

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

New Site. Thank you so much for all the messages of congratulations about the new site in Sai Kung! We are happy that many of you are becoming excited about the possibilities the site will open up for HKA. We also appreciate all the thoughtful questions and concerns that you have shared. It is great to be part of such an engaged community.

The Board will host an information evening on September 10 to share current information about our plans for the site, the timeframe for building, and our capital fundraising plans. In addition to bringing the community up to date, we also want to use this session to give you the opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts and concerns. Prior to the information evening, we will circulate additional materials to ensure that all families have as much background as possible.

Please also feel free to email me or Robyn Joseph prior to the meeting with any of your thoughts, particularly if there are topics you would like to make sure we discuss.

This will be the first of many opportunities to provide input into the site planning process. We are very excited about this. There are very few schools in Hong Kong that have the chance to design and purpose build a school for its specific needs. Over the coming months we will be seeking everyone's ideas for distillation into a wish list, before appointing architects. Please stay tuned.

Board Members. For those of you who are new to the school (and those of you who were too busy at the end of last school year to read the Xiao Xi), I thought it would be helpful to post the names of all the Trustees and officers. Please check the website for brief bios (please be patient with us while they are being updated).

Last spring, the Board welcomed three new Trustees: Susan Jung Choi, who was elected to a three-year term; Preneet Malhotra, who was appointed to a three-year term, and Brett Goebel, who was co-opted for a one-year term.

Other Trustees currently serving are:

Founders: Benjamin L. Frankel and Teresa Richman

Paul Bernard

Priya Bhatia

Bill Cotter

Robyn Joseph

Sean Kelly

Stephanie Oana

Edgar Saravia

The Board Officers for the 2009-10 school year are:

Chairperson: Stephanie Oana

Vice Chairperson: Sean Kelly

Treasurer: Paul Bernard

Secretary: Susan Jung Choi

In addition, the standing committees are chaired by:

Finance: Paul Bernard

Trustees: Priya Bhatia

Advancement: Sean Kelly

Facilities: Robyn Joseph

Over the next few months, we will be providing more information about each of these committees.

Meet the Board. On Tuesday September 15, in conjunction with the Primary Back to School Night, the Board will be hosting an informal session to meet teachers and Board members. Please come along and get to know your HKA community. Drink and nibbles will be provided.

Climate Survey. Many thanks to the large number of parents who took the time to complete the annual School Climate Survey. I also wanted to let you know that, in addition to the parents, the Board also surveyed the staff and undertook its own self-assessment. We value all of this information highly and will be using it to prepare Board goals and work with Andy to review his goals for the 2009-10 school year.

10th Anniversary. Yes, this year is our 10th birthday! We are planning special merchandise, media coordination, community service projects, a lecture series, alumni outreach, and other special events. Please let me or Robyn Joseph know if you are interested in working on any of these initiatives. Robyn Joseph know if you are interested in working on any of these initiatives.

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Human Swine Influenza Update

The school was advised in July by the Education Bureau (EDB), our licensing authority, that the Health Department had issued a statement to explain that while the HSI virus was transmitting easily through the population, it was, fortunately, in most cases, only causing relatively mild illness. Based on this advice the Education Bureau made a decision that all schools and school sections could open for the new school year as scheduled. Accompanying this announcement was a series of procedures that the school was required to follow prior to the school opening, after the commencement of classes, and a series of guidelines that we are required to follow should cases be reported.

We have reviewed the procedures and recommendations to ensure we do comply, and have put mechanisms in place to deal with any new intense outbreak or mutation of this virus. The advice to the whole community is that we must all stay vigilant particularly with regards to personal hygiene, and should carefully monitoring the school community to determine anyone exhibiting flu like symptoms. Should you wish for more specific information in reference to this please contact my assistant Kitty Lau [@kitty.lau@hkacademy.edu.hk](mailto:kitty.lau@hkacademy.edu.hk)

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: ZAP!

Prior to the summer break we set the challenge for students, parents and staff to have someone take your photograph "reading" next to a famous landmark, monument, a sign at a border with a country's "name" on it, or next to a sign with words from that country, your beach holiday house etc.

