

The DAIS CURRENT DC

November 2013

Volume 14, Issue 14

Dalian American International School



HALLOWEEN THRILLER AT DAIS

Costumes, games, snacks, dancing, fun, fright, and enthusiasm were all in abundance at the annual DAIS Halloween celebration. Students, families, and faculty joined together to organize an exciting afternoon and evening of ghoulish activities. A special thank you goes out to our Parent Student Partnership (PSP) and Campus Village staff whose contributions made this memory-making event a reality. And a special thank you to our high school students who manned the many booths (piñata, ring-tossing, football-throwing and many more) which provided so much enjoyment for the crowd. We can't wait until next year!



15
NOV

DAIS HOSTS MODEL UN CONFERENCE

21
NOV

EARLY RELEASE DAY
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

21
NOV

HUAMEI SPEECH CONTEST

28
NOV

STAFF THANKSGIVING MEAL
HUNGRY SCHOLAR CAFE



OPEN MIC NIGHT A HIT!

Music teacher, Tyler Smith, spearheaded the first “Open Mic” event of the academic year. Held in the lobby of Campus Village on a Friday evening, students—ranging in age from Kindergarten to the 12th grade—performed their acts to an enthusiastic audience. “Kids love to perform in a low-key, friendly environment. They love to perform with their friends and they love to hear the audience applause. They get a great big boost from performing, some for the very first time.” Tyler hopes to hold more Open Mic events in the future.



BOOK WEEK BONANZA!

The week of November 4-8 was Book Week for DAIS, a celebration to promote literacy and a love of reading. Children learn an average of 4,000 to 12,000 new words each year as a result of book reading (Scholastic: Classroom Libraries Work!). Learning new words is just one part of becoming a truly literate individual. Comprehension also plays an important role in building life-long readers. Students in elementary, middle, high, and Huamei all participated. As well as themed dress-up days, elementary classes had guest readers each day (thanks students, moms, and teachers!)

of the week. Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and literacy development and, later on, achievement in reading comprehension and overall success. Research found that fifth-grade students spent only 5.4 percent of their out-of-school free time engaged in reading, and 23 percent of them chose not to read at all (Greaney). Throughout the week, DAIS classes read over 900 total minutes. This was calculated as minutes read per class, but if we counted individual minutes read during an average week at DAIS, the total would be over 5,000 minutes. That’s a lot of reading! Our week culminated in a Book Week Assembly where every student donned a homemade Cat in the Hat hat. A great, literacy focused week was had by all! Thank you, Ms. Losch!



MS. ONEIL’S ART



THE HUAMEI ACADEMY



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Dear Members of the DAIS/Huamei Community:

You may recall that in August of this school year, Dr. Kurt Nordness announced that he would be leaving DAIS in June 2014 after serving the school as Head of School since 2009. Since that time, the DAIS Management Board and International Schools Services (ISS) based in Princeton, New Jersey in the United States have conducted a world-wide search for a new Head of School. The selection process began in early September and stretched until last week. The thorough screening process that included interviews with twenty candidates makes us confident that we have selected the best candidate to lead the school through its next phase of development.



Terry Wolfson

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Terry Wolfson will become the new Head of School at DAIS/Huamei as of August 2014. Ms. Wolfson has extensive experience as a school administrator. She is currently in her first year at Dalian American International School serving as the Principal for DAIS High School and Middle School. Prior to coming to China, Ms. Wolfson was the Principal of the American International School in Cyprus for three years where she had school-wide responsibility for the educational programming of grades Kindergarten-Grade 12. Ms. Wolfson has also been a school administrator in the United States. For over twenty years, she was the Middle School Principal at West Junior High School in Minnetonka, Minnesota, a school with over 1000 students. She has also been an adjunct college professor of literacy leadership at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Before that, Ms. Wolfson was a teacher in suburban Chicago, Illinois and in Los Angeles, California.

Over the coming months, Ms. Wolfson will work closely with Dr. Nordness and the Management Board to ensure a smooth and strong transition of leadership. Ms. Wolfson will assist with the hiring of new teachers and will be part of this year's work to achieve the short and long term goals of the school with the faculty and staff at DAIS. It is our good fortune to have Ms. Wolfson right at our site as she prepares for her new responsibilities as Head of School. Her expertise in many facets of school operation and leadership will serve DAIS well in the coming years.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Terry Wolfson as the new Head of School starting in August 2014.

Sincerely,

Lisa Liang
Chairperson of the School Management Board

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

We recognize that families arrive in Dalian/DDA throughout the year and DAIS will accept applications on a "rolling" basis. Please contact our Admissions Office for more information and to schedule a tour of our school. If your child is leaving our school, a minimum of 30 calendar days written notice is required. This information is vital to our enrollment planning. We look forward to meeting you!

PH: (86-411) 8757 2000

FAX: (86-411) 8791 5656

E-mail: admissions@daischina.org

Sean Fagan -- Admissions Director ext. 203

Lisha Li -- Admissions Associate ext. 506



DAIS INDUCTS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

In an evening ceremony dedicated to academic achievement and service in the community, twelve DAIS and Huamei Academy students were formally inducted into the new DAIS chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Established in the United States in 1921, the NHS honors those students who “have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.” Dr. William Steenkamp, an ISOS physician here on campus, spoke to the audience of students, parents, and faculty about the importance of helping others, noting his own volunteer activities providing medical assistance to the needy in times of crisis.

NHS membership “recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.” Our students are poised to accept that challenge. “It won’t end here,” remarked Huamei Academy senior Alicia Lan. “I will continue my service wherever I go.”



1st Row: Julia Li, Lily Lin, Jenny Wang, Shreya Singh, Alicia Lan, Vivian Wang
2nd Row: Jiho Shin, Colleen Qiu, Johnny Choi, Michael Liang, Ronald Yang, Wayne Ye

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.