

Dear Parents, Students, and Teachers,

This is the sixth edition of Lux Education's newsletter. We send you links to recent important articles about college admissions and college preparation, SAT tips, and a suggestion for an activity that can help you build a richer personal experience in China. We will also include updates about Lux Education class offerings and sign-ups.

Lux Education was recently featured in a special edition of *City Weekend Shanghai!* Find us on pages 24-25 of their Shanghai Parents & Kids autumn issue, available for free at restaurants and shops throughout the city.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email luxeducation@gmail.com with the subject "subscribe" or "take me off!" In the text of your email, please let us know whether you are a parent, student, or teacher.

News Update:

Most seniors, having just submitted their early applications, are now putting the final touches on the list of colleges that they will apply to in the regular pool. Students rely on a variety of sources to make these decisions; many depend a little too much on word-of-mouth from their classmates, while others put too much weight on the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings.

In our experience, some of the most helpful sources are schools' own websites, the opinions of recent alumni, and the incredibly thick guides that profile a large variety of schools. The article linked below appeared in the online magazine *Slate* a few years ago, but we think it's still very useful. Titled "*The Old College Try: Which Reference Guides Will Help You Find the Right School?*," the article profiles 9 of the most popular college guides. We generally agree with the stated pro's and con's of each guide. We hope you find the article helpful!

- <http://www.slate.com/id/2127455/>

SAT Tip:

Here are two important things to keep in mind about your SAT II scores and your SAT I writing sample:

- **#1: You can no longer choose which SAT II Subject Test scores will be sent to colleges.** According to the College Board's website, when you choose to send a score report to a school, "All available scores will be sent, including those from previous test administrations. You cannot send only your latest or highest SAT Reasoning Test scores, or separate scores for critical reading or math or writing, or only SAT Reasoning Test or only SAT Subject Tests scores." This means that it is even more important for students to choose carefully WHEN they take an SAT II test (preferably as soon as possible after studying a subject, beginning sophomore year), and WHICH tests they take (only those in which they feel well-prepared). Read more about SAT II

subject tests at

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>

- **#2: If you send your SAT scores to a college, admissions officers at that school will be able to read your actual SAT essay online.** This allows colleges to check that the student who took the SAT, the student who is applying to their school, and the student who wrote the application essay are all the same person. It is very important that students write their own application essays; they may ask for advice or editing help from counselors, teachers, or parents, but they should be aware that admissions officers are suspicious of overly-polished work (and in any case, too many cooks spoil the broth—the best essays are those in which a student's own voice comes through clearly).

Experience Shanghai!

Have you been playing the violin, viola or cello for a long time? Is your school ensemble not challenging enough? If you are looking for a place to meet new friends and to learn and perform advanced classical music in an English-speaking environment, then you may be interested in the **Shanghai International Youth Orchestra**.

Directed by cellist Sam Matthews, the Shanghai International Youth Orchestra's FIRST concert is this Friday at 7:30pm at the Shanghai Symphony Hall on 105 Hunan Lu (near the Shanghai Library). They will be performing music by Bach, Mozart and Holst. Tickets are 20rmb at the door.

For more information about the concert, or to schedule an audition for SHIYO, please visit: www.shiyo.net or call Mr. Matthews at 137 6102 0546 .

Upcoming Lux Education Classes:

- **SAT Prep**—SAT Prep classes start every month; in addition to our regular location in Puxi, we are beginning a new class this month in Pudong (location to be decided). Email luxeducation@gmail.com to sign up. Classes are 6400 rmb for 6 weeks of classes, meeting 9:30-12:30 on Saturdays and Sundays.
- **Writing Skills**—We are beginning a new Writing Skills class in Pudong next week (location to be decided). The class covers English mechanics as well as the skills involved in structuring an essay, and is intended for advanced non-native English speakers. The class will meet twice a week for 2-hour sessions on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.
- **Private Tutoring**—Private SAT tutoring is now available. Sessions are 500 rmb for each hour of individualized instruction.
- **College Guidance**—Lux Education offers private college guidance, including everything from selecting a list of schools to advice on crafting your application, with as many private sessions and email/phone consultations as necessary. The college guidance package is 15,000 RMB.

All Puxi classes meet at the Shanghai Education Hall at No. 1 Yueyang Road, walking distance from the Hengshan Road metro stop. We are currently choosing a Pudong location; any suggestions would be appreciated!