

DragonNews

Fall 2023



CELEBRATING 900 STUDENTS



BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

- Meet the HIS Team
- HIS Jade Dragons 2023-2024
- Back to School Events
- Foundations for Success
- Building Skills and Creativity
- Jeju Volleyball Champions
- PAFA News

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“A Journey of Community, Opportunity, and Excellence”



Building on Strong Foundations



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear HIS Community and Friends,

We welcome you all back in this first edition of our DragonNews magazine for the 2023-24 school year. For more than twenty years, HIS has been welcoming the smiles of new and returning students, parents, and teachers, and fostering communities that value the traditions they bring with them, the traditions of China, and the traditions of our schools. Of all that we value most about our schools, the people inside our buildings are our greatest treasure and the source and strength of our communities. It is through program design, campus aesthetics, supportive families, and finding and keeping great staff that year after year we can maintain strong bonds within our community and celebrate the diversity and unique contributions of its members. It has been a fantastic start to this school year and to welcome back our HIS Community at our annual barbeque. Each year has been special at HIS and each year we build on the foundations of those before us. Isaac Newton, famous life-long learner (sciences, mathematics, astronomy, alchemy, philosophy, economics, and theology), once said, 'If I have seen further, it is because I am standing on the shoulders of Giants'. In this edition of DragonNews, our aim within the following pages is not only to feature some of the smiling faces of students, parents, and staff in our 22nd year at our new campus, but to also highlight how we are "Building on Strong Foundations".

This past August, HIS welcomed back over 900 students from over 50 nationalities to celebrate our 22nd year in Hangzhou. We are proud of our commitment to excellence and quality program growth over the years, but our greatest accomplishment has been our dedication to a nurturing and caring environment and our individualized attention to students and parents.

Our approach has been simple, too: WE CARE! We love the kids that walk into our classrooms and no other school in the region provides this level of individualized attention within such a rigorous learning environment, outstanding results, and success.

Over the summer, HIS once again received news of outstanding IB results and acceptances into top universities worldwide. Even after our school year had started, we were so happy to bid our farewells and best wishes to our youngest Alumni as eventually all had left for university. Each year we celebrate these successful transitions, including the new 1st graders making their way from the ECE campus to Main, and our former 5th graders now dressed in fresh middle school uniforms.

As part of our vision for learning, the HIS community acts in helping students to achieve academic, athletic, creative excellence as life-long learners. I would like to take this opportunity in advance to thank our motivated students, committed parents, and professional faculty for their continued dedication to our shared vision. I welcome another school year that is bright with embraced opportunities and continues to build on strong foundations of those before us.

As always, GoooOOO Dragons!!!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff R. Stubbs". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrey R. Stubbs
Superintendent of School



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Superintendent



Aaron Ayers
Deputy Superintendent



Lynn Pendleton
Lower School Principal



Jessica Johnson
Lower School
Vice-Principal & PYP
Coordinator



Rene Smal
Lower School
Vice-Principal & ECE
Coordinator



Fursey Gotuaco
Upper School Principal



Liam O'Shea
Upper School
Vice-Principal & MYP
Coordinator



Monica Prieto
Upper School
Vice-Principal & DP
Coordinator



Andrea Stubbs
Director of Admissions
and Community
Relations



Filipe Nogueira
Director of Athletics
and Activities



Danie de Beer
Director of Technology

FACULTY



Natalia Bohorquez
Early Years



Nina Grizzle
Early Years



Emma John
Early Years



Carolina Perdomo
Early Years



Simay Bastedo
Pre-K



Maria Dutari
Pre-K



Ria Marais
Pre-K



Veronica Simova
Pre-K



Avital Kaplan
Kindergarten



Max Pellant
Kindergarten



**Alice van der
Westhuizen**
Kindergarten



Kiomi Yeoman
Kindergarten



Michael Bosley
Grade 1



Amy Lee
Grade 1



Shannon McLaughlin
Grade 1



Axel Soos
Grade 1



David Hatton
Grade 2



Vanessa Kearns
Grade 2



Sean McSheffrey
Grade 2



Matthew Ruiz
Grade 2



Colin Gonzalez
Grade 3



Enda Meade
Grade 3



Melissa Van Niekerk
Grade 3



Steven Stover
Grade 3



Joel Bastedo
Grade 4



Martin Brader
Grade 4



Jessie Xue
Grade 4



David Young
Grade 4



Mitch Cooper
Grade 5



Megan Everett
Grade 5



Tim Kearns
Grade 5



Patrick Wells
Grade 5



Caelyn Chen
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Joyce Chen
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Jasmine Huang
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Yanni Liu
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Melanie Lu
Mandarin Language



Bella Mao
Mandarin Language



May Peng
Mandarin Language



Andrea Shen
Mandarin Language



Sunny Sun
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Becky Tan
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Lucia Wu
Mandarin Language



Maggie Xie
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Kay Xu
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Audrey Yu
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Zoey Yu
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Avery Zhang
Mandarin Co-Teacher



