



the monthly community

newsletter of

Hong Kong Academy

30 September 2011

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

From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

As we all look forward to the October break, I am pleased to be able to share the skeletal calendar for 2012-13. As I am sure many of you are aware, the setting of the calendar was a source of much conversation within the community last year, so I would also like to provide an outline of how the dates are set each year.

Our starting point is based on three design premises that drive all of the decisions we make about the calendar. We are striving to:

- Maximize opportunities for appropriate instructional time (IB World School)
- Acknowledge diversity of the community as an international school within Hong Kong
- Consider custom and practice of HKA and other schools in Hong Kong

We also make several assumptions about the type of instructional program and learning environment being developed at HKA and how this can be best supported as well as external considerations:

- We will create a whole school calendar
- HKA is an IB World School
- IB Diploma exams will be administered in May
- Wednesday afternoons are designated for faculty professional development
- No major events requiring temporarily modified calendar e.g., SARS

From the Head of School continued, next page

Upcoming Events

3 Oct	Mid-Term Break Begins
10 Oct	Classes Resume
13-14 Oct	ISA Testing (G3-9)
14 Oct	Parent/Faculty Quiz Night
17-20 Oct	School Photos
18-21 Oct	G5 Camp
19-21 Oct	G4 Camp
20-22 Oct	HS ACAMIS Volleyball, Beijing
25-26 Oct	Parent-Teacher Conferences NO CLASSES
28-29 Oct	MS ACAMIS Maths Olympiad, HKA

New Dragonfly Artwork

After last year's review of the HKA mascot, and subsequent decision for the dragonfly to remain the school's mascot, we've developed some images for the community to use as needed. There are two versions: one standard version and one "sporty" version. If you have the need to use these images on school-related projects, please contact Jennifer Barnes Eliot in the Communications Department.



...From the Head of School, continued

And finally, in order to provide a degree of predictability from year to year, the following components make up the structure of the calendar:

- First day will always be the third Wednesday in August
- 180 instructional days
- First and last day of the school year will always be on a Wednesday
- HK national holidays (including one week for Chinese New Year)
- A three week break during December/January
- An October Break
- A Spring Break

I am sure that if I surveyed parents about the school calendar, I would receive a diverse range of opinions and recommendations that would be impossible to honour. Hopefully, the outline will provide everyone with a better rationale about how and why we have selected the attached dates for 2012-13.

I hope that all of you have a nice October Break with your families and I will look forward to seeing you refreshed for the second part of the semester on Monday 10 October.

Best regards,

Stephen Dare
Head of School

HKA Class of 2012

Here is an excerpt from this month's G12 Student Profile. You'll find the full version outside Rm 409.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, presently living on Lamma Island, Gadahar Lilley Nunez is HKA's G12 Student Profile. After he and his siblings were born, his mother telephoned a spiritual master in Vaisnava, India to name each of her five children. What an interesting way to begin your journey into life!

Energetic and engaging, Gadahar seems to enjoy everything on the planet, with the exception of heavy metal and contemporary rap music. He'll watch anything, listen to anything, and eat just about anything. "He's a human garbage disposal!" was the comment contributed from across the room.

Gadahar considers himself ambitious and is enrolled in the full IB diploma program at HKA. He is presently enrolled in Art, History and English at the higher level and Math, Biology and Spanish at the standard level.

He is especially enjoying IB Art, where he is free to explore a variety of media as well as experiment with his ideas. The trust of his teacher, Rachel Bignell, is a large part of his success. His portfolio is centered on folklores and mythologies of the world and presently he is painting in oil.

"The toughest part of the IB program is the work load and the independence you are given. As nice as it is to be able to have space and time to work on your own, it is also the toughest part. You have to work out your own deadlines and manage your time appropriately."

His advice for students entering the IB program is this: You can achieve your goals with ambition and enthusiasm. If you don't have enthusiasm, if you're not happy or lose the will to learn, find what your passion is and take a break. Be careful because the workload is heavy.

There will be a lot of pressure and stress. There are times when you will have to turn away. Try to stay happy, find a way to take your mind off IB for while! Try to remain positive and then you can go back to the workload without feeling so much stress."



When asked how it feels to be graduating this year, Gadahar replied, "I am anxious and nervous about what the future holds. I want to know what university will be like. But I am excited for the change and the new cultures and experiences that will open up."

