

# The DAIS CURRENT

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Dalian American International School

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Kindergartners prepare for Spring Festival in their Mandarin class.



Linda Du and Rachel Chen (Huamei 10th graders) collect ideas from 3rd graders for the children's books they will create in their Writing & Grammar class with Ms. Wise.

## PARENT STUDENT PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Is Your Child Safe While Surfing the Internet?

Join us for COFFEE TALK WITH TERRY on Monday, March 9, at 9am in the Campus Village Cafe Lobby.

Do you know how to monitor your child's internet use? Are you curious what your kids have access to online, or who has access to THEM? How can you protect your children from the ever-changing world wide web? Come join our informative group discussion as we learn from Ryan Simonet and Laura Losch (DAIS librarians, technology teachers and iLearning Specialists). We will brainstorm solutions together and learn invaluable internet safety tips to protect our kids.

Coffee Talk with Terry (Wolfson) is a new monthly gathering created by the PSP and DAIS to help facilitate discussion while increasing communication between parents and the school. All DAIS and Huamei parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

MAR 10

What Parents Need to Know about the College Application Process  
7pm -- 2nd floor library

MAR 11

Early Release -- Faculty Professional Development

MAR 16-20

ERB Testing



### ACAMIS BASKETBALL IN BEIJING

The DAIS boys and girls basketball teams recently traveled to British School of Beijing to participate in the 2015 ACAMIS Gold Division Tournament. Senior Yolanda Chen was the MVP for the girls team while senior Kevin Dai and junior Carter Li were MVP's for the boys. The boys compiled 5 wins against 2 losses, and made it to the championship game--losing to the International School of Macau. The girls played hard, narrowly losing several games to more experienced teams. It was a great learning experience for all of our players and coaches. Congratulations to both teams and a special thanks to our graduating seniors (William Gao, Kevin Dai, Richard Cho, JC Wei, Alan Qin, BoYuan Qu, Yolanda Chen and Sunny Lin) who have made so many contributions to the DAIS basketball program over the years. Thank you student athletes!



### SPRING FESTIVAL 2015



### MELISSA LASSER'S CLASS



### HUAMEI ACADEMY





## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Having just returned from two US teacher-recruiting fairs in Boston and San Francisco, I am pleased to announce that we have concluded a successful recruiting season and have filled our open teaching and administrative positions. Next fall, an exceptionally competent, highly recommended and energetic group will be joining us.

During this recruiting season particularly, I found myself reflecting on what is perhaps the greatest change in the teachers that I have hired over a long career as a principal and now head of school. At the turn of this century, one of my favorite educational authors, Marc Prensky, coined the terms “Digital Natives and Digital Immigrants.” Clearly, I am a digital immigrant. The use of technology in my daily personal and professional life has evolved and literally transformed me over the past 25 years. After all, during my first year of teaching, I actually taught typing to students who were using the modern day technological innovation of an electric typewriter. Conversely, our students, your children, are digital natives. The personal computers, mobile phone, Game Boy and Play Station have always been an important and integral part of their existence. So, what is that greatest change that I have seen in teachers that I have hired over the years? Many of the teachers we are placing in our classrooms today are similar to our students; they, too, generationally are digital natives.

Prensky writes, “...to almost all of our current, non-technology-assisted 20th century education—today’s kids now see even our old “best teaching” as punishment. The kids know—and feel—that when they enter our schools they are being sent back to the past, and for today’s kids, such educational time travel is hurtful.” Prensky recommends, and our Digital Native instructors are insisting, “that teachers search for and use ‘powerful’ uses of technology—things young people couldn’t ever do before, like communicating around the world, or analyzing public databases with trillions of data points, rather than using technology just to do old things in new ways.” One of our priorities is to embed in all of our strategic initiatives, the use of technology to advance 21st Century Skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Through professional development, our hope is that even digital immigrants such as myself will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to prepare our students for the world of technology in which they live.

Along with every great innovation come risks and dangers. The advent of our technological world is no exception. As parents, it is imperative to be aware of and be able to respond with practices that will minimize risks for your children. Please join me on Monday, March 9, at 9:00am in the Campus Village Cafe Lobby for coffee and conversation with our technology integration specialists, Laura Losch and Ryan Simonet, who will offer information and suggestions on this important topic.

Terry Wolfson

## 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 experience for ex-pat families in the Dalian/DDA area.

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## DAIS VOICES IN SHANGHAI (MOZART IN THE JUNGLE)

Stephen Arrastia - Secondary  
Music Teacher

Twelve of our DAIS High School Choral Students participated in the ISCMS 2015 Choral festival this last month in Shanghai. ISCMS is the International Schools Choral Music Society. It is headed up and organized by the Dulwich International Schools and this year it was hosted by Dulwich International School Shanghai.

There were over 30 schools from all over Asia participating in this event, and over 300 students singing and performing for four long and exhausting days of rehearsals and sectionals. The festival brought in “World Class” performing artists (practitioners as they like to call them) from all over the globe to help make this an unforgettable experience for our students. This years festival included a large Chorus as well as a full Orchestra and for the first time a Jazz Big Band.

The students performed Mozart’s Grand Mass in C Minor which is a challenging piece of musical literature even for seasoned professional musicians. With the assistance and guidance of the amazing practitioners our students had a very successful and rewarding performance experience. In addition they had the opportunity to premiere a new composition specially composed for this festival. The piece is called “Seventeen Poets” by Philip Henderson, who also conducted the performance.

This was truly a wonderful musical experience for all of our DAIS Choral Students. Young people from all over Asia joined together to learn, create and share their love of music. That is what this was all about. We look forward to ISCMS 2016!



## 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.