Lily Zhou
Mandarin Language



Julie Zhu
Mandarin Co-Teacher



**Reabetswe
Maarohanye**
Grade 4 EAL and
Learning Support



Paulo Miguel
Grade 5 EAL and
Learning Support



Laura Perez
Grade 2 EAL and
Learning Support



Eric Powers
Grade 3 EAL and
Learning Support



Mary Powers
Student Support
and Counselor



Canny Shi
Learning Support



Ruth Viader
Counselor



Abidjan Walker
Grade 1 EAL and
Learning Support



Aubrey Yao
Learning Support



Chelsea Wood
Speech Therapy and
EAL



Jody Wood
Speech Therapy and
EAL



Francis Jamarillo
Music and Physical
Education



Farina Lim
Music



Emlyn Majoos
Design Technology



Ingid Majoos
Librarian



Ian Malloy
Ed Tech Coordinator



Ellen McMahon
Classroom Teacher



Ana Maria Molina
ECE Rhythm and
Movement



Nancie Su
ECE Rhythm and
Movement Assistant



Tara Tidbury
Visual Arts



Ivy Zhang
ECE Librarian



Rachel Ford
Physical Education and
Health



Natalio Liares
Aquatics Coordinator



Elaine Bailey
English A



Jake Barningham
English A



Dominique Bull-Beaddows
EAL and Learning Support



Ryan Bull-Beaddows
School Psychologist and Counselor



Zach Callahan
Science



Jamie Cattran
Physical Education and Health



Ellie Caven
Drama



Anthony Cohen
English Language A and B



Emer Cordoba
Music



Suresh Dass
EAL and Learning Support



Kellys Dominguez
Spanish



Mark Donagher
Head of Guidance and University Counseling



Christopher Dougherty
Mathematics



Sara Freeman
Librarian and ARC Coordinator



Jodi Fulwood
Science



Anna Galuszka
Science



Matthew Hamilton
EAL and Learning Support



Patrick Hendricks
Social Studies



Richard Hobson
English Language and Literature



Nichola Hollingsworth
Physical Education and Health



Rhiannon Johnson
Visual Arts



Chanmi Joo
Music Instructional Assistant



Jonathan Kelly
Design Technology



Eric Kent
English A



Daniel Kirk
Mathematics



Justine Kushner
Science



Matthew Kushner
Mathematics



Lily Lin
Mandarin A and B



Gregory Mazzeo
Science



Janet McGifford
Visual Arts



Tia Moen
Drama



Ikroop Nilsen
English B



Zachary Ober
Social Studies



Bianca Retallick
Social Studies



Brady Retallick
Design Technology



Marcela Rojas
Mathematics



Simone Sancinelli
Physical Education and Health



David Shick
Mathematics



Terry Strombeck
Social Studies



Akira Sugata
Social Studies



Carrie Sun
Counselor



Vanessa Tang
English B



Brian Vincent
Music



Jenny Wang
Mandarin A and B



Lina Wang
Mandarin A and B



Xi Wang
Mandarin B



Karlene Wong
Music



Matthew Worley
Social Studies



Gillian Wu
Mandarin B



Claire Ying
Mandarin A



Luna Yu
Mandarin A and B



Iris Zhang
Guidance and University Counselor



Gabriella Zimanyi
Dance



Zoe Zhou
Music Assistant



Ruyi Fu
PE and Aquatics Assistant



Kiki Hu
PE and Aquatics Assistant



Donal Sha
PE and Aquatics Assistant



Young Kelly
Physical Education and Health



Zhipeng Xu
PE and Aquatics Assistant



Cynthia Chen
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Vicky Gao
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Alpha Shen
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Tracy Sun
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Anna Wang
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Nicole Wang
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Jenny Xie
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Amy Xu
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Sam Zhang
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Sissie Zhang
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Emma Zhong
Teaching and Learning
Assistant



Tiffany Zhong
Teaching and Learning
Assistant

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Secretary to the
Superintendent



Kerri Liang
Admissions Secretary



Lily Fan
ECE Secretary



Flora Li
Lower School Secretary



Vivian Wang
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Chantelle Nguyen
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Specialist



Gabby He
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Harry Du
Technology Assistant



Fred Ling
Technology Assistant



Sean Wilson
Programmer and
Cloud Specialist



Diego Zhang
Systems Specialist



Jacob Zhang
Technology Assistant



Ping Li
School Nurse



Jennifer Pan
School Nurse



Mandy Lai
School Nurse

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

The new school year has begun! On the first day, the air buzzed with excitement as happy students arrived on campus for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. This year, we welcomed more than 900 students and over 150 international teachers and faculty staff across lower and upper schools.

Students quickly settled into their classrooms, meeting their teachers and classmates, and familiarizing themselves with what's to come for the year ahead. Joy and laughter echoed through our hallways once again as students and teachers bonded over fun and creative first-day activities and thrilling team sports throughout the day.

Whether a new or returning Dragon, we say 'welcome home'!



To view more
photos from
the First Day of
School, scan the
QR code









CELEBRATING 900 STUDENTS

MEET THE NEW 2023-2024 JADE DRAGONS

Jade Dragons are students who have been longstanding members of the HIS community for 8 years. Our wonderful Jade Dragons have earned this special recognition through their many years with us, and the contributions and achievements they have made during this time.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Jade Dragons.
We are so proud of you!



Once a Dragon,
Always a Dragon!

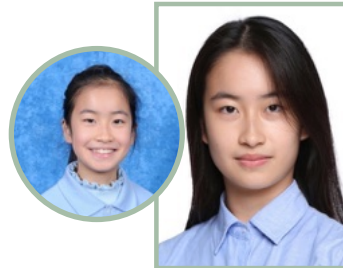


GRADE 12



Jia Sheng Johnson Lin
HIS Dragon since Grade 6

GRADE 11



Xi-Ke (Roxanna) Shen
HIS Dragon since Grade 6

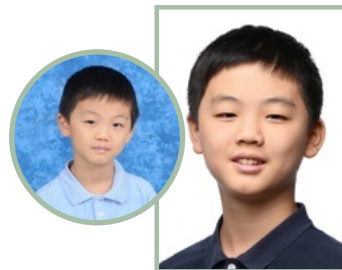
GRADE 9



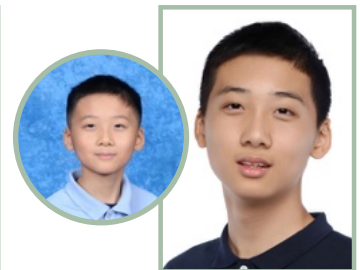
Sissi Amano
HIS Dragon since Grade 2



Joyce Ding
HIS Dragon since Grade 2



Yau-Yu Wang
HIS Dragon since Grade 2



Wei Ran (Derek) Xu
HIS Dragon since Grade 2

GRADE 8



Jason Gao
HIS Dragon since Grade 1



Xin Yi (Fiona) Hong
HIS Dragon since Grade 1



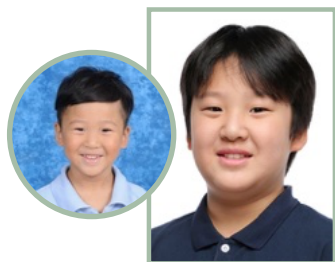
Hong Rui Huang
HIS Dragon since Grade 1



Zeyu (Jerry) Zhang
HIS Dragon since Grade 1

Jade Dragons 2023-2024

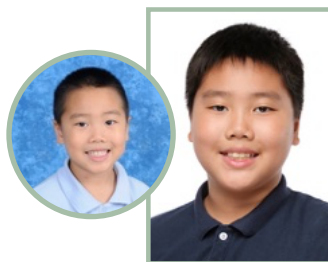
GRADE 7



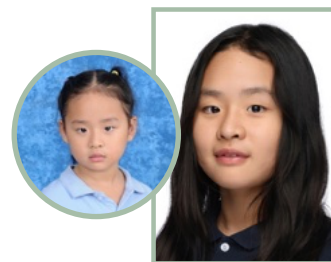
Ngai (David) Dai
HIS Dragon since Kinder



