

Eye of the Dragon



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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 addi-



tional 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.

Ask the Director of Instruction



Question: When is the next parent/teacher conference?

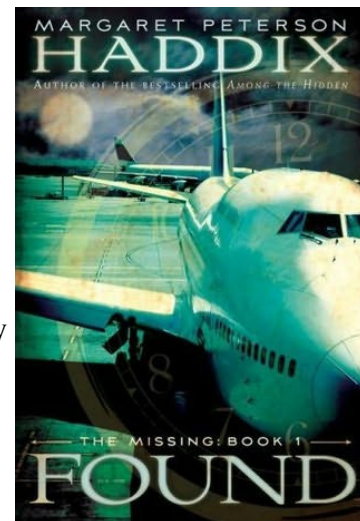
Answer: Conferences are one of the most important ways for parents to understand the academic progress of their children at school. Naturally, teachers communicate with parents throughout the year to discuss missed assignments, field trips and academic goals. But

conferences are set aside as a time when students, parents and teachers can sit down face to face to evaluate yearly progress and discuss the future. This spring we are having student led conferences on March 21 and 22, at which the kids present their academic materials to their parents and teachers. All conferences (including 12 and 13) will be scheduled in the front office two weeks before the event. Look forward to more information in the coming weeks' newsletters.



Book of the Week

Found—The Missing Novel Series is the first book in a new series by acclaimed author Margaret Peterson Haddix, author of the Hidden series and one of the 39 clues books. *Found* focuses on the life of Jonah, a 13 year old adopted boy and his new friend Chip. Their lives are quite normal until they both begin receiving strange letters that say, “You are one of the missing,” and “Beware, they are coming back to get you.” The boys must work quickly to find out the meaning of these messages as the mystery of an airplane from the past unfolds.



Class Photo Day

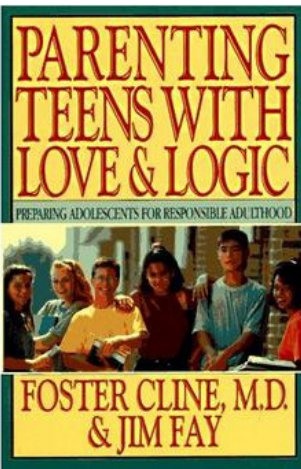
Mark the date—February 14 all of our main campus classes and homerooms will take their group photos. Students should dress appropriately.

Parenting Book Study

Wondering how to help your student develop responsibility and be ready for the challenges facing teens in our complex and changing world? There is still time to join the Parenting Teens with Love and Logic discussion and reading group. Our next meeting is on February 16 at the Lower Elementary School Library. We will do an introduction at 6 pm for any newcomers and then discuss the first two chapters of the book. We will be meeting once every two weeks so you would have time to read the book.

Mrs. Kenealy and Mr. Anfinson will be facilitating the group. Mrs. Kenealy is a registered nurse, psycho-therapist, school counselor and parent of three adult children. Mr. Anfinson is a school counselor, and has worked as a drug and alcohol counselor with adolescents.

Please contact one of them if you would like to join! Sarah-kenealy@shk.qsi.org or eric-anfinson@shk.qsi.org



Fall Athletics and Activities Recognized

In the midst of a busy year QSI Middle School took some time to remember some great moments by celebrating the 2011 seasons. Math Olympiad, Soccer, Touch Rugby and Badminton teams received both praise and awards for their efforts thus far in the year. Coaches extolled their teams and celebrated their achievements. QSI teams have won sportsmanship trophies in every sporting event this year and have competed well. We would like to especially thank Mr. Rider, Mrs. Lamwers, Ms. Tower, Mr. Woodhead, Mr. Desormeau, Mr. Clowers, Mr. Wilkens, Mr. and Mrs. Lochala, Mr. and Mrs. Mason for their time and service which made these seasons possible. We would also like to thank the PSG for their help in hosting tournaments and providing snacks and drinks for all the athletes and coaches at the assembly. We are expecting great things in 2012 as volleyball, basketball and other sports, activities and dramas continue their seasons!



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 sessions, 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's readiness for Secondary Literature I and Writing I. It is essential 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.