

## Principal's Newsletter: Week 31

Dear Parents

We are fast approaching the end of the year. I mentioned a couple of newsletters ago that there are a number of important events coming up. As is usual in any school, we wind up and not down. I hope to see you all at Spring Festival this weekend. The students have been practicing and are ready to "WOW" you all.

### 2010-11 School Year

We have new staff arriving next year. I have included the 2010 – 2011 staff biographies below. We have an exciting team with wide ranging skills and experience on offer next year. My vision is that we will offer a dynamic programme in all levels of the school and build on this year's solid platform. We will still work on moving deeper in our curriculum and assessment practise next year. The big changes outlined for next year will be the implementation of the new literacy and numeracy programme and development of the Diploma programme.

There is the possibility of a French company moving to Xian and the children of the employees coming to our school. At the moment this is only at the discussions stage and hasn't moved into logistics. It is exciting for us to think we could get an influx of students over the next year to year and a half. There is talk of about thirty families gradually moving here.

A question I have been asked is- How does this affect XHIS?

XHIS is a diverse school representing sixteen different nationalities. The school would carry on its normal business of educating students. We have a very good EAL programme to cater to non-English speakers. A percentage of these children are coming from other international schools from around the world and so will have a good level of English to begin with. The students will not all arrive at the same time. As stated above, the students would arrive gradually throughout the school year and into the next. We will adapt as the students arrive.

In saying this, nothing has been confirmed yet. We are at the discussions stage and I will keep you posted as we move forward.

Yours Sincerely



Alasdair Maclean  
Principal

### **Assemblies**

**May 21** No Assembly –Practice for Spring festival  
**May 28** P.E. and Music w/ Mr. Jude

### **Upcoming events**

**May 22** Spring Festival: 10:30 start

### **Contact Numbers**

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**School website:**

<http://www.etonhouse-xian.com>



## 2010 -11 Team

### **Alasdair Maclean: Principal**

Alasdair is from New Zealand and has been teaching since 1996. Alasdair has a Bachelors degree in Education, a Teaching Diploma and is currently working towards his Masters in Educational Management. Alasdair was principal in a small rural school in New Zealand, and Deputy Principal at Taihu International School, (Wuxi, China) before joining Etonhouse Xi'an as Principal. Alasdair has vast experience of multi-level teaching, assessment and accreditation having been responsible for these areas in his previous school. Alasdair was also the MYP coordinator at his last school where he instigated MYP and took the programme through to full authorization. Alasdair is an MYP workshop leader, and school site visitor. He also led his last school in three party accreditations, with C.I.S, W.A.S.C and N.C.C.T. Alasdair is also a visiting team member for WASC.

Alasdair believes that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring, and stimulating atmosphere in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. It is his desire as an educator to help students meet their fullest potential in these areas by providing an environment that is safe, supports risk-taking, and invites a sharing of ideas.

### **Karen Miller: Nursery, Reception, and Year 1**

Karen Miller believes that 10 years from now it won't matter where she lives, but that she made a difference in the lives of a child and by extension a difference in the world. This is her guide as she seeks to make her mark on the children entrusted in her care. Karen Brown has been an educator for over 10 years. She has taught both in the private and public school systems in her native home, Jamaica. The past 3 years she has worked in the Bahamas and was formally introduced to the IB programme at Lyford Cay International School. There she taught Pre-K, was in charge of 2 co-curricular clubs, served as chairperson on the Visual Arts Accreditation Committee and served as a member of 2 social committees that were both aimed at building staff morale. She has received training in PYP Level 1, Literacy Framework, & Everyday Math. She is in Xian with daughter and her husband. She is looking forward to working in China and very excited to start the new school year.

### **Kangan Jain: Year 1-3**

Kangan holds a Bachelors degree in Arts with a Major in English and Minor in Psychology as well as a Post Graduate degree in Educational administration. Besides this she holds a Masters degree in Indian Classical Dance.

Kangan has nine years of varied teaching experience in international schools. She has designed curricula for pre-primary and primary classes. Kangan has training in (IB) PYP and has attended workshops on "Inquiry based learning" and "Teaching and Learning". Along with this, she was given a chance to conduct training for teachers and conduct parental workshops.

Kangan has taught a diverse age group of students' from six weeks old to eight years of age. Kangan has gained in-depth knowledge of latest techniques on early child brain development, techniques on how to child behaviour management, children with learning disabilities, creative thinking, enhancement of children's potential and accommodating to different styles of learners as well as incorporating effective methods to meet student's unique needs.

Kangan encourages student learning by incorporating creative learning centers, various forms of technology, hands on activities, and fun manipulatives to stimulate students' social, emotional, physical and academic growth.

Kangan's greatest strength is cultivating and sustaining strong working relationships with all members of the school community.

