



13th October 2017

Important Dates

October

- 16-20 **OCTOBER HOLIDAY WEEK**
- 24 **French Play "Mes chers Voisins", 8:45am in the Black Box**
- 25 **PTO Hike & Brunch**
- 27 **HS/IB Art Trip**
- 27 **MS Halloween Dance, 6:30-9:00pm**
- 28 **ACT**
- 28 **Family Boo-k Quiz, 3:30-4:30pm in The Queen Elizabeth Theatre**
- 28 **"Trunk or Treat", 4:30-6:00pm in the ISA Overflow Carpark**
- 29 **CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR AT 2:00AM**
- 31 **Halloween Spirit Day**

November

- 1-4 **HS Boys & Girls Soccer Tournament**
- 2 **Inter-School Kids' Lit Quiz**
- 3-4 **MS Boys Soccer Tournament**
- 4 **SAT**
- 6 **"Safe Drive Stay Alive" (Grade 11)**
- 6 **PTO Meeting at 9:30am**
- 7 **Armistice Recital, 9:30am in The Queen Elizabeth Theatre**
- 8-11 **HS Boys & Girls Volleyball Tournaments**
- 9 **EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM**
- 9&10 **Parent Conferences**

► From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

International Parade

In response to the announcement that we would be inspected by Education Scotland in the coming weeks, I have felt buried in paperwork over the past few days. It has been a challenge to put into writing, as part of our supporting documentation, how ISA--Scotland's only International School--is distinctive, remarkable and special! I wish that the team members of our upcoming inspection could have joined us last night. Seeing everyone in their national colours and costumes, having prepared national dishes and treats for everyone to enjoy, and performing songs and dances from around the world - I left last night's event inspired! Each day, students from 36 different countries, many whom have lived in several nations or have parents from more than one country, arrive at ISA, with a common purpose. Here in Aberdeen, Scotland, our students are global citizens who celebrate diversity, embrace challenge, and are preparing to make a difference in the world. Thank you for

participating in yesterday's celebration and for all your contributions to make it such a special evening.

Education Scotland Inspection

With respect to the upcoming QUIPE Inspection by Education Scotland, thank you for filling out your parent surveys; they will be used to inform the inspection team and the data collected will be shared on the Education Scotland website. The inspection will take place from Tuesday, 31st October - Thursday, 2nd November.

One Week Break

I hope that you enjoy the upcoming holiday, and I look forward to welcoming the students back to ISA on Monday, 23rd October.

Kind regards,

Sarah Bruce

Head of School

▶ From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

The students and teachers are about to receive a well-earned break, and I hope you are able to enjoy some time with family and friends. The last few weeks have gone by very quickly but, hopefully, the comments and feedback shared in the progress reports on PowerSchool will enable students to finish the second half of this semester strongly when they return.

Students in High School have now been informed of their class trip destinations, and I hope they are excited about that week in May. More details from trip leaders will follow in due course, including information on payments. During that week, there is nothing else planned at High School other than Grade 12 exams and we are expecting all students to take part in their class trip.

I have enjoyed the colourful celebrations around the School for International Week, and was pleased to hear of how well our golf team performed in their tournament. When school resumes, HS French classes can look forward to a visiting theatre group performing for them. The very popular MS Halloween Dance is taking place on Friday, 27th October for Middle School and, on the same day, our MS Band and Choir will perform at an assembly. High School NHS students are running their annual 'Trunk or Treat' in conjunction with a PTO quiz. It looks set to be a great way to come back to school after a break.

Angus Carmichael

MS/HS Principal

▶ From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

• Story Telling and Picture Books

The Circus by Brian Wildsmith is the title of one of my favourite picture books. The story begins, "The circus comes to town" ... and ends, "The circus goes away". These are the only words in the book.

In Kindergarten, the stage one books from the Oxford Reading Series also tell a story without an emphasis on words. In the first weeks of Kindergarten, the teachers use books with few or no words to stimulate language development in children. Wordless books, such as 'A Trip to the Beach', allow children to enjoy following a plot without straining to decode words. The pictures free a child's imagination to interpret the author's ideas in their own way. If your child brings home a picture book, either from the classroom or the Library, encourage them to interpret the pictures to tell a story. The skills they use to infer, predict, or invent plot details will serve them well as they develop their reading skills.

In all of our grades, storytelling is a valuable teaching tool and a means for encouraging oral expression. Over the October holiday, I hope each of our students has exciting experiences, which can lead to stories they can share with their classmates. Parents are encouraged to send their children back to school on 23rd October with one or two well-rehearsed holiday tales.

• **A Final Note on the International Festival at ISA**

This week, a great 'buzz' echoed throughout the School as students, teachers and parents celebrated internationalism at ISA. I often ask the children to share their outfit plans for the Parade. They always smile and many say, "It's a secret!" It's clear to see the delight everyone has in celebrating their nationality. It's also so encouraging to share in the joy children and parents get from making the most of the occasion! Of course, on Friday many students talked of their pleasure from trying food from other countries and visiting the wonderful displays in the classrooms and hallways.

In our current fifth grade, we have students from at least 13 countries representing 8 different mother tongue languages. (Some children have more than one nationality.) The fifth grade population is a great example of our International student body. In a busy and ambitious school, we often don't take time to pause and reflect on the unique make-up of our student population. I believe the 'International Festival' week is extremely important because we all get to observe, reflect and celebrate the rich cultural diversity we enjoy amongst the families who attend ISA.

The Elementary assembly on Monday allowed each class to share what they have learned about another country. The student performances were amazing! By learning about an unfamiliar culture/nation, the children have enhanced their appreciation of cultural diversity and, hopefully, established a more personal connection/respect for others. The 'link' with other cultures is further fostered by our colourful Flag Parade of countries on Thursday evening and, of course, with the entertainment and amazing spread of tasty food from so many different places found in the 'Global Village'.

