



13th September 2019

Important Dates

September

- 12-14 **Grade 12 IB Biology/ESS Field Trip**
- 14-15 **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award Practice Expedition**
- 16-17 **MS MAP Testing**
- 18 **PTO Hike & Coffee, 8:30am**
- 20 **MS Student Council Elections**
- 21-23 **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award Practice Expedition**
- 23 **ABERDEEN LOCAL HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 26 **MS/HS Parent Coffee, 8:30am**
- 27 **University of Dundee: University Application & Admissions Talk**
- 27 **HS Dance, 6:30-9:00pm**
- 30-4 Oct **MS Activities Week**

▶ **From the Head of School**

Dear Parents,

For my parents, education was less a partnership between home and school, than an agreement to take the children off their hands in return for not being hassled about what then happened. They were, in fact, interested; it was just that my school didn't think to do anything to encourage them in it: once a year they received a handwritten report on my progress, and once a year they had the opportunity to discuss that progress with my teachers. From time to time, I would be responsible for carrying a letter home about some event or trip, which would generally be discovered at the bottom of my satchel a couple of weeks later, long after it ceased to be relevant.

It has been great to see so many ISA parents coming onto campus over the last month. from the Ice Cream Social in August through the PTO grade level meetings to the Open Houses in the last week or so. I have also had the chance to talk to individual parents about general school issues and things specific to their children.

Not everyone has been able to make it in, but have engaged through logging on to Edmodo in Elementary or PowerSchool in Middle/High School, or by looking through Thistle Talk or at our Facebook or linkedin pages to get an idea of what is going on. You have responded to emails from teachers or initiated your own.

These opportunities for involvement aren't just something we do; they are at the core of who we are. That core is our mission, vision and values (<https://www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk/pages/about/isa-overview/values-vision-mission>) which specifically sees education as a “partnership of excellent staff, committed parents, and an involved community”.

Our children don't get too old before we stop being able to help them with all the work they bring home with them, and how they are being educated can be very different from our own experiences. But they benefit enormously by seeing us engaged with what is going on in their lives, by being able to ask meaningful questions and then listening with understanding. When they find things tough, parents and school provide different perspectives to get them through. When things go well, we celebrate together.

When I was a child, we thought of school as its building. It was separate and apart, it took me 30 minutes to get there each day. My parents needed a special invitation to come along, and were not expected to know what was happening or why. But ISA is not a building, it is a community. A community of staff, students - and parents. I hope you continue to come in to school throughout the year - for large events like the Open Evenings, grade specific ones like 'First Note' yesterday or for anything else. And if that is not always convenient, you can always drop us an email, or follow us on Edmodo or Facebook.

We are guided by our mission, vision and values. These are school and, therefore, community statements. Please give us your opinion of what you think of them by following this link <https://forms.gle/5gwUHGRV2woW42dq8>.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

► **From the MS/HS Principal**

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

It was great to see so many of you at the Open House on Wednesday, and I hope you enjoyed meeting the teachers and finding out a little about your child's courses. I would encourage you to reach out to the teachers if you have any concerns over your son or daughter's progress, just as I am sure the teachers will be in touch with you if they have something important to share.

In support of the IB Diploma Programme's 'Approaches to Learning', next week the Grade 11 and 12 students will spend time working with a representative from a revision group called Lanterna. Lanterna only employs graduates who hold near perfect IB diploma scores, and our visitor will help the students develop their time management and organisational skills. In the past, IB2 students have also received some excellent revision tips to help them get ready for May.

This weekend, our IB2 Biologists and ESS students will travel to the west coast to undertake field work relevant to their courses. And, also next week, Grade 6 can look forward to some service learning at Haddo House, and many of our students will be attending a music workshop with other schools from the area. These field trips form an important part of our curriculum, and will be some of the most memorable activities children carry forward from school. Our adventurous, team-building MS Activities week is not that far away; and deposits are starting to be sought to secure places on the exciting and educational HS Activities week taking place in March. I hope as many of our students as possible will take advantage of what is on offer.

Student Council campaign posters are appearing in the corridors, and I am looking forward to working with the new leadership team that will be elected on Friday, 20th September. I would like to congratulate everyone who put their name forward and perhaps took themselves out of their

comfort zone to present their ideas. Our Councils are an important voice; I have already had some constructive discussions with HS representatives this year.

