

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #6 | September 23, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- September 19th-23rd
MAPs Testing
(Grades 6-9)
- September 30th
United Nations Day
Celebration
- October 3rd-7th
Fall Break
- October 10th-14th
China Go! Trips
- October 14th
End of First Quarter
- October 18th-19th
Parent Conferences
- October 19th
PSAT



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This coming Friday, September 30th SCIS will be celebrating United Nations International Day of Peace. Activities will include an all school assembly and an international food fair in the cafeteria. Many of the 38 nationalities of this year's SCIS community will be represented. In the past, UN Day has primarily been a Lower School activity. This year we are excited to extend the celebration school wide.

Since its founding day of October 25th 1945, the United Nations has worked to promote international peace and avoid the horrors of the great wars that helped bring the UN into being. This spirit of international mindedness is reflected strongly in the vibrant, multicultural community that is SCIS. Similar to the UN, the International Baccalaureate Organization was also founded in the spirit of peace and international cooperation. This is reflected most clearly in the IB's mission statement,

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect... .These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

SCIS's decision to become an IB continuum school was not only a decision about curriculum, teaching strategies, or assessment. Our commitment to the IB also signifies the value the SCIS community places on helping our students develop into engaged global citizens. By celebrating UN Day next week, we are celebrating our diverse school community and reaffirming our commitment to preparing students to contribute positively to their communities.

Please come and join our celebration!

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal



Counselor's Corner

Holistic Focus: Fixed vs. Growth Mindset – Beliefs that Shape Our Lives

By Maja Kelly –School and college counselor

Why do some students reach their academic potential, while others, with apparently more talent, don't? According to Carol Dweck, psychology professor at Stanford University and one of the world's leading researchers in the field of social and developmental psychology, the answer to this question lies not in individual differences in talent and ability but in the way in which we *think* about our talent and ability.

Dweck explains that people use different mindsets to understand themselves and to guide their behavior. She bases the notion of mindset on our understanding of where ability comes from. Some people believe that their success is based on innate ability and have a "fixed" view of intelligence. This is an example of a fixed mindset. Others, who believe their talents can be developed through hard work, good strategies, and input from others have a "growth" view of intelligence, or growth mindset.

The difference between these two mindsets is especially evident in the way people react to failure. Individuals with a fixed mindset fear failure because it reflects poorly on their self-worth. Their goal is to look smart and they avoid being unsuccessful as they believe that it reflects badly upon themselves as individuals. People with a growth mindset, on the other hand, don't mind failure because they believe their performance is a reflection of their current skill level, which can be improved. This is important because people with a growth mindset are more likely to continue working hard despite setbacks, and they are more likely to adopt new strategies and seek help from others. Research conducted by Dweck and her colleagues over the past four decades has consistently shown that a growth mindset leads to better outcomes in education, business, sports and health.

Dweck believes that our attributions of the origins of intelligence, success, talent and ability form a

continuum, and that everyone is a mixture of fixed and growth mindsets. For example, a student might have a fixed mindset regarding his math ability ("I am just bad at math!") and a growth mindset regarding his athletic abilities ("I am becoming a better runner - I used to run a mile in 9 minutes, but now it only takes me 7 minutes!"). A "pure" growth mindset doesn't exist; however, it is possible (and necessary!) to help students develop a growth mindset across as many areas and contexts as possible. How we praise children matters greatly. When children are given praise such as "Great job, you are so smart!" they are much more likely to develop a fixed mindset. Instead, Dweck suggests using phrases such as: "Wow, you really practiced that, and look how you've improved!" and "Well done, you tried different strategies and you figured out how to solve the problem".

If the child is unsuccessful, instead of criticizing or pressuring them to keep trying, Dweck argues that it is important to sit down with them and say, "Let's look at what you've done". "Let's look at what strategies you've used, and let's figure out together what we should try next".

Developing a growth mindset among students is not an immediate process. Rather, it takes a concentrated joint effort on behalf of teachers and parents. However ultimately, this view fosters a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for success in school and in life.

Notes

China Go! trips:

Parents please be sure to review your child's itinerary for their grade level trip. We realize that many families may be traveling over break so it is particularly important that you focus on trip departure times. Students in grades 8-12 will be leaving from set departure points early in the morning on Monday October 10. Students in grades 6-7 should come to school as usual, and will leave from there. Detailed information was sent from the Activities office, and is always available from your student's Advisor.

After School Activity Buses:

Upper School students who will be riding a late bus should sign up with Stu Ren at the front desk. Students involved in sports or after school activities will be added to the list automatically. Students who are staying after school for a one-time event (e.g. office hours, etc.) should be sure to add their names to the late bus list on the day they will be staying late.

After School Expectations for Athletes:

Athletes who are staying after school for 4:30 practices are required to follow team expectations after school. Please check with your coaches to ensure you understand your after school expectations.

United Nations International Day of Peace:

UN Day will be celebrated on September 30th from 10:00am – 1:00pm. The school-wide celebration will include an assembly during which students will participate in the "Parade of Nations," followed by an international Food Fair. According to the United Nations the UN Day theme for this year is, "Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." We look forward to seeing many parents on campus for this amazing event.

Dress Code:

Please help your child follow the SCIS dress code. Specific information regarding the dress code can be found in the SCIS family handbook on page 25. As a reminder, students in grades 9-12 should remember to button up their SCIS shirts and ensure that shorts are of an appropriate length. As a guiding principle, shorts should be lower than a student's finger tips when their arms are flat against their sides. Thank you for your help supporting dress code!

New SCIS Parent Email accounts:

This week, our system-wide IT department implemented a new process for creating a School ID and parent email account. If you haven't already set up your SCIS parent email account, please head to <http://schoolid.scis-his.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 new process, please contact Barry Johnson at pd-technology@scis-china.org.

ManageBac:

Another big change for SCIS this year is the move from PowerSchool to ManageBac. A welcome email with instructions on how to sign in was sent to your new parent email address so if you haven't seen it, contact Barry Johnson. ManageBac is a web-based software that will allow you to see your child's academic information like PowerSchool did, and it is widely used by IB schools worldwide.

Attendance:

Please email or call the Upper School Secretary if your student will be absent. Jelly can be reached at jling@scis-china.org

Substitute Teachers Wanted:

With a new year, the SCIS has many new faces. As a school, we are always on the lookout for quality individuals in our community who might be able to substitute teach at school for a day or two. If you are a certified teacher or have experience in the classroom (or even if you know someone we could contact), we encourage you to contact the Joanna Zhou at jzhou@scis-china.org so that we can set up an interview. With a high-quality bank of substitutes, we are able to better serve our students. Our Dragon Community is a great asset, and this is one way you can help make our school a stronger one in 2016-17.