

DragonNews

Winter 2022 / Spring 2023



- HIS Celebrations and Events
- HIS Champions
- Inside the Classrooms
- International Awards
- PAFA Uniting the Community

Hangzhou International School | An Inclusive IB World School

Table of Contents

3	From the Director
4	Spooktacular Halloween Festival
10	HIS Varsity Volleyball Teams - HISAC Champions
12	HIS Swim Team - Champions
14	Body Awareness and Social Interaction in Grade I
15	Turkey Trot 2022
16	Design Thinking
18	Upper School Design Snapshots
19	Mathematics Curriculum Night Snapshots
20	A Glance Inside the Middle School Science Classes
22	HIS Autumn Book Fair
23	HIS GIN Club
24	International Awards
26	The Orphan Train
30	Sharing Festive Spirit at the Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremonies!
32	Seussical Kids
35	Upper School Winter Arts Night
36	PAFA (Parents and Friends Association)
41	We are Family - Future HIS Dragon Joining the Community
42	CNY Celebrations



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear HIS Community and Friends,

The Spring season has finally arrived, and we welcome the beautiful weather, the blossoming of cherry trees, and the promising beginning of the Year of the Rabbit. And as the grass has slowly turned from tan to green, so too has HIS continued to grow and thrive despite the challenges we had before the new year. It is a time when we can look forward and be optimistic for better times, and to acknowledge the community efforts of all to protect our students' access to learning and keeping HIS a safe and welcoming school. In this edition of DragonNews, we celebrate this year's commitment in 'launching' the new campus and taking advantage of the wonderful new facilities and program opportunities!

In the beginning of the year, we gathered as a faculty and staff to discuss our annual goals. As we were just moving into an amazing brand-new purpose-built campus, it was natural that we commit time and effort into setting up HIS as the warm and welcoming place for learning that it has been for over 20 years. Whenever we face challenge or change at HIS, we return to our mission statement to give focus on what is most important about 'what we do' as we move forward into a new chapter (and a new address) for HIS. Below I share again our mission statement and the goals we set out for launching our new campus and programs this school year.

The HIS Mission Statement:

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

The key goals we set for this year 'Launching' were to:

1. **Launch the new campus** with focus on safety and sustained improvements.
2. **Launch more involvement in decision-making** by middle leadership and students.
3. **Launch initiative for more effective use of time** for planning, teaching/learning, and anticipated growth.
4. **Launch and enhance critical programs** that will thrive with new facilities and spaces.
5. **Prepare for schooling under different pandemic measures.**

Spring has also brought forth several events that we should also celebrate: the 100th day of school, the sharing of learning during student-led conferences, sporting tournaments, our upper school musical (The Addams Family) and news of university admissions. We are so blessed to be 'launching' forward with our students in-person and at our new campus. In fact, HIS just set a new milestone as it welcomed in more than 800 students! It is a great time to be at HIS and it is great to be an HIS Dragon.

GoooOOO Dragons!!!

Jeffrey R. Stubbs
Superintendent

Spooktacular Halloween Festival



Halloween was fun for everyone, and the students looked tremendous in their costumes!



Spooktacular Halloween Festival

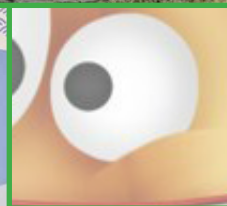




HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!



Spooktacular Halloween Festival



Trick or Treat!



HIS Varsity Volleyball Teams



Jamie Cattran
Upper School
PE and Health Teacher
Volleyball Coach



Nichola Hollingsworth
Upper School
PE and Health Teacher
Volleyball Coach

A crisp October morning saw a buzz of excitement descending on the new HIS campus as schools from around Hangzhou arrived in our awe-inspiring facilities. Comments abounded about the detailing of our Dragons Lair and the exercise in walking up our grand staircases.

Game One saw HIS Boys (HISB) facing Chinese International School Hangzhou (CIS) as the atmosphere started to heat up and the music rang through the gyms. Unfortunately, Daniel Fryer rolled his ankle in the warm-up and was out for the tournament. He demonstrated improvement in his role as a Libero, and we relied on him as a defensive specialist and emotional leader. Andy Wu, Joey Lee, and Kris Zhong stepped up, rotating in and serving in the back row. Both lines played solid team volleyball, with accurate passing and timely tips, starting the day with a 25-16, 25-14 win. Heading right into the HIS Girls (HISG) vs CIS and despite nerves and warming up in a chilly gym the team pulled together well with some great hits from Raina Chaurasia and brilliant setting from Flora Moon and Yuki Chan, sealing the first victory of the day 25-17, 25-22.



Game Two started immediately for HISG against the combined team of Hangzhou Dipont School of Arts and Science/Kings College School (HDSAS). With a buzz in their step the team took the first set soundly 25-6. But not to give a fan or coach an easy day they pumped up the intensity and lost some easy balls to give the next set to HDSAS 27-25. Keeping things interesting by fighting back from 1-8 with some brilliant hits from Manya Jain that just could not be returned and excellent serving from Tonya Liu sealed the final set for a HIS victory 16-14. Coach Hollingsworth requests that they stop having such close games as her heart really can't take the stress.



HISAC Champions!



Game Two for HISB was also against HDSAS where the boys played their most complete game of the season. The serves were on point, we were covering well, and getting some great hits. Ben He had some clutch tips, and James Lee was playing lights-out mistake-free volleyball. The score in the first set was 25-8, and the second set was 25-19 for the victory.



