

SHANGHAI COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

JUNE 2017

# communitas



»»» LOOKING FORWARD





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Dear SCIS Community,

SCIS' 21st school year is soon drawing to a close, and with it comes the completion of a demanding yet highly productive year for all. Throughout our community, faculty, parents, and students will take part in the various celebrations that accompany the end of our school year. Inevitably, there is a feeling of sadness that comes with the various farewells and send offs, yet there is also a joyful celebration and acknowledgment for all that was accomplished. Even though the theme for this edition of *Communitas* is "Looking Ahead", I feel compelled to also take a moment to reflect on all that we have collectively accomplished throughout this school year.

The year began with a significant change for SCIS with the adoption of a new mission statement to direct our purpose as a school. The need for this change came from our reflections on identified needs within our system of schools. These ultimately led to the SCIS Board and senior administration team identifying seven strategic directions that will serve as a focal point for how we will achieve our mission. Following this initial work, the full SCIS leadership team worked together to develop belief statements that establish the value each of the seven strategic directions has for our community. Looking forward, the next step will commence during the 2017-2018 school year and will bring about a significant review of the entire organization, from classroom to business office, to ensure we are capable of moving forward with a clear understanding of our shared purpose.

Another major undertaking that deserves attention is the incredible effort that both our Pudong and Hongqiao campuses have undergone relating to the authorization for both the International Baccalaureates' Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) and Primary

Years Programme (IB PYP). This will not only support our effort to align our Nursery through Grade 12 program it also guides our ability to embed student-centered learning through an externally assessed program that is respected by educators around the world. The four different authorization processes will be completed prior to the end of our school year and we certainly expect to receive positive news about our steps toward becoming a full three-program IB World School (IB PYP, MYP, and DP). Each of the visiting teams that have come through have provided positive feedback regarding the effort of our faculty, the leadership's support, and our community's open embrace for the various programs. Further, we have received our MYP authorization notices for both Pudong and Hongqiao and eagerly await similar results for our PYP efforts.

In addition to the behind-the-scenes achievements made by our faculty and administrators, our students have also continued to excel while personifying the Dragon spirit. They have sat for exams, competed in sports, participated in clubs, volunteered countless hours, and performed incredibly on stage and off. For some, they will be walking with their classmates for one final time as SCIS students as the senior class takes part in their graduation ceremony. These ceremonies are commonly referred to as 'commencement' due to their representing the start of a new phase of life. This senior class will now join their fellow SCIS Alumni as they represent the best of SCIS while attending outstanding universities across the globe.

While I am likely not the first, I am pleased to join the many in congratulating our graduating class of 2017 and wishing them all the best in the future. I must follow that with a sincere statement of gratitude toward our community of parents for providing an incredible amount of energy, support, and patience throughout

this and all previous school years. I also wish to share my appreciation for the dedication, talent, energy, and care that our incredible team of faculty, staff, and administrators bring to work each day. Finally, I want to acknowledge those that embody the mission, vision, and purpose of SCIS – our diverse, caring, bold, and positive students from Early Childhood through to High School. We are so very glad to have you as part of our school.

One of the most difficult aspects of our incredible international lives is the inevitable farewells we face as friends, classmates, and colleagues move on. For those of you not returning after the summer, I wish you all the best, welcome you to come back for a visit (or long-term stay), and of course, thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your children. For our departing faculty, I want to thank you for all you have brought to the lives of our students and all you have done to enhance our learning community. For those returning for next year, I look forward to welcoming you back after the summer. For schools, summer is a time of reflection, planning and building and we will be doing all three this summer. So, we look forward to sharing with you all the new plans, spaces, and people that will make 2017-2018 yet another great year to be a SCIS Dragon!

Sincerely,



**Daniel D. Eschtruth**  
Director of Schools  
Shanghai Community International School



# Looking Forward

The success of 2016-17 lays the foundation for future development

The end of the 2016-2017 school year is fast approaching, along with the onset of summer. However, in the world of education, summer is not only a holiday but serves as an opportune time for reflection on the various achievements accomplished during the previous school year. Further, it is an opportunity to plan for the future as we maintain our focus on continuous improvement. The 2017-2018 school year will mark our 22nd as a leading international school and just as there were many achievements worth celebrating from this past year, there are many developments planned for the year ahead. So, please read on and take this opportunity to "Look Forward":

**I. Building on our MYP/PYP Authorization to better align and prepare our students for the IB DP and competitive university acceptance:** One of our main focal points for the 2016-2017 school year was to complete the pre-requisite work to become a fully authorized, three-program, International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. The process, which took place over the past two years on both the Pudong and Hongqiao campuses, has required a significant amount of work and preparation for the various visits. The work has culminated in both campuses successfully passing the MYP Authorization Phase and awaiting the final PYP authorization visit to take place in June. IB and university results continue to be strong, and we look forward to aligning our programs to increase opportunities for our students.

This year's graduating seniors can certainly 'look forward' with great aspirations. Consistent with previous years, SCIS graduates proved that the personal attention that makes us a special community also translates into a program that is focused on the whole child with outstanding results of academic rigor. Consider:

**communitas**

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Editor: Lili Shi  
Art Director: Mun Yee Choo  
Designer: Alles Zheng

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 [lshi@scis-china.org](mailto:lshi@scis-china.org).

*Communitas* is published eight 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](http://www.scis-china.org) and follow us!





- 89% of SCIS Seniors completed the full IB Diploma. We are an inclusive school that believes all students can excel when given the right support.
- Average IB Score - 33: Achieving four points higher than the world average, this statistic is even more impressive knowing that almost the entire 12th Grade Class completed the IB Diploma.
- 39% of our graduates are accepted into Top 50 universities worldwide.
- 12% of our graduates are accepted into Top 10 universities worldwide.
- Research tells us that MYP programs prepare students better for the DP program. As we prepare for 2017-18, we look forward to capitalizing on our increased consistency of all three IB Programs to better prepare our students for the academic rigor of the Diploma Programme... and beyond.
- We look forward to next year as we can more fully focus on implementing the concept-based, inquiry model of learning in our classrooms. Specifically:
- Aligning our assessments vertically to better target IB DP outcomes
- Reinforcing the use of the MYP Criteria to give more specific feedback on the desired learning goals
- Targeting our math program to transition from traditional algorithmic practices to conceptually-based, inquiry practices in teaching and assessment
- Strengthening our real-world learning through the PYP Exhibition (5th Grade) and MYP Personal Project (10th Grade).
- Emphasizing the IB's Approaches to Learning to help students recognize and develop these important lifelong learning skills as fundamental outcomes.

**2. Strategic Directions:** As outlined this past March by Director of Schools Daniel Eschtruth, we will continue our review of structures, practices, and procedures throughout next school year. Our effort is to ensure SCIS, as a whole, is able to move forward with a clear understanding of our shared purpose.

