



### *From the Principals*

Dear Parents,

The air is getting colder and the weather is crisp! It is the perfect time of year to be outside and explore as the seasons change!

We have had a busy few weeks at school as we can see students inquiring into their learning, creating, innovating and asking questions. It is wonderful to speak with students and listen to their thoughts on the world around them. Our parents and grandparents have been supporting units of inquiry by coming in as guest speakers. PR saw many parents and grandparents sharing what life in the past was like and in Grade Four we listened in awe to how one parent designs products for a living and how he innovates and creates—wonderful and inspiring for our Grade Four students as they finalize their creations for the Invention Convention taking place on the 28 November.

We have put together an action issue theme for the majority of the newsletter so you can have a glimpse into what action is and what it looks like at different age levels.

Happy Weekend-Time to relax, rejuvenate and reenergize!

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

### **DATES TO NOTE**

**28<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
G4 Invention Convention

**29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
G5 Science Fair

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
G1 Concert

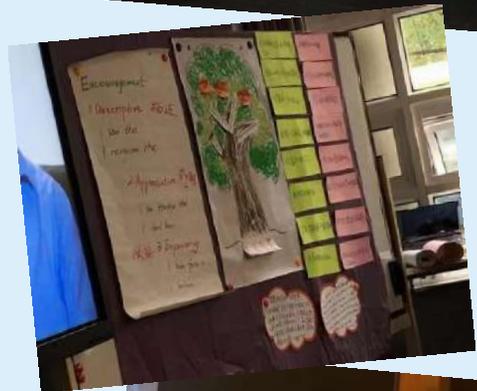
**21<sup>st</sup> Dec**  
School Ends at 12:00

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - 6<sup>th</sup> Jan**  
Winter Break

# The Parenting Children Course

Monday was the final session of the 5-week parenting course that was run by a group of 5 parents. Parents reflected on their learning and expressed positive sentiments on the value of this kind of course, not normally available to parents. We want to extend a huge thank you to the SUIS organizing parents who brought this training to our school: Icery Chen and Tanya Krasinkova with support from our Gubei parent Sunny Zhu. They have spent many hours making sure our parents could come together to learn, share and reflect on what it is to be a parent in today's busy world.

Due to the high level of interest in this course we are planning to hold the same course (for parents with children up to age 10) again after Chinese New Year holidays. Parents who are already on a waiting list will be added to the course. Additionally, we will be offering a course geared towards parents with older children (age 11-18). Information letters will go out for it in the coming weeks once we secure dates and venues.



## "Wonder" Reading Sharing Session

On November 12th, we invited Ms. Lily, a special lecturer from the "99 Read Club", and Zhang Xiaoqing, the chief-editor of "Wonder", to come to SUIS to share the book "Wonder" with our G4 and G5 students in our EMW stream.

In vivid language, combined with the movie clips and illustrations from the book, Ms. Lily brought everyone into the touching world of Auggie.

Through her unique editorial perspective, Zhang Xiaoqing kindly interacted with the children, encouraging everyone to think whilst reading. Students reflected on one of the most powerful and touching thoughts in the book, *when given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.*'

Two-time winner of the Newbury Children's Literature Award, Patricia Reilly Giff, wrote in her review of "Wonder", *"it is such a good book about love and the meaning of life. After reading it, people want to become Better people."*

If our book week lit our children's reading enthusiasm, then the "Wonder" reading sharing session undoubtedly let the children feel the power of reading, and it has also been a great warm up for our activity of "Reading a Book Together".

We believe that reading such a series of classic children's literature books is a great opportunity to enhance the reading skills, and cultivate the higher-order thinking and virtues of our children.



# STUDENT ACTION AT SUIS

## What is Action in the PYP?

Action is integral to the Primary Years Programme (PYP) learning process and to the programme's overarching outcome of international-mindedness. Through taking individual and collective action, students come to understand the responsibilities associated with being internationally minded and to appreciate the benefits of working with others for a shared purpose. When students see tangible actions that they can choose to make a difference, they see themselves as competent, capable and active agents of change (Oxfam 2015).

Initiated by students, PYP action is authentic, meaningful, mindful, responsible and responsive.