Dennis Lu
HIS Dragon since Kinder



Shang (Kevin) Wu
HIS Dragon since Kinder



Xin-Yu Lisa Wu
HIS Dragon since Kinder



Hon-Yu (Daisy) Zhang
HIS Dragon since Kinder



Chen (Nathan) Zhu
HIS Dragon since Kinder

GRADE 6



Elly Yue-Lan Chen
HIS Dragon since Pre-K



Zi-Xi Ding
HIS Dragon since Pre-K



Chen-Yi Huang
HIS Dragon since Pre-K



Lucas Ren-Hao Lu
HIS Dragon since Pre-K



Quan (Yoyo) Wen
HIS Dragon since Pre-K

GRADE 5



Crystal Chen
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



Chen Xing Alice Lou
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



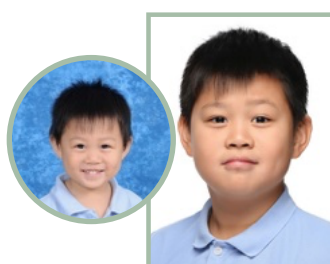
Qi-Yi Song
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



Richard Wang
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



Caroline Xue
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



Flynn Yu
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*



Fiona Yuan
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 2*

GRADE 4



Angela Ye Chen
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 1*



Kelly Guo
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 1*



Eric Li
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 1*



Sunny Li
*HIS Dragon since
Early Years 1*

ECE | Building Routines and New Relationships



RENE SMAL | Lower School Vice-Principal and ECE Coordinator

ECE is off to an amazing start! I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the parents for their invaluable support in helping us establish the beginning-of-the-year routines for our youngest students. Your partnership is truly making a positive difference in their early learning journey.

In Early Years (EY), our students are filled with curiosity and enthusiasm as they embark on the exciting task of exploring and familiarizing themselves with their environment. It's a joy to witness their genuine wonder and discovery each day. Meanwhile, in Pre-K, we are focused on self-exploration and understanding. Students are learning about themselves, their unique qualities, and taking the first steps in identifying and naming their personal features. This process of self-discovery is an important foundation for their future growth and development. Kindergarten is an exciting time for our children as they begin building relationships with their teachers and peers. They are actively engaged in creating their class communities and developing

their communication skills. These early interactions and connections will set the stage for a positive and collaborative learning environment throughout the year.

“Students are learning about themselves, their unique qualities, and taking the first steps in identifying and naming their personal features. This process of self-discovery is an important foundation for their future growth and development.”

I am genuinely thrilled to see the progress our students are making in such a short time. Their enthusiasm and eagerness are infectious, and it's a privilege to be a part of their educational journey. Once again, thank you to all the parents for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we will create a nurturing and enriching experience for our young learners.



Learning and the Environment

MARIA DUTARI | Lower School Pre-K Teacher



“There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment.”

– Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education

At HIS we believe that, after adults and other students, the environment is the children's third teacher. Our educators make the most of our classroom environments by providing opportunities for thinking. Whenever we are designing a space in our Pre-K class, we keep three questions in mind:

IS IT FUNCTIONAL?

Each space needs a clear intention. How is this a meaningful experience that they can transfer within disciplines and to the world? For example, the role-play area in our classroom is a restaurant, a space where communication and collaboration naturally occur.

IS IT INVITING?

A space should welcome students to explore it. By following the students' interests and aligning them with specific outcomes, true and meaningful learning can happen. For example, the makerspace was inspired by children demonstrating a natural curiosity towards how materials can be combined in innovative ways. Following their interests, we provided a space with recycled materials and hot glue guns where they can address 21st century skills like creativity, curiosity, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication.

WHAT RESOURCES DOES IT NEED TO MEET ITS PURPOSE?

The resources must be well thought-out. Providing students with different materials (glass, plastic, metal) helps them develop understandings about how to handle each one of these accordingly. In our classroom we intentionally expose children to different resources throughout the spaces for them to interact and develop understandings based on personal experiences.

As children interact with these spaces we design, we observe and adjust them to make their learning experiences and discoveries more meaningful. Keeping these questions in mind and observing the change in our students' interests and needs, we make sure that their learning comes from the three teachers: adults, other children, and their environment.



Foundations for Success | Approaches to Learning (ATLs)



JESSICA JOHNSON | Lower School Vice-Principal
and PYP Coordinator



“Through implementing strong communication, thinking, and social skills, our teachers are working collaboratively to set the foundation for meaningful learning opportunities to take place throughout this academic year.”

One of the Essential Elements of the Primary Years Program (PYP) is the Approaches to Learning (ATLs). The ATLs are the skills (Research Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills, Thinking Skills, and Self-Management Skills) the IB feels are important for each student to not only learn but more importantly, to demonstrate both in and outside of the classroom. They are embedded in the learning throughout each Unit of Inquiry.

As teachers, it is important that we model these skills when working with our students. In the last few weeks, it has been exciting to work with our Lower School teachers as they use these important skills when working together. If we want our students to demonstrate communication, thinking, and social skills, then we must also utilize and demonstrate those skills in both how we engage with colleagues and how we work with our students. Through implementing strong communication, thinking, and social skills, our teachers are working collaboratively to set the foundation for meaningful learning opportunities to take place throughout this academic year.

I am excited about the opportunity to partner with our inspirational and knowledgeable teachers this year!

