

Contact Information:

Nanjing International School, Xue Heng Lu 8, Xian Lin College and University Town, Qi Xia District, Nanjing, P.R. China, 210046.

www.nanjing-school.com

Tel: +86 25 8589 9111

Email: enquiries@staff.nanjing-school.com

Celebrating Diversity

As a Scot brought up in a western Catholic Christian tradition the month of December was simply the month of Christmas for me as a child. Although my parents were always concerned that receiving and giving presents had taken over from the focus of the religious festival, I think I got a fairly good understanding of both. International schools have however given me a greater appreciation of the richness of the month of December for international communities and helped me develop a greater appreciation of the differences and commonalities as observed in different festivals.

Here is my journey. In Vietnam we had a significant Swedish population at the school and I was introduced to the Santa Lucia with a beautiful performance by the parents and students. Then I went to live in Belgium where we had a St Nicholas celebration on

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December 6th which was new to me. In Belgium we had a sizable community of students who were muslim so I learned about the important Islamic festivals with Eid, Ramadan and the Hajj being the most important. December 18th sees the New Year in the Islamic calendar. The last 6 years I lived in Sri Lanka where each month there is a Poya Day which is a full moon day of dedication for Buddhists. December 8th was a very important Poya Day. All the international schools in which I have worked have had a combination of Jewish students and teachers. The festival of light which is Hanukkah is from December 12-19 this year.

While I have learned a lot about the differences what has struck me more is the commonalities. The emphasis on light as a symbol of life and hope; the emphasis on peace and sharing and the attempt to spend a little time reflecting on how we can make the world a better place filled with joy.

Our Giving Tree is a symbol in the heart of our school which gives us a chance to share.

Have a Joyous December.

Laurie McLellan,
Director
lauriemclellan@staff.nanjing-school.com

Important Dates:

Dates for the diary:

This week is week 16

Monday 2nd of December -
Tuesday 8th of December
NIS Winter Book Market

Friday 4th of December
Student Council Spirit Day

Friday 4th of December
End of Exams Dance

Friday 11th of December
Winter Assembly

Monday 14th of December -
1st of January
Winter Holiday

Monday 4th of January
First Day Back

Friday 8th of January
Parent Coffee Meeting

Nanjing International School Board

Board News

Sadly the NIS Board has to announce that KK Kim has resigned from the Board after 3.5 years of dedication and involvement. Due to a job transfer KK Kim has to resign. We want to thank KK Kim for his engagement in the Board. His presence and involvement were highly appreciated in the last few years. We wish him and his family the best in returning to Korea.

With the resignation of KK Kim the Board is now at the required full compliment of 7 members in line with the Articles of Association. There is therefore no opening on the Board at present.

The Governance Committee has set up an ad hoc sub-committee who are tasked with finding potential new Board members so when positions open there is a smooth transition. The key goal is to maintain as much continuity as possible. The members of this committee are Julia Gusten (j.guesten@bw-i.cn), Michael Chesterman (michaelc@njcgs.com.cn) and Laurie McLellan (lauriemclellan@staff.nanjing-school.com). If you are interested in being considered please feel free to make contact with any member of the committee.

Lies Poorter-Jongsma
Board Chair

Winter Holidays - Closing Day Schedules

I'd like to wish the entire NIS community a happy, safe Winter Holiday. This school year has absolutely flown by, with a range of school events that have kept us all on the move - sport, cultural activities, travels and adventures, a wealth of learning ... Thank you to students for your consistent efforts and enthusiasm, to parents for your continued involvement and support, and to the the fantastic staff we have who focus attention on encouraging individual excellence. I trust you'll all enjoy a well-deserved break!

