

JUNE 19, 2021

QSI



TIRANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Pictured above: The TIS campus as the sun goes down on the 20-21 school year.

TIS Tiger News:

Dear TIS Community,

"I'm not telling you it's going to be easy - I'm telling you it's going to be worth it." - Art Williams.

Already, we seem far removed from it, but the 20-21 school year wasn't an easy one. However, after speaking with a number of staff during the check-out process yesterday and today, the year was still overwhelmingly successful and *totally* worth it. In their reflections, teachers mentioned how this was the year they became better teachers, the year they didn't take a moment for granted, and the year they really learned and witnessed the value of relationships. It may be a year we wish to forget, but we will most definitely remember. Thank you, TIS community, for being by our side through it all. See you in August!

Kind regards,
Jon Mudd; TIS Director



Pictured above: Thank you PSG parents and others who prepared a delicious dessert buffet for the staff!

Pictured below: We celebrate and honor the staff members that have worked for TIS/QSI for 25+ years!



The last week in photos :



Senior Week: Where the Secondary IV students play (and Mr. Watts)



MS/SEC Field Day: Wednesday





10YO Elementary Graduation Ceremony



Secondary Awards Assembly

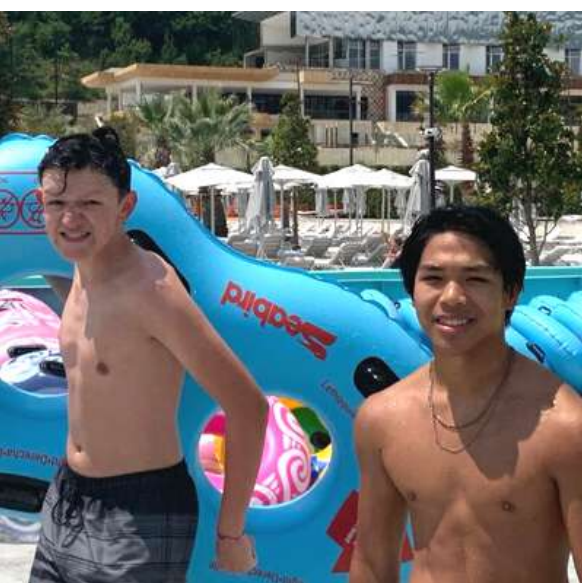


Preschool Water Day: Wednesday





MS & SEC head to Equios Waterpark: Thurs



5/6YO Field Day: Thursday



7/8 YO Field Day: Thursday



9/10 YO Field Day: Thursday



School is out: the teachers play!



The staff takes some time to celebrate summer!



UPCOMING REMINDERS:

TIS Admin: tirana@qsi.org

Secondary & Middle School:

jeff-tempel@tirana.qsi.org

SEC/MS Counselor:

shanna-tempel@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary:

mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary Counselor:

alyssa-mudd@tirana.qsi.org

Preschool: [jennie-](mailto:jennie-fredriksson@tirana.qsi.org)

fredriksson@tirana.qsi.org



COVID PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

TIS WEBSITE

LUNCH WEBSITE

ACTIVITIES WEBSITE





Preschool News

#fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

Dear Preschool Parents,

This is it! The end to the 2020-2021 school year- and what a year it has been!

We have been so fortunate to have played a part in your children's lives and to see them learn, laugh and grow. It has been a true pleasure to get to know you parents, too, because without your support we could never have done it! Our goal is to foster a life long love for school and learning, and when seeing our preschoolers happy faces at TIS, we feel that we are well on our way!

This last week of school has been a fantastically fun-filled adventure of water games, jumping joy and class parties. It is bittersweet to say goodbye, but we are certain that our kiddos are moving on and up in the world!

To everyone leaving TIS, we wish you much success on your new endeavors. To those staying, we are looking forward to seeing you after the break.

Have an awesome summer with lots of adventures!

