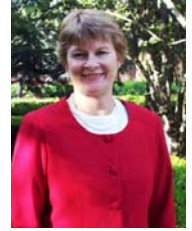




# News from the Dragon's Den



## From the Head of School – Mrs Anne Fowles

Dear SSIS Parents and Community,

It is fantastic to see the range of Saturday morning activities taking place and the number of people coming into SSIS to support these. This last Saturday over 250 students, parents and teachers were in school to attend soccer (or football, depending which country you call home!), swimming, ballet, Pacific dance, Tae Kwon Do, gymnastics, Italian language lessons, drama production preparation and other activities. In addition SSIS hosted an EARCOS weekend workshop attended by teachers throughout the region. These activities are just a small section of all the activities that take place at SSIS during each week.

The Activities Director is now preparing activities for the next activity session. If you are interested to lead, provide or assist with an activity, please contact Mr Peter Fowles: [peter-fowles@ssis-suzhou.net](mailto:peter-fowles@ssis-suzhou.net).

Invoices for the second semester have been distributed recently along with a reminder to families who might be completing their time in Suzhou to submit a leavers form (available from the Admissions office) before December 1. Please note applicable deadlines as these may have an implication for deposit refunds.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Anne Fowles  
Head of School



### Issue: 13

Date: 18 Nov 2011

### Inside Newsletter

- Message from the Head of School
- Calendar Dates
- Elementary School News
- Secondary School News
- Thanksgiving dinner
- School fee payment

### Calendar Dates:

15-19 November  
Singapore THIMUN

17-20 November  
IB Theatre Arts trip  
to HK

19 November  
SISAC Netball @  
BISS Pudong  
SISAC Rugby @  
Dulwich Shanghai  
CISSA Soccer  
Championships

23-29 November  
G6-11 Assessment  
Week

25 November  
Grade 10 Assembly

25 Nov 25  
MS Talent Show  
(after school)



## From the Elementary Principal – Mr Mark Treichel



Our annual Swim Carnivals for K-5 students will be held next week with details of the schedule below for your information. Parents and friends are invited to come along and participate if they are available. Students are asked to come dressed in either their house colours or in pirate themed costumes for their carnival day. The Swim Team volunteers have organized a stall again this year with light snacks and drinks so please bring along some money to support this group.

	Thursday Nov 24	Friday Nov 25
8.30—10.30 am	Grade 3	Grade 1
11.00 am—12.30 pm	Grade 4	Kindergarten
1.30—3.30 pm	Grade 5	Grade 2

Grade 3 students invited parents and friends along on Thursday this week to participate in their Science Fair as part of their “How the World Works” unit of inquiry. This was an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of forces in the world around them. Students worked in groups investigating topics such as pressure, friction and simple machines. They shared the written procedures they had written for their scientific process and demonstrated their experiments to visitors. Thank you to the many parents who were able to share and celebrate this learning.

Pre-Kindergarten students travelled to Shang Tang Jie, Suzhou Old Town today to visit traditional housing and strolled through the cobbled lanes of traditional Suzhou. They had snack in the park then took local transport in the form of a paddle driven canal boat ride before returning to school. This activity was planned to help our young learners come to terms with the idea of history and a long time ago.

The current reading support program using trained parent volunteers has been extremely successful. SSIS is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents assisting our young readers. We are planning to offer a second round of training for other interested parents after the Christmas and Chinese New Year break. Training will be offered on 9 and 10 February. More details will be issued prior to the break.

