



the monthly community

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newsletter of

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Hong Kong Academy

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26 August 2011

消息 *Xiao Xi*, Mandarin for tidings, information or news

## From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

A special welcome to new and returning families in an academic year when we will celebrate our first graduating class, begin construction of the new campus at Sai Kung, and host an international team of educators as we complete the accreditation self-study process. We begin with the Back to School nights and the Board Social on Tuesday night and I look forward to meeting you all in person. As you review the school calendar for 2011-12, please be aware of the following amendments/clarifications to the published information:

- December 14 is a regular school day for students (and the vacation begins on December 15)
- Sports Day has been moved to February 13
- Movie Night (previously March 23) is the same weekend as HK7s and the organizers will inform the community of the revised date in the next few weeks.

I am happy to report Hong Kong Academy continues to be a competitive, desirable school choice for expat and local families in Hong Kong and our enrolment numbers are close to 470. For the 2011-12 school year, HKA saw a 35% rise in applications over the previous year, highlighting the fact that more and more parents see the many benefits of an HKA education for their child(ren). It is also an encouraging sign that, each year, HKA's profile rises higher in the Hong Kong international school market. The school accepted approximately 20% of students from our application base for this year. Many of our classes are full, our PK1 and PK2 classes have record-setting waiting pools, and this trend is continuing as the Middle and High schools continue to grow.

## Upcoming Events

- 30 Aug PS Back to School Night/  
Board Social
- 6 Sept MS/HS Back to School Night
- 12 Sept Mid-Autumn Carnival
- 13 Sept Mid-Autumn Festival - **NO SCHOOL**
- 15 Sept Coffee Morning
- 20 Sept Community Evening: Freedom  
from Chemical Dependency
- 23 Sept MS/HS HKA Coffee House (Open Mike)
- 24 Sept School Picnic

The teacher orientation programs commenced at the end of July as part of the process to integrate over 20 new teachers to the HKA community. Returning faculty joined a week later and, as part of my welcome address, I shared the following school-wide priorities that we will be working towards this year:

### Goal 1 (Curriculum)

To continue to establish a coherent PK1-12 international curriculum that provides access to learning and enables a broad range of learners to fulfill their academic potential.

This year we have pledged to make a continued effort at curriculum articulation that will include:

- A medium-term curriculum plan based on the recommendations from the accreditation reports
- A common criterion-based system for the assessment, recording and reporting of student achievement

*From the Head of School continued, next page*

...From the Head of School, continued

### Goal 2 (Teacher Appraisal)

A simple, manageable approach to professional appraisal driven by our teaching and learning standards and designed to promote substantive conversation around common learning goals.

If we accept as a premise that the single indispensable resource in any school is the teaching staff, then it follows that a teacher appraisal process that aims to make good teachers into better teachers is of paramount importance. The greatest challenge in accomplishing this is time. We have over 100 teachers and co-teachers working at HKA and only two principals to perform the labor of appraisal. If you add up the hours it takes to do a pre-visit discussion, a classroom observation and a post-visit follow-up alone, you will see pretty quickly that these two administrators could spend their working lives just on this process. Knowing how much else appears on their desks during the course of the average school day, that is just not possible. But this year we have pledged to make an even better effort and, in conjunction with the Leadership Team and faculty, to identify a revised process that is both manageable and worthwhile that we can begin to implement at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

### Goal 3 (Building Communication/Building Community)

To define expectations for communication between different stakeholders that promote conversations and interactions that are: action-focused; support the mission of the school; and are appropriate, respectful, professional, constructive, timely and meaningful.

If I wanted to, I could define my job as one where I simply spent my days glued to a computer screen reading and responding to emails. I have put in a plea to everyone this year for some real communication: communication that involves speech and human contact. Everyone is encouraged to pass on simple information by email, but if they want a conversation, a discussion or need to air a difference of opinion, they have been asked to do this in person. Just as importantly, I am encouraging everyone to direct their communication to the person who is most directly involved and to the person who is likely to be able to solve the problem in the most timely manner. The use of the the "reply all" function or addressing messages to multiple recipients can be a quick and effective way to share information to a wider audience, but it can also deluge recipients with unnecessary messages and make a situation far more complex than it need be. In schools, there is a perennial concern about the effectiveness of communication channels and my hope as the Head is to see a decrease in email traffic, a sure sign that communication is improving within the school community.

