PROVIDING THE BEST FOR STUDENTS

Welcome back! I trust you had a wonderful break with your family over the Chinese New Year Holidays and you are looking forward to a happy, healthy and prosperous Year of the Tiger. After nearly five weeks of recruiting teachers overseas, I was so glad to be back in Hong Kong for the holiday and to have my feet back on the ground. During the break, teachers in both the Lower and Upper School participated in professional development days and have returned to school eager to use their new knowledge and skills in the classroom.

Our recruiting for next year is 98% complete and I am very pleased with the caliber of teachers who will be joining us next year from all corners of the world including Canada, Kenya, Sudan, Spain and Mexico. We have been extremely lucky over the last few years to hire talented teachers who have worked tirelessly both inside and outside the classroom. Our teachers have been a vital part of the process as we move towards full IB authorization. We are preparing for a visit by the IBO MYP pre-authorization team this spring and anticipate the final stage, full authorization, to take place in 2010/2011. Our teachers’ dedication to improving the education provided to all our students has been second to none. It’s important to remember a school does not become exceptional through just its facilities, grounds or curriculum – but its teachers. Teachers are our most critical resource and without them, we would not be able to educate, inspire and encourage our students as well as we do today.

While we are busy preparing for our visit by the IBO, many of our Upper year students are busy preparing for their post-secondary transitions. Tonight, representatives from nearly 70 schools will meet with students and their parents during our CDNIS University Fair. I am proud to say this is the largest university fair in Hong Kong and I must congratulate our outstanding Guidance and Counselling Department for their efforts and hard work in orchestrating this event. Just five years ago we had approximately 10 universities visit our school in one year. This year, including this Fair, we will have over 200 universities on site, meeting directly with our students and parents. CDNIS has earned a reputation internationally for producing outstanding graduates known to do exceptionally well at university, so it’s no wonder many of the top schools in the world – Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Brown, Warwick, Nottingham, Trinity, McGill, Queen’s, UBC and University of Hong Kong – will all be in attendance. Tonight’s fair will provide an excellent opportunity for parents and students to begin the research process for university options. For those of you attending tonight’s big event I look forward to seeing you and to everyone else have a great weekend ahead.

Dave McMaster
Head of School

Wear Pink this Friday!

Friday, March 5 would have been Alan Dick’s 56th birthday. To mark this day, we are inviting all staff and students to wear pink - Alan’s favourite colour. Students are encouraged to wear pink accessories along with their school uniforms.

Alan Dick Memorial Walk

In memory of Alan Dick, we are launching the inaugural Alan Dick Memorial Walk. Our goal is for each person to walk an average of 10 laps of the track. If we do this, we will cover the same distance as walking across Canada from St. John’s to Victoria (over 8,000km!!!). Parents are invited to take part in this whole school event as we remember Alan Dick. More information is available on the last page of Flash. Please print off the form and return it to your child’s teacher. Mark your calendars today!
LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

Spring into Reading
The annual festival of reading starts Monday and this year’s line-up of events promises to be better than ever! Read a book and write a review. Take part in the Book Swap. Dress up as your favourite storybook character. Create an edible creation based on a book. And don’t forget to cast your ballot in selecting the country Room-to-Read will support this year. For more information contact CISPA’s World of Words Chair Tammi Williams at tammi.williams@usa.net and check out wow.cispa.hk for a list of all the Spring into Reading activities and necessary forms.

Sarah Brennan Visits CDNIS
On Tuesday, March 2, author Sarah Brennan once again enthralled students in Prep through Grade 4 as she presented The Tale of Temujin, the latest in her Chinese zodiac collection. Always entertaining, Sarah’s lively presentations engaged her audiences in joyful celebration of a good book, while simultaneously introducing them to the significant historical figure of Genghis Khan. Order forms for Sarah’s books have been sent home with students; they should be returned to your child’s teacher before Tuesday, March 9.

LEAP Van Lai See Fundraiser
Each year, CDNIS students visit the LEAP (Life Education Activity Programme) Van. We like to lend our support to the programme by participating in the LEAP “Spare a Lai-see Fundraising Project”. Students are invited to donate one of their lai-see packets they received over the Chinese New Year Break. The LEAP Lai-see box is located at the Level 9 entrance until March 12.

Used Chinese Outfits
Will your child grow out of their Chinese New Year outfit by next year? Why not donate it to the costume and wardrobe department in the LLAC. Please drop your gently used CNY clothing off at the LLAC box office by March 12.

UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Southeast Asia Maths Competition
Congratulations are in order for six Grade 9 students who participated in the 10th Annual Southeast Asia Math Competition over the CNY holiday. Christopher Shum, Justin Ng, Renzo Bautista, Emily Hon, Jessica Yu and Vivien Lee battled algorithms to variables in helping CDNIS place 27th and 42nd out of 71 teams from across Asia - including Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. Way to go!

