

The DAIS CURRENT

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Dalian American International School

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INTERNATIONAL DAY IS COMING...

Did you know that more than 21 countries make up our International community here at Dalian American International School? Which is why the school's annual International Day means so much to our community.

Saturday, April 12 the DAIS Parent School Partnership (PSP), DAIS staff and Huamei Academy host the annual International Day. From 1-4:30, parents, teachers, students and community members will have a chance to learn about all the different countries that make up DAIS. Country booths will line around the gymnasium showcasing their country's heritage, customs, costumes, food and more. Students will get a "passport" and visit the different booths for a stamp. All completed "passports" can earn a special prize from the "immigration booth." Various musical performances and student work will be highlighted throughout the day.

This event is free and open to all students and their families. After the event, come join your friends for a barbeque dinner (for a nominal fee) from 4-6pm at the Campus Café. We appreciate the generous volunteers who are giving their time and creativity to make this event a success. If you aren't already involved, we encourage you to do so by contacting the PSP International Day chairs Kristin Taylor-Foley at ktaylor_foley@me.com or Jian Xu at jianxu98@hotmail.com

12 MAR Early Release -- Faculty Staff Development 1:30 pm

14 MAR DAIS Knowledge Bowl Tournament

15-16 MAR ACAMIS Conference

21 MAR Community Time at DAIS -- 3:00





BASKETBALL TEAMS RETURN WITH TROPHIES

At the recent ACAMIS Gold Division basketball tournament held in Hong Kong, both our girls and boys teams returned with awards. The girl’s team, led by MVP Yolanda Chen, played spirited defense throughout the tournament against very experienced teams. The boy’s team, led by MVPs Kevin Liang and Kevin Dai, made it to the championship final--losing to The International School of Macau, but winning five games in the process. Their 2nd place finish was DAIS’s best ACAMIS tournament finish to date. Both teams received the tournament “Sportsmanship” awards—voted on by team coaches—for demonstrating the highest level of competitive spirit, respect for others, and positive attitude.

“It was all about experience for us,” remarked girl’s coach Ray Ackenbom. “This was the first tournament play for all of our players. We’ll build on their positive experience and grow the program.”

Boy’s coach Mike Fowler praised his teams play. “We made a great run, all the way to the championship. We have talented players passionate about basketball. They practice hard and work together. It was a pleasure to coach these students and see them succeed.”



STUDENT EFFORT RECOGNIZED

DAIS provides “challenging, collaborative, responsive experiences that engage learners...” Recently, Johnny Choi (11th grade) was challenged by the PSP (his client) with creating the International Day logo that appears on our front cover. Currently studying in Ms. O’Neil’s Intro to Design class, Johnny utilized his skills and initiative to create a professional quality logo that speaks directly to our international community.

MRS. PEREZ IN CLASS



HUAMEI AT WORK



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and DAIS Friends,

If we could look into a crystal ball and see the future of DAIS and Huamei Academy, it might include some of the same things our School Board has built into the business plan for the schools, including:

- Financially stable programs, sustainable well into the future
- Expanded educational opportunities for all students that improve every year
- New buildings including an elementary school and teacher apartment building
- A continued international-only program for elementary students
- An expanded Huamei program for Chinese secondary students

These and other important topics were discussed at a meeting of the Parent-School Partnership (PSP) on February 21st. The discussion indicated that there are:

- √ Smaller numbers of native English-speaking students than in the past.
- √ A growing number of second-language students, including Chinese students, and a school responsibility to meet the varied needs of these students.
- √ Opportunities for teachers to learn differentiated instruction strategies for students who speak English as an additional language, and a school commitment to continue and expand teacher training in this area.
- √ Some of the best and brightest Chinese secondary students from the region coming to our campus, a number of who have been accepted by top universities in the U.S.
- √ A steadily growing number of students and a revenue stream that ensures greater course offerings, small class sizes, competitive teacher compensation packages (to attract the best teachers), and the resources to keep expanding the facilities on our campus.

DAIS provides an exemplary education to its students. We belong to a number of respected worldwide organizations who require us to meet the highest standards of continuous improvement and quality educational programming. These include: three esteemed accreditation agencies—WASC, CIS, and NCCT, the U.S.-based International Schools Services, the Association of Chinese and Mongolian International Schools, East Asia Council of Schools, and College Board. To maintain our good standing in these organizations we are required to meet each organization's rigorous standards of quality.

We wish to thank all parents who took the time to attend this recent meeting and we thank the Parent-School Partnership for hosting. PSP kept minutes of the meeting, and all members of our parent community are welcome to receive a copy of the minutes. Simply send an email to DAIS Executive Assistant Snow Bai (snow.bai@daischina.org) requesting a copy.

In peace and education,
Kurt Nordness
Head of School



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TRENDS

The International Educator recently reported that “The global international schools market is predicted to see yet more significant growth... especially in East and Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Parts of South America (such as Brazil) also have great potential.” What is different from the past (when expats accounted for the majority of spots in international schools) is that “80 percent of the demand for places at international schools now comes from wealthy local parents who want their children to receive a quality, English speaking education in order to access the best options for university and higher education.” The International School Consultancy Group (ISC) indicates “that by the end of this year there will be 7,200 international schools teaching over 3.7 million students using English as the language for learning.”



IMPORTANT PSP ANNOUNCEMENT***

The March 21 Parent Student Partnership meeting has been cancelled as so many parents are busy working on International Day festivities. Thanks to those who came to our Town Hall meeting last month. For a copy of those minutes, please email snow.bai@daischina.org. Our next PSP meeting will be Friday April 25 at 1:45pm.

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.