

The DAIS CURRENT

September 2013

Dalian American International School

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WELCOME BACK DAIS!

On Thursday, August 15th, new and returning students and families began the 2013-2014 academic year at DAIS. Arriving in cars, vans, on bicycles, scooters and on foot, the corridors and classrooms were soon filled with 375 students, representing some 25 countries, eagerly anticipating the new year. Head of School Dr. Kurt Nordness, divisional principals Terry Wolfson (Secondary), Suzanne Loughran (Elementary), Maureen McCoy (Huamei Academy), faculty & staff excitedly greeted the students and families. DAIS and the Huamei Academy at DAIS share a mission that “...provides challenging, collaborative, responsive experiences that engage learners in developing intellect, character, and health.” These experiences, and our students desire to contribute and learn, will help shape a unique learning community where “every learner achieves personal excellence and contributes to the global community.”

12
SEP Parent Teacher Conference - Early Release

13
SEP Parent Teacher Conference - No School

19
SEP Mid Autumn Festival - No School

20
SEP PSP Family Fun Night



DAIS SPORT AND TEAM SPORTS ROUNDUP

Athletic Director Joe Seavey and physical education teachers Ray Ackenbom and Matt Losch are leading the DAIS physical education and team sport programming for 2013-2014. This year, DAIS is proud to once again host the ACAMIS Gold Level Soccer Tournament here on campus in April. Twelve teams will compete over the course of the four day tournament. Before that, our volleyball and basketball teams will also see action against both ACAMIS and several regional teams. Team sport players will have the opportunity to travel and participate in ACAMIS tournament play. Meanwhile, our PE classes (pre-k thru 12) are taking full advantage of our DAIS facilities and the fine weather to pursue their fitness and health goals.



PSP NEWS



New DAIS Parent Student Partnership (PSP) President, Katuska Montes, and other PSP members are busy planning another year of engaging activities and events that help support the DAIS community. Katuska, originally from Venezuela, has two children attending DAIS; Nicole (6th) and Sebastian (pre-k). Her husband, Carlos, also from Venezuela, is a Goodyear employee. This is their 3rd year at the school and Katuska has been involved in PSP for two of those years. The PSP organization partners with the school to host events such as the upcoming Family Fun Night (September 20th), Bingo

Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, and International Day. They have also supported the school with generous cash donations, providing much needed funding to help augment the purchase of our athletic field lighting and various student trips. Katuska and her team (including seven new members!) are very proud of the work the PSP has done to date, and look forward to continuing that work on behalf of the DAIS community.



MS. SKIPPER'S FIRST GRADE



THE HUAMEI ACADEMY



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear DAIS Families,

Welcome to the new school year, 2013-2014! We are happy to have 115 new students join 260 returning students. We also welcome 20 new teachers who join 38 returning teachers. It is wonderful to have so many new parents who are part of our school, as well. I hope to meet each and every parent this year and I invite you to introduce yourself the next time you visit school.

There are two special events I hope you will consider attending at school in the coming days. On Thursday and Friday, September 12 and 13, we ask that you come to school for student-parent-teacher conferences. This is a time for your child to set goals for the year and get feedback from their parent and teachers about what those goals should be. You are also invited to a school event on Friday, September 20. For the second year in a row, our parent organization, the Parent-School Partnership (PSP) has organized a family fun night. Similar to last year, the event will include a picnic style meal, time for kids to play on the soccer field, and give parents the chance to reconnect with old friends or the chance to meet new friends.

I also wish to congratulate one of our students, eleventh grader Shreya Singh. Shreya and her classmates in the environmental studies program have been working in close alliance with the non-governmental organization called THIRST. This organization is dedicated to developing youth leaders who spread awareness and take action to ensure we preserve our fresh water resources. THIRST is an affiliate of the World Economic Forum which will meet in Dalian this month with business leaders from around the globe. At a special ceremony at THIRST's Beijing office last evening, September 9, Shreya was honored for her work and for a collection of songs she composed and recorded that highlight world-wide water issues. It was my honor to join Shreya and her parents as she received this special recognition. Congratulations to Shreya and her classmates for their important work.

This promises to be another exciting year. After-school activities will soon be in full swing. New school buildings will be built this year. In April, we will host a soccer tournament with international school teams from around the region. And, there will be much, much more. Be sure to read your DAIS Current each month to keep informed of all the school news. To one and all, have a wonderful month!



Kurt Nordness
Director, Ed. D.

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Like most international schools, DAIS and The Huamei Academy welcome applications throughout the academic year. We recognize that families often arrive in the Dalian area during the academic year and we are happy to arrange school visits, schedule required admission testing, and answer any questions you may have. 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. For more information, please contact our admissions department using the contact information below. 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



APPLIED STUDIES CLASS LEADS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS EFFORTS

By Shreya Singh, Vivian Wang and Jenny Wang

The Applied Environmental Studies Class is a self-directed class where students create and pursue projects that benefit the school community and environment. The Beach Cleanup and Earth Day have been two big events organized by the class. The Beach Cleanup is an annual effort to clean the trash debris on the Golden Pebble Beach and raise awareness among the students regarding the surrounding environment. Earth Day is celebrated worldwide every April 22nd and DAIS also decided to celebrate the day with our community. It was filled with activities and events to educate students about environmental issues. Students educated their peers by performing skits about paper waste, pollution, electronic waste, and deforestation. The Recycling Program was also introduced and launched on Earth day and for the first time a non-government organization (NGO) called THIRST, which focuses on raising awareness about the water crisis, joined the celebration.



Leaders of the Paper Recycling Group organized the development of the DAIS Recycling Program. These students actively communicated with administration, principals, teachers and students, and ultimately met with the CEO of a local recycling company. The program is in full operation with aluminum cans, plastic bottles and paper being recycled. Students continue to support the project by picking up the recycled materials and are trying to raise student awareness about the need to recycle. The class continues to branch out and work on many other diverse projects in our community. Students have organized a committee to monitor trash to make sure that food wastes are not contaminated with other wastes as part of an organic waste recycling program. They have worked to change the cafeteria from plastic dinnerware to silverware and have branched out to look at energy and water usage in the entire school and community. These Applied Studies students continue to have a positive impact on our environment and are making this community a better place to live.

DAIS 2013-2014 Faculty & Staff



Mission Statement

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At DAIS, every learner achieves personal excellence and contributes to the global community.