

Finances:

Other than being a great community event, and the donation of a very large amount of money to charity, the German Christmas market has generated more than 15,000 RMB in profit. The sales of both mulled wine and Schindler's barbeque were the best sellers.

Regarding Secret Santa Shoppe, we have achieved more than 11,000 RMB in profit. This year, sales have been almost the same, slightly above last year's, but costs were higher. We also spent a bit more in wrapping paper and to/from cards. We do, however, still have lots of stock. We have donated some of it for the Shoebag appeal. The rest we will possibly try to sell in the Summer Fayre, or keep for next year's Shoppe.

The most important fact, though, is that it works very well for school atmosphere. The kids are proud to be able to purchase their gifts, plus, for the smaller ones, it is the event which they start learning how to make purchase decisions.

For next year, the suggestion is to have big sheets to cover the tables in order to avoid carrying everything up and down from the PA's storage room. Also, we can invite groups of parents to be more involved, especially with wrapping.

Sadly, Johan won't be here for next Christmas, so Pearly and other parents will be taking over the coordination of the event.

ISI Inspection

We are very pleased with the results of the ISI inspection report. We are now part of a group of only 90 schools worldwide that can call themselves accredited 'British Schools Overseas'. The report will be posted on the ISI website shortly.

Chinese language

Some parents raised questions about the Chinese course in Primary, notably the use of textbooks and the balance between spoken and written Chinese. Mr. Allman will hold another meeting with interested parents and follow up with the head of the Chinese Department.

Swimming

Several parents raised concerns about children leaving swimming with wet hair and made suggestions as to whether more efficient hairdryers, a different time allocation or greater supervision (for example, using volunteer parents as has been done in the past and is done at some other schools) may help with this problem. The school will investigate all these options.

WeChat

A WeChat school account named "BritishSchoolBeijing" is now available for all parents. Search WeChat ID: BSBSHunyi to sign-up.

This is different from the existing PA Chat group on WeChat.

This is a WeChat Subscription account & the purpose is to provide an easy & convenient way for parents to receive notifications about school news & events. If further questions are required they can be done via other existing methods such as meetings, email & phone calls etc.

Library

School will send out an e-mail explaining the replacement of school librarian for next week. Until then, teachers are able to record book loans on the system. Parents offered to support with this if need be, but it was hoped that this would not be necessary.

Red envelopes for school aiyi for Chinese New Year

School will give a bonus to aiyis and other support staff, but is happy for parents to make a contribution if they wish, as has been done in the past. It can be done individually to the aiyi or parents can bring an envelope to the main reception and this money will go to a common fund to be divided among all these staff.

Representatives of the PA in events at school

1. INN Coffee Morning on Jan 15th at Chatterbox: Simon will attend.
2. School Open Day 6th February: we will have a table for the PA (8h30 to 11h) Livia and Annette will attend.
3. Need to find volunteers to attend future INN coffee mornings on 19th Mar and 21st May

PA Party Night (for newsletter put upfront)

To be held Jan 31st at the Orchard with DJ plus dinner. Tickets available this week in Chatterbox.

BSB Charity Ball

1. Ball committee will be instigated with volunteers that signed up during the last PA meeting.
2. Need to agree where the profits from the ball will go. Suggested charities, which include Care for Children and Love and Hope. Simon to check with Charlotte Beckett and Eli Puttock to see who has been supported in the past and see if there are any special projects that we know about that need extra funding.
3. Theme: Murder on the Orient Express.
4. Date: April 11th
5. Location: The Regent Hotel
6. Sponsorship deals will start next week.
7. Tickets to be sold after January 31st