### Goal 4 (Technology)

To develop a HKA Technology Plan that focuses on the teaching and learning standards for teachers and students and the means by which we can build an effective infrastructure that effectively supports both the educational and educational support needs of the school.

As part of this priority we are seeking to maximize the use of technology in the classroom to support learning as well as developing better systems for storing, accessing and managing school information. With so many on-going initiatives during an accreditation self-study year, it will very important to be realistic about what can be achieved and to establish manageable timelines for all.

Once again it looks to be an exciting year ahead both for the students and the wider community. I look forward to working with everyone to build on the strengths of this school and the positive start to the 2011-2012 school year.

## School Parking

As you know, days before the start of the school year we received notification that the parking lot at 29 Ka Wai Man Road was closed to all but residents and guests. We are continuing to attempt to enter into a dialogue with the tenants' association, but at this point the situation remains unchanged. We recommend that parents take public transportation or taxis whenever possible; however, we realize that some times it is necessary to come to campus with a car. A few suggestions to make things easier:

- Please try to arrive just before dismissal so as to not have to wait too long on the side of the road.
- Please encourage your children to exit the car carefully but expediently in the mornings, and exit the school in afternoon in the same manner.
- Parking can be at several locations in Kennedy Town, including an open public lot on Sai See Street at the bottom of the hill, and at the Kennedy Town Community Complex Car Park at 12 Rock Hill St., approximately a 10-minute walk to school.

We will continue to update you as we have any news to share, and recognize that this is an unfortunate and difficult situation for everyone. We ask for your cooperation in getting everyone in and out of school in a safe, efficient, and expedient manner.

# New Staff for the 2011-2012 School Year



**Terence Barrett**  
HS Maths Teacher



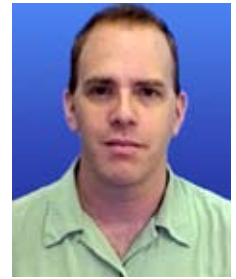
**Maria Bloudnichtcheva**  
Learner Support  
Teacher



**Pamela Campbell**  
Learner Support  
Teacher



**Vivian Chui**  
Admin.Assistant,  
Communications



**Benjamin Cooperman**  
MS/HS IT Integration  
Teacher



**Adam Fitzgerald**  
MS/HS French/  
Spanish Teacher



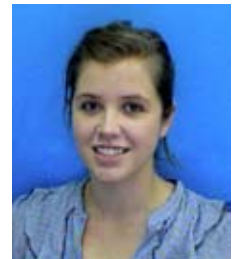
**Keira Fitzgerald**  
Admin. Assistant,  
Admissions



**Alyssa Fraser**  
KAT Teacher



**Heather Goode**  
G3HE Teacher



**Anthea Harris**  
C4AA Co-Teacher



**Michael Hemsley**  
HS/MS Maths/Science  
Teacher



**Margarita Hoyos**  
G2CML Co-Teacher



**Stella Ireland**  
MS/HS Theater Arts/  
Drama Teacher



**Laura Lau**  
PK2DL Mandarin  
Teacher



**Raymond Lau**  
Lab Technician



**Peter Lincoln**  
G5JP Co-Teacher



**Michel Lodder**  
Learner Support  
Teacher



**Leslie Maceda**  
G2CML Inclusion  
Support Co-Teacher



**Devalina Mitra**  
Inclusion Support  
Teacher



**Marco Mo**  
IT Engineer



**Carla Nagel**  
PS Counsellor



**Mark Ritchie**  
IBDP Coordinator



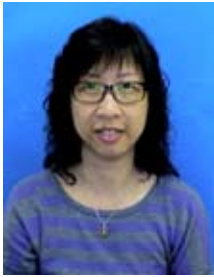
**Katherine Roundy**  
MS Humanities  
Teacher



**Helen Savage**  
KJH Co-teacher



**Benjamin Thomas**  
G5TS Teacher



Prudence Tang  
Operations Assistant



Maria Tullberg  
G2KMK Co-teacher



Ayumi Yoshioka  
Art Assistant



Catie Winters  
MS/HS Counselor

## Mark your diaries!

30

AUGUST

**PS Back to School Night**

Starts 6:30 pm

**Board Social**

Starts 7:30 pm

6

SEPTEMBER

**MS/HS Back to School Night**

Starts 6:30 pm

12

SEPTEMBER

**Mid-Autumn Carnival**

9:00-12:30

## Sai Kung Campus: New Architectural Drawings



# First Day of School



## From the Early Years/Primary Principal

The 2011-2012 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 filled every hallway as students were reunited and others welcomed for the first time. It was my pleasure to greet so many new families and welcome our returning families during our first weeks.

