



# Canadian International School of Hong Kong



25<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating 25 years of inspiring excellence, cultivating character, and empowering engagement locally and globally.*

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# FOREWORD

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**A**s a founding member of Canadian International School of Hong Kong, it seems almost unfathomable to me that the school is now celebrating its 25th year of operations. Time has truly flown by.

And what a time it's been! As you flip through the pages of this commemorative publication, prepare to be transported back in time as you witness some of CDNIS' most memorable moments in history. From the school's early days at its Eastern Hospital Road campus, which opened its doors to a mere 81 students in 1991, to the development of its current home along Nam Long Shan Road – this book will reveal everything!

Today, CDNIS finds itself being recognised as one of the leading educational institutions in South East Asia, and as an IB World School that is simultaneously authorised to grant credits towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma – thus lending plenty of kudos as students seek opportunities in higher education.

However, this privileged position has been hard earned, following years of investments into improving the school's teaching quality, curricula development, and infrastructure. Our teachers continue to be leaders in their fields, while recent infrastructural projects such as the Leo Lee Arts Centre, Chinese Cultural Centre and Green Roof not only highlight CDNIS' ongoing support of cultural proficiency and social awareness, but also reinforce the school's new vision "to inspire excellence, cultivate character, and empower engagement locally and globally".

While it's always great to remember all the good times that our community has enjoyed to date, it is equally important to look towards the future and review how we continue to make significant strides in delivering new initiatives that offer the very best educational experience to our existing student body.

Project Innovate, which CDNIS has been working hard to implement, builds on the school's world-class expertise and practice, to incorporate the principles of "future-ready learning" into our pedagogy – in accordance with the perennial shift towards a more innovative approach in education.

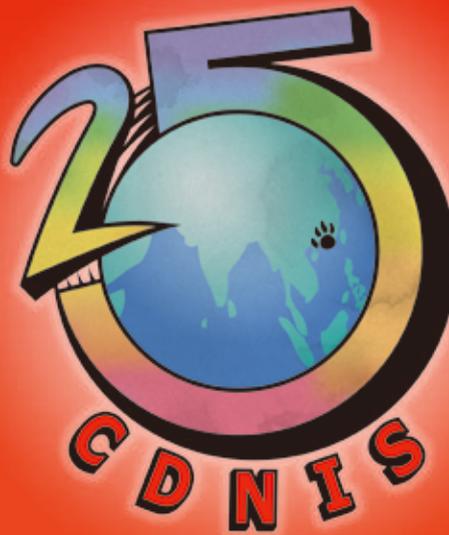
I consider myself to be very fortunate to have been a part of the CDNIS family over the past 25 years, and look forward to even more exciting memories to come. It's sure to be an exciting time to be a member of the CDNIS community!

**Richard Wong**, *Founding Board Chairman and Member*



**Back Row:** Dennis Chan, Roger Chow, Andy Hung, Spencer Lee, Albert Wang, Felix Fong, Kenny Tam, Ching-Wo Ng

**Front Row:** Ho-Kin Li, Anthony Chow, Vincent Lee, Mary-Jean Wong, Maria Mui, Richard Wong, Kwan-In Li



## *When it all began...*

*The 1980s began as a boom period for Hong Kong. Jobs were plentiful and the city was thriving, but the student-led demonstrations in Beijing in 1989 and the anticipated return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 caused many to question their future in the city. Families who could afford it discussed and found ways of migrating overseas. Canada was one of the top destinations.*

*In an effort to curb the anticipated exodus, the Hong Kong government began looking at ways to keep families in the city and one idea which arose was the building of a school in Hong Kong specialising in a Canadian curriculum.*

*In 1989, the International Business Committee (IBC) was formed by the Hong Kong Government, of which the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong was a part. Chaired by Sir David Ford, then Chief Secretary, the IBC's role was to deal with various issues facing Hong Kong and the international communities in the city. One of the issues discussed and identified early on at the meetings was the shortage of international schools offering a North American style of curriculum in Hong Kong and a sub-committee chaired by Secretary for Education and Manpower Mr. K.Y. Yeung was set up to look into the issue. Soon after, the government requested the Canadian community in Hong Kong help in alleviating the shortage of international school places using North American curricula.*

*The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong proposed the establishment of a Canadian International Schools Foundation which would then consider detailed proposals for the setting up of a primary Canadian International School by the mid-90s. The Chamber recognized that the task of forming a Canadian International School was a very complex one and considered that it was beyond its scope on its own to take up the task. Many of the international schools in Hong Kong at that time were funded by their national governments. The Canadian Government had no constitutional jurisdiction over education in Hong Kong and it was expressly stated very early on that the Canadian government would offer no financial support. The matter was brought to the Chinese Canadian Association (CCA) and it took up the leading role to start up the school in 1991.*

# 1990

**E**stablished in Hong Kong in 1987, the Chinese Canadian Association (CCA) was a young association formed by a group of returnees from Canada. Their members shared the concern of the government and at the end of 1990, Art McInnis, one of the attendants of the IBC meetings, attended a CCA meeting to explain the intended project. CCA immediately responded and formed a subcommittee to found a non-profit-making organization in the name of Canadian International School Foundation Limited ("the Foundation") for the project.

The subcommittee consisted of a team of prominent Canadians based in Hong Kong who would become known as the Founding Members of the school. The group was comprised of Roger Chow, Robert Desjardins, Felix Fong, Francis Lee, Spencer Lee, Vincent Lee, Kwan-In Li, Arthur McInnis, Ching-Wo Ng, Albert Wang, Mary-Jean Wong and Richard Wong, who was selected as the Chair of the group. With the aim of having a September 21, 1991 opening for the school, all subcommittee members collaborated extensively over the course of nine months organising various aspects of the school's structure, including matters relating to curriculum, faculty, premises, finances, bus services, uniforms and more.

This hectic time saw the recruitment of Ian Robertson as the school's first principal, recruitment of faculty and support staff, the establishment of the school logo and uniform, decisions regarding curriculum, creation of the Nomination Rights and Capital Levy, promotion of the school, and entering into the tenancy at 7 Eastern Hospital Road.

Initial funding for the development of the school proved to be a significant challenge, as no Canadian company was willing to help fund the project. Each Founding Member pledged HK\$10,000 as a personal loan, while Albert Wang was tasked with fundraising. Through his efforts, Raymond Chan donated HK\$500,000, while Standard Chartered Bank (HK) Trustees Limited gave another HK\$250,000. Under the auspices of CCA, Wang also came up with the first fundraising event for Canadian International School (CIS) – the gala premiere of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Tickets were priced at HK\$1,000 each and the event generated plenty of buzz, raising an impressive HK\$400,000 for the school.

The "seed money" of around HK\$1.3 million allowed the Founding Members to renovate the school's premises, including all fixtures and bought furniture to kick-start the process of establishing the school, while also ensuring that it would open its doors on schedule. In doing so, they realised the importance of offering affordable, quality education. A decision was therefore made to establish the school as a non-profit organisation that would provide a private international education based on the Ontario Curriculum in an English language medium. In this way, the school helped alleviate the noticeable shortage of Hong Kong-based international schools offering a North American curriculum, while encouraging families that migrated away from Hong Kong in the late 80s to return home again.



*When Canadian International School of Hong Kong was first established, it was known as CIS.*





# 1991 – 1992

**T**hrough the collective efforts of the Founding Members, the school managed to acquire small rented facilities at 7 Eastern Hospital Road in Causeway Bay. Following extensive negotiations for a five-year lease with the owners of the building – the Shing Kwong Church of Christ in China – the school finally had a place it could call home.