How does he envision himself in twenty year's time? "Hopefully I'll be happy, with the capability of being successful!" He thinks he will major in journalism and possibly be a travel journalist. He also dreams of being an architect. He envisions a simple life with a small family. Presently he is mainly inspired to get out of Hong Kong. "Change is always good."

Thank you, Gadahar, for transferring your ambition and enthusiasm to HKA!

Congratulations on your senior year!

-Pamela Campbell

Parking Update

While we continue to work on securing additional parking near the campus, at this point we still do not have any news to announce. If the situation changes, we'll alert parents via FirstClass.

2012-2013 Skeletal School Calendar

August 2012

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- August**
- 1 New Teacher Orientation Week
 - 8 First Day for returning faculty
 - 15 1st Day of school for students

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- February**
- 11-15 Lunar New Year Break
 - 18 Classes Resume

September 2012

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

September

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- March**
- 20-21 Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - 25-April 2 Spring Break

October 2012

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- October**
- 1 Mid-Autumn Festival - No School
 - 2 National Day - No School
 - 16-17 Parent-Teacher Conference
 - 22-26 Mid Term Break
 - 23 Chung Yeung Festival - No School

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- April**
- 3 Classes Resume
 - 12 Ching Ming Festival

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November

May 2013

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- May**
- 1 Labour Day - No School
 - 17 The Buddha's Birthday - No School

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- December**
- 17-Jan4 Winter Break Begins

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- June**
- 12 Tuen Ng Festival - No School
 - 19 Last Day of school for students
 - 20 Last Day of school for Faculty

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- January**
- 1 New Year Day
 - 7 Teacher In-service day
 - 8 Classes Resume
 - 18 End of 1st Semester
 - 21 2nd Semester Begins

July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July

	New Teachers Orientation
	Parent-Teacher Conferences
	Teacher In-service days
	School Holidays

1st Semester: 89
 2nd Semester: 91
 Student Days: 180

From the Primary Principal

Mathematics Professional Development

Marcy Cook, master educator, author and math specialist, visited Hong Kong Academy from September 21- 26. Marcy Cook is the author of one of our primary resources used to support the math curriculum.



Marcy is an independent math consultant, training thousands of enthusiastic teachers with her active hands-on workshops. Her experiences with classroom teaching, and student teaching supervision have inspired her to create meaningful math materials (over 95 books and 175 tile task card packets).

Marcy's main focus when working with students and teachers is making math enjoyable and understandable for all students as they make connections to the world outside of school.

During Marcy's time in the primary school she held sessions with teachers on each grade level, modeling demonstration lessons across all grades. She also provided a workshop for our teachers to learn more about how to best use her materials to plan, instruct and assess.

In the second semester we will host a family math night that will have many of her materials featured for the whole family to use and learn from!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, 25 October and Wednesday, 26 October. There will no regular school schedule for students. Primary School students in K5 - G5 will attend the first ten minutes of their classroom conference to set goals in collaboration with teachers and parents. The goals will reflect next steps for your child in his/her development and can range from cognitive, to aesthetic, to physical, to social emotional, and/or a combination of any of the above. The goals will be school goals, but should be supported and reinforced at home. PK1 and PK 2 students should not attend parent-teacher conferences. Teachers will discuss goals for you child during the conference without your child present.

As you prepare for you child's conference here are a few suggestions to think about. Before the conference, discuss the upcoming conference with your child. You may want to ask what they think the teacher will tell them about their strengths and what might they talk about in goal setting. Ask them if there is anything in particular that they would like to have discussed with the teacher.

- During the conference - be prepared to listen with an open mind and to ask questions about your child's learning, social development and school day. Ask your child's teacher what tools they use to help assess your child and how they determine the best next steps for their development. If your child's teacher needs to discuss challenges your child is currently facing ask how they are being supported in school and how you can support them at home.
- Openly share information about your child; no one knows your child better than you. Your understanding and insights into your child will only help the teacher to better support them at school and help them to successfully meet your child's needs.
- Teachers will be coming from a place of support and you should do the same. When expressing concerns be tactful, but not so much that you don't communicate the problem clearly. Listen to what the teacher has to say in response to the problem. Then work together to find a solution.
- Take notes during the conference so that you remember everything the teacher says. After the meeting, review your notes. If something is unclear, schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher to clarify.

