

THE DAIS CURRENT

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Dalian American International School

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EARTH DAY AT DAIS

DAIS recently celebrated “Earth Day” here on campus. The entire school participated, joining representatives from “Thirst,” an organization dedicated to improving young people’s awareness of the world water crisis. “Thirst is committed to changing attitudes and encouraging new behaviors when it comes to water scarcity and other environmental issues,” said Mina Guli, founder and CEO of the Beijing-based water advocacy group. “Today was a fantastic opportunity to engage and excite these younger ones about water.” Dr. Baldwin’s Environmental Studies class initiated and organized the full day event, which included student-led environmental skits and presentations dedicated to educating our community about the precarious state of some the world’s resources. Earth Day culminated with our students and staff forming a water dragon on the DAIS sports field to emphasize and illustrate the importance of water education and conservation. “The greatest thing about the DAIS Earth Day project,” said Dr. Baldwin, “is that events don’t end today. We plan to make stewardship of our planet a continuing theme through our recycling program, meat free Mondays, environmental scavenger hunts and a variety of other environmental activities. Students at the Dalian American International School are serious and dedicated when it comes to taking care of our planet.”

16
MAY Elementary School Concert

24
MAY Art Night

28
MAY Secondary School Concert

31
MAY Huamei Talent Show



The DAIS CURRENT is published the second Monday of each month

BEIJING ACAMIS SOCCER TOURNEY



Our DAIS boys and girls soccer teams recently travelled to Beijing to compete in the ACAMIS Gold Division High School soccer tournament. Both teams played spirited and competitive matches against other international schools. Our boys team was awarded with the ACAMIS Sportsmanship Award for their fair play and respectful tournament participation. Competing schools included Hangzhou International School, Harrow International School of Beijing, The International School of Macao, Hong Kong Academy, British School of Beijing, and the International School Nanshan Shenzhen. Thank you coaches Veazey and Meeanjane, and to athletic director Seavey.

5TH GRADERS ROCK WITH QR CODES



DAIS

Originally designed for industrial uses, QR Codes have become common in consumer advertising. Students in Mr. Challis's Grade 5 technology class have been working very hard this year to showcase their educational achievements through the creation of their digital portfolios. They were also looking for a way for others to access their work. What better way than to create a QR Code which links back to their digital portfolio URL? Thanks to their parents, who allowed them to have a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) day, students learned how to download a QR Code reader, create their own

QR Code, and then scan each other's code. If you have a QR code reader on your smart phone, you can scan the 5th graders QR codes currently posted outside of Mr. Challis's classroom on the first floor and see their digital portfolios. They are so proud of their work. If you do not have a QR Code reader on your smart phone, you can download the free app called QRReader. Then try scanning our DAIS QR code on the left. Thank you, Mr. Challis!

MS. FOWLER AT EARTH DAY



THE HUAMEI ACADEMY



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR - KURT NORDNESS

VERY GOOD AND GETTING BETTER – A continuous commitment to improve our international school is our goal. We aspire to be a school where students get the best education possible and families have their needs met. We take this goal seriously. To achieve the goal we have taken three significant steps.

The first was inviting three highly-respected accreditation agencies to examine us thoroughly. As you may know, in the spring of 2011, examiners from around the world spent several weeks studying our school records and procedures. These examiners then traveled to DAIS and spent a week speaking with parents, students, and teachers. We were gratified when each of these three agencies granted us full accreditation. These agencies were the Council of International Schools from Europe, the Western Association of Colleges and Schools from the United States, and the National Center for Curriculum and Textbook Development here in China.

The second step toward improving our school has been underway since last school year. It is the process we call strategic planning. In December 2011, Mr. Harlan Lyso—a noted international school consultant and former head of school—facilitated five days of meetings to decide steps to make our school better. The first objective of this “visionary” exercise was to create a single school-wide guiding plan/document that would serve as the school’s road-map to a improved future. We examined our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and then created eleven initiatives meant to help the school improve. The first four initiatives that we have worked on this year are curriculum; school-wide learning goals; the program for English language learners, and teacher training and growth. Great progress has been made in each area. Next year we will work to improve two additional areas of the school.

A third way we try to get better is by asking our parents, students, and teachers what we need to improve. We have been doing this through a survey every year. The survey asks our community their opinion about the quality of education, safety, and other programs. We even ask for level of satisfaction about bus service and school lunch. As a result of suggestions from last year’s survey, the school did a major re-modeling of the elementary cafeteria so the food could be served more efficiently and that it stayed hot throughout the entire lunch period. We have seen a significant rise in the number of students who eat school lunch, thanks to these changes. This is but one example of many improvements the school has made this year as a result of community feedback.

Dalian American International School is a very good school. With the help of our accreditation agencies, our ongoing improvement plans, and regular feedback from our community, we can become a great school. Thank you to all--parents, students, and teachers--who are helping DAIS improve.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE Contact Info

We look forward to meeting you!

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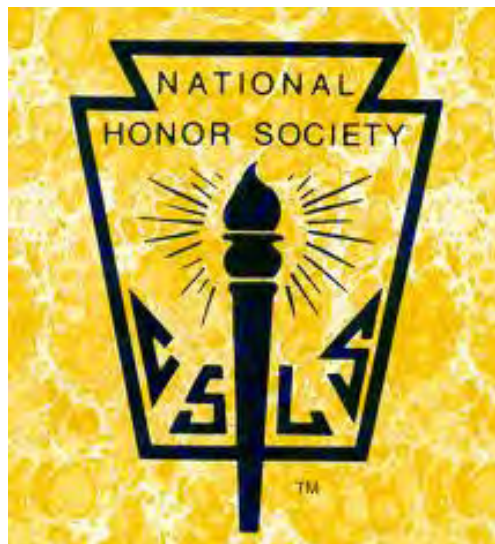
INTRODUCING THE DAIS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Golden Pebble Chapter of the National Honor Society is coming to DAIS! The National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of “Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.” Founded in the United States in 1921, NHS has grown into an international organization of more than one million students, whose members are recognized by colleges as students of high merit.

Students are nominated for NHS based upon their academic achievement, having earned a minimum GPA of 3.9. After nomination, students wishing to become members submit a candidate form to a faculty council who determines selection based upon a rigorous set of criteria. Besides the minimum GPA, criteria for selection includes at least 15 hours of community service, documented leadership experience, teacher evaluations and demonstration of character through the school’s core values of Respect, Responsibility and Integrity.

The successful candidates will join an elite organization that engages in service to both the local and global community. The Golden Pebble Chapter will conduct group and individual service projects that will benefit both DAIS and the Jinshitan community. Our inaugural induction ceremony will be held here at DAIS in September of 2013. This is an exciting “first” for our school that recognizes student academic achievement, service, leadership and strength of character--and is appropriately aligned with the DAIS mission of achieving “personal excellence” and contributing “to the global community.”

A special thank you to DAIS Counselor Ann Nordness for initiating and bringing to fruition this distinguished affiliation.



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.