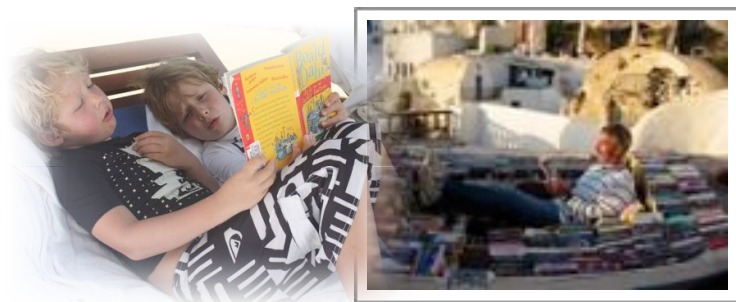
We have already received some amazing photos

Just a reminder to send these to

virginia.hand@hkacademy.edu.hk

with details including your name, the place where the photo was taken and the title of the book.

We will use these for "displays" at the beginning of the school year in our libraries and



around the school to promote reading.

Many thanks to the Holts, Andy, Liz Merendino & others for their contributions

New HKA Uniform

It was great to see so many students in the new school uniform this week. They did look really smart and I have to say our K3 and K4 students in their uniforms did look incredibly cute!

It was disappointing to hear, however, that some parents had encountered difficulties with uniform supplies. It is probably understandable with any new roll out for a uniform to encounter teething problems, but that our new distributor has run out of short sleeve tops in most sizes is really disappointing to say the least. We have been back in contact with them and expressed how annoying this is and difficult for our students who want to belong by wearing the uniform. We have stressed that they need to expedite extra supplies and engage in a more thorough planning process with us in the future. The latest update is that the more size 4 and 6 tops will should be available on August 25 and all other sizes before the end of September but we hope sooner!

If you have been caught out with this supply glitch can I suggest a white top for the interim. Most shorts and skirts are still available. Please also remember that it is fine to wear last years uniform this year - we have a 12 month grace period. Secondly to avoid wasted shopping trips please call the uniform shop directly to check availability

SKC Group
Room 2313 23/F., Leighton Centre,
Causeway Bay

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Introducing Les Millard - New IB Coordinator for MS/HS

Kia ora –

My name is Les Millard and I am the new HKA IB Coordinator. I am excited about being a part of this unique opportunity to enhance educational excellence in our school by developing an outstanding IB curriculum in the MS/HS.

I am a Maori New Zealander who has been working internationally since 1994. My wife, also a teacher, and I have lived and worked in Brunei, Taipei, Bangkok, Qatar, Dubai and Bonn, Germany. Positions that I have held have been IT Coordinator, MYP Coordinator and Dean of Students. I have a passion for and belief in the IB programmes which is based not only from an educators point of view but also as a parent. The IB programmes prepare our young people well for the ever increasing global society in which we live.

In former schools I have been involved with introducing MYP, advising on Diploma introduction and in IT consultative roles. I have taught IB Diploma Computer Science and Theory of Knowledge as well as MYP Computer Technology and Mathematics.

I am committed to ensuring that our students at HKA get every opportunity to achieve their potential not only in academic goals but also as well-rounded international citizens with a hunger for lifelong learning. This is achieved by having a team of educators with good teaching practice as well as a caring and supportive hand. Already I believe that we have such a team.

This is an exciting time for HKA as we embark on the implementation of the IB Diploma, a very highly regarded qualification amongst universities world-wide, and the continued development of MYP through to authorization. In future Xiao Xi newsletters, I will keep you up-to-date with progress towards the full implementation of these programmes.

2009-



Primary School News

2010 school year is officially underway here at HKA. It was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the students as they returned from their summer adventures. Smiles and giggles seem to fill every hallway as students were reunited and others welcomed for the first time. It was my pleasure to welcome our returning families and greet so many new families during student orientation this Wednesday.

During the first days of school our K5's toured the school while our grade 5's planned setting up a classroom environment.

I am continually discovering the diversity and talents of our parent community. It is wonderful to see your interest and involvement in committees and classroom life. In addition to the volunteer opportunities I would also like to invite parents to participate as coverage in our classrooms when teachers and co-teachers are away for

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professional development opportunities, or the occasional times when someone is off from school due to illness. Substituting is another way to learn more about the school and be involved as a learner in our learning community. Your role would typically be to support the teacher or co-teacher and your presence would help to ensure continuity of program for our students. Parents who participate would be paid a daily rate and have an opportunity to work with a wide range of age levels throughout the year. If you are interested in participating in providing coverage, please set up an appointment to meet with me and discuss the role in greater detail.

