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School is more than a classroom

For NIS to meet its stated mission commitment to 'individual excellence' we cannot possibly meet the needs of our students through classroom teaching. While what happens in the classroom, and the teachers that make that experience stimulating, is the core of what a good school is all about, and I believe always will be, there is so much more. This week saw two events that are a great demonstration of why the best schools are so much more than a classroom.

The ACAMIS Badminton and the Spring Performing Arts evening were two superb events at NIS. They not only gave students the opportunity to demonstrate skills in sport and performing arts, but also engaged and included the community. It is important that there is a connectedness between what students do at school and what they see their parents and other adults do out of school. It makes it more meaningful. At the Performing Arts evening parents and teachers also performed, showing students that music is for life. Badminton is probably the biggest community sport at NIS with teachers and parents playing with students every week of the year. Once again, the message is that sport is for life.

I know how much emphasis I put on participation and small schools giving more students opportunities to take part in sports competitions. I also love to win and I want to congratulate our two badminton teams which came 1st and 3rd in the tournament. To my knowledge it is our first ever ACAMIS tournament victory. Go NIS!

Laurie McLellan

Director

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Bulletin notice

Saturday, 5th of June

Save the date

PTA End of Year Dance

MYP/DP 7pm

Upcoming Events:

Saturday 24th of April
PTA Spring Fun Day
Pfrang Gala

Monday 26th of April
Gr12 Study Leave Begins

Wednesday 28th of April -
Friday 30th of April
Mini Tournament 9: Gr6-8/
Gr9-12 MISC Skills

Friday 30th of April
Parent Coffee Morning

PYP Athletics Day

Next Friday (30th April) is the PYP Athletics Day. Parents are very welcome to come and watch their children in action.

The events start at 8:30 and will continue until lunchtime.

There will be normal school lessons in the afternoon.

Please make sure that your child comes to school on the day in their PE kit, a sun hat and a water bottle.

Derek Pinchbeck
PYP Coordinator



NIS Board Update - Reminder

The NIS Board experiences the same challenge to continuity that occurs throughout our community with families coming and going from NIS. The Board has been working with a renowned consultant, John Littleford (www.jlittleford.com), to help with succession planning and continuity on the NIS School Board. At this year's Annual General Meeting we reduced the number of voting Board members from 9 to 7. The Board also set up an ad hoc group from the Governance Committee to seek out possible future Board members should openings occur. We now have a diverse group of parents who are ready to serve should the need arise.

There are however two very important points to consider based on our Articles of Association:

1. Any person who is co-opted to fill an opening must stand at the next election.
2. Any person nominated from the Governance Committee to fill an opening at the end of year must stand for election against any other nominated member.

In other words the Board is involved in Succession Planning for membership, but the final decision is left to the members.

Current Status of Members of NIS Board

Of the current NIS Board:

Bernhard Weber, Patrick Heckelmann, Michael Chesterman and Julia Gusten have served one year of their current two year term and have confirmed they will continue as Board Members.

Andy Chang is at the end of his current two year term and has advised he shall be nominating for election to the NIS Board for a further two year term.

Eleanor Eastland is at the end of her current two year term and has advised she shall not be nominating for re-election.

Koen Verniers was recently co-opted to replace Lies Poorter-Jongsma as she is leaving China this month. Koen will be seeking election for a two year term.

Annual Election of Members for the NIS Board

The Governance ad hoc committee has asked Mr Park Hyun Shik to nominate for a two year term on the NIS Board.

There are therefore three (3) candidates for the three (3) openings. Should any other members wish to nominate there will be an election. The process is highlighted below as set out in the NIS Articles of Association.

Nominations Called

The NIS Board is seeking Nomination by Candidates for Election to three (3) positions.

Please see the Information that follows regarding eligibility to nominate, conditions of Board membership, responsibilities of Board members and the commitment required.

- **All Candidates must provide a short written statement to the NIS Community as part of the election process. A guide for this statement will be sent when nominations are received.**
- **Nominations by Candidates for Election are open from today, Friday 9 April, 2010**
- **The last day for nominations to be received is Friday 30 April, 2010.**
- **Board Elections will take place by postal ballot from Friday 14 May, 2010**
- **Voting will close on Friday 21 May 2010 and the results of the election will be published in the NIS Bulletin on Friday 28 May, 2010.**

- **All Nominations should be sent, preferably by email to:**

**Julia Gusten
Chair of the Governance Committee
Nanjing International School Board
j.guesten@bw-i.cn
Mobile : 139-0516-3971**

Road Safety

As I'm sure you've noticed, over the past few weeks staff members have been assigned to help ensure student safety in the road directly in front of NIS. We believe that adhering to a few simple road rules would ensure a safe transition for your children, and I ask that you convey these expectations to your drivers:

1. No U-turns in front of the school. Cars parked on either side of the road should proceed down the road and turn at the traffic lights. U-turns are extremely dangerous to any child crossing the road, and causes oncoming traffic to swerve across the road - and across the pedestrian crossing.

2. No double parking. Cars that are double parked prevent free flow of traffic, obstruct the line of sight and cause erratic responses from drivers - all very dangerous to our children.

3. No Parking on the pavements. This obstructs children's access to the safe footpath and blocks the pedestrian crossing.

4. No blocking of the school driveway. Cars have parked 3 deep across the entrance gate, preventing the free flow of traffic into and out of the NIS premises. When backed up into the road they also obstruct road traffic.

If there is insufficient parking space along the road, drivers should park in the Suguo underground parking and, if required, walk to the gate to fetch your child.

