

# LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 3 | September 2, 2016 | Elizabeth Gale

## Important Dates

- **September 5:** Lower School ASA's begin
- **September 6:** PAFA General Meeting
- **September 9:** Greens and Jeans Spirit Day
- **September 10:** Welcome back BBQ
- **September 15:** Mid-Autumn Festival – No School
- **September 30:** United Nations International Day of Peace
- **October 3 – 7:** National Holiday / No School

### Dear Families,

#### Lower School After School

**Activities** will begin on Monday, September 5. If you have any questions regarding your child's after school activity please contact Coach Vic Caban, the ASA Coordinator at [vcaban@scis-china.org](mailto:vcaban@scis-china.org)

**Our United Nations International Day of Peace celebration** will take place on September 30. This wonderful event will include both Upper and Lower School students, as well as our fantastic Parents and Friends Association. Students will be encouraged to wear clothes representative of their home country. Please mark your calendars for this great community celebration.



## Back to School Night Success

*It was wonderful to see so many parents at "Back to School Night." I whole-heartedly believe that strong school - family partnerships are key to student learning and development. Current research on school-community partnerships states, "the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status but the extent to which the student's family is able to:*

1. *Create a home environment that encourages learning.*
2. *Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers.*
3. *Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community."*

*There are countless benefits for children when parents are involved. These include: achievement of better grades, test scores and consistent school attendance. Additionally, children whose parents who are involved in their education tend to have higher levels of self-esteem, more self-discipline and greater levels of motivation.*

*As a school, we benefit tremendously from your involvement. We are able to acquire a better understanding of your family's cultural background and the diversity that makes up our community. As a result, community morale increases and we all have a greater respect for one another. If at any point during the school year you have questions, concerns or feedback you would like to provide please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a wonderful year of learning together.*

*~Liz Gale~  
Lower School Principal*



**The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAPS**

(Measurement of Academic Progress Test) will be administered to students in Grades 2-5 during the last two weeks of September. Students will be tested in the areas of Reading, Language, and Mathematics. More information on the MAPs test will be forthcoming.

Please note the **National Holiday and October Break** will take place on October 3-7. There will be no school during that week.



**“So . . . What is the PYP?”**

*During my career in PYP schools I have been asked this question numerous times by students, parents and teachers new to the program. Simply put, the Primary Years Programme or PYP is a curriculum framework for children ages 3 through 11 that aims to cultivate and nurture inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who aspire to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.*

*The PYP was developed by four international school educators, who collaboratively worked to create an internationally based “best practice” educational curriculum framework targeted for international schools. After many years of development and increasing popularity the “project” was adopted by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Each year the IBO continues to work with schools, governments and international organizations to improve upon the existing challenging program of international education and rigorous assessment.*

*In addition, through the implementation of the PYP, students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand and appreciate difference.*

Next Friday, September 9 will be our first “Greens and Jeans” day of the school year. For those of you who are new, Greens and Jeans Day is a chance for students to show their SCIS Dragon spirit. On this day we encourage students to wear jeans (or appropriate shorts) and the SCIS green t-shirt. All families received the SCIS Green T-Shirt as part of their first school uniform. Additional t-shirts can be purchased at the school store.



Every day SCIS students are engaged in reading throughout the school. This takes a variety of formats including: large group read-alouds, small groups and independent student reading. Developing an early love of reading is a strong predictor for future school success.