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 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 hourly 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 with Administrative Assistant to the Primary School, Angie Law, to meet with me and discuss the role in greater detail.

### Health and Safety Measures

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 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 shop. Please see order form in FC under school information icon, or feel free to use a hat you already own. For more information on sun safety please visit our [website](#).

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 behavior expectations and your support in reinforcing them 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*

Once again this year we held a bus mother in-service, describing the best ways to promote appropriate bus behavior. The in-service was presented by Dean Johnson, PYP Coordinator. Additionally, please note that larger seatbelts are in the back of the busses for the ease of our older students. Bus mothers also have a bus conduct reporting form that they will use to help monitor student behavior on the bus.

During dismissal I would like to request that K-G5 parents and caregivers picking students up from the "walker station" at the early childhood black gate entrance wait inside the early childhood play ground area. The small patch of side walk outside is very congested as all primary/middle and high school walkers are dismissed from this area. Once you have collected your child we ask that you exit this area and discourage your child from playing on the early childhood playground items as they have been designed for students 3- 5 years old and cannot sustain the weight and creative use of older students. Please do not wait on the small patch of sidewalk outside of the early childhood black entrance gates.

I appreciate your partnership and support in the above matters.

### Classroom Websites

Classroom websites have launched in the Primary School. This year in an effort to provide families with even greater communication and connection between school and home that will extend beyond a newsletter, we have created websites for each of our classrooms and co-curricular subjects. Websites will cover all the information of our newsletters as well as daily homework assignments, home links for our younger students, school and classroom events and videos, learning resources, and an opportunity for you to blog with your class as well as the larger community.

...From the Early Years/Primary Principal, continued

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.hkacademy-cc.info/it.html>

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 office is in room 109 located on the first floor and I can be contacted via the Primary School Administrative Assistant, Angie Law, via FirstClass or tel: 2655-1113.

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

Best Regards,  
 Virginia Hunt  
 Primary School Principal

## Volunteers... We Need You!



Helping hands are needed for the Mid-Autumn Carnival at school on 12 Sept from 9-12:45. Please contact Susan Choi by First Class if you are available to assist.

## Join us to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival!

The Mid-Autumn Festival celebrates harvest time and the biggest brightest moon of the year. A lovely Hong Kong tradition is to gather on a beach with colorful lanterns to watch the moon rising. Join us to celebrate the festival!

Date: Monday, 12th September

Time: 5 pm - 8 pm

Where: Middle Bay Beach

55 South Bay Rd, South Bay, opposite Ruby Court.  
 (the beach between Repulse Bay and South Bay Beach)

Food: Beach Café - pizzas or bring your own simple snacks

Bring: Your own lanterns & glow sticks, swimmers, beach-mat, bug spray, torch (it gets dark at the beach), food and drinks



## Annual Fundraiser

Mark your calendars! This year's fundraising dinner will be held on 19 November at CAFE DECO, THE PEAK, from 7:00pm to 12:00pm. Dinner will include a 3-course meal as well as wine, beer and soft drinks. In addition to dinner, there will be a silent auction and live auction. Tickets go on sale at the beginning of October. We hope you can join us!

As in the past, we're asking families to donate one auction item or to help us solicit donations. No item is too big or too small. Any questions, please contact myself or a committee member. A donation solicitation letter and donation forms will be sent home with your children next week.



### Instant Wine Cellar

Last years wine cellar was a huge success! Again, only one lucky person will hold the key that will unlock it. We're hoping to gather many bottles from the HKA Community to put into this years instant wine cellar. Please donate one (or more!) bottles of wine to this fun auction prize! We are asking that the minimum value of wines be HKD\$200. Wines can be brought to Kitty's office on the first floor. The more you donate, the bigger the cellar! Any questions? Please contact: Alison May, [alisonemay@comcast.net](mailto:alisonemay@comcast.net), 9663 1250.

