

# TISPA – Nov 5, 2015

## Head of School Report

### **Events**

Walkathon – it was great to see so many parents come out to the event and so more participating in the actual walking/running. We will improve the transition between the kindergarten and elementary events.

Halloween – I'm sorry I missed all of the fun. Despite a mix up between the kindergarten and the Division 1 parades, it looks like everyone had a great time!

### **New Staff**

Physiotherapist - Julie Kirkman, has joined us on a part-time basis. She will be focusing primarily on working with inclusive students with impaired mobility but will also assist players and coaches, review our medical procedures and be a part of designing our therapy room in Phase 2.

Admissions and HR - Katie Park, from Scotland will be joining our Admissions and HR team next week. Katie brings extensive experience from international schools in the Middle East.

### **Burglary**

This past weekend, an unknown man gained access to the school and went through desks in the main and accounting offices. He was unable to access our school safes but did get away with a small amount of petty cash. This has been reported to the campus and Macau police. We will be reviewing and improving our security to address our current weaknesses.

### **DSEJ School Inspection**

Thank you to all of the parents and students who have participated in the DSEJ questionnaires and interviews. A large number of inspectors will be arriving tomorrow to prepare for next week's observation of classes, review of student work and inspection of school documents.

### **Run of Hope**

All staff, students and parents are encouraged to participate or volunteer at the Run of Hope on Sunday, November 8. This is going to be Registration forms are available in the office.

### **Help Appreciation Tea**

Our student teachers are going to be organizing the Helper Appreciation Tea on Nov 17. They will provide an update today.

### **A Greater Need for Communication and Parental Engagement**

As per last month's discussion, a sub committee was formed to review the survey results and to brainstorm solutions.

### **Sub Committee Suggestions**

- more pushing info to email than pulling people to our website
  - o subscriptions
  - o weekly digital Insight Online newsletter
- early notice on activities, dress downs, swim days,
- notes in agenda tend to be the day before

- trip blogs are reassuring to parents
- publications should be 1 per family
- should student council be involved in TISPA
- how to inform parents more?
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> P/T interview
  - o awareness of appointments
  - o online portal – not much interest
  - o questions about Mandarin and Kindergarten curriculum
- volunteering in the class

### **Actions**

- Subscriptions added to all blogs. Parents can choose multiple blogs to be subscribed to and whether they want daily or weekly updates.
- Insight Online will be compiled into an email newsletter every 2 weeks.
- Concerted effort to raise awareness of teachers' willingness to meet to discuss programs and progress outside of regular Parent/Teacher interviews.

### **Teacher Recruitment Season**

Teacher recruitment for 2016-17 is beginning now. Potential vacancies will be posted online and through the appropriate recruitment channels. Vacancies for positions do not need to be confirmed until December 6. Interviews take place in Macau, Canada and online. We anticipate having all of the positions filled by early February.