### **Year 4/5**

To be appointed



## **Xi'an Hi-Tech International School** *The International Department*

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### **Jacqui Stenson: Year 6/7, Deputy Principal**

Jacqui will be the Deputy Principal as of the 2010 – 2011 year. Her interest in education began at a Playcentre in Hamilton, New Zealand. She completed her Preschool certificates and was Education Officer for Forest Lakes Playcentre. Jacqui then studied for her Bachelor's degree including Education as her minor subject. She traveled to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and taught Preschool and New Entrants before teaching ESOL at High School level. Upon her return to New Zealand, she completed her Diploma of Teaching in Dunedin. She was appointed to a Year 3-5 class on the West Coast for 2 years. Since then Jacqui has taught juniors at several rural Canterbury schools. For the three and a half years previous to joining EtonHouse, Jacqui taught a bilingual Year 0-3 class in Kaikoura. Jacqui was a Lead Teacher on the Ministry of Education's recent Literacy Project.

### **Kareen Simpson: EAL Teacher/ PYP Coordinator**

Kareen is a Jamaican that comes to EtonHouse, Xi'an with 11 years teaching experience. She has taught English Language and English Literature in middle schools for 3 years, but has spent the last 7 years in her area of specialization - primary education. Kareen has training in (IB) PYP level 1 and has taught grades 3 through 6. She is also a certified TESOL. (Teacher of English for Students of Other Languages). She loves children, and gets great fulfilment from working with them. She has one son, Ashani. The 2010 – 2011 year will be Kareen's second year in China and she is very excited and looking forward to the enriching experiences that she will gain.

### **Richard Gallerno: Head of Language Dept., MYP/DP Language A and B**

Richard Gallerno is Canadian and has been with EtonHouse Xi'an since 2005. He has over 11 years of experience teaching at the middle and high school levels. Courses taught include English as an Additional Language (EAL) in China and South Korea, as well as Language Arts and Psychology. He tries to incorporate technology into his classes whenever possible. He is the Head of Foreign Languages, which means that he assists and monitors EAL, Language B (English), and Chinese classes. Richard has travelled extensively through Asia, but this has slowed down somewhat so that he can spend quality time with his young twins, Drake and Phoebe

### **Rhandy J. Jermia: MYP/DP Mathematics/DP Coordinator**

Rhandy J. Jermia holds a Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Math and Minor in English as well as a Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics. He has started his Doctor of Philosophy in Developmental Research and Administration and is looking forward to continuing this in the coming year. He has been a consistent Honours student since his elementary studies, with awards in Mathematics, Sciences and Leadership.

Rhandy has over 12 years of varied International teaching experience in the Philippines, Thailand, and China. He has written various Mathematics curricula from middle and upper secondary up to College and University Level. He has also written various mathematics texts at Primary, Secondary and College level. He has experience with curricula from the United States, British Columbia in Canada, Thailand, Philippines and Australia. He has initiated and organised various Community Service Programmes in the Philippines, Thailand, and China.

### **Natalie Sudborough: MYP/DP Humanities/MYP Coordinator**

Natalie Sudborough teaches Year 7 through 12 Humanities. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with a major in History and a concentration in French; and Natalie is currently pursuing a Master of Education Degree, specialising in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. During her 11 years of hands-on teaching expertise, Miss Sudborough has had the opportunity to instruct a wide variety of students including those from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, North America and Europe, as well as those with learning disabilities and special needs. Over the years, she has taught EAL, all levels of French, and a wide array of Social Science courses to students in grades 7-12. As a result, she is a person who offers individualised support, differentiates instruction, and tailors lesson plans to ensure a well-rounded and enriching academic experience for *all* students.



**Larry Legaspi: Science MYP/DP**

Mr. Legaspi has a Bachelor of Science Degree, major in Physics and minor Chemistry as well as a Master's Degree in Physics Education. During his 17 years of teaching expertise, Mr. Legaspi has had the opportunity to instruct a wide variety of students including those from Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, China, the United State, Germany and the United Kingdom. Over the years, he has delivered and taught curricula from British Columbia, Canada, IGCSE and GCE Chemistry and Physics from University of Cambridge International Examinations.

He has distinguished himself as a conscientious and energetic pioneer in the field of science education. He is particularly gifted at identifying students' needs, encouraging their contributions, and involving them in the planning process.

**Charlotte Maclean: PYP/MYP/DP Visual Arts**

Charlotte comes from New Zealand, where she taught Year 3, 4, and 5 students. She has a passion for literacy and numeracy. Charlotte has been trained in The Early Numeracy project and First Chance literacy. She came to China with her husband, Alasdair Maclean, and their daughter Isabel. Since then she has taught at Taihu International School and had a second child, Max – born in China.

**Susnata Hah: Music**

Susnata comes to us with a wealth of experience. He has a degree in computer science and music. He is very passionate about music and has organised a number of musical performances around the world.

He is proficient at studio recordings (Editing, mixing and recording multi-track audio), keyboards, choir and guitar.

Susnata will also be teaching technology to our middle school students using computers as a medium and supporting the primary school.