Lots of love,

Ms. Jennie and the Preschool Team





Elementary News

#fromthedeskofMrWood

Dear Parents,

What a great final week it has been in elementary. One of the highlights was during the elementary field day sessions on Thursday. Much water, laughter, and good times were had by all. The last week of school is always a mix of excitement, finding closure, celebrating successes and achievements, some sadness, and continuing to enjoy bonding times with classmates and teachers.

As summer is officially here, I wish you a season of relaxation and celebration. It is simply amazing what the students have accomplished in this up-and-down school year, and they are to be commended. Find time to celebrate with them! I am very proud of each of them. Their persistence, positive attitudes, and academic/social growth have been outstanding, even in such a year as this.

Have a fantastic summer!

I look forward to seeing returning students and families in August and I wish those who are departing TIS a successful and smooth transition.

Take care,
Mike Wood
Mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org

Here is the
Digital
Elementary
Art Show
from Ms.
Entela's
students!
Enjoy!



CLICK HERE





German Class

We did it!



It was a challenging, exciting year and very busy. We played, we created, we learned, we explored, we were sometimes tired and even bored (especially with the mask), but in the end, We did it.

Despite the testing times we find ourselves facing, with great pride, I can say:

7YO Class

Whew!

In our final week at school, the 7 year olds have been busy. We hiked to a waterfall, cleaned up a stream, we had author study "picnics" on the lawn, repaired the hail damage to our gardens, found and documented tadpoles, lizards, and plants, and made many other discoveries. We are sad to be leaving each other, but grateful for all the fun and learning we have done together this year and we are looking forward to time with our families this summer.





MS/Secondary News

#fromthedeskofMrTempel

Greetings Middle School Students and Families,

WE DID IT! Despite all of the obstacles put in our way, we had a positive and productive school year! Our students and teachers (and of course, parents) worked hard to support each other through online learning, blended learning, unpredictable closures, and COVID cases and contacts. Needless to say, it's been "interesting", but I have been extremely impressed with the fortitude, creativity, and resilience shown by our whole community! We made 2020-21 work!

I wish you all a most wonderful Summer and am looking forward to seeing our students back in the building on August 26 for the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!

Awards Ceremony - Friday, 18 June

On the last day of school teachers recognized exceptional students with Academic Awards. It was great to get the students together one last time to celebrate their accomplishments! Thank you all for a wonderful year! See you in August!

Jeff Tempel





Science 11YO Engineering Project

Some students in the 11-year-old science class culminated the year with an engineering project. Most students chose to build bridges out of spaghetti and hot glue. One pair elected to create a building with a tune-mass damper to place on a shake table, which emulates an earthquake. The winning long-span bridge held 7385 grams before it broke. The winning short span bridge held 7750 grams. The two-story building withstood the earthquake produced by the shake table. Congratulations to our 11-year-old engineers.



Dive Into Reading Thoughts from Ms. Irida

Participation in the Summer Reading Challenge is voluntary and open to students age 5 through secondary level. Students can read whatever they enjoy - fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, eBooks, audiobooks - just as long as they get to choose what they want to read.

Students who return their summer reading log by September 15th and meet their reading challenge will receive a prize in the fall. You may download the reading log [here](#).

NOTE: To complete this challenge, we would like students to take a photo reading their book somewhere unusual over the summer holidays. We want to see as many wacky ideas as possible. Then send your photos to irida-shehu@tirana.qsi.org - they will be displayed during the prize-winning ceremony and on the library bulletin board. The aim is to showcase children as reading role models.

CLICK HERE



QSI



TIRANA INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL



TIS Tiger News:

This special-edition newsletter introduces you to some of the new staff joining the Tirana International School family next year.

Each spring, the emotions rise in an international school as both families and staff prepare to transition out of the country. TIS is a very transient community made up of many nationalities that come and go. We love our transient community of both families and teachers - however, it often does make the spring time a difficult season of goodbyes.

There are several current staff members at TIS moving on next year, and we wish each and every one of them all the best. We have valued their time as members of the TIS family and we thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the students here.