The schedule for Friday 11th December is as follows:

8:00 - 8:10 Homeroom (notices, attendance)

8:10 - 8:45 Homeroom (Lifeskills Programme)

8:45 - 9:35 Period 1

9:35 - 9:50 Homeroom - tidy classrooms, clean out lockers

9:50 - 10:20 Break

10:20 - Homeroom - then to assembly (whole school)

10:25 - 11:00 Assembly

11:00 Break up

Richard Swart

Principal

richardswart@staff.nanjing-school.com

Parent Coffee Morning

We have postponed the Parent Coffee Morning scheduled for Wednesday 9th December, following parent requests to move these events to Friday following assemblies. The next Coffee Morning will be on **Friday 8th January**, 9:00am in the MYP Large Group Room, with 2 scheduled events:

- 1. The Centre:** Parents will have opportunity to take a guided tour through The Center, which will house a number of facilities, including indoor swimming pools, gym, community rooms and offices. Most of us are unaware of the planning that goes into a complex such as this, and we take a completed building pretty much at face value. Come and see the 'bare bones' and get a preview of this exciting addition to our campus.
- 2. Technology for learning:** We'll follow the visit to The Centre with a guided tour through some classrooms highlighting the use of technology *for* learning. At NIS our focus is not the tools themselves (Macs, Smartboards, Internet ...) but on how these tools increase opportunities for deeper learning, for collaboration, for meeting personal learning styles. We'd like to show parents that this happens across the school, and follow this with an opportunity for questions and answers over a cup of coffee.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Richard Swart

Principal

richardswart@staff.nanjing-school.com

Nanjing International School

NIS Expo 2010 – A Celebration of Diversity!

In March next year, the PTA will be hosting a very special International Day – with the theme being to celebrate the fantastic diversity we have at NIS. This is a wonderful event where every country group has the opportunity to show the NIS community where you come from!

You might consider a display, a performance, activities or serving food. In the past, people have dressed in their national costume, played music and games or shown DVDs. We encourage each country to showcase and celebrate your own special culture!

There will be more information next year – but we are giving you early notice of this event so that if you are travelling home over the holiday period you have the chance to bring back items you might use on the day.

We encourage everyone to start thinking about what you might like to do, and to nominate a representative from your country who will liaise with the PTA. If you are not sure about who else is from your country (or region) please contact James Garrett.

Our NIS Expo 2010 will take place at school on Saturday 20th March 2010, from 1pm – 4pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Suzy Walker (suzywalker31@hotmail.com)

We look forward to a wonderful NIS Expo 2010 – look out Shanghai!

(Please note: this is a smoke free and alcohol free event, and no pets are allowed)

Suzy Walker
PTA President



Internal Vacancy: Substitution Coordinator

Effective February 01 2010

[Application deadline: Thursday 31st December 2009](#)

The position is placed in the salary range of Host Country Teacher (Base Scale) for administration duties, and has the ability to assign oneself to substitution duties at a substitution rate of RMB200/double period.

If you wish to apply, please submit a brief letter of application to Holly Wang, Human Resources Manager at recruitment@staff.nanjing-school.com.

Job Specification

Attendance weekdays required annually (?/260) 195

General Responsibilities

- Liaison with NIS administrators and teachers in preparing collaboratively the NIS substitution plan
- Liaison with NIS administrators in preparing collaboratively the substitution budget
- Advising NIS administrators on substitution matters
- Managing all substitute teachers and providing appropriate written / oral guidance as needed
- Maintaining a Handbook for substitutes with appropriate school information and providing an initial inset time for new substitutes to review this information
- Interviewing / vetting potential substitutes
- Providing teacher and teaching assistant substitution according to substitution plan guidelines
- Classroom teaching and/or administrative responsibilities.
- Time sheets and request forms preparing for wages and transportation costs for substitutes.

CISSA Soccer Girls Team 1

On Friday the 20th November two teams of girls travelled to Shanghai. There was lots of team spirit and excitement on the way there. We spent the night at a hotel and travelled to the SAS Pudong campus where we got ready to play our first game. NIS team 1 included Lena and Aletta in Goal, Alice, Ye Bin and Sylvia were our star defenders, Sun Yun and Prenciss were midfielders and in attack we had Marie, Lisa and Hannah. We were all prepared for disappointment but in the end we won two out of five games, winning both the second and third games with 3:1 and 5:1. We all had lots of fun and we are all very proud of ourselves.