Game Three for HISB against the combined Wellington International/Huili School (WCIH) team was an intense match, where the boys displayed toughness, and Mamba mentality with multiple lead changes in the game. We went with all the seniors in our starting lineup. The boys played with emotion and energy, getting off to a fast start. After making multiple costly errors in the middle of the game we found the score tied at 20-20. The boys finished strong with an excellent string of sets from Benjamin Branham and constant communication. Emanuele Pan had some nice tips at the net, Kris Zhong had a great hit, and Andy Wu was serving very sharply. The boys finished the season and tournament undefeated, and more importantly, grew as leaders and teammates along the way.

Game Three for HISG V WCIH saw a return of their brilliant hitting and consistent serving, stopping the younger team in their tracks. Saanvi Tyagi stepped and clutch serving, Jerry Cheng had great hustle-diving plays up well with some great movement on court and Madita von den Hoff consistently showed why she is a force to be reckoned with. HIS left little doubt of their abilities with a sound victory 25-8, 25-10.

Both teams demonstrated their growth of skill and mindset, keeping cool under pressure, and raising each other up after losing a point. Like Coach Nichola Hollingsworth said *"Our student athletes really rose to the challenge of the HISAC tournament and proved what the power of mindset and teamwork can achieve. They should all be so proud of the effort and commitment they have shown this season."* They didn't attend ACAMIS this season because of travel restrictions, but we were truly a championship team on and off the court.



HIS Swim Team



Natalio Lieres
Aquatics Coordinator
and Aquatics Teacher



Congratulations to our passionate and hard-working Dragons swimmers who brought home the first Hangzhou International Schools Junior Swimming Invitational 2022 and Team Award Overall Champion!

HANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS JUNIOR SWIMMING INVITATIONAL 2022

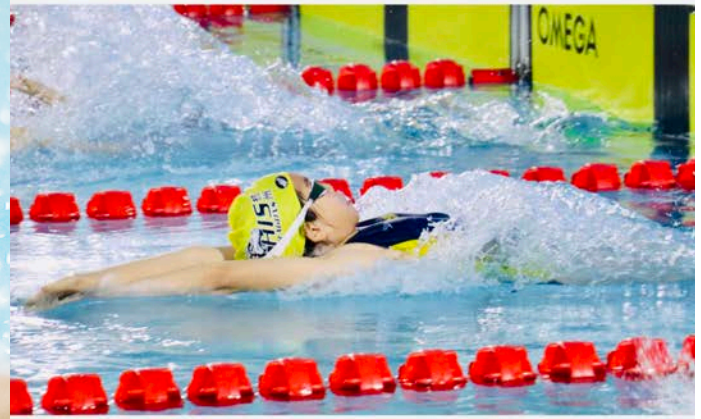
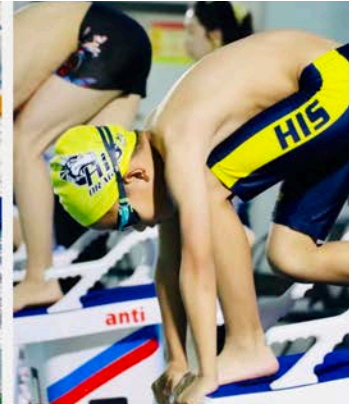
2022年杭州市青少年国际学校游泳邀请赛

HISI赛会 团体总分

排名	代表队	得分
1	杭州国际学校	438.5
2	一博体育	423
3	向洋体育	350
4	钱江贝善恩国际学校	229
5	GC战队	197.5
6	天元公学	123
7	杭园江东	111
8	秋邦文理学校	89
9	明乐体育	44
10	上海外国语附属杭州学校	21

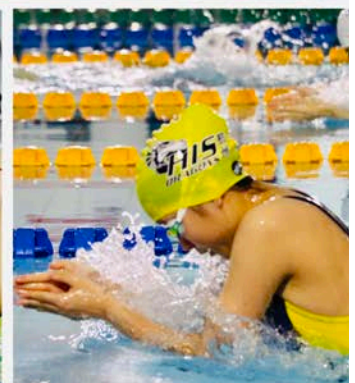


Champions!



The 2-day competition consisted of 10 teams (International schools and local swim clubs) and was officiated by over 50 local and international referees at Hangzhou Li-Ning Sports Park.

It was the first year the HIS Dragon Swim Team participated in the event. Naomi Xia was awarded the Best Female Athlete in the 11-12 age-group.



Congratulations, student-athletes, coaches, and parents!
You continue to make us proud!



It was quite a semester for our young student-athletes. After boasting strong showings in all virtual swim meets and local championships, they finished with the 2022 internal Santa Splash Swim Meet. It put our swimmers in the holiday spirit.



Body Awareness and Social Interaction in Grade 1



*Young Kelly
Lower School
Physical Education
Teacher*

HIS Grade One PE emphasizes the holistic well-being of each student. We strive to create a safe and inclusive environment for all, enabling children to develop healthy relationships, take ownership of their learning experiences, and reflect on their actions. It also promotes growth by allowing students to have every possibility to learn and explore the diverse aspects of movement in a non-traditional, fun, and engaging environment creating a community of learners with a growth mindset.



The Social interaction - Cooperative games and partner activities address a grade-specific benchmark related to movement, safe and fair play, understanding, and personal & social skills. This helps students make accurate decisions in life by pushing them toward a socially healthy routine. Several decisions taken up by students in their early years tend to make a difference in their future and emotional health.



Body awareness - specific hand-eye coordination movement outcomes, provide students with the foundational movement skills needed for successful participation in different physical activities.