In the following pages, you will find many new smiling faces. I hope that you will take the time to "get to know" some of the incoming staff and we are looking forward to the day that we can welcome them to TIS in person.

Kind regards,
Jon Mudd
Director, Tirana International School

RINA SCATES

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR + ACTIVITIES + CAS COORDINATOR

My name is Rina Scates, and I will be the Athletic Director/Activities Coordinator/CAS Coordinator at TIS. I am looking forward to transitioning to this position from my current 8-year-old teaching position. Next year will be my third year at TIS and 14th year in the education field. Prior to becoming a teacher, I was a ski patroller and an attorney. My education includes a bachelor's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, a Juris Doctor degree, and I am currently taking classes towards a master's degree and an administrative endorsement. My husband is a secondary teacher at TIS, and we have three daughters, ages 8, 11, and 13. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, skiing, and exploring Albania with my family. I am excited to begin this new position and to help TIS's IB Diploma Programme get off to a great start.



JILL KORTLUCKE 5YO TEACHER

My name is Jill Kortlucke and I'm excited to join TIS as a 5-year-olds class teacher. I've been teaching 5-year-olds for the past four years at QSI-Yerevan, Armenia. Prior to that I taught 6-year-olds at QSI-Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I started my career as a middle school special education teacher in Brooklyn, New York and started my international teaching career in Alexandria, Egypt. In addition to teaching, I've enjoyed coaching cross-country.

Toni Morrison has said, "When a child walks into your room ... do your eyes light up? That's what they're looking for." I agree. My goal is for my young students to love school and that starts with me and the climate I create in the classroom—a fun-loving, caring, and accepting one. I'm moving to Tirana with my 11-year-old daughter, Elanor, and our two dogs, Coffee and Bowie. My hobbies include running, hiking, and paddle boarding. As a family, we enjoy sledding and ice skating, spending summers at the beach, reading, and discovering new TV shows.



LEORA BRENOWITZ

4YO TEACHER

Hi TIS Families! My name is Leora Brenowitz and I'm so excited to be the lead teacher for the 4YO classroom this year at TIS! I am looking forward to meeting all of you in August. This year is going to be full of learning and new adventures. Since we won't be meeting each other for a few more months, here is some information about me.

I was born and raised in New Jersey, USA. I completed my undergraduate degree at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, and graduated in 2012 with a degree in History and Psychology. I completed my Master's degree at the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University in 2016. I have a dual Master's degree in K-6th grade general education and K-12th grade special education. In addition, I completed the coursework for the degree of Board Certified Behavior Analyst to work with students on the Autism Spectrum. I have been teaching for the past 9 years and have taught students from the ages of 3 years old to 21 years old.

My husband is in the New Jersey National Guard and recently accepted a position at the United States Department of Defense in Triana, Albania. My husband and I met as first-year students at Rutgers University in 2008 and got married this past year. We love to travel so when my husband was offered this position to move to Albania we both immediately said YES!

I LOVE being outdoors and spending time in nature. Some of my favorite outdoor activities include hiking, running, snowboarding, swimming, scuba diving, and going to the beach. My favorite animals are sea turtles and I look for them every time I go scuba diving. My favorite colors are teal and gray. I love eating at new restaurants and trying different types of food. My favorite food has to be sushi! When I am not exploring the outdoors and new restaurants you'll find me cuddled with a good book on the couch.

I also love spending time with my family and friends. I have 2 sisters, one is older and one is younger. I am the middle sister. My older sister lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, my niece, and my nephew. I absolutely love watching my niece and nephew grow up! My younger sister lives in San Francisco with her husband and is pregnant with my nephew who is due in November!!

I can't wait to tell you more about me and hear all about YOU! Have a wonderful summer and I will see you in August =)!



CALLIE VESTAL 6YO TEACHER

My name is Callie Vestal, and I am from the hot desert of Arizona in the United States. I have my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and my master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Northern Arizona University. This is my first year at TIS, but not my first in education...this will be the start of my 17th year teaching as a certified licensed teacher.