The Causeway Bay campus featured 14 rooms, of which 11 were used for regular classes. The remaining three rooms were used as an office, music room and Chinese Studies room. There were several storage areas behind the stage in the hall on the ground level, a caretaker's room, and a

small lunchroom for teachers on the 3rd floor. In this building, the corridors were open to the elements and so warm clothing and rainwear became as common a sight as pencils and paper on campus.

Promotion for the newly founded school had proceeded in the lead-up to the school's official opening. A particularly noteworthy example in July 1991 saw a group of Canadian climbers, who were planning to ascend Mount Everest, make a pit stop in Hong Kong before their expedition, in order to scale the school's recently acquired six-storey building at 7 Eastern Hospital Road and raise a Canadian flag on top of it as a symbol of the official establishment of the school.

- A Singing O'Canada at a school assembly
- B Halloween
- C CDNIS' first students



## **Capital Levy and Nomination Rights Programmes**

*Realising that there was a unique opportunity for growth, the Founding Members noted the importance of helping parents understand the capital needs of the school. The Capital Levy and Nomination Rights programmes were thus introduced as a means of supplementing the school's fund requirements.*

*The first year levy was set at HK\$5,000, while the latter was priced at HK\$15,000. By picking up the Nomination Rights scheme, parents would benefit from being exempt from future annual capital levy liability while their child was enrolled in the school. Not surprisingly, the majority of parents recognised the value of the Nomination Rights programme and a total of 82 took advantage of it – accounting for over 80% of the student body.*



After months of planning, Canadian International School of Hong Kong finally opened its doors in September 1991 to its inaugural cohort of 81 students. While the school started operating in September, it wasn't until November 15, 1991 that the school held its official opening ceremony. The historic event attracted many prominent dignitaries who served as the guests of honour, including The Honourable Otto Jelinek, PC, MP, Minister of National Revenue of Canada and Mr. James Y.C. So, OE, JP, Secretary for Recreation and Culture.



### **1st Hong Kong Canadian Scout Group**

*Ms. Cassandra Ip was also instrumental in the formation of the 1st Hong Kong Canadian Scout Group (HKCSG) in 1992. As one of the only Canadian scout groups established outside of Canada, the 1st HKCSG aims to develop intellectual thinking, social and teamwork development, and the physical health of the youth. The service component of the programme emphasises its commitment to mentoring responsible members of the community. Not surprisingly, the 1st HKCSG became a resounding success, and quickly gained a strong following.*

*“During our first year, we had 18 Beavers, 12 Cubs and 12 Scouts. That was a total of 42 students, and given that the entire school at the time consisted of only 80-plus pupils, that meant that half of the student body joined to become members of the 1st HKCSG,” recalled Ms. Ip.*



The 81 children who served as the pioneer cohort of students were divided into four houses – Algonquin (Blue), Cree (Yellow), Haida (Red) and Micmac (Green) – named after four of Canada's First Nation's groups. Students competed for their houses in school-wide activities, including the inaugural Family Sports Day, which was held at the Tai Tam Scout-Guide Camp on March 27, 1992. Other significant events included the first ever Flower Fair and Halloween celebrations, which have since become staple school events.





Due to the small number of students, several grades were represented by a single class. The first ever Grade 3 class, for instance, consisted of 17 students – of which only two were girls! Meanwhile, the pioneer Grade 4 class was comprised of only seven students.

Student life in Canadian International School of Hong Kong back in 1991 was varied if somewhat limited in size due to the space constraints of the Eastern Hospital Road campus. A respectable extra-curricular activities selection was offered, encompassing Taekwondo, Fun 'n Fitness, Picture Making, Beginning Knitting, Chinese Culture (Dance & Painting), Cookery, Tapestry, and Cross Stitch & Basic Sewing.

The limited size of the teaching and leadership faculty also meant that the school relied extensively on healthy parent involvement to keep day-to-day operations running effectively. Ms. Cassandra Ip, a parent who today remains a prominent presence in the school, recognised the benefits of establishing a Parent Association, and was therefore very much involved in the setup of the Canadian International School Parent Association (CISPA).

“The school only had 17 staff members in its first year of operations, and so I made it a point to be at the school everyday in order to help in any way I could. Mr. Robertson, seeing this, asked me to help set up CISPA,” said Ms. Ip.

As the only duly elected, representative parent organisation at the school, CISPA adhered to its mission of “working together to enrich the Canadian International School of Hong Kong experience”, with parent volunteers giving their time and skills to champion for the body’s “three C” mandate: community, communication, and curriculum support.

**A B C** Students, staff and parents enjoy a Christmas performance



**“ Mission Statement**

*In order to provide Canadian International School of Hong Kong with a clear direction that would define its ethos as a private international school offering Canadian education, a mission statement was crafted in time for the start of the new school year: “To provide a multi-lingual Canadian-based curriculum of high academic standards that will enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a global economy and society.”*

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G



H

- A B Sports Day
- C D Halloween
- E - H Christmas performance

# 1992-1993

The 1992-1993 academic year saw an impressive expansion in the school's operations. Having benefitted from a growing positive reputation, the school began to attract more interest from the public. Enrollment therefore more than doubled with the school boasting a total of 208 students between Kindergarten and Grade 6.

In many ways, the aim for the second year of Canadian International School of Hong Kong was to improve and streamline the quality standards set in its first year. Curricula formation became a core focus for Ching-Wo Ng, newly appointed Chairman of the Board. It was also mutually decided that principal Ian Robertson would serve until the end of the school year, which meant that the search for a replacement had to be undertaken.



# 1993 – 1994

The start of the 1993-1994 academic year saw the appointment of second Principal Neil Johnston, who would serve as the head of school until 2000. Mr. Johnston presided over a major expansion period of CDNIS and was described as a hardworking and passionate leader who maintained high expectations throughout his tenure. Mr. Johnston brought with him a wealth of experience and became a respected mentor to many existing staff members including Head of Admissions Ms. Emily Pong and Learning & Teaching Technologies (LTT) Leader Ms. Makky Fung.

With enrollment increasing to 302 students, it became apparent that the size limitations of the existing Eastern Hospital Road campus would not be able to keep up with the school's continued expansion.

the Eastern Hospital Road building – which was still under the use by the owner, Shing Kwong Church of Christ. Preparatory and a small Grade 1 and 2 group occupied the new rooms when school reopened in September 1993.

As a longer term option, the Premises Committee was also tasked with exploring the possibility of building a permanent campus within Hong Kong. Numerous spaces were considered, including a plot of land in Discovery Bay. However, an area along Nam Long Shan Road was seen as the best option and on July 1, 1993, the Lands Department granted the land to CDNIS. An initial campus budget of HK\$270 million was set for the cause.

There was also a possibility of CDNIS being awarded the adjoining land at the bottom of Nam Long Shan hill. Early plans were to use this land to improve traffic access to and from the school, before shifting towards the idea of a Canadian Community Centre. The site would hold sports and cultural activities, which would also bear a strong tie to Canadian culture. Had it been realised, the facilities would have been used by CDNIS as well as other members of the Canadian community in Hong Kong. The facility would also be used to raise the social and national profile of all Canadians in Hong Kong and generate income for the school. The project was actively pursued by a working group composed of CDNIS Governors, representatives for the Chinese Canadian Association, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong, Canadian Club, the Commission for Canada and Canadian Universities Alumni Association, but was subsequently aborted.