Please arrive on time and stay only for the amount of time scheduled for your appointment. The entire school will be on a tight schedule. One late family can have a ripple effect through the school. All teachers will be running on schedule and if you are running late please plan to deduct that time from your conference or re-schedule with the teacher. If you need to cancel for any reason, please contact the teacher as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you on campus during Parent-Teacher conferences. Please feel free to stop by my office (PS 109) or schedule an appointment through Angie Law on FC, Primary School Administrative Assistant on 2655-1113.

ISA Testing

G3, G4, and G5 will take their International Schools' Assessment (ISA) testing on 13-14 October. These are not test students can prepare for and the best preparation you can give your child is a good night of sleep and a healthy breakfast. You can look forward to results being returned early in February. An information evening will be held to answer any questions, help you to interpret your child's individual results and share school-wide results.

Have a great mid-term break!

Warm Regards,
Virginia

School Picnic 2011

A lovely day was had by all at the picnic at Deepwater Bay Beach. A great big thank you to Elisabet Helander, Elin Christensson, Vanessa Valenzuela and Lynda Coggins who planned this memorable day and made sure that everyone who wanted to kayak and/or dragon boat was able to do so. Also, a special thank you to Hilde Santens who arranged the kayak rentals and whose help on the day with all the water sports was invaluable.



ISA Testing

All students from Grade 3 through Grade 9 will be taking standardized exams on the mornings of 13-14 October, starting at 8.20 am. It is an annual assessment programme that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools. As a school, we analyze all data about the general patterns of performance and use these as another of the ways in which we monitor and modify our educational programme.

How you can support your children:

- Please make sure your children are well rested and eat breakfast before school so they can perform well on the mornings of the test.
- Talk positively about the testing and encourage your children that all they need to do is their best.

Any questions please contact Carla Nagel, PS Counselor or Catie Winters, MS/HS Counselor.

Admissions News

Although we are only at the Mid-Term Break, the Admissions Office is looking ahead to the Second Semester. Should your family be leaving the school at the end of the semester, Hong Kong Academy's Withdrawal Policy states that the school requires TWO full calendar months' written notice of withdrawal or TWO full calendar months' tuition in lieu of such notice.

Families are required to complete a Withdrawal Form (which can be downloaded on FirstClass or obtained through the Admissions Office). The TWO months' notice will begin when the Admissions Office receives the signed form.

So if your plans will be taking you away from HKA at the end of this semester, be sure to complete and return your Withdrawal Form ASAP.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Sarah Baur, Admissions Coordinator, on FirstClass or on 2655 1112.

From the Middle/High School Principal

Greetings HKA MS/HS Community,

I hope this finds you well, and putting the finishing touches on your plans for the October half-term break.

This past month has seen a good deal of activity. In our classrooms, students have been working hard and sitting for some of their first formative and summative assessments. Teachers are gathering feedback and you will receive a grade in progress for all classes on Friday, 21 October. This is meant to serve as a check-in halfway through Semester I, and will serve as a good launching point for conversations during parent-teacher conferences on 25-26 October.

Our Grades 10 and 11 students have now been introduced to the Personal Project and Extended Essay respectively, and have been drafting research questions and identifying resources. Our Grade 12 students are putting the finishing touches on their extended essays, as well as being immersed in the university and college application process.

The revamped Advisory and Office Hours are off and running, and we are seeing a lot of academic benefit and value added with this new structure.

Some outside of classrooms highlights include the first Senior Retreat held in Zhaoqing, China for five days in early September; the commencement of our ACAMIS sports seasons (MS soccer and HS volleyball); CAS activities getting into gear; after school activities; Student Representative (SRC) elections; and the first HKA Coffeehouse - lots of great student and student-led events happening in Kennedy Town!

Our parent-teacher conferences will be held on 25 and 26 October and will be a great opportunity for you to meet with your children's teachers. As previously mentioned you will have received a grade in progress, which will represent your child's progress nine weeks into the semester. This grade will not appear on the semester report card, nor the final transcript, and is meant to give parents a check on their child's progress. These conferences provide an opportunity for you to get data and information on how your child is performing in all of their classes, and those areas that need attention. We are at the ninth week (1st quarter) mark, so there is plenty of time to address those areas that need attention. These are relatively short meetings, so if you feel like you would like additional time with any one teacher, please go ahead schedule a follow-up appointment. You can do this directly with the classroom teacher or through the MS/HS office.