Turkey Trot 2022

**A beautiful day to run/hike the trails from the Lianhua Old Temple to the HIS Campus.
Thank you, students, parents, and faculty that joined us!**



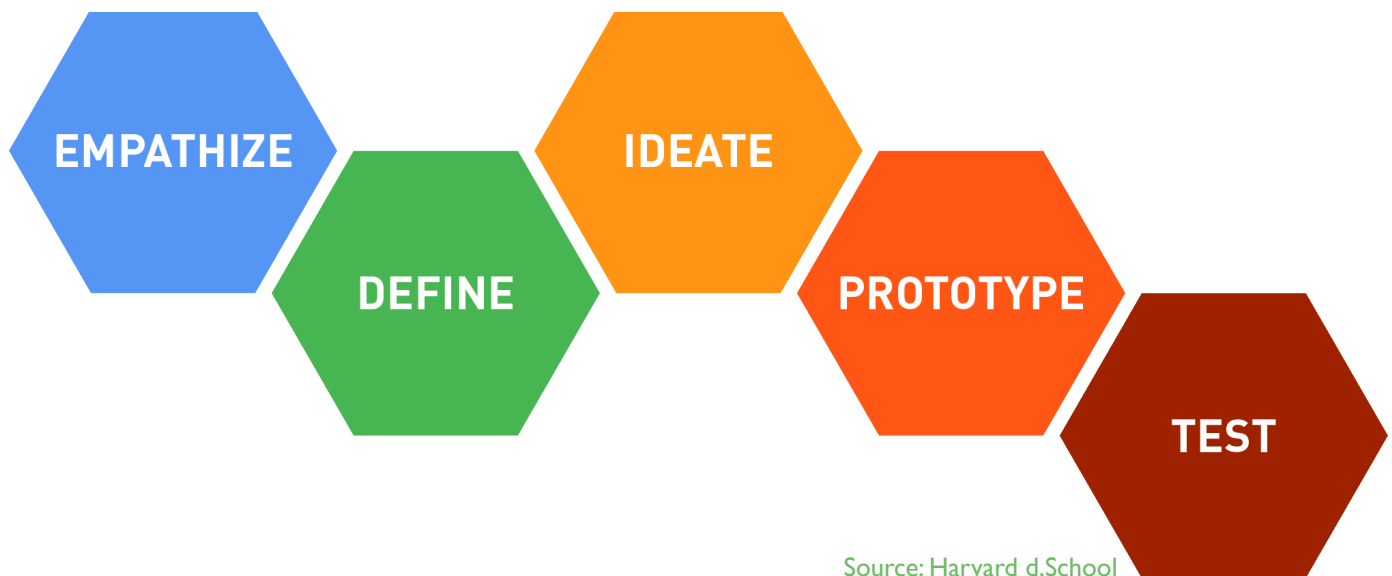
Design Thinking



Emlyn Majoos
Lower School
Design Technology
Teacher

Design thinking is an innovative approach to problem solving. It is an iterative method that is used to solve complex problems with a focus on designing for a specific purpose or person. Correct implementation and practice of this method give rise to creative solutions to real world problems.

The process involves 5 steps: *Empathize*, *Define*, *Ideate*, *Prototype*, *Test*.



- Empathize:** Designers understand the audience that they are designing for, by conducting interviews and observing.
- Define:** Designers adapt their point of view to that of the user. Here they identify who the user is.
- Brainstorm:** Designers come up with as many ideas as they can.
- Prototype:** Designers build a model of one of the ideas they brainstormed.
- Test:** Designers share their prototype with the intended user or audience.

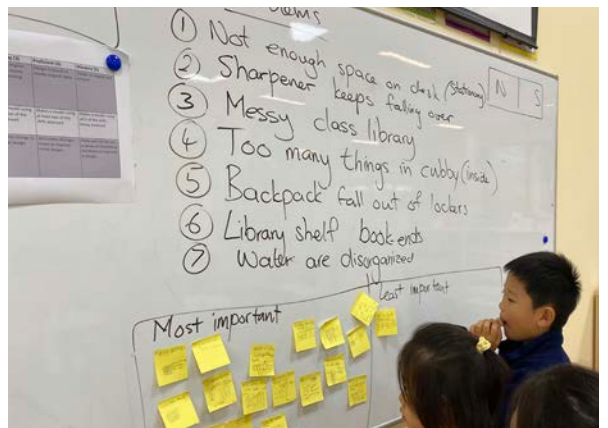




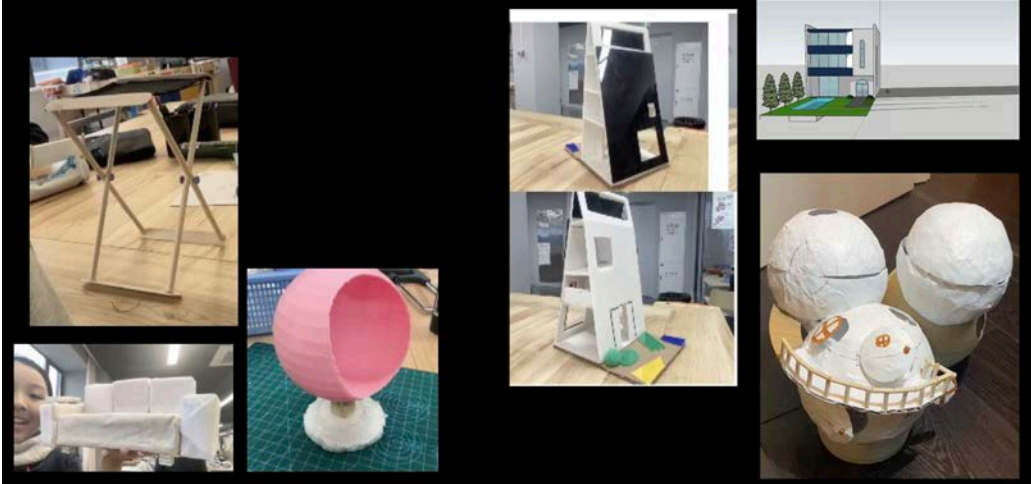
During our collaborative design and technology lessons our lower school students and teacher have been taking part in Introductory Design Thinking workshops to better understand how the process works and how to implement it to real world problems.



