

Friday 27th June 2014



Teachers make a difference...

THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14 COMES TO AN END

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

Well, we finally made it to the end of the academic year, and what an incredibly busy 180 days we have had! In fact, we got an opportunity to see exactly how busy yesterday in our Review of the Year assembly. It was a wonderful occasion where we looked back on all the fantastic learning that had taken place across the year; all the events and special occasions and all the sporting triumphs and musical successes that had been achieved by our very talented students.

The end of the academic year, whilst a time for reflection and celebration is also a time tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to some of our families who are relocating elsewhere in the world, but also to some of our staff members who are moving on to their next adventure. This year we say goodbye to Ms. Dias and Ms. Watts from our Early Years team. From KS1 we say a fond farewell to Miss Darke, Mrs Webb, Mr Breaden and Mrs Smart. We wish a Bon Voyage to Mrs Faulkner from our EAL team and a cheerio to Mr Xu, who will only be a hop, skip and a jump away in Shunyi. We are also saying Au Revoir to Mr Bobby, who is one of our longest serving members of staff and Mrs Mitford our musical superstar.

From our Primary Leadership Team, we will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs McKelvey and Miss O'Rourke, but we are pleased that they will be staying within our family of schools, at BSB Shunyi and NAIS Hong Kong respectively.

To all our staff who are moving on to pastures new, I know I speak on behalf of all the team here at Sanlitun as well as our parent body in wishing you the very best of luck in your new schools, new

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

21st and 22nd August
Open Mornings for
students and parents

25th August
First day of school
for students

2nd September
PA Meeting

3rd September
Meet and Greet
(Adults only event)

5th September
Chinese Parent Workshop

8th September
School closed for
Mid Autumn Festival

10th September
Reception Reading
Workshop

ASAs begin

12th September
PA Family Welcome Event

18th September
KS1 Maths Parent Workshop

21st September
BSB Family outing

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cities and new countries. You have made such a big impact on the lives of our students and I know they will remember you for many years to come. We hope you take away with you some really happy memories of your time here at Sanlitun and that you keep in touch and come and visit us if you ever find yourself in Beijing.

Of course, we do have a new team of teaching staff who will be arriving in Beijing during August and they are all very excited to be joining the team here at Sanlitun.

Joining the Early Years team we have Mr Jonathan Dove and Miss Sarah Leavers who will both be based in Pre Nursery. In KS1 we welcome Miss Madison Ash, Miss Kimberley Duggan, Mr Paul Hollidge and Miss Laura Hugo. In KS2 we say hello to Miss Petrina Booth and Ms. Elizabeth Jurgensen.

We welcome Mr Harry Brookfield to our PE department and Mr Henry Charlesworth our new Music Teacher. We also welcome Ms Aurora Lu to our Chinese department.

You will have a chance to meet all of our new teachers during our Open Mornings prior to the first day of school as well as at our Meet & Greet event that takes place on September 3rd.

On the next few pages you will find some end of year messages from our Primary Leadership Team. Towards the end of the newsletter you will also find some information regarding changes we will be making to the building over the holidays. You can always get in touch with us over the summer holiday and our Admissions Office and Administration Office will remain open throughout the summer holidays. I too can be contacted throughout the summer should you have any queries.

I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break; I hope you have a chance to relax, spend valuable time with loved ones and enjoy some new adventures. We look forward to seeing you again at the start of the new academic year.

EARLY YEARS

By Kirsten Harding, Head of Early Years

What a fantastic year it has been in Early Years this year. It has been great to watch all the children, from the youngest child in Tadpoles class to the oldest child in Reception, now ready to move into Year 1, making solid progress in their learning.

All the children have performed on stage during the year. At Christmas the Reception children showed how well they could remember their lines and sing during their production of "Oopsie Daisy Angel" and most recently The Pre-Nursery and Nursery children performed "Walking in the Jungle" What confident children they all have become!



This week we also celebrated our Reception children graduating from the Early Years, and they most certainly proved that they are now ready to move into Year 1.

Thank you also for your support during the year. Our Stay and Play sessions were a huge success and it was great to see so many of you come along to see what happens during your child's day and to actively participate in activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer break. To those of you who are moving on I would like to say "Au Revoir". To those who are staying I look forward to seeing you again in August.



KEY STAGE ONE

By Maggie McKelvey, Key Stage 1 Leader

As the term draws to a close, it seems fitting to look back on this year in Key Stage 1.

All the children have made amazing progress and are now ready for the challenges of a new year group. In Year 1 the children have learned new skills in science, literacy and humanities, through their varied topics from 'Marvellous Me' at the beginning of the year to 'Africa' at the end. Their production brought together all their speaking and singing skills and they proved to the whole school as well as their families that they could perform to an audience with confidence.



The Year 2 children have continued their prior learning from Year 1 and are now able to read and write fluently as well as manipulate numbers. They too have been learning through their topics. History, geography and science skills have been practiced and the children have experienced several trips out of school to enhance this learning. They proved their true independence last week when they all spent the night in school for our 'Sleepover'.

It has been a wonderful year for the children of KS1 and we wish them all the very best of luck in their new classes.



LOWER KEY STAGE TWO

By Zoe Hubbard, Lower Key Stage 2 Leader

Wow - what an amazing year we have had in Lower Key Stage 2! There have been so many highlights it is hard to know where to begin. We have investigated the planet, discovered ancient tombs, looked through the lens, travelled the world, saved the planet and been time travellers. Alongside their topics, the children found time to put on a fantastic Christmas production and go on their residential to either Pingyao or Jinshanling. I nearly forgot the five outstanding assemblies where the children demonstrated their confidence through singing, acting and dancing.



