



Parent Information Evening on 17 & 19 August 2010

Dear Parents,

Good evening and welcome to the tonight's Parent Information Evening – the first of this school year. I am Sean O'Maonaigh, Headmaster.

Each year the School holds a number of information evenings, usually on matters of curriculum and instruction and we hope for active participation in these.

The School philosophy is "We provide a positive academic and caring social environment that emphasizes the development of the whole child, fostering individual ability within an intercultural community".

Our School is an "IB World School", providing a programme of instruction within the three frameworks of the International Baccalaureate

The IB Diploma Programme was re-authorised in 2003/2004 and we received an authorisation report in July 2008.

The IB Middle Years Programme was re-authorized in 2009 following a visit by an IB Authorisation Team in March 2009.

The IB Primary Years Programme was authorised in 2001 and re-authorised in 2006 until May 2011. We are currently preparing for an authorisation visit in 2010.

There will be meetings on the IB Middle Years Programme and the IB Primary Years Programme, "Curriculum Areas" in the next few weeks – so we hope to see you present as these also, the main purpose of this evening however, is for you to have an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about general school routines.

Every school is different and for you who are new to the School or indeed moving to a new grade level you may find new practices and matters about which you are unfamiliar or unsure. The instructional programme of our school is based on an "inquiry based approach" and the attributes of the IB Learner Profile, and it is important that you as parents are aware of this to better understand the learning environment of your child.

Parent/Student Handbooks and Student Planners were given to students last week – these contain school policy matters, curriculum outlines and a school calendar. Please ensure that you have copies of these and that you take time to familiarise you and your family with the contents. Also, please consult our website for further information and regular updates of news and events. We suggest that you log in and check the site at least once a week.

In addition, student anxiety is high at this time of year as they cope with transitions, make new friends and come to terms with new challenges and experiences. It is important to understand that perception is not reality and that neither the school nor your child is the same as last year. Whatever the case, if you have a concern please contact your child's homeroom teacher. In the event that he

or she may not be able to assist you, then please discuss the matter with the Head of Section; Mrs. McLeod, Ms. Blenkiron or Mr. Nilsson.

Our School is accredited by the Council of International Schools that accredits some 310 school internationally, and by the New England Association of Schools and Council (NEASC), USA.

Each organisation stipulates certain international standards by which the School should operate and the School is required to provide self-study reports and undergo external evaluation of the school's operation by visiting teams from these agencies.

Pleasingly, in 2010 the school was accepted for the second pilot phase of joint accreditation for CIS/NEASC/ IB. This process will occur in 2013.

The comment from the last report in 2009 included:

Commendations:

- The “active, vibrant learning communities which are striving towards excellence in all aspects.”
- The School honest assessment of its own strengths and weakness which are validated by the Visiting Team's report.
- The clear and comprehensive Philosophy and Objectives statement with its strong commitment to providing and promoting intercultural experiences and its alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The celebration of Vietnamese culture as embodies also in its exceptional CAS program.
- The strong commitment to the PYP, MYP and the IB Diploma programs.
- The dedicated, loyal, and enthusiastic teaching, support and services staff.
- The wide array of extra-curricular activities available to students.
- The School's encouragement of student leadership, and empowerment of staff and parents to participate in the community and service.
- The Board's commitment to long-term strategic planning which includes a (urgently needed) building expansion program.
- The pleasant (even if crowded), well-maintained, clean, and secure school facilities.
- The School's strong financial position.

Recommendations:

- Correct the apparent disconnect between the School's Philosophy and Objectives and the practice encountered at the City College Campus (“CCC does not address the creative, aesthetic, and physical needs of its students”)
- The School more closely align the Student Support Service so that the Philosophy and Objectives of the school are met in regards to providing a positive academic environment, fostering and individual ability, the development of the whole child, and addressing the intellectual, emotional and social needs of students.
- Develop procedures to measure the effectiveness of the Philosophy and Objectives.
- Improve curriculum documentation and articulation (especially at CCC) by continuing work on the Atlas Rubicon mapping system.
- Address issue of differentiated learning and pedagogy in order to develop greater consistency in teaching styles and quality.
- Review the provision of professional development funds (also for support staff).
- Share educational and financial plans and policies more effectively with staff and parents.
- Improve the dialogue with students, parents and staff in decision-making process on policies and procedures which effect student life.
- Be sensitive to the gradual erosion of benefits for Vietnamese teachers as a result of inflation and a system which permits salary renegotiations only every three years.
- Update the health clinics and especially the medical facilities at CCC.
- Improve library resources and staffing and, in general, to act on the imminent shortage of space due to the fact that school facilities are used to maximum capacity.

In our Diploma programme last year – 82% of our students opted for the examinations of the IB Diploma. This is well above the world average and unusual, bearing in mind that we are a non-selective school. However, we do believe in giving our students the opportunity to prove themselves and they do rise to the occasion, often surprisingly so, and this is particularly pleasing given their diverse nature and language backgrounds.

