

Eye of the Dragon



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Week Without Walls

Week Without Walls registration is now open to 11-13 year olds. Middle school staff members, in cooperation with qualified tour operators, have created four amazing opportunities for our students to experience life outside of Shenzhen, but still in China. These trips, scheduled for June 13-19, support our curriculum by focusing on areas that students have studied over the last year. Brochures with itineraries, costs, registration forms and contact information are available in Mr. Jackson's office. Students who decide to not travel will have a local program at school during normal school hours.

11 Trip

11 classes will travel to Guilin and Yangshou, exploring caves and taking in some of the breathtaking experiences that this area has to offer like cormorant fishing, river tours, and Elephant Trunk Hill.

12 Trip

12 classes will travel to Beijing to experience life in the capital of China. The forbidden city, the Great Wall, and other adventures await these students who have read about ancient China all year in Cultural Studies.

13 Trip

13 classes will travel to Yunnan Province to experience wild China, seeing some of the greatest sites the country has to offer: Tiger Leaping Gorge, Black Dragon Pool, and the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

Bonus Trip!

12 and 13 year olds have the possibility of going on a very limited trip to work at the sea turtle sanctuary in China. They will work along side staff at the floating hospital and help protect these beautiful creatures.



Ask the Director of Instruction

Question: What is the science fair? Is it just for fun?

Answer: QSI takes great care in creating a curriculum that is contemporary and relevant for student learning in the modern world. To ensure this, we rewrite curriculum on a regular basis with a team of experts and representatives from the textbook community. Over the last two years, one such team rewrote our science units, selected appropriate books, and ordered extensive laboratory materials for each grade level.

One of the largest changes in our new science curriculum is the addition of "Science Fair" units. Whereas in the past, the science fair served as a way for students to informally demonstrate knowledge, now it has become an integral part of our graded units. Teachers are already preparing students for the April event and expectations are high. Look forward to more information, including grading rubrics in the next few weeks.

Upcoming Social Events

From our student representatives...

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.



Stamp Carving Demonstration

Cherry Zhang's father Bob came to visit Ms. Tower's Level 9 class this February to teach the students about the art of Chinese Stamping. Bob carves his own stamps! To carve a stamp you need a special grip to hold the stone in place. To make sure that the design comes out the way you want, you have to first draw it on a special see through paper, so that you can carve it backwards. You can also use a mirror if you are really skilled and draw it directly on the stone! Then you need to very carefully carve the stone slowly using a special knife. It takes a lot of patience and very steady hands. One other thing Bob showed the kids was how Chinese characters have changed over the past 3,000 years. Read more to find out what some of the kids learned.



- *"Chinese block carving is a kind of red stamp that can prove something is yours. You can use Chinese Block Carving to show ownership."--Kevin Chan*
- *"I learned that it was easier to understand the way they write a long time ago in China."--Alva-Maria Karlsson.*
- *"This was because long ago the Chinese characters were made up of how the things look like."--Lucy Claros*
- *"I learned that the size of stamps depends on what kind of person you are. If you are important, you will have a bigger stamp than regular people. It is cool that if you carve something wrong on the block, you can fix it by rubbing the block on a special kind of paper. Still, it's better to try your best!" --Cherry Zhang.*

PRC Volleyball

February is tournament time for QSI volleyball teams. The new Middle School PRC Tournament League is giving the Dragons all the competition they could ask for. The Dragons are loving it. With four QSI teams playing in three different schools last week, three of them won every game. The Two A teams and the Boys' B team all emerged undefeated from the first round of tournaments. The Girls' B team faced strong competition from mostly A team squads in their tournament, but still came out with a win. Congrats!



Book of the Week

Lionboy, by Zizou Corder

10-year old Charlie sets out on an adventure to rescue his kidnapped parents. This brave young boy has to use his wit and his special ability of speaking to cats to find his parents before it's too late! See how his feline friends help him in this exciting novel that is the first story in a trilogy. If you like Harry Potter and Percy Jackson, you'll love *Lionboy*.



The Sentimental Guy

Last week, the middle school drama club presented *The Sentimental Guy*, an original musical by Mr. Hanson, our technology teacher. The play centered around a family lost in the underground of a very technologically advanced, but cold city. The parents (Bronwyn and Emma) and two of their resourceful children (Katie and Gwendolyn) make every effort to rescue their lost daughter (Noa) including starting a friendship with a sentimental guy (Alexis), the brother of the evil city manager (Tyler). Eventually the family enlists the help of the sentimental guy and even his sister (Ofri) to master the below ground maze to rescue not only their lost daughter but many others as well. A creative script, good moral lessons, awesome singing and a truly amazing job by so many younger students to learn all of their lines, made this a fantastic event.



The Sentimental Guy
February 9-11, 2012
Main Campus
QSI Shekou

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



Help Needed—Middle School Play “Aladdin”



MS Drama Take II is ready to roll; the musical Aladdin (based on the cartoon). We have a script edited and ready to go. We have interested and talented students. We have a sketch of back drops to create (which **Brittan**, bless his heart, is revising for me). We have a choreographer for an opening dance - thanks **Natalie**. We have a dedicated returning supervisor/leader for the backdrops - Go **Abbe**! We have a director who has done this play once before in a QSI school - unfortunately that's me. We can run the play with this staff, but would love to have some help.

What do we need help with? Glad you asked!

COSTUMES - it takes time to decide on costumes, fit them and order them and make sure they are organized for use during the play. I will say that Only Aladdin and Genie need to change costumes during the play (Whew!) **Jessica** was awesome at this and I think can give us

some pointers.

Directing/coaching lines - I have fairly good organizing ability and no problem controlling students - However, the past two years I had the best co-directors with **Jessica** and **Colin** who actually have drama TALENT as opposed to my positive attitude and encouragement. If you want to help out here let me know how much.

Lights and Sound - **Alfred** has been my go to guy the past two years (I begged him at the last minute both times) and he even trained some students to do things last year - who then moved up to secondary!!! If you have time to go through the script and make notes about light and sound or would like to lead or train a cadre of students to oversee the microphones and lights let me know

Stage Manager - behind the scenes organizing background changes, prop control and/or handling the curtain. **Madeline Paugh** saved us the past two years!

If you are interested in finding out more specifics or being involved in anyway, please let me know soon as we have our first student meeting Friday (tomorrow) and start auditions and rehearsals March 5. I plan to run Monday/ Wednesday and Friday, but days and hours are definitely negotiable for teacher help. If we get these roles filled I will then be free to simply enjoy the students, stress and panic in varying degrees and clap at the end.

Seriously it is going to be a great drama and it is pretty well organized already (as compared to the past two years) and there are GREAT STUDENTS to work with.

