

THE LEOPARD PRINT

VOL. 3 NO. 4

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Contents

Editor's Note.....	3
Interview With Art Hudson.....	4
Interview With Pat Doherty.....	6
Goodbye From The 5s and 6s.....	8
Goodbye From The 7s.....	9
Goodbye From The 8s and 9s	9
Goodbye From The 10s.....	10
Goodbye From The 11s.....	10
Goodbye From The 12s.....	11
Goodbye From The 13s.....	11
Goodbye From Secondary.....	12
The Art/Pat Personality Test..	13
What Teachers Appreciate About Art and Pat.....	14





Bits of colored paper, some old photographs, some buttons, yellowed newspaper clippings, a playing card - each school is a mixed media collage of people who together contribute each year for better or worse. As 2016-2017 draws to a close we say goodbye to many long-term pieces of QSIB's collage, both students and teachers. Among these valued members of our school community, two in particular stand out due to their role over the past years in creating a vibrant and growing school community: Art Hudson, our director of five years and Patrick Doherty, our Academic Coordinator of three years.

In this last Leopard Print edition of the year we wanted to try to do something different. In recognition of their devoted leadership and dedication to the QSIB family, we made this last issue about them.

It isn't exaggerating to say that the Leopard Print magazine would not exist without them. Mr. Doherty was the first staff advisor of the magazine, helping it to get off the ground. Mr. Hudson has been instrumental in the continued success of the Leopard Print year after year, encouraging its publishing both publicly and behind the scenes.

While both will be sorely missed at QSIB, we are excited for them as they move on to add color and texture to the collages of others. To both of you we offer our best wishes and sincere thanks for your service at QSIB!

Sincerely,
The Leopard Print Staff



An Interview With Art Hudson

From rattlesnakes in school outhouses, eating reindeer stew, and protecting students from angry citizens, Art Hudson's career has been anything but ordinary...

Tell me about your time teaching in the United States.

I started my teaching career in Nebraska where I was the only teacher in a one-room schoolhouse. The sixteen students ranged in age from 5 to 14 years old. Students would ride horses to and from school as well as have to carry their own food and water to school each

day. We didn't have problems with students hanging out in the bathroom since our bathroom was an outhouse which sometimes had rattlesnakes or wasps. There aren't many one-room schoolhouses left in the U.S. so our school was actually featured in National Geographic magazine twice.

Later my wife and I ended up teaching in Gambel, Alaska which was in the Bering Strait. It was a unique experience teaching there: submarines would come along, we ate plenty of reindeer stew, were able to take a trip on a dog sled, and for art class we'd sometimes have local craftsmen come in to teach kids how to carve ivory from animals which only local indigenous groups were allowed to hunt (seal, walrus, polar bear, etc.)

So what caused you to make the transition to international teaching?

My daughters were involved in the organization Rotary International in which they spent time living in other countries. During the period they were away we hosted several international students in our home in the U.S. Because of those experiences we became interested in the international education scene, and also created some great friendships with international students who keep in touch with us to this day.

Which international schools have you taught in?

We started in Kuwait right after the first Gulf War. As we were flying into the country the pilot turned the plane to give us a view of the oil fields that were still burning. My wife and I thought "What have we done?" However, we ended up working there for six years before moving on to Singapore where we taught for another six years. After that we joined QSI.

How long have you been with QSI?

I've been with QSI for a total of 17 years, five of which have been in Bishkek. Before QSI we taught in Armenia, Afghanistan, Slovakia, and Kazakhstan QSI schools.

Advice for the QSIB family?

Students: Take advantage of the wonderful educational opportunity your teachers are offering you every day. Learn from your mis-

takes and go forward.

Teachers: Sometimes we can get caught up in little things like not having a laminating machine. Don't waste your time complaining. Find a solution instead.

In Kuwait we started the year with a school building whose windows had been blown out from nearby bomb blasts, no air-conditioning, no textbooks class sets and no furniture. Instead of complaining we found ways to fix the situation creatively.

