

# US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #9 | October 20, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

## Important Dates

- **October 19-22:** ACAMIS Volleyball Tournament @ SCIS
- **October 20-22:** Model United Nations West Lake
- **October 24:** Parent-Student-Teacher Conference Sign-up Deadline, 3pm
- **October 23:** HS Boys Basketball starts
- **October 24:** MS Soccer Home 4pm
- **October 25:** PSAT (grades 10-11)
- **October 25:** Parent-Student Teacher Conferences 3:20-6:00pm No ASAs
- **October 26:** 11:30am Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences. 12:30-6:00pm No ASAs
- **October 27:** Upper School Halloween Bash 3:00-4:30. MS Dance 4:30-6:30.
- **October 27:** HS Girls Basketball starts

Visit the SCIS calendar for the most up-to-date information. Click on the following link:  
[Master Calendar](#)

Still asking, "How was school today?" Changing the question may result in a more interesting answer. Next time try:

**"What do you expect we will hear from your teachers when we meet next week?"**



*The SCIS boys electrified the crowd with their play in today's game against QSI.*

## Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This has been a week filled with SCIS school spirit. Our whole school Spirit Week has been a fun way to connect and show our support for the school community. This week's activities culminated with the hosting of the ACAMIS volleyball tournament. On Thursday morning, we welcomed 12 teams and 120 students from around China. The student body brought energy and intensity to the opening games of the tournament; cheering our boys and girls on to their first victory. Games will continue Friday evening and into Saturday. We encourage everyone to come out and support our Dragons!

Today marks the halfway point of the semester, and mid-semester progress reports for all students will be released on ManageBac by 5pm this afternoon. Please read the report carefully and discuss the contents with your child to prepare for next week's Parent-Teacher conferences. Sign-ups have been coming in steadily, but slots with all teachers are still available. Sign-ups will close Tuesday, October 24 at 3pm. These conferences are designed to update families and students on current progress and provide guidance and suggestions for how to take student learning further. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD  
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks  
Upper School Vice Principal

# Parent-Teacher Conferences

## October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are an essential opportunity, early in the school year, for parents, teachers and students to come together, discuss the progress already made and set goals for the months to come. Based on feedback from families and teachers last year, we have changed our format for conference sign-ups. This new format is designed to provide advanced scheduling for parents and ensure sufficient time for high quality conferences.

Conferences are scheduled Wednesday–Thursday, October 25-26. This year we are excited to pilot an online system for advance sign-ups. ALL conferences must be booked in advance. The time has been organized into three sessions each made up of 10-minute time-slots. You will build your own schedule of appointments in the session most convenient for your family. Please note that students are expected to attend the conferences with their parents and participate in the discussion.

### **Reminders:**

- Students are encouraged to attend conferences with their parents.
- No buses will be provided after the regular run at the end of the student school day. Students are expected to go home and return with their parents for scheduled appointments.
- Students who are on campus but not with their parents will be supervised in the Upper School Library or the cafeteria. These students include:
  1. Those whose appointments are in the first hour of the conference block (25 Oct 3:30-4:30 or 26 Oct 12:30-1:30), who may wait at school for their parents to arrive. Please email [Jelly Ling](#) in advance if you are meeting your children at school for early appointments.
  2. Those who are waiting while their parents are in conferences with their siblings.
- All conferences will take place on the third floor.
- All conferences will be exactly 10 minutes, without exception. If you would like more time with any teacher, you are ALWAYS free to email them directly to make an appointment outside the two conference days.
- Individual conference timetables, including teacher room assignments, will be available for pickup on the first floor in reception.

**Sign-ups close on Tuesday at 3pm!**

**PTC SIGN-UP**

[www.signupgenius.com/tabs/53171D706AFC2EBCF9-upperptc](http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/53171D706AFC2EBCF9-upperptc)

# Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Each year, nearly four million students around the world take the PSAT/NMSQT to get feedback on their academic skills. The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test of academic achievement, and excellent preparation for the SAT, a college-entrance test used by many universities world-wide to make admissions decisions. The test is cosponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and serves as an entry point to nearly 160 million U.S. dollars in scholarship funds.



