# DragonNews





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- Welcome Activities For The Community
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### Hangzhou International School An Inclusive IB World School



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#### "A Journey of community, opportunity, and excellence"



## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear HIS Community and Friends,

We welcome you all back in this edition of the HIS DragonNews, a quarterly communication that focuses on initiatives, celebrations and the joys of teaching and learning at HIS. In the first edition of DragonNews, we introduced our faculty and other 'Essentials' for the 2021-22 school year, our twentieth year as the international school of choice in the wonderful city of Hangzhou. Happy 20th anniversary HIS!

With now over 750 students from over 50 nationalities enrolled at HIS, there is an increasingly wonderful diversity of language, culture, host-country heritage and international experience. This diversity is celebrated as we nurture a multicultural learning environment where students and teachers value the contributions of our different identities and backgrounds. In order for students to feel free to express themselves, develop their potential and engage in rigorous learning, a school must have a strong transition program that ultimately establishes a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. The HIS Transition Committee makes this a top priority given the diversity and transitory circumstances of many of our families. Even with all this diversity, HIS really feels like home for its teachers, parents, and students. At HIS, we celebrate what makes us unique as much as we value what brings us together. We work hard to appreciate both what makes us different and what makes us one. The result of these efforts is evident as soon as one enters our school. It is truly an exceptional experience to be a part of such a diverse center for community activity and involvement, and much of this should be credited to our PAFA volunteers, country ambassadors, and event coordinators.

Our focus in maintaining a strong caring community throughout our growth has also enabled HIS to continue expanding educational choices to its students. Our robust academic and extracurricular programs allow students of varying backgrounds and talents to further explore and develop their strengths as unique learners. In addition to a strong core academic program, we also expect our students to be musical and explore other visual and performing arts, to widen awareness and appreciation for the host country, and to develop an appreciation for fitness and health. We also believe that students need opportunities to give back and apply themselves to the wider community through service learning. While the unique and diverse learning environment within the safety of the school walls allows for students to develop their skills, take risks, and explore new concepts, it is important that they learn to apply these skills to the world outside those walls so they may become the problem solvers and leaders, not the contributors, to the global issues and concerns of our future. It is really a wonderful time to be at HIS, and a wonderful place to learn.

Again, we welcome the 2021-22 school year and congratulate our entire community for supporting a great start. Enjoy the Dragon News Fall and GoooOOO Gold Dragons!

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Jeffry R. Stubbs Director of School

### Welcome BBQ 2021, a Fantastic Event for the Returning and New















#### Members of the HIS Community!

#### #GoHISDragons!



## Welcome BBQ 2021, a Fantastic Event for the Returning and New

























## Members of the HIS Community!

### #GoHISDragons!





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#### u International School

















**CLASS OF** 

2022

## HIS JADE DRAGONS are mo



Inha Park Grade 12 HIS Dragon since Grade 5



CLASS OF **2026** 

Mariam Sardheladze Grade 12 HIS Dragon since Grade 5

Н



CLASS OF **2028** 



Jun Wen Grade 6 HIS Dragon since Pre-K



Avril Lee Grade 6 HIS Dragon since Pre-K





### students and their parents who are in their 8th year or re as longstanding members of the HIS Community.



1-2022 

**CLASS OF** 2027



Zi Hao Bonnie Wang **HIS Dragon since** Kindergarten

**Bella Meng** Grade 6 **HIS Dragon since** 









Anna Zhao Karlsson Grade 6 **HIS Dragon since** Pre-K

#### Jade Dragons 2021-2022

Kelvin Chau Grade 5 HIS Dragon since Early Years 2





Christina Cheung Grade 5 HIS Dragon since Early Years 2









Jade Dragons have earned this special recognition through their many years with us, and the contributions and achivements they have made during this time. Congratulations!

