

# OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 2

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2013



A SOFT LANDING ... *Year 3 students have a PE lesson on the new astro-turf field in our primary campus.*

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK ...

### WELCOME FROM OUR HEADS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

This week our Primary and Secondary Meet and Greet events gave you all the chance to meet your children's new teachers and each other. They were great evenings and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did!

### UNIVERSITY VISITS

BISS Puxi hosted visitors from five top US universities this week, including Princeton and Columbia, who came to talk to our year 11, 12 and 13 students.

### PTA CORNER

The PTA is looking for some fresh leadership to join the steering committee.

### PLEASED TO MEET YOU ...

Our new feature will introduce you to a different member of the BISS Puxi community every week.

### ECAS

ECAs are starting again next week, with a slight change to the timings of the programme this year to maximise the opportunities for our students.

### SPORTS REPORT

The BISS Lions have been very active already this term, with the volleyball and rugby seasons well underway. Read our newsletter for more on how the BISS Lions are getting on.



Our school hosted the International Admissions teams from Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Northwestern and Princeton University this week. See page 5 for full details on the event....



## OUR HEADS OF SCHOOL WRITE

NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY AND CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the “Meet and Greet” sessions this week. We hope you found the information helpful in outlining expectations for the year and having some of your questions answered. Most importantly however, this was a perfect opportunity for you to connect with your child’s teachers and for us to foster positive home school partnerships.

We are always happy to have communication with parents and encourage staff to have continued informal contact as the year goes on to tell you how well your child is doing and of course where improvements could be made. As a community we need to listen to your points of view and respond to your praise or concerns alike, so having formal and informal contact that build constructive relationships and trust is very important.

This was a good start and we look forward to developing this further throughout the year with a series of Parent Workshops and Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences.

## PTA CORNER

**URGENTLY REQUIRED** – Parent-Teacher Association Leaders. One or two parents are needed to steer the PTA to future achievement. Previous experience is not necessary; if you have enthusiasm, drive, and organisational skills, you can serve as Chairperson(s) of the Parent-Teacher Association. BISS Puxi has many accomplished and interesting parents and we know that you have a lot to offer. Make new friends from all over the world and contribute to the success of not only BISS Puxi students, but also local Chinese children



▶ *The Meet and Greet event this week was a great opportunity for us to showcase to parents our fantastic new facilities.*



through our charity donations. The on-going activities of the PTA cannot be assured without leadership. Contact [PTA@bisspuxi.com](mailto:PTA@bisspuxi.com) today to continue the tradition of excellence.

**WELCOME (BACK) PARTY** – There’s still time to get your ticket order in for our annual Welcome (Back) Party. If you chose to collect your tickets, be sure to stop by primary or secondary reception. We are always happy to include new helpers and a few good people can make the event run extra smoothly. Please contact [PTA@bisspuxi.com](mailto:PTA@bisspuxi.com) if you can volunteer for one hour (especially set-up and tear-down) or if you have questions.

**PRIMARY ROOM PARENTS** – Those who attended the Meet & Greet on Thursday evening have heard from the class teachers about the value of the Room Parent network. Our goal is to have one super-useful parent from every primary classroom by 19 September! You’ll spend a couple of hours getting started, and then approximately one hour or less per week throughout the year. Any parent who is comfortable in English and has email access can be a Room Parent, even if you work full-time or are new to BISS Puxi. There will be Question and Answer sessions in the weeks of 23 September and 7 October, with full support of the coordinator at all times.

**NEW PARENT OUTREACH** – If you have recently arrived at BISS Puxi, mark your calendar to attend the New Parent Tea Time on Monday, 23 September 8:30-10:30am in the Secondary Dining Hall. Take advantage of all the knowledge and experience of the enlarged Outreach committee. They are absolutely committed to helping you to get settled in Shanghai and established within the school community. Please RSVP for the tea to Tonya at [tblanchford@gmail.com](mailto:tblanchford@gmail.com).

## PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

NIKI MEEHAN, HEAD OF PRIMARY

The Meet and Greet event this week was a great opportunity for us to showcase to parents our fantastic new facilities. We believe that the set-up of the physical and emotional classroom environment is a very important part in children’s learning, as the environment informs and shapes the kind of learning that will take place. We have tried to create learning spaces with lots of natural light and well-defined and organised learning areas, giving children a sense of order and calm. We are excited to now use these great indoor



and outdoor spaces to effectively implement inquiry-based learning and get children motivated and engaged in all areas of the curriculum and school life. In the coming weeks and months, the classroom and corridor displays will evolve, showcasing all the great learning. We look forward to inviting you along later in the term to share what the children have been doing.

It has been a great start to the school year with lots of happy children, eager and curious to learn all about the world around them. Routines have been established, expectations shared, now we get down to the serious business of helping all the children to thrive!

## SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE

CHRIS SHARE, HEAD OF SECONDARY

It's been a busy week in secondary with students getting involved in the election of reps for the student council, and visitors from top US and UK universities coming in to talk to students and parents about admissions and a biodiversity trip to Indonesia being offered called Operation Wallacea.

It was great to see our volleyball teams in action last weekend and mid-week and we also saw 28 adventurous year 12s leave on Thursday for the International Award Adventurous Journey: hiking, rafting and cycling in Hong Kong. We wish them the best of luck!

Our daily information newsletter, ODIN, will be fully functioning next week for those of you who have already returned your data collection forms. Please do return these as early as possible to ensure you don't miss out on any news from school.

And finally, we are going to be bidding farewell to two colleagues at

### COMING SOON

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER  
Gold International Award  
Adventurous Journey continues:Y13

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER  
Gold International Award  
Adventurous Journey continues:Y13  
8:00-9:30Swim Team Trials:Y9-10  
8:30-12:30SISAC Rugby:Y10-13  
9:00-11:00Swim Team Trials:Y7-8,Y12-13  
9:00-14:00U15 FOBISIA Trials:Y9-10  
11:00-13:00Swim Team Trials:Y3-6

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER  
Gold International Award  
Adventurous Journey continues:Y13

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER  
ECAs Start  
Raising Awareness of Giving (RAG)  
Week begins; CAS Project  
18:30-19:30Parent Information Evening-Succeeding at IB:Y12-13  
20:15Gold International Award  
Adventurous Journey returns:Y13

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER  
Raising Awareness of Giving (RAG)  
Week continues; CAS Project  
16:45-17:45SISAC D1 Boys Volleyball:Y10-13  
16:45-17:45SISAC D1 Girls Volleyball:Y10-13

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER  
Raising Awareness of Giving (RAG)  
Week continues; CAS Project  
9:30-11:00Korean Secondary Parents Meeting  
12:30-13:30Visit from American Colleges:Y12-13  
14:30-15:15Parent Information Session:Introduction to Early Years Cubs and EYFS  
16:00-19:00Student Parent Teacher Conference:Y11

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



Christmas. Departures are always a mixture of sadness and congratulations. Dr. Craig Wilson and Ms. Heather Brown have decided to return to the UK. Dr. Wilson has accepted a Director of Education position with the CEG group of schools in Cambridge, UK and Ms. Brown has accepted a position as Assessment Manager of Music and Art with Cambridge International Examinations Board, also in Cambridge. Craig started as Head of Science at BISS Puxi three years ago before moving to Assistant Head of KS4 and he is now Deputy Head of Whole School for Student Progress and Performance. Heather joined the Nord Anglia Education family of schools in 2008, first teaching at the Nanxiang campus before joining us here at Puxi as Head of Music in 2011. They have both made a significant contribution to the success and development of our school during their time with us. We wish them the best of luck with their new start back in the UK in January.

### Year 11 Student-Parent-Teacher Conference

We have our first year 11 Student-Parent-Teacher conference next Wednesday 11 September from 4 – 7pm. We hope to see as many of you from year 11 as possible to discuss your children’s progress so far.