The innovative approach being utilized has already drawn our focus toward actionable, strategic directions through which we will achieve our shared mission. The strategic directions identified are Learning, Environments, Community, China Context, Sustainability, Personnel, and Communication. The 2017-2018 school year will find a broader group of faculty building belief statements that will establish the value each of the seven strategic directions has for our learning community. With a strong foundation of our beliefs in these areas, we move to the much more exciting part: capitalizing on our expertise to bring these directions to life on both campuses. You can expect updates on the developments of our Strategic Directions as we move forward in 2017-18.

**3. New SCIS Website:** Reflecting the needs of our diverse community has led us through a process of creating a new and improved SCIS website. The initial process of identifying a service provider has been completed and committees made up of faculty and administrators have been hard at work building the foundation of the new site. The process will continue over the summer with an expected launch of a new site to take place during the 2017-18 school year.

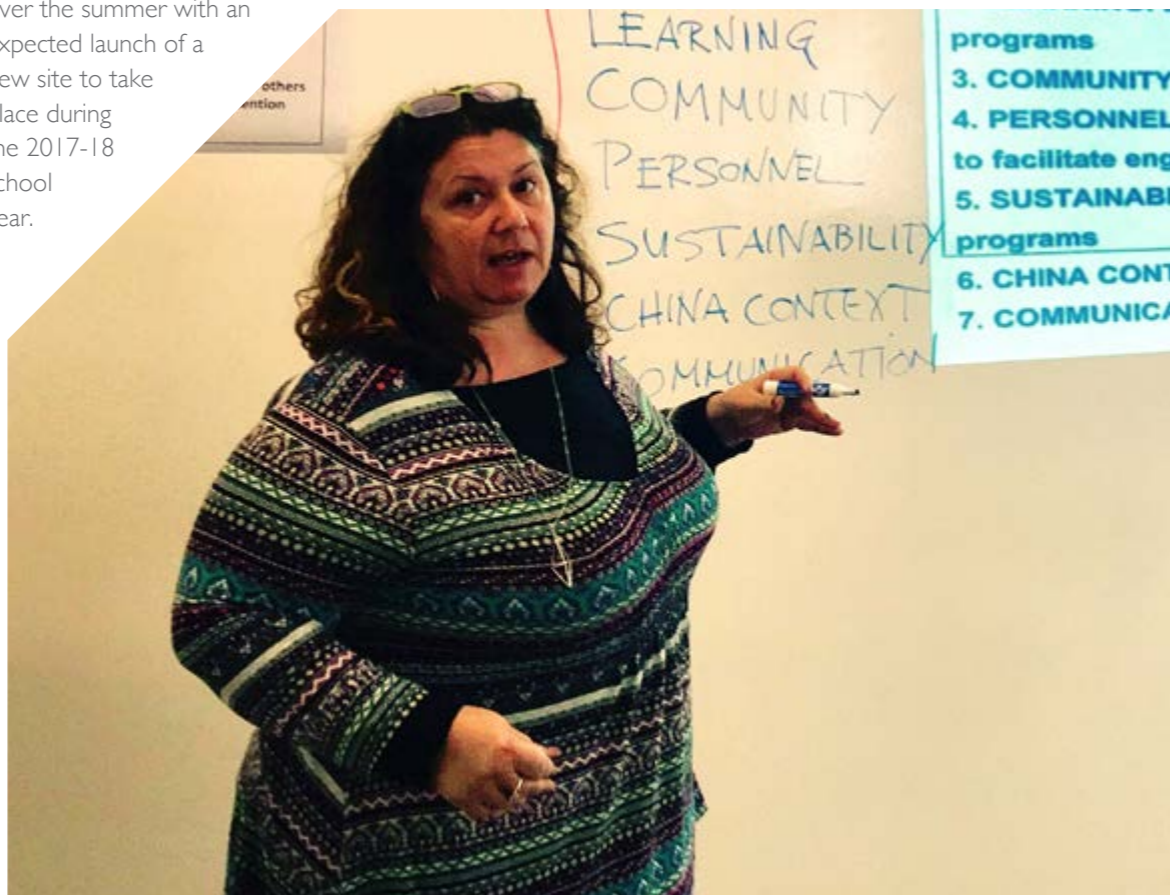
**4. Facility Enhancements:** World class schools need world class learning environments. With each summer, facility enhancements make our Pudong, Hongqiao Main and Hongqiao Early Childhood Education (ECE) Campus improved places for living and learning. We look forward to showcasing the our "Before and After" pictures to the SCIS community in August!

| <https://blogs.ibo.org/blog/2015/12/15/how-does-the-middle-years-programme-prepare-students-for-college/>



Derek Luebbeis the Head of School of the Pudong campus. He rejoins the SCIS family after working as the SCIS Pudong US Principal from

2002-2006. He has spent the last 21 years working in international schools in Cairo, Egypt; Kaohsiung, Tawian, Hangzhou/Shanghai, China, and most recently eight years at the American International School of Budapest





# Personality Trumps Intelligence: A Shift Towards a Holistic Approach to College Admissions

For students at SCIS, it isn't a question of "Will I attend university?". The important question for our students is "Which country shall I choose?" and "How do I decide between my 5+ university offers?". SCIS parents and teachers expect students to achieve academic excellence and gain admittance to the world's top universities and colleges, but for good reason. According to The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), college graduates will earn about \$1 million (USD) more in a life-time compared to their counterparts without a degree. In addition, college graduates have higher earning abilities, more employment options, better health, lower levels of depression, increased ability of home ownership and better quality of life. The aforementioned is a recipe for happiness and success that we crave.

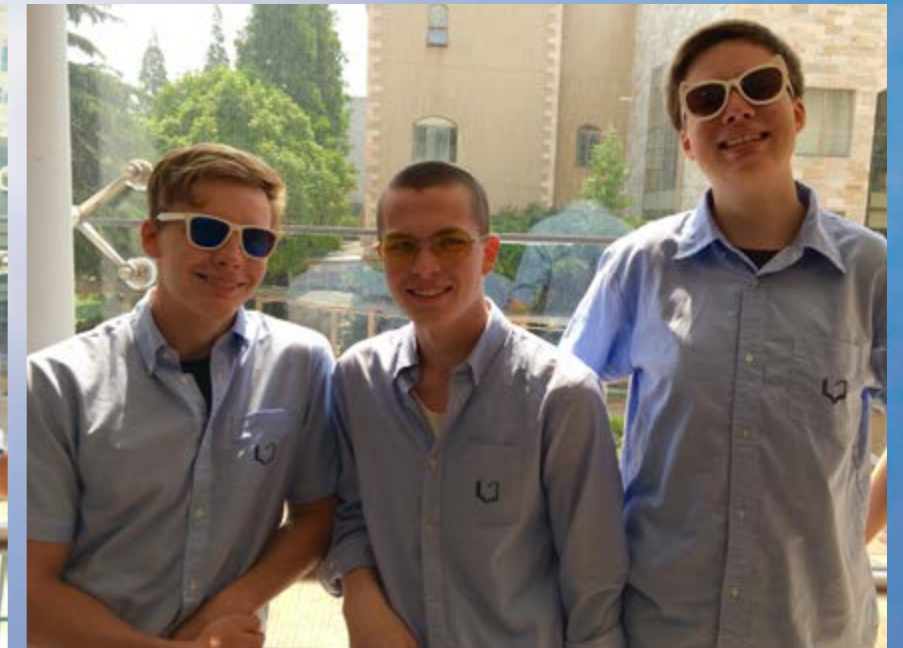
However, colleges and universities are drastically changing their admission process and many are seeking to admit not just intelligent students with high marks, but students that show personality and passion. The professors at Carnegie Institute of Technology believe, "85% of your financial success is due to skills in 'human engineering', your personality and ability to communicate, negotiate, and lead. Shockingly, only 15% is due to technical knowledge." This is in direct juxtaposition to the common belief that intelligence is a direct indicator of success. Our current university system rewards students for high marks on IB exams, school transcripts and standardized tests, but this is changing.

