

LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 4 September 8, 2017

Important Dates

- **September 4th- 15th:** NWEA MAP Testing for Grades 2-5
- **September 5th:** PAFA General Meeting at 10:00am
- **September 12th:** Scholastic Book Order Forms Due
- **September 14th:** Lower School Assembly @ 8:15am. Principal and Counselors Coffee Morning @ 9:00am in room 210.
- **September 22nd:** United Nations International Day of Peace Whole School Assembly @ 1:45pm in the Theatre. Grade 3 Learning Celebration at 1:00pm.
- **October 2-9th:** October Break. There is no school for students during this week.
- **October 9th:** Teacher Professional Development Day. No school for students.

Dear Parents,

The **United Nations International Day of Peace Assembly** will take place on September 22nd starting at 1:45pm. On this day, students are encouraged to wear clothes representative of their home country. Students have the option of wearing these clothes to school or changing into their "outfit" prior to the assembly. At 1:45pm all students in the Lower



"A Book is a magical thing that lets you travel to far-away places without ever leaving your chair." ~Katrina Mayer~

Grade 1 students from IS enjoy afternoon reading in the new Lower School Lounge.

and Upper School will participate in the "Parade of Nations" during which they will walk behind the flag representing the country (or countries) with which they identify. Parents are encouraged to attend this remarkable event and help us celebrate the amazing diversity within our SCIS community.

Next Thursday, September 14th, is the first **Lower School Principal's Coffee Morning**. It will take place in room 210 beginning at 9:00am. Topics covered during the coffee morning will include: facility enhancements, Seesaw, and yearly curriculum initiatives. The Lower School Counselor, Mrs. Luebbe will also be sharing information on child development and strategies

parents can try to assist their child(ren) with having a successful transition into the school year.

The Principal's Coffee Morning will follow a **Lower School Assembly**. Parents are always welcome to attend Lower School Assemblies which will take place periodically throughout the school year on Thursday mornings. Assemblies are for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 5 and will begin at 8:15am in the Black Box.

Wishing all families, a safe and wonderful weekend!

Liz Gale
Lower School
Principal



Lower School News and Announcements

Morning Bus Pick-Up Reminders

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 the 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 questions, contact our transportation coordinator Stu Ren at pd-transportation@scis-china.org. Thank you for your help in keeping our bus times on schedule.
~Mr. Luebbe~

Parent-Teacher Conference Sign-Ups

If you didn't have an opportunity to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences during Back-to-School Night, please contact the Lower School Secretary, Ms. Vicki Xu at yxu@scis-china.org to schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on October 25 from 3:30 to 5:30 and from 12:00 to 5:30 on October 26. Ms. Vicky will be sending home confirmation letters in the upcoming weeks.

STUDENT SCHOOL PHOTOS

are available to be viewed and ordered. To view your child(ren)'s school photo simply go to

www.intlphotography.com

and use the password:
scispd0817

Within the galleries, you will find links to individual student photos. Galleries are organized by Grade Level and Homeroom Teacher. All online orders will be shipped to SCIS for distribution. Parents are encouraged to provide your full name when prompted on the final order page.

Join Mr. Luebbe on September 19 at 9:00am in room 210 for a **Head of School Coffee Morning**

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAPS

(Measurement of Academic Progress Test) will be administered to students in Grades 2-5 between September 4th through 15th. During this online assessment, students will be tested in the areas of Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. The MAPs test is not a traditional test that students can or should study for. Rather it will provide a snapshot of the students' abilities within these curricular areas at this point in time. The best thing you can do to support your child is make sure they are well rested, and eat a good breakfast, as we hope they do for every school day. Teachers receive immediate results with MAP that show what students know and what they are ready to learn. Fall MAP results are used by teachers and the school as a form of baseline assessment data and therefore the school will not be sharing these initial results. However, students' Spring MAP results will be shared with parents at that time. For more information on NWEA MAP visit www.nwea.org



What will my Child be Learning this Year?

Within a PYP School it is common for parents to wonder how the implementation of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) will impact what their child will be learning during the course of the school year. While the PYP will impact *how* the written curriculum is taught, it will not have a significant impact on *what* is being taught. This is due to the fact that SCIS is a standards-based school. “Standards-based” means that there are defined learning objectives for students in each grade level and across all subject areas and disciplines.



The term “*standard*” is an increasingly common word used within education today. However, **what are standards?** According to the Education Social Science Library at the University of Illinois, “Educational standards define knowledge and skills students should possess at critical points in their educational career.”

One of the reasons that many schools today are moving towards a standards-based curriculum is because standards help ensure that students learn what is important, rather than what is dictated by a textbook. On occasion, textbooks may be used as a supplementary resource, however at SCIS we believe that student learning is the focus and in order to allow students the opportunity to develop a deep level of understanding, clear and concise learning outcomes must be identified prior to the start of each unit.



Recent educational research has indicated that standards-based systems increase student achievement, largely because everyone is working towards achieving the same goal. Teachers, students and parents can teach, learn and support one another because of the explicitly defined learning objectives.

Effective standard-based instruction is a dynamic process and one that requires a great deal of planning and collaboration. Although learning experiences differ from classroom to classroom, and teacher-to-teacher, all unit planning is based on the agreed upon standards that have been adopted by SCIS. At SCIS, standards guide teachers to create classrooms that encourage the construction of knowledge as opposed to emphasizing surface memorization of content. PYP teachers instruct through a constructivist pedagogy and use the standards as a way to connect with students and provide meaningful and relevant learning experiences.



The following standards have been adopted by SCIS for the core curricular areas:

- **English Language Arts** - Common Core State Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>
- **Mathematics** - Common Core State Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>
- **Social Studies** - American Education Reaches Out (AERO): <http://www.projectaero.org>
- **Science** - Ontario: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/scientec.html>

For more information on grade level curricular information parents can refer to the Grade Level Curriculum Guides that were distributed at Back-to-School Night. Additionally, if you have any questions regarding this curricular topic or others, please do not hesitate to contact me at egale@scis-china.org.