



From the Principals

Dear Parents,

Teachers and students alike are charged up and excited for the final month of the school year! Students are all involved in the final unit of inquiry, with teachers planning engaging lessons and activities and making the last month one to remember.

We thank all parents who supported our Charity Concert in aid of a clean water project in the Congo. It was fantastic to see everyone out, having fun and being a part of something to make a difference in the daily lives of people without easy access to clean water.

We are also in the final swing of music concerts, with the Grade 3 Splash show finished we moved on to the Grade 2 and PR concerts. Also exciting is our up and coming International Week activities, Talent Shows and the Grade 5 graduation.

We hope you all enjoy a relaxing weekend!

Clara Li and Karen Mathieson
Vice principals, Co-Heads of Primary

Dates to Note

6th June
International Day

7th -9th June
Duan Wu Festival Holiday

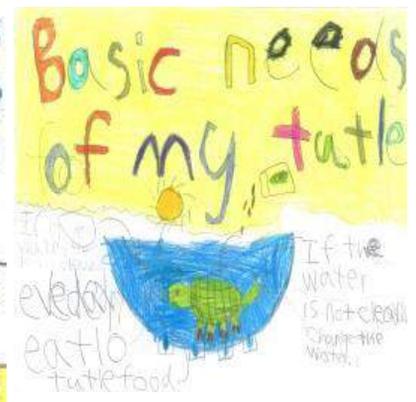
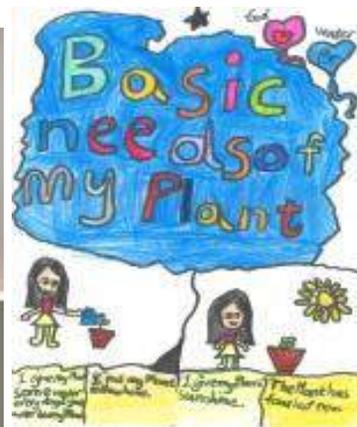
10th June
Return to School

13th June
Musical Gala

14th June
Teacher Appreciation Party

UOI 5 – Primary Reception

In this unit, PR students looked into living things: from understanding the meaning of living things to looking at the basic needs, to learning about how we are responsible to living things to secure their growth. Students found it interesting as they inquired and learned more about living things, including themselves. Our field trip to the Shanghai Zoo, which gave us exclusive knowledge of certain living things through a guided tour, helped students learn more about them. During the trip, they got up close and personal with a few selected animals, such as penguins, giraffes and llamas. This experience brought out the protective instinct in the students to want to protect as many different living things as they could. When students got back to class, they started thinking about what they could do to help secure the growth of living things around them. They showed their understanding of what they think the responsibilities are in different ways, such as making a poster or diorama. We hope our PR students will continue to take actions in ensuring the growth of living things around them.



UOI 5 – Grade 1 & 2

Grade 1 students have been exploring the concepts of the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) in our Sharing the Planet unit: Reducing, reusing and recycling help us to be responsible for the environment. We planned a grade-wide workshop for students to demonstrate how they can adopt some environmentally friendly habits. These workshops included up-cycling used clothes into reusable bags, making art projects using waste materials such as phone holders out of toilet paper rolls or flower vases from glass bottles and making candles and soap. We had a number of parents that volunteered to help us with the workshops. It was a wonderful experience for the children as well as the parents and teachers. The children loved having their mothers and fathers around helping the different groups. It was interesting to see the end product that could come from trash.



During this unit, grade two students inquired into how evidence from Shanghai in the past has influenced present day Shanghai. One of the activities was an interview with Madam Hong who was born and raised in Shanghai. She shared her childhood memories and some of the changes that have taken place in Shanghai over time. Madam Hong also brought some objects from the past such as toys, books and household items for students to see. On the field trip, students walked around the streets in the French Concession area and learned about the historical buildings and famous people of a previous time. It was amazing to visit some of the very well-known Chinese figures' homes such as Ba Jin (writer) and Zhang Le Ping (Illustrator) and see their work. Students created culture boxes that included pictures or objects representing their cultures. They thought deeply about their cultural food, clothes, buildings, festivals, arts and dances and gave presentations on their work. Students showed pride in their cultures as well as respect and curiosity towards other cultures.



