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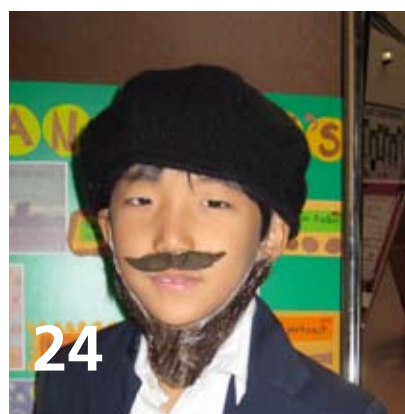
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Next Issue: January 21, 2011; Deadline for content: Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Shanghai American School Board of Directors Scheduled Meetings for School Year 2010 – 2011

Board Meetings	Dates	Venue*
Board Meeting #6	Tuesday, January 25, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Kerry Centre
Board Meeting #7	Tuesday, February 22, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Puxi Campus
Board Meeting #8	Tuesday, March 29, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Pudong Campus
Board Meeting #9	Tuesday, April 26, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Kerry Centre
Board Meeting #10	Tuesday, May 31, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Puxi Campus
Board Meeting #11	Saturday, June 18, 2011 @ 8.00 AM	Puxi Campus

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COVER: Andrew Lau belts out a holiday song during the Christmas/ Hanukkuk show at the Pudong Campus elementary school. Story on page 18. *EAGLE* cover photo by Jeanette Dixon.

is published twice a month, although publication schedules in a given month because of holidays and vacations may vary. The EAGLE is produced by the Advancement Office of Shanghai American School (SAS). Information in The EAGLE is primarily about SAS organizations, people, and classes. We encourage parents, students, staff, teachers, and administrators to submit stories and photographs. Anything we publish from non-SAS sources is published on a space-available basis. Editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for style, length, and taste.

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*To view deadlines online, go to: www.eagleonline.org and scroll to bottom, right hand corner.

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June 3: deadline, May 24

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How It's Different Here

We work hard at school, all of us—students, teachers, staff ... and parents! A great benefit of this life is the periodic breaks that offer time for rest, but also for reflection. Like all of you, I am contemplating our winter holiday just ahead, and thoughts about my first six months as your superintendent are rushing forward in my mind.

My thinking was sparked by an interview request with a local magazine, asking for my impressions on educational life in Shanghai having come here from a solid American public school system and after a long career in American education.



How is it different here? I was asked. Well, honestly, inside the doors of our school, it doesn't feel any different at all. Teachers are teaching, kids are learning, and the cascading energy level of youth causes me, with some embarrassment, to pick up my own pace around school. Same as it ever was.

One difference, though: the SAS community is spread across a very large city and is mainly composed of our students, parents, faculty and staff. Back in the U.S., the school community is more concentrated geographically and also includes grandparents and other family members of students, in addition to local citizens of all kinds interested in education and interested in the local school—if only the progress of the sports teams. That engagement with the local community is very much a part of my work in education. We do that well here at SAS, mainly through the service activities of our students, but I am moved to want to do even more in the years ahead.

Furthermore, the cultural milieu in the U.S., although certainly diverse, has a very local flavor. The goal of many there is to be educated to return to serve that local community well. Here in Shanghai, however, our multicultural community deeply reflects a cosmopolitan, worldwide constituency. For our students, the world truly is their community. Everything we do in our classrooms reflects and enhances that global focus.

After several other questions, my interviewer asked how I came to be here. That's when it hit me: Good fortune. Yes, I've been involved in issues of international education for a long time back in the U.S., and it was probably inevitable that I would go abroad to serve. But in the end it was a special combination of factors and events that brought me to Shanghai American School, such that I feel gratitude at being here while harboring the deep, if impractical, wish that everyone could have this experience we all often take for granted—that everyone could enjoy the wealth of learning resources available to each of us in this community every day.