Yale University, arguably USA's top university based on selective admissions and academic excellence, redefined their freshman application questions to be more inclusive of diversity, civic engagement, and passion. Yale's dean of admissions said, "We're looking for a passion." Marks will never be irrelevant at Yale with a 6.3% admission rate, but the shift in wording is emphasizing character and personality over accomplishments.

Some universities value more than just marks alone and are joining the campaign to drop standardized tests. There are over 850 USA universities that have eliminated standardized tests in favor of admitting a more

diverse group that will thrive in the right environment. The former head of admissions at Bates College said, "high school grade point average turns out to be an excellent indicator of college success." When it comes to academic achievements, testing isn't the only indicator. Lead investigator for a recent Australian study believes, "In practical terms, the amount of effort students are prepared to put in, and where that effort is focused, is at least as important as whether the students are smart". His research concluded that students with intellectual curiosity and perseverance will have more academic success in school than with just intelligence alone. Similarly, the Chronical of Higher Education reported, soft skills such as "optimism, curiosity, resilience, and "grit" may actually play a stronger role in determining a student's long-term success." These personality indicators combined with conscientiousness are better predictors than intelligence alone.

In response to the shift to holistic admissions, over 100 secondary schools worldwide adopted a new transcript that no longer shows numerical marks, but displays what a student has learned and what they can do. It is called a Mastery Transcript containing skills and knowledge, yet zero grades. This is a bold move, as it has potential to ruin a graduate's chances at gaining college admission. However, the early adopters have a reputation for superior academic excellence and students typically are admitted to the world's best Ivy League universities.



During a recent PBS interview, Richard Weissbourd, researcher and senior lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education, demanded universities to "turn the tide" and limit the amount of accomplishments students may list on their application. He stressed, "The message we're trying to send here is that the goal isn't long brag sheets. The goal is meaningful academic engagement and spirited, passionate learning, and its meaningful ethical engagement. It's being involved in your community, concern for others, concern for the greater good, for the public good." SCIS students have demonstrated concern for others through a variety of CAS projects and volunteerism. We have intelligent, engaged and curious students that have independent study skills. Many have demonstrated passion and expressed their enthusiasm beyond the syllabus. Through the IB curriculum our teachers have provided a holistic education instilling soft and hard skills which have allowed students to flourish on college applications.

In conclusion, SCIS students will need to wear shades because their futures are so bright!

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Emily Blalock is the Hongqiao Upper School Counselor. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and has a Master of Science from the University of Georgia. She taught Entrepreneurship and Textiles at the University of Georgia for ten years. During this time, she was also the Career Counselor and helped hundreds of students find internships and careers in their fields. Emily has also been a visiting professor teaching entrepreneurship and micro-business in USA, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Honduras.





# WHAT Do Teenagers Really NEED?

Adolescence is an arena of intense biological, emotional, social, and physical maturation. The behavior of teenagers is often perplexing to parents and teachers, and more often than not, to teens themselves, which is why educators and researchers sometimes humorously refer to adolescence as the Bermuda Triangle of human development. The list of mystifying occurrences seems to be endless. A once levelheaded child suddenly becomes scatterbrained. A formerly even-tempered youngster surprisingly starts having wild mood swings. A previously cautious and timid child begins to act recklessly.

It is challenging to speak about adolescence and avoid overgeneralizing. Every teen's individual circumstances are different. The adolescent is a complex creature with an intricate inner life, elaborate peer and family relationships and unique interpretations of their social and physical reality. Fortunately, the ever-growing body of research combining psychosocial and neurophysiological approaches, along with technological advances in the field of brain imaging continues to expand our understanding of what it means to be an adolescent, and how we, the adults, can guide teens along the turbulent path to adulthood.

## Tween Years (Ages 11-12)

Neuroscience research shows that parts of the brain responsible for prospective memory (i.e. remembering to perform a planned action or recall a planned intention at some future point in time) are still developing. This is one of the reasons why children at this age often struggle to pack gym clothes, turn in permission slips, or bring their band instrument home from school. Teaching organizational skills to children is very useful at this stage. Parents can help their child set reminders on a cellphone, incorporate memory cues into daily routine (e.g. placing gym bag by the front door) and explore other ways to help their child keep track of their responsibilities and belongings. The development of tweens' decision-making skills can be facilitated by teaching children to think

through pros and cons and considering multiple viewpoints. Research suggests that children who develop these skills by the age of 11 exhibit less anxiety and sadness and fewer behavioral problems at ages 12 and 13.

## Early Teen Years (Ages 13-14)

At this stage, a major developmental task is to learn to regulate one's responses to social stress. Parts of the brain most vulnerable to stress are still developing, while teens are becoming increasingly sensitized to their peers' opinions and actions. At this stage, it is important to teach teens the skill of emotional regulation. Self-soothing skills such as meditation, exercise, or listening to music can be very useful coping strategies for managing emotional responses to social stressors. Furthermore, teens can greatly benefit from being coached on friendship skills, including how to read subtle social cues and body language. It is important to have conversations that prompt teens to reflect on how to repair friendships after a fight, but also how to remove themselves from a toxic friendship. Although the impulse to step in and resolve these social difficulties can be very strong, it is very important to allow teens the opportunity to resolve their own friendship struggles. Parents play a very important role as coaches, advisors, and confidants in this process.

## Middle Teen Years (Ages 15-16)

A recent (2015) study led by researchers at Leiden University in the Netherlands has shown that risk-taking behaviors become more prevalent at this age. There is a neurological basis for this – the brain's reward receptors are showing signs of surging development and activity, making teens increasingly sensitive to dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. The amplified response to dopamine makes risks and thrill-seeking behaviors highly pleasurable and temporarily overwhelms normal and adaptive fears of danger. A 2015 study conducted by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign showed that teens who have strong ties to stable peer groups exhibit fewer risky behaviors compared to those without such connections. Closeness with parents, described as

being able to talk to parents about problems, and an absence of yelling or arguing was also associated with less activation of a brain region linked to risk-taking.

