

The DAIS CURRENT DC

December 2015

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Dalian American International School



Model United Nations

Anna Harding, Secondary Teacher

84 students participated in DAIS 7th Annual MUN conference held on November 27th. Twenty-one students from Dalian Maple Leaf and 17 eighth graders from both International and Huamei divisions joined our growing MUN Applied Studies students. The students experienced many moments of personal growth and increased their listening, speaking, and debate skills as they worked together and debated over real issues the United Nation faces. The committees and topics were: General Assembly 3rd Committee: Alleviating Violent Actions between the Hungarian Border Police and Syrian Refugees and Improving Medical Response for Epidemic Diseases such as MERS in the Middle East; Disarmament Commission: Preventing Proliferation of Nuclear Power in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Economic and Social Council: Preventing Future Drug Trafficking in West Africa; and Historical Security Council: Demilitarization of the "provisional military demarcation line" in Vietnam War.

21-8 DEC-JAN	Winter Holiday
15-16 JAN	Shanghai CISSMUN (Model United Nations)
22 JAN	MS Kids Read (in Nanjing)
23 JAN	Secondary School Ski Trip to Anbo Mountain
27-31 JAN	ISCMS (Music Festival) in Zhuhai
28-31 JAN	Basketball @ ISNS
29-31 JAN	LEGO League Competition in Shanghai





DAIS/Huamei Academy Accreditation - Five-Year Review

It's hard to believe that within a few weeks of our return from the winter break, one half of the school year will have already been completed. As I assume is the case with many of you, I find the busier I am the faster time seems to fly. Packed full of exciting events, 2016 is on target to soar!

During the month of April alone, DAIS is scheduled to host the Association of Chinese and Mongolian International Schools (ACAMIS) Gold Division Girls and Boys Soccer Tournament; the biggest school community event of the school year, International Day; and the Mid-cycle Accreditation Review of our school program.

Accredited jointly by the Council of International Schools (CIS), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Center for Curriculum and Textbook Development (NCCT), the mid-cycle, five-year review, is scheduled to occur April 19-22. Originally accredited in 2011, representatives from all three organizations will visit DAIS to review our five-year development since the initial accreditation and comment on our future goals, action plans and direction. Led by Accreditation Chairs, Elementary School Principal, Suzanne Loughran, and Secondary School Teacher and Curriculum Specialist, Michael Baldwin, numerous faculty and staff are involved in this most important process. The areas to be reviewed from the initial accreditation in 2011 include: Philosophy and Objectives; Elementary Curriculum and Secondary Curriculum; Governance and Management; Student Support Services; and Students and Community Life, China Context. As this work continues into the spring, look for opportunities to take a look at and respond to the strategic priorities that will lead us into the next five years.

Wishing you and your family the very best for this holiday season and to all of you, a most happy and healthy 2016.

Terry Wolfson, Head of School



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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DAIS ATHLETICS

Boys Basketball

The boys traveled to Shenyang to play in a small tournament against SYIS, SPIA, LNSY. The DAIS A team came out of the tournament with a 3-0 record and two hard fought victories over SYIS and SPIA. The DAIS B team improved immensely over their 3 games in the tournament.



Girls Basketball

The girls traveled to Shenyang to play three games vs. SYIS and left with three victories.



The teams will be traveling to Shenzhen at the end of January for the ACAMIS Sports League yearly tournament.

Michael Felker, Athletics Director

HM Speech Contest

The 4th Annual Haumei Speech Contest concluded with great success at the Campus Village Lobby on November 19, 2015. Fifteen Huamei students participated and delivered prepared speeches. Some were entertaining; others were inspiring and thought-provoking. The speech topics were:

- 1) Does responsibility for a sustainable future lie with individuals or governments?
- 2) If women ruled the world
- 3) Planning is better than spontaneity for a safe life; spontaneity is better than planning for a fulfilling life.
- 4) Our future.
- 5) Effective Leadership.

The Advanced Choir kicked off the event with a repertoire of contemporary songs. Huamei student, Darcy Chen, provided musical interludes in between the speeches. The audiences left with a strong impression of the high quality of the speeches.

Trophies were awarded to the following contestants:

1st Place: *David Zhou*

2nd Place: *Wendy Xu*

3rd Place: *Lucy Xu*

Most Humorous Speech: *Max Wu*

Most Inspirational Speech: *Jessica Zhou*

Most Original Speech: *Crystal Cheng*

Most Heartfelt Speech: *Steven Xu*

Audrey Wong, Admissions Director



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.

Parent School Partnership's November "Wingo" Night a Successful Community Fundraiser

PSP met its' goal to raise funds for a new electronic scoreboard for the school gym at the widely attended Wingo night on November 13th. It was a fun evening filled with laughter, good French wine and the game of bingo.

