

NEWSLETTER

What's happening | Coming Soon | Messages and Reminders

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Chinese New Year holidays are approaching - we hope that everyone has a wonderful time visiting friends and family. Remember to take plenty of photos for your child to share with classmates when they return.

Please note that school ends on **Friday 5th February** at midday. Term 1 reports will also be coming home on this day.

Term 2 starts on **Monday 22nd February**.

Friday 27th February from 9am at MHIS is our second assessment session for prospective 2016-17 families hoping to join our community.

Monday 29th February - Friday 4th March will be our first MHIS Literacy Week. Please keep your eyes open for more information about events including a Book Fair selling English books on 3rd-4th.

Friday 4th March is also '3-Way Conference Day', when parents and students meet with teachers.



Whole School Celebrations

We are excited about the approaching Chinese New Year celebrations and holiday. Please be sure to come along to our Chinese New Year celebration on the morning of Wednesday 3rd February from 9am. Students will be rotating through a variety of activities over the course of the morning including Dumpling Making, Music and Dance Performances, Arts and Crafts and Chinese Story Telling.

Thanks to Class Parents for helping to coordinate performances from eager parents as well! If you would like to access the Music and Dance room to practice, please email cavenchen@mhis.education to book a time slot.





Parent Information Sessions

Our previous Coffee Morning was specifically for those parents interested in becoming a Parent Helper in Term 2. We focused on sharing ideas about the role of Parent Helpers through an interactive and collaborative activity and also considered some of the tasks that helpers may be asked to undertake. In our next session we will be creating a shared Parent Helper Agreement to further clarify roles and responsibilities:

Date: Thursday 28th January

Time: 8:45-9:45am, after drop off

Location: Music & Dance Room

All parents are welcome to attend but, in particular, those who attended the first session are reminded that Parent Helpers must have signed their attendance at both sessions in order to take on this role in Term 2. Thank you!.

Top Teaching Talent

Research shows that, of the many elements that need to be in place to create an outstanding school, outstanding teachers are at the top of the list. We are delighted with our wonderful teaching team this year and are excited about its growth as we move forward into the coming academic year.

Recruitment season is now upon us and dozens of interested candidates have been interviewed already for our handful of teaching positions starting from August 2016. Search Associates and CRS are some of the largest and most reputable teacher recruitment agencies and are just two of the channels we are using to source our additional teaching staff. Our Principal attended a Recruitment Fair in Hong Kong last weekend, and this weekend will be at another in Shanghai. The wonders of technology also allow interviews from all over the world and many extended conversations with talented and passionate educators through Skype over the past few weeks have also taken place.

Some key attributes that we are looking for in our teachers are:

- International School experience, including in China
- Experience in inquiry and play-based programmes
- Understanding of dual-language learning
- Strong team-players and communicators
- Caring and nurturing towards young students
- Parent and community centred
- Excellent references from multiple sources

We are pleased to report that we have strong applicants and will be sharing information about new appointments in Term 2.





Red Envelopes

Please note that the Board respectfully requests that no red envelopes are given to staff as gifts this Chinese New Year. Thank you for respecting this directive.

However, in recognition of this important cultural element of the celebration, students will be given chocolate coins in red envelopes as part of our Chinese New Year celebration on 3rd February.

New School Doctor

Sadly, Dr Lin has left MHIS due to ill health. We are grateful to Nurse Alice, who was seconded to us by the Mission Hills group in the interim period while we found suitable candidates for the position.

We are delighted to announce that Dr Tsui will be joining us from next Monday 25th January. Dr Tsui is an experienced Kindergarten doctor, having worked at other schools in the area for several years. She believes in positive communication with parents, patience with children and is excited about joining MHIS.

Staff Profiles

We are proud to introduce our hard working Admin Team:



Emily Liu



Caven Chen

Emily Liu was born in the ancient city of Zigong in Sichuan province. Emily received her Bachelor's Degree from Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK. Before MHIS, Emily worked as the Guest Experience Manager in the Mission Hills resort. Through her experiences studying abroad she came to appreciate the value of Western education, and she is also passionate about traditional Chinese culture. As such, Emily thinks that the combination of Chinese and Western education is the best possible approach. This is reason she likes working in MHIS.

Caven Chen was born in Shenzhen, although her hometown is Heyuan in Guangdong Province. She graduated from Shenzhen University where she majored in Music Education (specialising in Piano). In addition, Caven earned her Bachelor's degree at Shenzhen University. Her father is music lover also, and is good at playing national ethnic instruments, such as urheen and qin qin (秦琴). Caven enjoys speaking and enhancing her English language skills and communicating with all members of our community here at MHIS.