In Grade 2 our students learned how to apply the design thinking process in order to design a playground for their classmates. They were asked to interview a peer (Empathize) to find out more information about them and then understand what they would like to see in their playground design (Define).



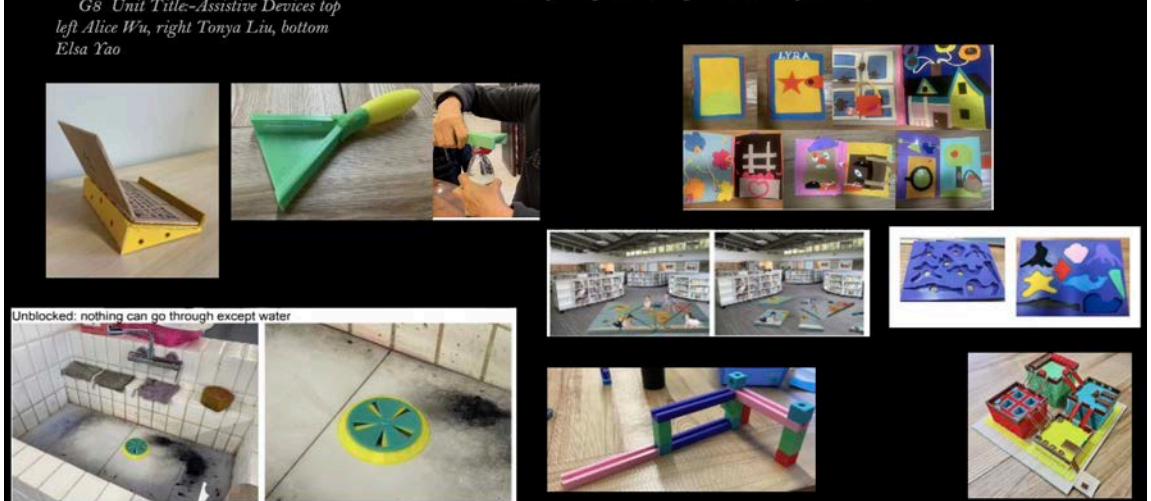
Upper School Design Snapshots



G8 Unit Title-Assistive Devices top left Alice Wu, right Tonya Liu, bottom Elsa Yao



G 9 Unit Title:- Educational Toy. top Betsi Kibble, middle left Beatrice Kelly & right Sunny Weng; bottom right Jia Chen, left Ikki Ma



Mathematics Curriculum Night Snapshots

This was a good opportunity to see the children develop their mathematical thinking skills; and how, through engaging hands-on experiences, our children develop the knowledge and skills of mathematics in our rigorous programme.

During the event, parents were encouraged to think like a mathematician and talk to the children as they challenged them with some of the problems and activities they have encountered in the classroom.

Remember, you cannot learn the IB programme in a newsletter item or by participating in one curriculum night. However, you can learn more about IB by reading small snapshots in the newsletter, attending upcoming curriculum nights, reading your teacher's Moments365 messages, attending class celebrations of learning, and, most importantly, by listening to your child. By doing this, you will see how the IB comes to life and prepares HIS students to become lifelong learners.



A Glance Inside the Middle School Science Classes



Justine Kushner
Upper School
Science
Teacher



Anna Galuszka
Upper School
Science
Teacher



The Grade 6 and 8 Science students studied Chemistry this quarter and conducted some interesting investigations. They observed and identified the differences between physical and chemical changes in matter and determined if mass changes during a chemical reaction. The Grade 8s performed independent synthesis, decomposition, and combustion reactions for their lab reports. They also conducted a metal reactivity series. Students experimented with various PHET and GIZMO simulations to build atoms, manipulate states of matter and balance chemical equations.



The Grade 7 students studied Physics and topics related to energy and heat transfer. Students practiced their lab skills by planning the investigation individually and collaboratively in their "Honey and Maple Syrup Candies" Lab. Students compared average temperature changes of samples of honey and maple syrup with the same mass when a specific amount of energy is added. In the design they identified the dependent and independent variables and controls. They collected and analyzed their data while practicing their research skills. Students also deepened their knowledge and understanding of the unit through online simulations such as "Energy Forms and Changes" and "Heat Transfer by Conduction".

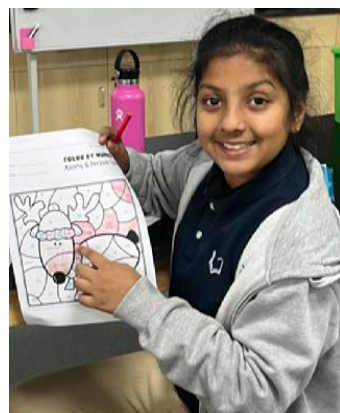
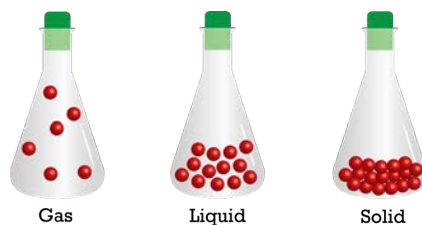


Upper School Science Student Insights



*Dennis Lu
Upper School
MYP Grade 6
Student*

In the second unit of science, we learned about chemistry with Ms. Kushner. We mostly learned about the difference between a physical change and a chemical change. A physical change is a change that affects the form of a chemical substance, but not its chemical composition. A chemical change on the other hand, is a change when two or more reactants are mixed and change in temperature, color, formation of bubbles, and so on! In the DP lab, when we first started the unit, we learned the states of matter: liquid, gas, and solid from the experiment of pouring water in a heated pan. Knowledge of atomic and molecular structure enabled us to understand everything that happens around us!



