

SHANGHAI COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SUMMER 2024

communitas



Chasing Chances



# PAFA NEWS

SCIS has parent organizations called the Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) on each campus. PAFA serves as a way that parents can communicate ideas for the betterment of the school to the administration and Board. SCIS is proud of the high level of parent participation in their schools and value their partnership with the parent community. PAFA conducts various activities, from community events to charity fundraisers to volunteer support for teachers and students. Each campus has a PAFA board who works closely with each campus' administrations to plan events that help to make SCIS Campuses a unique experience for families, faculty, and students alike. We are always welcoming new members!

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## communitas

### SUMMER 2024

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Do you have a story to tell, a project to share, or art to be displayed? Let Communitas be a platform for your voice.

Communitas is about community and we rely on contributions from the SCIS community.

Should you have any comments, observations, wish to submit articles, or inquire as to ways to collaborate, feel free to send all inquiries or correspondence to the Communitas editor via email at [etan@scis-china.org](mailto:etan@scis-china.org).

Communitas is published three times per year for the SCIS community, our friends, and the larger Shanghai community.

We are social! Feel free to visit us on the web at [www.scis-china.org](http://www.scis-china.org) and follow us!



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# *Chasing Chances:* Celebrating Transitions, Achievements, and Milestones at SCIS

As the academic year ends, the Shanghai Community International School (SCIS) community reflects on the remarkable transitions, achievements, and milestones that have shaped the 2023-2024 academic year. This period has been a testament to the growth, resilience, and potential of our students as they prepare for brighter futures.

One of the most heartwarming transitions is the journey from Kindergarten to Grade 1. This milestone represents the first significant step into the Primary Years Programme (PYP) for our youngest learners. Throughout the year, these little ones have developed foundational skills and a love for learning that will carry them forward. As they step into Grade 1, they embark on a path of inquiry-based learning, exploration, and discovery. The excitement in their eyes and the pride of their parents and teachers are a testament to their readiness for this new chapter.

Transitions within the International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum are equally significant. Moving up from the PYP to the Middle Years Programme (MYP) marks a shift towards

more independent learning and critical thinking. Our Grade 5 students, who showcased their knowledge and skills in the PYP Exhibition, are now ready to tackle the challenges of the MYP, where they will further hone their inquiry skills and deepen their understanding of global issues.

The leap from the MYP to the Diploma Programme (DP) is another pivotal moment. Our MYP graduates have demonstrated their ability to think critically and engage with complex concepts. Now, they are prepared to undertake the rigorous demands of the DP, where they will delve into specialized subjects, conduct original research, and prepare for higher education.

Finally, our DP students are on the brink of adulthood, ready to apply their learning in university and beyond. These students have not only mastered academic content but have also developed the skills and attributes necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. As they prepare to showcase their talents and knowledge at prestigious universities, they carry with them the values and lessons learned at SCIS.





The academic year has been punctuated by grand theater and musical productions, vibrant community gatherings, and thrilling sports spectacles. These events highlight the diverse talents and collaborative spirit of our students. The theater productions have brought stories to life, showcasing the creativity and dedication of our young actors, directors, and crew members. Community gatherings have fostered a sense of belonging and shared purpose, while sports events have demonstrated the athletic prowess and team spirit of our students.

None of these achievements would be possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our SCIS community. We extend our deepest gratitude to the parents, faculty, counselors, administrators, and support staff who work tirelessly to create an environment where every child can fulfill their full potential. Your

commitment to nurturing global-minded individuals and lifelong learners is the cornerstone of our success.

As we reflect on the past academic year, we are filled with pride and anticipation for what lies ahead. The transitions, achievements, and milestones of this academic year have prepared our students for a future filled with opportunities. We are confident that they will continue to chase chances, embrace challenges, and make meaningful contributions to the world.

At SCIS, we celebrate the journey of learning, knowing that each step forward is a step towards a brighter, more informed, and interconnected future. Together, we are building a community of learners who are ready to make a difference.







# PYP Exhibition: Unveiling Inquiry, Empowering Minds at SCIS

## The PYP Exhibition

At Shanghai Community International School (SCIS), our Grade 5 students complete the Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition (PYPx), an in-depth student-led inquiry to demonstrate their understanding of an issue or opportunity they have chosen to explore.

## The PYP Exhibition Process of Learning

At the start of the process, students are partnered with a teacher at SCIS and complete a Curiosity Conversation. This is a structured conversation to narrow down the students' ideas for their Exhibition. Students begin with three big ideas and together they determine the direction they could take the inquiry. Grade 5 teachers use data from this conversation to form the PYPx groups that include students with similar curiosities which honor each member's ideas and area of interest.

## Curiosity Conversations – Reflective Questions

### Why are you curious about this big idea?

- What are your personal connections to this big idea?
- Why is this big idea important to you?
- What makes you excited or feel passionate about this big idea?
- What do you want to learn more about from this big idea?
- What questions can you create to guide your learning based on this big idea?
- Have you ever experienced anything connected to this big idea? Explain.

### Why does or should this big idea matter to other people?

- How do other people currently feel about this big idea?
- Why do you think this big idea needs more attention in the world?
- Why should other people care about this big idea?

### Are there any problems related to your big idea?

- What are the major problems with \_\_\_\_\_ right now?
- What do you think will happen if \_\_\_\_\_ continues?
- What are some effects, consequences or lasting changes caused by this big idea?