I have taught in the USA, Mexico, South Africa and most recently I was a 6-year-olds teacher in Shenzhen, China with QSI for five years. I look forward to joining the TIS community as a 6-year-olds teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. It is very important to me to build a kind and caring classroom community of trust and respect. I enjoy teaching students, encouraging them to make mistakes, take risks (educational ones), and encouraging a love of learning.

When I am not in the classroom, like most international teachers I enjoy traveling to new places and eating delicious foods. I am very excited to explore the beautiful country of Albania and Eastern Europe. When not exploring new and interesting places, I like to relax and enjoy a good book while swinging in my hammock, watch movies & shows, go scuba diving, and last summer I fell in love with kayaking and paddle boarding on lakes and rivers. A cool fun fact: I am a big Disney fan and have been to all the Disney parks around the world.

I am looking forward to the learning adventures we have ahead this school year.

STACI GULSVIG 7YO TEACHER

Staci Gulsvig comes from Anchorage, Alaska and loves helping young curious minds grow! She received her Bachelor of Education degree at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota and Master's in Education through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She has taught elementary children throughout the state of Alaska for 10 years, spent a year volunteer teaching in Nepal and Uganda, two years as an elementary teacher in Thailand, and two years teaching 7-year-olds in Kazakhstan. Staci loves the outdoors, especially trekking, running, rock climbing, and camping. If she is not outside, Staci likes to relax by cooking vegetarian meals, playing board games and card games with friends, or creating crafty gifts for others. Staci is looking forward to an exciting new school year and joining the TIS team along with her husband, Daniel Griswold.



Meet the teacher:

MS. THURNER

About Me:

8YO TEACHER

Hi! My name is Tamara Thurner and I am excited to be joining TIS next school year. I have been with QSI for 10 years and lived in Turkmenistan, China and Kazakhstan previously. I also taught in the United States for 3 years before joining QSI. My 14 year old son Joshua is also looking forward to attending TIS and living in Tirana. I look forward to teaching the 8-year-olds next year!

Fun Facts:

- My hobbies include dancing, traveling, camping and sailing.
- We have a cat named Jasper
- My favorite color is purple.



ZACHARY STANT 8YO TEACHER

My name is Zachary Stant, and I was born and raised in Indiana, USA. After traveling around the world in my early twenties, I felt called to become an educator, and went back home to Indiana where I studied and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana University. It wasn't long after completing my degree in 2017 that I put my traveling shoes back on and moved to China to begin my teaching career at QSI Dongguan. Soon after arriving in China, I met the love of my life, Cindy, who was working as a teacher's assistant at the preschool. Four years later, we are married and have a little boy named Thomas who will be attending the preschool at TIS. We are all very excited to be starting a new adventure in Albania!



In Dongguan, I taught 10-year-olds and 7-year-olds, so I am very excited for the new challenge of teaching eight-year-olds at TIS! As a teacher, I believe it is my job not only to guide students academically, but also to help them develop strong characters as they navigate life. I love getting to know my students and watching them grow as learners and individuals.

I have heard amazing things about TIS and Albania, and I can't wait to call Tirana my home. My family and I eagerly await this upcoming school year and look forward to what promises to be a wonderful beginning to a new chapter in our lives.

DANIEL GRISWOLD SEC MATH + IB MATH

Daniel Griswold was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a Master of Science in Mathematics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He received a Master of Arts in teaching from the University of Anchorage, Alaska. He taught for five years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, before transitioning into the Anchorage School District where he worked for 10 years as a Mathematics teacher. Daniel has taught IB and AP mathematics overseas in Thailand and Kazakhstan for the past four years. He enjoys ultimate frisbee, cycling, hiking, camping, reading science fiction, rock climbing, and many other things. His wife, Staci, will also be teaching at TIS and they look forward to exploring the culture and country of Albania.



