



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
Embracing our Community

PA General Meeting January 11, 2016 9am

- **Welcome and thank yous** The steering committee bid farewell to Catherine Taylor, head of Special Interests group, who has already left Beijing, and Kim Bo Young our Korean parent link, who will soon be leaving to England. Big rounds of applause for these two ladies who have helped so much in solidifying our goals of creating a tight international community in BSB.
- **German Christmas Market** organizer Michaela Kobiolka presented an update on the profit made - ~40,000 RMB, with Mrs Schindler's providing 12,200RMB from their sales to this total. Volunteers did a great job in selling mulled wine, waffles and jam. Plus, Sew Gorgeous booth was a huge success. Thank you to all who helped and supported.
- **Santa's Secret Shop** organisers Pearly Broedel and Doris Nestler said they were pleased and the income doubled compared to last year, but the exact figure will be provided in the next meeting. The structure of buying and selecting gifts was very organized but next year the buying needs to start earlier. Feedback received from parents show we have made great improvement on quality of products on offer and the wrapping team of Korean mums worked really well. For next year, we need to increase the number of volunteers at the stalls to offer more help for the primary children.
- **Primary Chinese update by Mr Allman** Primary Chinese teachers (and some secondary) have received 5 formal training sessions and will still have 4-5 more over the next few weeks. More observations and work over the remaining year to do. Objective now is to create "BSB native standard". Individual training on delivery of pinyin and reading and writing. Mandarin department are valuing this initiative. Reading programme for Chinese reading parents (about 20 parents) to be continued. An experienced teacher that has been a professor of modern and ancient Chinese in many universities in the United States has offered help school in achieving better results with both native and foreign students. A deeper discussion was postponed on that subject and the PA recommended a following meeting with her, Mr. Allman, Chinese parents and the Chinese department.
- **E-books** BSB's secondary librarian, Rachel Harrison, came in to explain how the e-library works. The chosen provider is "Overdrive", a US based company. It will be an extension of the school's physical library with over 30,000 titles (books, audio books, study guides, native language books, etc.) and will work online, compatible with many different operating systems. The student and/or parent will only need to download the app. To be launched shortly.
- **Chinese New Year** will be celebrated with a Temple Fair on Friday February 19th during school hours. Chinese parents have volunteered to work with the Mandarin Department teachers and students in order to make this yet another highlight in the school's calendar.
- **Group leadership update:**
 - o The PA Steering Committee needs someone to lead the Special Interest Group since Catherine Taylor has left Beijing. Please contact Annette if you are interested.
 - o The Welcome Team has helped organize a breakfast tomorrow to welcome the 25 new families that have arrived in the school.



- Next lunch hosted by the “Luncheon Group” will be Syria (Arabian Food), following the idea to recreate the flavours of the Silk Road. Friday 19th February.
- Save the date: the PA’s Dinner Dance, formally known as the BSB Ball, will be held May 7.
- Outings team – This term’s activities are being finalized and will be published soon.
- **BSB Charity Board** The school will create a charity board in order to help coordinate donations to different charities.
- **Air Quality actions** Mr. Puttock explained the school has been monitoring air quality in the building with the help of three independent consultants. The areas where there is most concern are where there is more circulation, like the gym, the foyer, and the corridors. The Principal believes the most important change should be done in the way the building is managed. When there is a bad air day, the school will close most entrances, cancel ASAs (on exceptionally bad days), ask parents to limit visits to school. As for the facilities, some measures will be taken: change doors to more modern ones, change sealing rubbers, and add to/enhance the purification system (probably during a long holiday due to the disruption). School will also be disclosing more information on building air quality, such as numbers from its 24 hour monitoring of pm2.5 numbers. Regarding class cancellation, the school will make it up in class and homework. So far, that has been possible.
- **Julliard** As of September 2016, BSB will begin the Julliard programme. That means it will be able to insert additional programs to its music curriculum and involves music teachers getting special training, alumni visits, etc.
- **Accident update** Student returned to school. Meanwhile, the Nord Anglia H&S specialist has visited BSB since and checked the whole school. The area in which the accident happened has been reviewed and actions taken. Information on the accident was sent to Year 7 parents as they were understandably very anxious.
- **PE/Sport at BSB** Mr. Puttock announced the willingness to create a P.E. steering group in order to discuss issues such as sponsoring, and having parents coach sports as volunteers.
- **Theatre visits** Eli Puttock informed of the success in organizing an evening school trip for students and parents to the Phantom of the Opera. The PA will help in coordinating further initiatives like this one.
- **Nut allergies** The school nurses asked to remind parents that BSB is a nut free school. Peanuts, walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, and many other types of nut are highly allergenic and should not be brought to school as some students are extremely sensitive. Take care with muesli bars, Nutella, marzipan etc. Parents should also encourage students not to share their snack for they are not fully aware of who are affected by allergies.
- **Next PA meeting** will be held February 22nd, 9 -10.30am, in the Old Drama Room, C308.