Over 100 community members and sponsors from downtown, DAIS and Huamei gathered to win more than 50 prizes. The funding was used to purchase two electronic scoreboards for the athletic department.

"These scoreboards will allow DAIS to better host the spring soccer tournament for international schools in China. Our athletics department is pleased to have this great addition," said Athletic Director Michael Felker.

Thanks to over 20 business sponsors, the PSP was able to offer prizes ranging from a two-night stay at the Dalian Shangri-La to dinner at Blue Frog and delicious DTC French wines. We couldn't have done it without our main sponsors: Dalian Shangri-La, Somerset, DTC Wines, Deli Harbor, and Intel.

"Thanks for the opportunity to meet with friends in a fun atmosphere to win some great prizes. I still can't believe I won the grand raffle prize of two-night stay at Dalian Shangri-La," said DAIS high school teacher Casady Herding.

For the ticket price of 100RMB attendees received a glass of wine, some light appetizers from Deli Harbor and a bingo card for continuous play. Attendees were entertained by the evening's MC and bingo caller Ryan Simonet. His lovely assistant Joyce Deng Gould was on hand to provide mandarin translation.

While the adults were at Wingo, children played in the gym at the Kid's Fun Night hosted by the DAIS student robotics team. With the funding, the robotics team will be able to purchase an extra Lego robotics kit to meet the growing needs of the very popular school robotics program.

"I love the diversity of this event," says PSP President Mechthild Löning. "It was great chance to visit with old friends and make new ones all while supporting our school. Thanks to everyone who participated. We'll see you next year!"

Susanne Smith, PSP Vice President



2015-16 Parent School Partnership (PSP) Board Members:

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The River, the Water Plant, and Our Future

Even though, as a student at DAIS I enjoy a perfectly happy and appropriately rigorous academic experience, I am seldom exposed to real-world science while at school. However, Dr. Baldwin provided a wonderful chance for my class to visit a water treatment plant located in KaiFaQu, Jinzhou New District. Since I intend to be an engineering student when I go to college, I was particularly interested in this activity. The entire trip happened quickly and I really wanted to stay for a bit longer. Sadly the schedule did not allow enough time. Plenty of knowledge is still in my head though and I am happy to share it with you.

After a 30 minute bus ride, we arrived at “a world class” water treatment plant, according to Dr. Baldwin. The person who took us on the tour was the head of the engineering department, Mr. Zhang. As the head of the department, he had no arrogance at all. In fact, he was like a typical Chinese college professor. His “lectures” really brought me back to the old Chinese school that I went to before coming to DAIS. Dr. Baldwin had told me about this plant before and the engineer had some really great comments. A major interest for me is the fact that this plant uses very little chemicals; all procedures are either mechanical or biological. The entire process was complicated. Mr. Zhang provided us plenty of professional explanations which I did enjoy very much. When I asked him about some of the difficult concepts, he explained them to me in a very detailed way.

Before our departure, he rushed to the terminal delivery port and showed us the outflow; the water looked clear and smelled fresh! According to him, there were no bacteria in it after the ultra-violet process. But his statement made me curious because from what I have learned in AP Chemistry class, heavy metals can only be processed by a reduction reaction. Since there was no chemical process at all, I had my doubts about how the remaining heavy metal was removed. So I asked Mr. Zhang, and he answered me without taking any offense. Indeed, the water from

this plant is not processed to be free of heavy metals, thus it can only be used as industrial water. Chiefly, it is used for cooling power plants. Since this plant treats mainly city sewage the water is also rated safe enough to be released into the ecosystem but not used for human consumption.

At 3 o'clock, we had to return to school. On the way back, Dr. Baldwin talked to me about his concerns regarding the heavily polluted river by our school. He shared some of his ideas of future constructions and solutions. He said, “We don't need to build a big, expensive plant. Small more sustainable construction might also work.” The problems with this river motivated me to think about practical solutions and inspired me to work very hard to solve the river pollution problem. I might not be an engineer now, nor even sophisticated enough to dare to solve these problems, but I think I have some ideas. We might be able to build a small sustainable water treatment plant in the very river bed itself. We could create a meandering system of streams and ponds that use plants to filter out pollutants. Possibly with some help from engineers and experts in the community, our students might be able to find solutions to the polluted river prior to it entering a larger body of water, which is our beautiful and spectacular Golden Pebble beach.

Why should we concern ourselves with this problem? Well, as citizens in this community, do we really want our children, grandchildren, and future generations to live surrounded by a stinky, and lifeless river? I hope not! After this experience, I realized that it may be difficult to solve the problem but with more knowledge and some support from others, we can make a difference.

Vector Fan, Huamei, 12th Grade



Concert Moments

