG are incredible in terms of the chance to participate in a variety After School Activities (ASAs), and the ability to participate in a real orchestra, I mean what other Primary school has that? Also taking part in large-scale productions in an external theatre and the Juilliard collaboration are all remarkable opportunities that very few Primary schools are lucky enough to experience.



The teachers are also the most fun that I have ever worked with!

What do you do when you get homesick?

Skype! FaceTime! I then go to Corners Deli to walk around and fill my basket with home comforts and if I am really homesick, I get my mum to send me a box of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes.

If you could be a superhero what would you want your super powers to be?

I would love to be able to travel backwards and forwards in time. I would love to go back to Ancient Egypt with all the information I know now and become a God haha!

BUSKER'S CORNER

We've had a superb start to Busker's Corner, with the student band, a Year 7 pianist and even a member of staff taking to the stage on the Secondary coffee shop terrace.

We have a lot of gifted young musicians and singers at BSG, and this new initiative helps to build confidence in performing in front of audiences. It also gives an uplifting feel to Friday afternoons, with teachers and students gathering to enjoy the music.

Anyone wishing to book a slot can see Mr Wright in the music department.



12:40 - 1:05pm, Every Friday
@ The Secondary Coffee Shop





Welcome!



The Parent Support Group (PSG) are volunteers keen to be involved with school life, throughout Early Years, Primary and Secondary.

We meet regularly throughout the year to get updates on activities and offer ideas and support for events. This includes charity initiatives, school productions, reading programmes and more to provide an extra helping hand to staff and children at The British School of Guangzhou.

Would you like to join us? Chat with us today by emailing ppsg@bsg.org.cn

www.bsg.org.cn



Summer School Success

By: Donal Crawford

The first ever BSG Summer School was held over three weeks in July and August 2016 at the school's Nanhu South Lake Campus. Over eighty students, from both the BSG and the wider Guangzhou communities, took part in programmes designed to be educational, active, and enjoyable! And they certainly were, as can be seen by these photographs.

Led by BSG teachers, the teaching team of academic, sports, and music specialists, and teaching assistants, provided a safe and fun environment for the children, who were aged from four to twelve. Divided into age-based classes in the Hillside building, the children all participated fully and actively in a wide range of topic-based and activity-based lessons. At the end of every week we had a fun assembly, where we showed photographs from the week, the students performed songs and dances they had learned, and certificates for Achievement, Effort, and Respect were awarded.

In the first week our focus was on Space and Aliens. Following the surprise landing of a UFO in the Hillside auditorium (which was fortunately captured on video), children studied many age-appropriate activities related to the topic. These included modeling alien ships from recycled waste, reading stories, inventing alien languages, dancing and learning songs about space, and many more. Alongside all of this was the Sports/PE programme, with swimming, football, athletics, team-building, and adventure activities, held at the school secondary football pitch, swimming pool and (when it rained) Hillside hall.



Week two was dinosaur week. We took all the children to the Guangdong Museum to look at the dinosaur fossils and models. Children also got messy making dinosaur footprints, drawing, colouring and modeling dinosaurs, learning about fossils and making skeletons from straws, etc. It was a welcome relief for teachers and students to get back into the classrooms after doing lots of sport in the hot sunshine!

The third week was centred on The Sea. Aside from swimming, children got wet and wild playing with 'sea goop', got busy singing sea shanties, made underwater panoramas, learned about sea-creatures and their life cycles, and finished the week with a Pool Party. There was even a typhoon warning, which unfortunately closed the school for a day!

With such a good time being had by all, the BSG Summer School is sure to return next year, bigger and better. Of course none of this would have been possible without the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of all involved – the catering team for providing great lunches every day, facilities and administration for helping keep an organized, clean and safe environment, Stephanie and Bella on reception, parents for their support and understanding when we had hiccups, the amazing teachers and teaching assistants, and finally the children, who were so enthusiastic, cheerful, energetic, active, and hard-working! See you next year!



Supported with photography by 'HughAB'

EARLY YEARS

Playgroup

BSG Playgroup is now into its ninth year and we are hopeful that this year will bring as many new families to our community as in previous years.

Children can enjoy playing in our spacious Activity Room with a large choice of toys, developing their creativity, confidence, building their physical skills and most importantly learning to socialise and interact with other children.

With a padded ball pool, slides, stage area, trampolines, cars, and many other fun filled activities, our play area is an ideal place for children to enjoy themselves whilst developing at the same time.

