

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #28 | March 31, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **April 3rd-7th:**
Spring Break
- **April 11-14th:**
Visiting Poet
- **April 11th:**
PAFA General Meeting
Principals' Coffee Morning
- **April 12th:**
Soccer Senior Night 4pm
- **April 14th:**
HS StuCo De-Stress Fest
4:30-9
- **April 21st**
SCIS Film Festival
- **April 22nd**
PAFA Art Auction
- **April 24-28:**
Upper School Spirit Week
- **April 27th-28th:**
James and the Giant Peach

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:

"How did you help someone today?"



Sixth grader Diogo Lavall and teacher Mr Mark Thomas take the MS Championship.

Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

SCIS students are developing as thinkers this year through a significant initiative explicitly teaching new strategies for this important approach to learning. At this week's Dragon Block, Mr Luebbe and a team of teachers worked with students from Grades 6-11 to practice applying CoRT Thinking, a collection of strategies that call thinkers to use structured approaches to explore complex problems without pre-judgment. These thinking skills are transdisciplinary, useful across the school day and for addressing the daily thought challenges of life. See the attached poster for a list of strategies and invite your child to share with you how they are using them at school, and how your family might use them at home.

The March Madness Ping-Pong Tournament reached its dramatic climax before a tense crowd on Wednesday, with the HS Champions Diego Pittaluga Zucaro and Mr Luebbe scraping past MS Champions Diogo Lavall and Mr Thomas in overtime after three close sets. The quality of play and sportsmanship throughout the tournament was fantastic, and the event brought students, teachers, and support staff together in a different and powerful context.

We wish every SCIS family a restful and rejuvenating Spring Break. We look forward to starting our busy Spring by welcoming Poet-in-Residence, Hakim Bellamy. Please check the attachment for details about his visit.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal

Applied Learning: The Core of the IB Diploma

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) is designed to prepare students for success on a range of pathways after graduation and into adult life, but one of the most exciting things about the program is the expectation that students step up and apply their learning right now. Students in Grades 11-12 are young adults brimming over with energy, capacity, and individual passions, and the very core of the DP is designed to harness and apply that potential.

The core elements of the DP are Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), the Extended Essay, and Theory of Knowledge. All three require independent thinking and a sense of ownership for students to be successful, though each calls for students to apply their knowledge, understandings, and skills in different ways. While teachers serve as facilitators and supervisors, the projects that arise from these core elements are completely the work of the students, who arise to apply their own learning through a range of modalities.



For many students, CAS is the element of the Diploma that is most rewarding, and certainly the greatest pleasure. Students apply their learning beyond the classroom in a variety of ways, demonstrating balance, commitment, and both community and international-mindedness. At SCIS Pudong, our students have practiced Creativity by choreographing dance numbers and designing the murals that decorate our halls. They are physically active, playing competitive

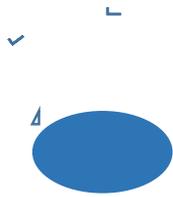
sports, practicing yoga, and even boxing on reality television. They engage with service, volunteering their time both on and off-campus, working with children and the elderly, assessing needs and stepping up to serve their friends whether in our own early childhood classrooms or in mountain villages across the country.



The Extended Essay calls for students to apply their learning to create a piece of independent scholarship. As they have moved through the MYP, students have frequent opportunities to engage in research in a range of disciplines, but these projects are necessarily structured by teachers, bound to specific topics and units of inquiry, and designed to maximize skill practice and development. With the Extended Essay students are completely free to select their own topics, develop and implement their own action plans, and act as the scholars they are. Ideas explored independently by the SCIS Pudong Class of 2017 included analysis of heavy metal content in the Huang Pu river, interpretation of Chopin's Ballades, and discussion of the impact of national economic trends on the demographics of the Emerald here in Pudong.

Theory of Knowledge is perhaps the most unique and most exciting core requirement of the DP Program. Students complete two significant projects that call for them to acknowledge and explore links between "real-life situations," coursework, and knowledge itself. Students look at how knowledge is acquired in different academic disciplines and experiences, and explore claims and questions by tying them to tangible real world situations.

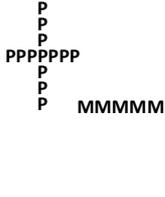
CoRT Thinking Skills



CAF

Consider All Factors

List all the ideas that affect this issue.



PMI

Plusses, Minuses, Interesting Points

List the good, bad, and interesting ideas.



AGO

Aims, Goals, Objectives

What is the purpose of this? What are the long-term goals and short-term objectives?



FIP

First In Priorities

Of the many ideas presented, what is most important?



OPV

Other Peoples' Views

*List all the people/groups affected.
What would they think of this idea?*



C&S

Consequence and Sequels

*What will happen in the short term (2 months)?
Medium Term (5 years)? Long Term (20 years)?*



APC

Alternatives, Possibilities, and Choices

What are some other ways to solve this problem?



SCIS
PUDONG

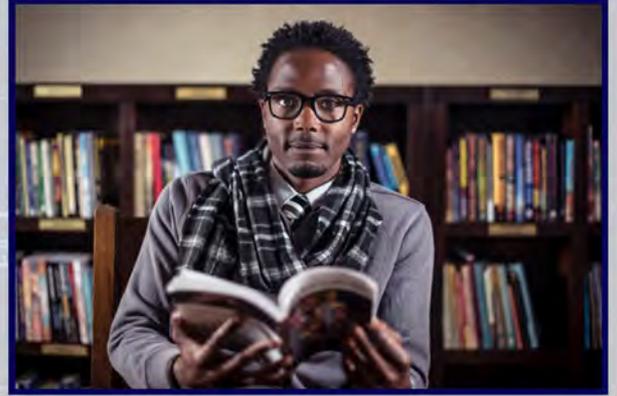
WELCOMES...

VISITING ARTIST

INAUGURAL POET LAUREATE OF ALBUQUERQUE, NM

HAKIM BELLAMY

APRIL
11-14



Hakim Bellamy, a native of New Jersey, U.S.A. lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A. Bellamy is the author of the award-winning poetry collection, *Swear* (West End Press) and was **Albuquerque's inaugural Poet Laureate** from 2012-2014. His poetry is published at the Albuquerque Convention Center and in *Alternet*, *TruthOut*, and *Counterpunch* and has been anthologized widely.

A popular and powerful performer and speaker, Bellamy has shared the stage with Nikki Giovanni, Amira Baraka, and the Dalai Lama. He has been a featured guest on *The Tavis Smiley Show* and is the host of the arts program *Colores* on New Mexico PBS.

Bellamy's honors include the Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing from the Working Class Studies Association, an Emerging Creative Bravos Award from Creative Albuquerque, a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Fellowship, honorable mention for the University of New Mexico's Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize, and "Best Poet" in the *Weekly Alibi's* annual "Best of Burque" poll every year since 2010. He holds an M.A. in Communications from the University of New Mexico and is the founding president of Beyond Poetry LLC.

Hakim will be working with SCIS students in the Upper and Lower School students throughout the week. We invite parents to join us for the following open assembly times:

- Tuesday LS Welcome Assembly....April 11th 8:15-8:40
- Wednesday US Assembly.....April 12th 11:30-12:10
- Friday LS Assembly.....April 14th 2:00-2:15
- Friday US Assembly.....April 14th 2:20-3:00

Notes

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.

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.

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