HIS Autumn Book Fair



*Ingrid Majoos
Lower School
Library and Media*

It was so fantastic to welcome all students, family members and staff to the HIS Book Fair. Many thanks to all who came and supported this school initiative. It was wonderful to see all the happy faces choosing their favorite books.

A special thanks to all sponsors of the Book Fair competitions. Each winner got to choose a book from the fair and this came with a lot of excitement.



GIN Club News

Gin Club students have been keeping busy this semester with its recycling awareness initiative. For this purpose, we created recycling videos, designed decorative paper waste bins, and informative posters. We will use these materials on social media platforms and around the campus to help the community recycle their waste into the correct categories.

GIN Club students wrote a drama skit to demonstrate the proper use of the four recycling bins and performed it on stage at the student assembly.



We showed the skit at the online parents' meeting, and parents learned how to recycle and will now help to protect the environment. In the skit, there were four categories of trashcans. Each can have a student acting to present each type of recycling. Two other students were various types of trash that correspond to each trashcan.

I (Netanya Chaurasia) and Elly Hwang planned the types of trash, and Catherine Lee, Christina Saochen, Li-Lian Huang, and Avanthika Bairaboina played inside the trashcans. Catherine played green (organic waste), Christina played black (another kind of waste), Li-Lian played red (hazardous waste), and Avanthika played blue (recyclable waste). I represented the planet Earth, an orange fruit, and a phone, and Elly represented a candy wrapper and a milk carton. The GIN students had fun making the props and were confident while performing their lines. We hope to see more people recycling at school and at home in the future!



Netanya Chaurasia
Upper School
MYP Grade 6
Student



Catherine Lee
Upper School
MYP Grade 6
Student



Meanwhile, the rest of the GIN members researched energy-efficient ways to use our air conditioning units and the most effective ones. They studied before the winter break what we can all do as a community to decrease our carbon footprint during the winter holidays. We reflected on how we can all make our festivities more sustainable. For example, eating less meat to reduce carbon emissions; buying local food; composting leftovers; using reusable wrapping; buying locally produced gifts; and decorating our houses with more natural materials. Gin Club members also did two trash-pick-up walks along the canal behind our new campus to further beautify our area.

Grade 12 Students Received International Awards

At the last Upper School assembly, we honored some of our outstanding Grade 12 students with awards received from internationally recognized institutions and competitions.



Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program

Andy Wu has been named as a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program granted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

He is being recognized for his exceptional academic performance in the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. He competed against the top 50,000 students throughout the nation. Only 230 students outside the USA obtain this recognition, and Andy is one of them!

This is not only a testimonial of Andy possessing outstanding potential for academic success but also a testament to the quality education he has received at Hangzhou International School (HIS) since he began back in 2014. Congratulations, Andy!



Global Citizenship Award

The 2022 Global Citizenship Award granted by the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) is an award that recognizes a student as open-minded, well-informed, aware, empathetic, concerned and caring for others. A student that encourages a sense of community while they are strongly committed to engagement and action to make our world a better place.

This year the recipient of this award is Grade 12 student Young-Eun Flora Moon, who has been at HIS since 2016. Congratulations!

Grade 12 Students Received International Awards



Incredible Results at NEC China Competition

The National Economics Challenge (NEC) is America's most prestigious economics competition for high school students. The competition attracts over 12,000 students to participate each year, and it has also become a gateway to university education.

Our Grade 12 students from the HIS Econ Club participated in the NEC China competition this year and brought home many individual and team awards.



Individual Award Winners

Finisher Award and National Overall Team Silver Award:

Bruce Kerr, Eason Wang, Andy Wu, and James Kang,

Finisher Award

Kris Zhong
Mandy Liao

Team Award Winners

The AS283 Team, made up of Bruce Kerr, Andy Wu, James Kang, Eason Wang, received several top honors, including the National Overall Team Silver Award, Critical Thinking Top Team in Economic Analysis Award, and Top Scoring Team City Award.

The HIS Mission is to provide international learners with opportunities to pursue academic and personal excellence within a caring community. We believe in empowering our students to pursue their academic potential and passions in life. Congratulations to the above award-winning students for their achievements!



Bruce Kerr



Eason Wang



Andy Wu



James Kang



Kris Zhong

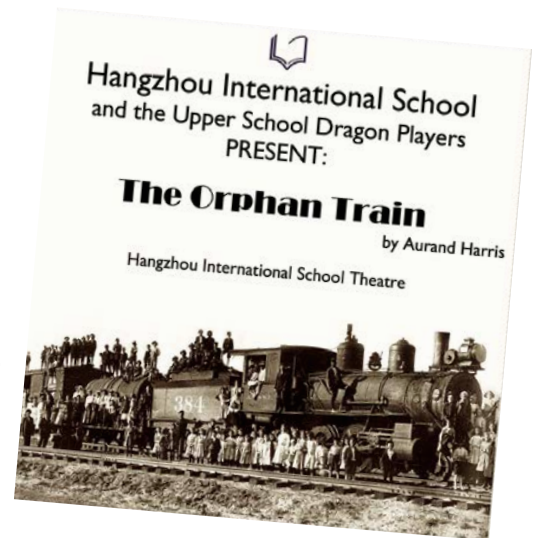


Mandy Liao

The Orphan Train



Gabby He
Marketing and PR
Officer



The Orphan Train, written by Aurand Harris in the last century, was brought to life by talented HIS Upper School students.

