

TISPA – Feb 3, 2015

Head of School Report

Staffing

It has been a busy month of recruiting. We have interviewed candidates across Canada face-to-face and online with candidates from around the world. 13 staff will be leaving us at the end of the year and we will be hiring 17 new staff. In addition, 18 staff are being transferred to different positions within TIS. Most new staff have now been hired with only a few remaining positions.







Student Teachers

We will be hosting 4 student teachers from the University of Alberta from Feb 25 to April 3. Three of the students will be working in high school and one will be working in elementary. We are looking for families who may have a room available for a student teacher. Student teachers are willing to pay up to \$1000MOP/week for accommodations.

Air Quality

We are now monitoring the air quality in Macau. This information is posted on our staff portal. We are proposing a policy wherein all outdoor recesses, PE classes, sports activities and outdoor field trips are cancelled at 200. We are investigating if we should have lower threshold (such as 150) for outdoor PE classes and sports activities. Parent feedback is welcomed.

Influence to Human Health of each Air Quality Index

Air quality		Influence to health	Advise to public
Index	Quality		
0 - 50	Good 	No influence is expected	No response action is required
51 - 100	Moderate 	"The general public may not experience immediate effect. However, it may cause unhealthy influence if people expose under this level persistently for a long time."	No immediate response action is required, it may cause unhealthy influence if people expose under this level persistently for a long time
101 - 200	Bad 	For people who have cardiac or respiratory disease, symptom might become slightly worse. The general might experience discomfort.	People who have Cardiac and Respiratory disease are advised to reduce physical exercise and outdoor activities
201 - 300	Very Bad 	For people who have cardiac or respiratory disease, symptom might be obviously affected. The general would experience discomfort.	People are advised to reduce physical exercise and avoid outdoor activities
301 - 400	Severe 		
401 - 500	Harmful 		

The above figures is from the Macau weather website and is referred to **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, **State Environmental Protection Administration of China**, **Bureau of Environmental Protection Taiwan** and **Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department**.

Additional Languages at TIS

The group originally providing after-school Portuguese lessons is unable to continue providing them in this format. We are examining if it would be feasible to offer Portuguese (and possible French) during the school day as an alternative to Mandarin.

Given that Mandarin classes occur throughout the day and require a staff of 13 teachers and 4 TAs, it would not be feasible to offer additional languages at all grade levels. If we offer an additional language, we want to ensure that it is sustainable.

We are considering offering additional language choices at the secondary level. One option would be to offer it for Grade 9 and high school. Another option would be to offer it starting in Grade 7. We are keen to receive feedback from parents about these options.

Phase 2 Video

We are pleased to release an short video regarding the upcoming Phase 2 project. The video highlights the 4 key advantages in Phase 2:

- Purpose Built Kindergarten – including greater safety & security and access to washrooms
- Black Box Theatre
- New MPR
- Expanded Library

The video will be released to greater TIS community later this week.