I'm excited to see our 'INTERNATIONAL' celebrations continue all year, and encourage families to share their own cultural traditions with the School in a timely manner.

Whether you are travelling or staying in Aberdeen, I hope your October holiday is rewarding and filled with lots of family fun.

Best regards,

Don Newbury
Elementary Principal

► **From the Fine Arts Department**

Please watch the digital display board outside The Queen Elizabeth Theatre for upcoming events, recitals and exhibits!

The Fine Arts Department

► From the HSSE Committee

Safe Cycling in Winter Months

High visibility clothing and bicycle lights are essential during the winter months for the safety of children cycling to school and during leisure time.

A white light at the front and a red light at the rear of the bike, both either steady or flashing, are needed to be both legal and visible. By law, these must be worn when visibility is poor or restricted, not just when it is completely dark.

Reflective and fluorescent clothing are crucial to ensure motorists and other road users see cyclists. Reflective armbands, ankle straps, tabards, and reflective stickers for bikes and bags can be bought at reasonable cost from bike shops.

Cycle helmets are designed to give protection from a fall from a bike so ISA recommends encouraging children to wear them, although their use is currently not compulsory in the UK. To be effective they must fit and be worn correctly.

For more information on cycle helmets, visit

<http://www.halfords.com/advice/cycling/buyers-guides/bike-helmets-buyers-guide-video>

For more advice on winter cycling, visit

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-you-can-do/winterproof-your-bike-ride-top-tips-cycling-cold>



► From the Middle School Student Council

Middle School students are invited to the annual **Halloween Dance on Friday, 27th October in the Black Box from 6:30 to 9:00pm, £5 per student.**

There will be pizza, soft drinks and sweet treats. Students are asked to wear their best Halloween outfits to the dance. There will be prizes for the scariest, most creative and best group effort costumes.

We are looking forward to a fun evening of good music and good company.

Please remember that mobile phones will not be allowed at the dance.

Parents, please be prompt in picking up your child from the dance at 9:00pm. Thank you.



► From the ISA Out of School Club

Community Link Childcare

We are pleased to now offer temporary Out of School Places to cover in-service days and early closures.

FEES:

Temporary Place Registration fee £22

(This fee covers administration for one year from first day of using club, and will cover all temporary spaces during this period)

In-Service Day

Full day £35 (10th/24th November)

Half day (8:00am -1:00pm or 1:00pm – 6:00pm) **£17.50**

P-T Conferences/Early closure Day (9th November: 11:00am - 6:00 pm) **£25**

If interested, an application form is attached; for a digital version, please email Janine McKimmie at ISA@communitylinkchildcare.org.uk.

We will strive to accommodate late bookings, but must stress that all parents must complete a core registration pack for each child attending the club; this can take 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on information shared (this may include dietary and/or medical needs, or other pertinent assistance).

For further enquiries please call either:

Janine McKimmie (Club Co-ordinator) on 07526 167048

Mark Duguid (Area Co-ordinator) on 07525 855544



PTO HIKE & BRUNCH

The PTO would like to wish all the families and wonderful vacation, whether you are staying home or traveling. Mark you calendars for our next get together, everyone is welcome at our Hike & Brunch on 25th October, meeting at ISA carpark at 8.30am or Scolty Hill car park at 9.30am, followed by lunch at Banchory Lodge.

Melinda Hulm
PTO President



HALLOWEEN FUN FOR ALL AT ISA

There is still plenty of time to sign up your team for the Boo-k Quiz and Trunk or Treat, to be held on Saturday 28th October.

To register, please email:

Boo-k Quiz (Teams 4-6)
jcrimp@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

Trunk or Treat (register car)
lklopp@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER



BOO-K
QUIZ

3.30pm - 4.30pm
Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Fun for the entire family, £5 per person
Free popcorn & Kool-aid, Prizes to be won



TRUNK OR
TREAT

4.30pm - 6pm
ISA Overflow Carpark

Free to those participating in quiz, Fun Halloween
theme games, Costume Parade, BBQ Food available
Decorated cars are needed,



ORGANISED BY NATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY & SCHOOL LIBRARY & PTO

IN-SERVICE DAY BOOKING FORM

Community Link Childcare will have the International School open on 9th November from 11:00am until 6:00pm, and 10th & 24th November from 8:00am until 6:00pm for a fun-filled day. Please provide a packed lunch for your child and ensure that they have suitable weatherproof clothing with them.

We provide a full day of activities in a safe, stimulating environment with morning and afternoon snack time. If weather permits, we will have a trip out of the room or use the gym for games and sports.

The cost of your in-service days on 10th/24th November is £35.00 per day, and on 9th November is £25.00. Payment must be made on return of this form. If you require any of these days, please sign the declaration below, circle days required, and return it by **3rd November 2017** to Community Link Childcare, Ground Floor, Frederick Street Centre, Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY

I confirm that _____ will be attending the club on the days circled below and I have paid my fee with this form. I understand there are no refunds/cancellations for a place booked and not taken up.

Places are allocated on a first come first serve basis.

9TH NOV

10TH NOV

24TH NOV

Parent Signature.....

Print Name.....

Email Address.....

Account reference (if known).....

Please Tick Payment Type:

- Cheque
- Childcare Vouchers
- Bank Transfer
- Cash (**MUST** be paid at Head office only, Clubs **DO NOT** accept cash)

CLUBS CANNOT ACCEPT ANY BOOKINGS. NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS ACCEPTED.

No refunds or transfers will be made for bookings once booking form is received.