## ▶ PLEASED TO MEET YOU ... Charlotte Rakowski, Primary Music Coordinator

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN CHINA? Nearly 1 month.

WHERE WERE YOU TEACHING BEFORE HERE? Birmingham, UK

HOW MANY INSTRUMENTS CAN YOU PLAY? I play the ‘cello, piano, sing and I have grade one saxophone!

WHAT ONE THING CAN YOU NOT LIVE WITHOUT? My ‘cello

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE SCHOOL SO

FAR? I love that the students and teachers are all so friendly and welcoming.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT SHANGHAI? Hot weather and shopping

### University visits

MS. ROOHI IQBAL, HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISOR

## BISS Puxi hosted the Heads of Asia or International Admissions from Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Northwestern and Princeton University this week.

The event took place in two parts: first, an exclusive discussion with our year 11, 12 and 13 students, followed by an open session in the evening for the larger Shanghai international school community.

Both events were a resounding success. Students learned more about what each of these universities offered, their respective admission requirements, and what admissions officers “really look for.” Students also had an opportunity to pose questions directly to these representatives.

Next week on 11 September, at 12:30 in the IB Academy, ten American liberal art colleges will be visiting our school. These will be Bard College and Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Rhodes College, Reed College, Washington & Jefferson College, Whitman College, University of the Puget Sound, St. Olaf College, Furman University, Pitzer College, Colorado College.

## Succeeding at IB an information evening for year 12 and 13 parents

JANE WHITE, HEAD OF THE IB ACADEMY

It has been a busy start to the term in the IB Academy. There are now over 160 students enrolled on IB courses here at BISS Puxi, our largest cohort to date by some margin. It is a busy and vibrant place to be: year 12 students are settling into their new courses and year 13 students are getting started on managing their increasing workload as extended essay and internal assessment deadlines are coming up. There is a great sense of positivity and ambition among the students.

The partnership between home and school in supporting the students is very important, and there is much that parents can do to help their sons and daughters so that the outstanding results of 2013 can be matched or even bettered next year and beyond. With this in mind, we are holding a ‘Succeeding at IB’ event on Monday 9 September, starting at 6.30pm in the Auditorium. Refreshments will be available in the foyer from 6pm.



This event is designed to help parents to understand more fully what the IB diploma course involves, what the key dates and deadlines are, how IB leads on to university, what parents can do to help and what support is available at school. There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions. If you have ever wondered what an IA or an EE is, or what the difference between ToK and WoK is, or how students can get those magical extra three points from the 'core', this could be the event for you! I very much look forward to seeing as many parents as possible on Monday.

## Dr. Martin Speight from Oxford University talks about biodiversity and scientific research

DANIEL GROCOTT, GEOGRAPHY

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Speight from Oxford University to discuss biodiversity and scientific research and the work of Operation Wallacea. Operation Wallacea will involve a trip to Indonesia and participation in a biodiversity survey and is open to students in years 11 – 13. The trip is planned for 26 June – 9 July 2014. For any interested students/parents please contact Mr. Grocott (d-grocott@bisspuxi.com) Deadline for registration is 26 September 2013.

## Panda Awards

JUSTINE YOUNG, ENGLISH

This term BISS Secondary is taking part in the Panda Book Award initiative which invites students and teachers from participating schools in China to vote for their favourite book published in the years 2011-2013. The eight exciting and varied books on the shortlist will stretch and challenge our Key Stage 3 students with many activities. There will also be a celebratory Panda week before the ballot in February.

All pupils from years 7 to 9 have visited the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) in their English lessons and borrowed one of the 8 books on the Panda shortlist. EAL students have also begun their Penguin Award for graded readers. FCE students who are looking for a challenging read are most welcome to borrow Panda books from the LRC.

Next week all students will receive their Panda or Penguin booklets which they are to complete after reading each title. It is important that everyone remembers to bring their Panda/Penguin book to school on a Monday morning to read in form time. Students should also remember to return their book to the LRC by the due date so that we can keep the books circulating. Everyone will need to read, read, read before the secret ballot for the best title in February! (That's nearly two books a month) Good luck!

