

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #12 | November 11, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- November 15-16th**
 MYP Consultant Visit
 POSTPONED
- November 15th**
 4pm MS Girls Soccer Blue
 @YCIS
 4pm MS Girls Soccer Green
 vs. NAIS (home)
 4:30pm JV Basketball v. CISS
 (Home)
- November 17^h**
 4pm MS Boys Soccer vs.
 NAIS (home)
- November 18^h**
 4:30pm JV Boys Basketball vs.
 DCS (home)
 4:30pm Varsity Boys
 Basketball @ DCS
- November 19th**
 Dragon Cup Basketball
 5-9pm Bingo Night 5-9pm
- November 22nd-23rd**
*James and the Giant
 Peach Auditions*
- November 25th**
 Professional In-service
 (no school)
 Giving Tree Presentation
 Ceremony



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

It's been a packed and unforgettable week at SCIS. On Tuesday night, we gathered in the high school lounge for the seventh annual StuCo Java Jam, a cosy night of superlative talent, inspiring risk-taking, and tasty treats. The StuCo President and Vice President, Maayke Vlas and Wong Hui, hosted the show, which featured everything from SCIS standbys like the Mac-5 brass combo to the bluegrass stylings of our own Mr Luebbe. We are wishing we didn't have to wait a year for the next one!

Wednesday was a very different kind of school day, as the Upper School, along with the global community, was swept up in the drama of the US Presidential Election. Teachers made the most of the teachable moment to explore principles of government and citizenship, and even during lunch the cafeteria was filled with students from Grades 6-12 using their recess time to watch the results unfold. We urge you join us in taking this opportunity to discuss with your kids the concept of international-mindedness and to explore the responsibilities and privileges we all have as citizens of our countries and of the world. As a school, we are committed to the IB call for intercultural understanding and respect reflecting "that other people, with their differences, can also be right." As we work to develop as "inquiring, knowledgeable and caring learners who contribute positively to their communities," this is a powerful moment to explore together what that might look like locally as well as globally.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
 Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
 Upper School Vice Principal



Getting Ready for College: A Path to Success

by **Maja Kelly, College Counselor**

The process of researching, selecting and applying to universities is one of the most exciting, gratifying and busiest times for students and parents alike. For most teens, this is the first significant, life-changing decision they will make, and it is an important milestone on the path towards adulthood.

As students prepare to make the transition from high school to university there are many resources and supports that they can access to help them along the way.

During the early and middle school years, children should be encouraged to explore their interests, foster their intellectual curiosity and love of learning. Two of the most important skills students should develop before they start high school are a growth-oriented mindset, which will allow them to learn, grow and respond to setbacks in a positive and resilient way, and a love of reading. Reading at least 30 minutes every day in middle school is associated with better academic achievement and has many educational and developmental benefits. PYP and MYP programs, with their inquiry-based approach to learning create a learning environment that supports the development of these important habits.

As students enter high school, university preparation activities become more structured and concrete. In 9th grade, students begin to attend university workshops, presentations and fairs hosted throughout the school year. At the same time, they are encouraged to put their best effort in all their classes and maintain a healthy balance of extracurricular activities. In addition to this, in 10th grade, all students take the PSAT (preliminary SAT) twice – in

October and in February. This exam gives students feedback on their core academic skills in reading, writing and math, provides them with a wide range of personalized online resources to begin their college search, and is an excellent preparation for the SAT, a college admissions test used in many countries around the world. In the spring of grade 10, each student meets with the college counselor and IB DP coordinator to facilitate the course selection process for the following two years. Students are advised on which courses to take based on their interests, future plans and country and program-specific requirements for the universities in which they are interested. High school students are also encouraged to engage in meaningful activities during their summer holidays – from volunteer activities, athletics, summer enrichment courses to university visits.

Eleventh grade marks the beginning of the IB Diploma Program, and university preparation intensifies. All grade 11 students take the PSAT in October for the third time, preparing them for the SAT, which many of them will need to take in the spring of grade 11. Advisory activities now start to include group meetings with the college counselor, where students are introduced to higher education opportunities and programs around the world. This process started last week for this year's grade 11 students. In the second semester, students are required to start meeting with the college counselor individually to finalize their university choices and begin to prepare for the application process, which starts in the fall of the senior year.