IB PYP APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Research Skills

Social Skills

Communication Skills

Thinking Skills

Self-Management Skills

Grade 1 Number Talks | Developing Math Skills

AXEL SOOS | Lower School Grade 1 Teacher



While many students enter the Lower School with significant mathematical ability, they are often still learning to communicate their thinking and strategies. A Number Talk is a math class routine that achieves three main goals:

1. *Develops mental math skills.*
2. *Allows students to practice expressing their mathematical ideas.*
3. *Makes thinking visible so that students can learn from their peers.*

At the beginning of Grade One, for example, I give students an arrangement of dots and ask, "How do you see it?" Students quietly give a thumbs up to show that they have an answer, which allows everyone time to think without feeling pressure. I then collect strategies from three to five students, making sure to write names down so they are easy to reference. We then take turns using phrases like "I agree with Amy because...", "I disagree with Daniel because...", or "I don't understand. Can you explain again?" These phrases are expressly taught in order for students to learn that disagreement and asking for clarification are productive and important! At the end, we vote on which strategies we find the easiest and most efficient. Through this routine, students are continuously exposed to new and exciting ways of thinking. Number Talks build a strong foundation for complex mathematical problem solving as young learners progress through Lower School.



Building Confidence Through Agency in Grade 5



MITCH COOPER | Lower School Grade 5 Teacher



to work towards which is complementary by the success criteria which they can use as a checklist. I also like to make my success criteria visible by co-constructing exemplars with students, which they can then use as a point of reference. The feedback later provided to students is linked to the success criteria as well, meaning that everything is interconnected. By better understanding the way that I teach and making my expectations clear, students can be confident they are going to achieve their personal learning goals on a regular basis. Building these teacher-student relationships and routines from the beginning of the year will support them to do their very best for the 2023-2024 school year.

“Building these teacher-student relationships and routines from the beginning of the year will support them to do their very best for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Students in Grade 5 have been building habits and routines to set themselves up for success in their final year of the Primary Years Programme (PYP). As the year commenced, students were introduced to the idea of “agency” through the transdisciplinary theme “Who We Are.” This has seen students building a greater understanding of themselves as learners, and what they need to do to make the most of every learning opportunity HIS provides. The teaching team has been delivering high-quality learning experiences to students, with a focus on better understanding the Learner Profile and Approaches to Learning. In 5D, I have been spending a lot of time unpacking how ‘learning intentions’ and ‘success criteria’ can be used by students to clearly understand what is expected of them. Learning intentions provide students with a clear achievement



Co-operation, Teamwork, and Principled Action

RACHEL FORD | Lower School Physical & Health Education Teacher



“We are excited to witness our Lower School students grow not only as athletes but as individuals who understand the importance of cooperation, integrity, and empathy.”

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our Lower School students as they embark on an exciting journey in Physical and Health Education (PHE). Our aim is to create a dynamic and supportive environment where our young learners not only develop physical skills but also build important foundations that go beyond the classroom.

To kickstart the term, we have introduced co-operative games that emphasize the power of teamwork. These games allow our students to establish their unique roles and learn the significance

of collaboration. Through these activities, children recognize that each member possesses different strengths and weaknesses, and by embracing a caring attitude, they can uplift and aid one another's progress.

At the heart of our lessons lies the focus on remaining principled. We encourage our students to display fairness. While honing their physical abilities, our young athletes are guided to foster a culture of respect and unity. Furthermore, we emphasize the value of team spirit and problem-solving. Our students are encouraged to work together to overcome challenges.

We are excited to witness our Lower School students grow not only as athletes but as individuals who understand the importance of cooperation, integrity, and empathy. We look forward to a rewarding and transformative PHE journey for all.



Welcome Back BBQ: a Sizzling Success!



We hosted our annual Welcome Back BBQ at HIS, and what an amazing turnout it was! The BBQ brought together our incredible Dragons, old and new, along with our exceptional faculty, HIS parents, and vendors from our vibrant Hangzhou community.

There was never a dull moment; the event was brimming with family-friendly activities including live music, dance performances, sports games, face painting, and not just one, not two, but three giant bouncy castles!

Whether it was pizza, burgers, or Indian delights, we had a multicultural offering of delicious food and drinks being served.

Thank you to Admissions and Community Relations for organizing this event, as well as facilities, operations, faculty and staff volunteers, vendors and service providers, and our dazzling performers. A fun-filled way to start the year and showcase the HIS community spirit!





STEM Experiential Symposium | Huan Quan Village and Sino Exchange



JONATHAN KELLY | Upper School Design Technology Teacher

I was honored to be a representative for HIS and selected within ACAMIS Technology, to attend a STEM Experiential Symposium, held at Hua Quan Village, Jiangxi province. This village is a 2.5-hour train journey from Hangzhou, amidst beautiful mountains, lakes, and forest countryside. This village was established ten years ago by Wang Yung – Ching, founder of Formosa Plastics Company, and Liu Chia – Chang, a legendary pop singer, and filmmaker, Steven Lin. The village boasts thriving art studios, with impressive outdoor murals, one of the largest collections in the world. It has a lovely hotel and restaurant; certainly, I'd recommend it for a short break to anyone interested in the arts, or simply to unwind. It also is the birthplace of Tao, and we were privileged on the first night to go and see the cultural light show, Dream of Tao, which certainly was an amazing experience.

The STEM Symposium was an action-packed three-day event, with over 27 participants from various educational institutions, including universities, government agencies, and international schools. We had individual theory lecture sessions on applied science—chemistry and physics, mathematics,

“It was great to be immersed within STEM, which after all is such an important area for our students and has lots of career opportunities.”

and engineering. Additionally, we participated in a workshop, built a glider airplane in small groups, and then applied interdisciplinary link applications in mathematics and physics. Certainly, some of this thinking can be applied to our Transport unit. Scott, the conveyor, challenged our thinking and provided us with valuable takeaways, which I have already shared with our students in Science and Mathematics class.

I also had a wonderful experience participating in calligraphy, sand art, yoga, and karaoke with some of Steven Lin's fan club; some of which had even flown in from Singapore! It was an action-packed experience, our days running and sessions from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. It was great to be immersed within STEM, which after all is such an important area for our students and has lots of career opportunities. Also, of course, an opportunity to interact with very savvy people.