### Can you attach this big idea to something local, national or global?

- What are some examples of \_\_\_\_\_ impacting people in positive or negative ways in our community/world?
- How are other people or organizations currently working to solve or help with this big idea?
- Who are the people or groups most affected by this big idea?
- Where in the world is this big idea mostly happening?

### Can action be taken for this big idea? What are some examples?

- What can you do to bring awareness or make this big idea better?
- What can you do to make a difference in this world based on your big idea?

**curious  
conversations**

Once groups are formed, the Grade 5 students begin the six-week process of researching, documenting, thinking and collaborating to complete their inquiry. Students are mentored by another PYP teacher at SCIS and encouraged to ask thoughtful questions, investigate diverse perspectives, and seek solutions to authentic problems. Through extensive research, they deepen their understanding of these complex issues and continue developing essential skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and communication skills. Finally, once they have gathered and analyzed their information the PYPx groups present their Exhibition to the SCIS community.





On the day of the Exhibition, there are three important components; the Opening Ceremony, Presentations, and Interactive Experiences. The PYP Exhibition opening ceremony serves as a collaborative platform, bringing together students and teachers to celebrate the students' inquiry journeys and showcase their learning to the school community. This is followed by formal presentations, where students present their work, and interactive experiences, where students interact with their audience, answer questions, and engage in conversations about their inquiry.

Alongside academic growth, students develop essential skills in research, communication, and critical thinking, that establishes a strong foundation for success in the MYP and beyond. As they reflect on their PYP journey and anticipate the challenges and opportunities of the MYP, students embrace the process of inquiry, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship that underpins the IB framework.

This shows the powerful effect of when students are given a voice, choice and ownership over their learning and take meaningful action related to their chosen issue.



The PYP Exhibition is an important component of learning at SCIS as it provides our students the opportunity to:

- **Celebrate Inquiry-Based Learning:** It provides students an opportunity to engage in authentic inquiry and investigation into real-world issues or topics of personal interest. This promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills as students explore and analyze complex questions.
- **Promote Independent Learning:** Students take ownership of their learning, working independently or in small groups to plan, manage, and design their projects. This encourages time management and gives students agency as they navigate the exhibition process from start to finish.
- **Develop Collaborative Skills:** Encourages collaboration and teamwork as students collaborate with peers, teachers, mentors, and community members to explore their chosen topic, gather information, and present their findings. This collaborative approach promotes communication, cooperation, and interpersonal skills.
- **Encourage Personal Growth:** Allows students to develop a deeper understanding of themselves, their interests, strengths, and areas for growth.

It provides an opportunity for reflection, self-assessment, and personal goal setting as students reflect on their learning and achievements throughout the exhibition process.

- **Create Internationally Minded Students:** Focuses on globally significant issues, encouraging students to consider their roles as responsible and informed global citizens. Through their inquiries, students develop empathy, cultural awareness, and a sense of social responsibility as they explore solutions to local and global challenges and consider the impact of their actions on the world around them.

The PYP Exhibition embodies the essence of inquiry-based learning, promoting the development of academic skills alongside personal growth and global citizenship. It serves as a pivotal moment in students' educational journey, empowering them to explore, collaborate, and make a difference in the world. It is what makes our students IB students.



*By Vincent Lehane,  
PYP Coordinator  
at SCIS Hongqiao*







# Community Teaching & Learning

A Grade 12 student gets off the bus discussing the school musical with a Grade 1 student and PYP Coordinator, Malika Meidinger, smiles and reflects that these magical relationships “*showcase how inclusive and caring our students are.*” On a campus where students aged two to eighteen interact regularly, these mixed-age relationships are integral to school life. The Head of School at SCIS Pudong, Derek Luebbe, emphasizes the community benefit of the engagement children forge and this “*helps foster the idea that we are one school of SCIS Dragons.*” Teachers frequently leverage this sense of community to create new and authentic learning opportunities.

Grade 2 Teacher, Lanie Crabtree was starting a unit on Scientific Method. She connected with Upper School Science Teacher, Lourens Botha, whose Grade 7 class was designing experiments on how changing variables influence the speed sugar dissolves in water. As the Grade 2 students watched the experiments in the Science laboratories, they asked their Grade 7 counterparts about the design and outcomes of the experiments. For Mr. Botha, “*this was a valuable authentic*

*experience for students to share their knowledge and act like real scientists putting the scientific method into practice,”* while Mrs. Crabtree celebrates how the collaboration empowered younger students to prepare their science exhibition.

Upper School Theater Teacher, Cara Whiteside, sees working backstage on the Lower School musical as a perfect opportunity for her students to apply their practical skills through authentic service learning by mentoring younger stage-crew. Grade 9 student, Lloyd, appreciated the leadership experience of mentoring, and like Grade 10 student, Amelia, admitted he learned from working out how to translate and transfer







his knowledge. They both enjoy the enduring relationships and waves they now exchange with the younger students, but also recognize that this familiarity helps when children transition from Lower School to Upper School. Grade 5 student, Patrick, is equally emphatic: *"It was fun, and I learned lots about theater."* Along with Grade 4 student, Achille, he also explains how working alongside Lloyd in the lighting booth gave them confidence that any mistakes could be overcome.