With the children happy, this gives parents the perfect opportunity to relax a little and meet new people. Snacks are provided for the children and parents can enjoy a fresh cup of tea or coffee in our coffee shop that has full view of the Activity Room.

So, what are you waiting for? Come and join us on Thursday mornings for a pleasant and relaxing experience for both children and parents.

When – Every Thursday 9:30-11:30am (except school holidays)

Who – Children aged 4 years and below and Parent/s (children must hold an international passport which should be brought along on the first visit)

Where – British School of Guangzhou
Lakefront Early Years Campus,
Tonghe Road 828, Nanhu

Cost – Free of charge

For more information please contact Ms. Kathy at Katherine.weir@bsg.org.cn or telephone the Lakefront Early Years campus on 020-3725 9376



Sensory Exploration

By: Sophie Corr

This term the Toddler's have settled back into school fantastically! We have had lots of smiles and laughter! To start off our year our topic has been 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. Of course, we have had lots of fun singing and dancing along to this fun song but we have also been exploring our school environment using our senses! We have been smelling the scented play dough, feeling textured balls, listening to our chime bars...and much, much more! A wonderful addition to our Early Years campus has been our sensory room. This room has been developing now for the last year and we Toddlers have been taking full advantage of it.

The sensory room has been established in our school as a dedicated room designed to block out noise, control space, temperature and lighting. It is an artificially created venue that utilises multi-sensory equipment to stimulate the senses and promote a positive feeling of well-being. For the purpose of its use in our school setting, we have strived for a 'Calming Room'. It is intended to support students in the implementation of self-regulation strategies, resulting in the reduction of anxiety and challenging behaviours.

"Providing spaces for children to refresh, re-group and observe from are essential. The room can be used for children to retreat to somewhere soft and quiet to regulate their emotions when it "all gets too much" (Elizabeth Jarman, 2013).

So if you are feeling anxious or stressed why you don't pop into our sensory room where I am sure you will be wowed by our bubble tube and feel an instant sense of calmness, just as us Toddlers have!



Tears, Fears & Cheers

By: Iwona Krasa

Tears, fears and lots of cheers. These three nouns may seem totally random to you but in Pre-Nursery they mean A LOT! There are no better words to describe the beginning of a school year in any Pre-Nursery setting than those three. Our BSG Pre-Nursery was no different. This August the three classes, proudly called the Monkeys, Pandas and Ladybirds, were bursting with the whole range of extreme emotions; anxiety and joy being the most frequent ones.

All our Pre-Nursery children were unbelievably brave and coped amazingly well with the change of routine and separation from their parents. As excited as they were to start school and meet with new friends, they couldn't stop missing their mums. Therefore, we are even more impressed with their resilience and capabilities of holding on to their fears for the whole day. No doubts, very few adults could do that.

The Monkeys, Pandas and Ladybirds are now beautifully settled and there are definitely more cheers in our busy Pre-Nursery unit. In spite of initial tears and fears, it has been a marvelous start to a school year. I am positive we will have some wonderful, fun-filled months ahead of us during which the children will grow emotionally and gain a firm foundation for their life-long learning journey, which has just begun at the British School of Guangzhou.



EARLY YEARS

Nursery Slopes

By: Marianne Neel

The beginning of any school year can be daunting for a child regardless of their age. Imagine though that you are just 3 and encountering your first experience in an educational setting. In Lakefront on Wednesday 17th August the doors of our five Nursery classrooms opened for 84 children for the first time. Many children were 'newbies' to BSG as were a few of the teachers.



A nursery slope is simply a beginner slope for people learning to ski; our children in Nursery are doing something similar.

They are discovering what we at BSG thrive to deliver; a 'love of learning'.

Our Nursery and Early Years classrooms offer stimulating environments for young children which encourage the children to be masters of their learning, actively and independently selecting activities which 'spark' their imaginations and creates that drive to learn.



A key introduction to school within our classrooms are our Core Values, which on Lakefront Campus include the 5 Golden Rules. These special rules are a useful toolkit for parents, teachers and children alike. The Golden Rules are: listening ears, gentle hands, walking feet, indoor voices and also the ability to be kind.

We created lots of activities to introduce the rules including a listening walk with giant ears, painting walking feet, hand drawing and sharing lessons whereby the children worked on turn taking whilst at play.



The nursery slopes are for learning and that is exactly what our Butterflies, Bumblebees, Caterpillars, Dolphins and Hedgehogs are doing with great enthusiasm.