**Zhai Xiao Ying: PYP/MYP/DP Chinese**

Ms. Zhai graduated from Shaanxi Normal University with a Master's degree in Chinese. She is an enthusiastic and energetic educator and returns to XHIS for her fourth year as a Chinese teacher.

**Ellen Ma: PYP/MYP/DP Chinese**

Ellen Ma graduated from Shaanxi Normal University with a Bachelor Degree in Chinese Literature. She has extensive experience teaching Chinese. She enjoys teaching international students and would like to make this her career. Students and colleagues describe her as having a lively personality and she makes every attempt to bring this out in her lessons.

**Angela Yang: PYP/MYP/DP Chinese**

Angela Yang graduated from Xi'an Fan Yi University with a degree in English. She has been teaching for six years. She considers herself to be a cheerful and lively person, and she makes every attempt to bring this out when teaching. She is pleased to be teaching at XHIS because she enjoys teaching Chinese language and culture to international students of all ages.

**Dipjoti Gogoi: PE Teacher**

Dipjyoti is from India and holds a Masters of Philosophy in Physical Education with a specialization of Soccer and Sports Biomechanics. He is pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Education from LNUPE in India. Before joining this school he worked in Pathways World School, India. He teaches Physical Education for primary, middle school and secondary students and has organized many inter-school tournaments/championships. Dipjyoti also loves sports like Squash, swimming, and other individual and group games. He is very excited to be joining the EtonHouse Xian educational team!



## Dolce Lunches –Online Ordering

I have had a discussion with Vivien today and the online ordering service can begin for next week. She asked that you:

1. Use your child's full name
2. Use a separate order for each child in your house hold
3. To order the entire menu is 30 RMB, but Dolce will give to you for 25RMB
4. There will be more changes to web site over the upcoming weeks. They will be:
  - Each week will be clearly named
  - An option to order a menu item twice
  - An option to view what you have ordered.

### ***The following is a repeat from last week.***

The following are instructions are for Dolce Restaurant online ordering. As this system is still new and in the "test stage", we will be sending a hard copy version of the order form home tomorrow as well. Please do take some time to explore the site and to place your order for next week:

We can start using this now:

1. Go to [www.dolcexian.com](http://www.dolcexian.com)
2. Click the English or Chinese language selection
3. Click the catering button
4. Click the EtonHouse logo.

### **To register**

1. Registration –
  - Username – the child's school name
  - Password – you choose.

### **Ordering**

1. Simply log in and select your menu choices for the week.
2. Payment will need to be made in advance, either to Jessica or Dolce. The lunch system is run on a credit basis. To pay simply place money into a named envelope and give to Jessica or Dolce *–one envelope per child.*
3. Each time you order for a child you must log in for each child individually. For example - if parents have three children, they need log in three times. This will avoid mistakes.
4. Please place orders before 9pm Friday evening, although, you can still add or cancel the orders before 9am each week day morning.

**If you have any questions, please feel free contact me any time**

**Vivien: 13991193081**

**Snack: May 24 – May 28**

**Student: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Yes(√)**

**No(×)**

	May.24	May.25	May.26	May.27	May.28
<b>Morning</b>	Cherries	Bread	Yogurt	Banana	Bread
<b>Afternoon</b>	Watermelon	Juice	Pear	Juice	Orange



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### Parent Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May there will be a parents meeting at school. This will be held at 7pm in the school library. I feel it is a good time to answer any burning questions. At this stage Paul Lieblich will also be here.

A school survey will be sent out tomorrow. The survey will be an online survey. Your feedback will be essential in moving the school forward.

### Spring Festival

We look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday. Just as a quick note; any help from families who are willing to stay around to help out with straightening up after Spring Festival would be much appreciated.

### Parent Association

Dear Parents,

We held our Parents Association general assembly meeting this Monday: beside the committee members and Mr. Maclean, only one parent attended the meeting! Therefore we were unable to proceed with the election of a new committee.

At the end of this school year, 4 out of the 5 committee members will either leave Xian or will not stand for re-election. We believe it is VERY important for parents who will stay here next year to determine how they see our Parent Association future role and operation. We also wish to underline the important role played by the Advisory Board in the school's recent development.

Therefore we would like at this stage to ask you a few questions and receive your feedback and comments:

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#### YES/NO questions:

- 1.- Do you think the Parent Association in its current form is still useful? YES/NO
- 2.- Do you wish parents to be represented at the School Advisory Board which meets with Eton House Management to discuss school issues? YES/NO
- 3.- Would you consider a position on the PA committee? YES/NO
- 4.- Do you prefer our PA general assembly meeting to be held on a Saturday morning? YES/NO

Based on your answers, we will try to propose an agenda and date for a last PA general assembly meeting for this school year, probably in June, during which we hope the Committee will be renewed and the future of our PA will be defined.

Please share with us any suggestions you wish us to consider regarding how the Parent Association could be improved.

I would appreciate if you could send your feedback directly to me or to Jessica (via School newsletter) not later than Friday May 28th.

Thank you,

Yvane ELOY  
PA Secretary