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## A New Decade at NIS

I would like to begin by welcoming back all our families, returning and new. School has gotten off to a good start with cold weather, but with smiling faces. Due to the close proximity of our start date and the weekend following New Year we had almost 25% of students absent on the first day. This situation is resolved on next year's calendar which should put less pressure on travel plans for our international community. To help with planning, the rest of the year and also to showcase some student art work we have produced a wall calendar that takes us to August 2010. We will distribute these style of calendars every school year from now forward.

Construction is flying ahead at The Centre with us still aiming for an opening at the end of March not long after Chinese New Year. Over the break the facilities team have been busy improving the campus. There is a new safety fence around the entire perimeter of the Early Childhood playground. The library has been expanded to include all the Primary Teacher shared resources, whilst the Pre-K classrooms are now next to each other. A classroom has been set up for the third Grade 4 class which will be used in the second semester. All the underground fibre optic cabling connecting to The Centre has been laid. The school car park will be back to its full capacity once all the pipes have been laid. This is expected to be in two weeks time.

Good communication is the key to better understanding in any school. I encourage parents' questions. Please ask so that we can be supportive to our parent as well as to our student community.

Have a Joyous January

Laurie McLellan, Director  
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## PTA Meeting Notice

The regular monthly PTA meeting for January will take place in the staff room at 8:10 on Tuesday, 12th of January.

## PTA Welcome Back Coffee Morning

It will be held in MYP Large Group Room at 8:10 on Thursday, 14th of January. This will be a PTA information session to welcome any new-comers and a chance for the rest of us to catch up after the holiday. Members of the PTA will be available to answer questions and chat with any new families.

## Important Dates:

### Dates for the diary:

This week is week 18

Tuesday 12th of January  
Regular PTA Meeting

Thursday 14th of January  
PTA Welcome Back Coffee Morning

Friday 15th of January  
PYP Assembly

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## ATM Machine

We have received an ATM machine from the Bank of Jiangsu during the Winter break. There is no connection for the ATM machine near our school. The connection service provider of Bank of Jiangsu will be setting this up and you will be notified as soon as the ATM is working.

Julia Zhang, Financial Controller

# Community Activities

## New Painting Class for Adults

Are you interested in taking Chinese black and white water-based painting class? If so, please contact the Activities Office next week.

**Note:** Fees will apply depending on the number of enrollments.

The following Community activities for Adults will be continuing this week. Please contact the Activities Office 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

### 中国画: Chinese Painting Class

Wed 4.00-5.30 Room A179

### Activities Office Contact details

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## Inter-House Basketball Shoot-out (G6-8)

Next Thursday there will be an Inter-House Basketball shoot-out for girls and boys. Make sure you come along and support your house team.

## Inter-House Basketball Competition (G9-12)

Next Wednesday and Thursday there will be an Inter-House lunchtime basketball competition. Boys and girls teams will compete to see who is the leading basketball house. A good way to prepare for the upcoming ACAMIS Basketball competition.

## UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS

### ACAMIS Basketball

Competition will be held in Jan 2010

### Award Presentation

Certificates and awards for Math Olympiad and Inter-House Spelling Bee were presented at School Assembly today.

## After-school Activities News

ASA Cycle 2 has recommenced this week.

## Inter-House Points

The tally so far !

Xuanwu 玄武 489

Wutaishan 五台山 410

Taiping 太平 494

### Shopping List

- \*socks
- \*bar of soap
- \*face towel
- \*shampoo
- \*toothbrush
- \*toothpaste
- \*pencils
- \*coloured pencils
- \*eraser
- \*pencil sharpener
- \*small bag of candies

## PFRANG Giving Tree

We would like to thank the NIS community who have already so kindly prepared gift bags for the children supported by the PFRANG Association. The children will receive your generous gifts during the Spring Festival.

All the name tags are gone but we are still missing a few bags, 25 to be exact. These PFRANG students do not yet have a present:

Cui HuaHua, Liu Xiangyang, Yu Xiaoguo, Liu Pan, Yu Pengpeng, Chen Ronghuai, Yong Hongcheng, Wang Jingxin, Zhuang Yingfeng, Liu Chuangran, Bu Yanzhi, Wang Lei, Zhang Jifei, Qiu Jinsheng, Wei Mengmeng, Yang Tingting, Zhou Yaqiang, Sun Xiang, Zhao Daqing, Lin Jiajie, Shui Qian, Zhang Qingyuen, Zhang Yufeng, Liu Dan, Shi Yuxin, Wang Ying, Zhang Zhenzhu, Gu Yinjian, Liu Lianxing, Huang Linyue, Wu Lihao, and Wang Xiyue.

You may have not have the time before the Winter Holidays to prepare your gift but you may still drop it off by **Monday, January 11**.

Wishing the NIS Community a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Anna Yuen, on behalf of the ACAMIS Girls' Basketball Team and the Pfrang Association.

# G10 PARENTS

## Subject choice for the

### Diploma Programme

In a few months your son/daughter will be a Diploma student. For the next two years they will be working towards their IB Diploma which will give them University entrance around the world. It is therefore very important that they choose the subjects they are going to study very carefully. To help you with this, on **Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 8.15 am** we will be holding a Subject Choice Forum for all Grade 10 students and their parents. This will be an opportunity for you and your son/daughter to find out as much as possible about the Diploma Programme, how the subject choices work and what is required for each subject in the Diploma Programme. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and to talk to me (IB Diploma Coordinator), Mr Klesch (School Counselor) and all of the Diploma subject teachers.

**Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>** is the final day for handing in completed Subject Choice Forms. This allows us to plan to best meet students' needs. All Diploma classes are limited to 20 students, so the subject choice forms must be completed as soon as possible.

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that students choose their Diploma subjects wisely. You must research university choices before selecting the Diploma Subjects. All Grade 10 students and their parents are expected to attend the Subject Choice Forum.

In addition, I would like to meet with all Grade 10 students and their parents to discuss course choices and university plans. **Please make an appointment to see me at the 3 Way Conferences on Wednesday 3rd February.** If you can not make this day, then please let me know when you are able to come.

I hope to see you all on Thursday!

Dr Juan Saavedra  
IB Diploma Coordinator  
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