It seems to me that across Nursery our 2016 intake have responded very well to these rules. Take a look at the photographs. Can you spot a Golden Rule? I think it would be true to say that even Mr. Thomas sometimes needs to have his listening ears switched on when visiting Miss Kathy!

Reception's In The House!

By: Chris Eales

With the new term barely begun, it was already time to don our house t-shirts for the spectacle that is Reception House Events! A new year at The British School of Guangzhou brings with it a new range of games, activities and technology with which to learn, and House Events is a great platform to showcase these new trinkets of technology.

It was clear from the start of the day that the children were excited, with shouts of “go yellow team” amongst others echoing from the car park as the kids disembarked the school buses.

This continued throughout the day until the classes were split into their house teams, with “Oh when the (insert colour), go marching in” being the anthem for the afternoon’s festivities. With outdoor games, construction, junk modelling, art and ICT opportunities, the time for switching venture was often greeted with bolshie reluctance from the children, although this tended to dissipate as soon as they arrived at their next activity!

Overall the year’s first House Events was a successful outing for the Reception team and we look forward to the next helping of multicolored madness, which is only a few weeks away.



The Wonderful World of Year 1

By: Nicole Torrens

A few weeks ago, the most curious thing happened in the Hillside building. On a sunny Monday morning like any other, as eight sleepy-eyed teachers arrived at school, only to discover something very important missing from their classrooms. Was it the tables? No, they were still there. Was it the pencil pots?? No, it was something much more important than that! To their horror, the teachers discovered that all the class mascots had mysteriously disappeared and were nowhere to be found! The children (being much more practical than the teachers) quickly organised a search hunt for the missing mascots and promised not to rest until the animals were returned. After a thorough search of the Hillside building, all the mascots were found in the amphitheater, gathered round a mysterious parcel addressed to Year 1...

Inside the parcel we discovered a letter and a beautiful handmade book. The letter explained that the Year 1 mascots had created a book so that the Year 1 pupils could learn more about them. Each page of the book was packed filled with pictures and facts about each animal. Year 1 enjoyed reading the mascot's book so much that they decided to make a fact book of their very own!

Over the last few weeks, each Year 1 class has created their own book of facts, highlighting what makes each child in Year 1 special and unique. This project not only encouraged Year 1 to find out more about their classmates but also gave us the opportunity to share and celebrate our similarities and differences. We explored our family trees, compared our heights and speeds, and even created our own self-portraits. Please make sure to stop by and have a look at our amazing class books next time you are in Hillside. The children are incredibly proud of their work and love sharing information about their world with others.



How Do I Ask A Good Question?

By: Paul Jones

“Asking good questions is the basis for becoming a successful learner. If children aren’t asking questions, they’re being spoon-fed. That might be effective in terms of getting results, but it won’t turn out curious, flexible learners suited to the 21st century.” Guy Claxton

I love questions, it’s as simple as that.

I may not always have the answers that go with these questions, but nonetheless, I think questions are great. To begin with, questions tell me quite a few things:

- ~ What the child already knows (often, questions are laced with clues based on prior learning)
- ~ any misconceptions that have been collected en route
- ~ whether or not the pupil is brave enough to ask the question (again, this hints to me as to what type of learner we have)

From here, we can look at the question itself. That’s when the real fun begins!

Any parent or teacher will testify to the fact that our children are great at asking questions. Here is where I feel we as adults, we ‘miss a trick’. Knowing that our pupils are great at asking their own questions, our challenge then becomes:

How do we as adults improve our own questioning?

In an article by Stephen Hastings (TES 04.07.03) it was estimated that on a typical day (good luck in finding one of those!) a teacher asks 400 questions, that’s up to two questions per minute. Over the span of a teaching career, one could expect to ask between 2 -3 million questions! These questions range from the sublime to the, well, less sublime! Please don’t assume that all of these questions are ‘academically driven’, a great number of these questions are fact finding questions, designed to do nothing more than discover the location of a missing reading record, the welfare of a pet cat etc.

Knowing that we ask all these questions to children, it should become a challenge for each of us to ask High Quality Questions, these questions usually ask for more than a “yes” or “no” answer. They encourage the children to think more deeply about a certain topic.

For example:

Instead of asking your child...
Did you enjoy swimming today?

Consider,
What was challenging in your swimming lesson today?

OR
Can you name a dinosaur beginning with an 'S'?

