

“Dragon Tales”
The Director's Newsletter



Vol. 12 - NO. 11 –November 4, 2011

"QSI Shekou maintains a rigorous academic program, in a warm and nurturing environment - the preferred school for expatriates in Shenzhen" – QSI parents

Please note: Each of our campuses (ECC, Lower Elementary, Main and Fenghua) also publish weekly newsletters with additional information relevant to their operations and schedules. You can now access them easily on our website!



Upcoming Events

- **Teacher Professional Development – 14 and 15 November – No School for Students**
- **Coffee with Mr. Page – 17 November 2011 – 9:30 a.m. – 5th floor PSG Room (see below)**
- **PSG Meeting – 17 November 2011 – right after Coffee with Mr. Page – (see below)**
- **Age Level Information Events – see below for details**

(All events can be viewed on the QSI Shekou Website: <http://shekou.qsischool.org/index.htm> – click on the Calendar tab)

Director's Message: Technology at QSI Shekou – What's on the horizon?

Dear Parents,

At QSI Shekou, we have been working hard to improve many facets of technology so our staff, students and families have a more effective means of gathering information and communicating. “Keeping up with trends” in technology is an ongoing endeavor because as one new invention arrives, it is very short-lived and something will inevitably quickly replace it. Therefore, we are in the process of designing a technology plan for growth that will remain flexible and include a continuous review of current trends. I would like to summarize for you what we are currently working on and studying that will be included in our short and long-term plan.

During my first year at QSI Shekou, it quickly became apparent that in order to accommodate our needs now and in the future, we needed to address our hardware and connectivity capacity. This began last summer when we upgraded our infrastructure including the purchase of new, more sophisticated servers and an increase in internet bandwidth to help us handle the increase of computers in the school and the need to become more reliant on the internet for communication and the ability to store data. Over the winter break in December we will be rebuilding our internal network in the hopes that our base hardware infrastructure and communication software can run smoothly and accommodate our ever-growing demand for connectivity and data storage/manipulation.

While the infrastructure is being addressed in the background by our capable technology staff, we are also addressing how technology use in our classrooms is growing and will continue to grow. Our MSA Technology Committee has been discussing and will research thoroughly how we can begin to increase staff and student use of technology in our instructional programs. Our teacher leaders and administrative team is researching how computers can be used effectively in classrooms including one-to-one programs for our older students (each student using a computer during the school day) and mobile laptop carts (15 – 20 netbook-type computers on a recharging cart) for periodic use in classrooms for our younger students. Researching how to best implement such programs will be a critical step in designing the right programs for our school.

Finally, we are also redesigning our school website in hopes of having a more effective connection with the public and will soon launch a new interactive program called “Moodle” that will allow staff, students and parents to more effectively gather, record and communicate data as well as create a portal for parents to connect more quickly and effectively with their child’s teacher and the school. We are very excited about what lies ahead for us.

Sincerely, Mr. Page – Director

A special note: I would like to retract a misleading statement in my last newsletter dated 28 October 2011. In letter entitled Teacher Professional Development – Why?, I stated that we were offering basic teaching techniques for our Chinese Language teachers. This may have implied that our fine Chinese Language teachers do not have the skills needed to be teaching for us and this is far from the truth. The message I wanted to impart is that we are helping all of our staff to grow professionally and that our Chinese Language department teachers are learning more about how best practices from a “western” perspective can help them serve our students in even more effective ways. My public apologies go out to our great Chinese Language teachers for this misleading statement.

AGE LEVEL INFORMATION EVENTS!

Every year QSI Shekou holds Information Events for our parents. These informative events that showcase student successes and projects are staged twice each year in each campus on separate dates. Here are the dates and times for this year’s Information Events:

Main Campus - Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 6 – 7 p.m.

Lower Elementary - Wednesday, November 23, 2011, 6 – 7 p.m.

ECC - Friday, November 25, 2011, 9am – noon – Fantastic Friday

Secondary – Thursday, December 1, 2011 – College Night

Coffee with Mr. Page

Next Coffee Date: 17 November 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 5th Floor, Main
TOPIC: Spring 2011 - Parent Survey Results



PSG News!

The Parent Support Group (PSG) strives to stimulate interest in QSI and to provide support for the advancement of the school, its parents and students. We promote a sense of community by offering additional activities, events and volunteer opportunities.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Parent Support Group, all faculty, administration, administrative support staff and parents of QSI students are automatically members.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who serve as the governing body and liaisons for all PSG groups. We continually welcome new volunteers.



Everyone is welcome to attend PSG meetings. It is a great way to learn about QSI and make friends. These are general meetings where various PSG committees provide updates to the

board, present funding requests, and discuss activities of interest. The first PSG meeting of 2011-12 will follow Mr. Page' Coffee on September 15, unless otherwise noted.

We wish you all a wonderful school year.

Our next PSG Meeting is 17 November 2011 right after Coffee with Mr. Page!

Please don't hesitate to contact the PSG if you are interested in volunteering!

PSG President: Peggy Morrison Peggymorrison123@gmail.com

Dear Parents: The School Needs Your Help!

If you haven't updated your email address, cell phone number or permanent address recently, please call or email the school to do so. (8675526676031 or shekou@qsi.org)

We need your family information to be accurate, so don't wait, let us know right away!

Please note that this newsletter is published weekly on our website (<http://shekou.qsischool.org/index.htm>) You can access it by clicking on "Newsletter" when you see the home page, or you can view it each weekend when it is emailed to you. We are.....Going Green!!