Incoming Leadership: First, look carefully at what is already here and in place. QSIB has a great team of highly-qualified overseas and local staff and each of these people has a strength. Figure out that strength and use it.

How has your time with QSI as an organization been a positive one?

There has been great support from the QSI headquarters. They provide the recruiting, regional directors, curriculum, and boundary conditions which make such a difference for leadership at QSI schools.

QSIB in three words:

Growing, stable community.

If you could go back and do it all over again, what would you change?

First, I would have zeroed-in on my education degrees earlier. It took awhile into my career before I went back to school to get further degrees in education.

Second, I would have kept a journal. There were so many unexpected stories and quotes over the years. Early in my career I walked into the boys bathroom one day and there, seated in the middle of the cold floor was a six year old student who just looked up at me and, by way of explanation simply said "I just needed to get away from it all." So many stories and quotes like that that I wish I had written down before I forgot them.

What are some of the most memorable events of your career?

There are so many, I don't even know where to begin. While in Kuwait we hired a local British

boat captain to take us over to a nearby island in the Arabian Gulf where some interesting archaeological excavations were taking place. As we prepared to leave the island it turned out that tide had receded and the boat was stranded. The captain was embarrassed but what could he do?

My wife Julie had brought a novel along so our entire group ended up sitting around as she read a page, tore it out of the book and each person took their turn reading it before the next page was torn out and the cycle repeated. We ended up reading a good part of that novel and 18 hours later the tide was back and we could finally leave the island. On the way back the boat also ran out of gas but it was close enough to land that we were able to make it with the little remaining gas that was sitting in some gas cans.

Later in our careers when we were working at the school in Kabul, Afghanistan, there were riots and burning cars outside the school due to some inflammatory Danish cartoons that had been published. Watching the German embassy sending out twenty troops and an armored car to pick up one of the German students from school was also memorable.

There have been stories from every place we lived but those are a couple that immediately come to mind.

What would you like to be remembered for?

One of the best things is hearing back from former students who have fond memories of our time together at school. After having heard from students over the years, it seems like they remember me for being down-to-earth but also being professional at the same time.

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An Interview With Pat Doherty

Mr. Doherty takes a moment to discuss his experiences as a door-to-door salesman, his confessions about pranks he's pulled on Mr. Hudson, and his hopes for the future of QSIB.

How long have you been with QSI?

I've worked with QSI for 11 years, three of which have been at QSIB. Other QSI schools I've worked were in Sarajevo, Almaty and Sanaa, Yemen.

Besides teaching, what are some other jobs you've had in the past?

I've worked as a fishing instructor, a door-to-door

salesman, an assistant dean of men in a university, a bus boy, a proctor, a pizza maker, and I also worked at a brick factory. I worked on a farm as well picking potatoes and strawberries as well as piling hay.

Which events have been the most memorable in your teaching career?

I think our two years in Yemen were memorable because Monique and I had just gotten married so we were basically honeymooning in Yemen.

Later Sarajevo was also memorable since that's where we began having kids and starting our family. On top of that, seeing Bosnia after the war was something special – just to see the resiliency of the people – there was a certain energy about that place.

Oh, and there was also a memorable Week Without Walls trip that Monique and I led to Syria where a student decided to make a bad decision that flaunted the safety rules we had set in place - she ended up in the hospital with a few broken bones because of her unwise choice.

QSIB in three words:

Warm, Active, Positive

What would you most like to be remembered for?

I went in to teaching to make a difference in the lives of children and I hope that I have done so, even if students don't realize it at the time. Teaching really is the most rewarding job in the world.

While I know that our impact can sometimes be fleeting, I do hope that am remembered as a decent father and husband since that's what is important. I also hope I'm not that guy who gets fired for something really foolish. THOSE people ARE remembered.

If you came back to QSIB ten years from now, what would you hope to see?

I'd like to see the fully operational school,

full of students enjoying a great, proactive, and diverse school with awesome programs. I'd also like to see us in a new school building. My hope is that QSIB will eventually be one of the leading international schools of Central Asia.

Advice for incoming leadership?