Consider,
Invent a new dinosaur made up of all the dinosaurs you know already.

Conclusion

The funny thing about questions, especially great ones, is that there doesn't always have to be a conclusion, or a correct answer!

Our challenge...

How can we create questions, which encourage our children to think deeply about their learning?



Willow Pattern Story & Noodles

By: Matthew Preston

This term Year three have been learning about Chinese inventions and we have been marveling about the amount of inventions and how long these inventions have been around for.

As part of this we have found out that China was the birthplace of porcelain and that the Chinese are world renowned for their fine porcelain and the decorations that each dynasty have used.

The children enjoyed discovering that the most famous design for 'Chinese' porcelain was actually created in Britain. The design was called the Willow Pattern and is based on the designs that originated in China and even had a story invented to explain the design.

The children created their own Willow Pattern plates based on the Minton design and following the distinctive blue design.

Noodles

Another Chinese invention that we investigated was noodles. The children got to experience making and cooking noodles in class. The best part was when they got to eat their creations. It was a very popular activity and one the children were keen to repeat. They learnt a lot about trial and error and how to make changes to a recipe if they were needed.

The children were surprised how few ingredients were needed but how hard it was to roll the noodles thin.

Chinese inventions has been an excellent start to the academic year and the children are hungry for more learning experiences like those we have completed.



A Thrilling Start To Year 4

By: Phil Bennett

Wow, it feels like we're almost half way through the year already; we've done so much in such a short time.

Firstly, we went through the process of getting to know each other. It can be a little strange meeting your new class for the first time (and that's just for the teachers!). As an introduction to our new topic, The Rainforest, we had lots of games and challenges to carry out in small groups. This meant that getting to know each other was more fun. Some of the activities involved crossing the Amazon River on rafts, matching the animal to the camouflaged skin, rescuing the mangoes from the piranha lake and finally, solving a jungle puzzle.

In Science we've been studying how we classify animals and plants; as part of this, we learned how to make a sorting diagrams to identify different things. We started by making sorting diagrams for different sweets – this was really helpful to explain how to do it, and also very tasty. Then we moved on to leaves and animals.

Chinese day was great fun, and the children looked wonderful in their traditional costumes. Thanks to the Chinese department and all the children who took part in the assembly. It was very early in the school year to put on an assembly with so many children!

Sadly, the staff need a little more help to choose their costumes for next year (especially Mr. Thomas).

In Literacy, we've been using Foodimal characters to inspire our writing. They come from a movie called 'Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs II'. After a hunt around the school to find the characters, they've been inspiring our imaginations and our amazing writing. We've even begun to make our own mini-movies!

There's lots of fun and great learning going on in year 4, and we're all very excited about the rest of the year.



Monty Python & The Year 5s

By: Richard Marwood

What did the Roman's ever do for us?! Year 5 have been taking on a classic question from British comedy this term during their topic lessons and making it relevant to the modern day through their learning.

Students began with a hectic scavenger hunt around the school in search of pictures and photographs linked to famous Roman inventions and items the Romans introduced. The children were fascinated to find out that many of the items we still use today were introduced by the Romans including: roads, public baths, coins and calendars and even more fascinated by the red herrings planted in there by the Year 5 teachers to try and catch them off guard!

Students then returned to their classrooms and began to make decisions on which of the inventions could be considered the most important and why, creating a Diamond 9 ranking system that they then had to justify. Lots of the groups agreed that supplying clean water was the most important thing the Romans introduced!

Following on from this, the students made the learning relevant by applying what they had learnt from the inventions to solve a citywide problem in Guangzhou (not that Guangzhou has any problems of course!).

We began by watching Dragon's Den to get some inspiration on how to deliver a good pitch, then the students began to create their own products, along with an interactive presentation and a pitch that would blow Duncan Bannatyne away! Ideas ranged from a car exhaust which cleans up rubbish, to a water filtration system to make tap water drinkable.

The last step in our topic will be for the students to answer the classic question: What did the Romans ever do for us?!



The Year 6 Journey Begins

By: Stephen Follows

In Year 6 we have hit the ground running in all of our lessons. Our weekly topic homework grid has proven a hit with the children with some truly amazing and varied pieces of work coming in (including poems, songs, models of rivers and animals as well as full size rafts the children have built!)

Last week, lots of the children came into school wearing Chinese costumes to celebrate the autumn festival. The classrooms were filled with lots of different colours as everyone (including the teachers!) got into the spirit of the festival.