Elementary Photo Gallery

<http://www.ssis-suzhou.net/ESPrincipal/Site/Gallery/Gallery.html>

Homeroom Sites and galleries

<http://es.ssis-suzhou.net:8088/esict/ES/Start.html>

**Upcoming dates for October/November:**

Nov 24 – G3-5 Swim Carnival

Nov 25 – K-2 Swim Carnival

Nov 25 – Free Dress Day





## Suzhou Singapore International School

### Becki's Blog



#### Helping your child with maths

- Do all you can to develop his or her sense of number, size, length, weight, width, volume, area, mass and time. Find maths everywhere!
- Remember the influence you have on your child's attitude to mathematics. Comments such as 'no one in this family is good at maths' or 'well you're a girl and they're better at English' set up tremendous barriers to learning.
- Involve him or her in real-life mathematics around the home – counting change, measuring, weighting, estimation, playing games that involve keeping scores, calculation journey times.
- Encourage the older child in hobbies that require hands-on mathematical skills and a sense of spatial relationships-making models, assembling, building, making, drawing.
- Use solid objects – buttons, sticks, pieces of string and the like when helping with mathematical problems.
- Avoid confusion by checking methods being taught at school before helping your child.
- Use internet and computer math games.
- Encourage problem solving.

#### 자녀의 수학공부를 도와주는 올바른 방법

- 수크기,길이,무게,넓이,부피,면적,질량,시간등 어린이들의 수학개념을 발달시키기 위한 모든 것을 시도하십시오. 우리 주변 어디에서나 수학을 찾을 수 있습니다.
- 어린이들의 수학에 대한 태도는 부모님들에게 많은 영향을 받는다는 것을 기억하십시오. '우리 가족은 어느 누구도 수학을 잘하는 사람이 없어.' 혹은 '너는 여자아이이고, 여자 아이들은 (수학보다) 영어를 더 잘하지!' 와 같은 말들은 어린이들로 하여금 학습에 대한 거대한 장벽을 쌓게 할 것입니다.
- 가정에서는 주변에 있는 생활수학으로 어린이들을 끌어들이기 바랍니다. 거스름돈 세기, 치수 재기, 무게 재기, 어렵수 말하기, 점수 기록하기, 여행시간 계산하기 처럼 수학과 관련된 게임을 활용하십시오.
- 좀자란 어린이들이라면 공간관련 개념 모형 만들기, 조립하기, 쌓기, 만들기, 그리기 등처럼 직접해보는 조작 가능한 수학기능과 관련 있는 취미를 갖도록 이끌어 주십시오.
- 가정에서 수학문제 풀이를 도와줄 때 Buttons, 막대기, 실이나 끈 조각 등과 같은 입체도형들을 활용하십시오.
- 어린이들의 학습을 도와주기 전 학교에서 배운 방법을 잘 알고 있는지 확인하면서 어린이들을 당황하게 하는 일은 반드시 피해주시기 바랍니다.
- 인터넷이나 컴퓨터의 수학 게임도 활용하십시오.
- (반복적인 연산문제 보다) 응용문제를 많이 풀어보도록 격려해 주십시오.

#### 帮助您孩子学习数学

- 你们能帮助他/她理解数字、尺码、长度、重量、宽度、容积、质量和时间的意义。到处都有数学的影子!
- 记住你的言行会影响孩子学习数学的态度。例如类似的评语,“家里没有人擅长数学”或者“你是个女孩子,更擅长英语”,将会给学习数学增加巨大的障碍。
- 让他/她在家中参与现实的数学活动——计算找回的零钱、测量、称重、估算,玩需要记分的游戏以及计算行程时间
- 鼓励培养大孩子爱好操作性强的数学技巧学习和对空间关系的理解——制作模型、装配、建筑、制造、制图
- 利用实体——纽扣、小棍子、一段段细绳来帮助解决数学问题。
- 在帮助孩子学数学前,利用在学校里教的检验方法避免混淆。
- 利用网络和电脑里的数学游戏。
- 鼓励孩子解决疑难问题。



## ESL Corner



### Will my child's attitudes affect the learning of a second language?

Providing a stimulating and varied environment for vocabulary and linguistic structures to evolve, ensuring that a child's linguistic skills become well developed is important but it is NOT enough. It's also very important for the child to have a positive self-concept about his two languages.

As soon as bilingual children enter school, they may become aware they are different. Rather than bilingualism being celebrated, such children may be teased or taunted about their accent. Being different can be embarrassing, and language attitudes may change.

The language self-esteem of children can be raised by admiring and not just observing their skills in two languages. The occasional gentle word of praise, the smile, the 'pat on the back' for their bilingualism will encourage a favorable attitude towards two languages. A positive attitude to bilingualism is a long-term preserver of bilingualism in a child.

