



QSI

SUCCESS FOR ALL



QSI Shekou Lower Elementary Dragon Prints

Classroom Connection

Issue 18: January 28, 2011

The **5 year-olds** have continued with **numbers up to 12** in mathematics, as well as looking at **shapes** and patterns. They have also been working on descriptive words and begun a unit of study on **landforms!** Recently the 5's also presented on all the things they can now do independently.

The **6 year-olds** are deep into their study of **Mexican geography** and culture. They have made traditional crafts and art, studied the **Aztecs** and **Mayans**, and will finish their unit with a **fiesta** on February 16. In mathematics they are continuing their work on **regrouping** with work on groups of 10 and learning about place value.

The **7 year-olds** have done some great work on **descriptive writing**, and are finishing their unit of study on the **Heart and Lungs** in Science. They are also preparing for their Cultural Studies unit about **Ancient India!**

The **8 year-olds** wrapped up their **Space** Unit with presentations of the play "**Trip to Mars.**" What better way to demonstrate their learning than singing and dancing about it? They have also worked hard on learning **long division**. Give all of our scholars a huge round of applause on their hard work!

Upcoming Dates:

- ☺ Chinese New Year Holiday—No School 29 Jan—6 Feb
- ☺ School and activities in session Monday, Feb 7
- ☺ 8 year-old candy grams available February 7-11
- ☺ ERB-Wrap tests for 8 year-olds Feb. 15-17
- ☺ End of Quintile 3—Feb. 23

Ready to travel to far away lands? Fly to the moon? Solve mysteries and meet famous people?

Explore the World Through Books Begins February 14th Are you ready?



The six year-old class practicing moving safely on the playground.

Please Welcome Mr. Garry Berg to QSI Shekou

As many of you know, Mrs. Leah Souder is expecting an addition to her family any day. Congratulations to Mrs. Souder for all of her successes this school year and we only wish her the unconditional best in the future.

In her place, we would like to announce that Mr. Garry Berg is joining the faculty of our school. Mr. Berg is an experienced QSI educator having taught in QSI schools in Skopje, Macedonia and Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Prior to these international experiences, Mr. Berg taught in public schools in the United States of America. He is a certified teacher from the state of Idaho with a Bachelors of Education degree from Boise State University. He comes to QSI International School with positive recommendations within the QSI family.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Berg to our Lower Elementary family, as we wish him and the 8 year-olds the very best for the rest of the school year!



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Welcome New Students!

Jack Guy—6
Iris Bertoncini—6
Joey Loh—6
Ian Hillaker—6
Jeong Bin Ham-6
You Kyeong Nam-7
Zhi Kin Loh—8
Michelle Wang—8
Ji Hyeon Ju-8



The Role of Homework in QSI Lower Elementary

Homework is a frequent topic of conversation in schools. How much, how little, what's due...sometimes it's hard to know when the school day ends and a child's home life begins! In the Lower Elementary, homework is an opportunity for parents and teachers to communicate with each other, for children to begin building positive academic routines, and to reinforce some skills learned during the day.

A good rule of thumb for the amount of time a child should spend on schoolwork at home is the "10-minute Rule" recommended by the American National Education Association. The 10 Minute Rule suggests 10 minutes of homework for each grade the child has completed. This would mean a 6 year-old child would expect to have 10 minutes of work on most nights, while an 8 year-old would have 30 minutes on most nights.

Some specific guidelines to help parents with homework are:

5 Year Old Classes

Time: Specific homework will not be assigned each day; however, students will bring home a story book daily to share with parents.

- Read with children daily
- Assist children in bringing book back to school daily
- Assist children in constructing positive routines at home

6 to 8 Year Old Classes

Time: It is expected that students will have between 10 to 30 minutes of assigned homework related to the program most days. In addition, students should read a book taken home from school daily.

- Talk to teachers when unsure about assigned homework or the time required to complete it
- Provide a quiet work/study area and the necessary materials
- Support completion of tasks
- Provide positive reinforcement and encourage their child to be an independent learner
- Ensure children get adequate sleep-establish a regular bedtime
- Limit the amount of time their child watches television and plays video or computer games