

LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 16 | December 9, 2016 | Elizabeth Gale

Important Dates

- **December 14:** Grade 1 “Personal Histories” Learning Celebration
- **December 16:** End of first semester. Students will be dismissed at 11:30am. Report cards distributed via email.
- **January 9:** New Family Orientation. Professional Development Day for Teachers. No school for students.
- **January 10:** First Day of Semester 2. It will be a Day 1
- **January 26:** Whole School Chinese New Year Assembly
- **January 27 – February 5:** Chinese New Year Holiday



Dear Families,

What an incredibly busy, fun-filled and festive week we have had in the Lower School.

Thank you to all of the parents that attended the Principal’s Coffee Morning on Tuesday focused on **Inquiry-based learning and the Primary Years Programme (PYP)**. As mentioned during the presentation, using an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning with students results in increased creativity, independence, a positive attitude towards learning and overall improvements in student achievement. However, success with implementing an inquiry-based approach often requires a change in

school culture and embracing teaching and learning practices that require students to apply 21st century skills which are vastly different from what students would experience in a traditional classroom. If you have any questions about inquiry-based learning or the PYP at SCIS-Pudong, please feel free to contact me any time.

Congratulations to all of our Winter Concert Performers!

Students in Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 took the stage on Thursday evening with such confidence and enthusiasm and put on a magnificent and flawless performance of The Reindeer Whisperer. On Friday afternoon

students in Prekindergarten through grade 1 proudly and courageously performed a variety of holiday songs during the Winter Wonderland concert. I’m very proud of all student performers for their hard work and commitment. I would also like to thank Ms. Rebecca Macoskey for the endless hours of work and preparation she put into making these two events such a success!

Wishing all families, a warm and festive weekend.

Liz Gale

Lower School
Principal



On Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Gale spent time with all students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 to introduce and discuss the **SCIS-Pudong Acceptable Use of Technology Policy**. Students in these grade levels frequently utilize the various technologies available in school as tools to enhance their learning. Thus, it is important that students are educated surrounding what it means to be a responsible user of technology. During the hour discussion, students carefully reviewed the policy to ensure they fully understood the school's expectations when engaged with technology at school. Following the discussion students were directed to review and sign the policy with their parents. There is no doubt that children today are living in a digital era and it is extremely important that the entire community of parents, teachers and students work together to ensure appropriate use of technology at all times.



On Friday afternoon students in Prekindergarten had their first big learning celebration of the semester as when they invited parents, teachers and students to a Gallery Walk featuring some of the beautiful and creative pieces they crafted during their current unit of inquiry **“How we Express Ourselves: Art and Artists.”** During this unit, students formulated an understanding that artists use many ways to express ideas and feelings. During their inquiry they learned about the different forms of art, the way art can make people feel and how artists use tools and different materials to express themselves. During the gallery walk, children reflected on their own art work and shared information surrounding the process they went through to create such imaginative pieces. Well Done Prekindergarten!



During the **Principal's Coffee Morning** parents shared their prior knowledge surrounding inquiry-based learning and the Primary Years Programme. Parents also learned about what makes inquiry-based learning different from a more traditional approach to teaching and learning.



WINTER FEST FUN!

THANK YOU to all of the **PAFA** parents who worked so tirelessly to transform the cafeteria into a true Winter Wonderland and provide such fun activities and arts and crafts for lower school students to enjoy. Winterfest was a spectacular event and a wonderful way to end an incredible week of holiday celebrations. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated parents who go above and beyond to create magical experiences for all students. A big heartfelt thanks!

Winterfest 2016