UOI 5 – Grade 3

G3 had many adventures this Unit 5 as we explored our body systems. Easing into this unit G3 experienced a Gong Bath that uses sound vibrations to relax the body, from our very own Ms. Mel in G3. We also invited Ms. Lorna Button, of Luna Mindfulness, to our school where she taught us mindfulness activities that supported our breath and brain function. Students began their inquiry into the respiratory system and digestive system; using experiments to help guide their learning. We then went deeper looking at other body systems and researching questions we had. Juliette's Father, who works with the French company Bureau Veritas, examining radiation levels, came in to speak to us about how radiation can affect our bodies. G3 culminated their journey with the science exhibition where they used recycled boxes to display their learning. Many students and G3 parents were able to see G3's researched questions, creativity and blended math's work in these wonderful, final pieces.

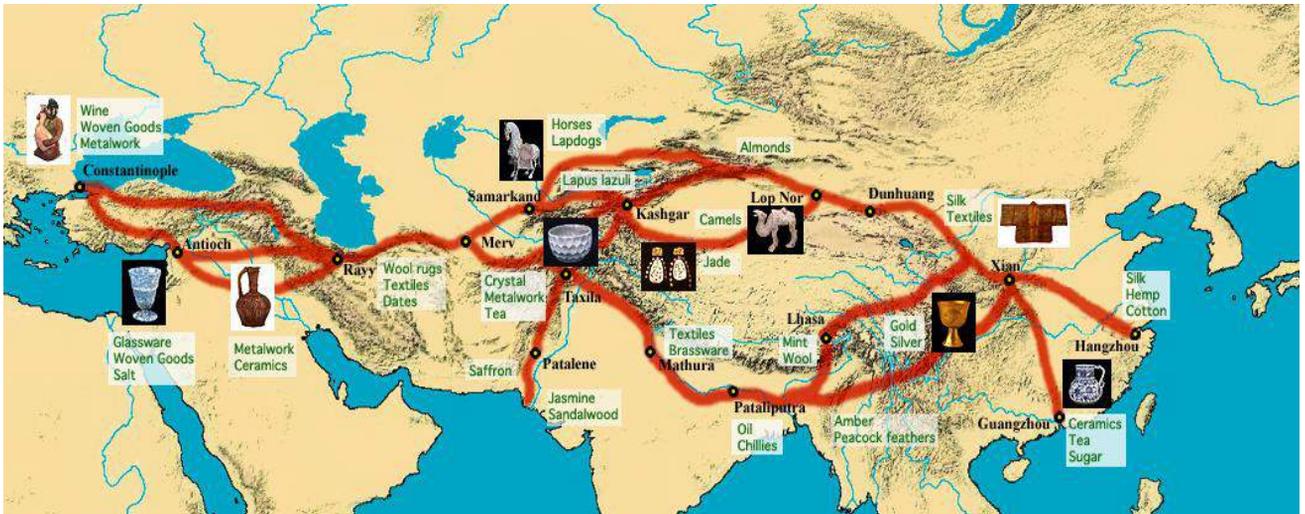
During their math's lessons they went deeper into long division. They linked life experiences by asking questions, tallying and charting findings. Some students went further in their learning by interviewing other classes in order to discover what ways SUIs could reduce the amount of plastic used at school. This care and kindness filtered over into G3's P4C lessons. They looked at friendships and the way they treat others in and around school.



G3's language classes allowed them to further develop their writing and presenting skills. Chinese lessons were blended nicely with UOI and allowed students to create stories about body systems. English allowed students to show off their descriptive skills as they examined ancient myths and legends. Both Chinese and English culminated by allowing students to creatively write a story based on the topics they had been exploring. Unit 5 was definitely packed with adventure and discovery across the subjects. Let's hope G3 students continue this fun level of inquiry as the action and adventure continues in Unit 6!

