

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #26 | March 17, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **March 17th:** PAFA Sponsored Teacher Appreciation Event
- **March 17th:** end of 3rd quarter. Mid-Semester Progress Reports
- **March 17th:** Shanghai Student Film Festival (S2F2)
- **March 17th- 18th:** Math competition @ Suzhou
- **March 24th-25th:** ACAMIS Swimming
- **March 21st:** Middle School Basketball Season Starts (everyone welcome)
- **March 23rd:** IB Art Exhibition 3-4:30
- **April 3rd-7th:** Spring Break

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:

“What questions did you ask at school today?”



Students kicked off our conference day on Tuesday with a Science Expo in the cafeteria.
Photo by Mikael Masson

Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

There was great energy in the building this week during student-led parent conferences (SLPCs). Students were excited to share their learning thus far this year. With our transition to the IB Middle Years Program, we reorganized the SLPCs around the Approaches to Learning (ATLs). Students reviewed their work this year through the lens of these skills, share with parents their strengths and weaknesses. These skills are an important part of equipping students with the skills necessary to face the challenges they will face at university and in an ever changing work place which requires constant learning. You can read more about these important elements of our education program in the article on the next page.

We know that the most important ingredient in learning for children and young adults is a good teacher. At SCIS we are blessed with a world class faculty which was honored today by PAFA. We would like to thank PAFA and all of the parents who contributed to support the teachers appreciation event today held in the black box. Thank you PAFA, and as always, thank you teachers!

Looking ahead, we have a number of events coming up. We would like to wish the math team the best of luck in their competition in Suzhou. We also want to invite everyone to come and join us next Thursday for the IB Art Exhibition. We hope to see you on campus again soon.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal

Learning to Learn: Approaches to Learning (ATLs) in the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs

What are the approaches to learning (ATL)?

- Explicitly taught and evaluated skills and attitudes that organize teaching and learning
- ATLs emphasize the process of learning over the product of learning
- The ATLs are consistent across the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs
- The focus on ATLs improves teaching and learning by emphasizing the development of skills and attitudes that can be transferred to future learning experiences

One of the most important ways that SCIS promotes lifelong learning is through the development of the skills required for independent learning. These skills are known as Approaches to Learning or ATLs in IB terminology. These include Communication, Social, Self-Management Research, and Thinking skills. Student-led parent conferences were organized around these skills in order to emphasize their importance in learning and individual development. These skills are explicitly taught in the classroom and are consistent throughout all years in the MYP and DP (grades 6-12). Students are taught various strategies in each of these categories and clusters which will serve them well in their studies at SCIS and beyond. We invite parents to use these skills as points of reference as you support students in their studies.

ATL skill categories	MYP ATL skill clusters
Communication	I. Communication
Social	II. Collaboration
Self-management	III. Organization IV. Affective V. Reflection
Research	VI. Information literacy VII. Media literacy
Thinking	VIII. Critical thinking IX. Creative thinking X. Transfer

MYP: From principles into practice 2014

Notes

Mid-semester Progress Report (Published March 17th on ManageBac): Student reports will be published on ManageBac next Friday afternoon. These reports will include a narrative comment from each teacher and an evaluation of student progress so far this semester. There are three progress designations; “Progressing towards class expectations.”, “Limited progress toward class expectations.”, and “Insufficient evidence”. This final designation is only for students who have recently arrived at SCIS. As always, additional feedback can be found on ManageBac under each course and within specific tasks.

Parent Communication Survey

Mr. Luebbe shared an email today about an important [Communication Survey](#). Please take a moment to complete it by Monday at 3:00 pm.

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 dlobbe@scis-china.org.

2017-18 Calendar Change for the Class of 2018

Parents of current Grade 11 students, please make a note of planned changes in the calendar for Grade 12 during the 2017-18 school year. Beginning next year, the Grade 12 China Trip will be moved to the last week of May. During the former trip week in September, Grade 12 students will be on campus, benefiting from a carefully structured program focusing on the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, CAS, and college counseling. This bonus week will greatly relieve the pressures on our senior students in the winter and spring, put them in a much stronger position to achieve their fullest potential in the DP Program, and raise the quality of their college applications. As an added bonus, taking a school sponsored trip together as a class in celebration of completing high school will provide a final opportunity for the class to share a unified experience before going their separate ways, and relieve financial pressures on families who in the past have borne the expense of similar trips. The China Trip program for Grades 6-11 will not be affected.

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

IB ART EXHIBITION

Reception on March 23rd
3:15 - 4:30 pm
Art Gallery 3rd Floor

Exhibition Opens March 20th

SCIS Pudong

Presenting works by Tanara Sahgal, Maayke
Vlas, HyunJin Kim and Emily Machan