



Dalian Maple Leaf International School

April Newsletter

To: DMLIS Parents

From: Rob Scarr, B. C. Principal

Date: 07/04/28

Re: Term 3 Summary

Greetings from Headmaster, Mr. Sherman Jen, and the B. C. Principal's Office! We hope that you and your family are healthy and will enjoy the upcoming May Holiday together. This newsletter accompanies the Third Term Report Card that summarizes student progress for the period from January to April 2007.

During the 3rd Term we have had many wonderful events take place in classrooms and during after-school clubs and teams. Our students have continued to work hard on their studies. In the 2nd Term, 37.3% of our students were successful in obtaining Honour Roll standing compared to 30.7% in the 1st Term. This is evidence of the improvements our students are making and affirms their hard work and their success. Our Football (Soccer) team had an impressive tournament in Dalian winning two games. They scored in each game and were very competitive against talented Dalian teams. Our April English Arts Festival involved hundreds of students in performances of Speeches, Poetry, Songs and Short Plays. The top performers provided a successful Showcase of English Arts in our Auditorium on April 10th. Recently, our Boys and Girls Basketball teams participated in a premier Dalian tournament with the Boys capturing the championship and the Girls placing 2nd.

Our Business Education students developed and implemented plans to operate small businesses on campus providing them with knowledge of marketing, supply and demand and personnel issues. In addition, an upcoming field trip to Dalian and Kaifaqu factories will help these students learn about larger firms. Our Fine Arts students have supplied artwork for the English Arts Festival and have displayed their creations in buildings around the campus. The AP Art students are preparing for their May showcase which will be a highlight of outstanding artwork for all in our community.

Each term during our school year, students study important units to help them prepare for the Term Exams and, ultimately, the Final Exams in June. This term, a number of Maple Leaf students have missed classes. The reasons for these absences include family matters, illness, studying for entrance exams and visa or study permit issues. I would like to remind students and parents that any absence from instructional time has a very negative affect on student achievement and marks. It is not usually possible to make up the work done in class. Even if the student is able to read the text or obtain the notes from classmates, they have missed the classroom discussions, laboratory work and support from their teachers. Therefore, I would like to strongly emphasize that school time should be missed only in the event of serious health issues.

On a related matter, some students have decided to take an IELTS or TOEFL exam to increase their chances of entry to Universities and Colleges. A few of these students have taken time away from their regular studies at Maple Leaf and this creates problems with existing courses and possible graduation difficulties. It is important to remind parents that students who perform well in their English classes at Maple Leaf will be much better prepared for 1st year university English courses than if they take an IELTS or TOEFL test. To get in the front door of a university is not a guarantee of any success in the first year university English program. If an IELTS/TOEFL test must be taken it should be arranged during vacation times.

Our Academic Advisors have developed some guiding information for students' course selection and career planning. At the core are the "8 Pathways". These are listed below along with a few examples of related careers:

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| 1. Applied Arts | - fashion design, interior design, film/media studies |
| 2. Fine Arts | - drama, visual arts, music |
| 3. Arts: Humanities | - geography, linguistics, translation, history, psychology |
| 4. Business | - accounting, finance, management, marketing |
| 5. Engineering | - aerospace, automotive, biochemical, civil, geological |
| 6. Environmental Studies | - resource studies, landscape architecture |
| 7. Health Sciences | - food science, human nutrition, human kinetics |
| 8. Sciences | - actuarial sciences, biology, chemistry, physics |

Each Pathway has a list of required and recommended Grade 11 and 12 courses. In April of each year, students choose their courses according to the requirements of their Pathway. Students may change their Pathway from year to year but they may find that they have to make up a required course. The Science Pathway is recommended for students who are unsure of which Pathway is best for them as this would allow them the most options. The key to making good decisions is to first become knowledgeable. With this in mind,

we encourage our students to discuss career and educational options with their parents, teachers, counselors, and academic advisors.

Best wishes for the Final Term!