## Once a Dragon...

#### Jade Dragons 2021-2022







Grade 4 HIS Dragon since







## always a Dragon!

#### Welcome New Dragons to HIS Lower School!

Hangzhou International School is committed to supporting students, parents, and staff with mobility within and between schools. We are sensitive to the difficulties faced by our school community during transitions. We endeavor to support all members of our community to ensure that they arrive, orient, integrate, and depart well.

Our new Lower School Counselor & Psychologist, Ms. Lora Lee, started the year busily getting to know our students in class, particulary the new students. Keeping in mind that when you are a new student it takes time to settle in well, we provide activities, like "New Dragons Lunch Time", that hopefully helps newcomers feel more comfortable while they get to know other new students, some from similar backgrounds and others from very different backgrounds. Our new Dragons get to meet the Student Support Team, talk about how their transitions have been, and connect to new arrivals over games.

This year, while having lunch and getting to know each other, we also found that there are many great floss dancers in our school, including Mr. Dobson (Lower School Learning Support Teacher) and Dr Bull-Beddows (Upper School Counselor and Psychologist)!



#### HIS "Bridges" class

Beginning a new school can be challenging and overwhelming and it is important that you know that at HIS we are here to support the students in any way that we can.

Mandarin and ESOL departments at the beginning of the semester extended to all new Grade 2 to Grade 5 students, a warm welcome and an invitation to participate in a "Bridges" class to help them become familiar with the new environment.

"Bridges" is a highly beneficial class co-taught with a Mandarin teacher, an ESOL teacher, and the school counselor. Meeting once a week for the first quarter of the school year, the students:

- Further develop academic English and Mandarin language skills.
- Interact with other new students and form friendships.
- Be provided a safe forum to share their concerns and have questions answered.
- Learn about the school culture and expectations.
- Begin to develop cross-cultural communication skills.
- Experience the inquiry process and develop the skills necessary to succeed in the classroom.

While the program is voluntary, we encourage all new students to take advantage of the opportunity because we have found that "Bridges" has been key to a successful, stress-free transition into our international school environment. Welcome to HIS!













#### Upper School Team Building Activities

The Upper School Activity session at the beginning of the year is a great experience to help the students build connections with classmates, find new areas around Hangzhou, and work together with their grade level teams and advisors. Each grade level coordinated a variety of activities designed to develop social skills and positive interactions. While there is much fun to be had, they also come away as a stronger group of classmates working together.



















## Upper School Team Building Activities































#### Congratulations Lower School Mandarin Classes!

Poetry is the literature and art of expounding the soul. Singing a poem and drawing a picture is very meaningful for learning Chinese.

In this beautiful season of 2021, our Lower School Mandarin teachers Ms. Lily, Ms. Melanie and Ms.Lucia have organized the third grade students to participate in the Hangzhou Children's Poetry Matching Competition named "Draw the Poetry in My Heart" held by Hangzhou Youth Center. The students were asked to freely choose a poem they liked and then to create the painting. After fierce competition, among thousands of works, it was announced that our students had won the second prize and "Excellent Award" respectively, and Ms. Lily's class also won the "Excellent Team Work" award.

The Organizing Committee strongly praised the Hangzhou International School students' learning enthusiasm and artistic talents. Here is our students' work:



#### Beautification of The Chinese Learning Space!



During our Lower School Autumn Festival, we were lucky to have Mr. Young Hui, parent of Talia in Grade 1 and JJ in Kindergarten, supporting with the Chinese calligraphy activity.

Mr.Young Hui is a professional Chinese calligrapher and some of his calligraphy works are used at the famous Linying Temple and Amanfayun Hotel in Hangzhou, as well as other well-known places.

Happy to support the Chinese Culture appreciation that we keep on going at HIS, he applied his professional skills to design artwork for our Mandarin department learning space. We are very honored to have his artwork, and we are looking forward to continuing enhancing our learning spaces to honor the arts of our host country!



Thank you, Mr.Yong Hui! 感谢您,永慧老师!



#### Lower School Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

What a fantastic day we had at our celebration of the Mid-Autumn festival!

Our Mandarin team, TLA team and Ms. Andrea did a wonderful job organizing this carnival, decorating the gym and setting up the stations.