KAY JACKSON

LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER



I grew up in south Texas and so far, I've lived and worked in the US, Mexico, Ghana, Colombia, Timor-Leste and now Albania.

I'm a teacher, a nonfiction writer, a mom, and a grandmother. I'm also a traveler and a painter.

A few facts about me:

*I have a son and two grandkids.

*I love brussels sprouts but hate peas!

*I have 17 published nonfiction books for kids, mostly about the biomes of the world.

*I spent three weeks on an archaeological dig in Belize. No electricity, Wi-Fi, or running water except at the headquarters. It was fun. It was hot. I survived.

*I had the opportunity to collect field data for the removal of invasive species, specifically tamarisk trees, in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. For two weeks, I worked alongside scientists from the University of Arizona, the U.S. Department of the Interior–National Parks, and the National Geographic Society. Again, it was fun, it was hot, I survived.

*I like sparkly shoes and earrings.

*I'm a huge MCU fan, or Marvel Comic Universe. From the very first Ironman to Avengers: Endgame, I watched them all on the big screen. Now, I am having a hard time watching the new ones at home. Not the same!

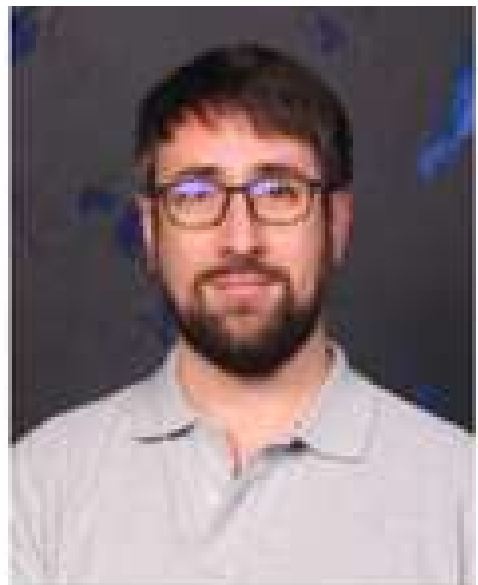
*A favorite quote: "Have courage and be kind" from the movie Cinderella.

*I have a little rescue dog, Rocco, waiting for me in Tirana.

MATT STOREY

SEC SCIENCE + IB

Greetings from QSI International School in Dongguan, China. Next year, I will join QSI Tirana as a new teacher in the science department. My academic interest is in natural history and parasitology, and outside of school I use my time listening to podcasts, trying out new languages, and cooking. I have worked in different parts of the world, but this will be my first time in Europe, and I am looking forward to setting a new routine there.



CLEMENS KIENZLE

GERMAN LANGUAGE

My name is Clemens Kienzle and I am excited to be joining TIS as a German and Intensive English teacher. I am originally from Germany, at the southern edge of the Black Forest near the border to Switzerland, but I have lived in several different places throughout my life. I even attended TIS for a few years, back when it was a tiny school with 30 students!

I have an MA in Multilingualism Studies and Language Teaching from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and a BA in Applied Linguistics from Brock University in Canada. I have been teaching at international schools for eight years now. After teaching at a QSI school in China for a few years, I came back to Albania to see if it was still as amazing as I remembered it from living here as a teenager, and I was not disappointed. In my free time, I like being outdoors hiking or cycling, growing plants on my balcony, as well as baking, reading, and learning more about linguistics and language-related topics. I have two small children who will also be joining me at TIS.



CHRISTINE FLAKE

MS/SEC CULTURAL STUDIES

Hello! I'm Christine Flake and am very excited to join TIS next year to teach Secondary Cultural Studies courses. My teaching experience has been in Dallas, Texas, and Cairo, Egypt, but I'm originally from Louisiana so I enjoy blues, jazz, zydeco, and of course, Cajun food. Some of my interests and hobbies include reading, musical theater, cross-stitching, traveling, all things political and historic, and game nights with friends. While I don't have any children of my own, I do have 12 nieces and nephews who keep my summers full of excitement and activity when I visit them in the US. I'm eagerly anticipating my move to Albania and exploring the many beautiful and historic sites I've read about—and of course, to meet my new students and colleagues at TIS! See you in August!