Our students in grades 6-10 rehearsed this theater adaptation with commitment and passion. They were eager to develop thespian' skills and bring a high-quality production performance to the community in our purpose-designed theatre facility. Drama Teachers in Upper School, Tia Moen, and Ellie Caven, prepared and guided the students do their best!

Ms. Moen shared that since the school year began, the drama classes had been working on tableaux and telling stories with pictures. The co-curricular drama classes had worked on bringing those skills into stage practice.

The Orphan Train production was possible thanks to dedicated and passionate experienced drama teachers, hard-working and talented students, beautifully designed costumes, a well-chosen soundtrack, well-designed lighting, and the support of the administrators and parents. The standing ovation from the audience proved it all!



Upper School Drama Production



The Orphan Train



Upper School Drama Production

Nothing compares to first-hand learning experience. Behind the glamour of the stage and performance, our students have something to say about The Orphan Train:

Samaira Chadha

The Orphan Train was a fun experience, especially in the new theatre. I learned more about blocking and how to use the stage well. We all had to work on our projection skills to make sure everyone in the audience could hear us in such a large space. I love theatre arts, and my favorite part

is the community feeling, and the friends we all make throughout this entire experience.



Tonya Liu

My biggest challenges were when I was inside a wine cellar, and staying in the part. At first, I was confused about what to do in an imaginary space. I had trouble deciding if my acting screams sounded real or not. Another big challenge was staying still, but it was also fun. The best part of making the show was the cast and crew. During the last week of rehearsals, everyone was together, and we bonded and formed a family. Being part of The Orphan Train cast was a great experience because the relationships and memories we together made are incredible.



Jason Liu

From this experience, I learned the importance of tableau and how it can affect the whole story of the play. The biggest challenge was staying still in position for most of the play.



Hugo Williams

My biggest challenge was memorizing. Memorizing lines seemed simple at first, but when I tried to not look at my script, I could barely say my 3rd line! That is when I started worrying. After 3 weeks, I had almost memorized my lines, and after 4 weeks, I pretty much knew them by heart. However, at the last rehearsals, after I said: "Cause on the train, no sick or crippled ones were on the train, but I was," I thought I had forgotten the rest! But luckily, I knew what I had to say. My favorite part was the costumes. I wasn't interested or excited about wearing one when I first saw the costumes, but when I saw how well they fit me, I got really excited! If my hat wasn't straight, I quickly set it up! Participating in The Orphan Train has been one of my favorite presentations until now!



Daniel Liu

My biggest challenge was holding our statues' positions for so long. For Pegeen's scene (the longest one), I made the fatal mistake of choosing an uncomfortable statue's position. By the end of that scene, my muscles and bones were aching. My favorite parts of the whole experience were being the first one performing and pantomiming. Everything worked out perfectly, and it was a memorable experience!



Sharing Holiday Spirit at the Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremonies!



*Andrea Stubbs
Director of Admissions
and Community
Relations*

It is a tradition for our Christmas Students Choir and Strings Orchestra, after more than 8 years of participating, to be part of two festive performances at two different hotels, Four Seasons West Lake and Intercontinental Hangzhou. Under the guidance of our caring faculty, Mr. Emer Cordoba and Mr. Kyle Kresge, the students rehearsed with enthusiasm and commitment after school. They sang different Christmas Tunes to enhance the community events.



HIS Choir and String Orchestra Ensembles

What is very important is that every year students don't just spread holiday joy and happiness, but with their participation at the Four Seasons Hotel, HIS students and families help raise money to support the local school for children with autism and learning disabilities; Hangzhou Carnation Autism School.

We all enjoyed these evenings. With delicious food, drinks, and Christmas tunes that made everyone, children and adults alike, cherish the start of the festive season.



FOUR SEASONS
HOTEL
HANGZHOU AT WEST LAKE

Seussical Kids!



Gabby He
Marketing and PR
Officer



Last fall, our Lower School Performing Arts Faculty and Co-Curricular Activities Drama Production chose *Seussical Kids, The Musical*, for the HIS theater stage. This magical musical is a well-known production based on the famous Dr. Seuss stories.

80 students from Grades 3 to Grade 5 joined the cast and crew at the beginning of the school year for the preparation of this magnificent production. The actors were guided for many weeks during their rehearsals by Ms. Abbey Ehling, Ms. Karlene Wong, and Ms. Jessie Xue, directors of the musical production. They created a beautiful performance.

Backstage Magic

Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) students were guided by Ms. Tara Tidbury and Ms. Anita Molina. They spent weeks creating beautiful details on the costumes and making the props from recycled materials!



A Lower School Drama Production!



The Crew Production Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) students showed their skills behind the scenes after working for several weeks learning the different roles involved in a production. They were guided by Ms. Caro Perdomo and Mr. Steven Stover.

They all learned to let their imagination soar, be kind and genuine to others, and believe that anything is possible.



Everyone liked the performance, but they definitely loved the message: "A person's a person no matter how small" because it reminds us of the most precious trait of being caring and kind to each other.



The music and performing arts students in grades 3-5 played a role in this magical music production and were able to show their talents.



Seussical Kids! -Quotes-

Owen Vincent

This is the first and the best musical experience I've ever had. I learned more about singing, how to sing faster and slower, and pay attention to the music while acting. All the actions, costumes, and colors used on the stage made all really pop.



Amy Wang

I really loved the musical. All the directors brought me to this community and made me feel like one of the family.

Pippa Willoughby

In the musical, we had a lot of teamwork, we all worked as one group, and I felt like we were one big family. We were connected and relied on each other.