As I look out over the bright faces of our students on both campuses, my wish for them over our wonderful winter holiday is that they might return to school in January both rested and refreshed by the outer world, and also with a heightened sense of the astounding possibilities that exist for all of us at SAS. The world is truly our community here, and the riches of an SAS education are here for the taking, every day. After just six months, even I know that.

See you in January.

Shanghai American School has a rolling admission process. If you know someone who is interested in becoming part of our Shanghai American School International Community, please send an e-mail to: admission@saschina.org.

Next Issue: Jan 21
Deadline for content: Tuesday, January 11

The Importance of Play

By Debra LANE, Elementary School Principal, Puxi Campus

Play is essential to our students' wellbeing — it contributes to their cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development and provides a way for parents to engage with their children. In fact, play is so important to children's optimal development that the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has recognized it as a human right of every child.

Unfortunately, in recent years, time for play has decreased for many of our children due to hurried lifestyles, changes in family structure and increased attention to academics.

In this article, I'd like to share with you some of my own thoughts on play, as well as some research drawn from a recent article in *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).*

When playing, children use their creativity and imagination, while they develop both physical dexterity and emotional strength. We also know that play is an important part of brain development. Play allows children to create and explore a world around them that they can master, and in which they can conquer fears while pretending they are adults. Because play allows children to "win" and "lose" in situations in which the consequences are not severe, it also allows them to develop the resiliency they will need to face in future challenges. Play also helps build active, healthy bodies.

Undirected play — i.e., play without direct adult supervision — is particularly important, because it allows children to learn how to work together, take turns, share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, and advocate for themselves. When play is child-driven, children can practice their own decision-making skills; they can also move at their own pace and pursue their own passions. When play is too controlled by adults, children may learn to acquiesce to adult rules and concerns but lose the sense of play, particularly the creativity, leadership, and building of group skills.

Far from being an enjoyable break from "real learning," play is integral to the academic environment, and helps ensure that within the school setting we attend to the social and emotional development of our

children, as well as their cognitive development. Play enhances children's readiness for learning, as well as their problem-solving skills.

Play time is declining

But not all children are able to play as much as they need to. Many factors have contributed to a decline in the amount of time available for free play, most important, the number of scheduled activities in which so many

of us have our children these days. And while most highly-scheduled children are thriving, some are reacting to the associated pressures with anxiety and other signs of increased stress.

According to the AAP, there is growing evidence that depression is on the rise for all age groups, from childhood through adolescence to the college years. This is a complex issue, and the research is still in its infancy, but it is important that we take note of the potential linkage between lack of play time and depression.

Ginsburg identifies a number of factors that have led to decreased free play, including the following:

- There are more families with two working parents so there are more children in child care, where there are typically more organized play structures set up.
- Children are being pushed to build a "child resumé" through organized academic, sporting, and other activities.
- Children are often being passively entertained through computers, television, and electronic games.
- Fewer safe places exist for children to play in, which leads to more controlled, adult-directed play as caregivers seek safe places for their children.

For some of our children, this controlled and hurried lifestyle is a source of stress and anxiety and, as noted, may even contribute to depression. Increased pressure to achieve



Debra Lane, ES Principal, Puxi Campus

can manifest itself in school avoidance and somatic symptoms.

Can we strike a balance?

The challenge for all of us is to strike a balance that allows all children to reach their full potential without pushing them beyond their personal comfort limits and allowing them personal free play-time.

Part of our job as educators is to prepare children for the world they will live in, to give them the skills they will need in the 21st century. As Dan Pink wrote in his book *The Whole New Mind*, our children will be doing work that requires high-concept, high-touch skills. With so much routine work now being commonly outsourced and automated, the kinds of creative, right brain aptitudes that are much harder to outsource or automate will become more important. According to Pink, the most essential of these right-brain abilities are design, story, symphony, empathy, play and meaning.

He defines each of these as follows (paraphrasing):

Design is the ability to recognize or create something that is not simply functional, but emotionally engaging.

Story is the ability to organize facts and ideas into a narrative — it is the essence of persuasion, communication and self-understanding.