Students had the opportunity to learn about this wonderful festivity, and participate in a number of activities including a drama show 'The story of Middle Autumn Festival', the moon shadow game, festival rabbit bag making, moon-shaped fan creation, a DIY Chinese calligraphy experience and sampling delicious festival bean cake.















#### 我们非常感谢你们的支持与付出!















We also thank most sincerely our parents whose attendance leading some of the activities was outstanding and helped to make the day so authentic and enjoyable.

Ms. Wang XiaoFei (G5 Kiki's mum), Ms. Hu Tingting (G5 Elsa, Grade 2 George, and Kinder Hubert's mum) Mr. YongHui (G1 Talia and Kinder Baoling's father) Ms. Susan (G5 Lisa, Grade 3 Alice and Grade 1 Mike's mum)

We really appreciated all of your help and support!

#### 诗歌的魅力 The beauty of Poetry



Jenny Wang Upper School Chinese Language & Literature



Yoyo Zhang Upper School Chinese Language & Literature

Our Grade 7 Chinese language and literature classes were working on a poetry study unit, in which they examined the key concept of 'Aesthetics' by focusing on a study of a series of contemporary Chinese poetry from different poets. Students had the goal of appreciating the aesthetics of the poetry from different areas, not only from the language and grammatical structure, but also through the imagery and rhythm.

Students started with a research activity in which they made a mind map poster to show their understanding of how contemporary poetry history developed. This activity helped students to build a good knowledge base before learning about the poets. When we started to analyze a poem, we recited it out loud to understand what the poet was trying to convey. To be better at recitation, students had to practice by listening to classic poetry as well as reciting in front of their peers. This helped them to understand the value of giving and receiving good feedback to improve.

After the journey of learning and exploring poetry, students chose their favorite poem from a selection to recite. They had to introduce the poem, and while they were reciting, voice, eye contact, pausing and pacing, clarity, and expression were evaluated. They were encouraged to choose a proper melody to go along with their recitation. To engage the audience while the students recited, Nicole Wu and Zilin Huang voluntarily created amazingly enjoyable slides for all the poems that also helped to understand the meaning of the poem. Preston contributed with the music background selection and slide show, while Shuman and August hosted the event graciously.

Throughout the reading, analyzing, and presenting poetry, students gained a better and deeper understanding of how poetry is constructed and how the poets express their feelings, their experiences and ideas in different styles. We are very proud of them!











#### Maths at HIS Lower School







Cilla Giannopuolos Lower School Vice Principal (Curriculum) PYP Coordinator

Last October 27 was Mathematics Curriculum Night. It was fantastic to see so many people discover our approach to mathematics and participate in some of the activities our students engage with daily.

At HIS, we believe children should not only be able to recite mathematical knowledge and perform algorithms to solve equations, but to also understand what they are doing, explain why they are doing it, and prove why it works.

Ms. Jackie, our art teacher, made a wonderful video to show how we teach math from Early Years to Year 12 via hands on practical experiences through complicated equations and real-life applications. (Scan the QR code to watch the video)

Through our rigorous approach to teaching math, children move on to the middle school, with the number sense and knowledge to be able to tackle more difficult problems and talk about their learning. Our approach encourages students to share problem-solving strategies and to learn from each other. They learn that there is more than one way to solve a problem and can flexibly think about math.

To achieve our math subject goals, we begin by using concrete materials for children to experiment with and manipulate math ideas. Once students understand the concept, we move on to pictorial or visual representations, before finally moving onto abstract representations, such as seen in 'traditional' math classes.

In this way the concrete materials and pictural representations help children to fully understand the subject. By using number bonds and bar models to show how numbers can be broken up and represented, we help children to see the connection between math concepts. Math knowledge also helps us learn more about our units.

You can support your child in their math adventures at home by noticing and highlighting math in the world around you. Ask your child about what they are learning and to explain their thinking. If they can share one way to solve a problem, ask them to find another problem-solving strategy. And most importantly, allow them to see the fun in math.





