

## QSI Shekou Lower Elementary Dragon Prints

### Leveled Reading and Book Baskets

Issue 4: September 16, 2011

Dear parents and community members,

One of the primary educational goals for ages 5-8 is developing a strong foundation of reading and writing skills. In the first few weeks of the school year, every child is assessed on their letter-sound recognition, reading accuracy and fluency, and reading comprehension. This reading assessment, known as the DRA2, helps teachers find books at the Instructional and Independent levels for students.

The Instructional Level is when a student needs the support of a teacher or parent in order to read the book. Students work in class at this level in Guided Reading groups, or in conferences with their teacher. The Independent Level is when a student can successfully read a book without help. Reading at this level helps build comprehension and vocabulary skills, as well as encourages a life-long love of reading.

QSI Shekou has a collection of leveled reading material available in the library, but has also begun a project to increase the amount of books a child reads every day at their correct reading level. Book baskets, a container of 30-50 books leveled by Fountas and Pinnell color band, will be available for circulation to classrooms. Teachers will be able to check out several of these baskets at a time to ensure readers above and below grade-level will have access to new books at their reading level every day. Children will also be able to self-select books of interest to take home for reading.

This project is made possible by a generous donation from our Parent Support Group, which has been matched by Mr. Page. We would like to thank both, as they encourage our young readers. We welcome your interest and support in our Literacy program. On the second page of this newsletter, you can find ways you can support the reading development of your child as well as ways to get involved with the Book Basket program.

Best Regards,

Cliff Geis-Poage

Director of Instruction—LE

### Upcoming Dates:

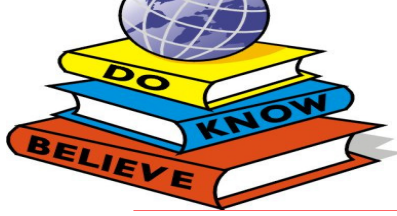
- ☺ LE Parent Coffee—Sept. 22, 8:30am in the Library
- ☺ 8 year-old ice skating field trip—Sept. 23th
- ☺ International Brunch—Sept. 24th 11am-1pm at Main Campus
- ☺ Celebration Assembly—Sept. 30th at LE Library 8:30am
- ☺ Chinese National Holiday—October 2-7 NO SCHOOL



# Please Join Us!

## Lower Elementary Parent Coffee

Thursday, September 22nd 8:30am in the Library



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### FAQ: Reading Development and Your Child

*What level should my child be reading at in each grade?*

There is a range of levels within each grade. Your child's teacher can address your child's current level and the reading goals your child is working on. To see how levels generally correspond to each grade, ask your child's teacher to see the Rainbow Chart in each classroom. With good instruction, your child will steadily become a better reader, no matter the current level.

*How can I find the "just right" books for my child?*

Ask your child's teacher for their current reading level. Our Library as well as many bookstores and book websites can assist you in matching your child's reading level with the readability level of a book. A word of caution—there are many leveling systems, make sure the one you use matches with the Fountas and Pinnell levels we use at QSI.

*How can I help my child become a better reader?*

Continue to read to him every day and expose him to the language of books. Have your child read to you. If he makes a mistake, simply tell him the correct word and let him move on. This increases enjoyment and fluency. To increase comprehension, talk about the story after you've read it.

*How can I help support the Book Basket project?*

Our PSG Book Mamas have already been very generous in their volunteering of time to begin the Scholastic order this month. You can join them as the Scholastic book order comes in, and books are distributed to students and Book Baskets. The end goal of the Book Basket project is to encourage children to read. Being vocal role models for reading, whether it is volunteering to read in classes, after school or before bedtime with your child is a key role. Half of the challenge is providing children with a rich selection of books, the other half is showing them the role reading plays in everyday life. Become a part of their Literacy development, ask questions about what they are reading and make reading a part of your time together as a family.



### Join Our Parent Support Group!

Are you looking for ways to volunteer at your child's school? Connect with other parents? Share your passion and expertise?

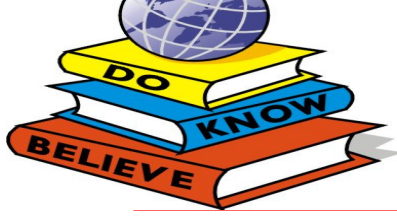
Consider joining our PSG! This group meets after Coffee with Mr. Page in the Main Campus.

Contact Peggy Morrison for more information at:

[peggy Morrison123@gmail.com](mailto:peggy Morrison123@gmail.com)



Students in Ms. Borenstein's 6 year-old class reading with Mr. Welsch's 11 year-old Reading Buddies



**QSI** SUCCESS FOR ALL



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## **International Brunch**

**Saturday, 24 September 2011**

**11am to 1:30pm**

**Main Campus**

***Taste of the World!***

International Brunch is one of QSI Shekou's most popular events. Parents, children, faculty and community members gather in the Main Campus to share food from their native countries in a large, potluck-style brunch.

Please bring a dish from your native country that will feed at least 10 people, as well as serving spoons. Guests are also encouraged to dress in clothing from their native countries. Drinks as well as plates will be provided by Uni Group.