The day culminated in a Key Stage 2 assembly led by our very own George He and Grace Shen who expertly coordinated proceedings which included songs from all of the year groups as well as dancing from four Year 6 girls (Angelina Chan, Ellery Wu, Enni Chen and Jenny Li). Congratulations to everyone for making this year's Autumn festival one to remember!

In the coming weeks we have loads to look forward to, including our swimming gala on the 28th of September and residential trip to Yangshou from the 10th-14th of October. As the year goes on we will have more and more to look forward to and am sure the children will have a brilliant time learning and exploring.



Artist In Residence - Hannah Jones

The Art department has been very fortunate to have British artist Hannah Jones visit us in the summer term all the way from London.

Jones specializes in printing and delivered fantastic print making workshops with interesting concepts inspired by her love of space, place and travel.



“The BSG residency has been an opportunity to make work responding to the school and the local area, whilst sharing the process with students and helping them develop new approaches and techniques.

This work is inspired by observations and experiences during my 3-month stay at the school along with some thematic concerns of Chinese mythology.

The experience of being a foreigner in China is one I couldn't compare to anywhere else in the world. The particular alienation resulting from the language barrier and cultural difference is something that I found to make the everyday strange and interesting. From rollercoasters and rainforests in the school grounds, to families relaxing in Ikea showrooms, the Guangzhou experience has offered a new lens through which to consider perceptions of normality and the everyday.



I was inspired by the theme of controlling and balancing natural forces with social and moral codes (as it is frequently explored across Chinese mythology) and the chaotic morphing and overlapping of these myths across different Chinese traditions, both of which displace concepts of natural and normal. The project involved collecting imagery both through photography of the local area and from other sources such as magazines and illustrations. The final outcomes are a melting pot of abstracted perceptions and observations, which mirror the chaotic experience of piecing together a cultural narrative and finding a place within it.”

You are invited to the Arts Celebration Evening on 3rd November to see ‘Qi Pa Shuo’ (on certain things we have different views), an exhibition by Hannah Jones along side the student’s responses to her work.

<http://www.hannahhannahjones.com>

The Big Reveal - Urban Art

Students were asked to come up with a Street Art design to cover the large grey wall outside the secondary canteen. It had to be inclusive, suitable for a public space and appropriate for a large group of young artists to create it within the Urban Art Collaborative Project ASA lead by Ms. Slaughter.

A lot of hard work went in to the making of this piece and in August 2016 it was installed on the wall in the canteen, brightening up everybody's lunch breaks!

A huge congratulations to all of the hard working students who made this happen with a special thanks to Jenna Wu, Chloe Wu, Selina Yang and Claire Liang in Year 9 for their winning Urban Art Project design! Inspired by a school trip to Hong Kong's Art Basel back in March.

Artist Credits

Jessica Tanchone, Atirut Rueang, Brendan Ng, Emma Mo, Jojo Guo, Selina Yang, Chloe Wu, Claire Liang, Jenna Wu, Coco Shi, Jane Xiao, Mahek Kalwani, Selina Wang, Lydia Bucciero, Mariana Barradas, Shing Lam, Juanita Sandoval, Grace Villeda, Lucy Chen, Anna Mosterd, Juni Zhang, Victoria Le, Tyai Clarke, Cecelia Liu, Jenny Shin, Julia Kim, Lilyana Greig, Lisa Shatovkina, Dustin Schneider, Macy Moore.

The final piece is now up in the New Secondary Building dining room.