UOI 5 – Grade 4

During this unit the Grade 4's explored and inquired into the central idea: Trade occurs in the market place to meet people's needs. The students expressed what they already knew and would like to find out through KWLH (what they know, want to know, how they will find out and what they have learned) charts and activities. They were able to explore the concepts of learning how supply and demand affects the marketplace through various market and trade related games. The students integrated Maths and UOI activities in The Silk Road Game in which parents who attended the curriculum open morning were actively involved. This game provided students with real life situations and gave them valuable insights into how trade and markets function globally.



Grade 4 students also had wonderful opportunities of visiting the Zotter Chocolate Factory where they were enthralled by the production process from raw cocoa to finished product as well as the importance of fair trade in business.



Our guest speakers, Yaqun of ICICLE, and 4D class student, Chloe Li's dad, provided our students with valuable business tips and hints which they applied to their own businesses for Young Entrepreneurs Day.

This year, Grade 4 finished their Unit 5, How We Organize Ourselves, with a Young Entrepreneur's Day (YED). The excitement and enjoyment was tangible at the SUIS Grade 4 Young Entrepreneurs Day held on 16 May. Grade 4 students created a market that boasted over 150 different booths. Students sold unique handcrafted items and provided services. In preparation, students created model products, advertisements and wrote business plans. The students outdid themselves with the creativity of their products. The superb quality of items on sale made it almost impossible for shoppers to resist buying the enticing goods. Parents, teachers and students from PR to Grade 5 found the range of goods interesting and engaging. Shining light bulbs, homemade jewelries, Chinese building models, the fortune telling stalls and the magic performances are just a few examples of the outstanding ideas that were marketed superbly.

Students revealed that they were fully able to apply the skills they had acquired during Unit 5: learning about decimals and how it is translated when working with money; supply and demand; the importance of tracking costs as well as effective sales and marketing strategies, to name but a few. This money will be put to good use in uplifting a less privileged school community. In all, profits from YED this year exceeded 10,000RMB, with over 5000RMB being set aside for charitable donations. Grade 4 students donated about 10% of their profits towards Mr Zhang's school in rural China during assembly. This money will be used to buy desperately needed school supplies for deserving children. In the end, important business and economics lessons were learned by doing and taking action. Students now have a better understanding about markets and earning money. They understood how difficult business can be, and were inspired by how much money they could earn. We are proud of all our Grade 4 students and commend them on a job well done! Grade 4 wishes to thank all parents and community members for their continued support for SUIS events such as our annual Young Entrepreneurs Day.



UOI 5 – Grade 5

Seven weeks of collaboration with students, mentors, teachers and parents, On global issues ranging from health and well-being to animal issues, environment to electronics, Using skills and showing learner profile attributes; managing their learning, reflecting and goal-setting and finally celebrating at the Grade 5 PYPX, the Grade 5 students did themselves, their parents and teachers proud as they presented their learning in a variety of creative ways to the learning community. Well Done, Grade 5! We are proud of the high quality of our PYPX-it stands out in the IB community and schools from around Shanghai, Suzhou and beyond came to visit. Visitors are always impressed by the depth and quality of our PYPX!



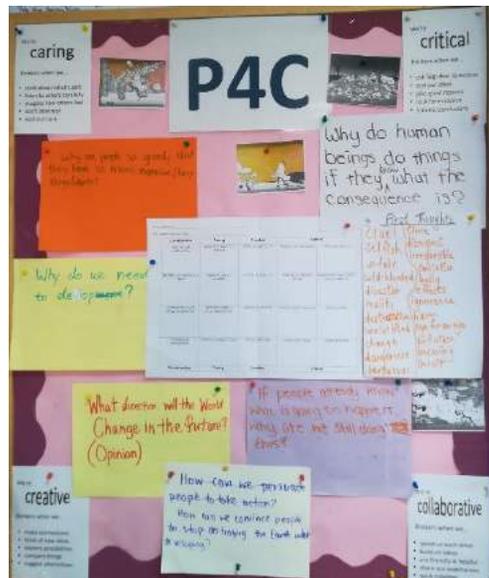
Philosophy for Children

Below is the full letter from Nick Chandley, who came to evaluate our school on the depth of our P4C programme. We included some tips for parents in the last newsletter but wanted to make sure you could read his letter in its' entirety also!

