

Eye of the Dragon



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Ask the Directors of Instruction

On Wednesday, February 8, Holly Qu and Marc Geandreau took a day off of school to become “Director for a Day.” They both had submitted winning essays in the Director for a Day writing contest in January.

Question: What was your experience like being the director?

Marc’s Answer: Being director for a day is pretty fun. As hard as it might seem to believe, I realized that Mr. Jackson doesn’t just sit there and plays with his computer, he actually does work. I learned that when you are a leader, you don’t just neglect responsibility; you actually have to work to be a leader. Today I had a meeting with Mr. DeHart regarding our school Wi-Fi, and had a meeting with our lunch provider, Marcus. I also did class room observation. I learned a lot today, and might do it again sometime.



Holly’s Answer: I liked being director for the day because in the morning, I drank hot chocolate. The morning was good since I love writing and got to write a sample conference sheet for the student led conference. The lunch was the same as usual, but then we had a meeting with Mr. Marcus and talked about how to improve the school lunch. After he left, we set up the school announcements and went downstairs and



upstairs to visit some classrooms. And at the end of the day, I got to write this paragraph. I love being the director!

Upcoming Social Events

As written by our Directors for the Day...

Valentine’s Day Dance

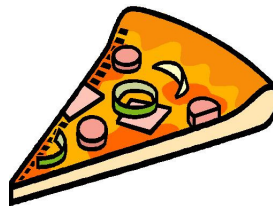
The Valentine’s Day Dance takes place at QSI Shekou Main Campus with tickets sold at the door. The price will be 30 RMB for one ticket for the February 17 dance. 11-13 year old students should dress nicely as they dance the night away from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Students may take group photos or buy a carnation for that special someone in their lives.



9 Year Old Social

The 9-year-old social will take place on the 6th of April. The venue is the QSI Shekou main campus. It will start after school and end at 8:00PM. There will be various activities, and we will be serving beverages and various kinds of food.

10 Year Old Social



The 10-year-old social will take place on the 9th of March. The venue is the QSI Shekou main campus. It will start after school and end at about 8:00PM. There will be various activities, and we will be serving beverages and various kinds of food such as pizza.

11, 12, and 13 Parent Meetings

On February 16th there will be a series of meetings for all parents of 11, 12 and 13 year old students. We will meet in the first floor MPR to discuss our academic program for next year and the upcoming Week Without Walls. For those of you unfamiliar with the concept, the Week Without Walls is an opportunity for students to take their studies outside of the school on an extended field trip to a place of historical importance. A dedicated team of teachers have worked diligently with a student centered company to find appropriate opportunities in China. The trips, their costs, and fund raising information will be unveiled at the meeting on the 16th. In addition, during the night we will discuss our academic program, student criteria for enrolling in the secondary and general plans for next school year. Mrs. Linda Christensen, the Intensive English coordinator, and our school director Mr. Page will provide additional information and clarification on these topics. Students are welcome to come with their parents for this important night.

11 Parents—6:00 p.m.

12 Parents—7:00 p.m.

13 Parents—8:00 p.m.

Wow! It's Macau.

On Friday February 3rd 67 students from the 11 year old class and their 6 teachers travelled to Macau to see the influence of the Portuguese explorers first hand. Their cultural studies unit for January focused on the impact of European explorers on Asia. They visited the Guia lighthouse, the first modern lighthouse on the Chinese coast. They also visited the Ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Monte Fortress. Students had a 'Macanese' lunch which fused Portuguese and Chinese cuisine in 10 separate dishes including baked mussels, Portuguese chicken, and charcoal grilled sardines. After lunch the students walked through Taipa village to the Taipa Houses museum where they explored what living in Macau was like a century ago.



Throughout the trip student had an assignment that covered Language Arts, Cultural Studies and Science that will be completed in the coming weeks. The students demonstrated Responsibility crossing the borders, Group Interaction as they photographed different sites for their assignment and Independent Endeavour as they explored throughout the trip.

The 11 year old team were impressed with the trip overall and plan to make a repeat visit with next year's class.