I would especially like to extend my gratitude to Sino Exchange's CO, Scott Andrew Campbell, and John Bayramian for organizing this valuable STEM initiative, and look forward to hearing about more sessions they will offer in the future. Prior to this session, they also provided AI readings, some of which I shared within our HIS Community. Lastly, I highly recommend visiting Hua Quan Village and experiencing the cultural light show, Dream of Tao with its amazing lasers light on water show.



Building Skills and Creativity | Robotics Team Ventures to Shanghai

IAN MALLOY | EdTech Coordinator



In a thrilling venture, HIS students embarked on our first-ever Robotics competition in Shanghai on September 16th and 17th. This landmark event marked the beginning of an exciting journey for HIS students involved in the newly formed Robotics team, where we designed, built, and utilized robots to tackle real-world challenges.

Open to students from grades 6 to 12, the Robotics team offers an enriching opportunity to participate in local and national Robotics competitions across Hangzhou and throughout China. With a passion for innovation and technology, I was so proud to see our high school students eagerly embrace the chance to showcase their skills and creativity on a broader platform.

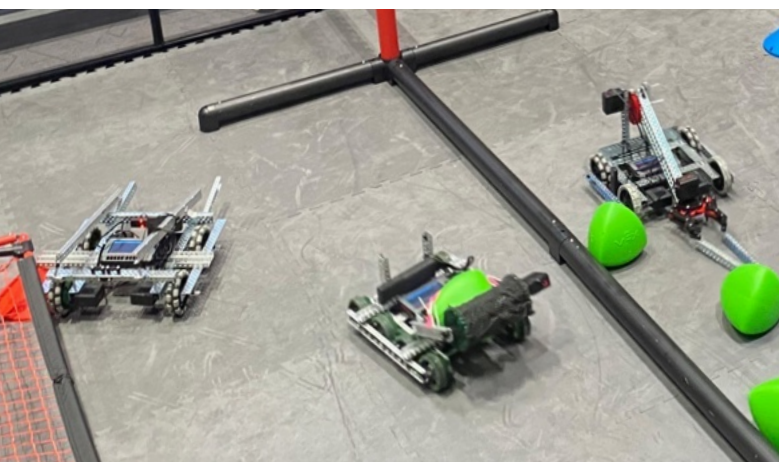
“This landmark event marked the beginning of an exciting journey for HIS students involved in the newly formed Robotics team, where we designed, built, and utilized robots to tackle real-world challenges.”



Joining forces with over 20 other international schools, students formed an impressive contingent of 22 teams at the competition. The event pushed participants to take their robotics projects from concept to completion within a single day, utilizing two short class periods for essential topics such as design, coding, and materials.

The excitement was palpable as students collaborated with peers from different teams, fostering a vibrant atmosphere of camaraderie and shared learning. In a remarkable achievement, two HIS students secured an outstanding 3rd place overall, making their mark amongst stiff competition.

This experience not only provided a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their talents but also allowed them to meet like-minded individuals, learn from experts, and forge meaningful friendships. The Robotics competition in Shanghai set the stage for a promising journey ahead, as HIS students continue to explore and excel in the dynamic world of robotics and technology.



A Team Building Theory of Knowledge Retreat



“The retreat made me think about what I’d choose in DP2. There were lots of fun activities and chances to interact with other grade levels”

TOK (Theory of Knowledge) is a central pillar in the IB Diploma Programme (Grade 11 and Grade 12). It aims to cultivate an appreciation for cultural and personal viewpoints. Through deliberate inquiry, students gain a deeper understanding of themselves and become critical thinkers. The acquisition of these skills is beneficial across their academic subjects and in their subsequent journeys as college students and professionals.

At HIS, we offer IBDP students the opportunity to engage in enjoyable and provoking activities that develop their critical thinking skills in their classes and TOK sessions outside the classroom at their annual retreat weekend.

Throughout the day’s retreat, surrounded by the beautiful nature and sceneries at Qiandao Lake, students were engaged in full-time workshops and a wealth of team-building variety activities that challenged and questioned the different ways of learning and their knowledge.

The TOK retreat is a magnificent way to challenge students off-campus in a new environment. Through it all, we were proud to see students reflect, learn, and grow from the experience.

“The retreat got me to think about TOK from different perspectives”

“The teachers helped me dig deeper and I loved the TOK talk with juniors”

“Amazing, super fun!”



“Everyone was very open with each other, we had nice interactions and connections”

“I had a great time. We socialized and made new friends”

“I got to share my knowledge with other grades, and they helped me gain more perspective”

Ms. Lily's Kathmandu Experience | Nepal Volunteer Education



LILY ZHOU | Lower School Mandarin Teacher

Every summer I like to dedicate time to volunteering, and this was my 15th year. I arrived in the capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu, to start my 10-day teaching support activity.

After spending time with local teachers, I was responsible for cultural courses and interdisciplinary collaborative courses (English, Science, Chinese, and Art) for students in Grades 3-5. Since I hold a certificate as a tea artist, I showcased the history of Chinese tea culture and the brewing methods of black tea to the students in a cultural class. The children had a great time and showed a lot of interest in my tea ceremony!

Afterwards, I also worked with the students in an interactive Chinese and Nepalese dance class, teaching them traditional Chinese dance.



“Every summer I like to dedicate time to volunteering, and this was my 15th year.”

For the interdisciplinary collaborative courses, with the theme of “The Importance of Sunshine in the Environment,” I worked with local homeroom and science teachers to guide students to express and create their knowledge and understanding.

Upon completing my experience, I was awarded a certificate with wonderful feedback:

“Ms. Lily worked as a volunteer to teach Chinese culture, Chinese language as well as various kinds of activities. In addition, she has inspired and enhanced the school's education system by communicating with teachers. The school's principal and teachers express great thanks for her efforts and suggestions on how to facilitate the teaching and learning mechanism at the school and in the community!”



Building Skills for Life | The Duke of Edinburgh International Award

NICHOLA HOLLINGSWORTH | Upper School Physical & Health Education Teacher



HIS is proud to offer The Duke of Edinburgh International Award, a program that equips students over the age of 14 with invaluable skills to assist in their future academic and professional careers.