Noteworthy highlights from the year included the founding of a Special Events Committee; the renaming of the school yearbook to “Maple & Bauhinia”; and the visit by then Governor General of Canada, Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn.



*A decision was made during the 1993-1994 school year that Canadian International School of Hong Kong would no longer be known as CIS, but CDNIS.*



The Premises Committee began looking for future bridging premises until completion of its permanent campus. Two primary target sites, namely, the old British Military Hospital on Borrett Road and the one at 26 Kennedy Road were identified and CDNIS was able to secure both sites as bridging campuses. In addition, the Board also agreed to rent two additional teaching spaces on the ground level of

- A-D CDNIS students explore Hong Kong and beyond
- E Grade level assembly
- F Arts and crafts
- G CNY celebration



A



B



C

66

*During the summer of 1994, CDNIS and the Chinese Canadian Association jointly sponsored and planned an inter-cultural programme, in which students from Hong Kong were sent to Canada (in 1994), while students from provinces across Canada were brought to Hong Kong (in 1995 and 1996) for a unique exchange experience. School boards from across Canada were informed of the programme and students were invited to compete as candidates to visit Hong Kong. It was a unique way to help CDNIS' exposure to school boards across Canada. The programme was funded by the donation of a CCA sponsor. In 1996, 12 students from Canada, representing seven provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland), visited Hong Kong and Beijing.*

*The programme served to expose CDNIS and enhance its standing in Canada, building bridges between those students and their counterparts in Hong Kong and China through joint functions, seminars, sports competitions and barbecues. An important element of the programme was the part played by the host families as the teenagers were able to learn about Chinese (or Hong Kong) culture in the most intimate way.*

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# 1994 – 1995

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In preparation for the new academic year, CDNIS took possession of its new campuses at Borrett Road and Kennedy Road. The former was used to accommodate the school's senior division, while the latter housed the primary division. Newly hired Vice Principal, Alan Dick, had two offices at the existing Causeway Bay campus as well as the Borrett Road building, while Principal Neil Johnston would frequently move between the three campuses.

Both Borrett Road and Kennedy Road campuses were previously occupied by South Island School and Hong Kong International School respectively, and therefore possessed many "school-friendly" amenities. When opened in August 1994, the Borrett Road site offered a computer lab, library, assembly hall, visual arts room, 8 classrooms, plus offices and areas for small group instruction. There was also an outdoor playground at the back of the building that CDNIS equipped for basketball and other games. The campus was repainted and a small kitchen was constructed to serve lunch on site for the students. Meanwhile, the Kennedy Road site required no renovations beyond the acquisition of several air conditioners and shelving units.

Enrollment had risen to 435 pupils, which meant that CDNIS truly benefitted from its two new rented campuses. During this school year, negotiations to build a brand new campus along Nam Long Shan Road continued between the school and the Hong Kong government. Positive progress was mired when a major complication arose. The government initially ordered CDNIS to take responsibility for the widening of Nam Long Shan Road from a then-single lane to the width that it is today. Such work would have cost the school an estimated HK\$15 to HK\$17 million, which threatened the viability of the project. A compromise was eventually reached, which was good news for all parties involved. The Highway Department agreed to cover the cost for the bulk of

the road widening project, while CDNIS would be responsible for the retaining wall on the border of the site adjacent to the road.

Funding efforts to build the new campus also continued during this time. It became clear early on that the Canadian Government would be unable to provide any financial backing, while no Canadian companies were willing to offer any financial support. Therefore, the Founding Members were forced to seek elsewhere for a major benefactor.

Member and Governor Maria Mui, who was also the founder of the Special Events Committee at CDNIS, would prove instrumental in the search. She, along with other board members at the time, reached out to the school's Honorary Patron and then Chief Secretary of Administration, Mrs. Anson Chan JP, for help and advice on how best to obtain financial support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Chan promised to look into the matter, and shortly thereafter, CDNIS was invited by the Club to submit an application for a grant. A formal application was soon made to The Jockey Club in March 1995, in which CDNIS requested a donation of HK\$150 million – of which HK\$90million would be used for the school construction and HK\$60million would be used for slope costs, road widening and additional foundation works.

Following subsequent meetings, a donation of HK\$90 million was eventually agreed upon in July 1995, which would be used to cover the proposed construction cost of the Nam Long Shan campus. As for the remainder of the funding required, this came from the Hong Kong Government in the form of an interest-free loan of HK\$66.6 million, which CDNIS would be obligated to repay over a 10-year period.

- A** All school photo
- B** CDNIS staff
- C** Ms. Susan Hubbard's Grade 4 class





D



E



F

- A Ms. Catharine Ho's Grade 6 class
- B CDNIS B&O staff
- C CDNIS staff
- D Music making
- E Mr. John Ip's Grade 10 class
- F Family Fun Fair

# 1995-1996

The 1995-1996 school year was a relatively quiet year for CDNIS, as the school looked to offer contracts to parties interested in taking up the development of the new Nam Long Shan campus. Following extensive talks, Gammon Construction, whose work portfolio today includes Hysan Place, Three Pacific Place and iSquare, won the HK\$20 million foundation contract, while P&T Architects served as architectural consultants and Norman Grey-Noble of Carruthers Shaw in Toronto was engaged as the Canadian design advisor.

Meanwhile, enrollment reached a new high of 525 students, and the school was progressing on all fronts. Computers became a mainstay presence in the library, with all records of books and other reference materials being stored digitally. Students were able to search for individual publications by typing in keywords, the name of the author, title and subject. A larger emphasis in literature also saw CDNIS invite German American writer Hans Wilhelm for a visit. An author and/or illustrator of over 200 books, some of his best known works include "Bunny Trouble" and "Let's Be Friends Again".

Other noteworthy events included the Remembrance Day celebrations, which saw CDNIS' choir sing for then-Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, and a visit by veteran Hong Kong actor Philip Chan who coached the students in acting.



# 1996 – 1997

**G**ammon Construction started to work on the Nam Long Shan campus' foundation in January 1996 and completed its task in late July. The design of the new school building proceeded throughout the summer and was completed by the fall of 1996. The school's designs were subsequently submitted to a panel of judges at the Conference of Educational Facility Planners, meeting in Orlando, Florida. The competition featured 75 entries from six countries, with the CDNIS design receiving significant acclaim and being awarded the top award from the judging panel, the Certificate of Merit.

With the design finalised, tenders were called for construction of the superstructure. Chatwin Construction was the successful bidder with its tender valid until August 31, 1996. The initial budget was HK\$270 million for work to commence at that

stage. However, CDNIS could not commit to the construction contract without the government's approval of its loan. HSBC came to CDNIS' assistance by providing a bridging loan for up to HK\$100 million contingent upon confirmation of the status of the government loan. The bridging loan was set at HK\$100 million, to cover both the contingency of donation/debenture funding delays and the government loan. It was necessary to cover the latter because it could not be drawn down until the building was certified as "complete".

By the time the bridging loan was finalized, the Premises Committee had to persuade Chatwin to extend the validity period to the end of October. By then, all tender price conditions had expired and the building cost had escalated considerably. The delay in commencing construction of the superstructure and the related escalation in construction cost warranted the necessary decision to scale back the project in order to keep it alive. The revised project became "Phase 1" which, in effect, sliced one-third from the southern side of the building. It eventually cost HK\$270 million. The truncated project was awarded to Chatwin upon the approval of the government loan by LegCo on January 17, 1997. The work on site finally commenced in the last week of February 1997 and was completed in December 1998.