William Lou

Once I got the message that I did well in the audition, I became happy! When I acted, I was very engaged, and I liked it. I think I'll do musicals in the future because musicals are great!

Henry Tang

I really enjoyed the musical rehearsals, doing the movements and singing songs. I learned how to deal with props properly and the concept of blocking in the play. My favorite part of the musical was "Monkey Around" because we danced around, and it gave us a lot of energy.



Congratulations to all the performers, directors, and faculty members that worked tirelessly to prepare for this show! A big thank you to our parents for being such a supportive audience!

Upper School Winter Arts Night



WINTER
ARTS NIGHT



PAFA (Parents and Friends Association)



Andrea Stubbs
Director of Admissions
and Community
Relations

At HIS, parental involvement is essential and valued. We are happy to continue the school year having different events organized by our Class Volunteer Parents and the Luncheon Committee. Events that unite our diversity and fosters a positive community.

Please, take a look at what they all have to share, and don't forget that we are all PAFA!

From the Luncheon Committee:

Autumn Walk & Picnic

The weather at West Lake was perfect for everyone to walk around with a warm day, few clouds in the sky, and a cool breeze. On the walk parents shared stories about life, career, experience in Hangzhou, and advice in families and children's topics. It was great seeing new parents learn more about the school and returning parents mingle with each other.

After the relaxing walk, we all ended at the Shangri La Westlake Hotel lawn. There, surrounded by gorgeous, luscious trees, we all enjoyed a nice picnic with delicious food, all well-prepared by the *Shangri La's* experienced chefs.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event, and a big shout out to *Shangri-La West Lake*. The General Manager and team, for the wonderful support setting up. Stay tuned for our next event!



Getting the Community Together!

Winter Holiday Lunch

In the spirit of the holidays, PAFA held a lunch gathering at the Hyatt ballroom that brought the school's parents together to celebrate the holiday season.

As the guests arrived at the ballroom decorated in a festive holiday theme, they were greeted by PAFA hosts dressed in red with gold scarves around their necks. Guests were also given either a reindeer antler or a Christmas tree hair clip to wear throughout the event, which added to the holiday spirit.

The event kicked off with a candle decorating activity, where they used a variety of materials to create unique and festive candles that they could take home with them.

As lunchtime drew near, everyone sat down at the tables with red-rimmed plates, wine glasses, and a lovely greeting card from the Hangzhou International School (HIS) placed at each seat. HIS also provided each table with a bottle of red and white wine for

the guests to enjoy throughout the Christmas buffet. The buffet was filled with a variety of delicious and beautifully presented food, ranging from savory dishes to sweet treats. Everyone enjoyed their meal and had a great time socializing with each other as they ate.

After the meal, the group played bingo, with eight people winning prizes. The game brought lots of joy and strengthened the bond of the community. Everyone then participated in a gift exchange, where they had the opportunity to share a small present with someone else at the event. The atmosphere was lively and filled with laughter and cheer as everyone enjoyed the festivities. In total, around 90 people came to the event, making it a successful and well-attended celebration.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the school's parents to come together and enjoy the holiday season in a fun and festive atmosphere. Overall, it was a great way to kick off the holiday season and bring some joy and cheer to the community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!



PAFA (Parents and Friends Association)

From the Class Volunteers: Kindergarten and Grade 3 Coffee Morning

The HIS community strength goes beyond the school walls. PAFA volunteers gathered several parents from kindergarten and grade 3 over a good cup of coffee at *Off Space* café in Binjiang. We were able to meet again (or for the first time) and share the warmth of the HIS community. This has been our main objective since the start of the new school year. The conversations varied from kid's activities to parent's hobbies and jobs. Getting to know each other better has helped create authentic bonds. This should further reinforce our sense of unity as HIS dragon families.



Kayaking

It's always nice to go kayaking in autumn, especially having hotpot at picnic after the water activities.

HIS parents organized an event at Xianghu kayaking park on November 25th. There were eleven families joined the enjoyable one-day trip. Starting from the training of using paddles safely, our laughter never stopped till sunset. Several young kids who went kayaking for the first time were nervous as their boats were being pushed into the lake. After a while they could use paddles and have their kayaks move to wherever they wanted on the lake.

After the hotpot picnic, all families had a 4 km walk around the lake. The trip was well planned, and all the kids had a super great day. Nothing is better than kids' happy laughing! We shall start planning the next trip soon! Go HIS families!



Getting the Community Together!

Grade 8 Families Trip

It was drizzling in the early morning when we were about to set off to Lu Xun's hometown. We met at our old campus, a very familiar place to all of us. The tour guides had already arrived and welcomed everyone onto the bus.

We were still very sleepy on such a cloudy and rainy day. But we woke up while listening to the tour guide's introduction. The good news was it wasn't raining in Lu Xun's hometown. That was a relief! Then the tour guide started to share the history of Shaoxing, where Lu Xun's hometown is. There are many famous people in Chinese history from this small city. Our ears started to perk up and we listened even more carefully to the tour guide when she started to tell us about them.

The oldest person from this area was the Yue Emperor Gou Jian, who was born in 520 B.C. The famous poets, He Zhizhang from Tang Dynasty, and Lu You from Song dynasty, are from Shaoxing. Enlai Da Yu, Wang Xizhi, Qiu Jin, Ma Yinchu, are also from there. We started to feel excited to see the small city that raised so many famous people.

We visited Lu Xun's home and San Wei Shu Wu where he used to go to study. Of course, we couldn't miss visiting the Bai Cao Garden and Xian Heng restaurant, the places we had imagined so many times when reading Lu Xun's writing.

