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DEAR students, as we kick off the 2016-17 school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to everyone in the SCIS Pudong community. I'm honored to be returning to SCIS after spending the last eight years in Budapest, Hungary. Initially, I want to say thank you to all the students and families for the warm welcome I have received. SCIS is truly a community school.

Students, I'm sure you all are experiencing some excitement and nerves about all the unknowns of the new year: new teachers, new friends, and (for many) a new city! I hope that many of you are excited for the academic challenges that await you as we implement the PYP and MYP programs — helping prepare you for our culminating IB Diploma Program. I promise that you will be challenged this year in a world-class academic program.

But more importantly, I want to assure you that we will never lose sight of what makes SCIS special — our supportive, personalized community. I encourage you all to re-connect with old friends and teachers as well as reach out to those who are new. Your personal and academic growth are based on the relationships you will make. These are the foundations from which you grow. Nurture them, and we will go far together.