Leslie Rich will be joining TIS as the 5YO-Secondary Music teacher. She is presently living in Protection, Kansas on a teaching sabbatical with Quality Schools International while she completes a certificate program for international school counseling from Lehigh University. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Kansas State University, and a Master's Degree in Music Performance focused on Instrumental Music Conducting from Western Michigan University. She has 24 years experience teaching music at schools in Kansas, Michigan, and Arizona, with 7 of those years teaching at QSI schools in Dongguan, China and Almaty, Kazakhstan. Her experience includes teaching elementary general music; middle school band, orchestra and choir; secondary band and orchestra, and Advanced Placement music theory. Her years teaching in QSI allowed her the opportunity to serve on the curriculum team that worked to update and rewrite the QSI Music curriculum in 2019. She has played the piano since she was a little girl, and also enjoys playing the ukulele, numerous brass or woodwind instruments, and is working on improving her skills playing the violin.



LESLIE RICH
K-12 MUSIC

Outside of her passion for music, Leslie enjoys reading, playing board or card games of all types, cooking or baking, and a variety of sports. She has coached or assisted with basketball, softball, tennis, and especially enjoys volleyball. Most recently her varsity boys' volleyball team at Almaty International School was the Central Asia Volleyball Conference tournament champions in 2019. While home in Kansas, she became a registered volleyball official for the state and was a referee at numerous middle and high school volleyball matches.

Leslie has enjoyed spending her sabbatical year in the states with her father, and getting to be around her family during the past year. She has one sister, three brothers, one niece, and four nephews. Her family is spread out in Kansas or Arizona, but enjoy spending time together on the family farm when possible or traveling to try out new fishing locations. She is thrilled about joining the TIS family and teaching music again. She believes everyone can be musical in some way, and looks forward to influencing lifelong music advocates.

Make sure you

get connected



Front Office Phone Number: 355-42-365239



Facebook: [click to like and follow our page](#)



Facebook Moms and Dads Private group:
[click to like and follow our page](#)



Instagram: [tiranainternationalschool](#)



YouTube: [Tirana International School](#)



General Email: tirana@qsi.org



Website: <https://tirana.qsi.org/>



Seesaw:

Download this app to keep in touch with your child's 2YO-10YO classroom

TIS Cafeteria
WhatsApp group



WhatsApp:

Scan this QR code to join the "TIS Lunch" group that posts photos of each day's lunch.



Tirana International School

2021-2022

Academic Year Calendar



2021-2022 Tirana International School Calendar

Month	Calendar Grid	Notes
July 2021	Calendar grid for July 2021	Summer Break
August 2021	Calendar grid for August 2021	August 26 First day of school
September 2021	Calendar grid for September 2021	September
October 2021	Calendar grid for October 2021	October 1 - 2 October Professional Development 18 - 22 October Break
November 2021	Calendar grid for November 2021	November 26 November Professional Development 29 Liberation and Independence Day
December 2021	Calendar grid for December 2021	December 20 December - 7 January Winter Break
January 2022	Calendar grid for January 2022	January
February 2022	Calendar grid for February 2022	February 25 February - 1 March Mid-Winter Break
March 2022	Calendar grid for March 2022	March 14 Summer Day
April 2022	Calendar grid for April 2022	April 25-29 April Spring Break
May 2022	Calendar grid for May 2022	May
June 2022	Calendar grid for June 2022	June 17 Last Day of School



Terms Dates	
Term 1 (74 days)	26 August - 17 December
Term 2 (51 days)	10 January - 25 March
Term 3 (55 days)	28 March - 17 June

Quintiles Dates	
Quintile 1	26 August - 15 October
Quintile 2	25 October - 15 December
Quintile 3	16 December - 24 February
Quintile 4	2 March - 21 April
Quintile 5	22 April - 17 June

