

CIS

The Council of International Schools

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE PRELIMINARY VISIT TO
CLEARWATER BAY SCHOOL**

March 15th - 17th 2010

PART THREE: FINAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STATUS OF CLEARWATER BAY SCHOOL

The CWBS community is rightly proud of the many initiatives which have been successfully implemented in the recent past. These include the introduction of the IBPYP and the strengthening of community spirit. As a result of the two days spent with the CWBS community the Visitors highlight these areas as particular school strengths.

- The school's very evident commitment to school improvement
- The diverse and effective teaching strategies observed during the visit.
- The teachers' commitment to providing stimulating and attractive classroom environments
- The School Council's commitment to seeking additional community resources to supplement the school's facilities
- The Foundation's efforts to provide additional training opportunities for School Council members
- The excellent professional working relationship between the Principal and the School Council
- The teachers' dedication and commitment to providing quality educational experiences, which were highly appreciated by the parent community.
- The school's strong commitment to supporting the individual learning needs of all students
- The school's efforts to ensure that a significant number of school staff have first aid training and certification
- The library staff's efforts, drive and commitment to supporting the school's mission and its curricular needs.
- The school's creative use of limited space
- The PTA's exceptional support for school initiatives.
- The support of the school's mission through student involvement and participation in the Heifer project.
- The very strong sense of community mentioned by all who met with the Visitors.

In the course of the self study it will be important that the school pay particular attention to the following suggested areas:

- As the school recognises, it will be important in the upcoming review of the school's philosophy and objectives to ensure that a broad range of stakeholders are involved. It will also be important that the review is predicated by research into what constitutes an empowering statement of philosophy. (Standard A1)
- As part of the review of the school's philosophical statements it will be important to create a set of educational goals which are linked to identified expected learner outcomes.(Standard A1)
- It will be important to formalise procedures which enable the school to determine its degree of success in putting its Philosophy and Objectives into practice.(Standard A3)

- Within the review of the school's philosophical statements it will be important to strengthen references to the school's commitment to international and intercultural understanding as well as to the concepts included in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Standards A 4 and A5)
- The school determines how the expected learner outcomes can be comprehensively identified within the framework of the PYP. (Standard B1)
- The school develop a common conceptual understanding of the curriculum and agree upon a common language with which to articulate it. This will support teachers in understanding the school's curricular direction and provide them with confidence that curriculum delivery is aligned with the school's expectation. (Standard B1)
- The school involve all teaching staff in developing a framework for the teaching of Mathematics from Year 1 to Year 6 that aligns with the school's Mission and ensures rigour. (Standards B1 & B6)
- The school ensure that the development of methods of assessing student learning across the curriculum, are aligned with the identified learner outcomes. (Standards B11 & B13)
- The school investigate ways of further imbedding cultural diversity and international understanding within the curriculum. (Standards B1 & B6)
- Revisit and review the CWBS Vision and Mission to provide the opportunity to ensure the IB Learner Profiles are reflected in the school curriculum with developed measurable and/or observable descriptors. (Standards B1 & B8)
- It will be important that all members of the School Council undertake training on an ongoing basis in effective school governance. (Standard C1)
- It is important that the School Council now implement its tool to regularly and rigorously appraise its performance against its duties and predetermined goals. (Standard C1)
- Review the management and provision of professional development to:
 - Ensure that professional development provision is linked to the school development plan and informed by an analysis of student achievement results.
 - Ensure that the school more effectively meets the needs of whole school development training.
 - Ensure that the school more effectively meets the needs of individual staff development requirements as identified through performance management.
 - Investigate utilizing staff professional expertise to a greater extent to further coaching and mentoring within the school.
 (Standard D7)
- It is important that the school review security provision in particular in the period before school begins, at the end of the school day and when the school gate is open for deliveries. The school might also like to review how visitor access is controlled. (Standard F1)
- It is suggested the school implement and practice a lock down procedure. (Standard F3)
- The following health and safety issues require addressing: (Standard F3)
 - The need to find a more permanent solution to slippery corridors, staircases and wheel chair ramps which become particularly problematic during damp and wet weather
 - The need to ensure that there is no exposed wiring
 - The need to ensure that storage cupboards , particularly those containing, tools such as saws, hammers, paint, cleaning materials and electrical equipment are not accessible to students

- The need to ensure that meter cupboards, pipe duct cupboards, electrical switch board cupboards are locked at all times
- Avoid storing electrical equipment in corridors and areas accessible to students
- Fire evacuation procedures are needed in every room
- Ensuring, to the extent possible, that seat belts are installed and working in each of the buses transporting children to and from school and that students use this facility.

The Visitors would again like to thank everyone at Clearwater Bay School and in particular David Fitzgerald, Principal and Chris Coyle, Vice Principal, for the excellent hospitality received and the intense co-operation which was apparent both before and during the Preliminary/Preparatory Visit. The Visitors trust that a growing relationship with the CIS Accreditation Service will lead to the school improvement the Clearwater Bay School community seeks and deserves.

Respectfully submitted to the CIS Accreditation Committee.

Margaret Alvarez and Ray Davis

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