Varsity soccer captains, Federico and Jojo, volunteered to coach middle school teams, and with both envisaging careers in the sports industry, they gained valuable lessons about the differences between playing and coaching, the need for detailed planning, and finding ways to maintain their authority. They also provided valuable role-models: Grade 7 student, Isabella, shared, *"As a middle school girl, it was nice having a female coach we respected who understood where we were at"*. Grade 8 student, Lucas, offered similar perspectives on the boys' respect for Federico's experience, admitting he'd like to coach like Federico before quipping, *"He was more interesting than a*

*teacher!"* As teacher-coach Mr. Hobson reflected, *"The student-coaches probably made it more fun for everyone involved."* In addition, the influential legacy of students coaching students has led to succession plans for student-coaches next year.

These are just a few examples of the value of collaborating as a learning community and embracing mixed-age interactions at SCIS Pudong. Lower School Principal at SCIS Pudong, Dr. Molly Myers, frequently observes the pedagogical and social benefits: *"The cross-pollination of ideas nurtures a culture of continuous learning and personal growth where students develop a deeper understanding of different perspectives."* Whatever the age, we share and grow together: *"Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon!"*



**By Robert Staples,  
MYP Coordinator  
at SCIS Pudong**





# University Acceptances

*Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon*

## Asia

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Shanghai University  
Taylor's University Malaysia  
The University of Hong Kong  
Waseda University Japan

## Australia

The University of Melbourne  
The University of Sydney

## Canada

McGill University  
McMaster University  
Queens University  
Simon Fraser University  
University of Alberta  
The University of British Columbia  
University of Guelph  
University of Guelph-Humber  
University of Ottawa  
University of Toronto  
Western University  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
York University

## Europe

Erasmus University Rotterdam  
Groningen University

Hanze University of Applied Sciences  
Leiden University  
University of Amsterdam  
University of Twente

## United Kingdom

Birkbeck, University of London  
City, University of London  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
Imperial College London  
King's College London  
Kingston University  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Regent's University London  
University for the Creative Arts  
The University of Manchester  
University College London  
University Arts London: Central Saint Martins  
The University of Edinburgh  
University of Westminster

## United States

Adelphi University  
ArtCenter College of Design  
Binghamton University  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Buffalo University  
California College of the Arts

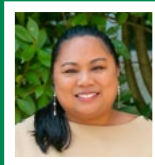
California Lutheran University  
Cornell University  
Ithaca College  
Massachusetts Institute of Creative Arts  
North Carolina University Asheville  
The Ohio State University  
Parsons School of Design  
Pepperdine University  
Pratt Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
Savannah College of Arts and Design  
School of Visual Arts  
School of the Art Institute Chicago  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
The George Washington University  
University California San Diego  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Pittsburgh  
Western Michigan University

*\*\*Students are still applying to Sweden, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, Denmark, Finland, and Australia.*





"It has been an absolute honor to support our Class of 2024. This is a talented and knowledgeable group of future sports managers, entrepreneurs, criminologists, and engineers (and more). Through thick and thin, these Dragons conquered academic and athletic challenges with unwavering gusto. Moreover, this global cohort possesses exceptional empathy and compassion for mankind. As your teachers watch the Class of 2024 graduate and move on to exciting new pathways around the USA, South America, Europe, and Asia, please remember the values you developed at SCIS Pudong. Also, please know, our closely-knit community of teachers and students will sorely miss each of you. Again, congratulations to our seniors and their wonderful families. Salamat, Ciao, Zaijian, Adios, Sayonara, Maah Salamah, Annyeonghi gaseyo."



Sarah Harkin, College Counselor at SCIS Pudong

"With anticipation and excitement, SCIS students have secured acceptance offers from multiple countries across the globe, marking an extraordinary testament to their talent and ambition. This achievement not only shows their dedication but also highlights the graduates' adaptability and readiness to embrace new opportunities. Their fields of study range widely, encompassing Industrial Labor Relations, Agriculture Science, Aerospace Engineering, Psychology, Business, Economics, and Philosophy, to name a few. Each chosen path represents a unique journey of academic pursuit and personal growth, reflecting the graduates' diverse interests and aspirations. As these graduates remark on their respective journeys, they carry with them the values of excellence, perseverance, and a chance to contribute meaningfully to societies worldwide. Their success serves as an inspiration and a reminder of the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to dream big and pursue their aspirations with unwavering determination. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!"



Lynn Brown, College Counselor at SCIS Hongqiao







# Smooth Sailing: Navigating Transitions with 10 Expert Tips for Kids and Parents

As we are approaching the end of the school year, it is time for many of us to prepare for different types of transitions, whether it is for ourselves or for the children. Here are 10 tips for supporting children through a transition to a new grade level, a new school and even to a new country.

1. Open communication: Encourage open discussions with your child about the upcoming transition. Listen to their concerns and validate their feelings.
2. Recognize your own emotions regarding the transition and give yourself the time to cope and adjust at your own pace and understand that how you feel about the transition might not be the same as how your child feels about the transition.
3. Take all the time needed to say goodbyes, this applies to people you and your child would want to say goodbye to, but also places. Make sure to start planning goodbye events ahead of time so that this process doesn't feel rushed.
4. Visit the new school or country: Prior to the move, if possible, visit the new school or country with your child or try your best to schedule a video call. Familiarizing them with the environment can ease anxiety and make the transition smoother.
5. Maintain routines: Stick to familiar routines as much as possible during the transition period to provide a sense of stability and predictability for your child.





6. Positive outlook: Model a positive attitude about the transition to instill confidence in your child. Highlight the exciting opportunities and adventures that await in the new school or country.

7. Connect with others: Help your child make connections by arranging playdates, joining community groups, or participating in school orientation programs to meet new friends and build a support network.

