

Hao Xiao Xi

Our “Good News” Bi-Monthly Newsletter
December 9, 2009

Parent Volunteers in Level 5

By MR. ABAD-MAIZTEGUI

How do I teach a class of children with multiple learning styles and abilities? How can I reach the needs of the students at different levels?. These are the first questions that come to my mind every new school year.

QSI provides teachers with many resources to reach the specific needs of each student. Yes, we have a great teaching environment and plenty of resources, but where does the time go? How can we use the instruction time to the maximum? For the past few years I have been able to work together with parent volunteers in my classroom. They are one of the reasons why I am able to differentiate my instruction in the class.

During the week a plethora of parent volunteers come through my doors to assist in the classroom. Everyday Mrs. Xu comes to help students during center time; she helps supervise, and assist the children during this independent thinking time. At the start of the week, Mrs. Go helps guide the students with their day to day practice of fine motor skills and letter formation. On Wednesdays, Mrs. Lu is in charge of reading syllables and writing new words. Thursday is Clifford’s day, Mrs. Daschowhury works on comprehension and new vocabulary with the students along with the big red dog.

After the Christmas vacation, Mrs. Nair will be helping with computer skills and typing in the computer lab every Thursday. On Fridays, Mrs. Valkeapaa will start helping one on one with reading and comprehension.

Wow! You would think, what does the teacher do during this time? Well, teacher to use flexible groups to differentiate instruction or to work on remediation with children who might need extra help.

With the assistance of my generous parent volunteers, I am able to reach the needs of every child in my room. I would like to thank these parents for all their effort and support. It is a pleasure working together with all of you.

The Christmas Program

By MRS. NOLL

The Christmas Program for the 3-10 YO’s this year celebrates the different customs and traditions we have in our countries over the holidays. However, the countries selected for each age group does not begin to represent the number of nationalities we have here at QSI! The program gives each class the chance to learn something about the country of one of their classmates, maybe learn a song in another language, and appreciate special traditions.

We would like to thank the parents who helped write plays, find songs, make costumes, practice singing, and a host of other activities with the classes. We appreciate the time and care you took to teach the students something special about your country. The classes didn’t use all of the suggestions or songs, but we all learned something new! Special thanks to: Mrs. Choong, Mrs. Go, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Hoon, Mrs. Simonsson, Mrs. Appelquist, Mr. Laaksilinna, Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Dupont, Mrs. Chodorow and Mrs. van Oort.

Healthy Gifts for 2010!

By MR. LAMBERT

First of all best wishes to you all! When I was young the Christmas holiday was a time of receiving gifts and I am sure that most children got what they wanted during these wonderful three weeks. My only concern is what kind of presents do we give our children these days. The toy market gets flooded by the latest cool and high tech gifts that are being hyped by big companies. Don’t get me wrong, some of these are very educational., but what happened to small, healthy and honest gifts such as balls, jump ropes, badminton rackets, bicycles, etc.- toys that make kids go and play outside away from the magic electronic toys, colorful televisions and time absorbing computers. Throwing, catching, kicking, striking and riding are fundamental skills for everyone so don’t let your child miss out on them.

Not only will your child(ren) benefit from the great outdoors but also you as a parent can take advantage of the opportunity to stretch your muscles as a family.

Enjoy!

Meet Our New Teachers

Level 6

My name is Terése Vernon and I am delighted to be the first grade teacher for the rest of this academic school year. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about joining QSI Chengdu.



I am originally from New York State; 20 min. south of Montreal; I grew up with my three sibling and parents enjoying many outdoor activities (hiking, biking, skiing, etc.) throughout the Adirondacks. I received my BA degree in Elementary Education at Plattsburgh State University. I also took a year to study abroad at Chester College in England; it is there where I found not only my love for travel and new cultures, but also my husband. After achieving my Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction I returned to England to teach for six months and then moved to Japan to teach ESL. In Japan I worked with high school students teaching ESL before moving to an International School where I was both a third and first grade teacher. Each year of teaching has been exciting and memorable. I am especially looking forward to working with and being a part of the QSI community. See you in January!

Level 10

Hello QSI Chengdu! My name is Adam Vernon and I'm very excited about joining all of you in January and living in China. Originally from England, I grew up with my brother, sister and parents in the city of Hull. I received my English degree from the University of Liverpool, Chester College; while playing Rugby League. My teaching career began as an English and Media Studies Teacher at Andrew Marvell Business and Enterprise College, before moving to Japan to teach ESL in high schools. From there, I had an opportunity to teach the Fifth Grade at an International School. My wife and I, then returned to the US where I gained experience using the New York State Curriculum. I have a number of hobbies and interests, particularly playing sports and reading. I also enjoy playing the guitar, despite being terrible- you have been warned!



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I look forward to meeting you- see you soon!