## Late Teen Years (Ages 17-18)

By this stage, older teens are usually much better equipped to make decisions, regulate their emotions and resist temptations to engage in risky behaviors. However, the prefrontal cortex, part of the brain responsible for the most sophisticated problem solving and planning strategies often referred to as executive functions, continues to develop at least through early to mid-twenties. Continuing to engage in open dialogue with teenagers, setting boundaries while at the same time acknowledging their growing need for independence and ability to make responsible choices are some of the most important ways in which adults can support older teens.

While each stage of adolescence brings its own unique characteristics and challenges, there are some needs that are universal to every adolescent regardless of age, gender, individual, social and cultural circumstances. All teens need adults in their lives who are present, interested, loving, involved, patient and accepting. Teenagers need to be explicitly taught the skills they do not yet possess and they need to receive recognition for those they have successfully acquired. They need a safe space filled with unconditional love and clear boundaries that they can always retreat to. And sometimes, they need hugs. Not that they will ever admit to it, of course.



Maja Kelly is the Upper School Counselor at SCIS Pudong. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology, master's degree in Psychological Research and Child and Adolescent Development Psychology, and a European Certificate of Psychotherapy. She has been providing socio-emotional, academic, and university guidance to teens and their families in a international school setting for over ten years.







# Graduation 2017





# University Acceptances

## SCIS Class of 2017

### UNITED STATES

American University	Michigan State University	University of Colorado -
Arizona State	Northeastern University	Boulder
Auburn University	Ohio State University	University of Houston
Baylor University	Oklahoma State	University of Kentucky
Bradley University	University	University of Miami
Chapman University	Purdue University	University of Miami Ohio
Clemson University	Santa Clara University	University of Minnesota
Connecticut College	School of Visual Arts	University of Nevada
Depaul University	New York	University of San Francisco
Drexel University	Syracuse University	University of
Emerson College	Temple University	Southern California
Fordham University	University of California -	University of Texas
Hult University	Irvine	University of Utah
Indiana University	University of California -	University of Vermont
Irvine Valley College	Santa Barbara	
Longwood University	University of California -	
Maryland Institute College	Santa Cruz	
of Art	University of Cincinnati	

### CANADA

McGill University	University of	University of Toronto
Queens University	British Columbia	University of Victoria
Simon Fraser University	University of Calgary	



### EUROPE/UNITED KINGDOM

Aston University	Maastricht University	University of Birmingham
Birmingham City University	Manchester Metropolitan	University of
Buckinghamshire New	University	Central Lancaster
University	Queen Mary University of	University of
City, University of London	London	East London
Delft University of	Royal Holloway -	University of Edinburgh
Technology	University of London	University of Essex
Erasmus University College	St. Andrews University	University of Exeter
Imperial College London	St. George's University of	University of Leeds
Jacobs University	London	University of Manchester
Kings College London	University Arts London	University of Warwick
Kingston University	University College London	
Lancaster University	University of Aberdeen	
Leiden University	University of Amsterdam	

### ASIA

Chinese University of	Hong Kong University of	Shanghai
Hong Kong	Science and Technology	Peking University
City University of	International Christian	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific
Hong Kong	University	University
Hong Kong Polytechnic	Jiao Tong University	Sung Kyun Kwan University
University	New York University -	University of Hong Kong



# RE-ENROLLMENT Reminder!

This is a reminder regarding re-enrollment for the 2017-18 school year. Our re-enrollment window began on Monday, February 6th with email reminders being sent to all current SCIS families.

The re-enrollment process is vital as we strive to effectively plan for yet another successful school year. Additionally, SCIS offers early payment discounts for those who make their tuition payment in full by the posted deadlines. To find out more please see the 2017-2018 Tuition and Fees page on the Admissions

section of our school website at [www.scis-china.org](http://www.scis-china.org). Whether your family is coming back, is unsure, or will not be returning, please let the Admissions Office know of your intentions.

As always, we thank you for the opportunity to provide your children with a successful and rewarding educational experience. If you have any questions regarding re-enrollment or need any assistance, please contact our office at [admission@scis-china.org](mailto:admission@scis-china.org) or by calling us at 021-6261-4338 ext. 5876.

## Hongqiao ECE Campus: (Nursery-Grade 1)

Name	Job Title	Email	Ext
Maggie Yang	School Secretary/Admissions	<a href="mailto:maggie.yang@scis-china.org">maggie.yang@scis-china.org</a>	7004

## Hongqiao Main Campus: (Grades 2-12)

Name	Job Title	Email	Ext
Sarah Jin Lisa Ni	Lower School (Grade 2-Grade 5)	<a href="mailto:sarah_jin@scis-china.org">sarah_jin@scis-china.org</a> <a href="mailto:lni@scis-china.org">lni@scis-china.org</a>	3103 3153
Sunny Jiang	Middle School (Grade 6- Grade 8)	<a href="mailto:sjiang@scis-china.org">sjiang@scis-china.org</a>	3155
Sabrina Sun Elaine Lim	High School (Grade 9-Grade 12)	<a href="mailto:ssun@scis-china.org">ssun@scis-china.org</a> <a href="mailto:elim@scis-china.org">elim@scis-china.org</a>	3183 3115

## Pudong Campus: (Nursery-Grade 12)

Name	Job Title	Email	Ext
Vicky Xu	Lower School Secretary (Nursery-Grade 5)	<a href="mailto:vxu@scis-china.org">vxu@scis-china.org</a>	6502
Jelly Ling	Upper School Secretary (Grade 6- Grade 12)	<a href="mailto:jling@scis-china.org">jling@scis-china.org</a>	6015



# Back to School!

It is hard to imagine that I have already lived in Shanghai for 10 months. It seems like just yesterday my fiancé, Chelsea, and I landed at Pudong Airport. We spent the first few months getting lost on the weekends trying to explore the city and discover all it has to offer. Fast-forward to May and I feel like almost every week we are still discovering a new "favorite," whether it is a restaurant, place to explore, relax, or new phrase. We have enjoyed the wide streets of the Former French Concession, the lights of the Bund, people watching in People's Square, trying new food on Shouning Lu, and relaxing in one of the many beautiful parks this great city offers. When asked to speak about my favorite place in Shanghai, it has been quite difficult to choose one as this city offers such a variety. However, if we had to choose one place it would be Jiao Tong Da Xue (Jiao Tong University). Oddly enough, my fiancé is currently working on her MBA through the university. You would think that after spending hours on campus each day it would be the last place she would want to be but we have found the opposite to be true and have been able to really enjoy all the campus has to offer.

Aside from what I am sure is a great education, the campus also provides several opportunities for leisure. Even though the school is located within one of the largest cities in the world, once you

enter the historic gates, you would have no clue you were in a city of over 24 million people. The architecture styles include traditional Chinese and American influenced buildings representing styles from the early 1900s to 2000s. There are a variety of beautiful and well-maintained landscapes on campus, making it an especially beautiful place to be in during fall and spring.

