Kunming International Academy
Director's Report
Spring 2010

…Communicating important KIA news and events!

INTERNATIONALIZATION

On Tuesday, 12 January, the **D**irector's **A**dvisory **C**ouncil (DAC), two representatives of the European Community, KIA's Korean Coordinator (Rebecca Hamm), three students, and the KIA Administration met to discuss "Internationalization" of KIA. Two questions were asked of the participants in the area of curriculum, staffing, and world view: *What concerns do you have in this area*? and *How could KIA improve in this area?* Notes were taken on the discussion and people not present submitted written input.

The administrators summarized the meeting with the following three statements:

1. Parents attending felt good about the progress of "internationalization" of KIA over the past couple of years.
2. More discussion is needed with some issues, specifically the student "life-style agreement," secondary chapels and the High School Advanced Placement (AP) program.
3. Many good ideas were presented to broaden curriculum and enhance programs to "internationalize" the school program.

The administration will study the areas of concern and the suggestions that came from this meeting and will prioritize items that need attention. The DAC and the Director will be discussing the issues listed under #2 above at the next DAC meeting. Also, the administration is considering possible changes in our foreign language policies (all languages except English) to better meet the needs of more students. Parents will be asked for input in this issue. Another area of concern for high school students and parents is in the area of the AP program. The administration is looking at possible options to meet the needs of both the students headed for colleges in European/Commonwealth countries and the United States. Our desire is to meet as many student needs as possible while still keeping high standards.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

I want to thank all the parents that add value to KIA by volunteering. Six parents serve on the **D**irector's **A**dvisory **C**ouncil (DAC), and another six faithfully serve on the **S**chool-**P**arent **A**ssociation (SPA). Many others also volunteer for events such as the Family Fun Fair, International Fair, after-school sports and music programs, as well as school-improvement committees. Also, our younger students gain great value from parents coming into the classroom and the Library to read to classes.

I want to especially thank Sandy Lindstrom who tirelessly volunteers in the elementary division. Not only does she do recess and lunch duty, she also completes many tedious tasks that help our teachers. Jennifer Liang has also been faithful helping out where needed in the secondary division. She has done a considerable amount of substituting as well as administrative tasks. Thank you so much for all you add to KIA!

We have additional volunteer needs, such as reading with students, being a guest speaker in secondary classes, or monitoring recess and lunch periods. Please call the school office if you are willing to make this valuable investment in the lives of our students.

CULTURUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

KIA seeks to provide as many opportunities as possible for cultural experiences. On the Friday before Christmas holiday, students and teachers in *Hu Pan Zhi Meng* Chinese school were invited by our elementary students to view and to participate in a performance. Afterwards, all the students had fun in classroom parties hosted by KIA. Classroom parties included card exchanges and a craft. Everything went very well and it was a great cultural exchange.

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SENIOR SERVICE PROJECTS

In December all grade 12 students presented a report on a required service project. Each student is required to perform at least 25 hours of service in order to graduate. The students summarized what they had done. The projects included working on a Yearbook for Grace School, ministering to former prostitutes, raising money and organizing the feeding of local poor people, working with former "Comfort Women" in Korea, leading art activities with children at a local rehabilitation clinic, and serving in foreign fellowships.

Through donating their time to worthy causes, the students learned many things that have enhanced their experiences in the classroom, such as responsibility, patience, teamwork, perseverance, punctuality, organization, and communication. This opportunity to meet the need others has also helped students to grow in their compassion, to deepen their understanding of the world, and to increase their selflessness.

Altogether KIA grade 12 students served over 500 hours in our community. Congratulations to all the students who successfully participated in the cultural exchanges and service projects. We are proud of you!

INTERNATIONAL FAIR

The KIA *International Fair* is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday, 24 April at KIA. This is a change of date from what is on the KIA parent calendars. The purpose of the fair is to gather together to celebrate the value of our various cultures and the strength of our diversity. This is a family-oriented event that you will find nowhere else in Kunming. Please participate in making this a truly successful event by making food items to sample, hosting a country booth, sharing a game, demonstrating a craft, providing ethnic clothes to try on, performing or directing a performance or helping to set up or clean up. Everyone has an opportunity to do something. If you wish to help and have not yet signed up, please contact one of following people by calling the school office or e-mailing them.

Jean Bannen	(English speaker)	jean.bannen@kia-china.org
Rebecca Hamm	(Korean speaker)	rebecca.hamm@kia-china.org
Jessie Ma	(Chinese speaker)	Jessie.ma@kia-china.org

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The KIA 2010-2011 school calendar will be distributed to parents soon. The biggest change in the 2010-2011 calendar is that semester 1 will be completed before the Christmas holiday. This means that school will start at least one week earlier than in previous years. Another change is a full week of "spring break" during the first week of April. When you receive the calendar you will notice that there are a series of *School Improvement* days. *School Improvement* days are days in which students will be released at noon (mostly on Wednesdays) and the staff will be involved in school improving activities that are required for accreditation. Next year, KIA starts the process of a "Self-Study" and needs additional time, especially in the spring to get prepared for re-accreditation.

Below are key dates for the 2010-2011 school year.

16 August 2010	First Day of School
13-17 December 2010	Semester 1 Exams
20-31 December 2010	Christmas Holiday
31 January-11 February 2011	Chinese New Year's Holiday
4-8 April 2011	Spring Break
30 May-3 June 2011	Semester 2 Exams
4 June 2011	Last Day of School

KIA WEBSITE (http://www.kia-china.org/)

Much more information is being added to the KIA website. Occasionally, we will have on the website a listing of KIA's upcoming events. Our goal is that in the future, the school would be able to use the website for greater communication.