Looking further ahead, there is an MS/HS Parent Coffee at 8.30am on Thursday, 26th September, and I hope many of you will be able to join me then.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

▶ **From the Elementary Principal**

Dear Parents,

• **Assemblies**

Each Monday, the Elementary children begin their week with an assembly in the The Queen Elizabeth Theatre. These assemblies are designed to recognise student achievement and encourage a strong community spirit in the School. We also use the time to make important announcements and to identify current events occurring in and out of the classroom. Of course, birthdays are a prominent feature of each assembly. Students and teachers who are celebrating a birthday are subject to a special quiz. These quizzes are always about current events. Assemblies usually feature student participation. This can take place with students sharing their writing, performing a song, and/or a class putting on a special presentation. It's great to recognise children in a public format. I encourage parents to help keep the teachers and myself well-informed about student news, particularly student achievement from after-school activities. We want to know about successes that occur in and out of school.

Whenever a class is performing in an assembly, parents are invited to be spectators. Parents need to be seated by 8:30am if they wish to attend an assembly. Please don't take food or drink into the theatre and turn off mobile phones. We also ask that parents with very young children sit where they can make a discreet exit should a child become unsettled. Throughout the year, I hope all the Elementary parents will have an occasion to be at one or more of the Elementary assemblies.

Look out for the 7th October assembly that will introduce events (with mystery performers), leading up to the International Festival Parade on Thursday, 10th October.

• **Fifth Grade Goes to Ardeonaig Outdoor Education Centre**

It's Thursday morning, and the fifth graders have, thus far, enjoyed three days and nights of unrelenting activities. Whether it's gorge walking through icy water, jumping into Loch Tay, climbing the high ropes, or trying to get past the 'wolves' in a night-time game, the children have been simultaneously excited, challenged and delighted by their adventures. (They sleep soundly every night!) Ardeonaig provides a safe and stimulating environment for each child to be a bold risk-taker. At this outdoor centre, almost all of our students face real challenges that 'push' them beyond their comfort zones and require personal determination and courage to succeed in a new experience. Over the course of the week, the fifth graders strive to accomplish an individual goal while participating in a wide range of challenging activities. A quick look below shows the range of challenges every student has set for him or herself. What is being asked of a child is hard, as even for a ten-year old it can be difficult to change a personal habit. A sample below shows the types of student goals that the fifth graders are attempting at Ardeonaig:

My meaningful Goal is:

“... to be more organised with where I put my possessions.”

“... to not give up when things get hard.”

“... to feel confident and strong in new situations.”

“... to treat all living things with empathy and respect,”

“... to focus on my achievements, not my mistakes.”

Thirty-five fifth graders are experiencing Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre this week and each one is meeting new challenges, including being away from home for the first time, with enthusiasm and determination. There have been a few tears along the way for a couple of students, but all the children have kept smiling. They will return to school with rich memories, strong friendships, and an increased belief in what they can accomplish, both as individuals and as part of a team. If you see a returning fifth grader next week in school, be sure to ask him/her how their week went and whether they met their personal goal.

Best regards,

Don Newbury,
Elementary Principal

► From the Fine Arts Department



IB Visual Arts students' Art Trip to Edinburgh proved to be a very successful educational experience last Thursday. This year, the students toured four exhibitions at the National Galleries of Scotland, and participated in workshops and self-guided tours. This included a visit to the National Portrait Gallery as well as the two galleries of Modern Art. Students observed, discussed, analysed and drew works of art from a selection of traditional to contemporary artworks.

A highlight of the visit was to learn about the works of the internationally celebrated artist, Bridget Riley (b.1931). The students participated in a guided workshop which encouraged them to explore the abstract paintings and learn about the ways in which we see her paintings. Upon leaving the gallery, we were fortunate enough to notice Bridget Riley sitting in the gallery taking notes. She approached the students, and we had the pleasure of meeting her. The 88-year old artist spent time talking and chatting about her experience in Edinburgh. She was kind enough to have a photo opportunity with the group. A memorable day for everyone involved.





**IB Art Students with artist, Bridget Riley, next to Rory Thomson,
at National Gallery of Scotland**

Please watch the THISTLE and the digital display board outside The Queen Elizabeth Theatre for upcoming concerts, productions and exhibits! Enjoy the artwork around the school! We are looking forward to working with your children!