Symphony is the antidote to the Informa—see **THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY** on page 6

Hello! We'd love to meet you...

By the Pudong Campus
PTSA WELCOME COMMITTEE

Do you remember being told you were moving to Shanghai, China? That news probably came with a flood of emotions, quickly followed by even more questions. For even the most seasoned expatriate, living in China can prove to be a challenge. In an effort to help families who are new to Shanghai American School adjust to their new environment, a **Pudong Campus Welcome Committee** has been formed. This committee will be co-chaired by Tracy Menendez and Beth Bacon and hopes to provide new families with information about the school, as well as the surrounding community.

The Pudong Campus has approximately 32 new families enrolled for the start of the second semester and 30 that have joined since September. To help begin the acclimation process, the Pudong Campus of the Shanghai American School will host a New Student Orientation on **January 10**. A wealth of information will be reviewed at the orientation session and the PTSA will be there as well! Stop by our tables and introduce yourself. We'll have information on PTSA events, how you can be involved and a wealth of parent to parent information.

On **January 13**, the middle school and high school PTSA's will host an informal coffee and Shanghai Services and Vendor Information Fair before their parent meetings. The General PTSA meeting is **February 17**. Elementary families, please join us at the information fair and this general meeting — the next meeting for the Elementary PTSA is in March. These coffees will serve as an opportunity to meet various members of the PTSA and identify ways to become involved at SAS. A variety of printed information noting healthcare options, travel services, and kid friendly extracurricular activities will also be available.

To help new parents sort through the mountain of literature and business cards they have accumulated, as well as address any questions they have, the Welcome Committee will be introducing a new component to our new parent orientation events: **SAS Pudong Campus New Parent Coffees**. This event will follow more of a question and answer format. Counselors from all grade levels

Remember to mark your calendars!

January 10, all day — New Student Orientation
January 13, 9am — Welcome Coffee & Information Fair prior to MS/HS PTSA meetings
January 19, 9-11am — New! SAS Pudong Campus New Parent Coffee

the counselors, seasoned SAS moms will be present to further help new parents successfully navigate life in Shanghai. The first of these is scheduled for **January 19**, 9-11am.

New parents: We hope you take advantage of all that our school and community has to offer. Veteran parents: Please reach out and make these new families feel welcome!

東方寶藏

Treasures of the East

SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL PUDONG PTSA WINTER AUCTION CO-HOSTED BY DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT ANDREW TORRIS & MS AMANDA DECARDY

**JANUARY 15, 2011 – 6:00PM TO 11:30PM
AT SAS PUDONG CAMPUS**

You're Invited to the SAS Pudong PTSA Winter Auction — Treasures of the East, hosted by Deputy Superintendent Andrew Torris and Amanda DeCardy.

This year's auction will benefit Helping Hands (ES/MS chosen charity), Mercy Fund along with HS Interact Club and Leukemia Hospital Club (HS chosen charity) and the Pudong campus PTSA.

Once again, Eastern Carpets from Singapore will be bringing out some of their best carpets to share and auction off. Edmund and Shukor will share tips on buying carpets as well as the finer points of carpet care and maintenance. If you have a type, color, certain size carpet that you are interested in, let us know and Eastern Carpets will be sure to bring it.

NEW THIS YEAR: A Silent Auction of Teacher Treasures! The teachers and staff at SAS Pudong are not only terrific educators, but they continue to be incredibly generous! They have offered an outstanding collection of silent auction items, from personally-created items to fun-filled, memorable outings and parties including cooking classes and city tours. The silent auction catalog is posted online at the Pudong PTSA blog, <http://teachers.saschina.org/pudongptsa/winter-auction>. Absentee bids will be accepted and can be downloaded from the online auction catalog.

Even if you're not looking to buy, you won't want to miss an entertaining evening. The ticket price includes wine, beer, canapés, a dessert buffet and a complimentary copy of *The Handmade Carpet*, a book of the history of carpet weaving and carpet maintenance. Lucky draws will also take place throughout the night.