Dear SUIS parents,

It was so lovely to meet those of you that managed to get into school on my recent visit to SUIS and I'm sorry I couldn't get this to you any earlier. I'm afraid the amount of travel I do tends to take up the evenings! I loved meeting your children too. They were just so keen to be involved in their P4C sessions and loved exploring ideas together. Crucially though, it was their ideas that dictated the direction of the dialogue – and got me thinking too! I left China feeling very reassured that your children's teachers and school leaders continue to be incredibly strong advocates for developing our young people as good thinkers and confident, caring members of the communities of inquiry they are developing in each classroom. If ever there was a time for developing critical, creative, caring and collaborative thinking in our fast-developing world, it's now.

I've sent to school a book list that a colleague has drawn up so you should get that too. It's a list of really good picture books, all with some 'depth' to them, allowing you to open up conversations with your children. One of the main things we try to do with Philosophy for Children is to avoid giving our own opinions. We ask the children what they think of the story, if they have any questions and then we develop their thoughts through carefully timed questions. Socrates asked questions of meaning, truth and value, generally in that order, and that's just what we do. For example, here is a range of 'probing' questions, of meaning and truth, suggested by Robert Fisher in his book 'Teaching Thinking' (Continuum, 2008):



Questions that seek clarification

- Can you explain that...?
- What do you mean by that...?
- Can you give me an example...?
- How does that help...?
- Does anyone have a question...?

Questions that probe reasons and evidence

- Why do you think that.....?
- How do we know that.....?
- What are your reasons.....?
- Do you have evidence.....?
- Can you give me an example / counter example..?

Questions that explore alternative views

- Can you put it another way....?
- Is there another point of view....?
- What if someone were to suggest that...?
- What would someone who disagreed with you say...?
- What is the difference between those views / ideas..?

Questions that test implications and consequences

- What follows from what you say...?
- Does that agree with what was said earlier...?
- What would be the consequences of that...?
- Is there a general rule for that...?
- How could you test to see if that is true...?

Questions about the question / discussion

- Do you have a question about that...?
- What kind of question is it...?
- How does what was said help us in our thinking...?
- Where have we got to or who can summarise so far..?
- Are we any closer to answering the question / problem..?

(Nick's) questions of value:

- Why do you think this is **important**?*
- What **lessons** or **principles** can we draw from this? (or, **So what?**)*
- +Does anyone have any **alternative** (or **better**) **idea**?*
- So what does this mean for you/us?*

I shared a story called *The Giving Tree*, by Shel Silverstein, with some children recently. It's about a boy who plays with a tree and they come to love each other, but then the boy grows up and demands ever-greater things from the tree, which always willing to give. They were asked what interested them about the story and to come up with their own questions. The children then vote to find the one they would most like to discuss and we then begin to explore it. Here is how a discussion might develop with a parent & child:

Child: I really like that story

Adult: Why do you think that? (A 'meaning' question)

Child: Because the tree was being really nice

Adult: How do you know the tree was being nice? (A 'truth' question)

Child: Because it kept giving the boy everything he wanted.

Adult: Is it a good thing to give people everything they want?
(Can you see how we've now begun to move away from the story and into 'life'?)

Child: Sometimes, yes.

Adult: Can you give me an example?

Child: Like when someone doesn't have very much, we should give them what they want.

Adult: Why?

Child: Because it's not fair that some people have things and others don't.

Adult: So what does that mean we should do?
(A question of 'value')

You can see how we listen to the children, explore the story but then we end up talking about something connected to 'life' (but, importantly, some part of life the story has inspired and that your children will be able, and interested enough, to talk about).

I wouldn't labour the conversation but actually, the children in school really enjoy this kind of discussion and it's lovely to hear them say things like 'I disagree with you, Jacob, because...' or 'I agree with you, Sarah, but for a different reason'.