From The ISA Fine Arts Department – Catherine, Nicolina, Lisa, Javier & Kent

► **From the Nurse**

Hi everyone, Friday again!

I sent out the flu immunisation forms on Wednesday this week; these need to be back ASAP and by 18th September at the latest. If we do not receive the forms by then, your child will not be given the immunisation here at ISA.

With regard to the Medical Record form that is now completed online, please ensure that you have filled the form in with as much up-to-date information as is possible; we cannot treat your child without this.

If you have any concerns with these forms then please feel free to either drop by the Nurse's Office or give me a call and I will do mybest to answer any questions you may have. Thanks for this; I really do appreciate all your co-operation with the forms etc.

I hope you all have a great weekend. Keep safe and well.

Karen
School Nurse



Thistle Talk is a great way to find out what is going on in the school, but you can get a lot more from our social media sites. Log into us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-school-aberdeen> and <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSchoolAberdeen/> and get the stories behind the stories.

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS

The International Committee are on the look out for singers, dancers and performers for the International Evening on October 10th.

Please contact Mr Walter or Mr Coutts to sign up.





THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ABERDEEN

Every Child. Every Opportunity.

Dear Parents,

As you are aware we are busy preparing for the all school International Festival in October. On the evening of Thursday, 10th October, 2019 the ISA students will all take part in an 'Olympic style' parade to honour all of the countries represented in our school. We hope that all students and their parents will come dressed in national costume or colours of their country.

If you would like your child to have the chance to carry either the flag or the banner for their home country, please complete this form and return it as soon as possible to Security Reception (main building). A box will be placed there for your convenience. In the event of more than one child wishing to carry a country's flag or banner, we will randomly select a name from the entries. We see this as an exciting opportunity and a great honour, and hope that your child will be proud to carry their national flag or country banner.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Nationality: _____
(Please only put down one country)



The Global Village is an important part of the celebrations of International Week at ISA. The Global Village will represent the 45 nations belonging to the ISA community. Tables and displays will be decorated by parents and Middle and High School students to showcase artefacts from these different nations. These will be located along the 'Street' area and in the Theatre.

In addition, students in Pre-school through Grade five have learned about a country as part of their international study. Parents are encouraged to visit these classrooms.

If you have lived in, visited, or are from any of the 45 countries and would be willing to lend artefacts which could be displayed on a nation's table it would be greatly appreciated. To showcase cultural artefacts, as part of the Global Village, is a great opportunity to display interesting and vibrant objects in celebration of our wonderfully diverse community!

Artefacts donated for the night must be CLEARLY LABELLED with the family name and be non-breakable!

They can be handed into Reception during the week commencing Monday, 7th October.

Thank you for your continued support,

The International Festival Committee

Online Safety Newsletter: September 2019

Fortnite (Rated PEGI 12)

Fortnite is still very popular with lots of young people. **It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.** It is important to bear in mind that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the chat features of a game which Fortnite does include.

What do you need to be aware of?

Chat functionality:

Fortnite contains voice and text chat which can contain inappropriate language. You can turn the voice chat off but **not the text chat**. To turn voice chat off, go to Settings, Audio and switch to off. As always, show your child how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour (they can use the in-game feedback tool in the main menu, more information can be found here: <https://epicgames.helpshift.com/a/fortnite/>) and ensure that they know that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

In app purchases:

All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your credit card details.

We always recommend playing the game with your child so you can see what they are playing and monitor the sort of chat that they are listening to/contributing to.

For further information about Fortnite, Parentzone have produced this great article:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>



Games to play as a family

It is important to take an active role in your child's online life and playing games online with them is a great way to do this whilst demonstrating to your child good gaming habits. Internet Matters have compiled this list of games that you could play together based on your child's age.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/amazing-video-games-guide-for-families/>

In app purchases

Lots of apps/games are free to download/access but then contain in app purchases.

To prevent purchasing on your child's iPhone or iPad follow these instructions:

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT204396>

To prevent purchasing through Google Play follow these instructions:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1626831>

PEGI ratings explained

If you see this rating on a game then it means the game contains bad language. This descriptor can be found on games with a PEGI 12 (mild swearing), PEGI 16 (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy) or PEGI 18 rating (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy).



