

LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 29 April 14, 2017 | Elizabeth Gale

Important Dates

- **April 22nd**: Art Auction from 5:30pm until midnight in the Black Box
- **April 28th**: Lower School Assembly featuring 5P and “Stuffed Animal” Spirit Day.
- **May 5th**: Grade 5 PYP Exhibition from 1:00 – 2:30pm in the Black Box.
- **May 19th**: Lower School Assembly featuring 4Z
- **May 25th**: Lower School Spring Concerts starting at 10:00am for Prekindergarten – Grade 1 and 1:30pm for Grades 2-5.



Congratulations to all students in 2M for their fantastic and creative assembly performance on their recent unit of inquiry focused on “Matter and Materials!” Students enthusiastically shared information about solids, liquids, gases and how materials can be manipulated to suit different purposes. Great Work 2M!

Dear Parents,

Another terrific week of engaging and exciting learning experiences at SCIS-Pudong as students in all grade levels have embarked on new PYP units of inquiry. For students in Nursery, Preschool and Prekindergarten, this will be the final unit of inquiry for the remainder of the school year, while students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will participate in an additional inquiry unit prior to the end of the school year. As always, please continue to ask your child about their learning at school and the aspects of learning they find most interesting, as well as those they consider to be challenging. Additionally, please communicate with your child’s teacher if you have any questions, concerns or want to

learn more about the ways you can support your child with their learning.

Please mark your calendars for this year’s **Lower School Spring Concerts** which will take place on **Thursday, May 25**. Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will perform a collection of songs about growing up and changing the world in a concert called “Big Dreams” which will begin at 10:00am. At 1:30pm, students in grades 2-5 will sing, dance, and act in the musical “Jukebox Time Machine.” Both concerts will take place in the Theater.

Next week, SCIS-Pudong will host international mathematics and science **consultant Erma Anderson**.

Ms. Anderson will be working with both Upper and Lower School teachers on developing inquiry and conceptually based mathematics learning experiences for students at all grade levels. Additionally, Ms. Anderson will be leading a **parent education event** on Wednesday, April 19th from 2:00pm – 3:00pm to help parents formulate a deeper understanding of research-based best practices related to mathematics education. We hope to see you there!

Enjoy the weekend!

Liz Gale
Lower School
Principal



PARENT EDUCATION EVENT
Featuring International Mathematics
Consultant Erma Anderson

Erma Anderson, a well-known international guru in conceptually based mathematics programs will be providing a unique opportunity for SCIS parents to formulate a deeper understanding of the benefits of conceptually based mathematics programs. This event will take place on Wednesday, April 19th from 2:00-3:00pm and all parents are encouraged to attend.



Students in Nursery through Grade 5 enjoyed spending time with and learning from visiting author and poet Hakim Bellamy this week. Thank you PAFA for making it possible for Mr. Bellamy to visit SCIS-Pudong!



Animal Awareness Club
Stuffed animal sale: April 17-21



AAC Fund Raiser

The animal awareness club is taking action in our neighborhood. We have built shelters for feral animals, made treats and toys for foster dogs, and played with local animals waiting for a forever home.

We did research about how to best help stray, homeless, or feral animals in our neighborhood. One of the biggest issues is over-population which can be helped by taking animals for catch and release vet visits

to address both their general health and to spay or neuter the animals. This fundraiser will help bring in funds for those vet visits.

For every 5 stuffed animals sold, 1 real animal will be cared for by a vet.

What: Fund raising for homeless animal vet bills.

When: April 17, 2017-April 21, 2017

Where: SCIS Pudong Campus



Thank you to all parents who attended the Principal's Coffee Morning on the PYP Exhibition. Following the presentation, parents were able to visit the Grade 5 classrooms to see their child actively engaged in the inquiry process with their exhibition group. Students have been working on ways they can take realistic and manageable action to solve a real-world issue.