You are surrounded by great people - trust that and let them be great. Listen and accept as much as possible and embrace differences.

Advice for students and teachers?

Enjoy the cultural experience of the school and country because it is very unique. Once it is gone, you can't get it back. Immerse and dig in.

Work hard – in the end the people who get rewarded the most are those who work the hardest and play the hardest.

Be nice. Be kind to others because everyone is struggling with something.

Be involved, even if it's outside your comfort zone.

What do you think the strengths of QSIB are as a school?

The atmosphere of QSIB is great. We've got strong teachers, a fantastic local staff, a diverse student body and an overall family-like atmosphere. QSIB offers many of the same quality programs that big schools do but in a

small-school setting with highly advantageous student-teacher ratios.

What is one thing you'd change if you could do your time at QSIB all over again?

We would have bought our Toyota Highlander at the beginning of our time here. We also would have stayed with QSI schools for our entire teaching career instead of taking a few breaks to teach at other international and domestic schools.

What is something from your career that every time you remember it, you laugh?

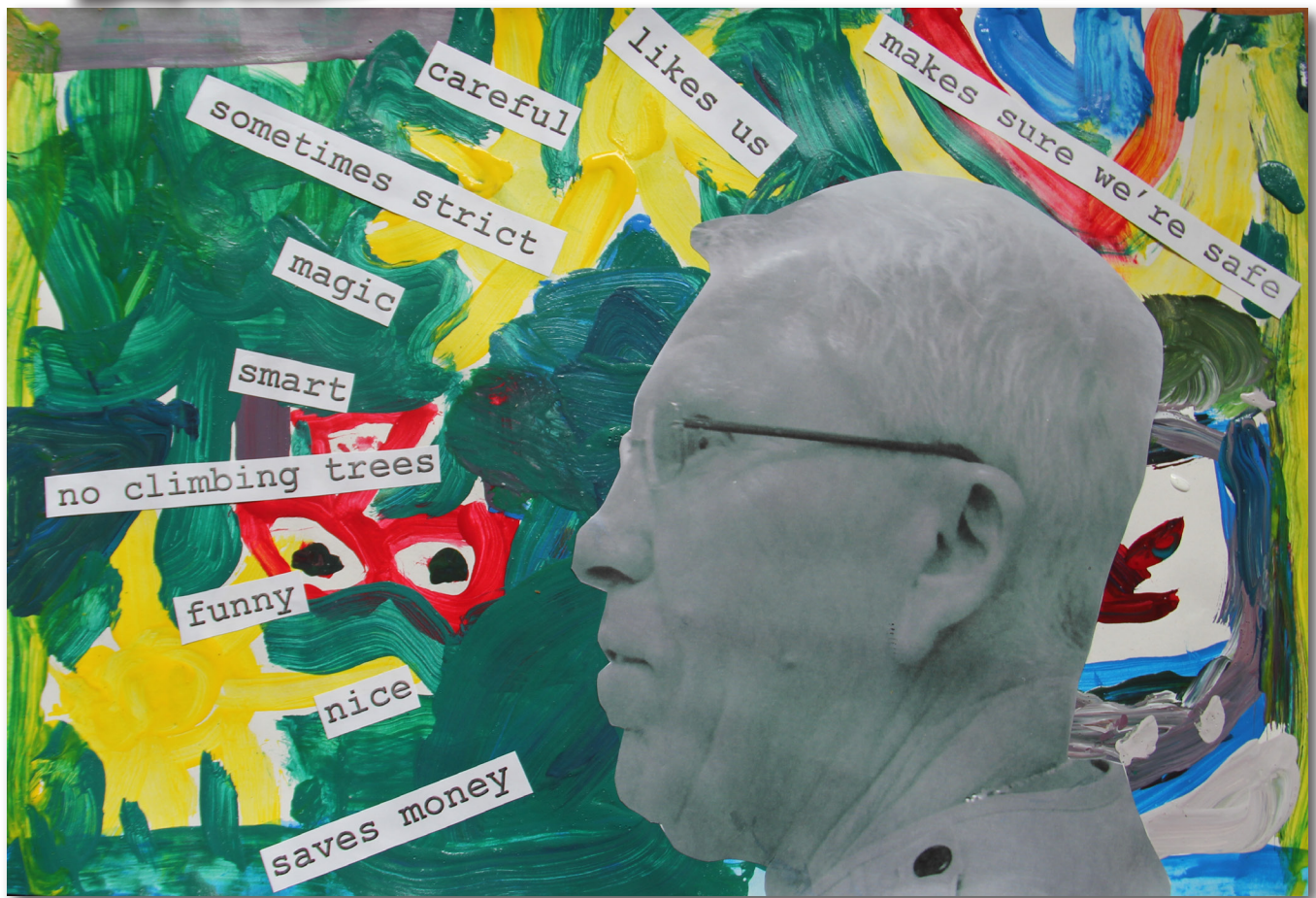
[From Monique who just walked into the room:]