## ECAs

You will be pleased to know that our ECA programme will begin on Monday 9 September.

In order to maximise the opportunities for our students there has been a change in the ECA programme this year. A number of sports ECAs will take place from 4:35-5:45pm. In most cases students will not have an ECA during the normal ECA slot until 4:35pm and are therefore encouraged to complete homework during that time.

ECA transport will be provided to a range of compounds after the first session at 4:40pm. However, as stated in the ECA information which went home there will be only one bus after the late sport ECA which will stop at SRC, Westwood Green, Risen Villa, Stratford and finally at Gubei Carrefour. If you have any questions regarding sports ECAs please do not hesitate to contact our Head of Extra-curricular Sport Samuel Thorley (s-thorley@bisspuxi.com).

## Leon Lai, 12P, tells us more about CAS

On behalf of year 12, I am going to tell you a bit about CAS (Creativity Action Service) and the upcoming events that will take place next week. What does CAS really mean to you? CAS is a requirement for the IB diploma and certificate pupils. In order to get your IB diploma or certificate you will need to complete your CAS program. CAS is a fundamental part of the program and takes seriously the importance of life outside the world of scholarship, providing a refreshing counterbalance to academic studies. What does each letter stand for? Creativity is interpreted broadly to include a wide range of art activities as well as the creativity students demonstrate in designing and implementing service projects. Action can include not only participation in individual and team sports but also taking part in expeditions and in local or international projects. Service encompasses a host of community and social service activities. Some examples include helping children with special needs, visiting hospitals and working with refugees or homeless people.

Students are expected to be involved in CAS activities for the equivalent of at least three hours each week during the two years of the program. They are also expected to write-up their reflections after each CAS activity they finish for the week. They are supposed to do this on ManageBac. Our CAS coordinator is Ms. Coong, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email or talk to her.

At the moment, I have added a lot of CAS activities on ManageBac for Ms. Coong to approve. I think CAS is a very good program for the IB diploma as it helps us not think about academics all the time. For my creativity I am joining the photography ECA, for my action I have come up with a lot of events and activities for the school, and for my service I am assisting the secondary swim team. Below is a bit more information about some of the activities the CAS students are working on.



# RAG

RAISING **AWARENESS** FOR GIVING

From September 9 -13 it will be the year 12 RAG (Raising Awareness for Giving) Week. This is a CAS project for the year 12 to complete. There will be several charities that year 12 will be raising awareness of. There will be several activities happening in the primary and secondary school. Some of the charities that year 12 will raise awareness for are Roots and Shoots, Shanghai Young Bakers, Couleurs de Chine, Huaxin Rehabilitation Centre and also Shambala Foundation.

## CLOTHES COLLECTION

There will also be a clothes collection for the River Of Hearts charity. River of Hearts (ROH), established in 2003, is a Community Center Shanghai outreach program. ROH provides expatriates, living and working in Shanghai, with the opportunity to graciously give items they no longer need to those who are in need. You will be able to donate any of your clothing, shoes and toys that you don't want to the River Of Hearts Charity.

On behalf of myself and year 12, I hope you will all participate in the activities and events that year 12 will be organizing next week. Also don't forget to bring in any old clothes that you don't want. It will be much appreciated.

In order for the clothes to be sorted, there will be a sorting party at school. If you are interested in helping with the sorting of clothes please contact Ms. Ling Coong the CAS Coordinator (l-coong@bisspuxi.com).



SHAMBALA  
FOUNDATION



# SPORTS PROGRAMMES 2013

SAMUEL THORLEY, HEAD OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT

It has been a whirlwind start to the year, with the volleyball and rugby seasons well underway. The swimmers and senior basketballers have also begun pre-season training and our Key Stage 3 programmes will begin on Monday. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you the various organisations that the BISS Lions are part of.