Our favorite thing to do is relax on the main lawn. We have spent many weekends having picnics here with friends. There is enough room to throw a football, play badminton, and lots of good people watching. When we are feeling active we also take advantage of the track and basketball courts. The surrounding neighborhood also offers a variety of great streets with lots of diverse options of shops and restaurants to explore. If you are ever looking for place to have a picnic, coffee, go for a run, read a book, or watch a pack of feral cats join us at Jiao Tong University!



By **ANDREW BISSONNETTE**,  
Pre-K Teacher at Hongqiao  
ECE campus







# Center Stage

Concert season is in full bloom at SCIS! Pudong students have been busy rehearsing for numerous concerts and performances such as the US Jazz Band and IB Music Concert, the US Rock Concert and the LS spring concerts "Jukebox Time Machine" and "Big Dreams". Students of all ages got a chance to take center stage and show-off their musical talents. We hope you had a chance to join us at our musical performances! If not, look forward to many more exciting performances from our incredibly talented students next school year!





# Having Fun, Building Strength, and Cultivating Character



During the week of May 8th to 12th, middle school students embarked on the annual China Trips. Grade 6 students traveled to Nanbeihu. The area is known for its scenic small mountains and the lake. The theme of this trip was "who are we?" which focused on friendship and self-discovery through new and challenging activities. Students participated in activities like rock climbing, high ropes, camping, and archery to build strength, challenge themselves physically and mentally, and to deepen friendships.

Grade 7 students traveled to Yangshuo, focusing on the theme of "why are we here?" Students took the week to understand and experience themselves, their environment, and how they can affect change against the beautiful, lush backdrop of Yangshuo. Situated in Guangxi, Yangshuo is home to beautiful mountainous landscapes. Grade 7 students got a chance to go caving, hiking, biking, and rock climbing. In addition, students were required to volunteer and give back to the local community in Yangshuo. Students worked with local school on renovation, language exchange, and environmental sustainability projects.

Grade 8 students traveled to southern China to Sanya on Hainan Island. Hainan has long been touted as the "Hawaii of the East" and our Grade 8 students got a chance to spend a week in a tropical paradise. The theme of this trip was "how do we care?" as this trip has the greatest focus on leadership and giving back to the community through service. Students go a chance to go camping in the jungle which tested their wilderness survival skills while strengthening their bond as a group. One of the most popular activities was undoubtedly surfing. Students had immense fun learning how to surf and learned how falling and failure lead to success on a board and in life. In between the fun, students volunteered with The Bright Connection - a foundation that helps children with autism and cerebral palsy.

China Trips continue to be a highlight of our curriculum and is one of the most exciting and enriching learning experiences. We hope all our students developed a greater sense of themselves, each other, and the world around them while strengthening the bonds between each other and their bond with China and Chinese culture.



By **ROBERT LA LONDE**,  
SCIS MYP Mathematics  
at Hongqiao Campus





# The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

While thousands of riders pass daily through the metro lines that run under the ECE campus, children are engaged deep in play in a little oasis tucked away in the back of Building B.

Welcome to the ECE's friendship garden, host to 26 custom-built cedar boxes, purposefully designed to engage children in nature-based learning.

With the guidance of the Early Years Coordinator, Stacey Poncia, children and teachers explore the gardens, engaging all 5 senses through carefully planned plantings. Boxes are open for children to dig for worms and bugs, harvest organic fruits and vegetables, while others host herbs that children are welcome to rub, smell, and taste. Spring is an extraordinary time in the garden with jasmine in full bloom and the succulent taste and smell of mint, rosemary, thyme, and lavender.

In this garden, children learn to plant seeds, compost food waste and create new soil, and develop an understanding and respect for helpful insects such as spiders, worms, and pill bugs. They water the plants with care and are in awe and wonder about how the garden changes from day to day. How jasmine climb and weave their way up a lattice, or the cucumber vine seems to magically produce a new leaf or tendril that wraps its way around the support poles. They learn to be patient as they wait for carrot seeds to take root and begin sprouting their tiny green leaves. They seek, find and count the dozens of tomatoes ripening on the vines.

Wonder, joy, excitement and satisfaction are just some of the emotions shared by our youngest SCIS students.

Last fall, students from the garden club helped Ms. Stacey transplant a small lemon tree and enjoyed a few tasty, but sour treats before the winter break. It was with great joy that the same tree doubled in size this spring and children enjoyed snapping juvenile leaves to fold and smell the sweet lemon scent. Little did we all know that butterflies had laid eggs on those same leaves, and 10 very hungry and very large (2 inches!) caterpillars had eaten all but a few of those leaves, overnight! Ms. Alexis and her PK students happily adopted the caterpillars carefully transferred them to bug boxes to investigate how they moved and consumed lemon leaves. Within 48 hours, seven of the caterpillars began to change shape and color and the class was delighted to have seven green and brown chrysalises. Ms. Alexis and Ms. Stacey researched the caterpillars and discovered they

were most likely the larva to the Swallowtail butterflies and would go through a complete metamorphosis within 10-12 days. The students patiently waited and observed and on Saturday, May 27 all 7 butterflies emerged from their chrysalis! Students from all grade levels from nursery to grade 1 came to see the beautiful butterflies, each unique in its markings. The children in nursery, preschool and pre-k classes joined together later that afternoon to release the butterflies back into our gardens. It was an extraordinary experience to be able to witness, with our children, the complete transformation of these magnificent insects.



By ALEXIS EGAN, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher at Hongqiao ECE campus



By STACEY PONCIA, Early Years Coordinator at Hongqiao ECE campus



Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden. – Robert Brault







# How to Celebrate Dragon Boat Festival

Officially on falling on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, Dragon Boat Festival is also known as Double Fifth Day. While there are many stories regarding its origin, the most popular and widely accepted version pertains to Qu Yuan, a minister during the Warring States Period (475 - 221 BC). Since then, people commemorate Qu Yuan through Dragon Boat Races, eating zongzi, and several other activities, on the anniversary of his death: the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.

Dragon Boat races are the most exciting part of the festival, drawing large crowds of spectators. Dragon Boats are generally brightly painted and decorated canoes and usually involves a team of 10 or more paddlers.

The traditional food for the Dragon Boat Festival is zongzi (粽子), a steamed, glutinous rice ball with a filling and wrapped in bamboo leaves. The filling can be egg, beans, dates, fruits, sweet potato, walnuts, mushrooms, meat, or a combination of them.

You also partake in various activities to you bring luck. Adults can drink Xiong Huang Wine, and children carry fragrant silk pouches, all of which can prevent evil. It is said that if you can balance a raw egg on its end at exactly noon on Double Fifth Day, the rest of your year will be lucky.

After learning about the Dragon Boat Festival, Intermediate 2 students worked together and shared stories, poems, and pictures depicting the legend of the origins of the Dragon Boat Festival and through this, gained a greater understanding of Chinese history and traditional Chinese festivals.