## Action could be:

- \*a change in attitude
- \*a consideration or plan for action in the future
- \*a demonstration of responsibility, or of respect for self, others and the environment
- \*an engagement in school decision-making or an expression of support in community, local and global decision-making

At Shanghai United International School our teachers strive to create an environment where students take these actions. It happens not only at school but at home, during the unit of inquiry or sometimes even after the unit has finished! We ask our parents to let teachers know when your child has taken any action outside of school by **dropping a note in your child's PYP journal or via email.**

## The following is an overview of what action looks like in our school from PR to Grade 5:

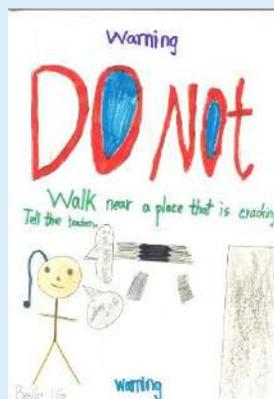
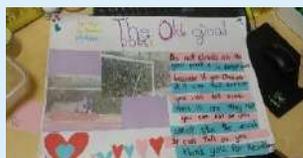
### PR – The 'Caring Police'



In PR 1, the students called themselves the "Caring Police", their job is to listen for or look for classmates who are caring to others, whether in the classroom, on the playground or even in the bathroom. When they see their classmates showing such actions they will put a stick that describes the act and put it in the student's bucket – which we called the "bucket filler" bucket. On the other hand, if that student is not being caring, there is also a "bucket dipper" bucket. Students are now more conscious in their behavior towards each other because of these buckets.



# G1's Finding Dangers



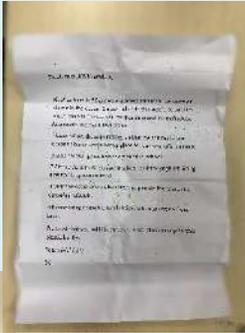
Grade One is taking action by way of participation. Grade 1 are reflecting and looking at how they can change their own thinking and actions. Participation action was taken in the 1st unit when we were exploring our senses. Students went around the school identifying dangers and making posters and videos to warn others of those dangers. Still to this day, students are aware of different situations and can identify dangers and warn others.

# G2- Alex's Trunk Sale Success



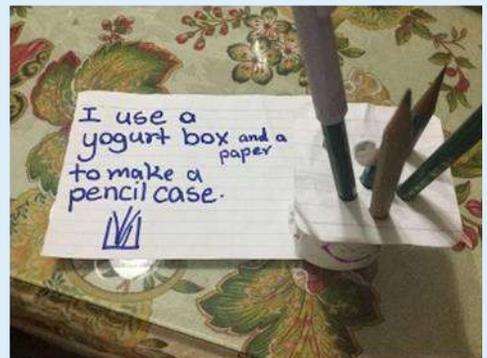
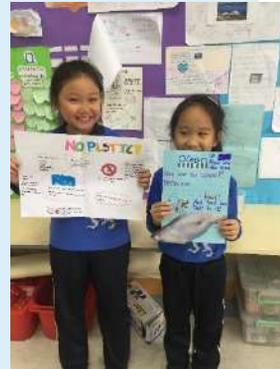
Alex from 2I showed entrepreneurial spirit and took effective action after being motivated by grade 2 second unit **'Cooperation is needed to help living things'** under the theme How We Organize Ourselves. He was inspired to take action after listening to guest speakers Ms Karen and Ms Mel, who gave community examples and explained how individuals and communities can take action. Alex decided to collect his unused toys and with the support of his family organised a trunk stall for charity. He had a busy day, encouraging young people to buy his well-loved toys for a good cause! It was an amazing success and Alex raised RMB600 for a local disability charity. Alex said, 'The most difficult part was actually selling the toys. Many children were not very interested in buying used toys. I had to explain that it was for a good cause and offer them at a good price!'

# G3 - 'Message in a Bottle'



Grade Three students have been taking action in many different ways. Students have been making changes to their lifestyle choices after learning about how human actions can contribute to pollution of the oceans. Students have been coming to school to share the actions that they took at home. Other classes were thinking of ways to raise awareness of the issues and taught other classes. Students in 3C created a 'message in a bottle' that was sent to all classes in grade 3. The students presented each class with the bottle by saying 'we have written you a letter to try and make our oceans better'. The letter detailed the guidelines that 3C created for our school to follow in order to make 'our oceans better'.

## More Actions....



# G4- Inventions

Grade 4 students have been busy investigating electric circuits and simple machines around us.