### Other Ways to Help - Donate Your Time!

If you would like to help, please contact Judi Rosensweig via FirstClass or [judirosensweig@mac.com](mailto:judirosensweig@mac.com)

The 2011 Fundraiser Committee

## HKACO News

### Getting involved

Getting involved in the school and committees is a great way to meet people and to feel more involved in your child(ren)'s education. There are many committees that would welcome your help. Involvement could range from chairing a committee through to helping out for just an hour or two on a specific activity, project or event. You can choose based on the time you have available. Each month we plan to bring you news about the various committees and what they get up to. We will also feature upcoming school events and highlight opportunities for additional volunteers. One of our priorities over these first few weeks of the new school year is to appoint class/grade parents. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this important role. However we still need more! Please see the full list of Classroom Parents for vacancies and let us know if you're interested. The following a number of committees and volunteer areas as detailed below:

- Class/Grade Parents: Support Class teachers
- Buddy System: Coordinate the Buddy system for new families
- Cheng Gong (Mandarin): Work to support the school's Mandarin Program through a range of events and activities
- Fundraiser: Run a successful fundraising social event
- Social: Organize school-wide adult only and family social events
- Spirit wear merchandise: Sources and sells HKA branded products targeted mainly at the students, or the HKA community
- Library: Support all aspects of the library's operations and help with specific library events
- Treasurer: Budgeting and keeping track of where HKACO money is used
- Communication: Monthly update to Xiao Xi. Coordinate community suggestion/comment box. Maintain records and information from year to year.
- Database Management: Updating records of parent skills and interests

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us on FirstClass!



Lynda Coggins



Hannah Smith

Community Coordinators

## Class Parents for 2011/2012

### Primary School Class Parents

Class PK1JL	Tina Purvis, Nathalie Baaren (Spence)
Class PK1SW	Kate Wilson, Frederique Wolff
Class PK2DL	Reinett Erkan, <b>VACANCY</b>
Class PK2SW	Amy Clayton, Adriane Rysz (Dixon)
Class KAT	Janet Tierney, Cynthia Mix
Class KJA	Antonia (Lewis) Iley, Sonya Kronhart
Class G1LJY	Julie Lau, Katherine Foley
Class G1RA	Vanessa Valenzuela, Suzanne Robertson
Class G2CML	Jeannette Wong (Coffeng), Julia Heward
Class G2KMK	Amie Shaw, <b>VACANCY</b>
Class G3HE	Susan Choi, Gloria Warbanoff
Class G3SA	Jeannine Hipp, Pierre Soree
Class G4AA	Toni Sowden (Levett), <b>VACANCY</b>
Class G4SD	Sharon Grosse, Arlie Stafford
Class G5JP	Amy Clayton, Elizabeth Sternby
Class G5TS	Alison May, Janice Choa

### MS/HS School Grade Parents

Grade 6	Priya Bhatia, <b>VACANCY</b>
Grade 7	June Kim, Rohina Lulla
Grade 8	Maryann Levinson, Loretta Nelson
Grade 9	Hilde Santern, Wendy Hespe
Grade 10	Ayelet Kannor, Merav Oron
Grade 11	<b>2 VACANCIES</b>
Grade 12	Sari Taimi, <b>VACANCY</b>

Contact Lynda Coggins or Judi Rosensweig if you'd like to replace one of the vacancies listed above.

## All School Picnic

Saturday,  
24 September

3 pm - 6 pm

Deep Water Bay

Bring your own  
food, snacks, toys and games

More details coming soon



## From the Middle/High School Principal

A warm welcome to the MS/HS community! It has been an exciting start to the 2011-2012 school year, and things are moving along well after the first couple of weeks. I hope your family is settling in nicely to the new academic year. I will use the Xiao Xi to discuss various issues and topics throughout the year, and want to talk about transitions, goals, and contributions in this first issue.

### Transitions

I would like to focus on your child's transition to either a new grade level, or to HKA as a new student. The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for a school community. While most often this is a happy, enjoyable time, it can be difficult for some students. This is particularly true for those students transitioning from another school and/or country.