On Thursday, Ms. Caban tasked Grade 4 students with a team building challenge in order to help them further develop their communication and social skills. Students had a wonderful time trying to figure out how the entire group could fit inside a rapidly shrinking jump-rope circle.

Spotlight on Mathematics and the PYP

For some parents the thought of helping their child with math homework may bring about feelings of anxiety or unease. Perhaps, this is because when we were in school, mathematics consisted primarily of timed tests, difficult concepts, and memorization of numerous formulas or algorithms. However, helping children make the effort to learn, understand, apply and appreciate mathematics is more important today than ever before. The increasingly technological and global world in which we live demands strong skills in mathematics, and these demands will only increase over the lifetimes of our children.



As we continue to move forward with the implementation of the Primary Years Program, SCIS teachers are working hard to plan and provide constructive opportunities for students to be challenged and encouraged to think deeply about the mathematics problems they encounter each day. The inquiry based approach that accompanies the implementation of the PYP fully supports the development of mathematically-based 21st century skills, as students are continually encouraged to explore, extend, explain and evaluate their mathematical thinking through open-ended problem solving and questioning. Instead of simply coming up with an answer, students are expected to use a variety of strategies and justify their answer explaining the processes they used. Additionally, referring to the students as mathematicians who are able to reason mathematically and communicate mathematical ideas through talking and writing helps students develop confidence in their mathematical abilities and skills.

As a parent, there are many ways you can support your child with their mathematical development. Below are a few tips for parents taken from the Connected Mathematics Project out of Michigan State University:

- 1. Mathematics is everywhere, yet many children don't see it. Look for ways to point out and reinforce math skills at home. For example:**
 - Talk about how you use math at work or in the home.
 - Involve children in tasks that require computing, measuring, estimating, building, following directions, problem solving and reasoning.
 - Look for activities that require children to use their math skills such as building scale models, cooking, planning trips, and playing logic games.
- 2. Look for games and activities that teach and/or reinforce mathematics and thinking. For example, look for games that:**
 - require and develop skill with mental computation and estimation.
 - require players to use their math skills.
 - involve the development of strategies.
 - require players to think about the probability of certain events occurring.
 - require the use of spatial visualization skills.
 - require logical thinking.
- 3. When you see articles that have data that might interest your children (e.g., sports statistics, or facts about natural disasters), share them and talk about what the numbers mean.**
- 4. Share your problem-solving strategies and techniques, mental computation strategies, and estimation strategies and ask your children teach you some strategies as well. Work on the same problem, then compare strategies as well as answers.**
- 5. Invite your children to explain what was learned in math class or have them teach it to you. It provides an opportunity for children to help clarify their thinking, to practice new skills, and to practice communicating mathematically.**
- 6. If your children have access to a computer, look for software that reinforces and teaches math concepts. Help your children learn to use spreadsheets and graphing programs.**

SCIS-Pudong Campus Summer Kids Camp

Because FUN doesn't need to take a summer break!
Preschool – Grade 5 / June 19 – July 14, 2017



Early Bird Registration now available April 14- May 15

SCIS Pudong Campus is excited to offer a specialized summer camp program consisting of developmentally appropriate activities, designed with the early learner in mind. Our summer camp program is a non-academic, thematic program filled with action packed fun. Our program includes games, sports, outdoor exploration, water play, field trips, art, music & movement, drama, Mandarin language/culture fun, and free play. Children will be provided with various opportunities to work together, play, and have fun with their friends!

Students from the Shanghai community, who will have completed Preschool through Grade 5 during the 2016-2017 school year, are welcome to enroll (Date of birth ranging from June 19, 2014 through November 1, 2005). The program will run from June 19 - July 14, with flexible weekly enrollment options for families with limited availability or travel plans. Both full-day and half-day enrollment options include lunch service and all summer camp activity costs.

Early Bird Registration Forms are available on our website here:
<https://www.scis-his.org/activities/summer-activities>

Please continue checking our website in the coming weeks for more summer camp updates. More detailed information regarding weekly themes and activities will be available soon.