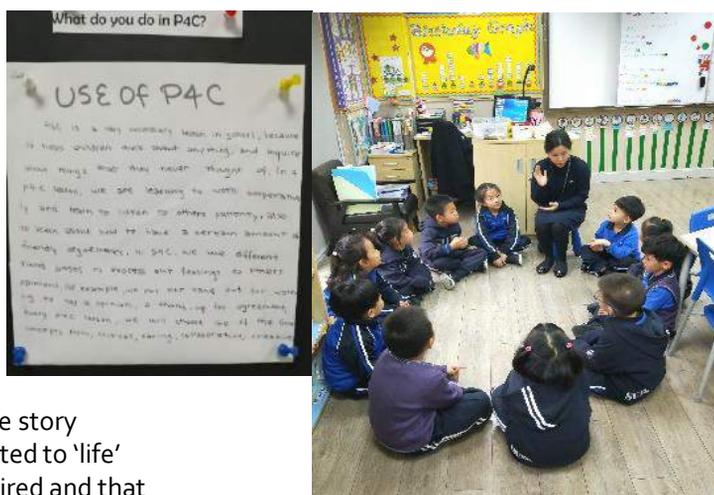
You might like to take a look, on the Internet, at the philosophy show I did for CBeebies (the BBC's children's channel). It's called *What's the Big Idea?* and is packed with great talking points for the children. I often pause the video after each of the 'big' questions that the central character, Hugo, asks, and then ask the children what their response would be. It's now in over 100 countries and, as far as I'm aware, China is one of these.

I've also sent to school some questions that I usually encourage schools to put out at lunchtime, just to allow the children to spontaneously burst into discussion that encourages critical and creative thinking. I've asked them to be forwarded to you too, just in case you'd like to explore them at your dinner table.

If there's anything you want to ask or if I've forgotten anything, please don't hesitate to be in touch with your school. I hope I'll be visiting again at some point but in the meantime, thank you again for being so welcoming and so interested in P4C.

Have fun with your philosophy!

All the best,
Nick Chandley
5/31/2019



Charity Concert

The music department hosted a charity concert on the 23rd of May in support of the Kinshasa Clean Water Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the World Health Organization and reports by UNICEF, over two billion people worldwide do not have access to clean uncontaminated water. Many of these affected countries are in Africa, where waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera kill millions of people each year. Children from poor households in these remarkably remote or rural communities typically bear the burden of undertaking the long, often hostile journey of water foraging. Many children spend up to an entire day, each day, in search of water and then having to endure the difficult task of carrying the heavy load back to their homes.

Tresor Mukuna, the founder of this eco-friendly water project in his community in Kinshasa, had the goal of providing running water to the whole neighbourhood. In response to assisting Tresor's inspiring initiative, the opportunity arose for Mr Smart and his music team to host a charity concert. This enabled our SUIs musicians to share their music while establishing a meaningful connection between our school and the Kinshasa community, from China to the Congo! The highlight of the evening was Ms Linda's outstanding choir who sang radiantly for the audience; the brilliant sounds of symphonic string playing by Ms Amy's string ensemble and the virtuosic piano music by our exceptional pianists. With a few hundred tickets sold, the concert enjoyed a full attending audience and was an extraordinary success! We are committed to fostering a spirit of humanity and compassion in our students and we are proud of them for being strong and caring young citizens of society. Through this event, we witnessed many of our musicians and students becoming active agents in making a positive impact and making the world a better place.

The Kinshasa Clean Water Project team and our SUIs music department would like to express their infinite gratitude to the leadership team and the whole school community. The united effort of our SUIs community to uplift and empower another community on another continent is deeply profound. We thank all our teachers, parents and students who participated and contributed to the successful fundraising of the event. We raised a total of 14,500 RMB! The funds will be used to improve better and healthier water installation processes, create more sustainable maintenance conditions and to continue acquiring water foraging tools for future water projects.

We are grateful for the dedicated, masterful guidance of Mr Smart, Ms Linda, and Ms Amy and the performing musicians who through the beauty of their music, raised awareness and illuminated an important plight of so many people around the world without clean water. Music transcends borders and is a powerful vehicle to drive and inspire positive change in the world!



G₃ CONCERT - SPLASH



On May 9th a theatre full of parents were treated to a very impressive musical and acting display. The spectacle was the Grade 3 production of a show called "Splash". This show was the story of a lot of animals that go on a pleasure cruise to escape an impending flood.

