

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #27 | March 24, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **March 20th-29th:**
March Madness
Ping Pong Tournament
- **March 24th-25th:**
ACAMIS Swimming
- **March 28th:** Varsity
Girls Soccer vs YCIS
- **March 30th:** JV Boys
Soccer at SMIC
- **April 3rd-7th:**
Spring Break
- **April 14th:**
HS StuCo De-Stress Fest
- **April 27th-28th:**
James and the Giant Peach
- **May 1st-19th:**
IB Diploma Exams

Visit the SCIS calendar for the most up-to-date information. Click on the following link:

[SCIS Public Calendar](#)

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

"What was the funniest thing that happened at school today?"



Admiring a photography collection by Grade 12 artist Emily Machan. Photo by Mikael Masson

Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

Over the past week and a half our IB students have been showcasing their artistic talents. The IB Music Recital and the IB Art Exhibition serve the dual purpose of fulfilling IB Diploma requirements and showcasing the achievements of our students. The leadership and support of IB Music teacher Kate Enoch was evident in the individual student instrumental performances last Thursday. IB Music students and guest performers impressed the crowd during hour-long program. Yesterday, IB Art students held their annual IB Art Exhibition in the 3rd floor art gallery. Parents, teachers, students, and a visiting delegation of students from Shengde Experimental School attended the exhibition. Student artists eloquently described the conceptual inspirations for their works and answered questions from visitors. IB Art teacher Chandler Dayton deserves high praise for her support of this impressive group of young artists.

In our lead up to Spring Break, school activities and athletic events will keep things busy on campus. The March Madness Ping Pong Tournament has created a fun energy during the lunch hour. Doubles teams consisting of one student and one staff member are competing for fun and bragging rights. JV and Varsity soccer will have games in the coming week and our Middle School basketball season is in full swing. We would also like to wish all swimmers good luck as they compete in ACAMIS this weekend!

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal

Education Beyond Borders – University Fairs and Information Sessions on SCIS’s Pudong Campus

by Maja Kelly, SCIS College Counselor

Over the past two weeks, SCIS Pudong has hosted university representatives from around the world who visited our school in order to meet our students and share information about their programs. These exciting events offer a unique opportunity for our high school students to learn about different admission requirements and approaches to higher education in the U.S, Canada, Netherlands and Switzerland.



Students meet with college recruiters at the SCIS Pudong College Fair on March 15th. Photo by Mat Walsh

University of Amsterdam, one of the oldest and largest research universities in Europe, consistently ranked among the top fifty universities in the world, introduced its English-taught Bachelor’s degree programs to our students. The presentation featured an introduction to a new multidisciplinary program at the University of Amsterdam with a focus on Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics. In addition to learning about living and studying

in the Netherlands, students developed their understanding of how major problems facing the world today, such as the global financial crisis, the conflict between national identity and migration, the debate between security and privacy are addressed using a multidisciplinary approach, which draws on subjects of politics, psychology, law and economics.

The importance of adopting a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the complexity of current issues and developing effective solutions to global challenges was echoed in a special presentation on liberal arts education in the U.S. Representatives from three liberal arts colleges from the East Coast of the United States (Washington and Jefferson College, Union College and Dickinson College) presented to our students on the benefits of studying the liberal arts and sciences. These universities, which are among the oldest institutions of higher education in the United States, advised students on selecting the right university, and



Photo by Mat Walsh

elaborated on the advantages of completing the IB Diploma Program over other high school programs.



University of British Columbia (UBC) recruiter Elaine Chan speaks SCIS students during the College Fair. Photo by Mat Walsh

University of British Columbia (UBC), one of the top three universities in Canada, which is consistently ranked among the top thirty in the world, continues to build on its long-standing partnership with SCIS. During its annual visit to our Pudong campus last week, UBC gave our students an update on undergraduate programs, research and co-op opportunities.



Students had the chance to learn more about UBC through a dedicated presentation in the theater. Photo by Mat Walsh

In addition to these events, students also participated in a college fair on our campus, where they had the opportunity to connect and discuss their interests and aspirations with representatives of large public universities and small colleges in the U.S, as well as universities that offer specialized programs, such as hospitality programs at Glion Institute of Higher Education and Les Roches International School of Hotel Management in Switzerland, and Film and Video Production programs in the United States.

Ms. Kelly can be reached at mkelly@scis-china.org

Notes

Mid-semester Progress Report:

Student reports were published March 17th on ManageBac. These reports include a narrative comment from each teacher and an evaluation of student progress so far this semester. There are three progress designations; “Progressing towards class expectations.”, “Limited progress toward class expectations.”, and “Insufficient evidence”. This final designation is only for students who have recently arrived at SCIS. As always, additional feedback can be found on ManageBac under each course and within specific tasks. If you have questions or trouble accessing reports, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Re-enrollment:

Re-enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is officially underway! If your family has not received a re-enrollment email from the SCIS Admissions Department, please contact them directly at admission@scis-his.org.

Grade 10 Planning Conferences:

Thanks to all the Grade 10 students and parents who have come in to meet with Ms Shanks and Ms Kelly to begin the process of planning for Grade 11-12 and for pathways to higher education. Grade 10 parents who have not yet met with us are urged to come in as soon as possible. Please contact Ms Shanks at nshanks@scis-china.org to make an appointment or with any questions about the IB Diploma Program.

Volunteers Wanted:

As a reminder, Mr. Luebbe is seeking parent volunteers to serve on the Facility Enhancement Committee. To learn more, please contact Mr. Luebbe at dluebbe@scis-china.org.

2017-18 Calendar Change for the Class of 2018

Parents of current Grade 11 students, please make a note of planned changes in the calendar for Grade 12 during the 2017-18 school year. Beginning next year, the Grade 12 China Trip will be moved to the last week of May. During the former trip week in September, Grade 12 students will be on campus, benefiting from a carefully structured program focusing on the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, CAS, and college counseling. This bonus week will greatly relieve the pressures on our senior students in the winter and spring, put them in a much stronger position to achieve their fullest potential in the DP Program, and raise the quality of their college applications. As an added bonus, taking a school sponsored trip together as a class in celebration of completing high school will provide a final opportunity for the class to share a unified experience before going their separate ways, and relieve financial pressures on families who in the past have borne the expense of similar trips. The China Trip program for Grades 6-11 will not be affected.

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