



Little Dragon Tales

Volume 4 , Issue 2

Newsletter Date: September 17, 2010

QSI International School of Shekou
Early Childhood Center

News from the ECC &
Coordinator Lisa Kipfer

FROM THE COUNSELOR.....

BACK TO SCHOOL BUTTERFLIES

Any new experience can create anxiety for us. Helping our children embrace a school year with excitement rather than dread is an important step in starting the year off well. Here are a few tips for parents to help with that transition:

- Focus on the positive (seeing old friends, meeting new classmates, getting new supplies)
- Listen to your child's worries and offer reassurance
- Adjust your schedule so you are available after school or in the evening to talk about the school day
- Visit the school before opening day
- Have a consistent school-night routine

Introduce yourself and your child to their teacher

Happy New School Year and Happy Parenting!

Sarah W. Kenealy RN, LCMHC
Elementary and ECC Counselor

From Lisa Kipfer:

I am enjoying teaching your child PE once a week. We are working together on our gross motor coordination and group interaction each week.

Students gain a strong sense of self-esteem in being able to participate in Physical Education (PE) activities.

Not only do students feel a sense of achievement in being able to participate in a game or mastering a skill, but they also gain approval from their peers.

Differences in skill levels are typical among all students; some are fast and do well in track and on the court, others have good eye-hand coordination required for ball games, and still others have good balance so they may shine in gymnastics or hockey. Students also learn how to interact with each other and learn how to play as a team: PE is more than just gross motor (GM) coordination - it can also involve a high level of social interaction.

(Alberta Health Services Occupational Therapy On-Hand, n.d.).

Quotes from our students:

Kid's say the funniest thing...

While teacher preparing class for the Fire Drill, "Then the fireman will come and throw us in the trash can." -Zoe

"It's ok, Superman will come to help us!" - Diego

After being encouraged to eat more lunch, "Yes, eating rice makes Aj big!" -Aj

After seeing Ms. Melanie's empty classroom, "Where are all your people?" -Cameron

When discussing the digestive system, "You eat food and sometime soon it will knock on your bum-bum." -Judah

FROM THE NURSE.....

MEDICATION AND YOUR CHILD

If your child is taking medication that needs to be given during the school day, please see the school nurse. The school nurse is the only one who can dispense medication at school. Do not leave medication in your child's backpack, or give the medication to other staff members. Your child's safety and health is our greatest concern.

Thank you for your cooperation.

● Sincerely, Sarah W. Kenealy RN, LCMHC

● Upcoming Events:

- *Sept. 22: Birthday lunch-3's girls*
- *Sept. 23: Birthday lunch-4's girls*
- *Sept. 24: Fantastic Friday*
- *Sept. 27-Oct. 1: Holiday (No school)*

2 Year Old Pandas

Wow, I have been so impressed with our two year olds! To be very honest, the first couple of days I was wondering if we would actually move on beyond providing daycare (wiping off tears and noses...) and actually do 'pre-school'... You cannot imagine the growth we have witnessed in little over three weeks' time! This first unit of 'ALL ABOUT ME', is obviously perfect for our little 'two's' because their whole world is still 'all about them'. We can tell that they are really moving on from playing side by side without real interaction, to playing together! Since this week was all about friends, we got plenty of great excuses for play-situations! We did the three-legged race in gym-class, as well as 'bag-jumping', we played with Little People together, we painted together, we played a Miffy-game together and of course we sang and danced every day! Remember: 'The more we play together, the happier we'll be'!!



3 Year Old Rabbits

It is so fun to see a child having fun and know that they are learning at the same time. The three year olds have been focusing on interactive play through playdough, kitchen time and block building. They are learning how to be good friends to each other by sharing, taking turns and being kind to each other. We use projects like 'Circle Of Friendship' and 'Hands of Friendship' to show that we are all friends in school. We also sing songs and read stories to help the children learn these life lessons.



4 Year Old Tigers

The 4 Year Old Class is doing Jolly Phonics at school everyday. **Jolly Phonics** is a systematic, sequential, phonics program designed to teach children to read. Children learn 42 sounds of the English language, rather than the alphabet. They are then taken through the stages of blending and segmenting words to develop reading and writing skills. Each sound has a suggested storyline, a picture to color a corresponding action and a song. By performing an action for each sound, students are using kinesthetic, auditory and speech methods to help them remember. This multi-sensory approach is a very effective way to reach all children as well as being enjoyable for the students.

