

# The Yuuyake Shimbun

Strengthening the Bonds of the Community

September 2009

## Welcome Dr. Alfonso Orsini!

The Yuuyake Shimbun would like to welcome The International School's new Head of School, Dr. Alfonso Orsini, to Portland and to the community. We had an opportunity to meet with and learn a little about him last month, and are pleased to introduce him to our readers.

Having just come from Shanghai, China, Dr. Orsini started his three-year term here in Portland by receiving a warm welcome from the Chinese community and especially the Chinese consular office, a welcome we hope will be matched by members of the Japanese community and, perhaps, the Japanese Consulate.

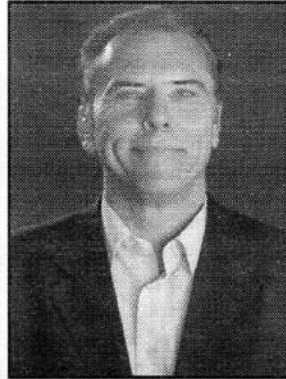
Dr. Orsini is 55 years young and has lived and worked in the Far East, Europe, and China for the last 15+ years. He is excited to be living in Portland and looks forward to working with the local Asian community here. He is enthusiastic about a number of exciting changes that are happening at the International school and knows that he will have a busy time at the school. He is certain to fit right in, especially with his extensive experience with the International Baccalaureate Program.

Originally from Chicago, Dr. Orsini has traveled extensively around the world teaching and working with international schools. He is experienced, motivated and earnest. He believes in supporting teachers, being active in the community, and working with community partners to for the betterment of everyone. He is outgoing and I am convinced he will be an active, involved and outgoing Head of School.

Dr. Orsini was awarded his bachelor's degree in English at Hamilton College in New York, a master's degree from Long Island University, and his Doctor of Education degree from the Teacher's College at Columbia University. His teaching experience includes college English, high school Writing Skills and Public Speaking, and coaching Spanish and debate teams. His administrative career began at the Newark Academy as the Upper School principal and has extended into over a decade in international schools.

It is clear that Dr. Orsini brings a wealth

of experience and skill to his new position, which coupled with a genuine, warm, and approachable nature is sure to serve him well as the head of one of Oregon's best and most innovative educational institutions. We wish him and The International School every success in the future.



Dr. Alfonso Orsini

The International School provides a multicultural environment where children are fully immersed in Chinese, Japanese or Spanish language and culture. Children become bilingual as they learn a full American curriculum with native speaking teachers, small classes, and high expectations. At TIS, children spend the vast majority of their day hearing and using their target language. As a result, their students achieve a higher level of fluency than students in partial immersion programs.

Their students learn a rigorous curriculum – math, science, social studies, and language arts – taught in Chinese, Japanese or Spanish. In addition, they get daily instruction in English language arts starting in first grade. All TIS teachers are native speakers of the language they teach. As a result, the children's ears become tuned to native accents, speech patterns and expressions. The cultures of our international faculty inform every aspect of TIS life. Our students experience Chinese, Japanese, Hispanic and American cultures thriving individually and working together. TIS students learn to truly appreciate and communicate – beyond mere words – with people of other cultures.

The TIS community is diverse in every dimension. Families and staff of all races, religions, persuasions, and circumstances feel at home at The International School. The International school is located at 025 SW Sherman Street, Portland, Oregon 97201. For more information, please call 503-226-2496. The school offers scholarship and grant opportunities for many students.