ERB WrAP

The week of February 13, all students will participate in the ERB WrAP, a direct writing assessment. Each student will be asked to produce a piece of writing based on a common prompt. Different prompts are used for different age levels, and new prompts are used each year. Students take the test in two session, over two days, during their language arts classes. The final draft of the essay is sent away to be scored by trained readers. Each student's essay is scored with respect to six different elements on a scale of one (low) to six (high). The six elements are:



Overall Development – how well the writer communicates with the reader, shows awareness of the audience, task, and purpose for writing and writes in the appropriate mode.

Organization – ability to develop a logical plan of organization, maintain coherence throughout the paper, and create paragraphs.

Support – use of appropriate reason, details, and examples to enhance the effect and/or support the generalizations and conclusions of the essay.

Sentence Structure – completeness, correct usage, and variety or sophistication of sentences.

Word Choice – vocabulary, as well as, freshness and vividness of language.

Mechanics – correct and effective use of spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

As in years past, our teachers and administrators will use individual and age level results to plan classroom instruction and professional development. In addition, starting this year, the ERB WrAP results will be used to consider a 13 year old student's readiness for Writing I at the Secondary level. The scores will be used in conjunction with other writing assessments, reading assessments, MAP scores and teacher observations to determine a student readiness for Secondary Literature I and Writing I. It is essential that that all students understand the importance of the ERB WrAP and come prepared to do their very best on the assessment. This is especially true for all 13 year old students.

Class Photo Day

Mark the date—February 14 all of our main campus classes and homerooms will take their group photos. Students should dress appropriately.



Why Does our Cafeteria Serve Tomatoes?

Although tomatoes are often referred to as vegetables, they are actually a fruit! This natural food is packed with a whole lot of vitamins, minerals and other compounds, but the best part is, whether you eat them raw or cooked, they are extremely nutritious. So have tomatoes in your sauces, salads, sandwiches and of course, ketchup!

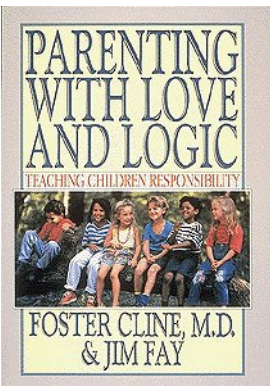
Here are some health benefits of tomatoes, that I bet you didn't know about:

- Tomatoes contain vitamin A, which is highly beneficial to maintain healthy vision and improve the eyesight.
- A lot of vitamins like A, C and beta-carotene act as anti-oxidants that help fight free radicals, which are known to cause cell damage.
- Potassium and vitamin B present in tomatoes help to lower cholesterol levels and blood pressure, too. This is beneficial in preventing strokes and other coronary heart diseases.
- Lycopene, a compound found in tomatoes is excellent for fighting against cancer. Lycopene also prevents the formation of cancerous cells in the body. Cooked tomatoes are said to contain more lycopene than raw ones. So have tomato soup regularly.



Love and Logic Parenting Book Discussion Group

Interested in relieving some of your stress as a parent and helping your teens become responsible adults? There is still time to join! Some of our parents have already reported the book to be helpful! We will be meeting on Thursday Feb. 16th at the Lower Elementary School. (Near the Main School Campus). We will have a special session for newcomers at 6 pm to introduce the Love and Logic concepts and background. We will be discussing the first two chapters of the book starting at 6:30 pm. We will meet every two weeks after this in order to give people time to read the next chapters. Other meeting dates will be March 1, 15 & 29 and April 12 & 26 (Final meeting). If interested or if you have questions please contact Mr. Anfinson, middle school counselor at eric-anfinson@shk.qsi.org or Mrs. Kenealy at sarah-kenealy@shk.qsi.org



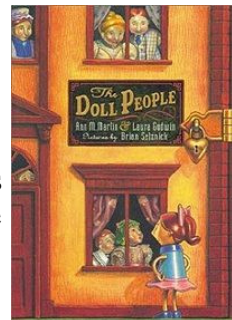
Candy Gram!