The PSAT/NMSQT score report (issued in December) gives each student detailed information about his/her academic strengths and weaknesses. With their scores, students also receive access to personalized, free, online SAT practice delivered through Khan Academy, as well as access to online university and career planning tools.

The exam consists of a reading test, writing and language test, and math test. Each test assesses academic skills that students have developed over the years, primarily through their coursework. These skills are considered essential for success in high school, college and career.

This year, the exam will be administered on **Wednesday, October 25**, between 8 am and 11:30 am in the Black Box. All students in grades 10 and 11 will take the exam. Classes will resume after lunch. Student guides with practice questions and more detailed information about the exam have been distributed to all students in grades 10 and 11.

For more information about the exam, visit [collegeboard.org/psat](http://collegeboard.org/psat) or contact the Upper School Counselor, Ms. Maja Kelly [mkelly@scis-china.org](mailto:mkelly@scis-china.org).

# Notes

## **SCIS Family Fun Day on Saturday, November 11**

Come join other SCIS families as we cheer on US college basketball powerhouses, the UCLA Bruins and Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, as they tip off at the 2017 PAC-12 China Game! SCIS will host transportation to the game, along with a light breakfast on campus before we leave. Come wearing your SCIS gear and receive a special gift! Please look for more information and registration forms coming soon.

## **First Annual SCIS Winter Carnival on Saturday, November 25 from 11-4pm**

We are excited to announce that SCIS, with the support of our Hongqiao PAFA, will be hosting our First Annual Winter Carnival on the SCIS Hongqiao Main campus. We have partnered with the Community Center Shanghai who will host their Winter Bazaar full of great crafts, holiday gift items, and much more. This will be a magical afternoon for the entire family to enjoy, including festive foods, games, activities, student performances, winter shopping, and more! You won't want to miss this special community event. Please look for more information coming soon.

**ASA Buses and Post-Game Drop-off:** Parents' please note that ASA buses and game day return transportation is only scheduled to stop at the designated ASA drop off locations. Only our 3pm bus service is designed to take students from school to their compounds directly. Each year we readjust our ASA and competition bus pickup and drop-off locations based on the geographic locations for the majority of our ASA participants. We choose locations that best accommodate our families while trying to be as efficient as possible in the context of Shanghai traffic. The locations have been chosen because they provide optimal safety and convenience for all students. Please see our ASA drop-off locations on our SCIS-Pudong portal: <http://pd.scis-his.net/content/asa-bus-drop-point>

**Morning Bus Pick-Up Reminders:** Please ensure your child arrives on time for bus pick-up in the morning. The bus will not wait for students who are late in the morning. Doing so causes all the students on the bus to arrive late for school. To help keep us on schedule, I have instructed to drivers to leave the bus stop promptly on time. To prevent problems, please be sure that your child arrives at the bus stop prior to his/her scheduled departure. If you have any bus questions, contact our transportation coordinator Stu Ren at [pd-transportation@scis-china.org](mailto:pd-transportation@scis-china.org). Thank you for your help in keeping our bus times on schedule.

## **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.scis-china.org> to create your email address, set your recovery email, and connect your children to your account. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Barry Johnson at [pd-technology@scis-china.org](mailto:pd-technology@scis-china.org).

## **Attendance**

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

## **Transportation**

Please contact Stu Ren with any questions or concerns regarding transportation. Stu can be reached at [sren@scis-china.org](mailto:sren@scis-china.org)

## **Uniforms**

Please help to ensure your student is in uniform each day. We were flexible with students over the first week to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to purchase uniforms. Now that uniforms are in hand, we will be strictly enforcing the dress code in alignment with the Upper School Parent-Student Handbook.