

LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 1 August 18, 2017

Important Dates

- **August 22nd:** ASA Sign-Up and Registration will close at 10:00am
- **August 26th:** SCIS-Pudong Welcome Back BBQ sponsored by PAFA
- **August 28th:** Quarter 1 ASA's begin
- **August 31st:** Lower School Picture Day & Back to School Night for parents
- **September 4th- 15th:** NWEA MAP Testing for Grades 2-5
- **September 5:** Lower School Principal and Counselor's Coffee Morning at 9:00am and PAFA General Meeting at 10:00am
- **September 22nd:** United Nations International Day of Peace Whole School Assembly



Dear Parents,

A warm dragon welcome to all new and returning SCIS families. We have had a fantastic start to the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year as students at all grade levels have participated in a variety of fun learning experiences focused on building strong relationships with their new classmates and teachers. Similarly, students have also been part of developing the procedures, routines and essential agreements that will govern their classroom

community throughout the school year. Fostering a positive classroom culture where students feel safe, happy and confident taking risks with their learning is an essential part of the beginning of a new school year. Involving children in discussions about how they will work and learn together and valuing their contributions, allows students to have both a voice, as well as choice regarding the establishment of a learning environment that meets their needs.

At SCIS we strive to honor students' ideas, opinions and learning styles. We believe every child is unique and has something valuable to contribute. Giving students voice and choice in how their learning community will function leads to a long-term

commitment to ensuring the learning environment is one in which all members feel a part of.

At SCIS we are community of learners made up of students, parents, teachers and staff. I am confident that by working together and maintaining ongoing and open communication we will be able to ensure that all children are safe, happy and learning each day.

Please take a moment to read through the remainder of the Lower School Bulletin as it contains important information on new faculty, as well as program and facility updates.

Liz Gale
Lower School
Principal



EAL to Replace ESOL Across SCIS Campuses

Starting this school year, SCIS will no longer use the term ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to refer to the program designed to provide support to our English Language Learners. Instead, all SCIS campuses will use the term EAL (English as an Additional Language). The change in terminology will be accompanied by a shift in the way English Language Learners are being supported within the Lower School.

Research in English language acquisition confirms that providing English Language Learners with support both in the classroom, as well as out of the classroom has tremendous benefits for both students and teachers.

As such, we will be moving towards the implementation of a two EAL program model to support the various proficiency levels of our students acquiring academic English: a Pull-Out Model and a Co-Teaching Model. All English learners will participate in the Co-Teaching Model. New English learners also participate in Pull-Out EAL every day with an EAL teacher. Advanced English learners' performance is monitored by EAL and homeroom teachers, and students do not receive direct support from EAL teachers. Our EAL program design follows research and evidence-based best practices in academic language acquisition, and is aligned with IB PYP philosophies. Through our program, our EAL and homeroom teachers are able to maximize co-planning and co-assessing time to integrate content, language and literacy instruction effectively, which accelerates academic language development. Within the Lower School we are extremely excited to have Mrs. Melissa Lawrence join our faculty as the Lower School EAL teacher and Coordinator. Please read below a special introductory message from Mrs. Lawrence.

New and Improved Learning Spaces throughout the Lower School

Teachers, students and parents alike have been ecstatic about the new and improved Lower School learning spaces that have been purposefully designed to inspire discovery, collaboration, creativity, and the flexible movement of students.

Facility enhancements include full classroom upgrades within our Early Childhood classrooms, as well as Grades 1, 2 and 3. All students in Nursery through Grade 3 now enjoy more spacious and transparent rooms with ample natural light and generous storage cabinets with sink features. Additionally, the Lower School Art room was reconfigured and moved into a larger and more whimsical and creative location across from the Lower School Music Room. There are many other plans for the ways in which we will continue to modernize and transform the lower school spaces to further facilitate the implementation of developmentally appropriate, research-based best practice.



Introducing . . . Mrs. Lawrence, EAL Teacher and Coordinator for the Lower School

My name is Mrs. Lawrence, and I am so excited to be SCIS Pudong's new Lower School EAL teacher and coordinator. For seventeen years now, I have been a teacher in my home state of New York, as well as throughout the Middle East, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Over the years, my teaching experiences have ranged from PreK-Grade 10 in the areas of French, Reading Specialist, Learning Support, EAL and Primary Years Teacher. Through these diverse teaching experiences, I have been able to develop and cultivate not only a love for literacy and language, but a profound appreciation for learning itself.

