

THE DAIS CURRENT

June 2013

Dalian American International School

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SUMMER IS COMING!

As the 2012-2013 academic year comes to a close, we would like to wish everyone in the DAIS community (students, parents, teachers, and staff) a safe, eventful, and relaxing summer break. Let's take time to reflect on the learning, friendship, camaraderie, challenges, hard work and the many exciting cultural interactions all of us have experienced since the beginning of the school year. Such memories are photographs that can never be lost.

SPRING CONCERTS

Both our elementary and high school divisions recently performed their annual spring concerts. Many thanks are due to our music teachers, Narda Beimond and Tyler Smith, and engineers Trina Roth and Lawrence Jackson. And a well-deserved thank you goes out to all of our talented students who, once again, brought music to our ears and warmth to our hearts.

10
JUNE

MS/HS Discovery Land Trip

12
JUNE

No School - Dragon Boat Festival

15
JUNE

Graduation

18
JUNE

Last Day of School



The DAIS CURRENT is published the second Monday of each month

GOODBYE, AND THANK YOU!



Joseph Rosevear, Trina Roth, Paula Peters-Frampton, Frank Brande, Kay Brande, Barbara Jenn, Jennifer Call, Tim Challis, Agnes Franklin, John Fowler, Vernioica Fowler, Carolyn Meenjane, Cheryl Greenlee, Nancy Shake, Katy Wang...

We take this opportunity to wish our departing DAIS faculty all the best in their exciting new pursuits. While change is a constant in the international school arena, your many, many contributions to our community will last a lifetime.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Recently, two delegations from local Chinese schools visited DAIS. The boys basketball team from the #1 High School in Kaifaqu came to DAIS to play our boys team. Huamei students Wayne Ye and Eveline Pei initiated contact with #1 High School, first visiting the school in-person and later following-up with school administrators in an effort to begin a solid and lasting friendship between the two schools. In the future, we hope to host student and teacher exchanges, and hold a “friendship” ceremony on our DAIS campus. Over 1,100 students currently attend the #1 High School.

Additionally, elementary students from Bu Yun Shan Village School visited Dais. Mr. Li Hong Feng, CEO of Dalian Union Soft, Inc. organized the event to provide a fun day of games, an exchange of gifts, and the opportunity for Chinese students to experience an international school atmosphere (and a western-style hamburger lunch).

These events provide students with the chance to meet others, to share unique school experiences, and to learn about different cultures. They also help DAIS to broaden important relationships within our host country.

SPIRIT WEEK!



MICHAEL AND RONALD



MAX



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and DAIS Friends,

Why does the school conduct a survey every year? When I was asked that question recently, I realized that the process of asking people about what they like and don't like is not a common practice in all parts of the world. To put it simply, we give surveys so our community can tell us how we are doing—both the good things and the things we need to improve. By hearing the various opinions from a wide range of people, we begin to understand how our teaching, our programs, and our decisions are affecting those we serve.

Another question we are asked about surveys is What do you do with the results? The first thing we do is read every survey and determine the important things we should learn. We then share the results with our teachers so they can begin to address areas that need improvement. We also show the results to parents as we did on May 31 to all parents who attended the Parent-School Partnership (PSP) meeting. We show responses to all the questions and we highlight what has gone well and what we can do better.

So, what did we learn from this year's survey? Let me give you a sample of some responses shown at the parent meeting. Overwhelmingly, parents said they felt welcome when they came to school with 96% of parents giving this question a positive rating. Over 90% of parents told us their child has a positive attitude about school. 96% of parents stated that their child feels safe at school. The vast majority of parents said that the school has a clear purpose and mission and that they understand what the school is trying to achieve. Parents also agreed that students were expected to meet high standards.

What do parents want the school to improve? Many stated that the school can improve how instruction is adjusted to meet individual student needs. Just 78% of parents felt the school did this well. Similarly, many parents would like us to improve the frequency with which the school communicates about student progress. Only 73% of parents expressed satisfaction with the frequency of communication in this regard.

Surveying will continue to be an important way we try to make the school better. I wish to thank each parent who took the time to complete a survey. Parent responses to the 31 survey questions will guide us in our improvement efforts in the coming months. The teachers and principals will work hard to keep satisfaction high in areas where parents gave DAIS a good rating. They will give special attention to areas where parents would like us to get better. With parent help, DAIS aims to be a better and better school each year.

Yours in education,

Kurt Nordness, Head of School

ADMISSIONS OFFICE Contact Info

Please call to arrange a tour of our school, or to ask any questions you might have. We look forward to meeting you!

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WELL DONE DAIS COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS!

Brown University
 Claremont McKenna College
 Drexel University
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Georgetown University
 Rennselaer Polytechnic University

L'Institut De'tudes Politiques de Paris
 University of California Davis
 University of California San Diego
 University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 University of Nevada Las Vegas
 University of London: School of Oriental & African Studies

ACCREDITATION FOR HUAMEI ACADEMY

Last month, we received word from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges that our request for accreditation for Huamei Academy has been granted. With this decision, Huamei now joins DAIS as being fully accredited until 2016, at which time we will be eligible for renewal. Accreditation with WASC makes us part of a select group of educational institutions meeting the highest standards of excellence that are recognized and respected around the world. Congratulations to our Board who had the vision to start Huamei Academy three years ago. A heartfelt thank you also goes out to all teachers and staff who make Huamei Academy and Dalian American International School a great place for the future leaders who attend school here every day.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST...



Mission Statement

Dalian American International School provides challenging, collaborative and responsive experiences that engage learners in developing intellect, character, and health. At DAIS, every learner achieves personal excellence and contributes to the global community.