The school, meanwhile, was going through significant change. Elections for the first Student Council were held in October 1996. As a group of students elected by their peers, the student council worked hard to address issues of concern and to organise student events and activities. The introduction of the council also provided a medium for communication between the students and the school administration, where all opinions were valued equally.

- A** Ms. Stacy Lai's Grade 6 class
- B** Aberdeen campus under construction
- C** Christmas performance
- D** CDNIS staff
- E** Grade 8 Graduation
- F** Christmas performance



## **Cantonese to Mandarin**

*The Chinese programme, which to this day is still heralded as one of the best amongst international schools in the city, originally taught Cantonese as its Chinese teaching medium. However, following a review conducted by the school, Principal Neil Johnston announced the switch to Mandarin instead. Surveys of both parents and students alike showed that Mandarin was the more popular option.*



# 1997 – 1998

**W**ith construction of the new Nam Long Shan campus very much in progress, the 1997-1998 school year proved to be a fairly quiet year for CDNIS. It was however a year of immense transition for Hong Kong, as the city – having been under British rule for 150 years – would be returned back to China on July 1, 1997 (following successful negotiations between the United Kingdom and China and the 1984 Sino–British Joint Declaration. Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region of China, which ushered in significant changes to the local education system.

For example, the handover resulted in a shift from the English model with regards to secondary education. Rather than maintaining the traditional system of five years of secondary schooling followed by two years of university matriculation,

the implementation of the Chinese model meant that schools now offered three years of junior secondary plus three years of senior secondary, while university education was lengthened from three to four years.

Therefore, families looking to continue pursuing the consistent English education model would have to look towards international schools to provide such offerings. The lack of English medium instruction schools benefitted CDNIS, as a growing reputation and competitive fees helped position the school as an attractive choice for prospective parents. However, the size limitations imposed by the three rented campuses would represent a hurdle and it wouldn't be until the 1998-1999 academic year that the school's ambitious expansion plans were fully realised.



**A** 1998-1999 Class 8B with homeroom teacher, Mr. Tim Kaiser

# 1998 – 1999

Part of the initial agreement for the leasing of the Borrett Road and Kennedy Road campuses was that both sites would have to be returned back to the Hong Kong Government no later than October 1998. However, CDNIS managed to successfully negotiate to hold onto the two campuses until December 31, 1998.

Despite the extra two months, construction delays to the Nam Long Shan campus would force the CDNIS board to explore possible “fall back premises”, following confirmation from the Education Department that no further extensions would be granted. One of the potential sites was the vacant passenger terminal of Kai Tak Airport.

While a potential short-term lease of Kai Tak Airport may have been an interesting prospect for CDNIS, construction of “phase one” of the Nam Long Shan campus managed to complete by December 31, and all contents were subsequently moved to the new facility. The final legal process was that the school had yet obtain an Occupation Permit to enable its occupation of the campus by the staff and students. It was only through a supreme effort by all involved that CDNIS finally managed to secure a temporary permit on Saturday, January 9, 1999 to enable it to open for classes on January 11, 1999.

The official Occupation Permit was finally obtained on March 14, 1999 thereby allowing CDNIS to draw down the government interest-free loan to repay the bridging loan from HSBC.

Though the school opened on January 11, various works on the campus continued through to the Official Opening Ceremony that was held on May 11, 1999. The illustrious event was officiated by then Chief Secretary, Madam Anson Chan, and then Consul-General of Canada, Mr. Colin Russell. Also in attendance were a number of highly distinguished guests including business magnate Mr. Stanley Ho and Mr. Alan Li Fook-Sum, Chairman of The Jockey Club.

In 1998, CDNIS became an Apple Distinguished School. The school would go on to host the worldwide Apple Education Conference in 2008. The school continues to be recognised as a leading Apple Distinguished School based on its Digital Learning Infusion approach.



## **CDNIS Achieves Through-Train Status**

*Having added a grade every year since it opened its doors back in 1991, CDNIS finally completed its “through-train” objective during the 1998-1999 academic year. A total of 701 students were enrolled for the new school year, with CDNIS celebrating its first graduating class in 1999.*

## **Possible Alternate Campus**

*With the opening of the new Chek Lap Kok Airport, operations at the former Kai Tak Airport ceased on July 6, 1998. In the following years, before it was demolished in 2004, the passenger terminal would house everything from government offices to automobile dealerships and showrooms. An ambitious plan was brought forth in 2007, which saw the Hong Kong government issue an open tender for the development of a new cruise terminal. The Kai Tak Cruise Terminal would officially open its doors in 2013.*

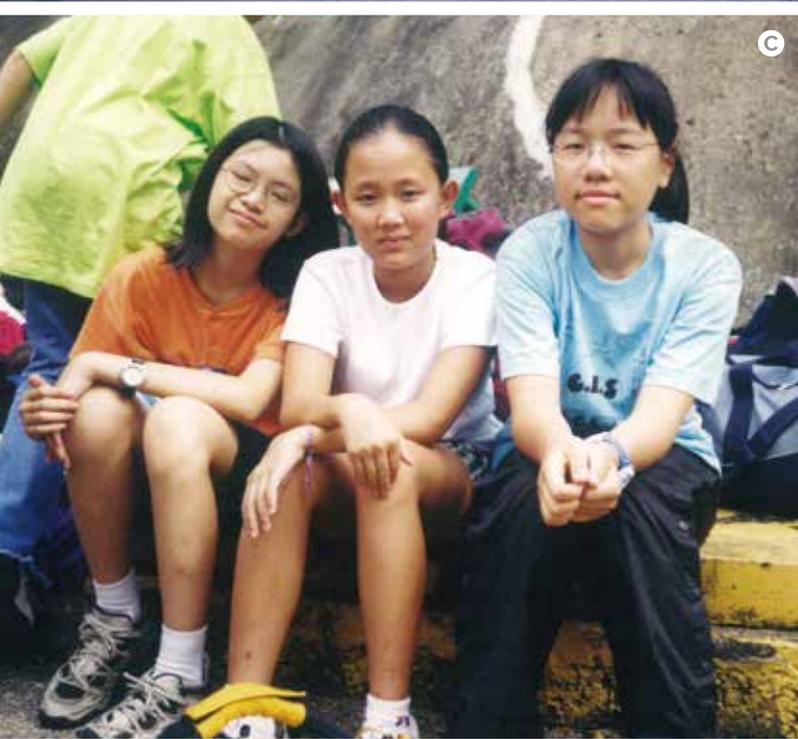




A



B



C



D



E



F



- A Performance in the Forum
- B Ribbon-cutting ceremony for opening of CDNIS campus at Nam Long Shan Road
- C Taking a well-deserved rest after a long hike
- D Phase I of CDNIS
- E Halloween
- F Field trip to the New Territories
- G Friends forever

## “ Fundraising

Fundraising continued to be a challenge for the school. In fact, the school had to rely on donors to contribute numerous furniture items and other appliances to be used in the school. Some of these items can still be found around the school today (2017) – including a wooden table in the library.



