

HEAD OF SCHOOL MONTHLY

| January 20, 2017 | Derek Luebbe

THIS MONTH'S THEME: Happy New Year

Important Dates

January 26:

1pm – 3pm Chinese New Year
Celebration Performances at Theater

January 27 - February 5:

Chinese New Year Holiday

February 7:

10am – 12pm: PAFA General Meeting
& Coffee Morning at Black Box

March 7:

10am – 11am: PAFA General Meeting
at Library Conference Room

March 14 - 15:

Student-Led Conferences

March 17:

End of Quarter 3

Important Contacts

Derek Luebbe – Head of School

Liz Gale – LS Principal

Frank Volpe – US Principal

Naomi Shanks – US Vice Principal

Joanna Zhou – HoS Secretary

Trish Castillo – PAFA Rep

Stu Ren – Transportation Supervisor

Jelly Ling – US Secretary

Vicky Xu – LS Secretary

Important Links

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[School Calendar](#)

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[Event Calendars](#)

[US Activity Calendars](#)

Welcome

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. I hope 2017 finds you well-rested from a vacation with family and friends, and in good spirits to start the second half of our year together. My family spent the holidays in our home in North Carolina with a quick trip to New York City. We created a few more memories; like any vacation, it didn't seem to last long enough.

I welcome everyone to the start of our second semester with a special welcome to all the new families who joined SCIS in 2017 (or who will shortly). And while we were away for the passing of one new year, we look forward to next week's celebration of Chinese New Year with a full program of performances and celebrations at school on Thursday starting at 1:00 pm. We hope you are able to find the time to join us and join in the festivities.

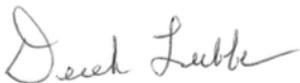
Soon, all parents will be receiving re-enrollment information for 2017-18 school year. In re-enrollment discussions, it has come to our attention that some parents have concerns about the future of SCIS Pudong. I want to assure everyone that the future is bright! Our Board of Directors is actively investing in the Pudong campus, supporting projects and large expenditures to ensure its longevity and success for many years to come. (A few of these are shared below.) The income generated by the repurposing of our former Lower School Campus will only contribute to the growth of the SCIS system. **As current SCIS parents, I ask for your help in correcting any misperceptions that you may encounter.** As a school system (both in Pudong and Hongqiao), we remain committed to providing the best education possible in a small, nurturing community that will soon include the PYP, MYP, and DP IB programs – making us a unique school in Shanghai for years to come.

On a more personal note, I have returned to Shanghai a little later than most as I was recruiting teachers for 2017-18 and beyond at international fairs in Bangkok and London. SCIS remains an attractive to teachers from around the world. As a non-profit with over 20 years of operation, our tradition and

program are known. While pollution still plays a role in teacher's decision-making, that too seems to have diminished as a concern; And, the introduction of the PYP and MYP programs helps us attract even more teachers who are hungry to be a part of these respected programs. We have hired some highly qualified educators who bring with them a wealth of experience with both the PYP, MYP, and DP programs. A short summary is included in this HoS Monthly while a more detailed biography of our new hires will be forthcoming.

Once again, I wish you a happy and successful 2017. My best wishes that 2017 is a memorable year for each child, and I look forward to partnering with you to make this a reality.

Respectfully,



Derek Luebke
Head of School
SCIS Pudong

Invitation to Chinese New Year Celebration

With Chinese New Year upon arriving soon, I hope you will join us this Thursday at 1:00 pm for our SCIS celebration in the auditorium.

Celebrate The Year of The Rooster with SCIS!

A Welcome To Our New Families

With the new year, we want to welcome 15 new students as SCIS Dragons! (We have a few more who are joining soon.) Please join me in sending our best wishes for a smooth transition to the students below. We look forward to all their contributions to our school and the added diversity and perspectives they will bring. Welcome to SCIS!

Lukyaniuk – Belarus / Chinese

Lilia – Nursery

Kerry – Grade 1

Winston Fibbe – Dutch/Chinese, Nursery

Annabel Su - American, PK

Khanak Dudhrejia – Indian, Grade 1

Sean Joo – Korean, Grade 1

Angelina Bu – Swedish / Chinese, Grade 3

Rana – Indian

Gunit – Grade 3

Tejaswin – Grade 10

Toivanen – Finland

Terho - Grade 3

Tuuli - Grade 7

Vuokko - Grade 9

Isaac Stellick – American, Grade 9

Akihiro Yanagida – Japanese, Grade 9

Oliver Macks – Australian, Grade 9

Parent Involvement Desired In The Following Task Forces

There are a number of ways parents can become involved in 2017. Here are a few

Pudong Facility Re-Enhancement Task Force

As shared in the December PAFA meeting, with the added revenue from the lease of our Lower School facilities, our Board of Directors has agreed to explore and develop enhancements to the Pudong Campus with work beginning in the summer of 2017. The project will be led jointly by our Pudong Head of School, Derek Luebbe and our SCIS System Project Manager, Jeff Ginter. This enhancement is now projected to be larger than originally anticipated and we are therefore asking for parent involvement.