*Colin Baker "A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism"*

### 내 자녀의 태도가 제2외국어 습득에 영향을 미칠까요?

단어와 언어구조의 습득에 도움을 주는 자극적이고 다양한 환경과, 자녀의 언어능력의 충분한 발전에 중점을 두는 것은 중요하지만, 그러나 이것들은 자녀의 제2 외국어 습득에 있어 충분하지 않습니다. 자녀들에게 있어서 두 개의 언어에 대한 긍정적인 태도는 매우 중요합니다.

두 언어에 능통한 아이들은 학교에 들어가자마자 자신들이 새로운 환경에서 다르다는 것을 인식하게 됩니다. 이 아이들이 두 개의 국어를 할 수 있다는 점은 칭찬거리가 되지 않고, 오히려 그들의 다른 발음 때문에 놀림거리가 되고 맙니다. 이것은 또래들간에 어색한 환경을 만들어낼 수도 있지만, 그 아이들의 언어에 대한 태도도 바꿀 수 있습니다.

아이들의 언어적 자부심은 단순히 관찰하는 것에서부터가 아닌, 감탄하는 것에서부터 개선될 수 있습니다. 아이들의 이중언어사용에 대한 칭찬과 미소는 아이들의 이중언어에 대한 호의적인 태도를 북돋을 수 있습니다.

*Colin Baker "A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism" 에서 발췌*

### 我孩子的态度会影响第二语言学习吗?

给语言词汇和语言结构提供一个可让其发展的, 富有启发性的多变环境, 以确保孩子的语言能力良好发展是非常重要的, 但这还是不够的。让孩子对自己掌握的两种语言有一个积极的自我概念也是非常重要的。

双语学生一进入校园, 便会意识到他们的不同之处, 而不是会两种语言值得庆幸。也许有人会取笑他们的口音, 与众不同的口音可能会令人尴尬, 也使他们学习语言的态度发生变化。

孩子学习语言的自尊心, 需要通过夸奖称赞孩子来建立起来, 并不仅仅是维持他们对双语运用的能力。偶尔温柔的表扬和微笑, 会鼓励孩子用积极有效的态度对待双语学习。对于孩子来说, 双语学习是一种积极态度, 需要长期以往的坚持。

“给双语学习的家长和老师的指南” Colin Baker



## From the PYP Coordinator – Mr Dom Thomas



### Rare American Bald Eagle spotted in Grade 1

The Grade 1 students have started their new 'Sharing the Planet' unit of inquiry. During this unit they will inquire into how humans, plants and animals strive to share Earth's resources.

As a 'tuning in' activity the students had to guess the animals that the teachers had hidden in mystery boxes. The students were given clues about the animal's appearance, diet, habitat and some of the reasons the animals might be in danger of extinction. A final box was delivered which contained an example of an animal that humans are doing a good job of preserving in North America.

A very happy Bald Eagle was released from its box and flew off.....



## German Department

Liebe Eltern



Wir freuen uns, dass so viele Kinder mit ihren Eltern letzte Woche am Laternenumzug teilgenommen haben.

Herzlichen Dank an alle, die so tatkräftig beim Laternenbasteln, der musikalischen Vorbereitung und Organisation dieses schönen Abends mitgeholfen haben!!

Herzliche Grüße, Ihr Kollegium





## From the Secondary Principal – Mr Nicholas Little



One of the aims of the IB is to make assessments relevant and authentic. A good example of this is the recently completed Grade 8 Design Technology project making toys. MYP students learn these skills as part of a whole process of creation, represented as a cycle of investigating, planning, designing, creating and evaluating. In this project, Grade 8s were designing toy cars for our kindergarten and a local orphanage – their final product had a real life consumer (not only a teacher with a grading paper), making this task both a preparation for the future and something that is relevant right now. Students also came to understand a process of creation that is relevant not just for this product in this subject, but all kinds of products in many areas of endeavor.