# 1999 – 2000

The 1999-2000 school year would always be remembered for the devastating effects that Typhoon York would have on the brand new Nam Long Shan Campus. York, the first Number 10 tropical storm to hit Hong Kong since 1983, buffeted the SAR with hurricane-strength winds. With the eye of the storm literally passing over the new phase one building, winds of up to 200km attacked the building's metal roof with uplifting forces stronger than anyone's reasonable expectation. For 11 hours, the longest on record, signal Number 10 was in force. When it was finally over, more than half of the burgundy-colored roof had been pulled off. No one was injured, and the structure of the building, including the Canadian-imported heavy timber, was not damaged.

School had to be suspended for one day, but enthusiastic staff and teachers all returned to the campus and together with workers of Chatwin, helped clear out the debris and arranged temporary covering to the opened parts of the roof. A new roof system was reconstructed utilising a much stronger anchoring method.

With Phase 1 now complete, focus shifted to Phase 2 of the construction project. The Board and staff began to coordinate and supervise the Phase 2 construction project as teams worked closely with architects and contractors on the project.



## School Website

During the summer break in 2000, CDNIS launched its very first school website. Originally constructed and maintained by a part-time consultant who worked with the school's IT Department, version 1.0 of the website was considered very "primitive and basic" compared to what we have today, as it provided only basic information about the school and teachers. Interactive features were not available.

## Canadian Prime Minister Visits CDNIS

The 2000-2001 academic year would also be remembered for the visit by then-Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien. In the midst of a 10-day trip to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, alongside the Minister for International Trade, provincial premiers and territorial government leaders, the Canadian Prime Minister took the time to visit CDNIS.

During his stay in Hong Kong, the Prime Minister remarked: "For generations... Canada and Hong Kong have been the best of friends... Perhaps the most visible proof of this is the Canadian International School of Hong Hong. It is a symbol of how Canadians have become a part of the fabric of life in Hong Kong." He further described CDNIS as "a superb example of the combined power of our ingenuity. It is a stunning showcase for Canadian architecture and a model for the use of IT in the classroom and creative teaching and management."



A



B



D



F



G



- A** Parents in attendance
- B** Students and parents unite in song
- C** Computer Lab at CDNIS
- D E** Chief Secretary Donald Tsang visits CDNIS
- F** Model of CDNIS Phase 1 and 2 project
- G** Staff Appreciation Reception
- H I J** Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien gets a CDNIS welcome



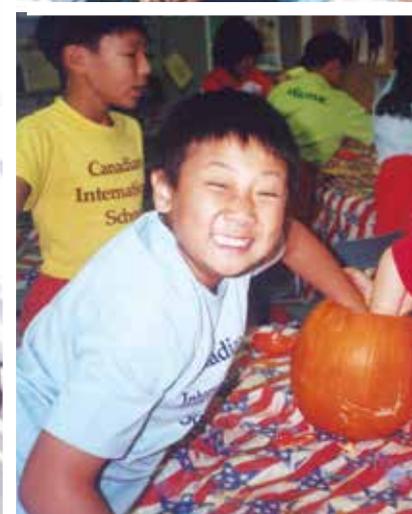
# 2000-2001

The summer of 2000 saw the appointment of Allan McLeod as the school's third Principal. (a title which was soon changed to Head of School), while Sharon Carew was hired as Vice Principal of the Secondary division.

Meanwhile, the Board continued to oversee the school's expansion plans. The CDNIS Premises Committee was able to obtain permission from the Board for the development of Phase 2.

There was some uncertainty if there would be enough demand to warrant the building of an additional four floors. To mitigate the risk, the Premises Committee arranged for the Phase 2 tender to include an "option" to construct the additional four floors: the decision to proceed would be made at a later date/while construction was in progress. Wing Hong Construction Company was subsequently awarded the lucrative contract for the construction of Phase 2 in July 2000.

While Phase 1 of the school's Nam Long Shan campus had been completed the previous year, a surge in enrollment led to the Board approving the development of five additional classrooms on level 2. The contract for this was given to Patt-Davey Limited, a company that had previously been responsible for much of the interior fitting around the school building. The relatively modest expansion project was completed in August 2000, just after the summer holidays.

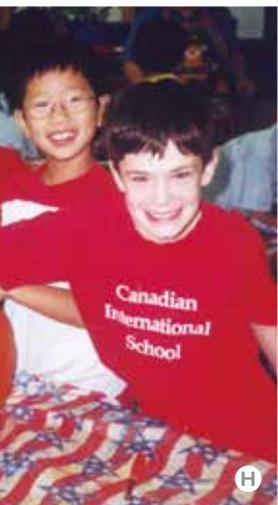




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- A B C Blue Lagoon Ball
- D 10th Anniversary School Photo
- E Paddle boat fun in the school's swimming pool
- F Remembrance Day at CDNIS
- G - J Halloween

# 2001 - 2002

With enrollment reaching a new high of 996 students, the CDNIS Board recognised the need for even more space. Therefore, the decision was made to build an additional four floors to the existing building, while construction of Phase 2 was underway. The decision would result in the completion of Phase 2 being deferred to August 2002.

As CDNIS celebrated its 10th Anniversary, the school would once again play host to a number of prominent dignitaries including ex-Chief Executive of Hong Kong Mr. Donald Tsang, who was Chief Secretary, CDNIS Honorary Patron and Honorary President; as well as Canadian Consul-General, Mr. Anthony Burger.

A new indoor swimming pool was planned, and the school hosted the Blue Lagoon Ball in order to raise funds for the project. Held on April 20, 2002 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the ball – organised by a committee chaired by Alan Dick and Perveen Crawford – successfully raised nearly HK\$2 million.





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- A Preparing for CNY festivities
- B Timberwolves basketball team
- C Learning and Teaching at CDNIS
- D Socialising with friends
- E Celebrating Chinese New Year
- F G H Apple Distinguished School
- I Learning together
- J Athletics at CDNIS
- K Life in CDNIS is always filled with smiles and laughter
- L Chinese New Year

# 2002-2003

**A** major restructuring of school administrators took place during the summer of 2002. In addition, Phase 2 of the Nam Long Shan campus was completed in August, which enabled CDNIS to benefit from a 30% growth in its student body. Enrollment reached 1,320 students representing over 60 nationalities.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong suffered a major scare in early 2003 due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome across Asia, which hit the Chinese SAR particularly hard. A total of 1,755 cases were reported in Hong Kong, with 299 fatalities. Fear of the virus gripped the whole city, as face masks became a common sight on the streets, while public places were disinfected several times a day. The loss of revenue was immense as restaurants, shops and other entertainment venues were often deserted.

The impact on the education sector was significant, with Arthur K. C. Li, the head of the Hong Kong Education and Manpower Bureau, announcing on March 27, 2003 that all educational institutions would be closed. Initially slated last only until April 6, the closure was extended by another two weeks to April 21. CDNIS would reopen and resume classes on April 22, 2003.





**A** CDNIS Stage Band  
**B – E** In their house colours

# 2003 – 2004



**C**elebrating five years as a full-train school, CDNIS was quickly establishing a positive reputation in the community as the student population continued to grow.

Information Technology continued to be at the heart of the education students received at CDNIS as it was integrated into every area of learning, with unrivalled IT facilities throughout the school. At the time, the school had more than one Apple Macintosh computer for every two students as well as machines spread out throughout the school. There were three main computer laboratories, each with at least 26 computers, with printers, scanners and analogue and digital still and video cameras.