There are three unique tourist attractions in Shaoxing that just happen to be all black: the black hat, the black boat, and the black vegetable. We were lucky enough to experience them all! The show about the characters in Lu Xun's writing opened our eyes again to the beautiful stage. To experience even more local culture, we took in an opera performance at the Yue Opera House. We all had the chance to dress up and learned a short piece of Yue opera to perform.

It was such a fulfilling day!



PAFA (Parents and Friends Association)

Best Flavor of Autumn

When the rice is ripe, the land is ushered into its “golden period”. HIS families head for a day trip to the “hungry farm” on Xinsha Island in Fuchun River in Fuyang.

Upon arrival, families and kids get to know each other as they are from grade one to grade ten! Then it's time to get the job done. The challenge for the day was to feed everyone by harvesting enough food for our meal today, digging for fresh lotus roots, and hunting the fish out from the pond. A feast or not, it's up to everyone.



It was a hard but enjoyable experience digging for lotus roots. You really had to stick your hands and feet in the mud to locate the roots. Our biggest challenge came right at the beginning. We were stuck in the mud! Every step forward took great effort. When some people struggled to learn how to move in the mud, some kids freed themselves by taking off their water pants and going barefoot. It turned out to be great fun!



The second challenge was how to catch the fish from the pond. Followed by cooking with all the fresh ingredients we harvested. How to prepare the fish for a proper lunch? How to make a fire? How to prepare the dough into bread? We made crispy grilled fish, charred baguettes, and sweet roasted corn. Everyone found their favorite work. There was just so much to enjoy and learn, but we tasted the best flavor of an autumn feast from our own labor with friends and parents.



Skating with YoHa Skateboard Community

This was an idea came from HIS Students Patrick Yu, Coco Gu, and Caroline Xue on September 12th of 2022, which the main objective is to motivate their HIS friends to facilitate cultural interchange. In order to achieve that promise, PAFA not only invited Che Lin, who is known as “the first skateboarder of China” as an honorary coach but also get his signature for every new skater.

Keeping PAFA as volunteers can be a vital part of childrens' growth.

Until last weekend, YoHa had recruited more than 50 families to engage in the Saturday skateboarding activity. The community is consisting of children from different regions of Hangzhou city.

You can check the photos in this link:
https://pan.baidu.com/s/10fBtYqvJpQ-_dxKr_O8Q_Q
提取码: ng22

We Are Family | Future HIS Dragon Joining the Community

The **Raniwala Family** moved to Hangzhou six years ago and joined HIS in 2019 when their first-born, Kabir, started his learning journey with us in Early Years 1.



Now Kabir is a proud Kindergarten student welcoming this year to his younger brother Angad in Early Years 1.



Interview with Kabir and Angad's Mom and Dad

1. Why did you choose HIS for both of your children?
Upon researching various international schools around Hangzhou, we realized that HIS offers the best curriculum matching international standards. The HIS community is the most diverse in Hangzhou which is very important to us as parents.

2. What does HIS community mean to your family?
HIS community to us is family. The diversity that it brings to the table is a testimony of it being the best international school in Hangzhou.

3. What positive improvement have you seen in the older brother since he joined HIS?
Kabir has become extremely confident and outgoing after joining HIS. His analytical skills have developed intensively.

4. Was Kabir excited about going to the same school with his younger brother?
Kabir was extremely excited and felt very proud that his younger brother is joining HIS as well. Kabir is a proud HIS dragon.

5. What do you hope for your children during their time on the HIS learning journey?
We are confident about the HIS management, faculty, and community to make our kids into confident and independent boys. We appreciate the IB education system and look forward to being a part of their schooling journey.



"Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!"

Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit!



Andrea Stubbs
Director of Admissions
and Community
Relations

The Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival celebrations are one of the highlights of our school year. It gives our HIS students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to join in the customs and fun of the host country.

This year's celebration started with the Dragon and Lions' traditional performance in Chinese Culture. Later, the celebration continued with the talent show by Lower School students at The Theater and ended the day with the God of Fortune spreading good luck to all and giving a traditional Hongbao with the Upper School students in charge.

From decorating the Chinese Language facilities with colorful Chinese lanterns and artwork to having a traditional Chinese fortune cookie at lunch, the day went by with a good display of talents, skills, and appreciation for the Chinese culture.



In the Year of the Rabbit, the honor of painting the lion's eyes went to our HIS Nurses who have tirelessly kept HIS community safety as a priority, and who are part of larger group of medical personnel and scientists who have helped people around the world through this challenging pandemic. We will not forget this incredible effort for humanity! Thank you so much!!!

祝您兔年：
健康吉祥，万事胜意！

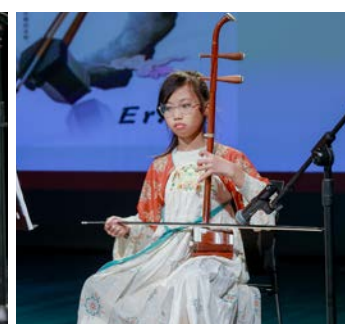
May the Year of the Rabbit
bring you Health, Happiness, and Prosperity!



A Day Full of Traditional Activities and Performances!



Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit!



A Day Full of Traditional Activities and Performances!



Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit!



A Day Full of Traditional Activities and Performances!





The HIS Mission

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

Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!

Hangzhou International School

Phone: (86-571) 8669-0045 - Email: info@his-china.org - www.his-china.org



Production, Layout, and Design: Andrea Stubbs

Articles and photographs are provided by the HIS administration, faculty, students, and parents.

Editor: Sara Freeman, with collaboration from Gabby He, Ingrid Majoos, and Andrea Stubbs.