By Sunny Ji, Lower School Mandarin Teacher at Hongqiao Campus





# From Down Under to Up 'Hai



## Warren Roma

Warren was born in the Philippines and grew up in Sydney, Australia. After a string of degrees and careers, he finally decided to pursue teaching and found a career that keeps him on his toes.

### Tell us about yourself.

I'm Warren and this is my second year at SCIS. This is my second job as an international teacher. Before this, I taught in Hong Kong for three years. And before that, I was in Sydney. I've had three careers, first one was in advertising, second one was in social work and counseling and teaching is my third.

### What prompted every career change?

I think just boredom [laughs] and I didn't really feel fulfilled in them. I love advertising and I love the creativity but there was something missing that I was searching for. I love social work and counseling because you're working really deeply with people but then something was still missing. I had thought about being a teacher for such a long time so I finally chose to follow that path and I'm loving it!

### Are you bored of teaching yet?

No and that's what I like about it because every day is different. Even if you teach the same grade level for a long time, the students are always different and there's always something to learn.

### You started your teaching career in Hong Kong. Why did you choose Hong Kong?

It was Australian school so I already knew the curriculum and I have been to Hong Kong before and I love the city and felt really drawn to the city so I thought I would just for it!

### What made you chose Shanghai?

I think it was safer [laughs]! At the time, I had 5 different job offers all around the world like Mexico, Colombia, and Abu Dhabi. Compared to other cities, Shanghai was the safest and it's so close to Hong Kong.

### How do you like Shanghai?

I really like it! I like the space, the modernity. It's very western but it still has Chinese traditions. I also like the efficiency and things like all the delivery services

that Sydney still doesn't have. Sydney has started to catch up but you have to pay a lot of money for anything to be delivered to you. Also, the ease of travel is great.

### Any favorite places you've traveled to?

I really have to say New York City because it's so creative. I am also a professional dancer so I really felt my soul being fulfilled there. I met so many dancers there and I trained there for two months. There was so much inspiration everywhere so my heart is really connected to New York. I also love Florence, Italy. Also El Nido, Philippines because it's so beautiful. I've visited 36 countries so I would say out of all of them those are my top 3 cities.

### Have you considered doing something related to dance or something creative?

Yes, maybe in the future. I've done a lot of dance concerts here at school. In the future, my brother and I plan to open a performing arts school in the Philippines. There's a lack of opportunities the Philippines. We've done our research and there's a lot of performing art



schools up and coming in Sydney so it's too competitive there so the Philippines would be a good start.

### What kind of dance do you do?

I specialize in a style called jazz, funk, hip-hop, or JFH. It's all the styles blended together but I'm trained in everything – ballet, jazz, contemporary.

### When did you start dancing?

When I was 6. I joined a hip-hop crew when I was 6 and from 6 to 20, I never took a dance class. I took my first professional dance class when I was 22. It was really good! I thought to myself I really should've done this earlier. Back then, there weren't many opportunities for dance in Australia. I do get jealous of the opportunities kids have these days because I knew I had the potential to be big but I didn't have access to these opportunities. Which is why I want to open the school in Philippines. I try to find opportunities for dance everywhere. This year, we did the middle and high school dance concerts and the International School Dance Festival.

### You are currently pursuing a master's in writing and literature. Tell us more about that.

Yes, I'm doing an online master's course through an Australian university. It's a lot of work!

### Why did you decide to pursue this?

I was constantly getting good feedback and comments from my writing so I thought this was something I could pursue.

### What kind of things do you write about?

I like writing about factual stuff. My focus is on things that help you to become a better person. One of big motivations is Oprah. She has this program called Super Soul Sunday and she invites really big thinkers and philosophers and they talk about life and they talk about how to live a better life. I love learning about that stuff so that's the stuff I like to write about.

### Have you published anything?

No not yet. I'm trying to get a blog going to build some kind of portfolio of writing. That's my first step!

### Where do you find inspiration for your writing?

A lot of it is experiences I have for myself, observations from life. I feel like I'm a deep reflector so personal experience or stories people tell me. Or something in the media.

### Do you have any advice for people who want to make a big career change?

I would recommend that they continue to study on the side and build up experience and knowledge especially if it's something that requires a degree or certification like doctor, teacher, psychologist, etc. For me personally, I think it's better if you are working and studying on the side to help you have steady finances and make that transition easier rather than completely stopping everything and jumping straight into it and struggling financially.

### Any advice for people that want to get into teaching?

My first thing would be to just have passion about it. Have passion for the actual profession. I think just be prepared for anything to happen. And I think teaching is definitely for someone who loves constant learning and growing.

### What is your best memory here at SCIS or in Shanghai?

I would have to say it would be last year because it was the first time we transition into the PYP so doing things like the Grade 5 exhibition was really fun, exciting, and experimental. But the transition was also very stressful. Doing the PYP exhibitions was definitely memorable for me.



Interviewed by LILI SHI,  
SCIS Marketing &  
Communications Officer





Hongqiao Class of 2013

# Renaissance Woman

## Carnie Lewis

Carnie was a Dragon Renaissance winner for two years in a row during her time at SCIS so it was only natural for Carnie to go on to win the prestigious Renaissance Scholar Award at USC. She took some time out of her busy day to share some advice for students entering university.

### Tell us a little about yourself? (Where are you from, where did you grow up, etc.)

I am originally from Perth, Australia but I moved to Ulsan, South Korea, in 2002 and then Shanghai, in 2006. I moved to LA in 2013 to start at the University of Southern California.

### How long did you stay at SCIS?

I spent 7 years at SCIS Hongqiao, from 2006 to graduation in 2013!

### What are you up to now?

Right now I'm in my fourth year at the University of Southern California. I'm in a progressive degree so I'm graduating in May with my Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy, with a minor in International Relations, and then I have one more year before I graduate with my Master's in Occupational Therapy.

Then, I'll probably stay in LA for another couple of years to either do the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) or to gain some more work experience!

### Congrats on being nominated for the Renaissance Scholar award, how does it feel to achieve this?

It's an incredible feeling! The Renaissance Scholar Award is given to 10 graduating USC seniors who have majors and minors in diverse fields and who attain a high level of academic achievement. I knew that I wanted to win this award before even arriving at USC. I worked so hard for four years so it's great to feel like all that work finally paid off! It's funny because I was actually a Dragon Renaissance winner for two years in a row (2012 and 2013) at SCIS due to my achievement in academics, sports, and community service, so I feel that this award was just a progression of what I already achieved in Shanghai.

### What does it take to be nominated? Any advice to people seeking similar recognitions?

As I mentioned, it takes a lot of hard work. I had to work to achieve really high grades and I had to be ambitious to take on larger than normal course loads and reach out to professors

for letters of recommendation. A little advice to students about to enter university: Get to know your professors. Utilize office hours, ask questions that reflect your interests, look for volunteer or research opportunities that connect with your passions, and work to maintain those relationships. University professors want to help you and they will be invaluable when you are applying for awards, scholarships or jobs. Also, learn what you love and do what you love. You'll find it so much easier to achieve those high grades when you love the classes that you take.