Rationale: While the Pudong campus offers world-class facilities, it was originally designed as an Upper School able to accommodate approximately 1000 students. The current reality dictates that the campus should target an enrollment of 640, approximately 40 students per grade with room to exceed that in the Upper School. Our rationale for an enhancement is to modify our campus to make it ideal for 640 students. A non-exhaustive list of projects to consider and prioritize include:

- Adjustments to the Early Childhood floor to purpose-build an ECE environment.
- Enlarging the classrooms for ECE and Lower School.
- The creation of an MYP Design Studio/Classroom.
- The re-allocation of some classroom space to provide for more common/flexible spaces and greater aesthetics.
- Enhancements to the High School and Middle School lounges

Who: We seek input from, ideally, (4) faculty, (2) parents, and (4) students.

Goal: To explore possible enhancements, prioritize them, and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for staged implementation.

Timeline: February – May

Interested?: Email the Head of School Secretary, Joanna at jzhou@scis-china.org by Thursday Jan. 26

Communication Task Force

As shared in the December PAFA meeting, we are seeking 3-5 parents to join faculty and students on this task force. The goal is to review the current methods in use for SCIS communication and develop strategies and approaches to enhance the ways that parents can access information.

Rationale: Communication is never perfect. We hope to clarify what we have, identify what works, and explore new ideas so that all parents can more clearly understand how to access school information easily.

Goal: We seek improvements in how we 1) integrate our existing channels of communication, 2) increase opportunities for community-generated content, including the use of social media and on-campus displays, and 3) seek new channels and methods for communication

Timeline: February-March

Interested?: Email the Head of School Secretary, Joanna at jzhou@scis-china.org by Thursday Jan. 26

Parent / Community Evaluators of the 10th Grade MYP Personal Projects

This is not a task force, but a call for volunteers to assist.

This year, our 10th graders will take part in a fantastic, mandatory element of the MYP Program – the MYP Personal Project (PP). It involves the deep exploration of a topic of personal interest and passion to the student. The Personal Project represents the best example of the MYP's emphasis on application of skills and knowledge in a real-world endeavor. Each student has a faculty advisor in this endeavor and the entire project lasts approximately 7 months. A few of the projects are included below.

- Create a cheaper water purifier
- Develop a story based on my mom's history
- Learn object programming: SWIFT
- Make a plan to manage my financial future
- Make a digital and model home that incorporates earthquake-proof design features

These projects are evaluated using MYP rubrics and moderated for quality by the MYP. At SCIS, we want to go one step further. We see an added relevance in bringing in outside experts (or just committed adults!) to help act as constructive critics of our students' projects. Students present their findings and discuss their process to a panel of adults who provide feedback. This added sense of community adds to the project in a number of ways:

- *It adds realism.* Student work is no longer a simple exchange between teacher and student.
- *It requires a deeper level of understanding.* It is one thing to write a paper documenting your experience during the project. It is quite another to have to answer questions about your decisions and what you learned along the way.
- *Deeper and more personal feedback increases learning.* Each student receives multiple levels of feedback from a variety of perspectives. Students benefit from this immensely.
- *It strengthens our community.* SCIS has always had a strong sense of community. When our community can enhance the quality of educational experiences that our students get, we all win.

How can parents be involved?

We are seeking parents to help in one of two ways.

- 1) Volunteer to act as a panelist to a few presentations in May.
- 2) Volunteer to help us match Personal Project topics with mini-experts in the Shanghai community who may be able to serve as a panelist for those presentations.

Interested? Email the Head of School Secretary, Joanna at jzhou@scis-china.org by Thursday February 24.

Preview to 2017-18: Faculty Recruitment & Upper School Course Offerings Update

Our Board of Directors has approved us for an increase in our overall staffing compared to this year. With our recruitment efforts almost completed, I'm pleased to announce that next year's new faculty will bring with them a good deal of MYP / PYP and international experience.

Yesterday, our 10th graders were given an introduction into the IB Program for next year, and additional information will be coming home after Chinese New Year regarding course offerings. Our Master Schedule for the both the Upper and Lower School is established and we have increased our IB offerings for 2017-18. An IB Parent Information Session has been tentatively scheduled on March 16 (timing TBD) for parents of 10th grade students. (Parents of 9th graders are also able to attend.)

We will spend April and May fine-tuning the master schedule; our goal is to have students (and parents) aware of the 17-18 individual schedules in June prior to departing for the summer.

Save the Date! PAFA Art Auction - April 22

Parent, mark your calendars now for PAFA's marquee annual event to be held on April 22. Dinner, drinks, dancing, and many incredible art pieces being created by your talented children will highlight the auction! Save the date as you will not want to miss this fantastic adult only event! PAFA will be sharing more information on this year's theme and tickets soon.

Next PAFA Meeting

February 7 from 10:00 – 11:00 am. If you have questions or agenda topics, please email Trish Castillo at pdpafa.president@scis-china.org