8. Stay involved: Stay actively involved in your child's transition process by attending orientation sessions, parent-teacher meetings, and school events to stay informed and engaged.

9. Be patient: Understand that adjusting to a new school or country takes time. Be patient and supportive as your child navigates through the changes and adapts to their new environment.

10. Maintain connections: Help your child stay connected with friends and family from their previous school or country through phone calls, video chats, or letters to provide a sense of continuity and support.



*By JJ Wu, ECE Counselor  
at SCIS Hongqiao*





# SCIS: A Community of Growth, Support, and Global Learning



At Shanghai Community International School (SCIS), we pride ourselves on being a welcoming community that develops our students both academically and personally. During the week before graduation, I asked several 2024 graduates to reflect on their time at SCIS. Several themes emerged that highlight the key components of an SCIS education: a nurturing environment, a diverse and inclusive community, a strong IBDP program, supportive faculty, and a lifetime of experiences and memories

## A Welcoming Environment

One of the most consistent themes among the students' reflections is the supportive and inclusive community at SCIS. Students

emphasize the welcoming nature of both teachers and peers, creating a familiar atmosphere. As Chaeun Lee (who will study Psychology at The University of Hong Kong) put it, "The best things about SCIS are the students, the teachers, and the environment in the school!" This sentiment is echoed by Kaito Ohara Ang (who will study Finance and Asset Management at The University of Hong Kong) who described SCIS as a second home, stating, "I've been here already for 8 years and it feels like my home... it's basically my second home, I can come back anytime."

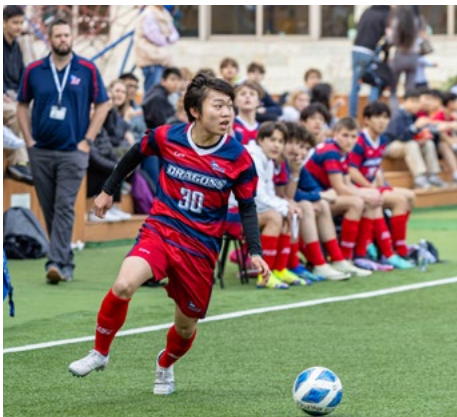
## Diverse and Inclusive Community

The diversity of the SCIS community is another highlight of the SCIS community.

Students appreciate the opportunity to interact with peers from various cultural backgrounds, which enriches their learning and social experiences. Chaeun recognizes this, "The community of SCIS is very diverse and it has provided many growing opportunities for me, such as being able to meet many diverse people from many diverse cultures and countries." This diversity fosters global citizenship and a deeper understanding of different perspectives, preparing students for a multicultural world.

## The IB Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) at SCIS plays a crucial role in our students' academic journey. The IBDP allows students to deeply study subjects of interest. Chaeun expressed gratitude for the ability to choose subjects aligned with her future study of psychology, which would not have been possible in her home country. Kaito highlighted the rigorous nature of the IB Diploma, which prepared him for higher education, stating, "The IB Diploma Programme has been really meaningful to me as I was able to learn a lot of different languages. I was able to learn Chinese, improve my English and Japanese skills, and I was also able to explore subjects that





I wasn't familiar with, such as chemistry and even business and economics, which I'm going to major in university. So, I was able to largely expand my knowledge." Jessie Chen (who will study illustration at The School of Visual Arts in New York) described the impact of the CAS, TOK, and EE opportunities, "I have been able to meet with other students which has allowed me to build my collaboration and communication skills."

### Supportive Faculty and Extracurricular Opportunities

SCIS students value their teachers and the strong relationships that they have built over their time as students here. The teachers' dedication to nurturing students' talents and interests has positively impacted them. As Ashika Govindan (who will attend the Honors College at Rutgers University to study engineering) described, "Everybody here is so welcoming and kind and nurturing of your passions and what you're interested in... Everybody tries to nurture your talents." Johnson Wei (who will attend Pennsylvania State University) said "The community has been really meaningful to me, especially the athletic programs. Throughout the ACAMIS tournament, I was able to connect with my teammates a lot. And the SCIS community has been really promoting the concept of inclusion which makes me feel good."



### Memorable Experiences and Lasting Friendships

Ashika identifies the special place that SCIS is, "It's a family that I'm a part of. I've moved around a lot in my life, and I have various families all over the world that I've made. And I say the SCIS community is my last school family because after this I'll be going to college, which is huge, and who knows what I'm going to find over there." Minsoo Kwak (who will study electronics and information engineering at Imperial College London), admits the sense of community extends beyond academics, students also will miss the communal spaces like the library, which serves as a hub for meeting friends and socializing. Lilian Chen (who will attend the University of London to study philosophy)



nostalgically reflected on her time in the library, describing it as "a special place, not only for the books but it's where the friends hang out... it's a communal space."

These students will all remember SCIS as a place beyond academics where students can thrive. The diverse community, dedicated faculty, and enriching extracurricular opportunities prepare students for the future and wherever life will take them.



*By Dr. Amy Valerio,  
Upper School Principal  
at SCIS Hongqiao*





# Trailblazers of Tomorrow: **SCIS Pudong Class of 2024**

The graduating Class of 2024 at Shanghai Community International School (SCIS), Pudong campus is a group of resilient, talented, and vibrant individuals who have overcome challenges and emerged stronger, ready to take on the world.

Among them, Audrey, a shy soul in person, transforms into a radiant presence on stage, captivating audiences as the enchanting Good Witch Glenda in *The Wizard of Oz*. Her artistic prowess and deep appreciation for traditional Chinese culture make her a standout figure.

