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THANK YOU TO PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The Superintendent will host a parent volunteer appreciation event to thank all parents who have volunteered their time over the past year to assist in the classroom, on school trips and other occasions as needed.

Two separate events will be arranged for Pudong parents and Puxi parents. Details are outlined below:

Puxi Campus: Thursday, May 26, 2011, 12pm (noon) at the Performing Arts Center

Pudong Campus: Monday, May 30, 2011, 12pm (noon) at the Aquatics Center Hallway (Second Floor)

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sarah Xu, Receptionist Puxi, via e-mail at Sarah.Xu@saschina.org and confirm which campus you will be attending no later than Monday, May 23, 2011.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Board Meetings	Dates	Venue*
Board Meeting #10	Tuesday, May 31, 2011 @ 6.30 PM	Puxi Campus
Board Meeting #11	Saturday, June 18, 2011 @ 8.00 AM	Puxi Campus
*Puxi Campus Venue: Central Administration Conference Room, SAS Puxi Campus, 258 Jinfeng Lu, Huacao Town, Minhang, Shanghai 201107		
*Pudong Campus Venue: High School Library Garden Room, SAS Pudong Campus, Shanghai Executive Community, 1600 Ling Bai Road, San Jia Gang, Pudong, Shanghai 201201		
*Kerry Centre: Shanghai Kerry Centre, 32F, 1515 Nanjing Road West, Shanghai 200040		

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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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The Eagle is produced from offices on the Pudong and Puxi campuses of SAS. Our e-mail address is: eagle@saschina.org.

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True Colors: Sizing Up the Whole Child

I'm from a rural part of the U.S., a part of the world where stories are told that seem simple at first, but often contain real truth.

A hard-working farmer up in northern Wisconsin was very concerned about his son's grades—and, just as importantly, his character development. One day the school principal telephoned the farmer.



"Sir, I need to speak with you about your son," said the principal.

Jumping to a conclusion, the farmer said, "Thank you, I don't need to know what this is about. I'll take it from here." And he hung up the phone, marched out to the barn, and gave his boy what-for with a hickory branch he kept in the horse stall for just this purpose.

Afterward, sensing the boy's joylessness around school, the principal called the farmer back. "Sir, I wasn't able to give you the whole story when I called earlier" he said. "I had phoned to say your boy's been admitted to the best college in the state. I hope you can find a way to let him know how proud we are!"

If I've learned anything in my work in education, it's that the development of children—and their teachers' assessment of that growth—is prismatic. What may appear as a single beam of results can, when seen through the prism of proper assessment, be split into textured strands of much brighter color.

We're conditioned early on in life to chase after those monochrome numbers (the higher the better), and to claim that gold star. These are "the grade" A-F and "the number" 1-100. To the extent these grades and numbers represent demonstrated knowledge, they can be somewhat useful markers of progress.

But grades tell only a partial story. Like the farmer in my tale, when we leap to hasty assumptions about numeric grades, we can miss the bigger picture. And that larger, 360-degree view of our kids is what schools like SAS are really all about.

As educators, we are seeking to achieve a 21st-century understanding of student growth and our teachers and administrators are dramatically reframing how we think about evaluating student efforts.

This significant change in our assessment practices has proceeded under the leadership of Alicia Lewis, Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator, and Deputy Superintendent Andy Torris. These two have worked in partnership with principals Ed Kidd (HS Puxi) and Jeff Rosen (MS Pudong) and with the support of an Assessment Team composed of faculty.

Simply put, we are looking through that assessment prism to see and appreciate all the colors that may appear. We are striving to make a basic distinction between the knowledge that students definitively acquire, and the personal traits that are emblems of consistently and passionately good students everywhere.

Let's get right down to it. Does a student who demonstrates mastery over a subject on tests, but who has missed several homework assignments, know the material any less? Should a 97 become an 87 as a result? We believe not.

Is the failure to turn in assigned work, or to demonstrate a positive attitude, or

—See **TRUE COLORS** con't on next page



CLASS OF 2011: CAP AND GOWN DAY: Students at Shanghai American School posed for cameras on a recent "Cap and Gown Day," part of the pre-graduation rehearsals and ritual through which every senior passes. This year SAS will graduate 284 seniors (Puxi campus, 167; Pudong Campus, 117), only some of whom are seen here. *EAGLE* photos by Sharon Barns.

TRUE COLORS con't from previous page

to be helpful to other students—are these indications of ways students might improve? We believe so.

We are beginning to offer our students and parents a broader picture: numbers and grades based on academic knowledge growth and additional assessments earned by evaluations of whether students demonstrate the habits of successful learners. By distinguishing these aspects, we move closer to displaying the full rainbow of learning attributes that every child can possess.

Recently, after months of work, our Middle School principals Brad Latzke and Jeff Rosen finalized a "Student as a Learner Profile" that is fully aligned across both campuses. Every teacher will use this profile as they assess the performance of students. Each student will be given both numerical grades for content-acquisition, and an achievement indication for such learning attributes as "Contributes as a group member," "Turns work in on time," "Demonstrates a positive attitude," and "Works to best ability."

We are not undertaking this challenge in isolation from other efforts at SAS. The drive to reframe our student assessments responds to our 2008 accreditation report from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Three years ago, we were challenged to ensure that our assessments truly match the ideals for learning outcomes captured in our

EAGLES. We believe our assessment initiative is a constructive response to that finding.

Beyond that, SAS is engaged in a thoroughgoing strategic-planning process to chart our way forward for the next five years. An early result of that process is our new Board-approved Mission statement. I have only to pluck a few words from it—"passion for learning"; "integrity and compassion"; "courage"—to suggest that these are highly prized values in our community. They are the marks of an accomplished student and a well-rounded human being. They are so important that they should not be wrapped into a single numerical grade.

Numbers denoting achievement will always be with us. They lend us important information about certain aspects of the learning process. But, like that first phone call to the farmer, they don't tell us everything.

The qualitative assessments of student learning—those that reveal the moral component of true education and lifelong learning—are there to be seen if we have the right prism.

We're opening up important new ground in the evaluation of our students. As a result, I expect we'll be reaching more and more not for hickory sticks, but rather for kaleidoscopes in our continuing quest to see and savor the true colors of every student at Shanghai American School.

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.

FINAL ISSUE
2010-2011 school year:
June 20
Deadline for content:
Tuesday, May 31



PARENTS! It's Re-enrollment time again and this process is required for all returning students; Remember parents, it's all done through PowerSchool Parent Portal

By T. K. Ostrom, Director of Admission

Re-enrollment is required for all parents of returning students for the 2011-2012 school year. This re-enrollment process is exclusively done in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. The entire enrollment/re-enrollment process for new and returning parents is available on the Power School Parent Portal.

All components of the enrollment/ re-enrollment packet need to be completed by the start of school on Wednesday, August 17, 2011. This year the new families are included as part of SAS's on-going effort to refine and improve this process. We continue to test and examine the Parent Portal capabilities to make sure this important data for all parents and students are securely stored.

It is necessary that we ask that student and parent documentation is reviewed and updated as needed, annually. This helps the school verify that proper passport, residency and visa documents are on file for each student and parent. In addition, we ask you to read and sign the Enrollment/ Re-Enrollment Agreement, update any new immunizations, make any changes to your student's medical history and update the emergency contact information. All new students and returning students entering grades 3, 6, 9, or 11 are required to get a physical examination, in addition to updating their medical information.

Below are step-by-step, detailed instructions that will guide you through the process of re-enrollment. It is very important to familiarize yourself with these steps before you begin.

When you log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal, the Enrollment/Re-Enroll-

ment Process icon is located at the top of the page. Click on the Enrollment/Re-Enrollment icon and follow the detailed instructions as indicated below:

Before you get started have both student and parent passports and visas, and student medical documents ready.

Make sure that you are using Safari, Firefox or Chrome as your web browser.

Please Note: All medical requirements should be completed before the first day of school. Loss of attendance privileges will result from non-compliance with school policy, which requires proof of medical examinations and vaccinations to be forwarded to SAS nurses.

Step 1

Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Agreement: Click on the "Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Agreement and Statements of Terms & Conditions" link. Please make sure you read this agreement carefully and agree to all the terms and conditions. The parent that submits the agreement must enter under Signatory: Mother or Father, Passport Number, Expiration Date and the Date of Agreement to complete the process. You can keep a copy of the agreement for your reference by clicking on the printer icon. However, you do not need to return the hard copy to the school.

Passport & Visa Information (Student): Update the student's passport and visa if the current one is no longer valid. You only need to do this if it is not filled in with the correct Passport number or if the student has a new Passport number. If these fields for your child are blank or incorrect, please update them on this page in each section and then submit.

To view your available documents on file, click the applicable link (Passport,

Visa, Hongkong/Macao, Taiwan). If the document is not found and/or not current, click on the link (here) to upload your documents. This will go directly to the Upload Page for you to upload the scanned New Passport and Visa. Please make sure to upload the photo identification page of the passport, and the current valid visa and/or residency-permit page. Follow the instructions carefully before uploading the file. Click Choose File, then choose the file that you want to upload and click the UpLoad button. When you have finished uploading your files, close the window. You can check if your files were uploaded properly by clicking on the applicable links (Passport, Visa, etc) again.

Note: If you do not have scanning capabilities on your printer or computer, please come to the Office of Admission with your required official documents. The admission assistant will scan them into your Parent Portal. It is important to call ahead of time to make sure that someone is available to assist you in this important process.

Step 2

Medical Form Guidelines: Click on the link and carefully read all the detailed information on the Medical Form Guidelines. These detailed instructions clearly outline what is required by the school in order for your child(ren) to attend next school year 2011-2012. Additionally, we have included all of the divisional nurse's names and contact information for your reference.

Emergency Contacts / Medical History (Two emergency contacts are required): Review the emergency contacts the school has on file and update or add as required. You then need to update your child's medical history if anything has changed this school year before you submit. Once submitted the divisional nurse

will receive your information. However, your child's divisional nurse will contact you if: she has any questions, or you do not submit any emergency contacts, and/or have not updated any medical information by the start of school.

Immunization Records: If your child has received a new immunization(s) since last school year or your child is a new student, please submit a copy of the immunization record directly to their divisional nurse.

Medication Permission: All new students must check individual boxes or the "Check All" box to give the nurse permission to administer some or all of these medications. All returning students must review the current permission to administer some or all of these medications and make any necessary changes.

Emergency Care Permission: Review to make sure you have checked the box to give permission to the school to provide emergency care to your child(ren) if necessary. If this box is not checked, please check it and press submit.

Medical Examination: For all new students and returning students entering grades 3, 6, 9, 11: Click on this link to print the form for you to take to the doctor's office. Make certain the form is completed in its entirety and signed by a doctor. You are required to return the com-

pleted and signed form to your child's next school year's divisional nurse's office no later than the start of the new school year on **Wednesday, August 17, 2011.**

Please Note: All medical requirements should be completed before the first day of school. Loss of attendance privileges will result from non-compliance with school policy, which requires proof of medical examinations and vaccinations to be forwarded to SAS nurses.

Step 3 (Optional)

Transportation Registration (All New Students and Returning Students who have transferred campuses or who have moved to a different housing compound): If your child is new, or has transferred campuses, and/or moved to another housing compound you need to complete the form. Please choose from a list of approved major compounds and re-agree to the terms and conditions. Once you complete and submit the new transportation form, the portal will generate an email to the transportation coordinator on your child's campus. The transportation office will contact you within three business days before the new transportation route is approved.

Step 4

Parents' Passport and Visa Upload:

AFTER COMPLETING YOUR STUDENT'S RE-ENROLLMENT PROCESS, PARENTS NEED TO UPLOAD THEIR PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION. (Note: Parents only need to do this for one child if they have multiple children.)

To begin you will need to click on a parent name under the navigator and click the enrollment/re-enrollment process icon again. Then follow the directions on the previous page under "Passport and Visa information (student)." Be certain to complete information for both parents. These documents are required annually to verify that proper residency permits and visas are maintained for each student and parent. The Shanghai Education Commission reviews these documents annually and requires them to be accurate.

The enrollment/re-enrollment procedure for SAS was one of the most paper- and labor-intensive processes for the school's admission staff and nurses. However, PowerSchool Parent Portal has dramatically change the entire process, allowing you to input and update your child(ren)'s information online. Submitting this information to the school using PowerSchool is efficient, timely and benefits everyone.

SAS is the School of Today for the Child of the Future

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Puxi campus
PTSA News

VISIT THE Puxi Campus PTSA blog at
<http://teachers.saschina.org/puxiptsa>

Spring Bazaar



On Wednesday, May 4, the Puxi campus PTSA held its first annual "Spring Bazaar." More than 40 vendors participated in this year's bazaar, selling all sorts of gifts and knick-knacks, ranging from clothing, decor, as well as homemade jams/other goodies. The proceeds from this event (entrance fee for each vendor was 350RMB) totaling 13,500 RMB was donated to the Japanese Red Cross, to aid the victims of the recent earthquake disaster. A big thank you is in order for both the wonderful vendors as well as the large shopping crowd of faculty, parents and students who made this event so successful!

—Christine Koh



EAGLE photos by Ji Liu

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Thursday, May 11



EAGLE photos by Ji Liu

Student Pick Up Pass (SPUP) and Identification Cards to be implemented by June 1

By Jazmyne WATSON, Security

The Shanghai American School (SAS), like many others, prioritizes the issue of access to its school campuses. SAS strives to maintain a balance between having a user-friendly, welcoming school environment and a campus that is secured from unauthorized users.

A Student Pick Up Pass (SPUP) and a new ID card has recently been issued to every student enrolled at SAS. The SPUP have been carefully designed to allow our security personnel to clearly identify those motorists and pedestrians authorized to enter the school campus. The SPUPs are color-coded passes issued by SAS complete with a multi-lingual factsheet. The SPUP are valid from the date of receipt until June 2012.

On June 1, 2011 SAS will be fully implementing the new SPUP and ID card procedure on both its campuses. This is a pre-emptive step taken by SAS to tackle the issue of unauthorized school access.

The new ID cards have also been designed to enable easy recognition and to allow for greater visibility amongst students, staff and parents.

The cooperation and assistance of the SAS community will be vital in making this new access procedure a success. Kindly observe the June 1 implementation date. If you have any queries regarding the new access procedure please e-mail either admission@saschina.org or security@saschina.org

YVONNE ZHU is new Summer School Director



Congratulations to Yvonne Zhu on her assignment as the Summer School Director for the coming summer! Yvonne has been working with SAS for eight years. She is currently the China Alive Coordinator and has also worked in the activities office. In addition, she has been worked the summer school program over the past couple of years. Yvonne holds a Bachelor Degree in Physical Education, is certified with TCSOL and is currently pursuing a Master Degree in Education.



TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON sponsored by the Puxi campus PTSA, May 11



Dr. Yong Zhao to be SAS Visiting Scholar for 2011-12.

Dr. Zhao brings his expertise not only as a distinguished university-level Associate Dean and Professor of Education, but also as an educator and parent with research and experiences in both Chinese and North American educational systems.

Our SAS administrative team had the privilege of meeting and learning from him during the EARCOS Administrator's Conference in November 2010. Fully bilingual in Mandarin and English and well-versed in traditional Chinese and North

American pedagogical approaches, Zhao has much to offer the SAS community.

Dr. Zhao's first visit will be in August for a keynote to faculty August 12 and to new parents during orientation (August 15, Puxi Campus; August 16, Pudong Campus). Current SAS families will have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Zhao when he returns to SAS in the early Spring 2012.



Habitat for Humanity China swaps cement mixers for pottery wheels in upcoming "brick-olage" art project

By Erin **KENNEDY**, HS Independent Study Period Assistant, Puxi Campus

Habitat for Humanity China will launch its first creative event in Shanghai, "Brick-olage," on Saturday, June 11, 2011. A gathering of disparate artistic concepts and communities in support of families in need, Brick-olage will enable Habitat for Humanity China 'volunteers' to help others with their own hands — by building with brushes rather than bricks.

"Volunteers are at the heart of Habitat's work in China and worldwide," said Eric Arndt, Shanghai General Manager of HFH China, "but time and distance prevent many of us in Shanghai from building in Habitat partner communities in places such as Sichuan and Yunnan. Therefore we've brought the construction to Shanghai, with the Brick-olage project — to build art instead of homes."

Brick-olage will be held at River South Art Center (1247 Nan Su Zhou Lu) on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM. Admission of 100 RMB includes a Brick-olage canvas bag and free drink.

Shanghai American School has been a long-term supporter of Habitat for Humanity and on June 11, SAS will continue to show its support by presenting a photo display documenting SAS's journey with Habitat over the past 10 years and the 14 countries SAS has visited. SAS will be displaying 10 photos at the June 11 event.

Habitat will partner with three of Shanghai's leading art gal-

leries, Art + Shanghai, O/V, and Plum Studio, as well as the River South Art Center and fashion boutique The Thing for the Brick-olage event. Attendees will create artwork on-site, participate in interactive artistic demonstrations, and be introduced to the families partnering with Habitat for Humanity China in Yunnan and Shanghai through video and photo essays, in addition to raffles and other activities. Confirmed artistic demonstrations include fabric sculptures by Monika Lin, pottery by Nicole Teng, live illustration by Nial O'Connor and child prodigy Tian Di, and screen-printing by The Thing. This is a great opportunity to bring out your kids, roll up your sleeves and get creative for a great cause.

Proceeds from the Brick-olage project will help make the dream of having a decent place to call home come true for families of Chahe village, Pu'er County, Yunnan. These families, of the Ha'ni ethnicity, are currently living in dilapidated mud houses without proper sanitation facilities along an exposed mountainside. As many farmers here earn less than US\$1/day, they cannot afford to build stronger homes. By partnering with the local government, Yunnan Red Cross and the Nanjing Amity Foundation, HFH China aims to provide these families with safe, decent

—See **HABITAT** on next page

Puxi campus produces winners at Fourth ACAMIS Chinese Character Spelling Competition

By Wendy **DA**, Global Language Coordinator (K-12)

The Fourth Annual Association of China and Mongolian International Schools (ACAMIS) Chinese Character Spelling Competition took place on April 23, 2011, at the SCIS Hong Qiao campus.

The Chinese Character Spelling Competition is set in 10 different levels. Two thousand Chinese characters are chosen which are formed from 150 basic Building Blocks, (like English 26 letters). It progresses from level 1 to level 10. Students can build the foundation step by step. For example:

- Level 1 with 80 Chinese characters
- Level 2 with 160, including 80 from level 1
- Level 5 with 450, including 350 from level 1-4
- Level 8 with 1000, including 800 from level 1-7

The 150 basic Building Blocks as the single characters can form much more compound characters than 2000, but we only choose 2000 as common use words for international school students. These 2000 words can form millions of vocabularies.

With total 470 students from 12 schools participating in the competition, following students (Puxi campus) won medals:

Elementary School

Grade 4, Competition Level 2

- Marcus Khoo, 2nd place
- Renee Liu, 3rd place

Grade 4, Competition Level 3

- Jason Zhang, 2nd place

Grade 5, Competition Level 4

- Kenneth Chen, 2nd place
- Sarah Chan, 2nd place



Chinese Character Spelling Competition winners pose with high school principal Ed Kidd and Global Language Coordinator (K-12), Wendy Da. *EAGLE* photo by Xing Yangjian.