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Chess Championships
Congratulations to the Chess Team who placed third out of 42 teams in the Primary Section of the Hong Kong Inter-School Team Chess Championships over the weekend at Island School. Lawrence Lee grabbed the bronze on Board 1 and Vincent Lee the gold medal on Board 2. Way to go team!
ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Tuition Fee Deposit Due and Withdrawal Notice
Just a reminder the first term tuition fee deposit is due Friday, March 26. Please check the school website for the 2009/2010 Payment Policy under “Admissions.” Please let us know before Thursday, May 20 if your child will not be returning in August 2010. This will ensure you receive your deposit back and also allow us to offer places to children currently on the waiting list. If you have any questions, or did not receive your invoice this week, please contact Joseph Cheng in our Accounts Department at 2240 6308.

First Aid/CPR Course for Parents and Caregivers
The Emergency First Response “Care for Children” course teaches participants how to provide emergency care for injured or ill infants and children. This valuable First Aid/CPR training course will be held Saturday, March 27 at CDNIS from 9am – 4pm. Taught in English, Tagalog (and other dialects), Bahasa Indonesian and Cantonese/Mandarin, the course costs just $900/person. To register, contact Jason Sylvester at 9764 9508 or sylvesterjay@juno.com or check out http://www.emergencyfirstresponse.com/english/html/careforchildren.asp for more information.

GUIDANCE IN A FLASH

Join us tonight – Thursday, March 4 – as we host nearly 70 universities from around the world. The largest university fair in Hong Kong, tonight’s event will allow students and parents the chance to begin or continue researching their university options. University representatives will be on hand from Canada, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, UK, Japan and Switzerland. The Fair takes place from 5:45pm - 7pm in the LLAC before moving to the 3rd Floor Gym from 7pm - 9pm. Bus pick up will be available from the Admiralty MTR station at 5pm and will leave CDNIS at 9:15pm. For more information contact Bob Bate at bobbate@cdnis.edu.hk.

SPORTS REPORT

Be sure to check out the Timberwolves in action. Log on to http://sports.cdnis.edu.hk/ for all the latest T-Wolves news!

Tuesday, March 9
Girls U20 Football @ AIS 3:30pm
Girls U12 Badminton @ RCHK 4pm, 5pm and 6pm
Boys U12 Badminton @ HOME 4pm, 5pm and 6pm
Girls U14 Badminton @ ICS 4pm and 6pm
Boys U14 Badminton @ Home 4pm and 6pm

Wednesday, March 10
Girls U16 Badminton @ RCHK 4pm, 5pm and 6pm
Girls U20 Badminton @ ICS 4pm and 6pm

Thursday, March 11
Boys U20 Softball @ Shek Field 3:30pm and 5pm
Boys U16 Badminton @ ICS 4pm and 6pm
Boys U20 Badminton @ YCIS 4pm, 5pm and 6pm

Important Calendar Dates

March 8 – Pre Rec and Rec Learning Reviews
March 8 – 26 – Read-A-Thon
March 22 – Alan Dick Memorial Walk
March 22 – 26 – Lower School Book Fair
March 26 – Tuition Fee Deposit 2010/2011 Due
March 26 – Dress Down Day
March 31 – Term 2 Report Cards – Upper School

April 1 – Dismissal at 11am
April 2-9 – Spring Break (school closed)
April 16 – Upper School Parent/Teacher Conferences (no school for Upper School)
April 19 – Dismissal at 11am
April 26 – 30 – Grade 7/8 China Trip
April 30 – Dress Down Day
Monday, March 22, 2010
Aberdeen Sports Ground

Programme:

08:00 – 08:45  Travel to the Aberdeen Sports Ground
               (Grade 4 and above on foot, Grade 3 and below by buses)
08:45 – 09:00  Opening Ceremony
09:00 – 10:15  The Walk
10:15 – 11:45  Lunch / Performance / Concert
               (Complimentary lunch will be provided to all students (hot
dog, special cookies and drink). Parents are welcome
to purchase lunch.)
11:45 – 12:00  Closing Remarks
12:00         Return to Classes

Participants:  CDNIS community: all parents, staff & students

Purpose:       Building community, remembering Alan Dick and
               fundraising to support the Alan Dick Memorial Fund

Donor’s Details:

Name:  _______________________________ (Parent/Student/Staff)
Class: _______  Email:  ______________________________
Amount:  ________________  (Suggested donation of $100 or more)
Payment Method:  □ Cash  □ Check
                 (Bank/Check No.  ________________)
                 (Payable to "Canadian International School of Hong Kong Limited")

Canadian International School of Hong Kong