Her brother, Samuel, shines as an exceptional actor and a gifted filmmaker, adding his unique touch to the school's creative endeavors.

Miguel's stellar acting skills have graced school productions annually, leaving a lasting impact with his portrayal of the Cowardly Lion in the school's rendition of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Nico, the quiet achiever, stands out as an outstanding scholar, embodying dedication and academic excellence. At the same time, his countryman Gui's prowess on the soccer field is matched only by his warm, friendly demeanor, making him a beloved figure among his peers.

Tim with his infectious sense of humor and stylish Niu e-bike, brings laughter and joy to those around him. His omnipresent sidekick, Sultan's outgoing nature and ever-present smile brightens the school's corridors, spreading positivity wherever he goes.





Sara's passion for the environment led her to establish the school's biodiversity club, showcasing her commitment to sustainability and ecological awareness. Seungha's artistic talents with her kind-hearted and empathetic nature, make her a beacon of creativity and compassion within the school community.

Charlie, a gifted artist and creative visionary, wowed audiences with his promotional film for the prom and showcased his talent through an exceptional art exhibit. Claudia, though quiet, radiates kindness and warmth, leaving a lasting impact on those around her. Jose Teles Ribeiro's infectious energy and love for life make him a joy to be around, spreading positivity wherever he goes.

Masato's skill in table tennis is matched only by his dedication and sportsmanship. Federico, a natural leader, captained the boys' soccer team, inspiring his

teammates with his charisma and determination. Jojo, at the helm of the girls' soccer team, led with grace and fortitude, embodying resilience and sportsmanship.

Each student in the 2024 graduating class brings their unique talents, perspectives, and strengths to the table, setting the stage for a bright and promising future. As they embark on their next chapter, we wish them well in all their future endeavors. May their paths be filled with success, fulfillment, and endless opportunities to shine. Good luck to the graduating SCIS Pudong Class of 2024 as they step into the next phase of their lives with courage, determination, and boundless potential.



*By Ken Kitchens,  
Upper School Principal  
at SCIS Pudong*





# Hongqiao Varsity Girls Soccer 2024



The Varsity Girls' Soccer season was a remarkable journey of integration, perseverance, and triumph. Despite the challenge of blending new and seasoned players into a cohesive unit, the team embraced a different tactic and strategy, ultimately achieving an unbeaten run in the league and securing a first-place finish in the West.

Their journey faced a setback with a tough loss in the semi-final of the SISAC Cup Tournament to Hangzhou International

School (HIS). However, the team's resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit shone through, propelling them to victory in the ACAMIS Green Division on April 20th where they had to face HIS once again.

The season was a testament to the team's unity and commitment, showcasing their ability to overcome obstacles and emerge stronger. It was an unforgettable season, marked by challenges and triumphs, and their inspiring journey serves as a beacon

of hope for future players, encouraging them to join the team and be part of something special.

ACAMIS 'All-tournament Players' as voted by opposing coaches: Maho, Ines, and Noemie.



**Coach:**  
**Chantelle Ho**







## ***Hongqiao Varsity Boys Soccer 2024***

This has been a season of growth and consolidation. Half of the team was new, and nearly the other half were seniors, so this would be their last campaign. The football season coincides with the IB final exams, making full commitment from these players even more challenging. Nevertheless, they did not miss a match and competed at the highest level in both championships. As a result, the team came third in ACAMIS, receiving the sportsmanship award, which was voted by the other teams. This demonstrates the team spirit and the importance that these players have managed to give to our values of solidarity and respect, making them our hallmark. Additionally, we were champions of SISAC, where we faced HIS in the final. Overall, it has been a lively campaign, with great victories and painful defeats, but it has strengthened the values that characterize SCIS's football division.



**Coach:**  
**Rafael Risquez Navajas**

## ***Hongqiao Junior Varsity Boys Soccer 2024***

In the vibrant success of the Junior Varsity soccer season, athletes displayed unmatched dedication and sportsmanship, surpassing all expectations. Through highs and lows, their teamwork and passion shone, forging an unforgettable atmosphere. Their journey culminated in a well-deserved third-place trophy, but their unwavering love for the game defined their success. Each match was a testament to their resilience, unity, and indomitable spirit, inspiring each other and leaving everything on the field. All players have shown tremendous growth on and off the field. The athletes have shown a uniformed team spirit that gave us unforgettable moments.



**Coach:**  
**James Shave**



# Pudong Varsity Girls Soccer 2024



This year, the team played in the Division 2 category competing against schools in the same division across Shanghai (primarily in the Pudong area). The following students made up the team: Allison, Mika, Mary, Amelia, Isabella, Nina, Jojo, Francesca, Wendy, Aada, Lore. The team participated in two different competitions this season – SISAC and ACAMIS. Before the season started, we played a couple of friendly matches and during the preliminary stages, we played four matches (3 wins and 1 loss) and went into the SISAC group stage as

runners-up. The team's resilience won them a third-place finish at the SISAC Soccer competition. ACAMIS was held between the 18th and 20th of April. Due to the absence of some of our key players, the team could only settle for a fifth-place finish. Throughout the season and each competition, the team showed resilience.



Coach:  
Joshua Oke







# Pudong Varsity Boys Soccer 2024

The Boys' Varsity soccer season showed perseverance, teamwork, and determination. Building on the momentum from last season's second-place finish at ACAMIS, the team set their sights on bringing home the trophy this year. Through persistent practice (mostly in the rain) and frequent matches, the team evolved and bonded while facing formidable opponents in the SISAC league.