#### 演讲的艺术 The Art of Speech



Jenny Wang Upper School Chinese Language & Literature

In Chinese language and literature class, the students have been working on the art of persuasion by focusing on a text type: Speech.They have examined the key concept of 'communication' by studying a series of speeches written and performed by famous authors and through analyzing how they used different techniques to persuade the audience.To use that knowledge and skills, they had the opportunity to pretend to be a school administrator with the task to persuade parents and students to choose our school.This real-life situation was completed with a real audience of parents, faculty, and classmates.

To prepare, students went through the rubrics, including content, organization, languages, and persuasive techniques. They planned and produced their first draft to improve their speeches after teacher feedback. To improve the delivery, the efficiency, and quality of their speeches, they were assigned to small groups where they practiced and learned from each other after giving and receiving feedback. They found this activity a very beneficial part of their learning.

As I was walking around different corners of the room, I was so honored to witness some effective learning moments. There was a particular case that I would like to highlight: a very reserved young man in the class had some difficulties speaking up, but his group members kept constant encouragement and constructive advice on how he could improve and how he can overcome his fear and nervousness. I was so touched by their sincerity and kindness. I knew that true learning was happening, not only learning how to give a speech but also how to help each other as a team.

To make the speech presentation formal, students started to take different roles to make the speech event happen. Sophia Shen volunteered to create the poster, and Amy Zhang and Tina Yu volunteered to produce the MC script. Because the group participating has 20 students, we had to split the presentations in two, and make sure every participant didn't go overtime. Luckily, Ms. Lily Fan and Ashley Ho were willing to make a timecard and take the role of timekeepers.







The event went well, and it was nice to hear positive feedback from parents right after we finished: "Thank you so much for the great performance. All students are amazingly impressive in confidence, premium writing and wordings, and dedication to every single detail", and later by email: "Today's speech was very good. I sincerely hope that the school will hold more such events like this in the future, not only to improve the Chinese level and interest in learning Chinese but also to create a good learning atmosphere. I see 'the light', as the children said."

After the event, students spent time reflecting on how their speeches went and how they could improve. They all found that this activity was a successful learning experience. They appreciated the opportunity provided so that they can step up and take new challenges to learn and show their knowledge and skills. This was a meaningful activity for the students, and for me as a teacher. I feel so proud of what they accomplished throughout the entire learning process.



#### Shrek The Musical Jr. Overnight Workshop



Abbey Ehling Lower School Performing Arts







We were excited to be able to offer an overnight workshop for the cast of Shrek the Musical Jr. this year. Rehearsals have started out strong with lots of excitement, energy, and enthusiasm towards this fun production full of hilarity, romance, and adventure!

During our overnight workshop, we had time to grow as a cast community. Creating strong bonds with cast members and directors is important for a successful experience within the theater and this workshop offered us the time to do that! Students enjoyed delicious food provided by our wonderful production parent volunteers. They were able to participate in group drama games and enjoyed watching the Broadway Production of Shrek the Musical. Students snuggled up with sleep bags and pillows in our auditorium and classrooms for a full cast sleepover experience. For some of our students, this was the first experience away from home overnight and it gave them a new sense of confidence and independence.

In addition to quality time spent together as cast, we were able to gain some very valuable rehearsal time. We rehearsed large group number scenes, learned the music and choreography, and put them together! While rehearsing, students gained knowledge and understanding of their characters and roles in our musical ensemble. It was great to see students become even more engaged in our production as they continued to fall in love with the music and story of Shrek the Musical Jr. During our December performances we are all looking forward to sharing our story with you!