As the school grew, so did its facilities. The school boasted 71 classrooms, 21 project rooms, three computer labs, four science labs, a new media technology and TV production centre, two libraries, two cafeterias, three music rooms, two art rooms, two gymnasiums, a weight training room and fitness centre, a drama and dance studio, a 25-metre pool and more. These facilities allowed the school to deliver on its mission to educate the whole student: a well-equipped academic environment was complemented by excellent facilities for arts and sports. Not only were the facilities in every area of curriculum, but they also allowed the school to run a wide range of extracurricular activities for students.





G



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J

- A CDNIS colours
- B Best buddies
- C Warming up for a sports event
- D CDNIS staff visit neighbouring school
- E Singing in the Forum
- F Friendly competitive spirit at CDNIS
- G A scary pumpkin mask at Halloween
- H Learning to use the skipping ropes
- I Teachers showcase their Chinese drum skills
- J The Chinese New Year celebrations are always fun

## 2004-2005

With Phase 2 having been completed, CDNIS turned its attention to a small piece of land on the southeast corner of the CDNIS property. One of the provisions in the Land Grant was for the school to build 16 residential units to house school staff members. However, upon further discussions and research, school administrators and board members unanimously agreed that the addition of a world class arts complex would further promote the school's growth and development.

Development for the arts complex would cost a seemingly insurmountable HK\$100 million, leading many to be skeptical if the money could be raised. Thankfully, generous donations from several members from the school's community allowed the project to gain traction.

Meanwhile, the 2004-2005 academic year also saw the formation of the CDNIS Alumni Association by a group of early graduates. The association has since developed into an active and respected group within the school's community.





K

- A B Caring staff
- C Head of School David McMaster shares a story
- D Cuddly Canadian huskie
- E - J Chinese New Year celebrations
- K CDNIS begins its IB journey



H



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## 2005-2006

Central to the CDNIS curriculum today is the International Baccalaureate Programme. Comprised of the Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme, the IB, which CDNIS began to phase in during the 2005-2006 academic year, aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Having established a strong reputation for education quality, CDNIS looked to share the achievements of its students through a new publication titled Spotlight.

The school's mission statement was also revised – the first time since 1992. Following an 18-month process with input from students, staff, Board Members and Founding members, CDNIS announced its new mission statement: to Develop Responsible Global Citizens and Leaders through Academic Excellence.





J

- A Athletes of the Year
- B Early sketch of LLAC
- C Class of 2007
- D CDNIS students
- E F G PAC fundraising event
- H CDNIS 15th Anniversary School photo
- I LLAC under construction
- J - N CDNIS students in action



K



L

# 2006-2007



M

The end of the 2005-2006 academic year saw the CDNIS Board vote in favour of implementing the IB programme. The decision followed nearly 15 months of research, debate, professional development, school visits by staff, and numerous parent sessions.

The transformation of the curriculum would be well received by the school community, as everyone came together to commemorate the 15th anniversary of CDNIS. A reception to celebrate this momentous occasion took place on November 20, while the school also hosted the glitzy fundraising ball – Over the Rainbow – at the iconic Peninsula Hotel.

In addition, CDNIS also held the Corporate Golf Challenge at Mission Hills, as part of the 15th anniversary celebrations. Proceeds from the event went towards the funding of the development of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC), which was eventually named the Leo Lee Arts Centre (LLAC). The golf competition also aimed to build relationships between the school and corporate supporters.



N

Continued excellence contributed to the school's strong reputation within the education sector in Hong Kong, which culminated in CDNIS being recognised as the "Leading International School in Hong Kong", by Hong Kong Business magazine's High-Flyers campaign. It would replicate this feat for 2006-2008, and then from 2010-2016.





- A B C** *Opening of the LLAC*
- D E F** *Performances started at the LLAC*
- G** *Chinese dance*
- H** *Studying on the computer*
- I** *Going for the slam dunk*
- J** *Guidance Department*



# 2007 – 2008



**T**he holidays began with the launch of CDNIS' first-ever Summer School Programme. This followed the introduction of the school's new mission statement and curriculum changes made the previous year, and reflected the principles that would guide the school into the future.

This change was clearly exemplified with the rise in social responsibility within CDNIS. The school's Environmental Club created a school-wide environmental policy, which would lead to CDNIS being accredited with a Green School award from the Environmental Concerns Committee of the Government.



Another landmark event was the completion of the Leo Lee Arts Centre (LLAC). The multi-storey complex, built at a cost of HK\$100 million, consisted of a 604-seat auditorium, music rooms, art rooms, drama studio, orchestra pit and a retractable stage. The theatre was designed to hold professional performances to accommodate major events such as school performances and more.

The LLAC was named after Leo Lee following a donation of HK\$10 million by Founding Member Mr. Vincent Lee who elected to name the Arts Centre after his father. Having hosted the Grand Opening event for the development on April 25, 2008, the LLAC officially opened its doors to students a month later on May 29.





- A** Hong Kong Business High-Flyers Award 2009
- B** UNICEF Run
- C D** Musical performances at CDNIS
- E** The Lower School performs in the LLAC
- F G H** The CNY Flower Fair

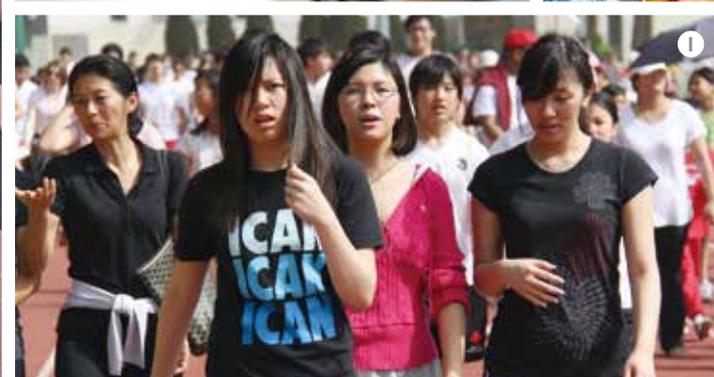


# 2008-2009

**T**he school population continued to expand as the student body numbered just over 1,650 from Pre Reception to Grade 12, making it one of the largest schools in Hong Kong.

When it comes to social responsibility, proactive students' clubs have been involved in several initiatives, including a strong environmental movement where students successfully executed Hong Kong's first "Walk to School" day. The CDNIS Environmental Club also petitioned parents to use car pools rather than driving to school alone and raised funds through bake sales and fairs for plants placed throughout the campus, all of which led to one senior becoming the first student outside Canada to win a notable national environmental award.

CDNIS has been a leading Apple Education School since the 1990s. This included hosting the worldwide Apple Education Conference in 2008. The school would again be recognised as a leading Apple Distinguished School in 2013 and 2016, based on the school's Digital Learning Infusion (DLI) approach.





A-J CDNIS is a busy place  
K-N Alan Dick Memorial Walk

# 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 year will always be remembered for the passing of CDNIS Vice Principal, Mr. Alan Dick. Having first joined the school in 1994, Mr. Dick was a beloved member of the school administration, and well remembered for the close bond that he shared with the students. The school held a memorial at Asia World Expo and hosted the inaugural Alan Dick Memorial Walk in his memory on March 22, 2010.

Many long-standing traditions, such as welcoming students as they enter the school everyday and staff members waving goodbye to their students as the buses leave on the last day of school, were made popular by Mr. Dick. His passion and love for his students left an enduring legacy in CDNIS, and the school continues to celebrate his life by holding the Alan Dick Day every year.

Meanwhile, with enrollment once again at an all-time high, it was decided that another Prep class would be offered, thereby allowing the school to reduce the class size from 25 students to 20.