83% of Diploma candidates fulfilled the requirements for the award of an IB Diploma with an average grade of 5 from a possible 7. Additionally, 76.5% of the Diplomas were Bi-lingual.

IB Examination Entries 2006-10

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of entries	38	40	59	62	41
% of successful Diplomas	69%	72%	80%	84.5%	83%

The achievements of our students could not be possible, of course, without the support of the teaching faculty. There are now 86 teachers at the An Phu Campus, giving a ration of 1:10 teacher to student overall.

Staffing

Chart of nationalities

No.	Country	No of Teachers	%
1	United Kingdom	31	30.10
2	Australia	28	27.18
3	Canada	12	11.65
4	United States	12	11.65
5	France	4	3.88
6	New Zealand	4	3.88
7	Vietnam	3	2.91
8	Ireland	2	1.94
9	China	1	0.97
10	Hungary	1	0.97
11	India	1	0.97
12	Korea	1	0.97
13	Peru	1	0.97
14	Poland	1	0.97

15	Ukraine	1	0.97
Total		103	100.00

Chart of years in school: 35% have been here for three years or more, i.e. 50% are now starting 3rd year.

Years 15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	New
1	1	3	0	1	4	2	2	0	8	2	4	8	18	29	19

There are 39 nationalities re-presented.

The current enrolment of the school: 920

SECTION	CLASS	STUDENTS	%
Junior Schools	8	134	14.57
Elementary Schools	12	227	24.67
Middle School	9	196	21.30
High School	4	220	23.92
CCC	10	143	15.54
Total	43	920	100.00

The National breakdown is:

Note: Vietnamese students (including CCC)

No.	Country	Number of Students	%
1	Vietnam (+CCC)	276	30.00

Note: Vietnamese students (without CCC)

No.	Country	Number of Students	%
1	Korea	161	20.72
2	Vietnam	133	17.12
3	United States	99	12.74
4	Australia	66	8.49
5	Taiwan	34	4.38
6	Malaysia	28	3.60
7	United Kingdom	31	3.99
8	France	24	3.09
9	Germany	21	2.70
10	Japan	18	2.32
11	Thailand	17	2.19
12	Canada	16	2.06
13	India	16	2.06
14	Philippines	14	1.80
15	Singapore	12	1.54

16	Denmark	10	1.29
17	New Zealand	10	1.29
18	Netherlands	9	1.16
19	Indonesia	6	0.77
20	Cambodian	5	0.64
21	China	5	0.64
22	South Africa	5	0.64
23	Sweden	5	0.64
24	Pakistan	4	0.51
25	Belgium	3	0.39
26	Iceland	3	0.39
27	Ireland	3	0.39
28	Sri Lanka	3	0.39
29	Costa Rica	2	0.26
30	Hungary	2	0.26
31	Israel	2	0.26
32	Kuwait	2	0.26
33	Switzerland	2	0.26
34	Austria	1	0.13
35	Italy	1	0.13
36	Poland	1	0.13
37	Spain	1	0.13
38	Turkey	1	0.13
39	Ukraine	1	0.13
Total		777	100

School Goals

Each year the school establishes certain school-wide goals for school improvement. This year these include:

Information Technology:

- The School will continue to expand the use of information technology generally in the school.
- The School will be drafting an extension to the current three year plan for developments over the next three years.

Student Support Services:

An additional Counsellor and Learning Support Teacher have been hired this Year.

The School will be working to review the instructional programme for learning Support.

The School will be reviewing the pastoral care programme.

School Library:

The School will be reviewing the role of the Library in the School, especially within the context of enquiry based learning and the library as a media centre.

School Facilities:

Finally we are excited by the anticipation that the construction work on the new extension wing will be completed by early October. There will then be a period of fit-out of at least 4/5 weeks of the new facilities to include; science laboratories, additional multi-purpose room and swimming pool.

We look forward to the new school year exciting and remembering.

Thank you. Now I would like to introduce the Heads of Section.

Board of management Members:

1. Mr. Andy Ho, Chairman
2. Mr. Don Lam
3. Mr. Tony Shadwell
4. Mr. Ian McNeilage
5. Ms. Due Quach

Advisory Council:

1. Mr. Canh Do, Chairman
2. Mr. Sean O'Maonaigh
3. Mrs. Lee Baker
4. Mrs. Jakki Lydall
5. Mr. Andy Ho
6. Mr. Tony Shadwell
7. Ms. Christine Byrne
8. Mr. Douglas Willard
9. Dr. Nguyen Thi Quynh Lam

Parent and Teacher Organisation:

1. Mrs. Kelly Neumann, President
2. Mrs. Antoinette Gustini, Vice President
3. Mrs. Retha Van Neikerk, Treasurer
4. Mrs. Diana Prineas, Classroom Representative Coordinator
5. Mrs. Lisa Hulme, Classroom Representative Coordinator
6. Mrs. Christine Fuller, Cultural Representative Coordinator
7. Mrs. Audrey Kim, Cultural Representative Coordinator