#### "This Is Our Story"



#### Quotes from Cast Members:

"I think that the Shrek overnight was a good experience for everybody to get to know each other!" -Anyssa, Grade 3

"My favorite part was the dinner, it was tasty! We could eat with kids from all different ages, it made me feel very proud of myself!" -William, Grade 4



"For the future, I think it's important to do the overnight because you learn about other people. There were lots of people I didn't really know, and I got to learn more about them. I think this will help us because when we learn more about the person, we can work better with them." -Grace, Grade 4

"I think it was important because you learn what the musical is about. You learn how to act it out and you understand what your character's personality is." -Netanya, Grade 5

"I think it was a good experience to get to know each other. It helps you to cope with stage fright. It's a good experience and anybody who wants to be in the play, they can benefit from it!" -Rhea, Grade 5

"I think the Shrek overnight helped us because we know each other better and then it will be easier to act together. We had more help with the songs because the teachers were there longer." -Gijsje, Grade 5





"Because of the overnight workshop we got to know the cast better and we had more time to rehearse for it. We got to do some songs that every cast member came out in. Yeah, I think it was a really great experience!" -Jiyu, Grade 5

"The overnight was a great experience because some cast members we didn't even know were it in, but then we got to know them more. We can communicate more to each other, and we get to have more practice time." -Elly, Grade 5

"I think the Shrek overnight was really fun. I think we should do it again. I've always wanted to sleep over at school because I thought it would be fun. It was really cool doing Shrek stuff all day." -Naomi, Grade 6

"That was my first time for doing something like that. It was fun because I haven't been in a musical before. Practicing for the song for a long time with so many students was fun! -Muyun Grade 7

"I think the overnight was a great experience. It helped all the people in the play communicate and become closer friends. It was fun and we had a great time. It was also very helpful for learning new scenes in the play. It was my first time, and it was great!" -Shauna, Grade 8

#### HIS Dragons Around The World!





una and Yuka Kitano Currently in Japan

All **HIS Dragons** who are continuing their journey of life elsewhere will always be connected here: in our hearts, in our minds, and in our souls.

HIS Dragons are part of the HIS community no matter where they are or how far. We miss them and that's why we always hope they keep in touch with us and let us know about their new experiences.

**Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!** 

Please, keep in touch and send a photo to Ms. Andrea Stubbs: astubbs@his-china.org



MARKIN

Jack and Jenny Xu

Alessandro Livio, Haru S Currently

### When you leave HIS, you never really "leave" us!

Emily Seoyoon and Avery Jiyoon Youm ulieta and Augusto Bauer Casampere in Switzerland

#### Congratulations HIS Dragon Swimmers, HISAC Champions!



Our Swim Team came back victorious again this year. The first time was at the HISAC Spring Swim Meet, and then again with the HISAC Autumn Swim Meet first place trophy. After 22 gold, 15 silver and 7 bronze medals in the individual events at the event hosted this time by RDRDFZ King's College, the HIS swim team finished Champions in the overall competition. What a great day for the Dragon swimmers!



Hangzhou International Schools Athletics Conference (HISAC) Mission Statement:

"HISAC is a multi-inclusive sports organization that emphasizes involvement for all international schools and fosters individual and team development in a co-operative, friendly and enjoyable environment between all participating students."

#### Congratulations Varsity Volleyball Teams!

During the HISAC Varsity Volleyball Tournament, HIS teams demonstrated what sound foundations, good communication and consistent practice can achieve taking out the Champion trophies for Division 2 Girls, Division 1 Boys and Division 1 Girls. Competitors should be very proud of the skills and sportsmanship they displayed. All teams showed why it is good to be a Dragon!



#GoHISDragons!

#### PAFA (Parents and Friends Association)







#### The PAFA coffee morning

hosted by the school at the Amber House Hotel, was the first event for parents to socialize, meet new parents, and returning parents, have a nice chat over a nice coffee and look at the different service providers that visited during the morning.







Followed by this activity, the Luncheon Committee organized the **Welcome Lunch** at Le Meridien Hotel. With delicious food, games, and great company, the HIS parent community spent time together getting to know new parents and catch up with the "old ones" while having fun and working together.







#### A Great Start of the School Year!

Thank you, parents, for joining to the first HIS parents' social events of the year! If you missed these events, don't worry, you will have many more opportunities to join us for a great time with the HIS community!