CISSA Soccer Girls Team 2

On Friday November 20th the girls and boys CISSA football / soccer teams headed to Shanghai for a football / soccer competition. Team 1 girls team consisted of the Captain - Danielle, the Co Captain - Alli, Goalie - Sophie, 4 Defenders - Celine; Young Mi; Se in; and Eun Jin, 2 midfielders - Clara and Sydney, and last but not least the 2 attackers - Trinity and Katie. When it was the day of the tournament nerves were defiantly in the air. As soon as we arrived at the school it was about time for us to start our first match. The first game was against the Puxi school. We made sure to spread out and ended up scoring 4 goals in the first game. 2 of those goals by Alli, 1 by Trinity, and 1 by Sydney. The score ended up being 4 - 0. A very good way to start out the day. The next school was SCIS Dragons. They were not easy but when Danielle got a goal from the penalty shot is helped us win the game with a score of 1 - 0. The next 2 games did not go as good as the first 2. Loosing bye only 1 point each game. This got us down a bit but we gave it all we had in the last game against SCIS dragons team 2. The final score was 6 to 1. Out of the 5 games played 3 games were won. For the all stars match Danielle was picked but did not feel well so Alli was next in line. Along with Marie they played on the West side against the East side with the best of the best at the CISSA tournament. After eating pizza we headed to the bus and made our return back to Nanjing. All in all we gave it our best.

CISSA Soccer

On Friday 20 November, the CISSA Soccer boys and girls left for Shanghai. It was about a five hour bus ride. We stayed at the Aston House Hotel overnight. After an early wake-up, we had a buffet breakfast, got into our teams and left for our different venues. D1 left to Dulwich College, D2 Girls went to SAS Puxi and we (D2 Boys) left to SAS Pudong. When we got there, we had about an hour to change and warm up for our first match.

Our first match was against Dulwich College team 2. Halfway through, losing 2-0, Ti finally scored after a good play by Philip, Martijn and Tim. Unfortunately, soon after scoring, Dulwich scored again making the score 3-1 at the end. Then, we immediately started the second match which was against SAS Pudong team 2. At the beginning of the match, we were tied in skill but then SAS pulled ahead with a brilliant goal and from then on they kept on scoring. At the end of the match it was 3-0 for SAS.

Then, we had an hour break and then went onto pitch 7 to play against Dulwich College team 1. It was an extremely even game and it looked as if it would end in a tie. But then, following a last-second attack by Dulwich, they scored a second before the whistle.

After losing three matches in a row, we set out to our next match against SAS Pudong 3. Unfortunately they proved to be far superior and we lost 2-0 after conceding two penalties, a handball which Jason saved, and a two-on-one slide tackle in the area which thundered into the corner.

After playing four matches, we had a lunch break for half an hour.

Soon after lunch, we played against SAS Puxi team 1. After about ten minutes, SAS was ahead by one goal. Our whole team tried really hard and finally got a goal in thanks to Alberecht following a goal-mouth scramble. Then, the match ended 1-1.

In our sixth and final match, against SAS Pudong 1, we were all very worried as our opponents looked a lot taller and faster than us. We turned out to be correct. One of their players ran past our defence and shot really hard into Jason's stomach. After tending to Jason for about five minutes, we resumed the match and quickly conceded three goals. After battling hard against them, we had a good chance to score but was blocked by their goalie. With five minutes left, they broke through our defence and scored another goal.

Finally the whistle blew, ending the match 4-0.

Although we didn't get the best results, we all had fun and we hope to do it again next year.

By Sebastian Saavedra

CISSA Soccer Boys Team 1

On Friday morning, I packed my bag and mixed it with my school work and my soccer kits. I was really excited about CISSA Soccer since this was my first CISSA event. After we arrived in Shanghai, we stayed overnight at the Aston House Hotel. The next day, we all woke up (with the help of Mr.T) and got dressed. We had a nice breakfast in the hotel and we left for SAS Puxi.