Tickets can be purchased at all SAS PTSA Events, ordered by calling 6221-1445 x3521 or via email to jill.du@saschina.org. This Adult Only event is open to the community ... invite your neighbors and friends! Tickets are 100RMB in advance and 150RMB at the door.

NEED A RIDE? We have an Event Bus available from LaPistolera in JinQiao. Join us for Sangria, beer and appetizers beginning at 5pm then board the bus for SAS at 5:30pm. The shuttles will leave the school at 11:30pm following the afterschool activity bus routes. Advance Purchase Necessary – 50RMB per person.

For more information, please contact Winter Auction Co-Chairs, Tracy Menendez: tracymenendez@yahoo.com & Katie Ferguson: k8ferguson@gmail.com.

上海
New This Year! **COCKTAIL HOUR, DESSERT BUFFET, MUSIC**
TEACHER TREASURES SILENT AUCTION
LIVE CARPET AUCTION
Presented by Eastern Carpets of Singapore
TICKETS: 100RMB IN ADVANCE – 150RMB AT THE DOOR

Shanghai American School moves from ITBS to MAP testing in spring of 2011

By Andrew TORRIS, Deputy Superintendent

Shanghai American School will be administering standardized tests and gathering externally measured student learning data for grades 3-8 in a different way beginning in the spring of 2011.

With the implementation of the new assessment initiative at Shanghai American School we have found that the ITBS test does not meet our expectations and needs. More specifically, we have found that the ITBS is not aligned with the newly adopted assessment philosophy, and it does not provide accurate nor timely feedback. Both of these issues go to the heart of the reasons we administer externally scored exams to our elementary and middle school students. SAS will continue to administer the Educational Research Bureau (ERB) writing assessment in the spring as we have for many years.

In replacement, the SAS admin-

istration has adopted The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test by produced by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

NWEA is a non-profit global services organization located in Portland, Oregon. It partners with over 3500 educational institutions worldwide to provide research-based adaptive assessments, professional development and research services. NWEA's mission is partnering to help all kids learn. It is the belief of the SAS administration that by partnering with NWEA we empower and help our classroom teachers to make more informed and data-based learning decisions for our students, thus promoting strong targeted academic growth.

The MAP test is a computerized adaptive test in Reading, Language Usage and Mathematics. When students take the MAP the difficulty of each

question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As students answer correctly questions become more difficult. If a student answer incorrectly the questions become easier. In optimal testing session students would answer about half correct and half incorrect, with the final score giving the teachers and the school a strong research based indicator of the students achievement level.

Further information can be found at <http://www.nwea.org/products-services/computer-based-adaptive-assessments/map>.

We are excited about the implementation of this new tool. We will begin testing in the spring of 2011 and you will receive a standardized testing report in your final report card.

Please feel free to contact the school principal, vice principal or me if you need further information.



Sajan and Toa nominated for Edublog awards



PUXI CAMPUS
ES art teacher Kim Sajan's art education blog (Art is Messy) was recently nominated for an Edublog

award in the category Best Resource Sharing Blog. More information can be found here including how to vote (this is a viewer-voting contest): <http://edublogawards.com/2010awards/best-resource-sharing-blog-2010/>.

December 17, 2010

To visit her blog, go to www.artismessy.org/

Sajan and her husband, also art teacher at SAS, have been at SAS for five years. It is their first international school. Prior to working at SAS, Sajan taught art and multimedia design classes to high school students in Harlem, New York. Prior to that, she worked as a graphic designer for NYU School of Law and Towers Perrin. She has a BFA in Graphic Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a Masters of Art Education from New York University. Most important, she is a mother to "the best one year old in Shanghai, Amaya."