Students can complete 6 months (Bronze), 9 months (Silver), or 12 months (Gold) worth of activities that include physical recreation, helping younger children in elementary, volunteering with charities, and supporting our local Hangzhou community. During the fortnightly meetings, they will also learn camp craft, first aid, and navigational skills ready for our practice expedition.

WHY JOIN DofE?

Create memories, friendships, and skills that will last a lifetime. And the added bonus? Having a DofE Award will give any HIS student a competitive edge for future career opportunities, as it is highly recognized by businesses and employers around the world.

WHAT ACTIVITIES MUST A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN?

DofE activities are divided into 4 categories: volunteering, physical, skills, and expedition. Participation is voluntary, non-competitive, and, above all, fun! However, each progressive level demands more time and commitment from participants. Students participating in the program take part in various activities, aiming at one of the international awards.

Under the guidance of the Award Leaders of HIS, each participant plans their program according to

the criteria of the award level they are interested in. This means that they set their own goals and record their activities as well as their progress electronically in the On-Line Record Book (ORB).

WHO CAN JOIN DofE?

Participating students must be over the age of 14. For IB MYP and IB DP students, most of the Action as Service and Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS) activities can count towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

THE CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS) PROGRAM AND THE DofE

DofE programs fit closely with the CAS program. Both promote individual challenges in areas such as physical activities, skills, and community service.

The table below shows how CAS and DofE complement each other:

DOFE SECTION	CAS PROGRAMME SECTION
Volunteering	Service
Physical	Activity
Skills	Creativity
Expedition	Action

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Reach out to Ms. Hollingsworth and Mr. Hamilton! For more information please email nicholahollingsworth@hisdragons.org.cn

Jeju Volleyball Tournament



FILIBE NOGUEIRA | Director of Athletics and Activities



Our Gold Dragon Varsity Volleyball teams travelled to Jeju Island, South Korea for our first overseas athletics trip in HIS history. Our volleyballers had been practicing since late in the last school year for this fantastic opportunity to test out their skills against high quality teams from international schools in Asia. 23 student athletes were accompanied by their coaches Ms. Nichola Hollingsworth, Ms. Mary Powers, Mr. Jamie Cattran, and Mr. Pat Hendricks along with me, Athletic Director Mr. Filipe Nogueira, and were well looked after by host schools Korean International School- Jeju and St. Johnsbury Academy.

The tournament included 8 schools from Mainland China, Mainland South Korea, Taiwan, and Jeju Island. For our teams it was an opportunity to play competitive matches at a high level for the first time since October 2022 following the unexpected cancellation of last year's ACAMIS Volleyball tournament. The first day of competition saw our teams have mixed results with the girls winning all their 3 matches including an extremely exciting victory against the host school in front of a huge home crowd who were providing a noisy and pressure-filled atmosphere that our girls thrived in. The boys' team found the going a little tougher against older teams with more experience and finished the first day with one win and two losses.



On the 2nd and final day of competition the boys regrouped and after losing their first match, they finished off the tournament strongly with two wins in their final matches to place fifth out of the eight competing teams. Although the results weren't exactly what the boys were hoping for, the coaches were pleased with their exposure to better teams than we have regularly been able to face, and seeing the players come back with increased determination to keep improving their own individual skills and their teamwork and team ethos. The girls continued their impressive play by winning their first two matches on the 2nd day which gave them the opportunity to play off in the championship match against Taipei European School who were also entering this match with an undefeated 5-0 record. Our girls were visibly gaining in confidence with each match of the tournament and despite going down in the first set of this final they regrouped to take the second set in convincing fashion and then the final and deciding set to claim the championship!



Congratulations to both of our teams for representing HIS admirably on the international stage. In addition, congratulations to our four students who were named in the All-Tournament Teams – Madita von den Hoff, Ashley Ho, Tonya Liu, and James Lee.

Away from the court, the trip to Jeju also gave them a small insight into a different culture and allowed them to meet other students and make friends. We even got to spend some time with Ms. Pat Long who is now working at one of the schools participating in the tournament and was splitting her allegiances between her school and HIS. She even gave us the familiar “Once a Dragon, always a Dragon!!” as she farewelled our teams for the final time. As always, our teams were the best supported travelling team with our committed group of mothers forming the Dragon Cheer Squad and supporting from the sidelines - much appreciated as always!

This tournament early in the season will position both teams well for the ACAMIS Volleyball Tournament which we are hosting here at HIS from November 2nd-4th. We can't wait to see you all on the sidelines cheering on our teams.

GoooOOO Dragons!!!



The Making of Art at Home



BRIAN VINCENT | Upper School Music Teacher

We are off and rolling at HIS for another year, making Art, Music, Dance, and Drama. What comes along with participating in an Arts class is the requirement that students continue to develop their Artistic skills outside of school. In short, students need to practice. Getting your child to practice is, of course, a tricky subject. Kids love making Art, Music, Dance, and Drama while they are with their teachers in class. But, motivating them to work independently outside of the classroom requires that students develop their capacity to be self-motivated and organized.

Here are a couple of tips to help our HIS parents support the making of Art at home and away from the classroom:

SURROUND YOUR CHILD WITH ART.

Kids love to copy, so make sure they hear and see a lot of Art, Music, Dance or Drama. It is also wonderful to expose children to family members and other adults who make music, draw, sketch, paint, or dance for enjoyment. Examples include playing a lot of music around the house, taking your child to live concerts, Art shows or museums, and signing up your child for group acting lessons or summer music camps.

MAKE PRACTICE A PRIORITY.

Kids get excited about making Art when they hear/ see their progress. The only way to make progress is for kids to practice consistently. Studies show that parents who support practice have kids who stick with making Art for much longer.

BUILD STRUCTURE AND ROUTINE.

Set up the same time/place each day and help your child remember and/or begin to practice their Art form. Try to incorporate practicing art daily. Even if your child only spends 5 or 10 minutes playing their instrument, drawing, dancing, or acting, they will build the habit of practice, which is incredibly powerful.

FUN COMES FROM MASTERY.