Outside the classroom, students are equally busy – this week, we have had groups out in Singapore for a Model United Nations (MUN) conference and a Theatre Arts trip to Hong Kong. Tomorrow, our Middle School soccer team will travel to Shanghai for a CISSA tournament, and next Friday there is a High School assembly organized by Grade 10, and a Middle School talent show after school – both of which parents are welcome to attend.

## From the IB Diploma Coordinator - Mr Matthew Marshall

On November 14-15, 2011 the SSIS staff participated in professional development workshops and activities. Professional development plays an important role in ensuring that the DP curriculum is delivered effectively. The DP professional development at SSIS is planned in order to ensure that teachers who teach the DP understand the DP assessment criteria and curriculum aims and objectives.

Since 2010, a focus of the professional development for the DP at SSIS has been on improving our delivery of the DP Core. The DP Core consists of the *Theory of Knowledge* course, the *Extended Essay* and *CAS (Creativity-Action-Service)*. Professional development workshops that focus on the *Theory of Knowledge (TOK)* and the *Extended Essay* have taken place recently at SSIS. This has been a factor in enabling our student results to improve in these areas during the past two exam sessions. In the future, we will continue to place an emphasis on the DP Core and hope to see a continuation of improved student results in *TOK* and the *Extended Essay*.

The Mid-term Exams for the G11 students will take place from November 23-29. A schedule for the exams can be found in the G11 Homeroom page on DragonNet.

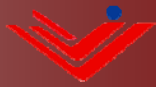
The *G12 Extended Essay First Draft* is due from November 21-25. The EE Supervisors will look over the *EE First Draft* and return it to the G12 students with recommendations for the *Extended Essay Final Draft*, which is due on February 6, 2012.

Recommendations for the *TOK Final Draft* and *EE Final Draft* will be included in the *Semester One Reports* that will be issued on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The G12 DP students can use the recommendations to improve their *TOK Essay* and *Extended Essay* during the Christmas/Lunar New Year break.

A reminder that the IBDP Exam Fees must be paid to the SSIS Finance Office no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. If you have questions regarding invoices and payment procedure please email Michelle Wu in the SSIS Finance Office. Michelle Wu's email address is [michellewu@sis-suzhou.net](mailto:michellewu@sis-suzhou.net).

If there are any questions regarding the IBDP or HSD at SSIS please email me at [matthewmarshall@sis-suzhou.net](mailto:matthewmarshall@sis-suzhou.net).



## Suzhou Singapore International School

### Grade 6-8 Talent Show

This year's Grade 6-8 Student Council Talent Show has a new format! It will take place on Friday, November 25 at 7:00 pm. There will be buses to Singa Plaza and, if there is a demand, to SND. Student Council Members are organizing the acts. Homeroom Representatives are selling tickets daily and there will be a ticket table outside of the canteen next week. Ask your child to buy yours! For only 10 RMB, you can enjoy the talents of students from all three grade levels. Acts include singers, dancers, instrumentalists and a beat boxer. Proceeds from the event will be donated to charity. Please support our students by coming to watch the show.

### Mathletics in the Secondary School

Mathletics is an online program that supplements the teaching of Mathematics in the Secondary. Last Wednesday, Mr Gary Post (Head of Mathematics) showed parents how this software is used with our students.

We have been using Mathletics at SSIS for just over 6 months and it has been an important part of daily Mathematics homework along with other tasks and activities. Every student in Grades 6 to 10 has a Mathletics user name and password.

Parents can also get involved and see the results that their child receives in their Mathletics assignments. To do this parents need to register at [www.mathletics.com.au/parent](http://www.mathletics.com.au/parent) then edit their profile to receive the email.

Parents will need to follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.mathletics.com.au/parent](http://www.mathletics.com.au/parent)
2. Enter your child's Username and Password
3. Activate the email response sent from Mathletics

Parents are able to monitor their child's progress online by:

1. Going to [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)
2. Clicking sign in
3. Entering your parent sign in details (given to you when you activated your email)
4. Clicking "Edit" next to your name under "Parent Account"
5. Ticking the "Email Weekly Reports" box

If you have any further questions regarding Mathletics and / or Maths at SSIS in general please contact Mr Gary Post, [garypost@ssis-suzhou.net](mailto:garypost@ssis-suzhou.net), or your child's Mathematics teacher.