PUDONG CAMPUS Grade 3 teacher, Sarah Toa, was nominated for a Edublog award in the "Best Class Blog" category. For more information about this including how to vote (this is a viewer-voting contest), go to: <http://edublogawards.com/2010awards/best-class-edublog-2010/>. You can view Toa's blog at: <http://teachers.saschina.org/stoa>.

Toa says: "I have enjoyed working and learning at Shanghai American School for the last few years. I have taught 4th grade, 1st grade, and currently teach 3rd grade. I started blogging when I worked along side Amy Hossack in grade one, as

we both developed our blogs together. Both she and Simon Power are my great blogging mentors. Our class blog is a small window into our classroom not only for the students, but also for parents, and friends and family around the world. I get great ideas from talking with other teachers and learning from other blogs around the world. I am excited to be nominated for the Edublogs Award, Especially as two years ago I was just a Beginning Blogger."



SAS centennial planning underway

By J. Frederick **ROGERS**, Director of Advancement

On Tuesday, September 17, 1912, Shanghai American School opened with 38 students in two Victorian residences at 171A and 172A North Szechuen Road in the Hongkou District. From that small beginning has emerged our powerhouse school of today with nearly 3,100 students on two state-of-the-art campuses spanning a thriving metropolis.

SAS will celebrate the hundred-year trajectory since its founding with an orchestrated program of observances during the 2011-2012 school year. To prepare for this extended festival, a Centennial Sub-committee has been assembled from members of the Advancement Committee, along with others who have been recruited to the cause.

The Sub-committee, known as "CentCom," has met twice already and is composed of the following members:

- Cindy Easton**, Chair (ES faculty/parent, Puxi)
- Karen Chow** (MS/HS parent, Puxi)
- Katie Ferguson** (MS parent, Pudong)

- May Ho-Chang** (SAS Marketing Director; ES/MS parent, Pudong)
- Andy Lewis** (MS faculty, Puxi)
- Greg MacIntyre** (ES faculty, Pudong)
- Sharla Murray** (ES parent, Puxi)
- Audrey Okamoto** (HS parent, Pudong)
- Kim Sajan** (ES faculty, Puxi)
- Michelle Tzhorl** (ES/MS parent, Pudong)
- Betty Barr Wang** '49
- Cathy Wang** (ES/HS parent, Pudong)
- Ginger Whissell** (ES/MS parent, Pudong)
- Mindy Willis** (ES/MS parent, Pudong)

Others who may be interested in this work—including faculty and administrators—should contact Cindy Easton (cindy.easton@saschina.org).

The group's goal is developing a well thought-out calendar of events to engage the entire school community next year. At the upper left is a working version of the school's official centennial logo that will soon be in wide use to promote the celebration of our school's distinctive history in Shanghai.



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IMPORTANCE OF PLAY, con't from page 3

tion Age's emphasis on specialization: it is the ability to put disparate pieces (from disparate disciplines) together in a unique and arresting whole.

- Empathy is the ability to understand what makes our colleagues and clients tick.
- Play – we all know what play is: the problem here is that once we grow up, we forget to include this essential human aptitude in our work.
- Meaning is what everything else is all about. Whatever work we do, we need to understand how it fits into our most significant human desires: purpose, transcendence, and spiritual fulfillment.

At SAS our elementary schools put an emphasis on play throughout our school day. We encourage parents to set up play dates on weekends or after school for our children to increase their amount of play-time. Play is a cherished part of childhood that offers children important developmental benefits and also offers parents an opportunity to fully engage with their children. It is imperative for play to be included along with the academic and social-enrichment opportunities that we rightly value. Safe play environments should be available for all our children. Children who are receiving enrichment outside of school still need time for unstructured play, creative growth, self-reflection, and decompression and will profit from the unique developmental benefits of child-driven play.

References:

* Ginsburg, Kenneth. *The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds*. American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report. *Pediatrics*, vol. 119, number 1, January 2007.

United Family Healthcare Opens New Facility in Pudong



Huashan Pudong Hospital International Division managed by United Family Healthcare offers highly-qualified medical staff from around the world, direct billing to numerous global insurance providers, and strict adherence to Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation standards.