The pinnacle of the season was the ACAMIS Chengdu tournament, where the team showcased their prowess and dominance. With an unbeatable spirit, they triumphed in every game, conceding only two games out of the entire tournament. Ultimately, their teamwork and playing of total soccer brought home the ACAMIS trophy for SCIS Pudong.

A special tribute is owed to the seniors—Gui, Nico, Tim, and Federico—who provided leadership, guidance, and inspiration throughout the season. Their dedication and passion for the sport served as a driving force for the entire team, embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Saying goodbye to them will be hard on the team, but the boys are locked in and ready for new challenges as we cultivate a new team for the next ACAMIS.



**Coach:**  
*Luke Cantrill*





# From Holland to Shanghai: Floor Wijsma's Journey Back to SCIS



Read and digest the heartfelt reunion of former SCIS Hongqiao student, Floor Wijsma, as he returns to his second home after a decade. During his poignant interview, he reminisces on his unforgettable experiences at SCIS, a highlight of his Shanghai trip.

His visit stirred emotions of closure and gratitude, reflecting on the transformative impact SCIS had on his journey. Having Floor and his father reconnect with us and hearing about his thoughts and stories was a pleasure, and we wish them all the best as they safely return home to the Netherlands.

## Welcome back Floor! Please introduce yourself.

Hi, my name is Floor, and I went to SCIS from the first to the fifth grade. I'm now visiting Shanghai, so I thought I'd visit SCIS. I currently live in the Netherlands and my hobbies are fishing, being outside in nature, reading, and following the news and politics.



## What is your fondest memory during your time at SCIS?

After the third grade, all the old students in my grade got a new class and we got mixed up. And my third-grade teacher gave us all an invitation that said "Your old teacher misses you. Come for a pizza part during lunch break." All the old students went to the classroom and had pizza with our third-grade teacher.

## What valuable lesson did you learn from SCIS?

The most valuable lesson I learned at SCIS is everything that may seem strange in the beginning, or seems different from what you know, that doesn't say anything about



its value. Be an inquirer, ask questions, and learn that way. Follow your own mind. Be curious.

### What do you miss the most about SCIS?

What I miss the most is the planned schedule. It was all so precise. You arrived at school always at the same time, you left at the same time, had lunch at the same time, gym at the same time. It was all planned out greatly and they did all that for you. It's tough when you have to do it on your own.

### What impressed you the most since you've returned to SCIS?

It impressed me the most to see how much the school has renovated and innovated. Basically, it's way more modern now. Old classrooms turned into free learning spaces, which I really like.

### What are three reasons why someone should go to SCIS?

First and foremost, the principles and the way of looking at the world. Second, is making friends. It's really encouraged here. And you make friends across all cultures. Third, I think the facilities there were always amazing. The lunch was amazing. The sports were amazing. The after-school activities. The personal guidance from teachers as well.



## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Alumni Mission:

The SCIS Alumni Association has been established in order to foster the continued cordial relations of the SCIS community. Its goal was, and continues to be, to link alumni with the School and with each other, and to support and maintain such forged relationships. It strives to provide ample avenues and opportunities to encourage alumni to participate actively in the SCIS community.

### Alumni Contact:

Elena Tan  
[etan@scis-china.org](mailto:etan@scis-china.org)

### Alumni Requirements:

1. Graduated from a SCIS Campus

OR

2. Went to school here for at least one year AND be over 18

### Social Media



Facebook site:  
<https://www.facebook.com/alumniSCIS/>



Linkedin site:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4757677>





# Our SCIS Parents Did That?



Founded in May 1996, SCIS's Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) coordinates parent involvement with the school; and is a place where many of our families find lifelong friends.

During the 2023-2024 school year, PAFA...

## Arranged fun activities and programs

- Parent Social Night: An exclusive gathering designed for parents with delicious food, sweet wine, and stunning views. Parents from both Hongqiao and Pudong campuses can mingle with one another and our school management team.
- International Food Fair: This community's favorite features traditional dishes from around the world, showcasing the uniqueness of our international culture. In October, country ambassadors from 20 countries showcased food from around the world. The event attracted over 3,000 friends and families.
- Halloween Bash: The ECE Halloween Camp o' Treat saw families from their A-game, dressing in all sorts of social media worthy outfits. Shanghai Sunrise, a local charity joined the event offering face painting – with all proceeds going towards supporting underprivileged Shanghai youth.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: This year's theme was 'Plane' awesome. Our parents went all out. Teachers received wonderful treats throughout this week, from students and parents alike.
- ECE Charity Art Auction: This auspicious event is where philanthropy and children's love for art meet. Under the theme Art for heARTs, more than 80 attendees gathered and raised a whopping 74,200 RMB in support of children's heart surgeries.
- Cultural Craft Fair (CCF): Here we learn about different SCIS represented countries and cultures, through crafts and games. Managed by our ambassadors and attended by our ECE students, children from Grades 1-3 are welcome to join the festivities too.
- End of the Year BBQ: PAFA invites vendors from all over Shanghai to bring to the fun! On this day families get to relax, socialize, and enjoy an afternoon together.
- Market Days: Held monthly, this concept is not only providing our children with opportunities to sample a diverse array of food, but more so, it provides valuable lessons in money management.
- Passport Club: An extracurricular geography program that encourages Lower School students (Grades 1-5) to discover the world in a fun way.





