



Dalian Maple Leaf International School January Newsletter

To: DMLIS Parents

From: Joe Colistro, B.C. Boys' Principal & Craig Davis, B.C. Girls' Principal

Date: January 15th 2010

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Mr. Sherman Jen, Headmaster of DMLIS, and the Chinese and British Columbia staff of our school, we would like to bring you greetings as we conclude the first half of our school year.

We have had an exciting first semester as Maple Leaf Schools opened their first all boys' and girls' schools. The boys' and girls' campuses have, during the first few months, witnessed a positive attitude and tremendous school spirit. Dalian Maple Leaf International School has provided unique opportunities for boys and girls to grow and learn in an environment that helps them achieve optimal success. It is our goal to make sure each student is successful in this new model. Both boys and girls are benefitting from the single gender as marks have improved in most subjects.

Teaching strategies and learning activities are being provided that focus on establishing high quality educational opportunities and optimizing learning. Students are challenged and motivated to achieve excellence and their accomplishments are acknowledged. This model provides the teachers and administrators an opportunity to address the specific educational needs of all students.

In our extra-curricular program we have had some outstanding opportunities including the Fall Speech Contest, 3rd Annual DMLIS Basketball Tournament, Terry Fox Run, 12-9 Run and students involvement in over 50 different club and sports activities. We are looking forward to the 2nd half of the year with the English Arts Festival and many other events that will allow our students to build their skills as leaders, organizers and performers.

Our 5th annual University/College Recruitment Fair in November was an outstanding success with almost 50 Western Colleges and Universities participating this year. Our Grade 11 and 12 students were provided with up to date information about the post secondary programs and with a chance to discuss their plans for university study.

On Report Cards this year you will see three columns of information beside each course: *Percentage*, *Learning Skills and Attendance*. The *Percentage* is the mark assigned by the teacher for the students work during the term and includes exams and assignments. A mark of 86-100% is excellent; 73-85% is very good; 60-72% is satisfactory; 50-59% is minimally passing; below 50% is not meeting pass level. *Learning skills* include study attitude, homework, punctuality, teamwork and are rated as: M – fully meeting standards; P – partially meeting standards; and N – not meeting standards. The third column is *attendance*. The attendance listed measures the number of classes missed in that course.

The *comments* for each course are written below each subject.

Some reminders for parents from DMLIS Counselor General's Office:

- Student monthly expenses should be limited to less than 1000 rmb. We encourage reasonable spending habits for our students to reduce luxurious life styles. It's our hope to have cooperations from parents.
- ESL and Grade 10 students are not allowed to bring laptops to campus since they are not needed for their studies. Grade 11 and 12 students may bring them for school purposes. Games not allowed.
- A reminder that our school appearance rules for uniform, hair style and color will be checked in Semester 2. Students not meeting standards will have consequences.

- During the holidays help your child by encouraging him/her to read at least 1 book in English. Biographies and inspiring books are recommended.

Some reminders for students from the BC staff and the English Committee:

- Speak, read and listen to English every day during the holiday
- Keep a daily journal in English
- Do all winter break assignments but make sure you enjoy the holiday...you deserve it!

Upcoming Important Dates in 2010

February 22 – Classes resume

March 8 -30 – English Arts Festival

April 14-16 - Term 3 examinations

April 25-May 2 – Spring Holiday

May 24-28 – Campus Ceremony Week

June 21-29 – Provincial and School exams