Remember that together as parents, students, staff, faculty and friends, we will build a solid foundation that unites our diversity and fosters a positive, cohesive community. We all play an important role in the HIS community!



To see photos of the events please scan the OR codes.







To learn more about PAFA scan the QR code to take a look at the PAFA booklet.













## Teddy Bear Picnic Day at ECE and Grade I















## Stories, Books, Activties, Popcorn and PJ's!















#### HIS Library Fall Book Fair



Ingrid Majoos Lower School Library and Media

We held our annual HIS Library Fall Book Fair from October 18-20 and it was a great success! It was hosted by Beijing Star Kids Children's Bookstore.

On the first day of the Book Fair, all classes from Kindergarten to Grade 5 visited the Fair to make their book wish lists. The students were eager to write their lists and then to bring it home to their parents.

On the second day, parents came by to check out the action and to fulfill their child's wishes. We even had some parents phoning their children at home to make sure they were purchasing the correct books! I am sure there were some extremely happy readers that evening!

On the last day of the Fair, we had students from Early Years and Grade 2 come in and buy books with their money brought in from home (thanks mom and dad).

This activity was part of their units of inquiry or giving agency to students to experience the excitement of choosing a book, paying for it and then being able to take it home all by themselves!

Many thanks to all the parents, students and staff who helped to make our Book Fair a fun event for all. See you all at our next Fair coming up in the spring!











#### Tech Tip: Spam Email or Junk Mail.

One of the most annoying things in today's technology world, is spam email, also referend to as junk mail. We at the Tech Pagoda do our best to prevent spam mail from entering our system. But with gmail, yahoo and various "FREE" email providers, there is normally Spam combined with the FREE version.

#### What is email spam?

Email spam, also known as junk email, refers to unsolicited email messages, usually sent in bulk to a large list of recipients. Spam can be sent by real humans, but more often, it is sent by a botnet, which is a network of computers (bots or spambots) infected with malware and controlled by a single attacking party (bot herder). Apart from email, spam can also be distributed via text messages or social media.

Most people find spam annoying but consider it an inevitable side effect of using email communication. While spam is annoying -- it can choke email inboxes if not properly filtered and regularly deleted -- it can also be a threat.

Email spam senders, or spammers, regularly alter their methods and messages to trick potential victims into downloading malware, sharing data or sending money.

A common misconception is that spam is an acronym that stands for "stupid pointless annoying malware." The term is derived from a famous Monty Python Flying Circus sketch in which there are many repetitive mentions of the canned meat product Spam.

#### How to Get Fewer Spam Emails?

Use an email filter. Check your email account to see if it has a tool to filter out potential spam or to funnel spam into a junk email folder. But there are some things you can do to make them work even better. For example, if you see any spam that makes it through to your Inbox, be sure to mark it as Spam or Junk. You can usually also block specific email addresses or email domains (the part of the address after the @).



Danie de Beer Director of Technology

## Spam (372)

Remember that the filter isn't perfect, so you will also want to occasionally check your Spam or Junk folders to make sure any legit, non-spam email didn't end up in there.

Limit your exposure. You might decide to use two email addresses — one for personal messages and one for shopping, newsletters, coupons, and other services. If you want to be able to see all your emails in one place, you can usually set up email forwarding to your primary email account. You can set it up to come into a separate folder or your main Inbox. That way, if the second email address starts getting spam, you can shut off the forwarding without affecting your permanent address.

Also, try not to display your email address in public including on social media sites or in online membership directories. Spammers scan websites to harvest email addresses. We do not recommend using your school email address for any form of personal signups, but rather talk to us about the subscriptions email address or even better use a gmail, yahoo, Hotmail address for testing website and/or software.

If you do get spam in your school email, please forward to our **phishing@his-china.org** email address for blocking. As always, if you have any questions regarding possible spam, please contact the Tech Pagoda for support: **technology@his-china.org** 





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## Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!

#### **Contact Us**

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#### **The HIS Mission**

is to provide international learners with opportunities to pursue academic and personal excellence within a caring community.



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