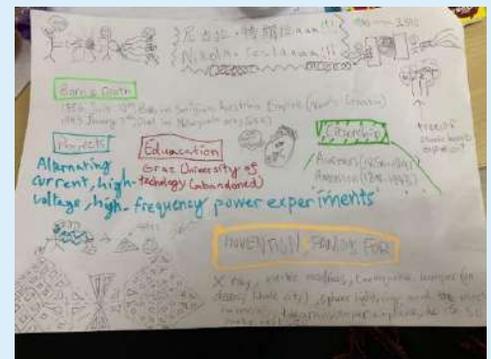
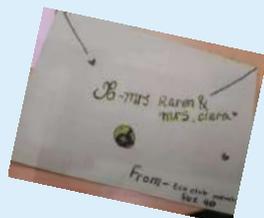
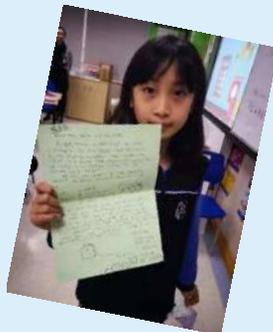
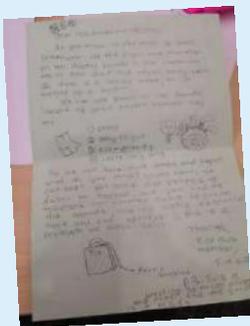
In due course, students are more aware of electricity being a finite resource as their batteries are running out sooner than they expected.



This led them to wonder about the limit to electricity as they previously thought electricity is an infinite resource. Several students started a small group to take turns to switch off lights.

As well as being more aware of the usage of electricity, students are actively recycling materials around their homes to share with their class mates.

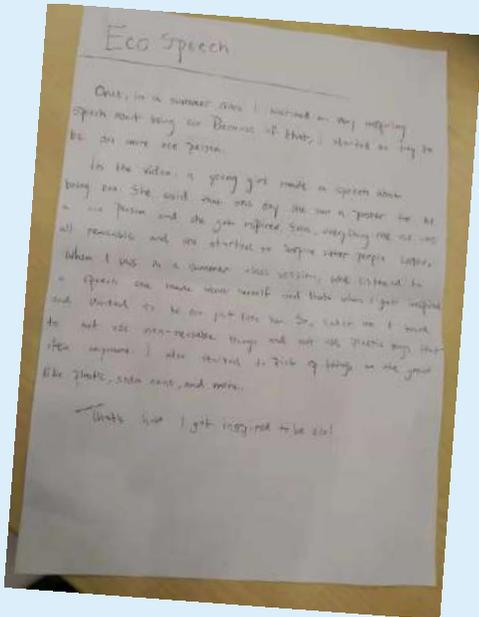
With the invention convention coming up on Wednesday 28th November, students are busy using recycle materials with their inventions.



In Grade Four students came together to write a letter to the principals with suggestions to find alternate ways to create a sustainable, green school. We are now working with these students to trial out their suggestions!

Michael Wu from 4F wrote a report after visiting the Tesla exhibit at the Science and Technology Museum.

# G5's Student Action



In our most senior students in the school we can see that action starts to become deeper as students utilize the knowledge and skills they have learned throughout their learning. At this level, action started even before the first day of school this year! The principals were presented with a book of recommendations from one of our grade 5 students, Daniel Song from 5E. Action has continued with students in Grade Five with 5B students noticing positive changes in their behavior as they reflect on how to become better communicators and even reflection on how they interact with siblings at home, utilizing tolerance and caring. Being inspired by others in their peer group and society has allowed them to make better changes for the world.



THOMAS HU 5A

Electric current always produce their own magnetic fields. Thomas was inspired by the class demonstration and took action by creating an electric circuit at home to demonstrate this phenomenon during the current UOI 'How the world works'.

# English in Grade 3.

This unit in grade three our English writing is focusing on instruction writing.

We first identified the steps to success....

1. Title
2. List of equipment needed
3. Bossy verbs
4. Connectives
5. Comma after the connectives
6. Chronological Order
7. Helpful Layout
8. Pictures/Diagrams
9. Glossary.



We have been very creative in our instruction writing activities.

3A followed instructions by making origami animals.

3B were fascinated by the mysterious dragon roaming around our school so wrote instructions about how to catch a dragon. We also wanted to reflect on our excellent behavior and share with others the recipe to being a perfect student. We even wrote instructions for apple bobbing!

3C took action by giving instructions to each other about how to make a banana sandwich at lunch time in the canteen.

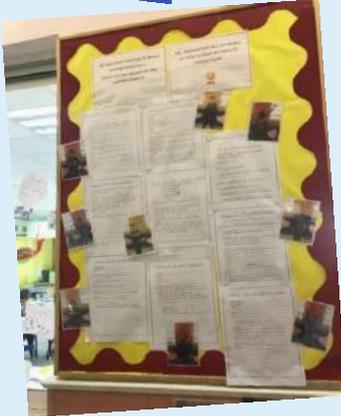
3D really made their instruction writing personal by designing games with instructions to play at a celebration for Ms. Christine's birthday.

