

LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 23 | February 24, 2017 | Elizabeth Gale

Important Dates

- **March 7:** LS Principal's Coffee Morning on Student-Led Conferences at 9:00am followed by PAFA General Meeting
- **March 10:** Lower School Assembly featuring 3J at 2:00pm and "Book Character" Spirit Day
- **March 14th-15th:** Student-Led Conferences
- **March 17:** PAFA sponsored Teacher Appreciation Day and Mid-Semester Reports sent home to parents via email
- **March 24th:** Lower School Assembly featuring 5P and "Silly Clothes" Spirit Day
- **April 1-9:** Spring Break



Congratulations to the Grade 5 students in 5C for their great assembly performance. These knowledgeable 5th graders taught the audience about the difference between physical and chemical changes! Well Done 5C!

Dear Parents,

It's been a week of reflection within the Lower School as students and teachers begin to prepare for the upcoming **Student-Led Conferences (SLCs) on March 14th and 15th**. Students at all grade levels have spent time discussing and reflecting upon all of the growth and progress that has been made since the beginning of the school year. It is truly amazing to see what the students have accomplished thus far and how they have grown as individuals and learners. I hope you are as excited as I am to see the children showcase their learning during their Student-Led Conference

next month. Teachers will be assigning each student and their parents a conference time slot that will be communicated to parents next week. Additional information on student-led conferences is included at the end of this bulletin. In the upcoming weeks, parents will also receive a Student-Led Conference Handbook that will provide detailed information on the Student-led conference format and the ways in which parents can support their children during this process. Please remember that lunch will not be served on conference days as students will be dismissed at 11:30am.

Our next **Lower School Assembly**, featuring 3J will take place on **Friday, March 10**. On this day, students will also be able to participate in **Book Character Spirit**

Day, where they will be able to come to school dressed as their favorite book character.

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.

Wishing all families, a wonderful weekend!

Liz Gale
Lower School
Principal



Improving the Outdoor Learning Spaces

Outdoor play is essential part of children's health and well-being. Providing students opportunities to play and explore outdoors offers many ways to enrich the curriculum and support children's development and learning. Because we recognize the importance of outdoor play, two big improvements have been made to the Lower School Playground this week. These include the addition of a large sandbox for students of all ages, as well as a dedicated space to organize all lower school playground equipment. The sandbox was an extremely popular play space this week as students engaged in building, measuring, and manipulating the sand using a variety of sand toys. Students also did a fantastic job taking ownership over the playground equipment and organizing it appropriately.



Twins, Triplets and More

The Student Council sponsored Twin Day was a fun event as students throughout the school had the opportunity to dress the same as one, two or many friends. The "greens and jeans" group was the largest cohort by far and included students and teachers throughout the lower school.

Student-Led Conferences: A Celebration of Learning

Student-led conferences are an essential part of the assessment and reporting process at a PYP school. They provide students with a valuable opportunity to take responsibility for their learning and share the learning process, as well as the progress they have made over the course of the school year with their parents. There are a number of reasons schools implement student-led conferences including the fact that the spotlight is on the most important person in the process (the student). Student-led conferences put the students in charge, holding them responsible and accountable as they present their work to their parents. Research has proven there are multiple benefits that emerge as a result of preparing for and carrying out a student-led conference. These include:



- Increased student accountability on their learning

- Enhancement of students' communication skills
- Strengthening the collaborative relationship between parents, teachers and students
- Development of thinking, self-management, communication, social and leadership skills
- Increased student motivation towards learning
- Acquiring further understanding of how students learn including areas of strength and areas for growth

One of our main goals as a PYP school is to further the development of students in becoming independent learners and competent communicators who are eager to participate in society and make the world a better place. Such students and future citizens need to be aware of their own strengths and needs. They need to be self-motivated problem solvers and action-oriented, creative thinkers. Preparing for and participating in student-led conferences teaches students to be reflective, to self-assess, to set goals and to communicate effectively.

As students prepare for the conference, they learn to monitor their own progress and refer to the task-related learning intentions and success criteria to guide them. They collect artifacts that demonstrate their learning and set goals to move their learning forward. The work samples take many forms, including photographs, recordings, video clips and print, and may be assembled for sharing in a variety of ways, including the traditional portfolio or various media formats.

Prior to the conference, students choose what work to share and how to share it with their parents. Because they are sharing with a real audience, students are motivated to do their best. All of the learning in preparation for the conference is relevant and authentic. Plenty of time for talk and interaction helps students become comfortable taking the lead and talking about their learning.



During the conference, parents/caregivers are empowered as partners in the education of their children. Student-led conferences strengthen the relationship between home and school. Parents discover what their child is learning and how he/she is learning. They also discover their child's perception of him/herself as a learner and how they might help their child at home.

The collaboration among staff, students and parents leading up to the conference builds a common understanding and common language relating to assessment and learning and results in a deeper understanding of the teaching-learning process. Parents and students develop a common vocabulary to discuss the learning. Students learn how to set goals and use success criteria to monitor their progress. They also learn how to communicate their ideas effectively. The assessment becomes the learning, and the feedback that occurs throughout the process and during the conference itself becomes an important component that drives the learning forward.

Student-led conferences within the Lower School at SCIS-Pudong are scheduled into 20 minute blocks of time. At the end of the conference, parents will be asked to complete a reflection form. This form will help us assess the effectiveness of the conference. Based on the reflections, issues and concerns will be discussed in relation to improving next year's conference experience.