G

A – F CDNIS staff and students support numerous causes

G Staff waving goodbye to students on the last day of school

H I J Artist in Residence



H

# 2010 – 2011



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The Artist in Residence concept was introduced during the 2010-2011 academic year, as a means of providing students with exposure to different art forms. The very first Artist in Residence was paper craft maker Master Chan Kwai Chau, who visited CDNIS in October 2010. A native of Qingyuan in Guangdong province, Master Chan came to Hong Kong in 1935 to apprentice at his uncle's paper crafts workshop - Chau Kee. He acquired essential skills such as cutting bamboo, drafting, and gluing paper and witnessed the boom and bust of this unique art.



J

Unsurprisingly, the initiative was very well received by the school community, and continues to be a prevalent part of the education journey here at CDNIS. Other noteworthy guests to have taken part in the programme include renowned Canadian totem carver Bill Helin, Australian percussionist and educator Steve Stiller, designer of the worldwide hit children's TV show "Bob the Builder" Curtis Jobling, and Canadian children's recording artists Donna and Andy.

Additionally, the CISPA Forum was renamed in honour of Alan Dick.



*Canadian International School of Hong Kong 2011-2012*

A



B



C



D



E



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- A 20th Anniversary School photo
- B 20th Anniversary School Ball
- C Lion dance commemorating CDNIS 20th Anniversary
- D CDNIS alumni return to the school for the Winter
- E Bill Helin carves the totem for CDNIS
- F Totem pole ceremony
- G The 1st HKCSG remembers Canada's role during the Battle of Hong Kong

## 2011 – 2012

CDNIS celebrated its 20th anniversary during the 2011-2012 school year by hosting a number of commemorative events, including an all-school photo, a student logo competition, Launch and Reception in the LLAC, and a Gala Ball at the Grand Hyatt, from which all proceeds raised would go towards the “Green Roof” project.

CDNIS had already established a strong record for success, with graduates consistently gaining entry into universities that provided programmes catering to individual student interests and passions. Recognising the importance that alumni would play in the future of the school, a dedicated Alumni Officer was hired in 2010, to establish and develop relations with the alumni community. The first overseas alumni event was held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada on January 12, 2012, to coincide with the visit to Queen’s University by senior administrators attending the annual Teachers’ Overseas Recruiting Fair. This marked the start of a tradition, which would see the school organise similar events in the city and others on a near-annual basis.

2011-2012 was also the year that coincided with the 20th anniversary of the 1st Hong Kong Canadian Scout Group (1stHKCSG). Since its inception, the 1stHKCSG has enjoyed great success, with key highlights including the 1996 trip to Moscow, which saw the group visit Star City – home to the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center. Working closely with the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macau, the Group has served numerous Canadian prime ministers over the years.





D



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F



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- A B Incorporating technology into the education experience
- C Retired NHL'ers pose alongside the CDNIS totem, carved by Bill Helin
- D Dressing for the occasion at the CNY Flower Fair
- E Fun at the Family Fun Fair
- F Staff appreciation lunch
- G Class of 2013

# 2012-2013

An important part of CDNIS' success is its positive incorporation of technology into the learning experience. The Learning and Teaching Technologies (LTT) Department is tasked with supporting the development of the technology initiatives at CDNIS. By helping teachers and students to meet the goals of the CDNIS Digital Learning infusion and IB mission statements, the department aims to develop knowledgeable technology leaders who collaboratively participate in the use, production and integration of digital learning and teaching resources. The school's efforts in incorporating technology into learning would see it once again given the rare prestige of being named as an Apple Distinguished School during the 2012-2013 school year.

That year, CDNIS would also play host to former National Hockey League Legends as part of Hockey Night in Canada on May 18, 2013.





- A** Getting a face full of cake
- B** MUN Conference
- C** Bob the Builder creator Curtis Jobling
- D** ASAs inspire creativity
- E** Lower School students perform
- F** A colourful performance by CDNIS students

# 2013 – 2014

**A**s a private, registered non-profit charitable organization under Hong Kong law, CDNIS' success and growth over the years can be attributed in large part to the generosity of its community. This generosity, measured in both time and money, from volunteers such as our Members, Governors, Committee Members, parents and teachers, has helped to shape CDNIS into the school it is today.

Having grown by an average of 100 students per year until this point in time, CDNIS had always benefitted from additional revenue that could be spent on new programmes. The launch of the Annual Fund in 2013 aimed to offset the need for this growth revenue, given that the school's enrollment figures had finally reached a plateau.

The extra projects funded by the Annual Fund would help keep CDNIS at the cutting edge of international education. The money raised hugely increased the "Margin of Excellence" programmes and opportunities for students that were otherwise not covered by the core operating budget. In its inaugural year, the Annual Fund enjoyed great success as HK\$16 million was raised, which would be used towards projects in six categories – Academic Excellence, China Focus, Future Leaders, Global Citizens, Technology, and Teacher Development.



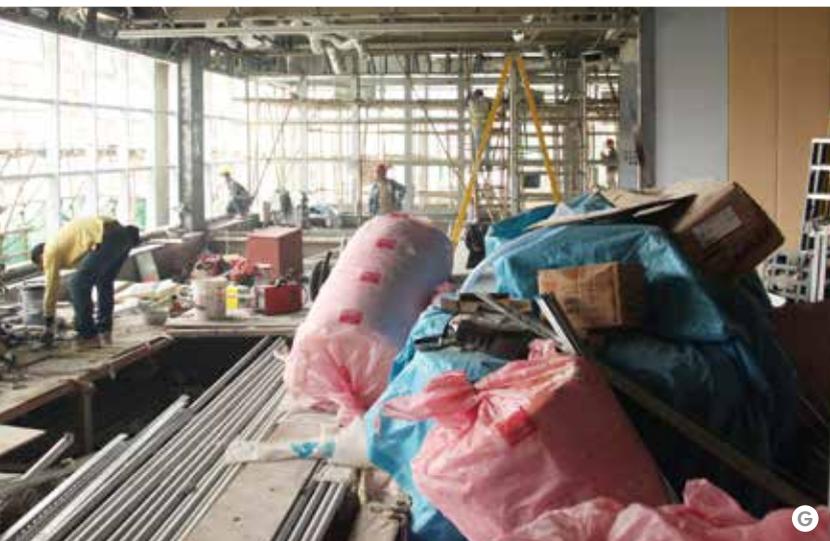




- A** *CDNIS students socializing with one another*
- B** *Green Roof*
- C** *The 1:1 MacBook programme is an integral part of CDNIS*
- D** *Katie Couric and John Wood visit CDNIS*
- E - H** *Construction of the Green Roof and Chinese Cultural Centre*



# 2014 - 2015



**W**ith newly appointed Head of School Gregg Maloberti in its ranks, CDNIS officially announced the unveiling of two new exciting projects – development of the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Green Roof. Both projects were slated for an opening in August 2015.

The former reaffirmed the school’s reputation for having one of the finest Chinese Studies departments among English language schools in Hong Kong, and when realised would feature classrooms, a Chinese library, staff offices, and a large multifunctional open space for performances and exhibits. Moveable walls between classrooms, interactive whiteboards, and gallery lighting also ensured efficient use of this space.