Making mistakes in language pronunciation. I was in a Japanese train station one time and I kept trying to ask this nice Japanese man if the train was arriving "now" but instead I was mispronouncing the word and instead saying "Is the train arriving potatoes?" He looked so puzzled!

Pat – I laugh when I think about the time I decided to play a prank on Mr. Hudson by calling his office and pretending to be a parent from another country who was interested in enrolling my children in QSIB. I went over the top trying to frustrate Mr. Hudson, including trying to negotiate school tuition by offering a bribe of delicious food.



What 5s and 6s appreciate about Mr. Hudson and Mr. Doherty



The 7s give cards of appreciation to Mr. Hudson



Goodbye and best wishes from the 8s and 9s!



Goodbye and thank you from the 10s and 11s



Goodbye and thank you from the 12s and 13s



Secondary Students will miss you !

Good luck in
your long life
journey.
-Sasha

The school will miss Mr.
Hudson and Mr. Doherty.
Good luck to both on
their fine adventures.
-Alex

Good luck and have
a great time!
-Tanya

Good luck in
Ashgabat. Don't
forget your bag of
chips, Mr. Doherty!
-Noora

Mr. Hudson is a friendly person
with a good sense of humor.
Mr. Doherty is a fun person.
Wish you the best in Ashgabat.
-Abdulrahman

I will miss your literature class, Mr. Doherty! I
am sorry that there aren't any Lorean
restaurants there, but I'll say the Turkmen foods
are not bad... :)
Mr. Hudson, thank you for your strong effort to
keep the school safe and academic. I will never
forget your hard work. Have a nice trip to
America.
-Hyejin Yoo

Mr. Hudson and Mr. Doherty,
We will miss you. Thank you for
kindness that you showed me. It
really helped me to adapt to QSI. I
will never forget you! Bye!
- Evelyn

Go Montreal
Canadians!
-Daniel

Mr. Doherty was a great and
understanding principal. He
was very interesting to listen
and we will miss him.
-Salima