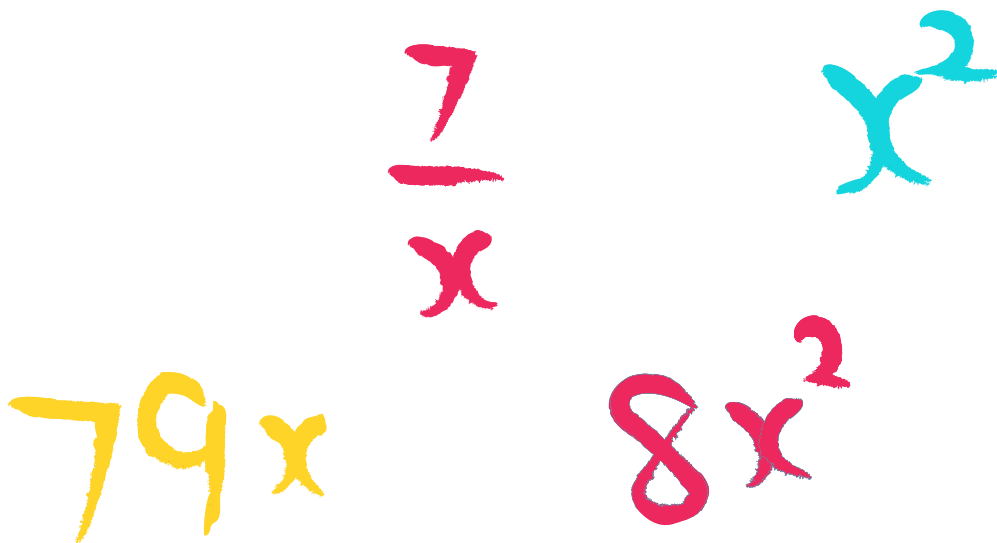
Maths Achievements

The Mathematics Department would like to share and celebrate the achievements of a large number of our students who have excelled in recent months.

Firstly, the recent UKMT Junior Award yielded superb results, and the school achieved a phenomenal 14 Gold Certificates in this year's event. Two individuals scored so highly that they were invited to sit the exam for the premiere global examination, the Junior Olympiad, which invites only the top 1200 pupils to participate. Tian Wang (Year 9) and Mabel Ng (Year 8) did incredibly well to qualify for this competition, and we are pleased to share the news that Tian achieved a Certificate of Merit for his efforts in the test. This year's round of competitions starts with the Senior Award in early November, and we hope to beat last year's impressive haul of certificates.

Further up the school, the current Year 11 Further Pure Maths group, all successfully achieved A and A* grades in their Mathematics IGCSE which they took one year early. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to their dedication and hard work over the course of their school careers.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our Key Stage 4 and 5 students for attaining such impressive results in their IGCSEs and A-Levels. We wish them all the best in their future mathematical endeavours. Go Maths!



SECONDARY

World Language Success

As ever, the results for Chinese in the recent IGCSE and A level results were excellent and the Modern Foreign Languages Department is delighted to advertise the successes in the other languages which were offered by the school. Students were examined in Bahasa Malay, Dutch, French, German, Japanese and Spanish and our students showed their impressive linguistic ability by gaining excellent grades.

Over 70% of the students gained A* grades and there were A and B grades for the vast majority of the remaining students. Such results highlight the range of linguistic ability in our school and we are looking forward to the current Year 11 cohort repeating this success in June 2017.

Below are 3 of our A* Modern Foreign Language graduates.



BSG Rhinos Update



Game	Venue	Score
U14 BSG Boys vs UISG, Football	Tonghe	BSG 4-1 UISG
U14 BSG Girls vs UISG, Football	Tonghe	BSG 9-0 UISG
Year 8 BSG Boys vs UISG, Football	UISG	UISG 0-5 BSG
U19 Girls vs UISG, Volleyball	UISG	UISG 2-3 BSG
U19 BSG Boys A Team vs UISG, Volleyball	UISG	UISG 3-0 BSG
U19 BSG Boys B Team vs UISG, Volleyball	UISG	UISG 2-3 BSG



SECONDARY

Acids & Alkalis

By: Graham Starkey

Since the beginning of term we have been learning about the properties of Acids and Alkalis. In order to investigate these chemicals the class has been carrying out many practicals in the laboratory wearing their goggles and lab coats.

They have had to learn how to be safe as well as how to measure, record and write down their conclusions.



Rock Antz! Climbing Club

When: Wednesdays

Time: 4:30-6:30pm

For: Primary & Secondary students

For more information, please contact colin.wildy@bsg.org.cn



**COMING
SOON!**

In Conversation With... *Mr. Russell, Head of Secondary*



Why have you chosen to work in the field of education?

When I was a student at school, to be honest, I didn't know what I wanted to do. Even when I went to university, I wasn't sure even after I achieved a degree in Geography. I did know that being at school was my chief passion, which I enjoyed greatly. As a student, I realised that I might quite like being a teacher, therefore when I finished my degree I went to find out more about teacher training. It sounded quite interesting, and ever since, I've continued loving being at school. So, I went into the field of education because of two reasons: I like the school environment more than anything else, and I also love learning.

What experiences have you had prior to BSG that helped you in your current role?