For all of our students there is something new in the air - new teachers, a new schedule, new classmates, and new expectations. While this is one of the most satisfying aspects of being an educator to me, this notion of a clean slate and new beginning each year can be overwhelming. Please keep a close eye on your children in the coming weeks and check-in with them each evening. Ask them how their day went, play the high-low game with them (one of my family's favorites where everyone at the dinner table has to relate a high point in the day, and talk about something that perhaps did not go so well). This can be a great launching point for a conversation within your family.

We have two full-time counsellors at HKA this year, and have strengthened the Advisory program in the MS/HS. We are an excellent resource, and I encourage you to please let us know if you are noticing anything different with your child that you are concerned about, or need some advice with. As a new initiative this year Ms. Catie Winters, MS/HS Counsellor, will be introducing social-emotional counselling topics through Advisory in the next couple of weeks. This will include looking at building students' self-esteem, relationship building, bullying etc. Advisory teachers and the admin team will deliver these important topics via discussion, role-play, and various group activities. We will be sure to send you timely information so that you can follow-up with discussions at home. Our goal is that this will assist with the transition for all of our students and children.

### Goals

During our opening assembly I spoke to students about setting personal and academic goals for the school year ahead. The summer holiday provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the previous school year, and to project ahead to what we hope to do a better job of, or to a new challenge that we are keen to pursue. We are fortunate at HKA to have a big school program on offer in a relatively small school. Academically we

have excellent breadth of course offerings, delving into greater depth as students move into the HS and IB program. Our co-curricular program (athletics, debate, and the fine and performing arts) offers much to challenge our students with as well. We have also introduced a Senior Retreat for our graduating Class of 2012, and have made significant improvements to the Week Without Walls camps this year (March 2012).

Please discuss the year ahead with your child, encourage them to try something new, step out of their comfort zones a bit, and challenge themselves in a new and exciting way this school year. Setting goals helps our students with self-awareness, acknowledges their areas of strength, and serves to push and invigorate our students towards personal and academic growth, improvement, and fulfillment.

### Contributions

During our first gathering on 10 August, I also shared a quote with students and colleagues.

"Everything we do and say either contributes to or diminishes the common good."

My previous Head of School at the Lincoln Community School in Accra, Ghana, Dr. Dennis Larkin, presented this to the staff on the opening day of school, and while fairly straight forward, I found it quite compelling. In any organization or community what we say and do has an impact, either positively or negatively, on the members within the community. I used this to challenge our students to contribute to the improvement of the MS/HS this academic year. It is easy to point out what is not going well, and to complain about a school issue or procedure. I asked that we not do this, but work within our communication channels and make suggestions for school improvement. Our Student Representative Council (SRC) was very active last year, and took action on a number of issues. I assured students that we would remain committed to creating opportunities for student leadership and to taking action, and support empowering our students to contribute positively to the HKA community. I encourage everyone in the HKA community, students, parents, and colleagues to contribute to the common good, and work towards moving HKA from being a good school to becoming a great school.

I look forward to a powerful year of learning, partnership, and growth with you and your children.

Respectfully,

Doug Musco

Middle/High School Principal

Please visit our secondary websites:  
<http://www.hkacademy-secondary.info>

## News from the Board of Trustees

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and has returned energized for a new school year. I've had the opportunity to spend a fair amount of time on campus already and have really enjoyed observing everyone settling in so well.

The Board of Trustees remained in contact with one another during the summer but is now officially back in action. Our first formal meeting of the year occurred on 22 August and we are planning our Annual Offsite for Saturday 27 August.

We have an extremely full agenda for the year during what continues to be an exciting time for Hong Kong Academy.

### Annual Board Offsite

Every year the Board of Trustees has a full day offsite meeting to discuss important school topics and to facilitate teamwork among Board members. This year we will be covering a range of topics including the revised MS/HS handbook, roles and responsibilities of trustees, HKA strategic policy, community communication and engagement, and performance evaluation for the administration. We have assigned ourselves significant pre-reading (yes we have homework too!) to ensure we have a well informed and productive dialogue. The results of the recent community surveys will feature prominently in all of our discussions.

### Board Social

The annual Board Social is scheduled for 30 August at 7:30 pm in the Multi Purpose Room (MPR). Although the evening will be primarily social in nature, we do plan to introduce the Board of Trustees and to provide an overview of the various Board Committees. Although the Board Social will be held following the Primary School Back to School Night, it is open to the entire HKA Community and we look forward to seeing all of you there.