The Nightmare

By NANCY LOUSANG, Level 9

It is dark all around me and no one is in the area by the water machine. The light switch is so far away. I take a chance and walk in the dark to get water to quench my thirst. I see a person walking in the hall. I got scared and looked at the time, it was midnight. "Why would anyone wake up at midnight and walk down the hall?" I asked myself. Then I went to check out who it was. "BANG!" when I turned on the light, the bulb exploded, blowing gasses and glasses everywhere.



I went and got a small flashlight. It didn't help me see the person in the hall. Suddenly I heard a sound! "Roar, Pling! Pling! Tap! Tap! Tap!" I was standing there shivering and wondering who it might be. I kept on going. "Ouch!" I bumped into the wall because I was looking down. I still kept on going. "Ouch! My foot!" I cried. I stepped on a needle. I picked up the needle and put it on the desk. When I reached the kitchen, I saw a green creature that I think even a scientist wouldn't recognize. And I saw "A ZOMBIE!" I screamed and started to run. I ran and ran. When I looked back they were chasing me. Then I went in to my parent's room, but they were Zombies too! Then I started to run again I ran and ran until there was just a window in front of me. The Zombies and the Green creature were behind me, so then I jumped down out of the window. "Ahhhhhhhhhhh" I screamed. Then, I woke up from my dream. It was just a dream. I wouldn't want to have a dream like this again. "I wish this never happens to me for real." I said nervously.

Dates to remember:

Dec 11: Dismissal at 11:30 for holiday

Dec 12- Jan 3: Winter Holiday

Jan 5: Q2 ends

Jan 8: Q2 Status Reports go home

Jan 11: Q3 ASA begin

Jan 11-15: QSI Spirit Week

Feb 8- 12: Chinese Week

Feb 12: Q3 ASA end

Feb 13- 21: Chinese New Year holiday

The Giving Tree at QSI

By ANNA BENOIT and CORY PRUETT

Roots & Shoots has organized a "Giving Tree." We will be donating needed items to orphans in Chengdu in December. The orphanage is home to over 100 children ranging in age from newborn to 16 years. Long underwear, socks, shoes and diapers are the most highly requested items. Please help by donating one of the following sets. Items should be new, unwrapped and sent to school by December 9th, in order to be delivered on the tenth.

- **A variety of:**
 - Long underwear
 - Socks and shoes
 - Diapers
 - Baby blankets
- **A set of:**
 - Scarves
 - Mittens
 - Socks
- **A pencil case containing:**
 - Pencils
 - A ruler
 - An eraser
 - Pens
 - A pencil sharpener
 - Scissors

Donating the needed items will make these orphans proud to be a part of the QSI tradition of giving to the community. With your help we can make the world a better place! **Thank you QSI Parents!**

Polar Express Day – December 11th



Polar Express Day is a favorite days here at QSI Chengdu. The 3-10 YO students will be greeted at the front door by Mr. Noll in his train conductor uniform. He will be handing out the official tickets for the events of the day. At 8:15 all the 3-10 YO students will begin their rounds of different activities from frosting cookies to hearing the book "Polar Express" read to making ornaments for a tree. Polar Express is a exciting day when all the teachers, para-professionals, students and office staff join together in holiday fun. Students are encouraged to wear their pajamas to school (as teachers will!) with warm clothing underneath. No snack is needed on the 11th as we will be stopping the train for some cookies and hot cocoa.

The Counselor's Corner

By RON NOLL



Holiday Madness!

Let's see: Fall Festival, check; Thanksgiving, check; CIWC Christmas Bazaar, check; QSI all-school program, check, Christmas shopping, check; sleeping, eating, homework help, family time, well...

Yes this can be a hectic time of year when it seems that we have no time to relax. Stress builds, we become frustrated more easily, maybe we even take out those frustrations on the people that are closest to us, our family members and friends. It is difficult to slow down, to "stop and smell the roses". What roses?

It is especially important that we remember to take care of ourselves at this time of year, give ourselves time to think, relax and unwind. Parents and students alike can benefit greatly from planning ahead, taking time to organize and prioritize. This is important when we feel a bit overwhelmed by "how much there is to do" by tomorrow, or next week, or before we go on vacation.

Help your children by sitting with them and going over their day or week and what projects or tests they have coming up. Find that "daily planner" at the bottom of the backpack and put it back to work! This can help with your stress levels as parents, since we often get upset when our children are stressed about school work.

Of course, this is also the time of the year for warm clothing, hot tea, and winter colds. Helping our children, as well as ourselves, stay healthy is not always easy! Adequate sleep and balanced meals are important factors in staying healthy. The top choices for behaviors to remain healthy during the winter months are: sleep, and letting go of stress! The physical and emotional sides of health are closely linked. Take time to have some fun with your family outdoors, go for a walk, play an outside game. Indoor activities include cooking as a famil, playing cards or board games, reading aloud. All of these can help reduce the stress and give everyone in the family a chance to unwind a bit.

Have a great holiday season. The winter vacation begins after the Friday December 11 half day. Help your children to come back to school refreshed, stress-free and organized. Enjoy the time with your kids. See you in January 2010!