### Supported our school community

- Back to School Night: PAFA representatives met with new families during their orientation meetings.
- Make Your Move: In collaboration with staff, PAFA donated additional chess boards and set them up in the Lower School Library.
- Chinese New Year Celebrations: For the second year running, PAFA gifted school Ayis and Shifus with red envelopes, as a token of appreciation.
- Let's Play Initiative: Involves creating more outdoor activities for students on the playground. By drawing a few lines and laying a few items outside, students are encouraged to use their imaginations and freely move within these spaces.
- Heart to Heart Week: In celebration of Heart to Heart charity week, the school hosted a screen-free evening and PAFA joined in the fun. Proceeds totaling 4,534.29 RMB from the PAFA table, were donated to Heart to Heart.

### Ran and assisted various Parent-Led groups

We have a wonderful array of clubs that are organized by our parents. If you are looking to meet like-minded individuals and enjoy a sense of community – then look no further. From soccer to dancing, exercising to cooking, there's a little something for everyone.

Chat to any PAFA member or look on the website for more information.

Through fun activities and programs, PAFA fulfills its mission of building a solid foundation that unites our diversity and fosters a positive, cohesive community. Thank you to all our parents who dedicated their time and skills to making our PAFA initiatives a success.

*By May Botha, PAFA Communications at SCIS Hongqiao*







# PAFA and the Sense of Togetherness

## “We” VS “I”



It is a journey in life to transit from learning how to express our needs, interests, feelings, and emotions by saying “I need, I want, and I feel”, to own the awareness of expressing what we personally need, want or feel, and learning to ask others “What do you need? What do you want? How do you feel?”

Some people unfortunately will never experience this journey in their lives, and perhaps they will remain in the same place, in the darkness and unawareness of the *other*. If you have in front of you a beautiful landscape, abundance in nature, variety of elements, colors and shapes, what would be the reason to keep your eyes on yourself all the time?

The *other* adds, contributes ideas, points to the details imperceptible to me, broadens my vision, identifies risks that I did not analyze, and in that process, I learn and evolve. This has been my journey as part of PAFA.

### The awareness of the “other”

The awareness of the *other* leads to the conscience that I am not the only person in the room – or in the world; there are *others* who have rights, needs, and a voice – their opinion is relevant and enriching. The *others* also have a personal story and circumstances that outline their views, needs, actions, reactions and feelings. Therefore, being respectful and empathetic towards the *other* reinforces the desire to support them as an individual and as a member of a group. Hence, the notion of the *other* is represented by any other individual who circumstantially interacts



with me. This applies to one-to-one interaction, interaction between members of any kind of group, or society in general.

### The sense of “togetherness”

The concept of *togetherness* is related to the experience of being united with others in love, friendship, respect, understanding, empathy, generosity, and solidarity. The term has been attached to family, friends, teams, groups and communities. This notion encourages active involvement to develop a sense of group identity. The sense of *togetherness* implies the establishment of common principles and values that strengthen the bonds between individuals and lead to a sense of belonging. It generates motivation that shapes positive and constructive behaviors for the achievement of objectives and goals.

In PAFA we have worked and will continue to work to promote, build, and experience the awareness of the *other*, as well as the sense of *togetherness*, fostering effective

and positive communication, empathy, respect, mutual recognition, mutual support, harmony, peace, and appreciation of the diversity of cultures worthily represented by the members of our SCIS-Pudong community.

We are proud to realize that everyday members of our community cease to be witnesses of our evolution and become parties and promoting agents of our sense of *togetherness*. We have seen this by listening to them ask: how will we achieve our next goals and objectives as a community? Instead of asking: How will I achieve my next goals and objectives as a member of this community? We have moved from *I* to *We* and it is a big step on the road we will continue to travel.

“A community is a group of people who agree to grow together”. – Simon Sinek.

**By Maria Verduzco, PAFA Communications at SCIS Pudong**





# Book Recommendations for All Ages

Books are a handy resource packed with information, insights into a happy life, life lessons, love, fear, and lots of advantageous instruction. Books open doors to a world of ingenuity, creativity, and resourcefulness. And stories are an integral part of our lives. They talk about history, mythology, our beliefs, our inspirations, and possibilities of our future, the list is endless. Read below the book recommendations for all ages from our very own SCIS librarians:

## Malia Heil, Librarian at SCIS Pudong



### *One Summer: America, 1927*

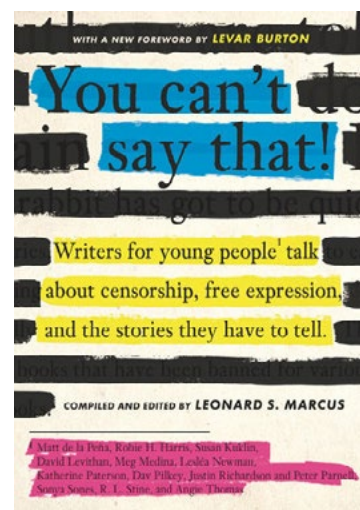
By Bill Bryson  
Ages 16-18

This may be nonfiction, but it reads like a twisting, intertwining story. The summer of 1927 could be called the coming-of-age of America: it saw so many events that gave it global importance or at least turned the heads of people around the world. From Charles Lindbergh's flight to Jack Dempsey's fist, the book spans everything from filmmaking to bootlegging to politics. However, what makes it especially palatable is the engaging narrative style of Bill Bryson. Just by reading his prose, you'll see facts morph into art, by (believe it or not) sentence structure and word choice. So, experience this fascinating summer during your summer break... and absorb knowledge and skills for Humanities and Lang & Lit without even trying.