When we arrived there, we were all concerned about our opponent because they were all so big. We had Nishant as the goalie, Denis and Kyeong Dong as defenders, Geoffery, Jeff and Jin Ho as midfield and me as attacker. We weren't ready at the beginning and we lost 10 -0 against Shanghai Community International School, Hong Qiao, 4-0 against SAS Puxi and we won 1-0 against SCIS Pudong and this was when we all started to relax a bit. However, 6 -0 against SAS Pudong because we were all exhausted from the constant matches without any substitutes or breaks. The next game we played against the Deutsch Schule Shanghai and we lost 4-0. At our last game, we all were so exhausted that no one could run, eventually we lost 4-0 again. Many of us had bruises everywhere and all of us tried our best to run for the whole entire tournament. I believe we did a really good job and has improved a lot in teamwork and skills compared to us in training. There was one last match at the end which was the all stars match where one player from each team take part in the game and Albrecht got picked from team 2-1 and, I also got chosen for the game but in my opinion we all should have been chosen because not one of us could play without each other.

On the bus trip back, we had pizza for lunchish-dinner and we all were half exhausted and also we were all very proud of what we had accomplished and all of us (including Team 2-1) kept a smile on our face.

CISSA soccer D1

On Saturday November 21 the very first NIS CISSA Division 1 team (D1) football team went to Dulwich College of Shanghai to play in the D1 tournament. This was NIS's first time playing in the D1 tournament, so we were all very excited. The first game that we played was against the home team, Dulwich team and we beat them 1-0. We were very pleased that we had won the first game of the tournament, but we still had 2 more games to play and we had to win at least one of those games if we wanted to move on to the next leg of the tournament. The next game was very unlucky. We lost 5-1 to SCIS. We had a team talk after that game and we had decided that we were going to win the next game. After that, we beat the next team, Concordia 1-0. We were very happy and we were moving up to the next stage of the tournament. The next team that we were up against was the team from YCIS. We were very worn out by then and we lost that game 3-1, although we were very unlucky not to score twice in the opening minutes. Then even more exhausted, we played against SAS PUXI, It was very hard and we managed to pull off a tie, but since they don't call it D1 for nothing, we went into Penalty shootouts, where unfortunately, we lost despite several good saves from our goalkeeper. But from competing in this tournament we had an overall good time, placing 8 out of 16 teams in the tournament.

The Coaches which we give many thanks,
Mr. Mark Ritchie
Mr. McLellan

The team:
Lucas (the 1 and only striker)
Laurence (small but deadly)
JongMin AKA Biggie (our left foot gunner)
Caspar (the ghost)
Yong Chan (super sub)
Havier (super defender 1)
Nathan (super defender 2)
Tom (super goalkeeper)

NIS 48 - GCA 5

In our first game of the season, our 2009-2010 ACAMIS Girls' Basketball slaughtered Grand Canadian Academy.

This game was a fantastic opportunity for the squad to implement the plays learned, to fight for rebounds and to work as a team. Not only did our Lions score 48 points, they also played well defensively, allowing only 2 baskets.

We had several fast breaks which resulted in easy lay-ups. We tried to set screens but we definitely have to remember to look up while dribbling.

Our next game is against the women from Nanjing University.

We'd like to thank Ms Weatherly for refereeing and Mr Knight for score keeping.

CISSA Football

MVP Awards

Hannah Gusten

Danielle Lennox

Laurence McLellan

Albrecht von Bodelschwingh

Chae Woo Lim

MIP Awards

Prenciss Cantiga

Anna Chennault

Nathan Kappler

Jae Seok Yim

Geoffrey Gao

The above awards were awarded by
NIS team coach and manager

All-Star Selection:

Marie Schuenemann

Allison Bailey

Albrecht von Bodelschwingh

Chae Woo Lim

The all-star awards were awarded at
the tournament.

ASA, Inter- House, Community Activities, ACAMIS & CISSA News

The following activities will be continuing after the Dec holiday break, please contact me if you are interested.

中文课: Chinese Class for Intermediate Adults

Monday 4.15-5.15 Room: 220A

英文课: English for Adults

Wed 3.15 and Friday 3.15 Room D212

Limited vacancies for early beginners and low intermediate English learners.

中国画: Chinese Painting Class

Wed 4.00-5.30 Room A179

Our Chinese painting class has limited vacancies for adults who would like to learn how to paint in Chinese water colour style.