Would you like to send a special message of encouragement to a student or teacher on Valentine's Day? Ms. Hunt's 11 year old class is selling Candy Grams for 5 Yuan each before school on Friday and Monday. Candies with your message will be delivered during 1st period on Tuesday, February 14.

Book of the Week

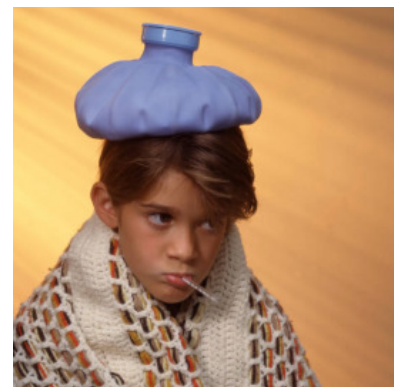
The Doll People by Ann Martin introduces the reader into the world of toy dolls that come to life when their owners are not watching them. Governed by the rules of being secretly alive, the dolls uncover a journal by a missing doll and set out on a quest throughout the house to find her. This is the first in a series of three "Doll Books," all of which our library owns.



Keeping Your Child Healthy

This is the time of year when your child is more apt to come home with a cough, sniffles, and complaints of not feeling well. Whether it is a simple cold, upset stomach or the flu, there are steps you can take to keep your child healthy:

- Remind them to **Wash their hands!** Use plenty of soap/ water and scrub for 20 seconds
- Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer for their backpack
- Encourage them to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they sneeze or cough. Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer afterward
- Encourage them to throw tissues away immediately after using them — don't leave them lying around
- Keep them home from school if they are not feeling well
- Make sure they get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat a balanced diet



Our children will need guidance and reminders regarding their health. None of these steps will guarantee an illness free school year, but each step will reduce the chances of your child coming home sick.

Hosts Needed

Need Community Service Hours? You can get 20 hours of Community Service Credit
Want to make friends with students from other international schools? Ages 11-13
Want to help Mr. DeWitt and the volleyball teams out? He is such a nice guy!

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please consider hosting a student for the SDRC Volleyball Tournament March 1-2. Students from Guangzhou and Hong Kong who are coming to the tournament will need a place to stay, a couple of meals and a ride to school for two days. These are international students and always a pleasure to get to know. We would appreciate it if any families can host two students together, or even one. If you are interested please see Mr. DeWitt



Attack of the Robots!

Robots are here! QSI's technology club will begin exploring the exciting world of robotics on Fridays after school with Mr. Lamwers. Students will be designing, building programming, and experimenting with robots that will need to perform specific tasks. This is going to be a great place show off the critical thinking skills they are developing in their course work. Students are excited about this opportunity and the robots are too!!



Parents Needed for Science Fair



We are looking for parents with a background in science to help judge at QSI's second annual Science Fair for secondary level students. Ideally, we'd like parents of Middle or Elementary age students as judges. The judging takes place on Thurs., Feb.16 from 4

to 7 p.m. If you are interested please contact Peggy Morrison at peggymorrison123@gmail.com. **Parents of Secondary level students are not eligible to judge.**

What QSI Students Learn

In the modern world there has been a vast and continuous increase in knowledge. It is impossible to know everything. One has to carefully choose the things considered essential for a person educated in modern society. QSI believes it is better to engage in the study of less information and gain mastery rather than cover large amounts of information superficially without mastery.

In order to develop competencies, one must have a firm foundation of facts and knowledge. Certain facts must be memorized and used as tools in gaining additional knowledge and in developing competencies. Additional knowledge is gained by building upon and combining fundamental facts and bits of knowledge. This happens by hearing, seeing, and experiencing in learning situations, followed by practice and repeated exposure. Some of the ways this happens are through dialogue, questioning, experimentation, risk-taking, and group activities.

In the realm of knowledge, QSI has identified seven areas. Mastery of these Exit Outcomes will lead to a successful school experience in Quality Schools International.

*** MATHEMATICS ***

*** ENGLISH / LITERATURE ***

*** CULTURAL STUDIES ***

*** SCIENCE ***

*** CREATIVE AND APPLIED ARTS ***

*** LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH ***

***PERSONAL HEALTH AND WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ***