

SHANGHAI COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

JUN/JUL. 2020

communitas



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Dear SCIS Community,

Our final days of school have come to pass, while always a marker of a school year coming to a close, this year, watching the busses depart, it all meant so much more. SCIS started a journey like most other school years, deep in our collective routines, carrying them out through to the final days of January. Then, along with the rest of China and soon the world, we were faced with the sudden and ceaseless turn of events as we managed our life amid a global pandemic. Through it all, we maintained that which has always made SCIS special, our community, sense of belonging, and our abundance of care.

Throughout my life and career, Mr. Rogers, an American children's television personality, has been a consistent source of inspiration. He espoused the importance of being grateful and aware of everything that has supported your journey along the way. So, forgive me

for the additional time I am taking on this school year's final edition of the *Communitas*, as I wish to now share what I am grateful for...

- the perseverance and flexibility that was evident in our community from the very first communication regarding campus closure,
- our SCIS families as you managed the tension between your work, supporting your children's learning, and making sure they felt safe and loved in these unprecedented times,
- SCIS operations and support staff for their incredible effort in preparing our facilities and organizing the processes necessary for our return to campus,
- a global recognition that the challenge of adopting new educational practices to ensure all students can engage in meaningful learning experiences is achievable,
- the SCIS leadership team, from divisional admin to system personnel for guiding and supporting our community through these turbulent times,
- our SCIS faculty for their resolute determination as they fulfilled our Mission by tirelessly maintaining our student's engagement in learning,
- the social awareness that is developing in our younger generations as they are made aware of the inequalities evident in our global society. They are already showing how they are taking on the obligation to make meaningful and long-lasting change for the better,
- our SCIS students who are a constant

source of inspiration. I remain humbled by their generosity of spirit, flexibility, persistence, and ability to thrive in challenging moments such as these.

I hope you will also find a moment today to stop, reflect, and honor all that this year has brought you. Perhaps the pages of this edition of our *Communitas* will inspire you, remind you of wonderful times, and build your excitement toward whatever learning journey lies ahead. I wish to share my additional gratitude for our families' choice in SCIS as their partners in their children's learning journey. We look forward to hearing about their continued successes in their next school, in university, and life beyond as they take with them the knowledge, personal connections, and love of learning developed while at SCIS.

It is my hope that all our readers experience happiness, good health, and hearts full of gratitude throughout the summer ahead. I look forward to hearing the stories of positive and recuperative summers and I am already looking forward to welcoming our Dragon faculty, students, and families to the 2020-21 school year (Which will be our 25th Anniversary!) and to once again being... SCIS • Together • 在一起!

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Eschtruth

Director of Schools
Shanghai Community International School

communitas

JUN/JUL 2020

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Do you have a story to tell, a project to share, or art to be displayed? Let *Communitas* be a platform for your voice.

Communitas is about community and we rely on contributions from the SCIS community.

Should you have any commentary, observations, wish to submit articles, or inquire as to ways to collaborate, feel free to send all inquiries or correspondence to the *Communitas* editor via email at mmasson@scis-china.org.

Communitas is published five times per year for the SCIS community, our friends, and the larger Shanghai community.

We are social! Feel free to visit us on the web at www.scis-china.org and follow us!





Inquiring into Language and Identity during MYP Week

So much of our values, beliefs, and identity are impacted by the language we speak and for the majority of students at SCIS, it all starts with their mother language. Language is how we express ourselves to those around us and is a fundamental aspect of cultural identity. This year, we challenged our grade eight students to take a look at the relationship between language and identity, through a week-long Middle Year Programme (MYP) project.

During MYP week, students explored the theme of identity through language. The goal was to reconnect with their mother tongue through art, food, and literature. Working in groups based on their mother tongues, students were then tasked with picking out a children's book of their choosing, written in their native language. Next, they created an art piece representing their book, followed by cooking a meal inspired by their selected books. It all then came together as they presented their work, meals, and read their book to younger students.

Day 1:

On the first day, students were faced with the important decision of selecting the appropriate children's book for MYP week. Keeping in mind their intended audience, grade eight students picked books that were both age-appropriate and entertaining.

They also had the chance to listen to a visiting author, who read a children's book in French. The author, a SCIS parent, Anne Portier-Maynard, gave invaluable insights into storytelling. In her book, she writes about her own family's experience of relocating abroad and the impact it has had on their identities.

**Day 2:**

Students got to work on day two, constructing art to reflect on their book's story. Collaborating in groups, the future storytellers used all sorts of artistic visuals to express what the book had inspired in them. They created posters using paint, markers, strings, and recycled material.

Grade eights then sat through valuable expert sessions with SCIS librarians, Mr. Zimmerman, and Ms. Simmons. Students learned how to create character voices, use dramatic pauses, vary intonation, and pace while reading books to a young audience. They also learned how to engage with young children to make their reading more entertaining and captivating.

Day 3:

The third day was dedicated to rehearsals and hearing about food safety from our cafeteria expert, Mr. Bulayungan. Students were now ready to take all the knowledge about food creation and bring it back home. Over the weekend, students created a dish that was either inspired by the book or a literal dish written about in the book. It was a bonding experience as students connected with their families, sharing their thoughts and reflections on the project.





Day 4:

Day four started with students decorating the tables they would be serving their food on and putting up their art pieces on the wall. Dishes were nicely placed on the tables and as students were putting on the final touches, excited lower schoolers started to arrive by the dozen.

Initial nerves and jitters quickly gave way to excitement as our grade eight presenters passionately caught the attention of the audience. Lower schoolers listened carefully to the stories being recited, before enjoying some delicious food from around the world.

Day 5:

The last day was a culmination of a memorable week of engagement. Having presented successfully to lower school students the day before, MYP students were eager for more. They traveled to our Hongqiao Early Childhood Campus to present to over 350 Pre-Kindergarten. Our youngest students loved having “the older” kids in their classrooms. There was a sense of buzz and excitement all day at the ECE.

Throughout the week, students took turns in various roles. They were bloggers and student leaders one day, and photographers and videographers the next. In turn,



MYP students not only became better communicators, but showed creativity, teamwork, critical thinking, patience, persistence, problem-solving, and empathy.

As international students, remaining connected to your roots in some way is so important. Doing so through language and connecting it to our own identity is one of the most important ways of doing it.



By **TAMARA AFANASYEVA**, MYP English Language Acquisition Teacher at SCIS Hongqiao & **MIKAEL MASSON PEREZ**, Marketing & Communication Officer at SCIS



A TED Talk PYP Exhibition

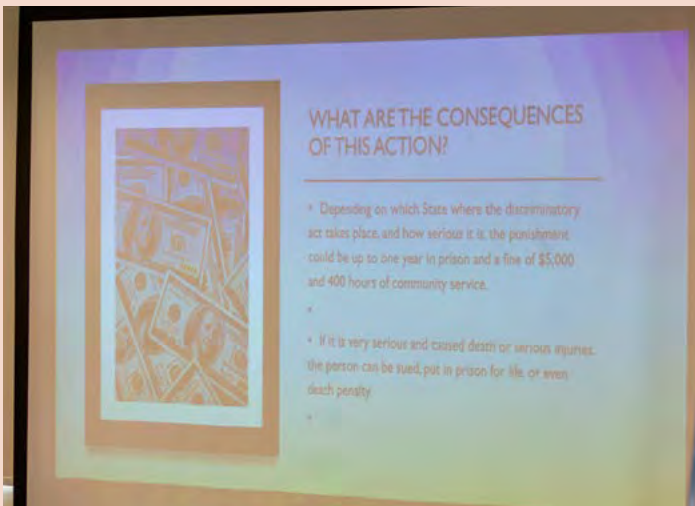
This year's Primary Years Programme (PYP) exhibition took a slightly different approach than in previous years. SCIS Hongqiao students had the option of presenting live in a TED Talks style to Grade 4 and 5 students or creating a video that showcases their learning experience. This allowed them to have the spotlight and really be able to share their understanding, action, and wonderful ideas.

In the PYP Exhibition, students have the opportunity to use everything they have learned about the inquiry cycle and apply it to a real-world topic important to them. In the weeks leading to the exhibition, students are involved in authentic opportunities to write, research, present, calculate, make decisions, collaborate, and learn. Students have had to write professional emails, schedule meetings, plan events, calculate costs, interview experts, and more. They are drawing on everything they have learned to this point in their educational careers in order to take meaningful action on their chosen topics.

This year our Grade 5 students did an amazing job finding topics that they were passionate about, creating questions that guided their inquiry, researching, and of course, sharing their exhibition experience in their own creative presentation.



By **MIKAEL MASSON PEREZ**,
Marketing & Communication
Officer at SCIS



THE SCIS CLASS OF 2020

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES LIST

The Shanghai Community International School graduating class of 2020 is set to attend some of the world's leading undergraduate programs this year! Graduates are now preparing to head off to university, as acceptance letters have come in from 12 countries around the world.

Our latest alumni have been accepted to more than 100 high-level educational institutions in Asia, the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and other countries across Europe.

SCIS Hongqiao Class of 2020

"Here at SCIS Hongqiao, this year's graduating class has been one of the most inclusive, outgoing, considerate, and warmest groups of young people I have ever worked with, and those personal qualities are matched by their academic successes. It saddens me that their senior year was lacking many experiences they should have had, but the determination they showed in the face of their situation assures me they have already learned a very important lesson -- that life is what you make it. The teachers and staff here wish them all the best as they leave for new learning and adventures around the world." – **Joshua Beard, College Counselor at SCIS Hongqiao.**

SCIS Pudong Class of 2020

"The SCIS Pudong class of 2020 is resilient, strong, and determined not to allow obstacles to stand in the way of their dreams and passions. They are scientists, artists, athletes, engineers, scholars, innovators, future physicians, and diplomats. They head out into all corners of the globe with a determination to not only help rebuild society after the global pandemic but to create a more just world. Their perspectives and worldview have been shaped by the guidance, love, and support they have received during their time with us, and our community is forever transformed by their energy, passion, and optimism." – **Maja Kelly, College Counselor at SCIS Pudong.**

This is a bittersweet moment as the sadness of leaving friends and family behind combines with the excitement for what's to come next. But graduates can leave knowing that no matter where they end up around the world, the exceptionally strong bonds that they have developed over the years at SCIS will transcend any borders.

Join us in wishing the best of luck to the class of 2020 as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their lives.



By **MIKAEL MASSON PEREZ**,
Marketing & Communication
Officer at SCIS (Pudong Class of '08)



Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon



ASIA

China:

New York University (NYU)
Shanghai

Hong Kong:

Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
The Hong Kong University of Science
and Technology
The University of Hong Kong

Japan:

Nagoya University

Philippines:

Ateneo de Manila University

Thailand:

King Monkut's Institute of Technology

EUROPE

England:

Brunel University London
Cass Business School
Goldsmiths, University of London
King's College London
Nottingham Trent University
Queen Mary University of London
University College London
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Glasgow
University of Kent
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of London
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of St. Andrews

University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde
University of Warwick

Finland:

Helsinki School of Business

France:

EDHEC Business School
ESCP Europe Business School
ESSCA Business School

Holland:

Amsterdam University of
Applied Sciences
University of Amsterdam
Leiden University
University of Twente

Italy:

Catholic University of the Sacred
Heart

NORTH AMERICA

Canada:

McGill University
Memorial University
Mount Royal University
Queen's University
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
Western University
York University

United States:

Academy of Art University
California Lutheran University
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia College at Moorhead
Eastern Kentucky University
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Fordham University
George Washington University

Graceland University-Lamoni
Hope College
Indiana University - Bloomington
Lakeland University
Lawrence Technological University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Michigan State University
Minnesota State University - Mankato
New York Film Academy
New York University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University
Parsons School of Design
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rollins College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
SUNY - Albany
Texas A & M University
University College London
University of California - Davis
University of California - Irvine
University of California - San Diego
University of California -
Santa Barbara
University of California - Santa Cruz
University of Colorado - Boulder
University of Illinois - Chicago
University of Michigan
University of North Florida
University of Pittsburgh
University of San Francisco
University of Texas - Austin
University of Washington
University of Washington - Bothel
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
University of Wisconsin - River Falls
University of Wisconsin - Stout
University of Wisconsin - Superior
Vassary College
Washington State University
Western Michigan University

The SCIS Class of 2020 Graduation Speeches

Facing some unprecedented challenges, the graduating Class of 2020 has come together and persevered. Even with an unfortunate disruption, this group of students has come together to form an unbreakable bond that will surely last a lifetime.

To commemorate this achievement, we share a brief collection of some of our favorite graduation speeches from our incredible SCIS speakers.

To the class of 2020

By Barclay Lelievre, Upper School Principal at SCIS Hongqiao.

"[...]I've spent a lot of time during the past months trying to reassure parents and teachers and even my own family about two simple things. That

everything was going to work out. That things were going to be ok.

That this terrible outbreak would not, and could not, bring about the end of everything we've worked so hard to build together.

That a school is more than a collection of classrooms in a building.

That a community can still exist even when its members are spread across the globe and can no longer gather together. That with reason, and calm and good sense, we will come through this stronger even though it will be incredibly difficult because anything worth doing and worth fighting for is always that way.

Faced with all of these challenges, we could have given up – I mean, we're talking about a global pandemic. Who are we to stand together and proclaim that things would be ok? We could have given in to doubts and fears and shrugged our shoulders, closed our books, shut out the world outside, and retreated inward.

But that isn't what happened, is it? Almost from the beginning, the data we were collecting on engagement was amazing – you were showing up, you were putting in the work, probably harder than ever in this new virtual learning environment. Your teachers were creating new and amazing ways to try and connect with you.

Through video clips, past papers, emails, teams and streams, live lessons at 3 in the morning from Italy and Spain, Canada and the US, Turkey, the Philippines, New Zealand, and right here at home in Shanghai – they kept communicating, and marking and answering questions and posting work, never giving up.

Just like you guys. You never gave up. You are going to graduate. Everything has worked out. Everything is going to be ok.

[...] Even though you started your journey as strangers you came



together and accomplished incredible things. You built bridges, you formed friendships, won championships, overcame disappointment and loss, you crammed, you cried, you laughed – and you did it together.

Please remember that tonight as you walk across this stage and as you beam in from all across the world. This time at SCIS, even with an unfortunate disruption, has brought you together to form an unbreakable bond – you are now and forever, the graduating class of 2020.

There will be no asterisk to mark this. You have earned every point, every accolade, and every acceptance into the world's best schools with your dedication, your resolve, your talent, your acumen – and what I can only assume is a potentially life-threatening mix of caffeine, McDonald's and instant noodles.

People are fond of saying that you can't predict the future, but I'm not so sure. When I look out into this group of amazing students I know that you will shape your future and make the very best of it with an open mind, careful reflection, genuine caring, and the same thoughtful balanced approach you used to survive and thrive in the Diploma Programme. The way you survived and thrived through this crisis. The way you will survive and thrive next year and beyond.

Graduating Class of 2020, I look forward to hearing about your successes as you go out into the world and do the great



things I know you will do. And never doubt. Everything is going to work out. Everything is going to be ok."

SCIS Renaissance Award
By Cindy Shen, SCIS Hongqiao
Class of 2020.

"My dear friends, parents, teachers, and administrators, I'd like to start by saying what an incredible honor it is to be receiving the Renaissance Award. Thank you so much.

Almost every single graduation speech I came across when looking for some inspiration had some form of a metaphor or simile. We've all heard of our journeys to college being described as a road, or turning a page in your story. We've also heard about embracing individuality and not conforming. But here's a lesson

I've learned: if everyone does it, there's probably a good reason, so you should too. Unless it's crazy, then, in that case, embrace your individuality.

So here goes:

Life is like a box of chocolates. If the box is your life, the chocolates would represent moments. Over the past 14 years that I've been at SCIS, I've experienced a whole arsenal of chocolatey moments.

At times, you'll get milk chocolate. Cocoa solids, diluted with milk solids. It's smooth, creamy. Milk chocolate is winning ACAMIS, its the adrenaline rush of a race and cheering at the end of the pool. Its the anticipation that comes with waiting backstage before a performance and the exhilaration you feel after a curtain call. Milk chocolate leaves a taste in your mouth. It's those sweet moments that you replay in your mind long after they're gone. I will miss the camaraderie of being on a sports team. The four-armed hug that comes with any relay race. I will miss the butterflies before a dance or fashion show.

Then there's dark chocolate. Unsweetened. Bitter. Astringent. Adversity. Dark chocolate is getting stage fright and blanking in the middle of your drama performance. It's when you get disqualified in a relay that loses important points for your team. It's when no matter how hard you try, you just can't understand a concept in chemistry class.

"A lot of us still don't really know what we want. Who we want to become. The beauty of SCIS and beyond is that we have the opportunity to branch out and explore. To go for a blind chocolate tasting and take a step forward in discovering who you are."



But dark chocolate is good because with every low comes the satisfaction of overcoming it. We face challenges. We set goals, we work hard, and along the way, we learn to believe in ourselves. Because looking back, you'll realize the challenges make that moment that much sweeter. Also, if you encounter adversity, embrace it because one day you'll have something interesting to write about in your college essays for those adversity questions.

There's also the chocolate with filling. Caramel or toffee. It's those moments where you surprise yourself. Caramel chocolate is when you realize you can be a leader. It's when the results exceed your expectations. It's going to visit the child you helped in the hospital and realizing that you've done something important in their life. It's doing community service and experiencing true happiness that comes with helping others.

And finally, there's the bittersweet chocolate. Days like today, when you have to say goodbye to your friends and teachers. It's when you will have to say goodbye to your family as you leave for university. It's when a part of you is like YESS, but its also hard to say goodbye.

This famous Forrest Gump phrase, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get," is something that I've only recently come to understand and appreciate the meaning of.

When you first pick up a piece of chocolate, you don't know its flavor because they look the same on the outside. It's only when you bite in that you know its flavor if its good, bad, or something in between.

Similarly, it's like when you first try something new for the first time without knowing the outcome. The first time you swam, the first time you read a book that wasn't assigned. The first time you picked up a paintbrush. Maybe you love it. Maybe it's the worse thing you've ever done. But without trying it, you never know how it feels.

To me, that's what being well rounded is. It's not being the smartest, fastest most athletic, and most creative person. It's having the courage to approach a blind taste of chocolate with an open mind, and along the way, finding what you are passionate about and maybe

even discovering a part of yourself that you didn't know existed. If I had never tried out for a school team, I would have missed out on so many milk chocolate or caramel chocolate experiences. If I had never joined a service club, I would never have wanted to pursue a career in psychiatry and join Doctors without Borders one day.

A lot of us still don't really know what we want. Who we want to become. The beauty of SCIS and beyond is that we have the opportunity to branch out and explore. To go for a blind chocolate tasting and take a step forward in discovering who you are.

I miss you, I'll be seeing you,
Thank you."

**International School Foundation's
Award for International
Understanding
By Thalia Chelouche, SCIS Pudong
Class of 2020.**

"Good afternoon, faculty, fellow graduates, and family and friends. Woohoo, we made it! Federico Fellini said, "life is a combination of magic and pasta," so today, I want to talk to you a little about what our magic is and how to make that pasta or 面条 (mian tiao).

The UN Chronicle defines global citizenship as the concept that one's identity transcends even as it respects geographical and national borders and that our social, political, environmental, and economic actions occur in an interconnected world. When we think of a global citizen, we think about somebody





who understands different cultures, who has friends from across the globe, who speaks several languages, and we think about ourselves. Third culture kids. We think about somebody who despises the question “where are you from?” because the answer involves a two-hour lecture.

The goal of global citizenship is to appreciate cultural and linguistic differences. We, in our community, have a remarkable privilege to learn and ponder about differences in our understandings of the world, and about how our cultures and experiences mixed together like ingredients in one incredible dish, perhaps pasta, with taste mixing from Russian and Finnish cuisines from Japan Greece and Iran from Canada to China from America to Tanzania. We think about how all our flavors taste together so magically.

We think about how, in our global community, the athlete, Yusukei, complements the artist, Yuka, the performer, Izzy, bounces the academic, Raza. Each characteristic, each interest provides a unique taste, but that incredible taste sometimes becomes a flavorless paste. A paste that’s meant to be constant and uniform, with no room for change, uniqueness, or excitement. When something different comes along, this crazy flavor that doesn’t quite fit in with our own, we push it aside. We say if you don’t mind, we just don’t think it’s the right time to add a flavor that doesn’t quite rhyme with ours, and that’s a problem.

Sometimes being globally-minded doesn’t mean that we are as accepting as we could be as we should be. SCIS is full of global citizens but it’s not perfectly seasoned. We all can and should always try to do more, be more, more accepting more welcoming, and to provide all the love we could possibly supply. When I first moved to Shanghai, I was a lonely 12-year-old, I only spoke Hebrew, and I dreamt of being bold, bold enough to reach out and taste the flavors of the international community. But I hid behind a book with my insecurity. When I finally reached out, I found a light switch for the darkness. I found security and generosity that helped me overcome my loneliness.

As we go out into the world, let us take our flavors, our magical taste, the smells we know from our cultures, from our personalities, and from our friends. Let us mix them with tastes that we haven’t discovered yet. Let us accept the person asking to join our kitchen and let us reach out when we see them isolated. Go ask them to cook with you and see how they will have decorated your life with new colours, new flavors. When you see somebody new, walking around with a cloud of blue of anxiety, of fear, feeling lost, Oh dear we’ve all been there.

So, let us be that person, the one we all needed when we were new. Let us ask them to join us. Let us say ‘it’s OK’ to feel loneliness, distress, and confusion. We’ve all faced it and now we’re a mixture of taste and a wonderful fusion. Let us not

only accept the difference but appreciate it too. Realize that the difference is what makes our mixture good. What makes it beautiful is not the paste that it became but the constant changes that came along the way. And that’s what I strive to do every single day.

I would like to acknowledge some individuals who have added an indescribable flavor to my life’s dish. Raza Hosseini, one of my closest friends, thank you for the flavor of support and challenge and for showing the world with me that an Iranian in an Israeli can make peace and friendship work. Miss Maja Kelly, thank you for the flavor of compassion and for always having your door open to me. Dr. Ty Smeins, the legendary middle school principal, thank you for the flavor of acceptance and for implanting an appreciation for the community within me. Miss Sam Riddle, thank you for the flavor of sparkles, for helping me to Infinity and for teaching me the importance of having more days that bring me joy than days that bring me sadness.

Mom, Dad, Alma, Naomi, and Grandma, (thank you for the flavor of love and patience), I don’t know how I would have done it without you. I love you.

My beautiful community, thank you for all the magic you’ve given me over the past six years, and for all the pasta.

Thank you.”

**SCIS Award for Academic Excellence
By Chao Yeon (Hannah) Kim, SCIS
Hongqiao Class of 2020.**

“Good Afternoon honored guests, teachers, families, and fellow graduates. It is a great honor to stand here representing the graduating class of 2020 to commemorate the memories and accomplishments of our great class. On behalf of graduates, I would like to thank you for joining us on this memorable graduating ceremony.

I am ChaeYeon Kim, a Korean student who was fortunate to visit the wonderful city of Shanghai three years ago and just finished a long academic journey here at SCIS.

At first, attending an international school where courses were taught in English was, to be honest, challenging. It was hard for me to actively engage in classes and I sometimes failed to submit assignments on time.

However, I was able to blend in thanks to my supportive friends and teachers. Students with diverse backgrounds never judged each other for their differences. Teachers made us feel it is okay to struggle with language. With constant help, I grew and improved.

I would like to express appreciation to teachers, friends, and family members who helped me to get to where I am right now.

Of course, two years of IB DP journey was not always fun for me. When the deadlines for internal assignments, TOK essay, and extended essay were coming, I



sometimes felt like quitting. Nevertheless, daydreaming with friends about a free and joyful life in the future energized me.

Although our IB DP exam has been canceled due to an unexpected coronavirus outbreak and we could not enjoy normal school life, we all did a great job and I will remember great memories we had during high school. Also, thank you to Mr. Simmons, our IB DP coordinator, for all the support in helping seniors complete the course successfully.

Graduation is a ceremony to celebrate the completion of high school. But graduation is not an end goal in itself; it is instead a part of a larger journey of life. Use lessons from SCIS as stepping stones for your glorious future. Every one of us will support each other from the bottom of our hearts, no matter which field of academics we will delve into.

I truly know that the class of 2020 at SCIS are the most talented and passionate intellectuals who have the potential to

be as wise as any of the great names of this generation.

To end with a quote from American screenwriter Ian Brennan, “You can’t control how smart you are, how funny you are, how good-looking you are. The one thing you can control in your life is how hard you work.” Wherever you go around the world, do your best at the position you are currently at for a better future.

May all your dreams and wishes come true.

Thank you”

**SCIS Award for Academic Excellence
By Yuka Takayanagi, SCIS Pudong
Class of 2020.**

“My fellow graduates, teachers, and family and friends at home, it is my honor to speak to you today. We are now about to graduate, but it seems like yesterday that we just started IBDP courses and shared challenges. Today I want to talk about what I have learned from challenges in these years.

I joined SCIS when I was in grade 9, and at that time I didn’t know how to read, listen, speak, or write in English. I couldn’t understand class content and I didn’t know how to do my homework. The hardest task I had that year was a 10-minute presentation in geography class. It was hard because I couldn’t think while speaking in English. I remember that I wrote down everything that I wanted to say in the presentation, nearly 1000 words, and then I tried to memorize it. Even though I took a lot of time to prepare for



this 10-minute presentation, I felt that it was worth it to put in that much effort because the grade reflected this hard work. Everyone has some difficulties to encounter, but they are chances for us to grow. It is always worth it to challenge yourself by spending time and putting efforts to overcome our difficulties.

Although I had such a hard time, I wasn't discouraged because of three reasons. First, I originally speak two languages, Japanese and Chinese, so I knew that languages can be improved through practice. Second, I don't like to give up. I played the piano for more than ten years and quickly learned that practicing instruments needs perseverance. I remember when I needed to prepare for a piano examination, I practiced around 6 hours a day. Well, according to my mom this lasted for only one week. Third, my parents, friends, and teachers have always given me a lot of support. My parents always tried to listen to my worries. My friends comforted me when I felt depressed, and now we know each other's concerns even without telling. My teachers always cared about me and were always willing to help me. Because of these three reasons, I was able to move forward. I have learned that if you become pessimistic, thinking back to your first resolution and sometimes



relying on people around you can always motivate you.

Now, I feel more confident than I did before. Even if I face difficulties, I always try to encourage myself. I remember that in the first test of math HL class, Jessica and I got a bad grade, which was almost failing. We were shocked and even discussed changing classes, but we didn't want to give up easily. Therefore, after the first test, we studied together and helped each other, and eventually, our grades improved in the following test. I have learned that hardship doesn't mean that you don't have the ability but means that you need more effort. Your efforts won't betray you.

The new environment and new experiences at SCIS gave me a lot of valuable principles. I want to tell you that when you encounter difficulties, always remember to stay positive and believe in yourself. Your efforts can help you to be one step closer to your hopes and dreams.

To conclude, I want to say thank you to all of you. お父さん、今まで支えて来てくれてありがとうございました。妈妈、这几年谢谢你一直支持我。Teachers, thank you for all of your supports. Congratulation my fellow graduates.

Thank you!"





Dear SCIS Community,

This very unusual school year draws to a close. As it does, we would like to convey the appreciation of the staff and administration for the support and understanding evinced collectively by SCIS's parent community. This support has made our teachers' efforts over the past several months more productive, and more rewarding.

We expect that in the 2020-2021 school year, we will be able to return to more familiar campus modalities but must also anticipate some ongoing challenges that will require innovative thinking and planning. We will adapt as necessary and continue to achieve the SCIS Mission.

There has, of course, already been a great deal of innovative thinking and planning accomplished by our teachers and educational leaders in carrying on with our programs online. The well-established SCIS technology initiatives have allowed us to engage quickly and seamlessly with distant students, but of course, we have been delighted to have them back on campus and face-to-face.

In this regard, our support and operations staff took on complex and Herculean tasks to ensure that our campuses would be in compliance with the strict health requirements of the Shanghai Education Commission. We express our deep appreciation to these dedicated and indefatigable workers and their department leaders for making our campuses safe for students and teachers.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to the SCIS Class of 2020. The denouement of your final year lacked some of the traditional trappings of the senior calendar, which made those ceremonies which were able to be scheduled all the more poignant. We wish you all the best in your future studies and hope to see you back on campus when you are able to visit.

To all of our students, parents, teachers, and staff, we wish a refreshing summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back to school in the autumn.

Michael S. Dougherty,
on behalf of the SCIS Board of Directors



Shanghai Cub Scouts Find New Home at SCIS

A sea of bright blue t-shirts, laughter, and cheers filled the Shanghai Community International School Upper School Gym this fall for the Shanghai Pack 12 Cub Scout 2019 Olympic.

The SCIS Hongqiao campus has been home for the Girl Scouts community for many years. This past fall, SCIS welcomed Pack 12 Cub Scouts to their new home at SCIS. In fall 2020, SCIS will also be welcoming Troop 12 Boy Scouts.

SCIS developed a Scouting Support Center, that houses all the inventory for the scouts. The center also features multi-media capabilities to facilitate activities,

and serves as a meeting place for the USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USA GSO) at SCIS, Pack 12 Cub Scouts (grades 1-5) and now the incoming Troop 12 Boy Scouts (grades 6-12).

Scouting as never been stronger at SCIS.

Scouting started when Robert Baden-Powell a British army officer who had a love for nature since childhood, met an American army scout called Frederick Russell Burnham. These two men became friends and Russell Burnham and Baden-Powell started writing notes and wrote a six-part book called 'Scouting for Boys' published in 1906. The Scout handbooks

today were based on this book.

Originally it was a manual for self-study in observation, tracking, and woodcraft skills as well as self-discipline, self-improvement, and our duty as citizens. It also included 'scout craft' with the motto and scout oath plus information about chivalry and being physically strong. These are still the same values we use today in scouting.

SCOUT LAW

The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout. A Scout tries to live up to the Law every day. It is not always easy to do, but a Scout always tries.

SCOUTS SHANGHAI PACK 12 OLYMPICS



Photo credit: Chris Schob



A Scout is:

TRUSTWORTHY. Tell the truth and keep promises. People can depend on you.

LOYAL. Show that you care about your family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and country.

HELPFUL. Volunteer to help others without expecting a reward.

FRIENDLY. Be a friend to everyone, even people who are very different from you.

COURTEOUS. Be polite to everyone and always use good manners.

KIND. Treat others as you want to be treated. Never harm any living thing without good reason.

OBEDIENT. Follow the rules of your family, school, and pack. Obey the laws of your community and country.

CHEERFUL. Look for the bright side of life. Cheerfully do tasks that come your way. Try to help others be happy.

THRIFTY. Work to pay your own way. Try not to be wasteful. Use the time, food, supplies, and natural resources wisely.

BRAVE. Face difficult situations even when you feel afraid. Do what you think is right despite what others might be doing or saying.

CLEAN. Keep your body and mind fit. Help keep your home and community clean.

REVERENT. Be reverent toward God. Be faithful in your religious duties. Respect the beliefs of others.

In 1907, Baden-Powell held the first scout camp in Brownsea in the UK. Meanwhile, in Shanghai, there were English-speaking people from more than forty countries living in the "International Settlement" in

Shanghai with great interest in scouting. Just two years after the first scout camp in the UK, the 1st Dragon Troop in Shanghai was formed in 1909 and formally registered in 1910, making it the earliest Scout Troop in the Far East and one of the first troops in the world.

On October 6, 1910, twenty-five boys were chosen from the Boys' Brigade Scouts to form the "Shanghai Boy Scouts". The reason for this was that there were boys of different nationalities, including different faiths and this is very similar to our Pack today. By the spring of 1911, the Shanghai Boy Scouts had created three Troops; with approximately forty-two members, wearing three different scarves. They were not registered at the scout headquarters in London and soon became an independent Association under the Shanghai Municipal Council, the governing body of the International Settlement of Shanghai.



One of these troops became the 1st Shanghai Baden-Powell Troop, which created a scout headquarters at the Trinity Cathedral Church House on Jiujiang Lu near Nanjing Dong Lu metro station near the Bund. For the next 30 years, this was the scout headquarters. For many years after the Cultural Revolution, Scouting ceased in Shanghai.

In 2006, Pack 12 was re-established in Puxi and had nearly 100 members. In 2019 Pack 12 has 88 registered scouts. Shanghai Pack 12 and Troop 12 BSA belongs to the Far East Council, with HQ in Okinawa, Japan.

Boy Scouts of America is open to all foreign passport holders. We have Scouts in our Pack with over 20 nationalities. We welcome anyone from the international community to explore.

Pack 12 started its first activity on SCIS Hongqiao campus with the Scout Olympic on September 22.

Photo credit: Bebe Jacobs



Followed by Pack Hike at Camp Greenwood

Photo credit: Chris Schob



Photo credit: Bebe Jacobs



November 17, Cub Scouts hosted the Raingutter Regatta at SCIS, Hongqiao campus. We had our event outdoor and halfway through, it started pouring rain. The resourceful and very supportive SCIS facility management team quickly help moved and re-set up in the cafeteria for our event to continue.

Pack 12 also integrated with the SCIS Community with some of the boys from the packs doing Fundraising during Back to School BBQ and bake sales during Winter Festival.

Photo credit: Bebe Jacobs



Dec 8 - Holiday Pack Meeting and Toys for Tots Service Project – SCIS



May 23 - Pinewood Derby

Photo credit: Bebe Jacobs

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, SCIS could not allow parents or outside students on campus but still supported our Scouting activities through ensuring access to our supplies like the Pinewood Derby Track and the items needed for our Blue & Gold Banquet.

“Our family has been with SCIS since 2011 and we’ve experienced firsthand the generosity and hospitality of SCIS towards scouting programs through our experience with the USA Girl Scouts overseas which we were involved in for eight years.

SCIS has shown its leadership in this area first by signing the charter and being the sponsoring organization for Boy Scouts of America. Second, they are willing to host our large scale Pack events which can number into the hundreds of people, and this year we were very happy to have our Cub Scouts events at SCIS.

SCIS is also very highly regarded in the entire expat community for hospitality and for the efficiency and helpfulness of the operations staff, supportive nature of

the administration. SCIS with its central location makes it an ideal gathering location for the Scouting community.” - **Dan Whitaker - Pack 12 Cub Master**

“Our boys started scouting in Shanghai four years ago. It was not just scouting participation for our boys. Both my husband and I volunteered to help. It does take everyone’s help to make Scouting possible in our community. It has been amazing to experience the growth, friendship, and the outstanding community that supports scouting in Shanghai. It is our extended family and we were thrilled that Scouts found a new home at SCIS with the school strengths in community and diversity

The leadership and life-skills that both my boys (Jaiden and Lucca) have gained from Scoutings are invaluable. I hope they will continue to become Eagle Scouts. And we hope many boys and families at SCIS will join Scouting and make it an even stronger community.” - **BeBe Jacobs - Pack 12 Advancement Coordinator & Troop 12 Assistant Scout Master**



May 30-31 - Pack Campout

Photo credit: Selwyn Jonker



By BEBE JACOBS, Pack 12 Advancement Coordinator & Troop 12 Assistant Scout Master & Harriet Gaywood, Pack 12, Den 2 Leader 2015-2019

Parents and Friends Association: Our Thoughts on 2019-2020



"The 2019-20 school year is the fifth for my family at SCIS, and certainly the most memorable. The school closure from February until May meant that we lost nearly one full semester of activities we were planning for, as well as face-to-face interactions with our community. This was felt keenly by my older daughter and her graduating class, but with generous support from the school, the Grade 12 parents were very glad to have a meaningful graduation event and sending-off for the Class of 2020. The PAFA Executive Committee and I have missed all the SCIS families who were unable to return to Shanghai due to border closures, including four from our team. It's especially hard to have to say "Good-Bye" across the miles to the families still overseas who will not be returning after this school year. I have been encouraged by everyone's resilience and hopefulness during these times, and with the newly confirmed PAFA Executive Committee members for 2020-21, we are looking ahead to the next school year with renewed expectations and positivity. SCIS - Together!" – **Lisa Chu, PAFA President at SCIS Hongqiao**

"I knew this would be my last year at SCIS, and in China; my son was graduating with the Class of 2020. PAFA started the year off with a bang! There was the Parent Social on the Bund, a huge International Food Festival (IFF), and ECE's Halloween Monster Mash, to name a few. Who knew that Covid-19 would stop it all. It has been a bittersweet ending with all the things undone and people unseen. But, I am very grateful for the extra family time we had before our son heads off to college. I have enjoyed working with a great group of parents, for the last 4 years, on the PAFA Board. Our family will miss SCIS!" – **Lonna Grady, PAFA Secretary at SCIS Hongqiao**



"As my first year with PAFA, it's certainly one I will remember. Our kids have faced many challenges during the past semester, including navigating new ways to learn and study, different methods of communication with family, friends & teachers, and of course, farewelling many friends unexpectedly. I'm proud of how my kids have grown through this time and I'm grateful for the strong connection we have with the SCIS community. I look forward to a fresh start to the new school year, helping PAFA bring SCIS families together." – **Lisa Pipito, PAFA Treasurer at SCIS Hongqiao**





“This year has certainly been a school year none of us had expected or visualized when we returned from Summer holidays in August 2019. Now, as the school year comes to an end, for some of us it is goodbye to SCIS and to our time in China. I wish to thank everyone on our PAFA Pudong Executive Committee for their support and work this year and I wish each of you all the very best for the future. To all our PAFA Pudong Parents thank you for supporting the events we were able to celebrate together. To our PAFA Pudong families who are leaving I wish you and your families safe transitions to where ever life is taking you. To our PAFA families staying I wish you a wonderful summer. There will be many opportunities to build the SCIS community in new ways as the new school year of 2020/21 evolves. Again I wish you all happiness and health in the coming months and year ahead.” -**Vanessa Thomas, PAFA President at SCIS Pudong**



“My SCIS PAFA career has finally come to end after 15 years and having three children graduating from SCIS Pudong. It has been an amazing journey and I enjoyed every moment of being part of a wonderful community. I wish everyone all the best” – **Sandra Machan, PAFA Public Relations at SCIS Pudong**



“2019-2020 is a very special year for everyone. Nature challenged us, right now we are all safe together as a family. SCIS has always been with us, even as we went through the hardest time. As a PAFA board member, I am very proud of the community, of our supportive parents, and our school for staying together through it all. I will definitely keep on being a part of the PAFA community next year. Have a great and safe rest of 2020.” – **Sammy Yi, PAFA Communication Coordinator at SCIS Pudong**



"One of the most common questions asked by parents at the beginning of this academic year was "I don't know what our kids do in class". The silver lining of virtual learning is we all know what our kids do in class now. 😊" – **Carolyn Pang, PAFA Lower School Representative at SCIS Hongqiao**



"I never thought life would be different after the CNY break. Lucky for us, we had time to spend with our lovely family and take care of each other. It's an unforgettable memory to have a Covid-19 test and 14 days quarantine. I believe we will be back to normal life and wish everyone a great and safe summer vacation!" – **Nina Han, PAFA Upper School Representative at SCIS Hongqiao**

"What a year! It started with an amazing Welcome back BBQ in August and ended so much differently than ever before. I am so proud of our faculty and students who kept it going through all the sudden events and I am happy that PAFA succeeded in executing the events during the first period bringing joy to our community. I truly hope that next year will be calmer for all of us. I wish you all a safe and happy summer!" – **Sanna Korsström, PAFA Volunteer/Country Coordinator**





"I learned a lot of different aspects of hosting a school event during this school year. I am actually not the most sociable person but being a member of PAFA has allowed me to step in and contribute in a meaningful way!" – **Linda Tam, PAFA Events at SCIS Hongqiao**



"After an exciting, event-packed first semester, this school year didn't end the way we were hoping. I am grateful for the time that we as a PAFA board had to enrich the experiences of students and parents at SCIS. We are lucky to have such a wonderful school community both in good times and in difficult times!" – **Haley van Os, PAFA Early Childhood Education Representative at SCIS Hongqiao**

"It was indeed a challenging year and required everyone's flexibility. I am so proud to be a part of such a mature community. Hope next year would be a full year on campus, have a great summer all!" – **Jen Kim, PAFA Lower School Representative at SCIS Hongqiao**



"This year has taught me a lot. First, being a teacher is a heck of a job! (And that I'm not made for it). Second, that it is ok to make mistakes, especially with kid's homework. And lastly, family support and friendship are so important, certainly, during those tough times, we take these so much for granted!" – **Milin Ip Parsons, PAFA Early Childhood Education Representative at SCIS Hongqiao**

PAFA NEWS

SCIS has parent organizations called the Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) on each campus. PAFA serves as a way that parents can communicate ideas for the betterment of the school to the administration and Board. SCIS is proud of the high level of parent participation in their schools and value their partnership with the parent community. PAFA conducts various activities, from community events to charity fundraisers to volunteer support for teachers and students. Each campus has a PAFA board who works closely with each campus' administrations to plan events that help to make SCIS Campuses a unique experience for families, faculty, and students alike. We are always welcoming new members!

For more information about PAFA, please contact us at:

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