### Sai Kung

Our Facilities Committee remained engaged with architects, developers, and project planners over the summer to keep the project on track. Our chosen contractor, Leighton, has established a presence on the building site and initial survey work and site preparation is in progress in advance of piling work to be commenced in September.

Although the Advancement Committee took a well deserved breather over the summer it is now ramping up again to ensure we remain well positioned in terms of securing the required funding.

Another administrative milestone was recently reached with the Hong Kong Government as at our meeting on 22 August the Board authorized the execution of the "Conditions of Grant for Allocation of Greenfield Site for Hong Kong Academy."

### Board Communication

The annual community surveys highlighted the continued benefits of open and efficient communication channels. We will continue to provide these brief Board updates in the Xiao Xi but would also like to establish more interactive community engagement.

One approach we are considering is to establish informal Board of Trustees "office hours" one evening per month. These sessions would not have a specific agenda but rather would be intended as a means for community members to engage directly with a representative of the Board of Trustees (i.e., me) on any topics of their choosing. Please let me know whether you think this is a good idea.

As always, please also feel free to contact me directly via FirstClass (William Rosensweig).

Welcome back!

Thanks,  
Bill Rosensweig  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## New School Bus Service for Sai Kung and Clear Water Bay

### BIG NEWS!

As of 1 September 2011, Castle Brothers will be offering school bus service to the Sai Kung/Clear Water Bay area. There will be a morning drop off and an afternoon pickup at 3:20 pm.



This will not be door-to-door service; there will be three central pick-up and drop-off points: Sai Kung town, Marina Cove and Silverstrand in CWB. The bus will take the Eastern Tunnel/Eastern Corridor route to school. Cost per student will be fixed at HK\$9,000 per semester for both ways.

Please contact Castle Brothers at 2555 2088 if you have questions or would like more information.

## Technology Update

It's great to be back for another digitally enhanced and technologically exciting year!

### New Look Team

A few changes have occurred over the summer. We welcome Ben Cooperman into the IT Integration role (MSHS). Andy Birch has moved from a G5 teacher into the IT Integration role (PS). Marco Mo actually joined us late last school year but he is the new System Engineer, handling areas such as trouble shooting of computers, printers and general end-user needs. While Kenneth Tsoi will continue working predominantly as the Network Engineer, Debby Chan's role has evolved into School Information System Manager. Michael Taylor has moved into the position of Director of Technology.

### Summer successes

Summer is the busiest time in school Technology and this summer has been no exception. Here is a snippet of what happened:

- Re-image of all computers in the school and upgrade of software - we haven't upgraded to the Lion OS as it was released too late for our deadlines
- Installation of fibre optic cable into the network 'backbone' that will provide a less congested network
- Installation of an Uninterrupted Power System in case of blackouts, etc
- Upgrade of SonicWall (our firewall) to include a spam filter
- Anti-virus for server
- Print Server solution (Netop) - this will manage school printing more effectively

- Remote Desktop solution (Lanschool)- a more viable school-wide solution for classroom management
- Recycling of hardware
- Upgrade of FirstClass software
- Offsite server backup solution
- Implementation of a new School Information System 'WCBS'- providing consistent school wide access to information

**For Parents**, there is now dedicated WIFI access at Reception and inside the Mutli Purpose Room (MPR). Just logon straight to <hka-guest>. We will be testing some online sign up solutions. We will trial this with After School Activities. The ultimate aim is to develop an online sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences in both PS and MS/HS. Truly exciting times! Keep an eye out for these developments.

**For Students**, for the first time, they are given the choice in MSHS of using a school laptop bag or supplying a case of their own. This program is about making each person not only more responsible for their computer but also personalizing it. In Early Childhood we will pilot the use of some iPad2's. Evidence points to good student responses in object definition and language development using these tools for this age group.

### Digital Safety Tip

HKA has a strong focus on giving students the skills to live safely in a digital world. Parents play a big role in this. When your child comes home you ask questions about where have they been, who they played with, what activities did they get involved in. You should ask these very same questions when they are on the computer. Questions in the real world are as relevant in the virtual world.