I would also like to mention some procedures that have been put in place for the health and safety of all children at HKA.

We require that all children wear a hat when they are outdoors and are exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays (even on a cloudy day your child is still exposed to UV rays). Children receive most of their sun exposure and damage before the age of eighteen. It is important that we protect their skin and also teach them good sun safety habits for the future. To help protect your child from overexposure to the sun, we suggest you apply sunscreen in the morning before school, and we require a hat to be worn during outside play. Children are welcome to keep hats at school in their cubbies or on their hooks at all times. If you are in need of a hat or would like one to match the school uniform they may be purchased from our uniform collection for HK\$40. Please feel free to use a hat you already own. For more information on sun safety please visit the following website: http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/sun_safety.html

It is important to keep all children safe and ensure that bus behavior expectations are consistent with the attitudes and behaviors we expect from HKA students at all time throughout the school day. Teachers will be reminding students of bus behaviour expectations, and your support in reinforcing these behaviours at home would be greatly appreciated. Please take some time to discuss the following expectations with your child:

1) Be Safe

This includes staying in your seat while the bus is moving with your seatbelt fastened, waiting until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting up, and using a quiet voice so as not to distract the driver of the bus.

2) Be Respectful

This includes following the directions given to you by the adults on the bus, using appropriate language, and using appropriate body language

3) No Food, No Drink, No Exceptions

I would also like to request that K5- G5 parents and caregivers picking students up from the "walker station" wait on the sidewalk on street level. The hallways are quite congested when all primary students are lining up for dismissal. Additionally, we would like to help children get into the routine of walking as a group and staying with the adult leading them safely past the busses arriving. Children often run out ahead when they see their adult waiting in random locations along our path.

I appreciate your partnership and support in the above matters.

Once again, I look forward to my role and responsibilities here at HKA as both an educator and a parent. An important part of my work is to support and guide parents and children through their primary years here at HKA. I hope you will stop by to see me, my new office is in room 400 located on the 4th floor and I can be contacted via the Primary School Administrative Assistant, Angie Law, on 2575- 8282 ext. 110.

I look forward to our partnership and journey into the wonders of the primary years.

Best Regards,
Virginia Hunt
Primary School Principal
Virginia.Hunt@hkacademy.edu.hk

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Middle/High School News

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see so many faces in the middle/high school these past couple of days! From a very modest start with 27 students just three short years ago, we are now totally filling the space we have with 122 students from Grades 6 - 10. Looking around the school, it has been great to see the interactions going on, and the new friendships forming - confirming my belief that HKA is indeed a friendly and welcoming environment.

Preparations are now well underway for our IB Diploma program authorization and implementation, all now being ably coordinated by our new IB Coordinator, Mr Les Millard, and we look forward to a visit by IB diploma personnel to assist us with the process in early October. As we go about the process of implementing both the IB and MYP we will make every effort to keep you updated and informed.

In the meantime, you can expect home, within the next day or so, both an email and hard copy detailing our After School Activities for this first semester. Additionally, Mr Anderson is going to map out the years events/offerings for you so that you, along with your students, can map out what they might be involved in during the year - and budget accordingly as some of the teams will travel outside of Hong Kong for final competitions at the end of each season.

I know that many of you are frustrated by the shortage of uniform pieces in certain sizes...This is a frustration for us also. Many teenagers need no excuse to 'bend the rules' with such things - or 'customize' their uniform. We have asked that students please try, in the interim while they are waiting for more stock, to please try to wear a white top (preferably collared) or alternately one of the PE shirts - either the Tsunami or the new maroon version from SKC if they were able to get it. I hope that bridges the gap for the meantime. As students will now be able to access long sleeved tops and hoodies from SKC we are also withdrawing our old agreement that students could wear sweaters during the cooler months in solid school colors. This proved far too hard for parents to find appropriate items, and was a constant problem for us at school. The new arrangement should make it easier for all.

Please assist us during these first couple of weeks of settling back in to school by ensuring that students get spare keys cut for their lockers (grade 6 and 7) or by purchasing locks (grade 8, 9 and 10). Students have been reminded that this is the best way to look after their belongings and that we can't be responsible for things not otherwise secured.

I look forward to working with everyone again this year, and would like to extend a big welcome to our new families. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have as the weeks and year unfold.

Warm regards
Merris

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