

# The DAIS CURRENT

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Dalian American International School



## WELCOME TO ALL

DAIS and the Huamei Academy at DAIS opened the 2014-2015 academic year with 431 enrolled students (last year's opening day number was 373). There are 228 (grades PK-12) DAIS students and 203 (grades 7-12) Huamei Academy students. We also welcomed 21 new faculty members to our learning community.

It has been a busy school year so far. The Parent Student Partnership (PSP) organized the Family Fun Night held on August 29th. Students, parents, staff and faculty were treated to a great evening of fun activities and delicious food. It was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues after the summer break.

Middle and high school students enjoyed their annual "Beach Extravaganza" on Friday, September 5th. With the fabulous weather cooperating, our student government worked closely with faculty and administration to organize this fun-filled, activity-rich team building afternoon.

Thanks to all of those who have made this year's opening of school a successful one!

8-13  
SEP Charles Gregory -- ISS Contract Executive Visit

24  
SEP Early Release -- Professional Development

29  
SEP No school -- Fall Break Begins



2013-2014 ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program--created and maintained by the US based College Board organization--offers DAIS high school students college-level coursework and assessment. Selective colleges and university admissions officers look very closely at high school coursework. Did the applicant challenge themselves by taking the most rigorous coursework available to them at their high school? They often grant credit to accepted students who obtain high scores on AP examinations. DAIS currently offers 14 AP courses. Participating in the program enables our students to acquire the academic skills and habits required for college and university success. And achievement to date indicates that DAIS students are receiving a high-quality, rigorous educational experience. Some DAIS AP highlights:



	2012	2013	2014
• AP Scholars With Distinction	2	4	8
• AP International Diplomas	1	0	5
• Total AP Scholars	9	13	21

TEAM SPORTS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION ROUNDUP



New DAIS Athletic Director, Matt Losch, has been busy preparing for future ACAMIS tournament play in volleyball, basketball and soccer. We currently compete in the Gold Division of ACAMIS (Association of Chinese & Mongolian International Schools). The volleyball (fall) team will travel to Macau for their tournament, while the basketball (winter) and soccer (spring) teams will travel to Beijing for their tournaments. In PE, Matt expects that the pool will be used by all grades (PK-12) this year in their PE classes. There will be a number of other great activities in PE this year, including badminton, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and soccer, just to name a few.

MISS MILLER'S GRADE 4

HUAMEI ACADEMY



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR -- TERRY WOLFSON



After a long career as a middle school principal in the state of Minnesota in the US and as principal of the American International School in Cyprus before coming to DAIS as secondary principal, it is an honor to have been selected as the new Head of School of DAIS and Huamei Academy. I often reflect on what is the difference between a good school and a great school. DAIS has many of the characteristics of a good school. We have hard working students who are eager to achieve their very best. Our families are committed to providing a supportive environment in which their children can learn and grow. I am proud of our teachers who I consider to be All-World, each providing our students with challenging and engaging learning opportunities. But, what is it that makes a good school great? In a great school, an ethos of reflection and continual improvement are also apparent. Good teaching and best practices are not found in isolation but permeate the school in every classroom, every day, for every student. At DAIS, it is our strategic priorities that drive our school improvement process.

In December of 2011 members of the Honor Roll Company, DAIS administration, faculty and staff—facilitated by noted international school consultant, Harlan Lyso—convened five days of strategic planning. Then Head of School, Dr. Kurt Nordness, noted that the strategic planning process would be an important component to the “continuous commitment to improve our international school.” Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were closely examined. The meetings were instrumental in identifying critical issues facing the school and creating strategic initiatives to address them. Prioritizing initiatives (the Systematic Development of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, creation of School-wide Learning Goals and enhancements to our English Language Learners program were the first critical issues addressed), creating committees, soliciting input and gathering data are critical to formulating corresponding Strategic Action Plans. The actions plans—one for each initiative—include “indicators of success” which are created and used to measure their progress.

In the next few months, I plan to focus on each of the initiatives that directly impact learning that is taking place in our classrooms. Be sure to check back in October to find out more about the Systematic Development of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

## ADMISSIONS CORNER

We welcome prospective families and students to visit our school throughout the year. Come and see what makes DAIS the first choice international school for ex-pat families in the Dalian/DDA area.

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

Sean Fagan -- Admissions Director

Dan Xu -- Admissions Associate

ext. 203

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### COLLEGE COUNSELING CORNER

Ruth Laney and Dan Gould head up our student counseling/college counseling office. Ruth is responsible for the Huamei Academy at DAIS and Dan is responsible for DAIS. This year they will utilize Naviance in their efforts—a software platform that offers “a comprehensive college and career readiness solution for middle and high school students that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals.” Dan says, “It’s a great tool for kids to help identify their strengths and interests. It really helps align their academic goals and college eligibility.” With forty-three seniors comprising the DAIS and Huamei 12th grades, the Naviance platform is a powerful resource and a timely investment in our students future. Ruth and Dan also assist with scheduling, report cards, university transcript requests and serve as guides and mentors to students as they work to pursue academic and personal excellence.



### PSP FAMILY FUN NIGHT



### BEACH EXTRAVAGANZA



**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.