It started with a group of seagulls (3A) singing and dancing to a song that told everyone about life being a magical journey. Then a group of animals (3B) came on and sang and danced a very catchy song called Two by Two. Everyone in the audience was tapping their toes to that one. The nefarious Pie Rats (3F) then came onto the stage and did their rousing pirate song. Another group of animals (3G) followed the rats onto the stage and sang beautifully about the fun they could have in the floating zoo. Monkeys and animals (3C) then took over and did a very energetic rock and roll song called "Everybody Monkey Around". The rock and roll dancing in that piece was amazing. A sadder group of animals (3D) then entered the stage and sang a beautiful tune called "When Life Was Good" as they reminisced about their past. The lovely singing of that group touched the hearts of everyone. A hopeful group (3H) then bounded onto the stage and sang a cheerful song called "Blue Skies Ahead". The show ended with a group of animals (3E) singing about reaching their destination called "When a Rainbow Fills the Sky". All the children from Grade 3 then massed onto the stage and cheered up the audience with their lively and boisterous version of "Put on a Happy Face".

This show was a little different than the concerts that we have staged the last few years because it included a cast of actors who told the story through their acting. It was clear to all the audience that we have some very good young actors in our school. They learned all their lines very well and played their parts very well. They gave up a lot of their lunch time breaks to work in rehearsals and a big special thank you goes out to them for their positive efforts. Our fine actors in Splash: Jessica (3A), Joyce (3B), Aurora (3C), Loretta (3D), Lily (3E), Abby (3F), Emily and Rae Lin (3G), Nicole and Jacob (3H).

A lot of thanks for this show goes out to all the Grade 3 teachers who helped so much in preparation for the performance and to the SUISS Music Department. Parents were very pleased to be treated to an afternoon of musical theatre produced by a very talented, enthusiastic and dedicated group of Grade 3 students!



5/31/2019



SPORTS NEWS

The SUIS Hongqiao boys' basketball team hosted a tournament on 11 May. Six teams participated in the games. The tournament was run as a round robin with all the teams playing each other and the winner being the team with the best record. Our Hongqiao Team A took third place, only one point behind the runners up from SUIS Shangyin Campus. It also was the first time for many of the Grade 3 players to participate in a real game, as previously they made up much of the Hongqiao B Team. It really developed players' values and polished character through the tournament. This was the last tournament for the boys' basketball team for this year, they grew so much during the school year and had many successes.





NEWS FROM SUIS GUBEI CAMPUS

Resilient and Positive Graduates of 2018-2019

"Resilience and positivity." These are the qualities of our brilliant learners as described by SUIS GB Principal, Mr Walsh, which had a resounding impact on our 2018-2019 graduates Friday morning. Our G12 students have endured and persevered through all the challenges presented during the rigorous IB programme coming out with an amazing selection of university offers from top post-secondary institutions across the world.

Our Chinese co-principal Jenny Chen also said the path is bound to be full of hardships and challenges. But as long as the pace is on real human nature and life, as long as the pace is firm and far in sight, you will be able to achieve your own wonderful life.



Scan the QR code to follow the official SUIS GB Wechat account.

Photo Credit **Barefoot Portraits**



Musical acts from our talented G9, PreIB, G11, and Graduate students filled the auditorium and set the tone as the formal graduation ceremony went underway. Proud parents, family, teaching staff, university counsellors, and friends gathered together one final time to watch their brilliant children walk across the stage and receive their prized diploma. Moving the tassels on their academic caps from right to left signified our brilliant learners' transition from high school to the next chapter of their life.



Well-wishes, laughter, and emotional embraces spread across the graduating cohort after the ceremony was complete. Though our graduates will be pursuing higher education across the world, they will always be a part of the SUIS GB community and we hope that they look back fondly on the memories that were made in our familiar hallways. Our previous Head Boy and Head Girl also came to the stage to give speeches saying that gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.



Congratulations to our 2018-2019 graduates on a magnificent job well-done and may fortune favour you all!