## CISSA

CISSA (China International School s Sports Association) is the organisation that we enter our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 teams into. CISSA has a philosophy of providing friendly competition, where students have the opportunity to develop as athletes and sports people. Fixtures are always on Tuesdays for girls and Thursdays for boys and co-ed sports. There are several seasons throughout the year. Each season lasts for around 6 weeks with a season-end event taking place on the Saturday of the final week. BISS currently competes in CISSA football, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, cross country and athletics.

## SISAC

SISAC (Shanghai International Schools Athletics Conference) organises competitive sports for students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. There are two levels of competition for each sport, Division 1 and Division 2. SISAC seasons follow a series of home and away fixtures (our fixtures are usually only in Puxi) followed by a whole city cross river championship at the end of the season. We currently compete in rugby, netball, volleyball, basketball and football.

## ACAMIS

ACAMIS (Association of China and Mongolia International School) holds events at the end of each SISAC season where schools travel across china to compete against each other. We currently compete in rugby, netball, swimming volleyball, basketball and football.

## FOBISIA (formerly FOBISSEA)

FOBISA (Federation of British International Schools in Asia) provides students from year 3 to year 10 with the opportunity to compete in an international sporting event. FOBISIA events involve travelling to exciting locations to compete in football, athletics, swimming and basketball (U11 play tee-ball not basketball).

## SSL

SSL (Shanghai Swim League) organise regular high level

swimming competitions throughout the year. These events are for all age groups from U9 to over15.

## Other sports

We also compete in rugby for U9 ,U11, U13 and U15 as well as Netball for U11, U13 and U15.

## Sport this week

YEAR 10-13 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL, SATURDAY 31 AUGUST 2013

BISS Lions Division one and two teams played away at SAS Puxi for the first game of the season. The D1 girls started strong with tough serving and great passing from Ayaka Izumi. This momentum continued through the set and the girls won the first set comfortably. SAS came out strong in the second set after what must have been a harsh team talk from the coach. BISS worked hard and Stephanie Auns was doing her best to make effective play but it just wasn't enough to overtake the lead SAS had started with and they lost the second and third sets.

*The final score BISS LIONS 1 – SAS 2*

BISS Lions D2 girls played outstanding volleyball for the first game of the season. They were communicating well and as a result were putting pressure on the SAS team. They won the first set 25-19 and continued this momentum into the second set. Ulrika Andersson controlled the game from the setting position, keeping the team calm and ensuring the hitters could score points. Hannah Remde captained the team to their first win in hope of many more to come.

*The final score BISS LIONS 3 – SAS 0*

BOYS DIVISION 1 VOLLEYBALL, SATURDAY 31 AUGUST AND TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

The Division 1 boys have worked hard to learn new systems this year and they were rewarded with a great start to the season winning their first game 3-0 vs. SAS. Their second game saw them come up against a strong volleyball school from Suzhou. BISS battled hard throughout the match but eventually lost 2-1. It is great to see the hard work they are putting in paying off in their performances. Ryan Grant displayed excellent communication skills and showed discipline at the net. Charlie Johnson played his first game as setter and provided some good opportunities for his teammates. A positive start to the season.

SPORT THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEK

This Saturday we are holding the U15 FOBISIA try outs and the swimming try outs at school and our rugby teams will take to the field for the first time at SAS Puxi from 9:30am. Next week the main ECA programme starts and our volleyball teams have two more games. I look forward to seeing you on the side lines soon.



FRIDAY

20 SEPTEMBER

6-9PM

# WELCOME BACK PARTY

## A PTA EVENT

You are invited to attend the first Parent Teacher Association (PTA) family event of the year. This party welcomes new and returning BISS families and teachers to our school community, with an evening of live music, food, and dance on the front playground of the Primary School. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends.



### LIVE MUSIC

The legendary Shanghai band, Studio 188, will play again this year. In keeping with the festival feel of the event, we encourage you to bring along a picnic.



### TICKETS

Entry is by ticket only: 60RMB per adult, and no charge for children. Primary-aged school children must be supervised throughout the evening by an accompanying adult.



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