



SUIS Pudong offers an opportunity for students to enter a continuum of education from Primary through to the end of Secondary to prepare them to become Global citizens for the 21st century.

Dear parents,

Peking Opera Show: Chinese Essence, Cultural Charm

In the middle of December, near Christmas, the crowded auditorium was full with traditional Chinese culture. The school welcomed several special guests from Shanghai Peking Opera Theatre including: Mr. Wu Xiangjun, Chinese national second-level actor as the role of elderly male; Mr. Guo Shiming, national second-level martial actor; Mr. Zhu Heji, national second-level clown actor; and actress Ms. Liuhan Xiye. The Peking Opera show included inspiring lectures, fascinating performances and entertaining improvisation between the actors and the audience of IS secondary. Mr. Wu, the main speaker, introduced an overview of Peking Opera from various aspects; history, development, elements of visual and audial performance, performance styles and concepts of Chinese performing arts. Mr. Wu also explained the complex knowledge of motifs, demonstrating the acting skills during his lecture.

Students also enjoyed two famous masterpieces of Peking Opera. <A Misunderstanding in Exile> starring Mr. Guo Shiming and Mr. Zhu Heji. The play revolves around two men who start fight at midnight in a pub due to a misunderstanding, it was hilarious. Whereas <Farewell my concubine> starring Ms. Liuhan Xiye was a sad love story which took place in a palace besieged by her enemies. The concubine danced the last tearful sword dance and then took her own life in front of the emperor. Students were impressed by the attractiveness and whispered “She’s gorgeous” “Her dances is so attractive” ...

During the interaction between Peking Opera Artists and audiences, dozens of students came to the stage voluntarily. They followed the actors and learned two performance skills. They experienced Peking Opera’s high degree of difficulty and understood why Peking opera is called the art of performing. What the audience saw was only a short performance, however what they could not see was the hard work and the continual preparation to get to this point.





I am Kevin Xu, an IG2 student of IS Secondary, I am also a known amateur Peking Opera performer in Shanghai.

I organized this event with IS Secondary. I have followed Mr. Wu Xiangjun for three years and am learning the performing arts of Peking Opera. I acted as the interpreter for Mr. Wu in the lecture.



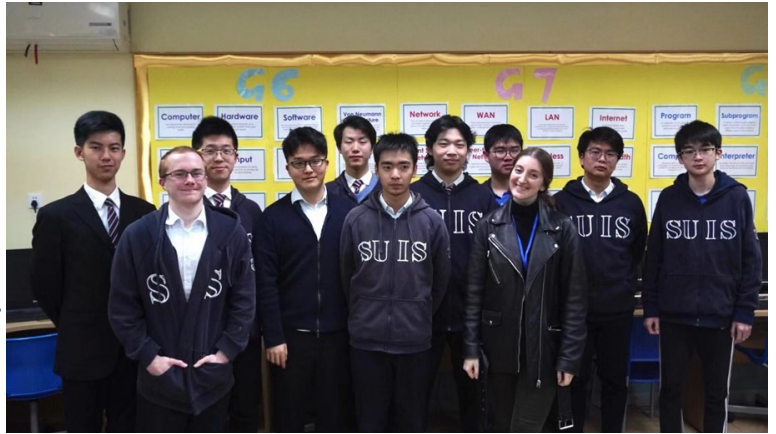
Mr. Wu Xiangjun invited me to come to the stage and we sang a selection of Peking Opera masterpieces <The battle of Mount Dinjun> together. All the staff and students gave us a big round of applause with screaming and cheering.

Currently we are living in the 21st century, the time of pop culture. People seldom have patience to appreciate traditional culture. Through this Peking Opera Show, numerous students realised just how beautiful our national cultural treasure is. Peking Opera is not just the outdated entertainment of our grandparents. Peking Opera also belongs to us the younger generation, it can also be fashionable. Thank you for sharing this Chinese essence and cultural charm with us.