Our first set of standardized tests is the ISA/ACER test (Grade 6 to 9), and the PSAT test (Grade 10/11). We have been administering the ISA/ACER for many years and feel that this test serves as a good check-up on how we are performing as a school. The ACER assesses our

students in mathematics, reading comprehension, and two types of writing-narrative and expository. In the second semester we will receive our students' results and a comprehensive analysis of how our students performed on specific questions and how they ranked amongst their counterparts in similar schools around the world. In late April we will hold a parent education curriculum evening to discuss the data we receive, and look at both school-wide and specific student data results.

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is the precursor to the SAT, which is a required examination for admission to universities and colleges in the US. While we realize not all of our students will be attending university in the US we still encourage all students in Grades 11/12 to take this test. The PSAT results are not reported to universities and colleges, and serve as practice test. Individual results are sent back to HKA from the College Board in Princeton, NJ, US, and provide meaningful data on where students need to focus for improvement on the SAT. While PSAT are not reported, SAT results are reported to university and colleges in the US.

As always, please contact the MS/HS office for follow up questions/queries, or if you would just like a good face-to-face conversation on school issues/matters. All of us in the MS/HS Administrative offices have an open door policy, and welcome the opportunity to sit and chat with you regarding your children's education.

Respectfully,
Douglas Musco

Class of '12 Graduation

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2012 will be held on Friday, 25 May (venue and time TBC). This was originally marked on the large community calendar for Friday, 1 June.



Graduation Week Activities

To celebrate this very unique occasion for our graduates there will be a number of special events held the week leading to the commencement exercises. While we have yet to finalize these, a few ideas that surfaced during our recent Grade 12 Retreat in Zhaoqing, China are: a Senior Junk trip with graduates and Grade 12 teachers; Senior Banquet for graduates, parents, and teachers; and a Senior Luncheon. We will update the community on Graduation specifics and other related activities as the year progresses.

Freedom from Chemical Dependency



Many thanks to the HKA community for your keen interest and participation in FCD's Jerome Posey's visit last week. Your feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we certainly have plenty to build upon in the months to come.

FCD's website is an excellent resource and I encourage you take some time to peruse this and sign up for their free monthly publication.

Feel free to contact Jerome with any questions: jposey@fcd.org or visit www.fcd.org.

G12 Retreat



Dragonflies in Competition

Good luck to the HS volleyball teams as they head to Beijing to compete and to the MS Math Olympians competing at home and hosting the upcoming tournament. Go Dragonflies!



HKACO News: Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, 19 November 2011 Café Deco, The Peak
Don't forget to buy your tickets for this great event!

This year for the first time: dancing from 10:30 to Midnight

Sign-Up Events

Last year we began offering sign-up events at the annual auction fundraiser. These are parties or activities hosted by HKA parents, teachers, even grandparents. A party or event theme is offered and places at the event are sold for a fixed price at the auction. For example, a couple of generous moms hosted an International Dinner Party for eight ladies. Each seat at the dinner sold for \$1,000, raising \$8,000 for the school. (This particular party was so popular they offered it twice and raised \$16,000!) Another parent hosted a mother-daughter knitting class for \$200 per person. Miss Regina contributed a fun night of Art and Wine for \$600 per person. And, who can forget the Barn Dance??



Would you consider hosting an event this year?

A cocktail party?

A cooking class?

A Mahjong or Poker party?

If so, please email or call Alison May at alisonmey@comcast.net or 9663 1250.

Instant Wine Cellar

This year's fundraiser will again include the popular Wine Cellar. 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 our 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 Lau's office on the first floor. Any questions? Please contact: Alison May, alisonmey@comcast.net, 9663 1250.

Procuring Items from Vendors

Last week parents received a donation form and letter from the Head of School, Stephen Dare, to use in procuring prizes. That letter was meant for the school community. If you need a letter for vendors outside of our school community, please use the letter that was emailed to you on Monday. This letter is written specifically for outside of our school community. You can also find these forms in FirstClass desktop, Fundraiser folder, 2011.