I had lots of experiences in the field of education. This is my fourth head teacher role: Additionally, I have taken other roles such as Head of Department, head of year, and a teacher as well! I think that these experiences in schools helped to make me understand the ways that schools function. I think my other experiences in life have also been useful: I travel a lot, and I have lots of hobbies, which helps me to put learning into context.

What were your first impressions of BSG?

A lovely school! It struck me as a beautiful campus, and a very welcoming community. The staff, teachers, and students are all amazing. Also, I thought that Mr. Thomas was an excellent Principal.

What is your vision for BSG?

I don't have a vision, and I don't think I should have one, because for me it is of the utmost importance that the whole community has a vision of the school that we all agree on. So, to answer your question, my vision is that we get together- students, parents, teachers, senior leaders,- and we agree the goals that we want to achieve as a school.

What do you find most impressive about BSG?

The students. For example, the fact that they have the confidence to come here to interview me with such great questions is very, very inspiring. What impresses me the most, without a doubt, is the maturity and the high level of engagement of the students, along with the fact that they are able to have fun at the same time.

What advice do you have for BSG students?

Definitely enjoy life and take every opportunity that comes your way, whether it's 6am swimming, the great experiences in the classroom, or camping for the International Award. Be open-minded! There're so many events going on in this school- I think that if I were young again, I would want to go to this school and get involved in everything.



Developing Reading Skills

One of the key things that we are focusing on in English this year is developing students' independent reading skills and therefore raising literacy standards across the curriculum. We find that once students reach secondary school, their love of reading diminishes due to time constraints and other social commitments that creep into their lives – there simply isn't enough time in the day to pick up a book and read. However, research has consistently shown that how much of a reader a student is at the beginning of their secondary education is directly reflected in the results that they get at the end of their school years... and that refers to ALL subjects, not just English.

As such our drive this year is to really nurture an inherent love of books and reading amongst all students – and give them the hunger for reading that they had in primary, back. As well as continuing to stock both the library and our extensive online OverDrive library, we are having dedicated 'reading lessons' within the English curriculum, for which students have been issued with reading journals so that they can track their reading and will be taught to approach texts in different ways. In term 2, we will introduce our group reading scheme, whereby students of similar abilities will work together, reading a variety of texts to stretch and challenge their reading levels.

Even more excitingly, students will be able to track their progress in reading, through the use of our newly launched Accelerated Reader system that we have bought for all students. The system is designed to give students, teachers and parents insight into the reading ability of each individual, and clear guidance on exactly which texts are suitable for their age, ability and interests.

Throughout the year, our Literacy Leaders will be working with students and staff to create fun activities, charity fundraisers and to support struggling readers, so that wide and varied reading becomes a permanent part of school culture.

IXL

As well as nurturing a love and drive for reading, another key focus this year is raising levels of literacy, not just within the English department, but across the school as a whole. Two key features of the introduction of student IXL accounts include places where students can study independently and teachers and parents can track their progress.

The students have thus far shown themselves to be self-motivated in using the system and it has encouraged some healthy competitive learning as they challenge each other to see how many perfect marks they can score and achieve excellence in a variety of skills!

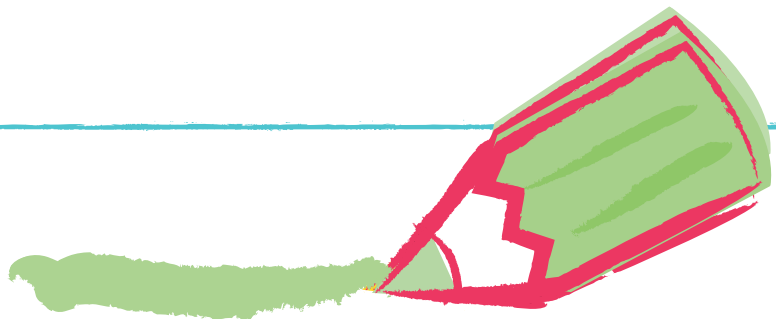
The 'Green Pen It' Initiative

The English Department has been consulting closely with colleagues and students across the secondary school to develop an action response to our thoughts about literacy.

Our first step in supporting students will be with Green Pens! 'Green Pen It' will become a familiar call to students, initially in English lessons then across all subjects as we independently show our revisions and corrections using green pens.

Obviously, the idea is that students will have dedicated time to independently redraft their work, allowing them to recognise and thus gradually address their common errors. But 'Green Pen It' can go beyond the nuts and bolts of grammar and punctuation; this could also be an opportunity to draft our expression and craft our use of language.

Green Pen 2!