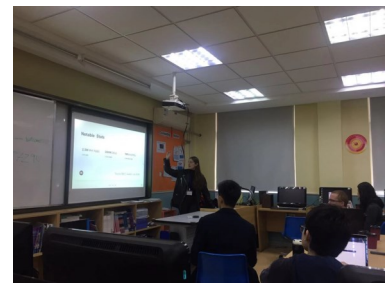


Computer Science Week

Last week Secondary students participated in the world wide event – Computer Science week 2019. Schools all over the world participate in the annual event to promote computer science and carry out fun subject related activities. This year’s theme was centered around the idea of Creativity and how computers can be used to create everyday digital products. Students across KS3 had a range



of competitions to complete, stars to collect and some fun and challenging lessons from Ms. Shen. A1 students took an active role in teaching the Grade 6 students about hardware and programming microbits devices. They learnt how to display text, graphics and sounds as well how computer hardware works. We also had the Shanghai branch of Le Wagon deliver a coding course on WeChat mini programs for A1 and A2. The course trainer was massively impressed with the advanced coding skills of our students, who managed to complete the most challenging of the tasks quickly and accurately. The course is normally run for adults who program and code as a career so it was amazing to see our A2 students program confidently at this level. IG1 students ran the “Gamer’s Paradise” charity event, raising money for a local orphanage by hosting a gaming session in the computer lab. However the highlight of the week had to be programming our resident robot Tommy to make a sandwich. Students were asked to program precise instructions so that Tommy could make and eat a real peanut butter and jam sandwich. I think the pictures below show how successful that went. Thank you to all the students who helped put together the week by hosting or participating an event. If you have a competition tracker with stars or have completed any of the activities please hand them in to Ms. N or Ms. Shen as we will be awarding prizes in the new year"



Grade 8 Geography STEM Project

Recently Grade 8 students have been learning about sustainability. As part of their studies they were taught about the Floating Gardens initiative in Bangladesh, where local people are taught how to build sustainable floating gardens to enable them to grow food during floods. The students were tasked with creating their own version of this as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project. The criteria was that their projects had to float, and to use as many sustainable materials as possible. Weight was gradually added to each of the floating gardens, and the winners were the group that could float with the most weight. The winning group were Christina De Bonafos, Jerry Jing, Genevieve Liu and James Xiang from 8MS!

Northwestern University Offer - Top 10 Success for SUI S Pudong Student

We were delighted to receive the news in mid-December that A2 student Tomomi Kawaguchi had been accepted by the engineering school of Northwestern University, which is ranked 9th in the USA in the prestigious US News Best Colleges rankings. Having decided to focus her applications on the United States, Tomomi selected Northwestern as her Early Decision choice. Early Decision is a system unique to the United States in which students apply early, and hear back from the university by mid-December; if accepted, they commit to attending that university, which takes a lot of pressure off them in their busy final year.

With her successful application, Tomomi can look forward to attending one of the most outstanding universities in the United States. Located on a beautiful lakeside campus just north of Chicago with its own beach, and famed for its sporting prowess as a member of the Big 10 Conference, Northwestern has much to offer in terms of student lifestyle and experience. Most notably of all, it is one of the world's most difficult universities to get into; with a higher US News ranking than Ivy League universities Brown, Cornell and Dartmouth, and with an average SAT score of 1510, only 8% of applicants were accepted by this highly competitive university last year. By comparison, the University of Oxford accepts around 18%! Tomomi's flawless A Level grades and excellent SAT score helped her to stand out, but just as importantly, her well-written college essay, outstanding contribution to the school community over the years and highly positive recommendations from her teachers all played a part.

While we celebrate all of our students' successful university offers, as a student who has been at the school since primary and played a key role in the secondary school's development with her first class attitude and performance, we are particularly proud of Tomomi's achievement. Her offer from Northwestern reflects not only the strength of the school's A Level program, but also the long-term benefits of attending the school from a young age. Tomomi's success clearly shows that SUI S Pudong students can aspire to attend the world's best universities, if they follow Tomomi's example by making the most of their opportunities at the school.

