



INFOLETTRE #8

ANNEE SCOLAIRE 2022/23

SEMAINE 7

ANNONCES

SAVE THE DATES

- **Friday 7th of October**

Deadline to apply for UPLIFT Board positions

- **Thursday 20th of October**

from 17:00 pm to 19:00 pm

General Assembly of UPLIFT

ADMINISTRATION

- **Invoices for catering services are due on**

the 1st of October and invoices for extra-curricular activities are due on the 1st of November.

HEALTH

- **Monday 5th of October**

Deadline to fill in online Covid-19 survey (all pupils)

Deadline to give us back the form on heart risks and authorisation of examination (CP and CM1 pupils only). Please sign and give back the form even if you do not wish to participate in this examination.

- **Tuesday 11th of October**

Deadline to turn in eye examination for concerned pupils.

- **Ascariasis detection test**

Fude school will inform us of a new date for CP and CM1, for those who were unable to take the test this Thursday.

SCHOOL LIFE

- **Outdoor class** on 18th of October. LIFT will go to Nangang Park for the day.



Édito

Dear LIFT Parents,

LIFT is set in the middle school, Liu Gong. We would like to go into more detail on the "cohabitation" it implies for our pupils.

An essential prerequisite, the real estate aspect of the creation of the LIFT has been, as you know, the most difficult part to achieve. It has delayed of a year the opening of the LIFT and has challenged the project itself. After two unsuccessful negotiations with private partners, the opportunity to rent the space to LiuGong is essential. It is an opportunity that was given to us by the Office of Education of Taipei, which shows their unconditional support. To my knowledge, we are the only international school in Taiwan able to enjoy public spaces. Considering the cost of real estate in Taipei, it is also a structural parameter for the economical model of our school, because the rent we pay is very low.

Liu Gong is a beautiful school with anti-seismic standards, well equipped (swimming-pool, gymnasium, specialized rooms) and a natural environment. Sharing the walls of a public school is also the occasion for us to renew our will to be a French and international school in itself, but also Taiwanese in its nature and our vision to serve all the Francophile communities of Taipei. Nearly NT\$5 million has been invested in the renovation and the development of the space this summer.

In short, developing and maintaining with the educative community of Liu Gong a relationship of trust, mutual enrichment, as well on the real estate aspect and on the pedagogical aspect is an important goal of this first year. Projects have already been started, such as the emergency evacuation process. All of the matters on which we would like to work are being formalized for a cooperation agreement that we hope we can set up in October.

We are bound to Liu Gong by a 3 year administrative lease, which gives us exclusive use of some rooms (East wing of the 4th floor, three classrooms, two offices, toilets for the pupils, the passageway in front of the classrooms and the 1st floor cafeteria). We casually rent other pedagogical spaces (a dancing classroom and soon the swimming-pool). The outdoor spaces (courtyard, circulation area) are shared spaces with the Liu Gong teams.

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Let us be clear, this cohabitation is easy for none of the parties. The main concern being the need to manage primary pupils going to the same school as secondary school students. As far as I'm concerned, I also think that on the one hand, our teams have a very French or a very international work culture.

Our administrative and financial director Jenny Wu knows, with all of her considerable experience, to watch carefully so that all the files we are dealing with are handled with the appropriate cultural codes. On the other hand, Liu Gong is a public institution, rich from a long history, and therefore with a less flexible governance, interests and a vision that remain hard to read for us, and with time-consuming administrative processes. We have excellent relations with our interlocutors, but we have to admit that we first thought that LiuGong would seize what the LIFT can bring to it (internationalization, bilingualism, real estate co-financing, academic exchanges...) in a proactive way. We are aware of how lucky we are to be able to work with this partner, however, we are not there yet.

In a practical way, this adjustment and negotiation phase has an immediate and important impact on our goal to maintain our pupils in separated circulation areas from the secondary school students (for obvious security reasons), and on our ability to use the playground. We have worked with the association of the parents of pupils UPLIFT on those matters, and we have been able to directly imply a group of volunteer parents in negotiations with the Liu Gong parents association and their teaching teams. It is essential for us because the parents of the students must remain in control of those strategical decisions. Anthony Belin and I of course stay the guarantors that this vision is in line with both our pedagogical project and our security requirements.

Today, we have to accept that our pupils sometimes come across secondary students in the hallways, and that the latter uses the running track during recesses. However, the guidelines that have been sent to you about supervision remain of course the same: in no way, or in any case, a pupil of the LIFT is alone in the school, and the pupils are constantly under the watch of at least one (in the classroom or when the school is divided in two age groups during lunchtime), or two team members.

About these topics as well as about all the others, do not hesitate to ask me all your questions, and to contact Alexandre Levy in order to be a part of the working groups of the association. The most obvious key to the development of an operational and ambitious work relationship with Liu Gong is and remains meetings, discussions and a mutual knowledge, peer to peer, between our parents associations.

Sincerely,
Thomas Chaumont