Inter-House Spelling Bee

House teams of six will contest Spelling Bees at two levels:

Grades 6-8 : Monday Dec 7

Grades 9-12 Tuesday Dec 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Dec 4

Spirit Day 4: Holidays Theme

Recent Events

Nov 26-27 Math Olympiad (Beijing)

Certificates and awards for this event will be presented at assembly after the Dec holiday break.

Inter-House Points

The tally so far !

Xuanwu 玄武 388

Wutaishan 五台山 317

Taiping 太平 379

ASA CYCLE 2 NEWS

Important News

After-School Activities Cycle 2

- After-School Activities will run from Monday to Thursday for PYP, MYP and DP students next week (Week 17).
- There will be no After-School Activities on Friday Dec 11.
- After-School Activities will recommence on Monday Jan 4.

Arts-to-the-Community

NIS Choir and Drama Students will return to El Fa Ya Dong Kindergarten after the December break to perform.

Grade 8 Community and Service Activity (Sat 14, 21, 28 Nov and Dec 5)

Grade 8 Students went to the Amity Bakery on Nov 14, 21 and 28 to assist Amity raise money for their activities and also to learn more about the disadvantaged in Nanjing.

Some Grade 8 students and NIS Choir will attend Amity “Volunteer Carnival”

Venue: 1912 from 10:00 to 13:00.

They will perform and also assist AMITY in selling some bakery products and second-hand goods to raise money for the disadvantaged.

After School Activities Questions

If you have any questions about the After-School Activities Programme please contact me.

Robin Hutchison
85899111 ex: 1037
robinhutchison@staff.nanjing-school.com

Keyboarding Stars!

Our students in grades 3-4-5 are developing keyboarding skills. With the increased use of technology in our world today, good "touch typing" skills are essential for effective computer use. Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home on the website "Typing Master Online" located at: <http://online3.typingmaster.com/tmonline3/login?id=mbzug42gv> Thank you to parents who are encouraging their child's development of this necessary skill.

We have divided our skill groups into 6 levels:

Basic	10 WPM	70% Accuracy
Basic Plus	15 WPM	75% Accuracy
Intermediate	20 WPM	80% Accuracy
Intermediate Plus	25 WPM	85% Accuracy
Advanced	30 WPM	90% Accuracy
Super Star	40 WPM	95% Accuracy

When students are ready to try and pass a level they make arrangements with their classroom teacher or Ann Martin, our Educational Technology Integrator. During the test time, they must type **with their hands covered!!** Students may practice a test at home to build their confidence and skills.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have passed a keyboarding test:

Grade 5A	Michelle Gerke	Advanced	62 WPM	91% Accuracy
Grade 5A	Helena Boehm	Intermediate	23 WPM	82% Accuracy

Ann Martin

IT Teacher

annmartin@staff.nanjing-school.com

2009 ACAMIS Maths Olympiad

On Thursday 26th November, Mr Morgan, Ms Vicki and I took 23 finely tuned Mathematicians to Dulwich College Beijing to compete in the 2009 ACAMIS Maths Olympiad. We had purposely entered the students in the North China division so that they would be competing directly against the biggest international schools in China.

We enjoyed a relatively painless flight to Beijing that afternoon and settled into the luxurious setting of the Crown Plaza hotel by 7 o'clock. After a quick trip down to the local shopping mall, we all retired early to dream about continued fractions and the meaning of π . Spirits were high in the morning as we boarded the bus to take us to our final destination and the competition itself. Upon entering Dulwich College, we were immediately confronted with the size of the challenge in front of us. More than 270 students from 12 International Schools had assembled in the Mathematics Department to enter in mental combat of the highest order.

The students were split into their respective grade levels. Each school entered 2 teams at each level, creating a league of 24 individual teams at each of grades 6, 7 and 8. The first round began in earnest with each student in the room tackling 30 fiendish problems individually. Although you could hear a pin drop for the entire round, the amount of brain power being expended in that 40 minutes would have been enough to power our plane back to Nanjing that evening (had it flown).