If you have questions, please contact Judi Rosensweig or one of the committee members.

Warm Regards,

The Fundraising Committee

Parents/Faculty Quiz Night

Friday, 14 October

Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Delaney's Irish Pub

\$150 HK for dinner

Drinks available at the bar for purchase.

Guests are welcome to put together teams or can be assigned to a team.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Miriam Graff, Greg Hunt, Maryann Levinson or Cynthia Mix through FirstClass.



Technology Update

A virtual welcome to all!

As is the norm, technology moves rapidly here at HKA. One initiative that will give greater control to the school community is Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). Starting with of the upcoming parent-teacher conferences (25-26 October) ALL student interviews will be scheduled up online. Over the school break, every family will receive instructions through FirstClass. So stay tuned for the important details!

HKA has recently secured all school data more safely by backing it up 'off shore'. In this case 'off shore' is more Kowloon but no less secure.

Currently we are testing iPads in each of the school sections to best work on an implementation plan that enhances student learning. We are hopeful to roll out the iPads into general school use in the next four to six weeks.

Thanks and remember, digital safety begins at home.

Sincerely,
Michael Taylor
Director of Technology

Counsel, conversation and coffee with Carla

Thank you for the great response to the social and emotional survey. As a result, we have a fantastic opportunity to provide a parent discussion group on a monthly basis. It will involve open-ended discussions about the successes and challenges of children's social and emotional development.



Each group session will be guided by a topic, such as confidence building, communication, independence, friendships and conflict resolution.

Our first session will be on Thursday 4th November at 8.30 am in the MPR. The topic will be building confidence and self-esteem. Look out for an email nearer the time with more details.

Kind regards,
Carla Nagel (PS Counselor)

Sai Kung Building News

August 2013 is now less than two years away, and as we get closer to our move to Sai Kung, we continue to refine our plans. Over the past two weeks, architects from LDAsia met with faculty, administrators, and staff to finalize the detailed design process. At the site, work has begun and construction equipment is running. Shortly there will be signage up along the perimeter advertising HKA's move, and we are taking weekly photos of the site so that you'll be able to view the progress. Look for them coming soon to the school website.

While it's tempting to get caught up in planning classroom layouts, picking colors for the walls and the style of the auditorium seats, the new campus is still just a building. What gives a campus purpose and meaning is the community that learns and works within its walls - students, faculty, staff and families that add the heart and soul.

Several months ago, the Board of Trustees approved a "Culture of Philanthropy" statement that recognizes the central importance of the people in HKA's community.

"Hong Kong Academy recognizes that everyone contributes to the life of the school in different ways and values all gifts to the school, whether of time, talent, or financial resources. The community-centered, co-operative values that inspired the school's founders continue to shape HKA today. Each member of the community is a gift to the school, and HKA appreciates everyone for their roles in making HKA a positive and dynamic learning environment."

HKA seeks every opportunity to say thank you to those who give generously of their time, expertise, and resources, including faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, former families, and others associated with the school. The school seeks to say thank you in ways that respect HKA's sense of community and its many cultural backgrounds and contexts. HKA stresses the importance of the personal thank you over public recognition and offers public recognition that matches the school's vision and values."

In the upcoming months, you'll hear more about fundraising. It's inevitable; buildings cost money. Our resources are keeping pace with the overall costs, and there are some dedicated parents and staff who have been working hard on the project. And at the center of all of our plans is the school's Culture of Philanthropy statement and what it stands for.

News from the Board of Trustees

Hi All,

I hope you have all settled in to the busy new school year. The HKA Board of Trustees remains engaged on numerous initiatives and is grateful to have this forum to keep the community updated on our activities.

Annual Board Social

The annual Board Social took place on August 30th and was very well attended. Although the evening was primarily social in nature, we did take time to introduce the Board of Trustees and to provide an overview of the role of the Board of Trustees and its various Committees. As some of you might not have been able to attend, below is a summary of the presentation.