Best Regards,  
Michael Taylor  
Director of Technology

## Alumni Visits

*One of HKA's founders, Theresa Richman, and her children, Ben and Sarah, recently visited HKA on a trip to Hong Kong. It was great to welcome them back to the school.*



If you know of other alumni who are in town, they are welcome to come and visit the campus. Please contact Virginia Hunt for PS visits and Doug Musco for MS/HS visits.

Alumni are also encouraged to e-mail their current details to [alumni@hkacademy.edu.hk](mailto:alumni@hkacademy.edu.hk) so we can stay in touch. Plans are underway to broaden our alumni connections this year.

## Coffeehouse & Open Mike

Friday, 23 September

The Coffeehouse/Open Mike concept is an afternoon to celebrate our student's artistic talents. It is not intended to be a highly polished performance, but rather an opportunity to showcase the wonderful talents within the HKA community. Musical performances, monologues, poetry, comedic acts - all welcome. Students, parents, and staff are invited to share their talents with the HKA community. **Save the date and stay tuned for more details!**



## HKA Class of 2012

HKA is graduating its very first class in June 2012. What an accomplishment for these students, and what a long way the school has come from the first three students! To celebrate this occasion in our Grade 12 student's lives and the life of the school, staff member Pamela Campbell will be interviewing one student each month. We'll print excerpts from the interviews in Xiao Xi; you can find the full version on bulletin boards within the school.

### Jinkyung Lim

Jinkyung Lim has attended Hong Kong Academy since grade 10. Her father's business brought the family to Hong Kong, as he trades in natural resources.

When asked what her secret was for learning English, JK, as she is known on campus, admitted that this is not her first time to live in Hong Kong! She attended an international school here when she was in kindergarten and first grade. When she returned to Korea she attended Korean schools and continued to study English as a subject. Despite her natural conversant style, JK admits that speaking remains the most difficult part of the English language for her.

Jinkyung is the oldest in her family. Her sister, Esther, also attends HKA in grade 8 and her brother David is enrolled in the third grade. She has played the piano since she was seven years old and plays in a band at her church every Sunday. She claims she is not very good at piano, however she practices three to four hours a week. Her family has an upright piano at home, which she has played for ten years. She also receives CAS\* credit for this effort, an added bonus for playing in a band. CAS - Creative, Action, Service - is a vital component of the IBDP program.

Jinkyung is enrolled in the full IB program here at HKA and is taking Art, Math and Biology at the higher level, as well as English, History and Mandarin. She is studying Mandarin at the standard level and her hope is to be fluent in Chinese one day!

When asked what is the most difficult part of being a full time International Baccalaureate student, without faltering she answered, "Time control, organizing myself and meeting deadlines."

She is writing her extended essay on Mao and the Cultural Revolution. "Mao's policies were radically strict, too much, and he was the leader for fifty years. But in some ways he was a great leader, able to control a lot of people."

She is involved in many extra curricular subjects: Debate team, scuba diving, basketball, and field hockey. She was also a member of the Style Team. Last year

the Style Team had the opportunity to design a classroom and give it a real-life makeover. They redesigned a room on the fourth floor next to the office. Look for the stenciled goldfish on the wall and chairs!

Her goal is to attend an art school in the United States. She attended a three-week program in Chicago last summer, which she loved. She enjoys painting, sketching and working in pastels and charcoal. Her inspiration for her IB notebook was a presentation she heard last year on sharks. The overall theme of animals is driving force of her senior IB project. "Animals are so beautiful. I am fascinated by their variety and how they are so different from humans."

When asked how she would describe herself, JK revealed that she is "curious, focused, but above all, KOREAN!" When asked if her family had a kimchi refrigerator at home: "Of course we do! It's bigger than the regular refrigerator!" Built in three sections, it is made for the circulation of the fermenting kimchi. Her favorite food? Sushi, salmon and, well, kimchi.

She admits she is, "half nervous, half excited" to be graduating this year. "I am proud to be part of the first graduating group. It makes me feel more special about HKA. Graduation has always been abstract, but now it's right there! The time has flown so fast."

Thank you, Jinkyung Lim, for your courageous spirit and delightful personality! Congratulations on your senior year.

*-Pamela Campbell*



*One of Jinkyung's art pieces. It was featured in last year's Arts Festival invitation and posters.*