I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the LKS2 team for their creativity, commitment and endless hard work. I would also like to thank the children who have shown lots of enthusiasm towards their learning which makes our job so much more rewarding. A final thank you goes to you as parents who have supported us throughout the year and supported your child's learning at home through homework activities and projects. I know the children particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to share their work with you in school at the end of some of their projects.

At the end of term we sadly always have to say good-bye to the children and families who are moving on and we wish all the children good luck in their new schools next term. We know that leaving from BSB they will be well prepared for the next steps in their education.

It just remains for me to wish you all a fabulous summer break wherever you may be travelling to. Have a great time and we look forward to seeing all our returning children in August.

UPPER KEY STAGE TWO

By Kelly O'Rourke, Upper Key Stage 2 Leader

This year has been such a success in so many ways for students and teachers in Year 5 and Year 6. We have seen so many great academic achievements, participated in many positive sporting events and experienced some truly brilliant musical performances.



We have had a year full of great times and unforgettable memories. Wonderful friendships have been formed and maintained making school life so much more fun! We have taken risks and used our confidence in different ways. Many of us trying new things for the first time. We have explored our passions and interests, proving we all have special talents if we work hard to find them.

We have had some great moments this year, but I'm sure everyone can agree the Poptastic production was one of our favourites. It was an awesome show and will be something we can look back on and be very proud of. It was such an amazing experience for all students who had the chance to sing, dance and act, working collaboratively.

Another experience that stood out in the year were the year group residentials to Inner Mongolia and Xian. These trips were an opportunity for students to explore the real world, to apply their learning in context and yes to escape their parents. Experiencing the diversity of Chinese culture is something that the students enjoyed and hopefully will value.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 CONTINUED...

We have proven we are outstanding learners and leaders. We have tackled big projects and challenged ourselves in many ways. We have worked hard to achieve our personal goals and targets. We must always remember perseverance is the key, to never never give up and always do our best no matter what the challenge.



Some of us will be leaving this year. Moving on to secondary school or to a new country. We are sad to be losing our friends who have been part of the small but tight Upper Key Stage 2 family. But we know new adventures and experiences await and we wish them every luck, no matter what the next chapter holds.

On behalf of the UKS2 team, Mr Gildea and Miss Dopson, I would like to congratulate all the students in Year 5 and Year 6 for such a successful year, you are all truly AMAZING! You have experienced so many wonderful things this year, all of which will help you grow into fantastic young people.

Those of you leaving us, we wish you good luck in your new schools and new countries. We know you have had many great times here at BSB Sanlitun that you will remember forever. Those of you returning next year we look forward to seeing your wonderful cheerful faces and hope you have an exciting but safe holiday break.



DON'T QUIT

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When your targets seem at the top of a great big hill,
When you feel low and the bar is set high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When learning gets tough and gets you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but please don't quit.

School is fun with challenges at every turn,
Every one of us here has lots to learn.
Success is failure turned inside out -
YOU can do it; I have no doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are.
It may be near when it seems so far:
So keep persevering with the hardest bit,
It will all be worthwhile so you must not quit.

It has been a fabulous year of teaching and learning here at BSB Sanlitun. The corridors have been filled with concentration, collaboration, challenge, high performance and laughter. The children have been inspired by all our staff here at Sanlitun and I would like to thank all of our pupils, parents and staff for making this year so successful. The quality of teaching and learning across the school is exceptional and this is only possible through a strong partnership between school and home. If you are moving on this summer I wish you well on your next adventure, and for those returning after the summer, we look forward to welcoming you back next year.



CHANGES TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

Each year as our doors close for the holidays there are always a number of jobs that need to be done across the school to try and improve our provision as much as possible. Last year of course we went through a major expansion of the building and fortunately there will be nothing quite as dramatic occurring this summer. However, there will be some projects taking place which we are happy to inform you of:

- An additional classroom in the Early Years building; we have been fortunate to acquire some more space in the Early Years building and therefore we will be creating more space on the 1st floor of the building for our youngest students.
- The Primary Campus playground will be resurfaced and remarked over the holidays so the children will have a brighter playground to play on when they return.
- Further improvements to our air quality provision will be made to both buildings. This will involve the addition of further purifying equipment in classes and shared areas. The project will begin in the holidays but will likely need to continue throughout the autumn term (outside of school hours).

CHANGES TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

As many of you know we will be further embedding our thematic approach to learning next year which allows students to learn the key skills and objectives for various subjects within the context of an overarching theme or topic. This has proved very successful this year and we have received many positive comments from our parents about this approach. You will have received information about your child's topics for the upcoming year and we will most certainly be providing you with opportunities to come and share your child's learning throughout the year.

We have made a change to the current Music programme for next year. From August we will be removing the Primary Instrumental Programme which was delivered to children in Years 1 to 6, and instead we will be introducing a Choral Music Programme for students in Reception through to Year 6. There were several factors that supported us in making this decision and we also consulted with parents during our recent Focus Groups on the issue. Whilst the students will not receive the class based instrumental lesson, they will still have access to the range of musical instruments through their weekly music lesson and students will still have the opportunity to take individual music lessons through our IMPs programme.

Our Choral Music Programme will be led by Ms. Iva Borisavljevic. We are very excited about the many musical performances we will be able to showcase next year, both instrumental and choral.