Most students begin 12th grade with specific, personal goals regarding their university

application process. These goals and targets are set in individual meetings with the college counselor, which now take place weekly. Students are given guidance on all aspects of the application process, from taking standardized assessments, obtaining letters of recommendation and feedback on college essays and personal statements to issues related to finances.

Parents are crucial partners in this process. Many events are offered throughout the year to assist parents as they help their children navigate the various tasks related to university planning. Most notably, “Universities Around the World” is a series of parent workshops offered every Friday in May, designed to introduce parents to higher

education programs and opportunities in various countries around the world. Each week a different country or region is explored. Additionally, a special workshop is offered in June, which focuses on financial aspects of college planning. Parents are encouraged to have frequent discussions with their children about their university plans, and to make an appointment with the college counselor to discuss these as often as need, and whenever they have questions or need guidance.

University preparation is a process that takes place over several years. Ongoing and open dialogue between the student, parents and the school is key as we embark on this joyful and rewarding journey together.

Notes

Flu Vaccinations Available at SCIS:

A nurse from WorldPath Health Clinic will be visiting SCIS to give flu vaccinations to students and parents who have completed the **consent form and paid money**. More information can be found in the attached flier and consent form. The consent form and money is due **November 18th**. The shot is administered at school **on November 23rd**. This is a great way to stay ahead of the flu season. If you have any questions, contact our school nurse, Lynn Fu at lfu@scis-china.org

Upper School Exam Schedule

The first semester Upper School exam period will be Friday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 14th. During these four days, we will continue with the A/B schedule, but the timetable will be modified to allow one extended block of time for each class. Teachers will use the extended blocks for a range of summative assessment activities, which may include projects and presentations as well as formal examinations. These assessments need not be cumulative, and are not weighted more heavily than a typical end of unit summative assessment.

The regular timetable will resume on December 15th and our last day of the semester will be Friday December 16th.

Honor Roll:

With our new grading system, we are introducing a new system for academic awards. Awards each semester will be based on the summative total of students' scores in all of their classes. For example, an MYP student who earned a final semester score of 7 in all eight of their subjects would earn 56 points. Students who are in enrolled in ungraded classes will have Honor Roll boundaries in proportion to their number of graded courses.

Award Boundaries

Program	Points Possible	Honor Roll	Principal's Honor Roll
MYP (7 x 8 classes)	56	48-51	52-56
DP (7 x 6 classes)	42	36-38	39-42

SCIS Parent Email:

Official school communications are only sent to @scis-parent.org email accounts that are provided to all SCIS parents. If you have not yet set up your SCIS parent email account, please head to <http://schoolid.scishis.net/> to create your email address, set your recovery email, and connect your children to your account. Once finished, you will receive a confirmation message with your new School ID and begin to receive school communications. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Barry Johnson at pd-technology@scis-china.org.

ManageBac:

Use ManageBac to check in with your child's classes and observe their progress throughout the year. To log in for the first time, follow the link in the welcome email sent to your parent email address. If you haven't seen it, contact Barry Johnson at pd-technology@scis-china.org and a new welcome email will be sent to you. ManageBac is a web-based software, widely used by IB schools worldwide, that is specifically designed to facilitate IB planning and assessment.

Attendance:

Please use ManageBac, email, or call the Upper School Secretary if your student will be absent. Jelly can be reached at jling@scis-china.org

Substitute Teachers Wanted:

With a new year, the SCIS has many new faces. As a school, we are always on the lookout for quality individuals in our community who might be able to substitute teach at school for a day or two. If you are a certified teacher or have experience in the classroom (or even if you know someone we could contact), we encourage you to contact the Joanna Zhou at jzhou@scis-china.org so that we can set up an interview. With a high-quality bank of substitutes, we are able to better serve our students. Our Dragon Community is a great asset, and this is one way you can help make our school a stronger one in 2016-17.