

**Shu Ren International School**  
**Weekly Announcements**  
September 16, 2009

Welcome to the first issue of the Shu Ren Weekly Announcements! Beginning this week, the letter will be sent by email to all Shu Ren families every Wednesday. This will be the primary channel for school administration and the parents' association to communicate important, timely information to parents. We hope that a weekly letter will help cut down on the number of individual emails received by parents from various Shu Ren staff.

In addition, beginning in October, Shu Ren will produce a monthly newsletter with updates from teachers on classroom activities, school events, and resources for parents on the IB curriculum and Chinese culture. Each month, the newsletters will be archived online; archives will be available to all parents on our new school website, which is currently in the design process and should be up and running soon.

Your comments and feedback are welcome.

Jie

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**Important Dates** (see details below):

- \* September 22, 6:30 – 8:00 pm – Back to School Night
- \* September 30, 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Parents' Association Meeting

**From the School Administration:**

**1. Back to School night:**

September 22, 6:30pm – 8pm. Parents will have an opportunity to hear the teachers outline their plans for this academic year for each grade, including PYP themes of inquiry and levels of progress in major subject areas (Chinese, English, math, etc). This event is for parents and teachers only and therefore, no childcare will be provided.

**2. Drop off and pick up procedures**

For K+ students: Please drop off and pick up your child at the playground except on rainy days (which would be in the multipurpose room, the Peach Garden).

*Why do we prefer parents not enter the classrooms during pick-up and drop-off times?*

We prefer parents do not enter classrooms primarily to protect students' safety. When students are at school, it is our responsibility to ensure their health and safety. When parents and students mix together in the classroom, it becomes unclear who is responsible for looking after the students and who is responsible

for disciplining the students should they need to be disciplined. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **3. After school enrichment classes**

You can still sign up for Chinese Dancing, Tai Ji, and Suzuki violin class. Please note that the Suzuki violin class is not limited to Pre-K students as previously announced. All students age 3 and up are welcome. Details about these classes and registration forms are available in the attachment to this email.

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*Childcare costs between 3pm and the start of the enrichment classes:* If your child does not sign up for extended care but stays in school to participate in enrichment classes, you would only need to pay \$5/hour (the same low rate as the unlimited extended care) for the time.

### **4. Shu Ren Parent Handbook is now available!**

Attached to this email is an electronic copy of the first Shu Ren Parent Handbook. To conserve resources, we will only provide hard copies of the handbook to parents upon request. Please email Ping ([ping.xie@shureninternationalschool.com](mailto:ping.xie@shureninternationalschool.com)) if you would like a hard copy. Please review the Handbook carefully as it contains useful information about the School, its policy and procedures, and expectations of student behavior.

### **5. Introducing new Shu Ren faculty**

*Joyce Chang.* Head Teacher for First/Second Grade class. Joyce received a B.A. Degree in Foreign Language Study and an Educational Credential of Academic Subject in English at National Chung Hsing University in Taichung, Taiwan. At present she is currently working on a B.A. degree in Asian American Study at Berkeley City College. Prior to joining Shu Ren, she was a Mandarin Teacher at Garfield Elementary School in San Francisco from 2008-09 and in Harding Elementary School in El Cerrito from 2007-08. She started her teaching career in Emile Elementary School in Taichung, Taiwan, a English/Mandarin bilingual school. She is also fluent in Japanese and has been a Japanese tutor for many years. When teaching, she prefers the method of "facilitating", rather than "dictating". She believes this approach allows students to construct knowledge on their own and thus the knowledge is genuinely acquired. She especially enjoys bringing her knowledge of Chinese culture, history and art, especially Chinese painting, into her teaching.

*Katherine Chi.* Head Teacher for Pre-K Winnie Bear Class (2-3 year olds). Katherine's passion is to teach young children through a combined Chinese and English immersion curriculum. Born and raised in California, she possesses a bilingual and bicultural background that will help her relate to her students. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Development from the University of California, Davis. She also has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Boston College. Before joining Shu Ren, she worked as an Assistant Teacher in First and Second grade at The Chestnut Hill School in Boston, Massachusetts.

*Helen Tao.* After-school Chinese teacher. Helen has a B.A. degree from Tianjin Normal University and she has been teaching Mandarin for more than 10 years. She has been teaching Mandarin to elementary students in Keystone Chinese School in Albany in the past two years and was a Mandarin teacher at Olinda Elementary School's After-school Program from 2007-09. She was also a professional Chinese and English web designer for many years.

*Janice Chan.* After-school extended care teacher for Shu Ren K and up students (3pm - 6pm).

### **From the Parents' Association:**

#### **PA meeting:**

Please join us on Wednesday, September 30th for our first monthly Parents Association meeting of the 2009 / 2010 school year. We'll start at 6 pm with a potluck and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:30.

We plan to end at about 8:00 pm.

Childcare will be provided by the School for Shu Ren students only. Please email Ping directly to make reservations for childcare before Friday, September 25. The School will not be able to accommodate childcare needs if reservations are not made before this deadline.

### **Room parents**

The new room parents for the 2009-10 school year have been selected. Room parents will work with the teachers to organize parent volunteers for the classroom, field trips and special events; organize a phone tree for families; and generally help out in the classroom. Please contact your room parent if you have any suggestions or concerns:

Bamboo Garden Winnie Bears (Pre-K, 2-3): Kelly Connors (Maile's mom)  
(415) 307-3746 or email [connors\\_kelly@hotmail.com](mailto:connors_kelly@hotmail.com)

Bamboo Garden Panda Bears (Pre-K, 3-4): Shunzi Che (Dong Dong's mom)  
cell: (707) 217-0517 home: (510) 531-6253 or email: [shunzi@shunzi.net](mailto:shunzi@shunzi.net)

Plum Garden (Kindergarten): Heidi Tasker (Kieran's mom)  
email [heiditasker@gmail.com](mailto:heiditasker@gmail.com)

Pine Garden (Grades 1 and 2): Michele Ku (An-an's mom)  
(510) 593-4719 or email [ku@lmi.net](mailto:ku@lmi.net)

Thank you, room parents!

### **Parent-to-parent communication:**

The Shu Ren Parents' Association Google Group has been set up as a way for parents to communicate with each other. All parents should have received an email invitation to join the group over the summer. If you have not already done so, please visit the group site to sign up:  
[http://groups.google.com/group/Shu\\_Ren\\_PA/](http://groups.google.com/group/Shu_Ren_PA/)

On Facebook? Please become a fan of Shu Ren! This is a great way to get news out in the community about Shu Ren's enrichment classes, special events and more. The Shu Ren Facebook page is at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/friends/#!/pages/Berkeley-CA/Shu-Ren-International-School/60411846736?ref=ts>

Thank you.

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