Structure & Role of HKA Board of Trustees and Goals for the 2011/2012 School Year

Background on the Board of Trustees

Hong Kong Academy Educational Foundation Limited is a Hong Kong Company formed in 2000 to “establish, maintain, and operate one or more nonprofit-making institutions for the education of Hong Kong children”. Parents, Faculty and Staff are the members of the Foundation. Management and oversight of the Foundation is vested in the Board of Trustees which consists of up to 13 Members (Elected (4), Appointed (4), Co-Opted (3), Founders (2)). The Board of Trustees has several officer positions including Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Role of Trustees

Trustees are responsible for the management of The Foundation, its property, and its funds. Trustees, as fiduciaries, have a legal and financial responsibility for Hong Kong Academy and must exercise duties of Care, Service and Loyalty to HKA. The Board of Trustees is responsible for upholding the Mission of HKA and making sound and well informed decisions on behalf of the school. In so doing, the Trustees must place the interests of HKA above all else.

Board Committees

Much of the work of the Board of Trustees is performed by the various standing Committees depicted below. The Committees are open to Community members and we are actively seeking greater participation. Please let me know if you would like more information or are interested in participating.

Board Goals for the 2011/2012 School Year

Although each Board Committee has specific goals, the Board level goals for the year include the following:

- Define HKA Strategic Policies, Guiding Statements, and Long Range Plan in support of the HKA Mission Statement

- Ongoing oversight of the Sai Kung project
- Head of School Goal Setting and Performance Appraisal
- Increased Transparency & Community Engagement

Sai Kung

Our Facilities Committee remains engaged with architects, developers, and project planners to keep the project on track. Our chosen primary contractor, Leighton, has established a presence on the building site and piling work has commenced which marks a major milestone.

Our Advancement Committee continues to work to secure funding for Sai Kung and in general to build a culture of Philanthropy at HKA.

Our Finance Committee is working closely with the Facilities Committee and Board of Trustees to make sure that our financial condition remains sound as we make the transition to the permanent facilities in Sai Kung.

In summary, we are very busy with the Sai Kung project on numerous fronts and are making steady progress.

Other

Given all that we have “on our plate” the Board of Trustees as decided to schedule more frequent meetings and to hold another weekend offsite session in November as our first such session in August was so productive.

In keeping with our goal of Increased Transparency & Community Engagement we are planning to establish informal Board of Trustees “office hours” one evening per month. These sessions will not have a specific agenda but rather will be intended as a means for community members to engage directly with a representative of the Board of Trustees on any topics of their choosing. The first session is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 25 October from 6:30 to 7:30.

Finally, it was great to see the large turnout for the recent “Freedom from Chemical Dependency” Community evening.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly via FirstClass at (william.rosensweig@hkacademy.edu.hk) at any time with comments, questions, or suggestions.

Kind Regards,

Bill Rosensweig

Chair, Board of Trustees

william.rosensweig@hkacademy.edu.hk

Board Social 2011



WASC/CIS Accreditation Self-Study Update

The School is moving ahead with the self-study process as part of the School Evaluation and Accreditation through the Western Association of School and Colleges as well as the Council of International Schools. This is an important process for HKA as the recommendations and outcomes will build our road map for the future. It will also ensure that our school will continue to operate under internationally recognized standards.

In January 2012, the report will be submitted to the CIS Co-Chair, Tony Race, Head of the International School of Singapore and to the WASC Co-Chair, Mark Jenkins, Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning at Jakarta International School, in preparation for the Accreditation Team visit from 4-9 March, 2012.

The Guiding Statements Committee, under the leadership of Board Chair Bill Rosensweig, is finishing off their committee work. The Teaching and Learning horizontal and vertical groups, comprised of teachers, completed their work in June. These reports have given us information about the different school core subject areas as well as the Primary School and Middle School/High School as individual entities. Revisions are being made

to the reports, while at the same time, other committees are moving ahead with their meetings. The steering committee chairs, Virginia Hunt, Karin Maddox, Kristel Saleem-Solomon, Douglas Musco and Dale Willetts, are leading a group of faculty, parents and students in the following committees:

- Governance and Leadership
- Faculty and Support Staff
- Access to Teaching and Learning
- School Partnerships for Learning
- Operating Systems Committees

These committees are a great way for the whole HKA community to rate our school on the standards set out in the report booklet by finding supporting evidence.

HKA parent Sue Accret will help with the editing of the final publication and we thank her in advance for offering her expertise.

*-Jane Sparks
Chair of Accreditation Steering Committees*

Mid-Autumn Carnival & Middle Bay Beach Party