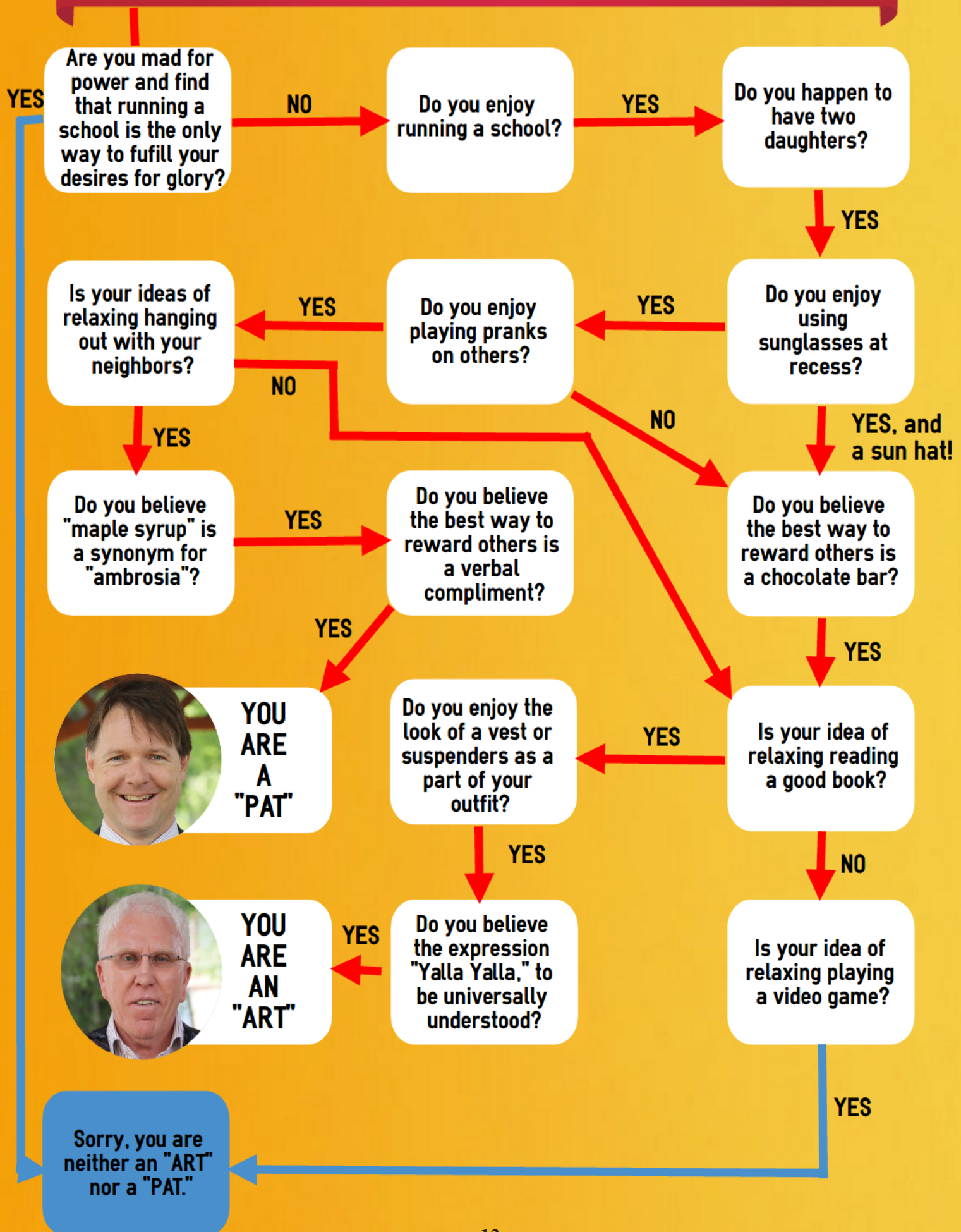
Mr. Hudson and
Mr. Doherty, both
are very friendly.
-Harsh

Good luck in
your next job!
-Alan

Hope you have a
good time at your
next destination.
-Roman

PERSONALITY TEST

ARE YOU AN "ART" OR A "PAT"?



What
teachers
appreciate
about Art
and Pat...

Mr. Doherty,
We all felt sad when we heard that you and your lovely family will be leaving the country for Ashgabat. It won't be easy for us not having you around. It was indeed wonderful working with you and your family. You highly motivated us and made us feel strong. I wish you all the best of luck in all your future endeavors! Stay healthy with your family! Well will miss you! - Venera

I'll miss the level of support Art and Pat have provided. It means a lot to me that, even though my teaching style is quite different from that of Mr. Hudson's, he supported all the hands-on (messy!) projects in 6 YOC with humor and appreciation. They have also valued the many field trips we took and our Forest Friday initiative. They each bring to mind this quote by Beth Revis: "Power isn't control at all — power is strength, and giving that strength to others. A leader isn't someone who forces others to make him stronger; a leader is someone willing to give his strength to others that they may have the strength to stand on their own." - Jill

What I'll miss most about Art is how he cares for the school. He's always willing to take on our new crazy ideas such as Forest Fridays if it benefits students - you know he just cares for the school. - Matt

