

Shu Ren International School
Weekly Announcements
October 21, 2009

Important Dates (details below):

Friday, October 23 - Last day to sign up for Fall Camp

Monday - Thursday, October 26-29 - Fall Camp

Friday, October 30 - Staff Professional Development Day, School Closed

Monday, November 2 - Photo Selection Day

Wednesday, November 4 - Parents Association Meeting

From the School Administration:

1. Reminder: Sign up for Fall Camp (October 26 – 29):

Fall Camp is an opportunity for children to rest and recharge during a very long school year. We provide childcare during the Camp and you may email Ping to sign up. **The sign-up deadline is Friday, Oct 23.**

2. Portrait Selection and Ordering Day: Our picture selection date is set to be Monday Nov. 2nd from 2:30-5:30pm. Parents whose children got their portraits taken last week will have a chance to select the images and picture packages they would like to purchase. Teddy Bear Portraits will accept payment by check at that time. We hope most parents can make it; if you are unable to, please contact Ping.

3. Parents Work Day: On the weekend of October 10-11, Shu Ren parents gathered on the playground to paint, clean, and shovel sand into the brand new sandbox. The children had a happy surprise when they returned to school and saw their colorful new playground and new play spaces, game boards and decorations. We would like to thank all the parents who contributed their time and energy, with a special thank you to Michele Ku, Heidi, and Shuzi (our room parents) for getting this organized! Please see photos from the weekend attached.

There are a few tools (shovels, paint brushes, etc...) left by some parents who participated in the work days. Please come to see Jie to get your tools back. Thank you!

4. Tips on using Shu Ren email list:

- When sending an email to the entire class list (prek@shureninternationalschool.com, prek2@shureninternationalschool.com, kinder@shureninternationalschool.com, or grade12@shureninternationalschool.com), please always use the email account that you use to receive other emails from the school. If you use your alternate email address which is not your membership account, your message will not be delivered without the Administrators' approval. It adds extra work for us and may delay your email messages.

- If you only intend to email an individual teacher or Shu Ren staff member, please avoid emailing to staff@shureninternationalschool.com which includes all employees of our school. Again, since parents are not a member of this email list, your email will need to be approved as noted above. Therefore, I suggest using the individual email addresses which are listed on page 6 of the Parent Handbook.

5. Chinese Software information: We are evaluating the potential usefulness of Chinese Plus and Speech Plus software for our students and families. You can have a 30-day free trial here for both programs (<http://www.biderworld.com/index.asp>). There are many features of these programs and we are still learning about them. For a given Chinese text document or a Chinese website, Chinese Plus can provide a Chinese-English dictionary that explains the highlighted words or phrases. In addition, Speech Plus can also read out the selected text, phrases, or paragraphs and lets you record them as wave files for future listening. Potentially I see them as tools for parents to use in understanding the homework assignments, students listening to reading assignments etc...

I want to use this opportunity to ask interested parents to evaluate them as well and share your experience with us. I am very interested in hearing from you about them. Thank you.

6. Shu Ren T-shirts for sale: The T-shirt was designed by last years' students and Teacher Kai. Each

student drew their own face and Kai created a layout resembling the Chinese character 人 (person). We have both children's sizes (Youth S and Youth XS, in lime green, red, and black colors, \$15 each) and adult sizes (S, M, L, and XL in dill green, red, and black, \$20 each). Samples are available in the lobby.

To purchase, please see Ping. They could be a terrific gift for the holidays!

From the Parents' Association:

Thanks to all the parents who attended the first PA meeting on September 30. Below are a few notes from the meeting:

Notes:

1. Communications: Parents will receive weekly announcements by email on Wednesdays. Parents can communicate with other parents in their class via the class email lists (PreK@shureninternationalschool.com, etc). We will no longer use the Google Group.
2. Jie reminded us about the IB learner profile as a model for our Shu Ren Community
3. Update on Not-for-Profit status for the K-8 school - Jie is working with legal support on filing the paperwork required. After filing, it may take months to get NP status.
4. Hunt for new location for K-8 school is ongoing. Contact Jie or Twig if you see a property you think may be worth investigating.
5. Jacky Carleton and Katherine Cheng have volunteered to be President and Vice-President of the Parents Association. We will vote-in new officers for next school year in June 2010.

Action Items:

1. We are looking for a Secretary of the Parent Association. Contact Jacky (jackycarleton99@gmail.com) or Katherine (510-559-9944) if interested.
2. The next PA meetings will be held on November 4 and December 2.

Thank you.

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