After a quick break to re-generate the hundreds of brain cells that had exploded in the initial round, it was on to the second. The teams were now required to combine their efforts and work as a team over the next hour. As Mathematicians, we were very proud to see our students from varying backgrounds and cultures coming together as real team mates when solving the problems. They communicated brilliantly and continually came up with quite ingenious solutions to the most challenging of questions for the entire 60 minutes. When the gong sounded to signal the end of the round, lunch was announced and there was visible relief on the face of all participants. It had been a grueling morning for every one of them and a short rest was truly deserved.

Finally it came to the last session. There was another change in the format of the competition in store. It now took the form of a small relay race. Once the team had produced the solution to the first two questions, their runner would sprint to the adjudicators table to have them marked. If they were correct, they would receive the next two. If not, then they would return to their team to rework their answers. They would continue in this way until the time ran out, or they answered all 20 questions. This is where our Grade 8 team came into their own. With Alice Park taking on the role of Ussain Bolt, and Ting Yu, Jin Ho and Dong Hwan supplying their own mental acrobatics, they flew into an early lead. Although they couldn't maintain their momentum for whole 40 minutes, it was certainly one of my highlights of the tournament. The round had certainly changed the atmosphere of the morning and the room became packed with pupils frantically trying to concentrate on the problems in hand whilst keeping one eye on how their competition were getting on. At last the dust settled and without anyone coming to blows, the challenge was at an end.

As we walked from table to table and congratulated our teams, everyone of them looked exhausted. They had put their all into almost 3 solid hours of extremely challenging Maths and could all be proud of themselves. They had worked superbly in their 6 groups and we couldn't have asked for more. As we waited patiently for the final scores to be toted up, we received the first exciting piece of news for the day. Lyman Shen of Grade 6 had been called to take place in a tie-breaker to determine first, second and third in the individual competition for his age group. It must have been extremely intense for him under the pressure but he returned confident. Unfortunately it was not to be this time and when the final 3 placings were announced Lyman's name was not there. He had however come a fantastic tied 3rd out of 90 of the best 11 year old Mathematicians in the International Schools in China. Quite an achievement. (Actually, when we received the official results earlier this week, after the individual round he had scored the same top score of 22 as 4 other students, so he was actually tied first prior to the tie-breaker!)

But lest we forget, this is essentially a team competition and next came those scores. First up came the Grade 6 division and the team of Lyman Shen, Won Hee Lee, Kevin Chang and Kevin Tang had come 3rd out of 24, a brilliant feat, made all the more remarkable when you consider it was their first experience of such a tournament. The second fantastic result came with a 4th place for our Grade 7 team of Min Jung Cha, GaeYong Bae, Dong Chan Lee and Jang Hun Park. Another superb result indeed. Whilst the rest of the teams didn't figure as highly as these two, their contributions were no less valuable. The combined scores from all rounds from all 6 teams took us to 5th overall at the end of the day. With the level of competition we faced and considering the number of pupils we draw from, it was an amazing result.

So with spirits high we boarded the bus back to the hotel, leaving from Dulwich College with our most successful haul in an Olympiad yet. Not even an unexpected cancelled flight at the airport could dampen the atmosphere, with Dong Hwan celebrating the announcement of another night at a hotel in the company of Mr Morgan. I cannot praise our students enough for the way they conducted themselves throughout the trip, even when things didn't go their way. They were the perfect ambassadors for NIS. Special thanks must also go to Mr Morgan and Ms Vicki whose organisation and ability to speak fluent Chinese (Ms Vicki, not Mr Morgan) meant the whole operation was a tremendous success. I look forward to the next Mathematical success story at Nanjing International School.

Mr Lacey

MYP/DP Teacher of Mathematics

(If anyone would like a copy of the final results table or simply wants to know how to stay in control of your frustrations whilst stuck in Beijing International Airport with 23 students sat on the floor for 3 hours, please e-mail me at: matthewlacey@staff.nanjing-school.com)

We would like to inform parent about their possibility of obtaining their kids' lunch card's balance - we can forward them the balance file via-email.

Students' lunch-card balance available under request - contact us at eurest@staff.nanjing-school.com for details