I would like to express all my feelings about Mr. Hudson with 5 adjectives: 1. Optimistic, 2. Energetic, 3. Exemplary, 4. Unforgettable, and 5. Irreplaceable - Elnura

Pat is the best liar I have ever met. Sometimes I really can't figure out if what he has told me is actually true so I have to go see Chris and find out what Pat told him and from there figure out whether he's messing with me. He always makes the most ridiculous claims that I don't want to believe but he makes them sound believable. I hope Ashgabat appreciates you as much as we do. - Alicia

Pat,
Besides being a wonderful, pro-teacher, supportive administrator, you are also a great friend! We have watched each other's children grow up, and you and Monique were there the day we decided to adopt Ruby. Your enthusiasm and support means a lot to our family. Thank you for always supporting me both professionally and personally. You will be greatly missed, but I know you will find a wonderful family waiting for you in Turkmenistan and maybe our paths will cross in another QSI school! Looking forward to meeting up for vacations in great places! - Melissa

Pat, I'm glad I had the chance to work under your remarkable leadership. Thank you for always being available to us, the French teachers - you always paid attention to our questions and concerns. I will miss your sense of humour, goodwill and support. Best of luck to you and your lovely family. - Lilia

Art and Pat: You were the two best "first bosses" any teacher could have! Thank you for supporting me these past three years, no matter what interesting ideas I came up with... I will miss your upbeat, encouraging demeanor as our paths diverge, but I know you will embellish each new situation you find yourselves in with your caring attitudes, lifting yourselves and others along the way. - Alex

So thankful to have an administrator who is thoughtful, pro-teacher, and loves kids! Art, thank you for putting up with my emotional side and allowing us to be who we are in the classroom. Your ability to accept that teachers can do things differently and still do it well is appreciated. I will miss you dearly and wish you a wonderful retirement with your family. - Melissa

Art and Pat,
You are the best leaders! We are going to miss you. Thank you for everything you did!
- Nazgul

Art, you're the great leader. You're the most organized and professional director I've ever met. We are ready to do everything after you. We will miss you. - Jyldyz

I'll miss Pat's humor - especially when he tries to mess with me. I didn't believe him at first when he told me he was going to Ashgabat - I thought he was messing me with again. - Matt

I will miss the way Art joked with me. Every morning I came in at 7:15am and said "Good Morning!" to him. If it was M-Th he would reply "Good Morning, How is Alicia, Today?" However, if it was Friday, he would say "You're late!" and every time it made me laugh. Art, I hope you have a great retirement and if I am ever in Phoenix on a Friday, I expect you to say "You're late!" when you greet me at Wal-Mart. - Alicia

I'll miss being checked on almost everyday with a pleasant greeting or comment by Pat. His enthusiasm for what the students were learning or doing in class was contagious! Attitude is everything, and Pat was the epitome of positivity plus! - Shannon

When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Pat is a person who I associate with strong leadership - an outgoing and social person who can make you smile every morning just by saying hello. He always knows how to cheer you up and what right and inspiring words to tell you. - Iuliia

Mr. Hudson,
We appreciate all the work you have done for all of us at QSIB. Your hard work, dedication towards your work, and positive influence on all of us will not be forgotten. You are not just a great director, you are a great person indeed. Wishing you a wonderful retirement. We will definitely miss you!
- Venera

I'll miss Pat's support and understanding of various school matters.

I'll miss Art's popular phrase that getting the shipment is like Christmas in August. - Karina

I'll miss all the support Art gave his teachers and truly demonstrated an administrator who cared about his employees lives and families. He never asked a question without showing great attention and caring to employees responses. I'll miss the way he treated us like a family. - Shannon

I will never forget the great support and faith in my skills that Mr. Hudson constantly showed me. It has been a wonderful five years of working with such an organized and qualified leader and a very nice person. I definitely will miss being called by both of my first and last names. I wonder if Mr. Hudson knows that Iuliia is my last name? - Iuliia



The Leopard Print is the student literary magazine of QSI International School of Bishkek, a Quality Schools International School.