

# THE DAIS CURRENT

March 2013

Dalian American International School

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## DAIS HOSTS KNOWLEDGE BOWL

DAIS recently hosted the ACAMIS Middle School Knowledge Bowl Tournament with competing schools from Beijing and Shenzhen. Seven different teams represented the International School Nanshan Shenzhen, Shekou International School, International School of Beijing, and DAIS. The students answered rapid fire questions on science, literature, math and the arts. All questions were taken from standard middle school curricula. Winning teams were awarded trophies and banners for their schools and individuals received medals acclaiming their position in the rankings. Students challenged themselves and each other and are already looking forward to participating in next year's tournament. The DAIS coaches, Mr. Perez and Mr. Brande, wish to thank our students, our PSP, the volunteer teacher moderators, school administration and staff, and especially our host families who generously welcomed the visiting contestants into their homes.

11-12  
MAR

WASC Accreditation Visit  
Dr. Marilyn George

13-15  
MAR

Beijing Model United Nations Trip

14  
MAR

Early Release Day 1:30/Professional Development

22  
MAR

No School/Professional Development



**PSP Wingo Night - Saturday, March 16th, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

## MUSIC IS MADE IN KOREA

Seven DAIS and Huamei choir students traveled with music teacher Tyler Smith to Busan, South Korea to perform with three hundred others in the International Schools Choral Music Society Gala. Schools from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mongolia and Abu Dhabi also attended. Months of preparation culminated with a stirring all-student performance of Brahms Requiem. “For our students to perform at this caliber event, at their age, is a profound and rare opportunity,” said Mr. Smith. Students attending were Sabrina Pei, Dharma Langham, Sedona Herding, Luce Yuan, Julia Li, Rikki Wu, and Fridah Zhang.



## NEW GLOBAL STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS

In 2011, Dr. Terrell Neuage, DAIS secondary technology teacher, contacted the British Council--an organization that creates international opportunities for and helps build trust between countries--about their International School Award Program. The Program provides recognition for students and teachers working to instill a global dimension into their learning experiences. Today, six DAIS teachers are involved with collaborative and curriculum-based classroom projects with other international schools in India, England, and Scotland. These projects include classroom work in English language

learning, video production, solar energy, and creative writing. And more will follow. Students have routinely used Skype for these interactions. One project with The Heritage School in West Bengal, India is a whole school activity where students share work in six subject areas via letters, photographs, artwork, and handcrafts. The DAIS school mission emphasizes the importance of student contributions “to the global community.” These projects support our mission and, according to the British Council, “promote an international ethos that, in time, can be embedded throughout participating schools.



INTERNATIONAL DAY IS COMING...SATURDAY, APRIL 13



THE HUAMEI ACADEMY



**MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR**

This week we host a visit by Dr. Marilyn George from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in California. WASC accreditation along with our accreditation from the Council of International Schools in the Netherlands, ensures that courses taken by high school students will transfer to other high schools and universities in the U.S. and in Europe. For example, the San Diego Public Schools, Stanford University, Berkeley and many other prestigious schools are accredited by WASC and give credit for coursework from other accredited schools. Since July 2011, Dalian American International School has also been accredited by WASC.



Dr. Marilyn George

We now seek to bring the same accreditation status to Huamei Academy. Huamei is distinct from DAIS in many ways. Their students are exclusively Chinese. They have their own teachers and administrative team. They have programs and courses that fit the unique needs of our Chinese students. They have their own student government, unique student events and activities, and distinct focus on China. However, the Huamei Academy works very closely with DAIS as they share the same facilities, have a common curriculum, and provide some common professional development training to their teaching staffs. Additionally, students from both high schools participate on sports teams together, attend Model United Nations together, and forge friendships with one another. Indeed, the partnership between Huamei Academy and Dalian American International School has drawn us closer even as both maintain their own unique qualities.

We thank Dr. George for visiting and evaluating the Huamei program this week. We look forward to support from WASC as we work to make both DAIS and Huamei Academy student-centered schools recognized for their quality programming by other institutions around the world.

Yours, in education,  
Kurt Nordness

**ADMISSIONS OFFICE NEWS**

Enrollment planning for next year is moving forward. Part of that planning is to ensure that we provide adequate supplies/staffing to serve next year's DAIS student body. In early April, you will receive a formal 2013-2014 Re-Enrollment Contract and Fee Schedule that will detail our offer of re-enrollment for your child(ren).

We've reached out to parents via e-mail asking for an indication of your re-enrollment status. About half of have generously responded. Thank you! We'll send out one more e-mail this week. Please reply promptly if you haven't yet done so, or call us directly at the numbers below. Your responses are confidential and appreciated.

PH: (86-411) 8757 2000

FAX: (86-411) 8791 5656

E-mail: [admissions@daischina.org](mailto:admissions@daischina.org)

Sean Fagan -- Admissions Coordinator ext. 203

Lisha Li -- Admissions Associate ext. 506



## DAIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strategic planning identified English language learning at DAIS as a critical strategic objective. With a school population that comprises more than twenty-six nationalities, developing and implementing ELL strategies and supports that accelerate English language learning across all divisions is of paramount importance. Recognizing this, the school's Management Board has approved an early release day (Thursday, March 14) to support continuous ELL professional development of our teachers. Teacher-led ELL workshops will focus on pre-assessment, formative assessment and adaptation of content.

A core group of ELL teachers has been preparing this professional development training by attending multiple coaching sessions before and after school. The day will begin with a whole faculty introduction, with the remainder of the day targeting the above-mentioned areas of focus. Teachers will have the opportunity to rotate through all three workshops.

In the first, they will learn strategies to better assess what students already know, understand, and are able to do. These strategies enable teachers to address new learning and specific learning differences among students. Appropriate goals can then be made for all learners. Another workshop will address multiple ways to monitor student learning, introducing techniques that can be used by teachers and students. These techniques provide immediate feedback to help students and teachers make the necessary adjustments to meet goals. The third workshop will focus on new strategies to adjust lessons to better meet the needs of students. These strategies allow students to study the same concept while receiving instructional support appropriate to their learning profile.

This ELL professional development coincides with on-going curriculum work on unit planning and development. Together, these initiatives will allow faculty to improve instruction and more effectively meet the needs of all DAIS learners.



## 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.