Meanwhile, the construction of the Green Roof would highlight CDNIS’ ongoing support for promoting social awareness and responsibility, as the development would act as a unique experiential learning space that offered innovative and hands-on opportunities for students to appreciate the connection between people, and their outdoor environment. Expected to cover approximately 500 square metres, the Green Roof would include dedicated study and teaching areas, pre-planted vegetables and herbs, a gardening area for the Horticulture Club and curriculum-related work, as well as a small pond connected to a terraced rice paddy system.





- A *The Green Roof*
- B *CDNIS Symphonic Winds*
- C *Family Fun Fair*
- D *Tug of War*
- E *Opening of the Chinese Cultural Centre*
- F *Chinese Cultural Centre*



# 2015 – 2016

Leading up to the school's 25th year of operations, CDNIS unveiled revised vision and mission statements in June 2016. The renewed vision statement: "to inspire excellence, cultivate character, and empower engagement locally and globally", and mission statement: "CDNIS is a school united by the joy of learning, excellence in achievement and development of character. We will inspire academic and personal growth in our students by encouraging inquiry, stimulating creativity and innovation, embracing cross-cultural and global perspectives, and fostering meaningful participation and service," captured what the school's community members want for CDNIS and help express the common expectations for the preferred future of the school.



# 2016–2017

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Interim Head of School David Baird would be hired to re-energize the school, and his extensive experience as an educator would be well received by the CDNIS community. Originally slated to lead the school for two years, Mr. Baird's rapid and positive directional changes to CDNIS would convince the Board to unanimously extend his contract for an additional year, through to June 30, 2019.

"Having an additional year to bring about the many innovations for our school is a gift, and I look forward to working with the entire school community to continue making CDNIS a top school locally, regionally and internationally," said Mr. Baird following the contract extension announcement in March 2017.

"A Lower School Science Innovation Lab, a world class Library/Innovation space redesign, Project Innovate, and new curriculum programmes are just a handful of the many positive changes to come over the next two years."

Mr. Baird's presence would help provide CDNIS with strong guidance, especially in the midst of the school seeking accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Western

Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Following a highly successful visit by representatives from CIS and WASC, CDNIS announced its status as a candidate school for accreditation in February 2017. In doing so, the school is now ready to begin the Self-Study process which will culminate in the CIS/WASC Team Visit in April 2018.

According to Mr. Baird "Part of the value of accreditation is to be constantly in a growth mindset. To not change, to avoid the essential transitions, is to deny what is vibrant in the world today. Change is at the core of education, especially international education. Who can imagine where we will be in 20 years in terms of technology, jobs, and international mobility?"

Meanwhile, the school's 25th anniversary would see it host a number of high profile guests throughout the year, including most notably UN Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall during the annual Roots & Shoots Youth Summit. During her visit to CDNIS, the highly respected primatologist and environmentalist delivered a speech promoting environmentalism, and shared humorous stories from her youth that helped shaped her keen sense of curiosity and never-give-up attitude to life.

- A Lower School playground
- B Christmas Celebrations
- C Robotics at CDNIS
- D Jane Goodall visits CDNIS
- E Production team and cast of 'Elf'

# VISION STATEMENT

***To inspire excellence, cultivate character, and empower engagement locally and globally.***

# MISSION STATEMENT

CDNIS is a school united by the joy of learning, excellence in achievement and development of character. We will inspire academic and personal growth in our students by encouraging inquiry, stimulating creativity and innovation, embracing cross-cultural and global perspectives, and fostering meaningful participation and service.

To guide our work in achieving our Vision and Mission,  
CDNIS values:

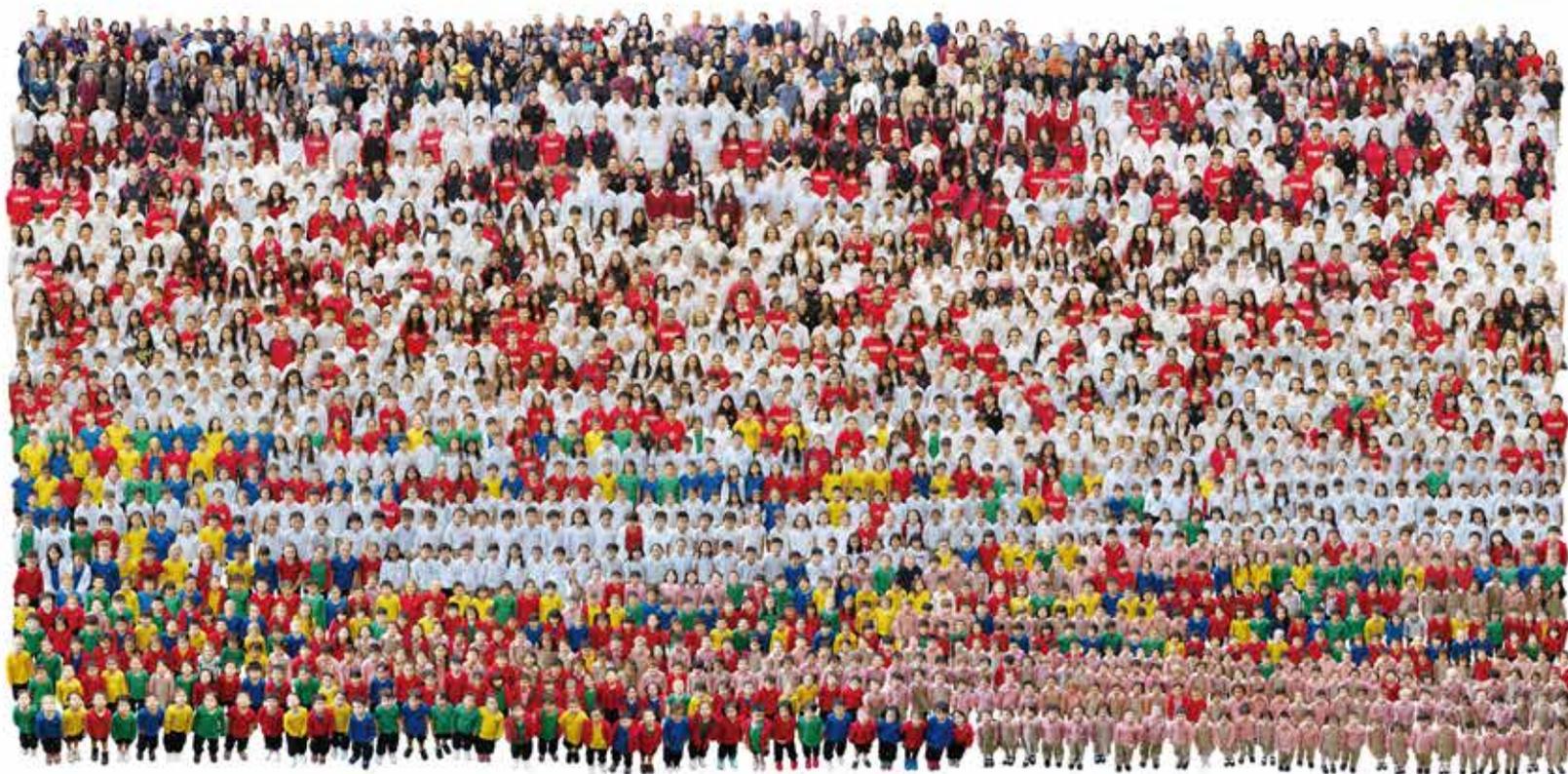
- *Responsibility*
- *Integrity*
- *Respect*
- *Critical Thinking*
- *Leadership*
- *Open Mindedness*







*Canadian International School of Hong Kong  
25th Anniversary*



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2016-2017

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