Middle School (mixed with G6-G8)

Competition Level 5

- Hsiao-Yen Kao, 3rd place

Competition Level 6

- Steven Chang, 3rd place

Competition Level 8

- Vincent Zhu, 1st place (Vincent took Level 6 competition last year and won 2nd place. He jumped to Level 8 this year and won 1st place. He must have studied!)

High School

Competition Level 2

- Daniel Kim, 3rd place
- #### Competition Level 3
- Jane Yoon, 2nd place
 - Jeffrey Jie Fu Zhang, 3rd place
 - Hee Ryong Shim, 3rd place

Competition Level 7

- Kathina Choi, 3rd place

The support of the school principals, Debbie Lane, Brad Latzke and Ed Kidd and the support of the Chinese team made our success possible. If you like to know more information, please visit the website: <http://www.thedragonstory.net/>

Habitat, con't from previous page

homes with sanitation facilities.

"The 38 families of Chahe village are representative of thousands of families across Yunnan province and southwest China in need of more disaster-resistant homes and better sanitation, to keep them safe and healthy," noted Kester Yim, Managing Director of Habitat for Humanity China. "Habitat for Humanity China is working with government agencies and our local and global partners to support provision of decent shelter as the foundation of broader community development

efforts. We welcome our supporters to join us as volunteers in Chahe and elsewhere, to directly participate in eradicating poverty housing in China."

In addition to the Chahe project, Habitat operates rural poverty housing alleviation programs in Guangdong, Guangxi, and Sichuan, as well as the ongoing Shanghai Age-Friendly Housing Project and house construction in Zhejiang's Pinghu county. Habitat regularly hosts large and small scale volunteer building trips, such as the Sichuan New Hope

Build taking place in Zhuyuan township, Qingchuan county, Sichuan on May 8-13, 2011. For more information on Habitat for Humanity China programs or how to volunteer, visit www.habitatchina.org.

For more information on the Brick-olage event and other Shanghai programs, please visit www.habitatshanghai.org (see ad on page 19.)

PHOTOS: *EAGLE* file photos of school Habitat trips



Principal Chuli Roules assumes her new duties

At the Silent Auction last February, held in conjunction with the Carpet Auction sponsored by the PTSA, HS teacher, Chris Roules a bid for her daughter, Chuli Roules, in Molly Doud's Grade 5 class, to be "Principal For the Day." On April 25, Chuli was the Puxi Campus Elementary School Principal of Shanghai American School. Her duties included talking to interns and meeting the administrators, cafeteria duty, classroom observations, parent meetings, interviewing interns from East China Normal University and handling discipline.

PHOTOS—Top: Principal Chuli Roules on the phone in her office; Top inset: Chuli meets with the Puxi campus admin team; above: Chuli with classmates Lucy Marshall and Mayia Nicholai and Principal Debbie Lane.

Moving to a new locale can be an unnerving transition. Final installment of a four-part series.

Transitions: See you later — not goodbye!

By Laura **COWAN**, MS Counselor, Pudong Campus

When I look back over the past six years and my time at Shanghai American School, I can't help but have a big smile on my face as well as tears in my eyes. They say that it's often the case that you don't appreciate what you have until it's gone. However, in my case, I have — and always will be — appreciative of SAS



Laura Cowan

and its nurturing environment. I began as a Health teacher and SAS provided me with the support and encouragement to complete my Masters and fulfill one of my dreams in becoming a counselor. I have found my vocational passion in life and look forward to coming in to work each day.

The big smile is for all of the wonderful people with whom I have had the pleasure of connecting. I have made some lifelong friends not only with my colleagues but with students and parents alike.

Watching our students grow and blossom into independent self confident young adults is an honor and hugely rewarding. Hearing from them after they have graduated, or moved on to another school is affirmation for how we as a community foster and celebrate the importance of relationships and personal growth as well as the social and emotional well being of our students.

Knowing that I am leaving in just over a month is what brings the tears to my eyes. Change, regardless of whether it's for better or worse brings about a lot of stress. 'Not knowing' is what I personally find the most difficult aspect of life to deal with. I like to plan, organize and front load; one of my mantras is "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst, and you'll land somewhere in between." Not knowing makes it all the more challenging as there are so many potential variables that it's impossible to feel in control. I remember my college professor saying to me "Trust the process" and that's what I am having to do. I realize that this is an area of personal growth for me, and I continue to focus on the here and now, as well as using positive psychology and imagining all of the wonderful opportunities that lie just around the corner for me.

Zurich will see me moving in to my 27th home and the sixth country I have lived in. One of the gifts that moving to a new location brings is the opportunity to fine tune oneself. Each time I move, I look at all of my strengths and what I have learned that I will take with me and build upon. At the same time, I reflect upon any aspects that I want to discard and leave behind in the air as I fly from China to Europe. Being an expat is truly a gift — who else can upgrade with such ease? We can reboot, add new applications, and run even more smoothly and efficiently at our next destination. We are a blank canvas to those who don't know us, and we can paint the picture of how we see ourselves and would like others see us. I would encourage anyone moving on, children and adults alike, to use this as an opportunity to do some self reflection and set some new goals as you enter your next adventure and new phase in life.

So, it's not goodbye; it's see you later. If you are ever in Zurich, please don't hesitate to get in touch as I'd love to catch up with you. Facebook me.

“*Being an expat is truly a gift — who else can upgrade with such ease? We can reboot, add new applications, and run even more smoothly and efficiently at our next destination.*”

Editor's Note: Julia Villneff is a well-known and popular substitute teacher on the Pudong Campus in all three divisions. On April 15, 2011, while on her way home from SAS, she went into dangerously premature labor. The quick thinking of one of our own high school students helped save her life and that of the baby. The SAS community sprang into action to assist her, her husband Marvin and tiny baby Suraiya in the weeks that followed. This is their thank-you card to the teachers, students, staff and parents of SAS Pudong.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and appreciation to the entire SAS community for their outpouring of love and support that we received following the early arrival of our baby daughter, Suraiya.



Thank you so much for supporting our family through this difficult time. We are so touched by everyone's kindness and compassion and willingness to help. We appreciate all the faculty, students and parents for collecting such a generous donation to help us with the medical fees that incurred in such a short time.

We cannot express enough gratitude to all those who sent cards, visited, held bake sales, participated in the IB Art Show Auction, bought bracelets, and contributed to Suraiya's medical expenses. Please know that your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

—Marvin and Julia Villneff

Thank You



Transitions:
February: Denial (Leaving in June)
March: Reality is setting in (Acceptance)
April: So many things to do (Stressed)
May: See you later, not goodbye (Celebrations!)