Establishing a strong Art focused practice habit takes time, throughout which your child will grow and change. Mastery takes time to develop. Hang in there and realize that each day is just one more step in this journey of 1,000 steps. Learning to make Art is complicated, and your consistent support will be appreciated.

We hope you have a great year alongside your children, celebrating all their achievements through the Arts.



ANDREA STUBBS | Director of Admissions and
Community Relations



The Upper School Student Council's job is to establish and maintain better communication between the student body, faculty, and administration. They aim to promote a greater degree of unity, respect, spirit, and general welfare of the school and to interact with the community while providing students with better opportunities to enjoy and benefit from their time at HIS.

This year's Student Council officers, elected by the Upper School student body, are:



PRESIDENT
Yuyan Lucia Wang
IBDP Grade 11



VICE-PRESIDENT
Benjamin Kim Branham
MYP Grade 10



TREASURER
Shuming Angel Li
MYP Grade 9



SECRETARY
Chun Yan Calvin Lam
MYP Grade 10



GENERAL OFFICER
Hon Jayden Hwang
MYP Grade 10

Congratulations! We know they will continue being an example of good behavior and conduct, represent HIS and the Upper School students well, and demonstrate effective communication, high-level thinking, positive behavior, and global appreciation.



To view more
photos from the
Mid-Autumn
Carnival, scan
the QR code



Mid-Autumn Carnival

ANDREA STUBBS | Director of Admissions and
Community Relations



At HIS, we are proud to show appreciation for our host country by organizing activities that support our community's understanding of different Chinese celebrations, traditions, and the rich history behind them.

The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the oldest and most important festivals of the year. The Mid-Autumn Festival has taken on many meanings throughout history. It is a time when families gather and pray for good health during the harvest season in autumn to express gratitude to the moon.

This year to celebrate, our Lower School students participated in a vibrant Mid-Autumn Festival Carnival. They wore traditional Chinese clothes and showed up ready and enthusiastic to learn about different traditional Chinese arts.

At our Mid-Autumn Festival Carnival, we proudly hosted the following renowned and experienced artists:

To demonstrate traditional Chinese wood-block printing, we had a special visit from expert artist, Wei Zhong Li.

Mr. Wei, curator of Hangzhou Shizhuzhai Art Museum, author of many published books, and a highly awarded artist gave a beautiful demonstration of wood-block printing art. He recently met high dignitaries attending the Asian Games while showing his artwork.

Showcasing the beautiful art of tea making, we had Yang Hong Min, Ms. Maggie, as we like to call her, is the founder of the Yang Ming Sihai. She is a

brilliant senior tea maker expert, a fifth-generation descendant of Shifeng Longjing, a Chinese Star green tea maker champion, and a HIS parent.

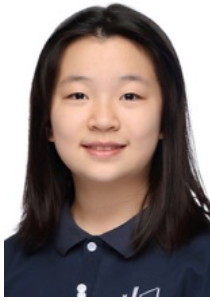
Returning to show his beautiful calligraphy art and skills was Yonghui. A parent of HIS students Talia and JJ, born in Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, he has pursued calligraphy as a lifelong passion. Some of his incredible works have been acquired by the Football Club of Barcelona, and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Young and talented, we also had a grade 12 student, Linda Zhou, who shared her skills and passion for Chinese Embroidery Art. Throughout her presentation, she inspired not only the students but adults alike.

HIS would like to thank the guest artists for sharing their time and sensational skills with our community. They have truly inspired our students through their art and knowledge.



The Organization of Life | Inside the Science Classroom



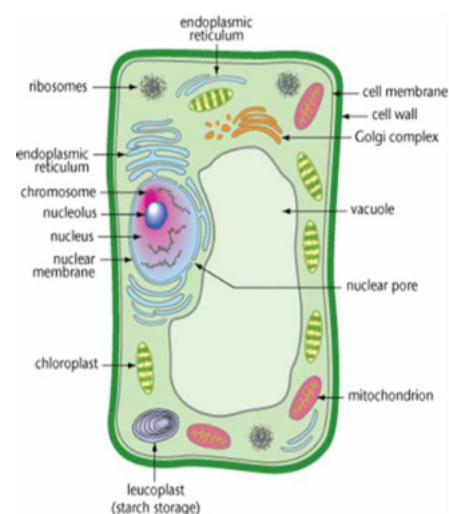
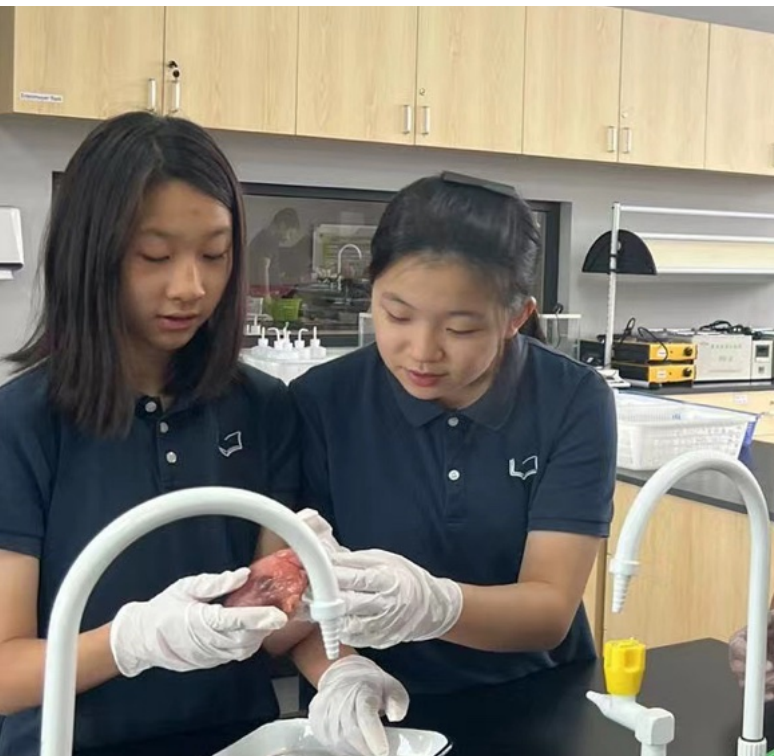
ALLISON WANG | Grade 8 MYP student

While we are going through the first semester of the school year, I thought it would be a good idea to share my favorite science class units related to waves, cells, and body systems. I hope you get excited about reading my insights from a student's perspective.