Friday 2nd September 2016

The pickpocket

He slipped his hand through the thick wads of ^{coins} fabric. Slim fingers searching... which clasped around the purseful of ~~coins~~ jingling flattened spheres. Cold, hard metal biting into soft flesh.

Carefully, so ^{very} carefully, ... ^{He withdrew} ~~he withdrawing~~ his trembling hand/ ~~he excavated~~ his fist out of the pocket. He darted through the sea of people, nudging and rubbing against ~~them~~ their woolen coats ^{delicious warmth}.

He finally reached the ~~XXXX~~ of the fireplace. The hearth's embers flicker^{ed}; glow^{ed} with soft light. ^{amongst} ~~the plush velvets~~ swaddled in a quilt, ~~on a plush armchair~~ ^{on a plush armchair} was his grandmother.

Her face was ^{almond-shaped} haggard and ^{as} creased ~~like~~ weathered ^{cloudy} cardboard. Her eyes squint^{ed} into the light. She ~~stare~~ ^{stare} peered over the chair, and ^{she} stood up. Her short stature made her look like an ^{old} ~~stump~~ ^{weathered stump}. ~~Whilst her hair~~ ^{her} curled into a large lump of tangles. Her shrivelled ^{silvery} hands reached towards the boy, extending gnarled ^{firm} and stubby fingers which curled around the pouch.



Accelerated Reader

The British School of
Guangzhou

Digital
Library

powered by

OverDrive

BSG Awarded The Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM)

It is with great delight that the Geography Department at The British School Guangzhou has been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM). Only 425 schools worldwide have received this award since 2006.

The SGQM award process encourages and supports schools to reflect on their work and strive for the highest quality in their teaching.

The award required a lengthy and rigorous moderation process whereby staff within the Geography Department were encouraged to reflect on how well the department was achieving its aims and meeting its priorities. Part of the process also involved the department reviewing the curriculum, identifying priorities for departmental professional development, sharing good practice and encouraging creative and critical thinking about curriculum. The team of assessors were hugely impressed by the manner in which the department embraced new and innovative approaches to teaching Geography which resulted in the SGQM being granted.

Mr. Kevin McDaid, who was pivotal in helping the department achieve the award shared his reaction to the fantastic news;

“I am absolutely delighted to hear the Geography department at BSG has attained the Geographical Association Secondary Geography Quality Mark. The process was a complex one that required us to forensically examine what the strengths and areas for development are in the department in terms of, for example, teaching, learning, assessment and fieldwork.



I believe the process and our subsequent recognition by such a prestigious organisation, which has been working for the promotion of Geography for over 100 years, is testament first and foremost to all the incredible Geography students at BSG who show commitment, enthusiasm and a love of learning every day in their classrooms. I am certain this will be a foundation for the Geography department to grow and develop in the future.”

EVENT

Mid-Autumn Festival

By Ms. Miya Shen & Ms. Leena Lin

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the four most important Chinese festivals. Mooncakes are regarded as an indispensable delicacy. The seasonal round cakes traditionally have a sweet filling of lotus seed paste or red bean paste and often have one or more salted duck eggs in the center to represent the moon.

To celebrate the Mid-autumn Festival, as part of our Chinese curriculum, Year 7 students went on a trip to the Garden Hotel to make mooncakes with the chefs on 12th September. They made the most exquisite mooncakes, and had a lot of fun in exploring Chinese culture.



Truly Global

Graduates from the British School are set to join some of the world's finest institutions this month.

Destinations include The University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, King's College London, University of California, University of British Columbia, Taylor's University, University of Miami, University of Texas, The City University of Hong Kong & Melbourne University.

Good luck and please keep in touch through our unique global alumni network that caters for graduates from 15 countries and 43 prestigious schools worldwide.

Admissions open throughout the year.

+86 (0) 20 8709 4788 (ext. 2004)
enquiry@bsg.org.cn



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



www.bsg.org.cn



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF GUANGZHOU
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL DAY 2016

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

11AM - 3PM

BEAUTIFUL LAKESIDE LOCATION

FOOD FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

GRAND PRIZE DRAW & FANCY
DRESS COMPETITION

STALLS, GAMES & LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

INDOOR SUPERVISED TODDLER
PLAY AREA



GET INVOLVED!

SCAN OUR QR CODE

FOR MORE INFORMATION.

www.bsg.org.cn

 [www.facebook.com/
bsгнае](https://www.facebook.com/bsгнае)