Sky Broadband Buddy

Do you use Sky Broadband? If so, this app allows you to manage each screen in your home. The app allows you to create different filters i.e. PG, 13 or 18 so they don't see something that they shouldn't. It allows you to set Time Limits, schedule Off Time as well as view what each member has been doing online. Further information is available here:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/sky-broadband-buddy>

Harry Potter Wizards Unite (Rated PEGI 7)

The creators behind Pokémon Go have released a new game set in the world of Harry Potter. Similar to Pokémon Go, in that the app uses your real location to place you on a map and you need to walk around your local area looking out for magical items on your phone and casting spells to free items or send characters back to their magical world.

This game is free to play but in app purchases to buy coins range from 99p - £99!

The app does warn you to stay alert at all times and to stay aware of your surroundings. Due to the nature of this game, it can be easy to forget where you are going so please remind children to pay attention to their surroundings, particularly when crossing roads.

There are 3 ways to sign in to this app, using a Facebook account, Google account or under 16's will need an adult to create their profile through a Niantic parents account.

You will need to create a code name, this is public so ensure that your child does not include any personal information.

Further information is available here:
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-harry-potter-wizards-unite>



Using Google Play store

Does your child use the Google Play store? If so, have you set up appropriate parental controls? Parental controls allow you to restrict content based on your child's maturity level so you can set up parental controls for e.g. apps, games and TV shows to prevent your child from downloading items that are above the rating that you set. Further information is available here:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB>

Online Safety Newsletter: September 2019

Instagram: new anti-bullying tool

Instagram is now using Artificial Intelligence to recognise when a message being typed is one that would quite often be reported as inappropriate so a user might try to send a comment “you are so ugly,” but a message appears saying ‘Are you sure that you would like to post this?’ with the option to learn more or undo. The feature has been designed to encourage more positive interactions on Instagram. Discuss this with your children and explain what it’s there for. Further information is available here: <https://instagram-press.com/blog/2019/07/08/our-commitment-to-lead-the-fight-against-online-bullying/>



Childnet answer parents most frequently asked questions about Instagram here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/answering-parents-most-frequently-asked-questions-about-instagram>

What is clickjacking?

Where somebody maliciously tricks a user into clicking on a link which could result in downloading malware or sharing confidential information. Find out more here: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/clickjacking/>

What is skin gambling?

Skins are virtual items in games that can be won or purchased and are used to customise weapons. There are websites that let players gamble their skins. Find out more here: <https://parentinfo.org/article/skin-gambling-what-parents-should-know>

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NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

SEPT 13 2019



ISA Parent Teacher Organisation



pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk



BISON BOOSTER CLUB

Last Friday, ISA students and parents were greeted by the ISA bison! The bison represents the efforts of our Bison Booster Club; a committee that consists of volunteers who are in charge of running the server during sporting tournaments as well as providing goodie bags for students to represent ISA elsewhere. A list of tournaments for this year:



TOURNAMENTS 2019-2020

October 3-5	MS Volleyball
November 1-2	MS Football
November 6-10	Boys HS Football
November 6-10	Girls HS Football
November 13-16	Boys HS Volleyball
November 13-16	Girls HS Volleyball
March 4-7	Boys HS Basketball
March 4-7	Girls HS Basketball
May 17-19	HS Golf
May 17-19	HS Tennis/Badminton



WHAT IS THE BISON BOOSTER CLUB?

The Bison Booster Club is a committee reporting to the PTO with one representative on the PTO Board. The committee is made up of Middle School and High School parents who supply energetic and enthusiastic support to extracurricular activities: athletics, fine arts and academic competitions. The committee is open to all parents of Middle School and High School students.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

For more information, contact our Booster Coordinator at pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.



PTO VACANCIES

We are still looking for two more PTO team members who are willing to take on these two exciting roles:

- HS CEC REP
- ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Please reach out if interested via pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk



NEXT PTO MEETING

Monday
October 7
9.30 AM

St Andrew's room

PTO ADVERTS PAGE

SEPT 13
2019

PTO have an exciting new initiative
Local businesses can opt into the
Bronze, Silver or Gold tier Advertising
Programme. We will be advertising
the Gold tier businesses on our
Facebook page! If you know of any
companies who would like to opt into
this programme, or if you would like
more details, please contact Jen
Sword our PTO advertising member
via email pto.advertising@gmail.com



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accessories, to truly authentic pre-loved, upcycled and
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McCue Wealth Management Ltd.
58 Queens Road
Aberdeen
AB15 4YE

Tel: 01224 745200
Mob: 07596 196084
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