525 Hongfeng Road, Pudong, Shanghai 201206
Open: Monday to Sunday, 8:30am to 5:30pm
Appointment Number: (021) 5030 9907

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a happy and safe holiday season.
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throughout the holidays so have a look,
and explore the many features
that PowerSchool has to offer.

Our Best to You for the Holidays

SAS students deliberate at

Puxi campus

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

in Singapore

Pudong campus

By Dion LOKE, Senior, Pudong Campus

Singapore THIMUN: The Ultimate MUN Experience

By Yvonne HSIAO (G11), Solomon Islands and Vinay NAGARAJ (G11), Senegal



Amid cries of, "Singapore, how we have missed you!" and stares from fellow passengers, the high school Model United Nations delegation stepped off the plane onto sunny Singapore for the prestigious The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Conference which was in session November 23-27.

Hosted at Hwa Chong Institution, this conference features eight councils ranging from the General Assembly to the International Court of Justice and proclaims the theme, "Good Governance — Striving for Transparency and Equity in Government." The students attending this trip have been selected by performance and commitment during school practices, and are all part of the Varsity MUN team.

In a flurry of high heels, tightening ties, and fluorescent blue nametags, the chairs,

judges, and experts were ready to once again, proudly represent SAS Puxi with their fierce confidence and speaking skills.

In fact, SAS delegates and experts were especially noted for their strong diplomatic skills, incredible ideas, and public speaking poise. This gave way to an overwhelming number of

SAS *main submitters* — main submitting is when a delegate writes, merges, and proposes to the house a resolution to a specific problem — as well as fantastic passing rates. One particular success would be the passing of **Hong Yi Tu Ye's** resolution in the General

Assembly Plenary. Every year, there are only five resolutions chosen from a pool of 900 delegates to be debated in the Plenary Session, where all five subcommittees of GA congregate to debate, and Hong Yi's resolution was strong enough to be debated and passed.

While delegates learned very much from the other bright minds gathered in these forums, they also — certainly — dominated. All in all, the professional, diplomatic side to THIMUN 2010 was a success.

At the same time, in stark contrast to the passionate debating and businesslike manner of the conference was the *social side* of THIMUN Singapore: Making friends and having fun. Although many outside of MUN are unaware of this, an integral part of conferences like THIMUN is to be able to



"At the same time, in stark contrast to the passionate debating and businesslike manner of the conference was the social side of THIMUN Singapore: Making friends and having fun."

One mug of coffee. Two pairs of outfits. Three slices of toasts and bacon. Four early mornings. That was our delegates' routine every morning during their time in Singapore for THIMUN Singapore, a prestigious four-day stimulation of the United Nations.

This year, SAS Pudong had the honor to go to THIMUN Singapore with two Student Officers, two ICJ Advocates, one expert in the Advisory Panel, two MUNITY East Press representatives and delegates representing Pakistan, Turkey, and World Health Organization (WHO). This is our strongest team ever, with students in almost every aspect of THIMUN Singapore.

As the Deputy Secretary General of THIMUN Singapore, senior Benedict Wong took control of the conference and planned a smooth-sailing conference that was enjoyed by all the delegates. I chaired the General Assembly 5th Committee; while Grace Ko (12) and Rebecca Li (12) represented Belgium in the International Court of Justice in the case of Belgium vs. Senegal. Lenz Ong (11) provided his well-acquired opinion in the Advisory Panel on the Question of the Pacific Islands.

Alex Zhang (11) and Wei-Wei Lin (10) highlighted this experience with their creative layouts in MUNITY East, which was the daily newspaper that covered events on a daily basis.

For the first time, our delegation was represented in Security Council as Turkey. Crystal Lee (10) represented us in the demanding Security Council where contentious issues such as the Israeli/Palestinian Question and



—see **MUN PUXI CAMPUS**, page 10

—see **MUN PUDONG CAMPUS**, page 10