In the following section, Tomomi shares with us the extensive preparations she made for her application, and advice for future applicants.

Q1. Why Northwestern? How did you research your university choices before deciding on Northwestern?

As there are over 4000 Universities in the US to choose from, I began my research by looking at statistics. I checked the rankings for my major, the class-size, etc. For me, my financial situation was a major factor, so I researched the need-based aid and scholarships available for international students for my short-listed Universities.

Each University has their own personalities (especially in the United States), so I then started to research University life. I used 'Fiske Guide to Colleges', online resources (such as Unigo) and watched Youtube videos on 'the day in the life of a *University name* student). I considered how my personality would fit in, and I believed that Northwestern is a good fit for me. They have a friendly community, a unique philosophy in the engineering school, a great co-op program, many student-led clubs and organizations, and they are an elite school that participates in division 1 sports. Northwestern became my top choice, and so I applied early decision.



Q2. How did you find the application process?

For me, the application process was long, tiring, and felt hopeless most of the time. I started brainstorming my common application ideas after the AS exams and finished my first draft at the end of June. Though I disliked my essay, I spent almost the entire summer holidays editing it. However, after I returned to school, I changed my idea completely and re-wrote everything. I asked a few of my friends and Ms.Hart to help me edit and they made me realize the flaws in my essay structure and I re-wrote everything again. The process felt like a disaster but I learnt more about myself and in the end, I had an essay that I felt represented me.

While writing the common application, I also had to tackle my supplement essay to Northwestern University (the prompt being 'Why Northwestern'). The process for writing this essay was less dramatic than for the common app as I had a clear idea on what to include, but having to write the supplement essay with the common app definitely stressed me out more.

Q3.How did you approach writing your college essay?

For the common application, I had absolutely no idea how to start so I went online and found websites and youtube videos that gave advice on the application essays. The advices and sample essays were useful as it gave me ideas on what to write. I chose to approach my essay by focusing on the lesson I've learnt from a mistake I made. I made my essay personal and unique and so the admission officer would know I'm presenting my genuine self and not a fake, perfect version of myself.

Q4.What advice would you give to students applying to American universities in future?

- 1) Start thinking about extra-curricular activities and volunteer early (at IG1)!
- 2) Start writing drafts for the common app essay early (A1). Go online and find resources to help guide you with ideas for the different common application prompts. My main advice for the common application is to be truthful (don't present yourself as flawless).
- 3) Start looking for Universities at the beginning of A1 (maybe even the summer holidays before that) and know (more or less) where you're applying to before the AS exams. For US, supplement essays are required for many top Universities so it's best to start writing them in the summer before A2.
- 4) Take the SATs multiple times (AT LEAST twice). Start preparing the SATs at the end of IG2 and take a test in August/October/November/December. Most Universities superscore SATs, meaning they take the highest score from each section from all your attempts.
- 5) Though SAT's are important, don't stress too much about your scores. US Universities use holistic admissions, meaning they assess applicants beyond test scores and grades. Lower test scores can be made up for in extra-curriculars. On the other side, if you have scored above the 75th percentile of the school you're applying to, don't focus on studying harder and raising your score. Your score is definitely above the threshold, and if the school were to reject you the score wouldn't be the issue, so focus on your academic studies and extra-curricular activities.
- 6) Contact the schools you're interested in, visit the school if possible and talk to them at the University fair. This shows demonstrated interest, and will increase your chances of admission.

Q5.What are you most looking forward to about studying at Northwestern?

I'm most looking forward to joining clubs and meeting new people there. The student clubs range from theatre to cooking to rowing, so I will definitely be able to find clubs that I enjoy and have a fun college experience.



Ms. Kim Sahi
Co-Principal



Ms. Bonnie Cai
Assistant Principal and Head of Secondary