

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #13 | November 18, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- November 17th
4pm MS Boys Soccer vs. NAIS (home)
- November 18th
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
- November 29th-30th
MYP Consultant Visit
- December 1st
IB Music Recital
- December 6th
PAFA General Meeting
- December 8th
Winter Concert
- December 9th
Upper School Exams



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

Over the past three weeks we have had the pleasure of dedicating significant amounts of our day to classroom observations as part of our faculty growth and development system. We have had the opportunity to witness lab work in the experimental science courses, collaborative problem solving in math, dribbling routines in physical and health education, musical theory in band, the study of fairytales in language and literature, the elements of product and digital design, Socratic seminars across subject areas, and so much more. The teachers' expertise and incorporation of professional development was on full display as they integrate past practices with the MYP. The best measure of effective teaching is always student engagement. As you can see above in Mr. Johnson's 6th grade Design class, students are engaged and taking an active role in their own learning.

Outside of the classroom we want thank the PAFA for all of their efforts in preparing Bingo Night. The school has been abuzz with excitement since the prizes went on display earlier in the week. We look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow night at this event. As always, our thanks and appreciation goes out to PAFA for the time and effort they put into making this such an amazing community to be part of.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal



Can Education Create a More Peaceful World? International-Mindedness in the IB

by Dr Frank Volpe

The International Baccalaureate emerged in 1962 out of an educational movement determined to help humanity avoid the costly mistakes of the World Wars. As an educational organization the IB remains true to this cause today. This commitment is clearly communicated in the IB's mission statement,

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect...”

At SCIS our ultimate goal as educators is to help students develop the ability to critically think for themselves so they can go out into the world and solve the problems we have not yet been able to solve. We believe that developing internationally minded students is essential for their success in this pursuit. The IB Diploma Program has long been a cornerstone of the SCIS curriculum. Building on that success, we have now added the IB Middle Years Program and the IB Primary Years Program in order to provide continuity of academic rigor and educational philosophy.

“Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in.”

—Isaac Asimov

What is International Mindedness?

International mindedness is the worldview we seek to cultivate in our students. The traits of International Mindedness come from the ten attributes of the IB learner profile. The learner profile calls for students to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective. These IB learner profile attributes are integrated into all aspects of the student experience as SCIS.



The last section of the IB mission statement further describes what it means to be internationally minded. This section reads,

“These programs encourage students across the world to become active,

compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right”.

“I don't study to know more, but to ignore less.”

—Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz

At SCIS, the diversity of the student population allows for students to be constantly exposed to diverse perspectives and beliefs. Through these experiences our students not only gain a greater appreciation and understanding of others, they also come to better know themselves.

What does international mindedness look like at SCIS?

This world view is cultivated daily through deliberate educational choices in the classroom and extracurricular programs. International mindedness is also developed organically through informal social experiences at school and enhanced through cross cultural friendships which are the norm at SCIS. With 38 different nationalities and no one dominant cultural group, international mindedness is the norm at SCIS. This genuine diversity is celebrated and built upon in the curriculum.

What does international mindedness look like in the curriculum?

International mindedness is a lens through which IB teachers see curriculum. Academic

content is presented and examined through multiple perspectives. Course materials, assigned readings, and assessment tasks are evaluated to ensure they are teaching students to experience and evaluate multiple perspectives. One example comes from a 7th grade SCIS unit on fairytales. Ms. Suzanne Byerly's class has studied fairytales this semester that are written from different cultural perspectives. By evaluating the same story written from different cultural points of view, students are able to evaluate the various perspectives. This evaluation of multiple views not only expands awareness and empathy, it also helps students better understand and refine their own views.

"There are no facts, only interpretations."

Friedrich Nietzsche

Notes

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 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.