## Tech Tips and Tools

### Digital Reputation Part II

Melinda and her friend make a parody of their school song with lots of swearing and obscene gestures. They upload it to a video sharing website and it becomes a hit with friends. However the couple she babysits for see the video and decide to find a new babysitter. Her principal is also unhappy. Everything Melinda does online may remain there indefinitely - influencing people's opinions of her and leaving her vulnerable to identity fraud, online stalking and cyberbullying. Melinda needs to think carefully about the personal information, photos and videos she shares and who might see it. And, remember not to post anything that she doesn't want others to know about.

The following tips can help children begin to understand and manage their digital reputation.

- At this age children's internet use should still be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Explain to your child that the internet is a public place and that the information they share may be online for a long time, so it's important to think carefully about what they post.
- Help your child to develop the skills they need to interact safely and respectfully online. Sit with them and guide their use online and help them learn to communicate appropriately with friends and family.
- Check whether websites your child uses allow them to post information and images. Many social networking websites enable children to post personal information, comments and images which may have an impact on the way others view them. Monitor their use of these websites and be aware of the age guidelines, privacy policies and terms of use.
- If your child is engaged in social networking help children understand and use privacy settings to limit who can see their information.

from [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

Geoff Derry

Learning Technology Teacher - Middle school

[geoffreyderry@ssis-suzhou.net](mailto:geoffreyderry@ssis-suzhou.net)



**Thanksgiving Dinner**



# Thanksgiving Dinner



Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

5:00-7:00 p.m. in the school canteen

Dear Parents,

It's time for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SSIS Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and we hope you can attend. The dinner, which will be held in the school canteen, will cost 95 RMB for adults and 55 RMB for children under 12 years of age. Last year's event was a great success. This year's will be even better!

If you wish to attend, please RSVP by email to:

[lcepreston@ssis-suzhou.net](mailto:lcepreston@ssis-suzhou.net)

Please RSVP by November 21<sup>st</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you there!

There will be buses to Singa Plaza after the dinner.

Menu

Roasted turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce

Buttered green beans

Mashed potatoes

Corn on the cob

Turkey stuffing

Raisin rice

Sweet potato

Vegetable lasagne

Garden green salad

Tomato and feta cheese salad

Cucumber and yogurt salad

Potato salad

Bread and rolls

Apple pie

Pumpkin pie

Ice cream

Free soft drinks

Wine and beer available for purchase





## Semester 2 school fee payment

### School fee payment for the 2011/2012 School Year, Semester 2

As Semester 1 draws to a close, we are now issuing the School Fee Payment Notice for the second semester of the 2011/2012 school year. **Please note that the deadline for the payment of fees is Friday, 16 December 2011**

If your child(ren) will not be returning to SSIS next semester (after 30 January 2012), please inform the school by filling in the School Leaving Form. You can get this form from the Admissions Office. Completed forms must be returned to the Admissions Office **on or before Thursday, 1 December 2011** to be eligible to have the RMB 10,000 deposit returned. Leaving forms received between 2 December and 27 January will be eligible for 50% of the deposit returned.

If your child(ren) leaves SSIS after the commencement of the first semester, parents must inform the school, in writing, **at least one month in advance**. Refunds, both for tuition and transportation fee, are given as follows:

- For attendance of not more than ten (10) school days in a semester, the school will refund 25% of that semester's school fee after deducting the RMB 10,000 deposit.
- For attendance of more than ten (10) school days but less than twenty-five (25) school days in a semester, the school will refund 50% of that semester's school fee.
- For attendance of more than twenty-five (25) school days in a semester, the school fee will not be refunded.

If your child(ren) is absent and intends to return to SSIS within the same semester, the school fees will not be refunded.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact:

Finance Department: Michelle Wu [michellewu@sis-suzhou.net](mailto:michellewu@sis-suzhou.net)

Admission Department: Cynthia Shen [cynthiashen@sis-suzhou.net](mailto:cynthiashen@sis-suzhou.net)