HS dance production, *Passion*, reaches new heights

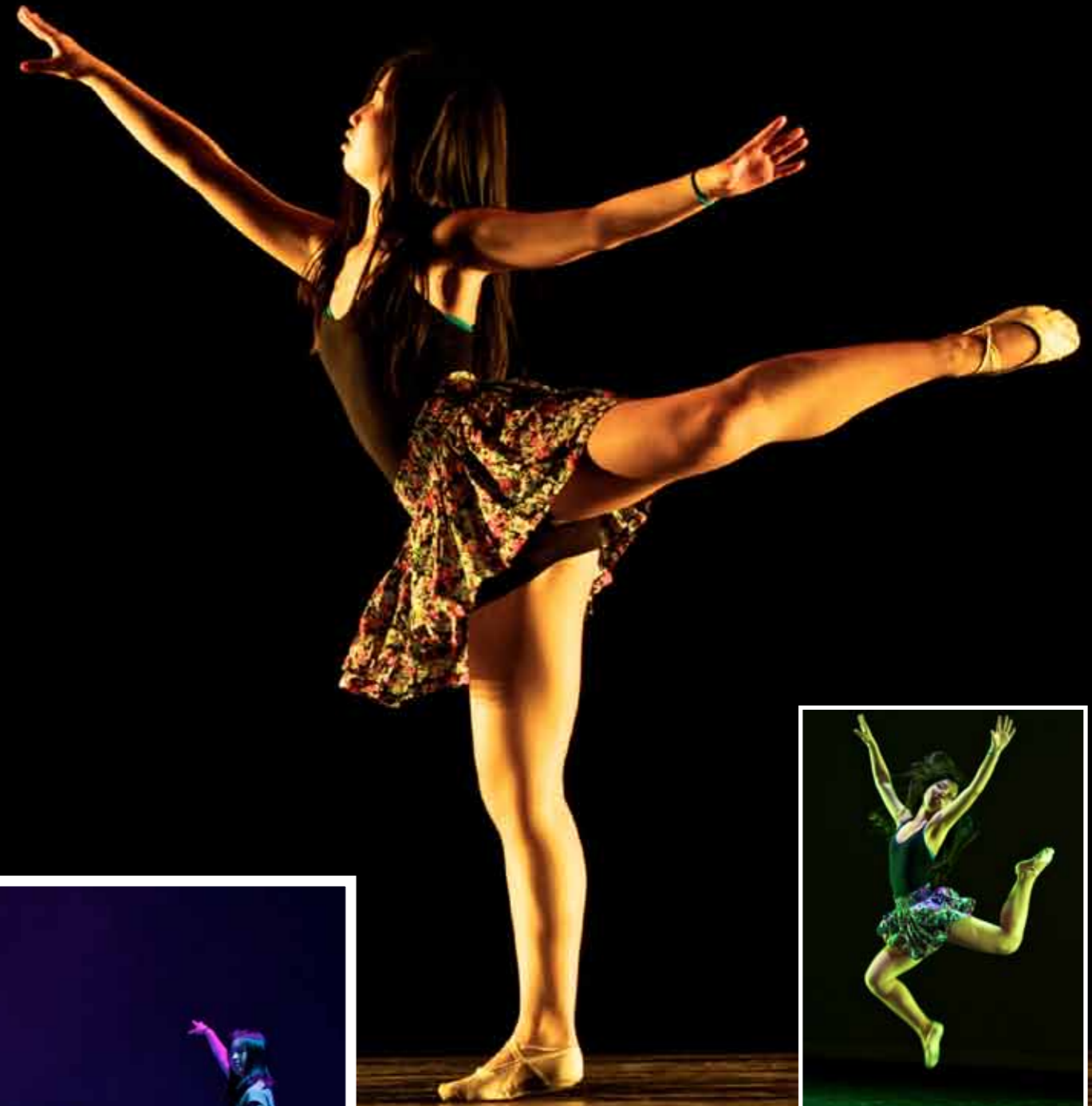
By Doug **HUNDLEY**, Director of Performing Arts Center, HS Dance Advisor

Every April the HS Dance Team, commonly known as Dance, Inc, stages their annual production *Passion*, an event that is months in the making as team members throw themselves into choreographing, practicing and finally performing a wide variety of original dance pieces for a paying audience. It is a chance for dancers to showcase their abilities, promote the team and generate funds for charity.

However, this year's *Passion*, went above and beyond. The quality of the production and the dancing itself that stemmed from hip hop, and jazz to lyrical and contemporary were clearly the most polished they have ever been. Moreover, who can resist the sight of

elementary, middle and school students dancing together on stage as they did in "Welcome to the Sixties" from the musical *Hairspray*, the finale of this year's show? Certainly not the record-setting audience of 500.

Credit for the success of *Passion* this year goes to the whole team, but special recognition should be given to seniors Jocelyn Tsiang and Jean Ho, for their efforts as show producers and to parent volunteer Paulina Lu, director of the Broadway Centre Dance Studio, who throughout this year has provided the team much welcomed training and tough love.



PHOTOS — Left: The high school dance team; Full page: Asumi Matsumoto and Honami Lizuka; Inset above: Asumi Matsumoto. PHOTOS by student, Benjamin Xiong, sophomore, Puxi campus.