### How well prepared did you feel coming from SCIS?

I felt very prepared coming from SCIS and the IB Diploma. I already knew how to study in a manner that fitted my learning style and balance a full and diverse course load.

### Most memorable moment about your time at SCIS? And in China in general?

My most memorable moment at SCIS was actually at one of our China trips. We were walking along a rice paddy in the middle of Guizhou, and I remember thinking how amazing it was that I could travel to this part of China with all my friends and truly experience the culture of that community. Sometimes we get stuck in our 'international bubble' and it's good to be thrown into somewhere more isolated so that we can grow, understand others better, and appreciate more what we have.

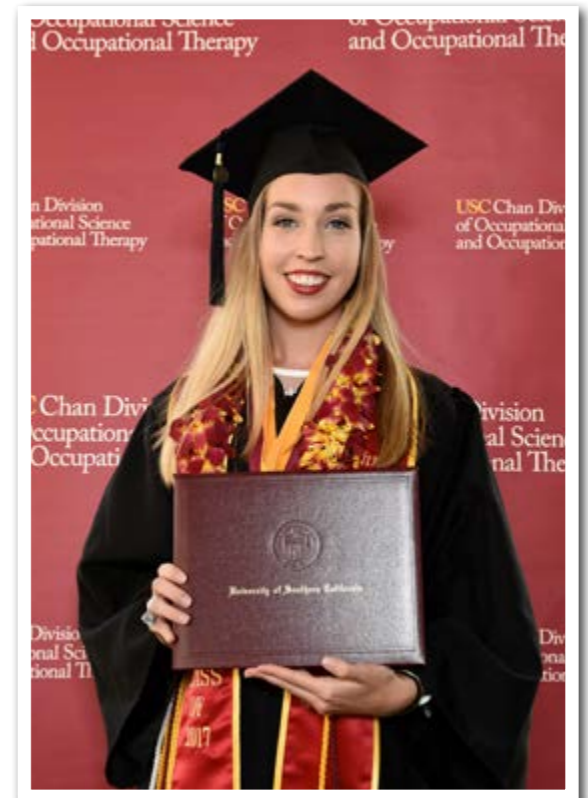
My favorite experience in China in general was definitely Chinese New Year. My first Chinese New Year in Shanghai, in 2007, was absolutely incredible. This was before the government increased the regulation of fire works, and so every single night was like a theatrical performance of light. I would sit on the balcony of my town house all night and have a 180-degree view of fireworks against the Shanghai skyline. It was absolutely amazing and an experience I'll never forget.

### Lastly, cheeky question: if you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I would want to be able to fly! That way, I could travel more easily.



Interviewed by LILI SHI  
SCIS Marketing &  
Communications Officer



## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Alumni Mission:

The SCIS Alumni Association has been established in order to foster the continued cordial relations of the SCIS community. Its goal was, and continues to be, to link alumni with the School and with each other, and to support and maintain such forged relationships. It strives to provide ample avenues and opportunities to encourage alumni to participate actively in the SCIS community.

### Alumni Contact:

Lili Shi  
[lshi@scis-china.org](mailto:lshi@scis-china.org)

### Alumni Requirements:

1. Graduated from a SCIS Campus

OR

2. Went to school here for at least one year AND be over 18

### Social Media



Facebook site:  
<https://www.facebook.com/alumniSCIS/>



LinkedIn site:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/SCISHIS-Alumni-4757677>





# Spring Picnic 2017

Another exciting school year was celebrated on Saturday, May 27, 2017 at the Annual Spring Picnic, sponsored by PAFA. Families, friends, and staff enjoyed the beautiful weather, great food and drink, and music from our own student DJ, Herman Thalen, on the field at the Hongqiao Campus.

There was a feast of goodies to choose from, including burgers from Geneva, paninis from Sproutworks, fresh-baked cookies and ice cream sandwiches from Strictly Cookies, Vietnamese Homemade's spring rolls, Tanner's homemade marshmallow crispy treats and brownies, chicken skewers from Japanese BBQ, and hand-dipped ice cream cones from the Waffle Lady. PAFA was also on hand selling beverages.

As we say goodbye to another school year, we'd like to send out a big thank you to our wonderful families and staff for your support of PAFA this year. We could not pull off these events without all of YOU. From the International Food Fair in October, to our monthly Market Days, the Holiday Market, the ECE Valentine's Dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, the Lower School Disco Dance, the Cultural Craft Fair, 8th Grade Promotion, and finally, the Spring Picnic- it is a privilege to serve this exciting and welcoming community! Happy Summer!

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:

## PAFA NEWS

### HONGQIAO MAIN & ECE CAMPUSES

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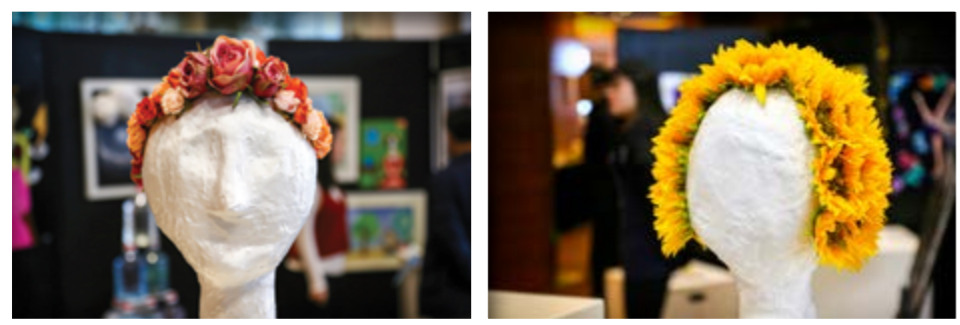
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Emma Chui



