



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Dear Parents

As the first term is drawing to a close I wanted to take a moment to reflect on another fantastic term. The students have been very busy working hard and being ambitious with their learning. New staff have now well and truly settled into our family and all teachers have continued to provide the very best possible provision for all students in our care.

Particular highlights for me this term have been watching our Juilliard and MIT collaborations develop a curriculum that aims to continually push learning forward to meet the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century world. We have welcomed visits from the likes of Erin Wright, Juilliard, and the children were incredibly lucky to see first-hand what hours of dedication and commitment can result in. The children have taken part in their first 'Curiosity Challenge', to 'Be Curious' and ask the type of questions they want to learn about. Child led learning will be the focus in the three weeks when we return from Christmas Holidays. Focusing on the 'Curious Cities' challenge and attempting to solve an environmental issue in the place that we live, will push children to engage in an inter-disciplinary style of learning. It's unique opportunities like these that set BSB, Sanlitun apart as a Nord Anglia Education School.

Of course, we continue to provide opportunities for our children that are very familiar to our school. The Year 6 residential to Inner Mongolia provided lots of fun, learning opportunities for our students. Reception students produced a wonderful Christmas performance and there is still more to come next week when the Year 3 and 4 students perform 'Home Alone'.

We had some cracking events this term, like International Day. I would like to commend the Parents' Association for their tireless efforts in supporting the school. I cannot stress enough the important work they do and I know they are always looking for extra volunteers to join.

One sad moment for me personally was the cancellation of the Christmas Fayre, a decision that I note even made the Financial Times! However, I appreciate the immense understanding from our community with the decision made. A lot of vendors lost a lot of money on produce that they had bought for the event. I must give a special mention to 'Andy's Sausages', who kindly donated their produce to charity and even offered to give any compensation monies to our school's chosen charity. It's this type of community spirit that really makes our school a special place to be.

Please remember that the last day of school is on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and we start Term 2 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

All that is left to say is I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To those families moving on to pastures new, including the wonderful Prue Harman, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Please stay in touch and if you ever visit Beijing again, you'll be welcomed back with open arms.

Festive regards

David Laird