During these first few weeks of school, I will be spending time getting to know students in their homeroom classes, as well as assessing ELLs in grades 1-5 in the four areas of language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. These assessment results will help address the strengths/needs of our ELLs, as well as guide us with strategic student placement and teacher planning/instruction. Once I have gathered all testing data and evaluated student performance, I will be able to compile an accurate list of ELLs in our school and set up a teaching schedule. Based on my students' proficiency levels, students will either receive push-in support in their homeroom classroom or a combination of pull-out and push-in support.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the coming months bring during my tenure here at SCIS Pudong, and continuing to learn and develop while sharing my passions in any way I can. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send me an e-mail at: mlawrence@scis-china.org. I look forward to meeting you personally at SCIS's Back to School Night on Thursday, August 31st at 6:00pm.

*When Mrs. Lawrence is not at school teaching, she can be found reading, traveling, spending time with her husband and animals, practicing yoga, and testing different plant-based recipes in her kitchen.

We're Going Back To School



A Back to School Message from Mrs. Luebbe

Welcome back SCIS Families!

Hello! My name is Laurie Luebbe and my job as the elementary counselor is to support your child so that each learner has effective and developmentally appropriate tools for communicating, making decisions and developing and maintaining friendships. I will be teaching guidance lessons throughout the grade levels, working with small groups of children with commonalities and responsive one on one counseling. I am here to offer support to you as well so that we as a team ensure a wonderful year of learning for your child. The adventure ahead is exciting, but we all may have times when we need to stop, think and develop solution strategies to face the challenges that may arise.

As a new school year begins, we can often feel overwhelmed with all the things we "need" to do. Every parent's list is different, but they all contain one vital ingredient...STRESS.

The most important thing you can add to your child's Back to School To-Do List is.... *listen*.

Don't rush.

Don't ask a million questions.

Don't prepare dinner while they talk.

Just listen.

Let them tell you about where they are sitting. Let them tell you about someone new they met or a friend that is in another class. Listen as they tell you their first impressions about their teacher, and write them down to have a good chuckle at the end of the year.

Listen to their worries. Don't try to come up with solutions for them. Listen to their excitement. Listen to their ideas and dreams. Listen to whatever it is that they want to share.

It all speeds by so fast. Just listen.

I invite you to contact me at any time:
lluebbe@scis-china.org

SCIS Ensures Highest Quality Renovation Practices

By: Jeff Ginter

- Last spring the SCIS-Pudong Leadership Team embarked on a project to update, repurpose and improve the design, functionality and quality of a significant portion of the Pudong Campus interior space. The renovation of the campus will occur in two phases. The first phase was completed during the months of June and July, and included updates to both Lower School and Upper School classrooms and common spaces. Phase II will take place next summer with a continued focus on transforming spaces to enhance learning, increase flexibility, improve utilization and encourage interaction while creating a bright, clean, modern aesthetic aligned with the school's core values and curriculum.
- During the design and construction phase, the main lens we consider all decisions through is the lens of Health & Safety. Therefore, it was imperative that we worked closely with high quality international design firms, as well as high quality contractors, project and construction managers who all follow high standards of health and safety. Additionally, only sustainable, non-toxic materials and installation methods were employed during the renovation, for example, the installation of linoleum flooring made of natural raw materials and low-VOC paints and adhesives. While some of the material may have a lingering smell, the materials are natural, organic and completely non-toxic.
- In addition, SCIS works with PureLiving, China's leading indoor environmental consultant, to ensure that all indoor learning spaces are healthy and safe. In fact, we were the first school in Shanghai to work with PureLiving back in 2013 and retrofitted a double filtration system throughout all indoor learning spaces. Since then we continue to work with PureLiving to continue to improve our system which includes regular maintenance and system upgrades. Our double filtration system is able to completely filter a space within 15 minute, reducing AQI levels to US EPA standards for healthy air. Air is filtered and circulated every 15 minutes which is only possible due to the installation of the highest quality air filtration system available.