Tiffany Wu



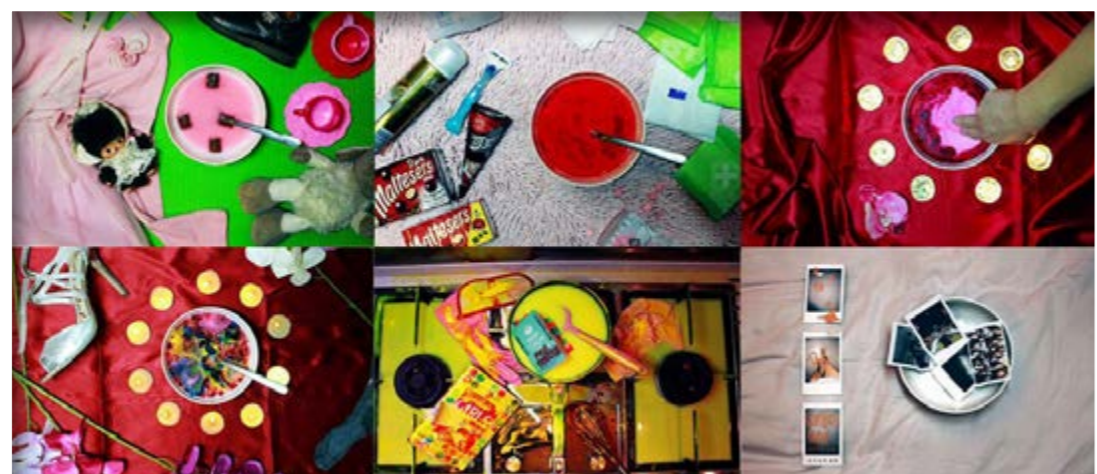
Alicia Gustavsson



Ye Lim



Judy Lee



Katie Li



Rafaela Alvissus de Melo Marioto  
I-Point Perspective Watercolor  
Grade 3

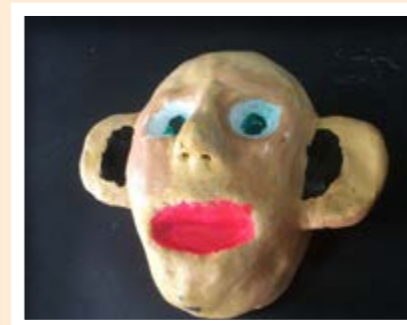
William Wei  
Radial Symmetry Paper Sculpture  
Grade 4



Caroline Ma  
Woven Fish  
Grade 2



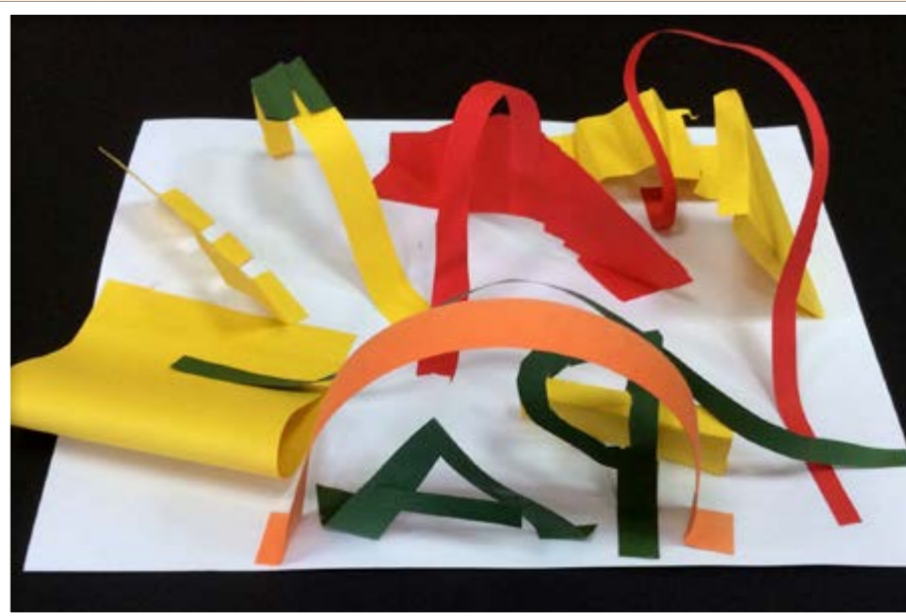
Rebekkah Condon  
Linoleum Block Print  
Grade 5



Daniel Karvinen  
Clay Sculpture  
Grade 5



Alex Mladan  
Clay Sculpture  
Grade 4



Gustavo Zito  
3D Paper Sculpture  
Grade 2





# LanguageOne

## Shanghai-Suzhou

LanguageOne is looking back at the 2016-2017 school year. The students, from two-and-a-half up to 18 years old, were eager to learn and they were all enthusiastic about the Dutch and Flemish topics and themes they learned about.

The middle and high school students recently completed their yearly exams and our teachers were proud to hand out their report after a positive and instructive year.

Besides providing a professional educational program for Dutch speaking children, we also focus on cultural topics. We held several cultural activities through the year including Dutch Book Week, a celebration of St. Nicholas, Belgium Book Month, a movie event, a cultural day with

the theme Who We Are, a visit from a famous Dutch writer, and a celebration for King's Day.

### Dutch Book Week themed Forever Young

This year we had a successful Book Week! Students Skyped with their grandparents from around the world and were treated to tales of the past and the children learned about the differences between the past and the present.

### Belgium Book Month and the visit of Victoria Farkas

On our Cultural day in March, a famous author, Victoria Farkas, came and worked with LanguageOne students. We learned all the ins and outs of writing a story or a travelogue. After completing their work, the students received a writing certificate.



### Movie event with a real Flemish movie and a real Dutch movie

This spectacular movie event in April is really popular with our students. All children were dressed up as a movie star, watched movies together and got a chance to speak and laugh during over a lovely dinner. There were also two awards for best dressed movie star. During the event, the parents also had a chance to socialize with each other.

### Celebration of King's Day:

On Sunday April 23rd, Dutch community celebrated the birthday of King Willem-Alexander at the Okura Hotel in Shanghai. The children dressed in orange and celebrated the day with real bitterballen, a blanket sale, Dutch games, and a Dutch dance. The Ambassador of the Netherlands also came out to celebrate with us!

We are looking forward to welcoming all Dutch and Flemish students next school year. Students from 35 different international and Chinese schools are following our education in our integrated program or one of our after school programs.

We also welcome new students who would like to

learn Dutch or adults who would like to follow a Dutch language program.

If you would like more information, please send an e-mail to:  
shanghai-suzhou@languageone.nl

We wish you all a good summer and are looking forward to see you in August!

*Mirjam van der Geijs*  
Locatieleider LanguageOne Shanghai-Suzhou



LanguageOne  
global mother tongue  
education



Attending  
McGill  
University

Majoring in Economics and  
Minoring in  
International Development

Received Economics  
Academic Award,  
2015-2016 Athlete of the Year

High School Varsity Rugby and Football  
High school Model United Nations  
High School Leader of Recycling Club

# I am SCIS

*“The SCIS community is not just a group of teachers and students that interact. It is a team of well-rounded and open-minded individuals who support each other to achieve their maximum potential in life. No matter how difficult the assignment or situation, someone, whether it is a classmate or a teacher, will always be there to help you overcome it. Beyond SCIS, the environment may change, but, I have developed a curiosity for the unknown and motivation to become successful. At SCIS, you are not just part of a community, you are part of a team with one common objective: success.”*

**– Elliott de Bellescize**

*SCIS Class of 2016, attended SCIS Hongqiao Campus for four years.*

SCIS is a truly international school. Our rigorous IB curriculum and excellent co-curricular opportunities promote high achievement. Our diverse community of over 60 nationalities and our caring environment promote future success. Visit us to discover for yourself the amazing SCIS community.



Tour our campuses by calling  
86-21-6261-4338 ext. 1  
[www.scis-china.org](http://www.scis-china.org)

 **SCIS**  
HONGQIAO-PUDONG

The art and science of education since 1996

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NURSERY – GRADE 12



YEARS OF  
**COMMITMENT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

1996 – 2016