Motorcycles

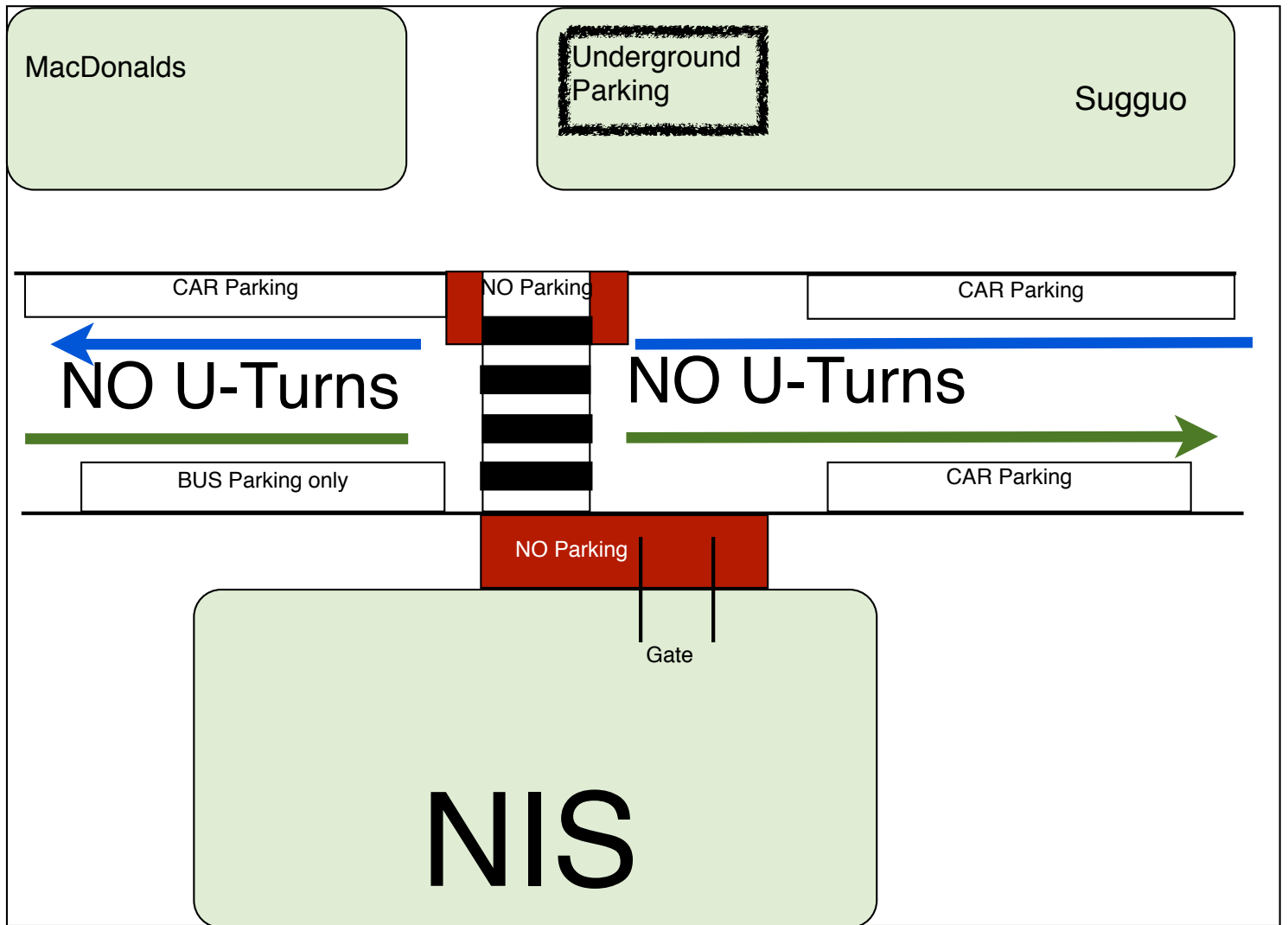
In addition, NIS takes the issue of motorcycle safety extremely seriously. Helmets are compulsory (by law), although this is not uniformly enforced. Given the road conditions and traffic variables in Nanjing, however, we'd all agree that a motorcyclists involved in an accident has a greater chance of head trauma if not wearing a helmet. I'd ask parents to ensure that students driving, or carried as a passenger, wear helmets on motorbikes, whether this is a petrol or electric vehicle. To support you in this, NIS will not allow anyone riding a motorbike to park on NIS property unless they are wearing a helmet.

Thank you for sharing this with your children and your driver, and in working with us to ensure the safety of all children at NIS.

Richard Swart

Principal

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PARKING AT NIS during PTA Spring Fun Day and the Pfrang Gala Dinner on Saturday 24 April 2010.

Due to limited number of parking spots at school we do recommend that you will park your car at the underground parking at Sugguo. We have met with the parking management and were advised that the parking will be operational and that the parents from NIS will have priority.

Please display your NIS Parking Pass.

NIS PTA ELECTIONS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Dear parents,

Our school currently has 38 nationalities represented and we want our school PTA to reflect the international diversity of our families. To do this we would welcome your participation on the Executive Committee of the PTA for our next school year. The committee is largely responsible for planning our scheduled events. Membership in the PTA is automatically granted to all current members of the NIS school community but members must be elected for the Executive Committee.

Annual Elections for seats on the Executive Committee of the PTA will take place on Tuesday, May 18th at 8:10 in the staff room. At this time we will have the final PTA meeting for this school year.

The positions of Chairperson, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer are open.

Please return the attached nomination form if you wish to stand for election on the PTA committee, or if you would like to nominate someone else.

If there is only 1 person interested in each position, elections will not be necessary.

Nomination Form Nanjing International School PTA Elections 2010-2011

Name of PTA Candidate: _____

Position applying for: _____

Contact numbers: Tel: Home _____ Mobile _____

Nominated by _____