Welcome and Welcome Back

It’s wonderful to see new faces in the building: students, parents, and teachers alike. While there might be a few tears these first few days (the little ones new to school), the rest are all smiles. And while there is a bit of anxiety for the newcomers, their curiosity seems to outweigh the unease. Of course, it’s also great to see old friends, eager to share summer adventures, but also looking forward to the coming school year.

Change can be challenging, and even uncomfortable, but that’s also where we grow.

I’ve included a good bit about QSI in general in this newsletter and about QSI Pápa more specifically. If you are new to our school, take some time to learn more about who we are. If you are returning, a refresher never hurts.

For the most part, a newsletter will be posted on our website each Friday. The front page will have upcoming events, the lunch menu, and an introduction. The following pages will offer quite a bit more, with many contributions. Enjoy.
I’ve always appreciated the first line of our mission statement. “Virtually every five year old comes to school eager to learn.” Imagine what it would be like if that held true throughout a student’s education. That is, indeed, our mission, along with the following:

The mission of Quality Schools International (QSI) is to keep this urge to learn alive in every child in QSI schools. Our schools are established to provide in the English language a quality education for students in the cities we serve. These students are the children of parents of many nationalities who have come to a foreign country, usually for a limited stay of a year or more. Some students are permanent residents, citizens of the host country.

Our schools follow a logical model of education which measures success by the accomplishments and attitudes of our students. We believe that all of our students can succeed, that their successes encourage them to continue in a pattern of success, and that it is the schools’ responsibility to provide the conditions for success. These conditions include i) developing clear statements in measurable terms of what the student will do to demonstrate mastery of learning, ii) providing the time and resources needed for each student to attain mastery, and iii) ensuring that students engage in learning at a level which is challenging and yet a level for which each student has the prerequisite skills necessary for success.

We believe in providing an aesthetically pleasing physical surrounding under the charge of a caring staff who believe their students will be successful, and who use time with the students as a resource for learning rather than as a boundary condition to determine when a unit of learning begins and ends. We believe in providing resources such as books, learning materials, and educational technology. In the world today children need to become proficient in the use of computers and related technology as tools to accomplish a myriad of tasks.

Finally we believe in working with parents to encourage our students to adopt qualities of living which lead to success long after formal schooling has ended. These include universally accepted “success orientations” of trustworthiness, kindness/politeness, responsibility, independent endeavor, concern for others, group interaction, and aesthetic appreciation.

THE QSI MISSION STATEMENT

8TH PERIOD ACTIVITIES

School activities are provided for students several days each school week. The purposes of the activity program are:

I. To promote an interest in, and an opportunity to explore, new and/or varied interests not usually available in the curriculum.

II. To provide an opportunity for students to interact with teachers and other students not in their usual instructional group.

III. To provide an opportunity for students to voluntarily pursue interests in a non-academic and ungraded situation.

IV. To encourage learning and physical fitness as an acceptable leisure time activity.

V. To allow students to develop academic and motor skills other than what is available in the regular curriculum.

VI. To provide students with opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities of interest that would not otherwise be available in the community.

VII. To give students additional opportunities to share their own experiences and interests with others.

VIII. To provide an opportunity to see the relationship of knowledge between one area of learning and another and to transfer learning between areas.

Parents and members of the community who have skills that can be shared with students are encouraged to become involved in the activity program.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO CREATE

As instructors, we are responsible for teaching content. But that’s not completely accurate. Teaching students how to teach themselves, critically thinking their way through that learning is closer to what we hope to accomplish. It’s not always easy. Sometimes students just want the information so they can give it back to us on an assessment. It’s much more challenging, after all, to synthesize information, rather than simply recall (memorize) content. Ultimately, we want students to create something unique, all the while having fun with an admittedly more challenging approach to learning. I observe classes on a daily basis, and I regularly see this happening at all age levels. Synthesis and creation. Critical thinking and fun.

JC Sanders
THE QSI WAY

The success oriented way of operating schools leads to optimum learning and to happy and motivated students. Using knowledge of educational research, these schools are student performance-based rather than ‘time-based’ or ‘calendar-based’. Teachers and students in QSI schools use time as a resource to reach mastery of clearly-defined objectives rather than using time as a boundary condition to determine when learning begins and ends. Students are given the time needed to achieve success. QSI teachers employ instructional practices of excellence. The measure of success in QSI education is how well the students learn. The motto “Success For All” remains an ultimate benefit to the wholesome environment and education of its students.

Carpool Route

For newcomers, we have a carpool route that makes drop-off and pick-up easy and efficient.

- In the morning, enter the school parking lot from the Külső Veszprémi street side (the side where we had the bouncy house), and drop off your children without parking. If you must park to come inside, please don’t park in the parking lot. There is parking next to the COOP. We open the gate at 8:00.
- In the afternoon, you can park your car in the parking lot (still entering the same way), with your car facing out. We open the gate at 15:30.

In view of the cultural diversity of our students, a few guidelines regarding student dress are in order. We hope these are taken in the spirit of cultural sensitivity, common sense, and respect for others. Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing while attending school, on field trips, or at any other school functions.

1. Shorts, skirts, dresses and pants must cover the upper thigh (in both the front and back) and be visible at all times.
2. Shirts and tops should be of a modest cut. Shirt length should reach the top of the shorts/pants/skirts and the midriff should not be exposed. Regarding shirts with straps, shirts should have two straps that measure two student fingers in width.
3. Tank tops are not appropriate for male students
4. Undergarments, and the body parts they are meant to cover, should not be visible at any time.
5. Sunglasses and hats with bills and brims should not be worn indoors.
6. Regarding clothing with hoods, the “hood” portion of the garment should not be worn in the upright/hooded position.
7. Clothing which depicts, advertises or promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or violence is not appropriate.
8. Clothing which contains nudity or messages that are vulgar, offensive, obscene or defamatory is not appropriate.
9. Appropriate shoes and shorts/athletic pants, and T-shirts/sweatshirts must be worn during physical education instruction (no jeans, dresses, skirts).
10. If you are not sure if something is appropriate, it is better to err on the side of modesty.

Parents will be contacted if students are out of dress code.