3E used their artistic skills to make a creation and write a set of instructions so that others could understand how to make the craft.

3F have been creative and used their instructions to help make some origami creations.

3G used instructions in order to make slime. Hopefully it didn't stick everywhere! The also looked at how to make tea, perfect for the cold weather!

3H used a carousel of activities including how to catch a dragon, rewriting sentences and identifying the steps to success.



# SPORTS NEWS

## GIRL'S BASKETBALL



The SUIS Hongqiao girls' basketball team visited Soong Ching Ling School for a tournament on November 17. The girls improved on their third place finish in the last tournament by taking home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy this time. Green Ji from (5A) earned a certificate for her Sportsmanship and Abbie Liu (5B) was named the tournament Most Valuable Player. The individual certificates were voted upon by their teammates. The girls' basketball team will have their next tournament on December 15 at SUIS Shangyin Campus.

## SWIMMING

On Saturday, 7 November, 2018, our school swim team participated in the first SSSA (Shanghai Schools Sports Association) swimming competition of the school year, which was organized by SHSID. A total of 50 students from SUIS took part in the competition, including 37 international stream students and 13 from local stream. For most of our Grade 2 and Grade 3 students, it was the first time they had competed in a swimming competition in their lives. The fifth-grader, Sophia Da Silva, won second place in the Girl's 9-10 50-meter freestyle, second in the medley event and first in the butterfly. Sandra Zhao won fourth place in the Girl's 9-10 50-meter breaststroke. Helena Shen won fourth in the Girl's 11-12 50-meter butterfly. Bruce finished fourth in the backstroke and fifth in the butterfly in the Boy's 9-10 50-meter event. The fourth-grader, Victoria Chen finished fourth in the Girl's 9-10 50-meter backstroke event. Jerry Ling in grade 2 finished fourth in the 100-meter medley in the boy's 8 & under category.



# G4 & 5 SPORTS DAY



The Grade 4 and 5 students at SUIS Hongqiao celebrated their annual Sports Day on October 31. The students participated in numerous team and individual events throughout the morning. To begin the day's events, individual students from each class were able to show off their skills in a variety of track and field events including the 50, 100, and 200 meter dashes, an 800 meter run, standing broad jump, long jump, and shot put. The students also had a chance to show their class strength in a Tug-of-War tournament. The students also had other games that involved lots of teamwork. Grade 4 students worked together in team events such as Team Walkers, Ups & Downs, and Down the Pipeline. The Grade 5 students had their own version of Team Walkers, as well as Cross the Stream, and Human Tornado. It was great to see the classes showing tremendous teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. 4B and 5E took the grade Sportsmanship trophies home at the end of the day after exhibiting tremendous support for the other classes.





# NEWS FROM SUIS GUBEI CAMPUS

## SUIS GB Art Students Take On the PSA and Long Museum

It was a big day out for appreciative upper school art students as they made their way to the Power Station of Art and Long Museum to explore the David Shrigley and Louise Bourgeois exhibitions respectively. Originally conceived of as an annual trip to help IBDP Visual Arts students with viewing a piece in-person as a requirement for their programme, the trip has grown to include other upper school Art students who are eager for some much needed art appreciation.



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Though the weather was cloudy, spirits were high at the first stop on the trip, The Long Museum. Here, students contemplated the relationship between mother and daughter through Louise Bourgeois's exhibition, "The Eternal Thread." Works included one of her most famous pieces, "Maman," which is famously displayed in the turbine hall at London's Tate Modern.



After enjoying a brief respite from the rain at the Café du Dragon, students continued on to The Power Station of Art to view the exhibition of yet another powerhouse in the contemporary art scene: David Shrigley. His whimsical and humorous works engaged some students in laughter and others in utter confusion — the sign of a successful work of art! In addition to Shrigley's work, our young artists were able to enjoy the "Emerging Curators", exhibition on the uppermost level of the PSA to take in contemporary Chinese artists who are making big waves in the art scene.



A truly inspirational trip, our young artists returned to campus with sketchbooks full of illustrations, concepts, and a deeper insight into their own art-making practice. Thank you to the Power Station of Art and The Long Museum for being so accommodating to our students and to our parent community whose support of their children's creativity truly makes them shine brilliantly.