A human body is composed of close to 50-100 trillion cells. They show a high diversity in size, structure, numbers, and function. A cell, as you might know, is the smallest unit of life. Yet, it is the most important thing in our body. In Grade 7 Science, we have been learning about the differences between plant cells and animal cells, their nervous systems, and their circulatory systems.

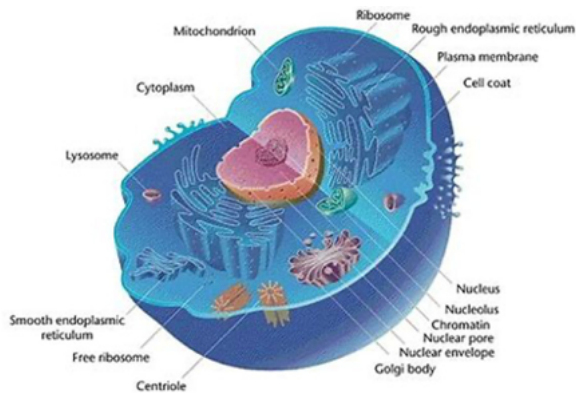
Ms. Anna, our science teacher, explains animal and plant cells this way:

"Both animal cells and plant cells are Eukaryotic cells. It means that they possess a membrane-bound nucleus and other cellular organelles. As the name suggests, animal cells are present in animals and plant cells are building plants. Cells are the basic unit of structure for both animals and plants. Cells are organized into tissues and tissues into organs in both animals and plants. There are few differences between animal and plant cells related to the types of organelles they have. Animal cells have cell membranes, nucleus, cytoplasm, mitochondrion and sometimes small vacuoles. Plant cells additionally have a cell wall responsible for protection and support; chloroplasts responsible for photosynthesis (the fact that the plant can make their own food) and a big vacuole that helps a cell to keep a turgor and large amounts of food and water."



Our class wondered, are animal cells, the ones in our body, any different from plant cells?

After learning closely about the different cells, our science class learned in more depth about the nervous system and our brain. To learn more about our nervous system, we started investigating skin sensitivity. We poked each other with toothpicks! The skin sensitivity lab was to investigate our nervous system in more depth. While I was blindfolded, my lab partner was allowed to poke me with either one or two toothpicks with different widths. Then, I had to answer if I was poked with one or two toothpicks. The results of my experiment showed that if two toothpicks were closer to each other, it would be harder to identify. In addition, we realized that our fingertips and lips were the most sensitive while the back of our neck was the least sensitive. Overall, I believe this lab on our skin sensitivity was a success. Everyone came up with various results and we had a long discussion about which part was the most sensitive. All of us had a lot of fun during the experiment (without stabbing anyone in the eye!).



The last part of the unit was my favorite part: our class went into the DP lab and dissected a sheep's heart. Yes, you didn't read that wrong, we dissected a real sheep's heart! Our whole class was extremely excited to go to the lab, use a scalpel, and cut open the heart. Even the people who were a bit nervous at first went into the lab and enjoyed it more than anyone else did. We investigated all the parts of the

heart, the left ventricle, right ventricle, and so on. It was a pity that the left and right arteries were already cut off. But that did not stop us from wanting to learn more about the heart. After dissecting the sheep's heart in real life, I think we all had a better idea of what a real heart is like, compared to just looking at diagrams.



PAFA | A Day of Connection and Community



ANDREA STUBBS | Director of Admissions and Community Relations

“All parents of HIS students, faculty, and administration are members of PAFA, and these activities wouldn’t be possible without everyone’s support!”

The 2023-2024 school year started with the always-strong foundation that unites our cultural diversity and fosters a positive community, the HIS Dragons Community!

We are looking forward to another great year where we, the parents, the students, the faculty, and the friends, accomplish this together.

To start the school year, we had a great turnout of Dragon Ambassadors, who are returning students and parents who volunteer on Orientation Day. They welcomed all new families and did a fantastic job making everyone feel at home and guiding them around the school.



This was followed by the PAFA Welcome Lunch at Le Meridian: A Day of Connection and Community!

The PAFA luncheon committee hosted a warm welcome lunch at Le Meridian, setting a positive tone for a year of unity, friendship, and shared experiences.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by team members and introduced to each other through personalized stickers, sparking immediate connections. With a lucky draw and welcoming gifts of tasteful tea boxes, the spirit of unity was clearly among us.

The ballroom, adorned with round tables, encouraged friendly interactions. Some enjoyed the company of their friends, while others found common ground with parents from the same grades.



The event started with a welcome from Ms. Renata Branham on behalf of the Luncheon committee members, followed by Ms. Andrea Stubbs' enlightening introduction about the PAFA mission. A unique 'getting-to-know-each-other' game, divided into five engaging rounds, encouraged guests to share their names and two questions with new acquaintances, fostering closer bonds.

The highlight was a group photo capturing over 120 community members, a testament to our collective strength. As the afternoon concluded, guests were left in anticipation of future events and the assurance of being part of a vibrant community.

The PAFA welcome lunch was not just a day to remember; it was a reassurance that this school year will continue with exciting events, warm friendships, and lasting memories.

Throughout the year, we will continue having different events, and we hope that together, either through organizing, volunteering, or attending these activities, the HIS community makes great memories and experiences for all!

All parents of HIS students, faculty, and administration are members of PAFA, and these activities wouldn't be possible without everyone's support!



HANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FALL 2023



**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18**

**COMING
SOON!**



Reach Out to Us



CHANTELLE NGUYEN | Marketing Manager

The DragonNews Magazine is published each term and is catered to the HIS parents and the Hangzhou community. The HIS team works diligently to bring exciting and interesting content to our readers. We are always open to suggestions and greatly welcome submissions from members of our community to include in future issues.

Should you wish to submit an article or inquire as to ways to collaborate, please reach out to the DragonNews editor, Chantelle Nguyen at chantellenguyen@hisdragon.org.cn.

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Layout Design: **Shaian Gutiérrez**

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

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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!

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