### *You Can't Say That!*

Compiled by Leonard S. Marcus  
Ages 11-15

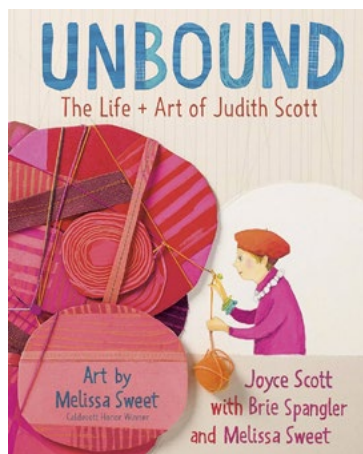
Censorship is prevalent and imposing, but those who ban books would say the same thing about the expletives and violence and principles they want removed from shelves. But what do the authors themselves say about their voices being silenced? *You Can't Say That!* interviews 13 prominent authors for young people who have had their books questioned for content, and we get to hear why they included risky (or brave?) elements in their stories. Each section is laid out in question-and-answer form, leaving readers with poignant, verbatim conversations to hear, ponder, and interpret for themselves.



### *Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott*

By Joyce Scott with Brie Spangler, Illustrated by Melissa Sweet  
Ages 6-10

In this true story, Joyce Scott tells of her twin sister Judy who was born with disabilities and delved into creative depths that amaze all who see her sculptures. The art by Melissa Sweet appropriately mimics Judy's style by blending real materials with illustrations on each page, winding and tangling everyday objects until they burst out with new meaning. This heartwarming story touches on the important themes of family and disability acceptance and has the bonus feature of art appreciation, tangible even for the youngest readers.





## Clair Wain, Early Childhood Librarian at SCIS Hongqiao

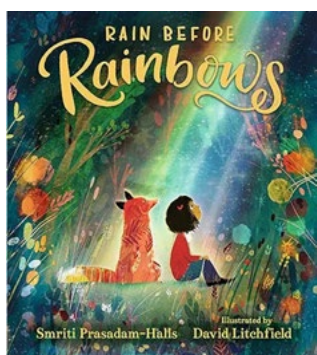
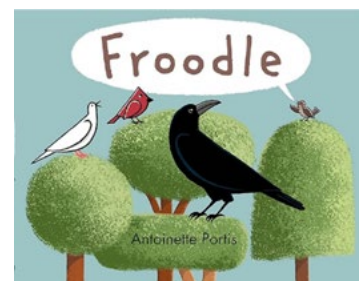
The summer holiday is perfect for diving into books! Sharing books and stories is not just about learning to read, it is about relationships, both between adults and children as they read together and between children and those characters they meet in the text. Books must light in children that flame of literature's love which will burn throughout their lives. Books can spark that passion and children can develop not only as readers but as lovers of stories and active participants in the most human of experiences. There are so many good quality books available, it is hard to choose! Here are a few suggestions for your early-years children to explore.

### **Froodle**

By Antoinette Portis

Age 3-6

*Froodle* by Antoinette Portis is a beautiful tale that celebrates creativity and individuality. Through lively illustrations and playful language, readers learn about the power of imagination and the joy of embracing your uniqueness. This book sparks discussions about self-expression, diversity, and the importance of embracing differences. Antoinette Portis has written several books including, *Not a Box, Not a Stick*, and *Best Frints in the Whole Universe*, which are all worth reading.



### **Rain Before Rainbow**

By Smriti Halls and David Litchfield

Age 3-6

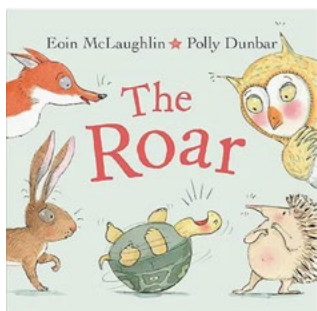
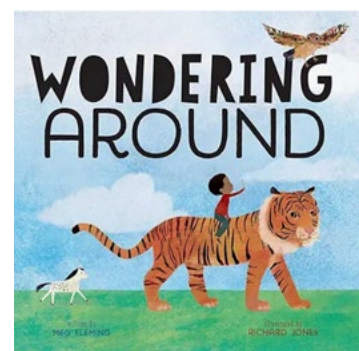
*Rain Before Rainbow* by Smriti Halls and David Litchfield is a tender exploration of resilience and hope. Through lush illustrations and lyrical prose, readers discover the beauty that emerges after life's storms. Themes of patience, optimism, and finding joy in adversity make this a perfect catalyst for discussions on perseverance and positivity.

### **Wondering Around**

By Meg Fleming

Age 3-6

*Wondering Around* by Meg Fleming is a delightful journey of curiosity and discovery. Through charming rhymes and enchanting illustrations, readers learn about the wonders of exploration and the joy of embracing the unknown. Themes of imagination, observation, and wonder spark discussions on curiosity, creativity, and the beauty of the world around.



### **The Roar**

By Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar

Age 3-6

*The Roar* by Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar is a heartwarming tale of friendship and self-expression. Through vibrant illustrations and engaging storytelling, readers learn about the power of communication and the importance of being heard. Themes of empathy, understanding, and the value of listening encourage discussions on friendship, inclusion, and diversity.





*....building a more  
peaceful world" - IB*