



ISA's weekly newsletter



www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

The
International
School
Aberdeen

15th September 2017

Important Dates

September

- 15-17 MS Volleyball Tournament
- 15 HS Neon Dance, 7:00-10:00pm
- 19 MS/HS School Photographs
- 19 DoE Silver Award Level Parent Meeting, 3:30pm
- 19 DoE Bronze Award Level Parent Meeting, 4:15pm
- 20 ES School Photographs
- 21 PTO Walk & Coffee
- 22 IB Art Trip
- 22 MS StuCo Elections
- 22 MS Team Building/House Challenge Day
- 23-25 DoE Silver Award Practice Expedition
- 25 ABERDEEN LOCAL HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- 27 MS/HS Parent Coffee, 8:30am
- 29 MS Team Building/House Challenge Day
- 30-1 Oct DoE Bronze Award Practice Expedition

► From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Field Trips

After the many years that students spend in school, often it is the excursions, field trips and special events that are most memorable. Field trips provide the opportunity for students to learn in different environments, often seeing real-life application of what they are learning about in school. Having a break from the regular school routine and enjoying these types of educational experiences in a different setting can help children appreciate the relevance of what they are learning and enjoy shared experiences with their classmates. Some of the field trips enjoyed by ISA students this week included 5th Grade's week long excursion to Ardeonaig, 4th Grade's visit to Old Aberdeen to study mediaeval times, and 10th Grade's trip to Dundee for historical activities. I hope that your children enjoy the many benefits of their ISA field trips this year.

Middle School/High School Open House

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our MS/HS Open House. We hope you enjoyed hearing about some of the specific learning your child will do during the school year.

Head of School Search

I have included below the message sent from the Board's Head of School Search Sub-committee including the link to email addresses where you can sign up for a focus group or submit your ideas. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Kind regards,

Sarah Bruce
Head of School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Board of Trustees has begun the search process for the best person to fill the position of Head of School. As you are all aware, this is a very important undertaking and it is essential that we select the best possible candidate to take the School forward and secure its future in the long term. The Board is inviting all parents and guardians to share their thoughts on the skills, experience and attributes they consider desirable in the next Head of *our* School. You will have two options to have an input. There will be focus group discussions on 28th and 29th September at 9:00am, 1:30pm, and 6:30pm. You may register for one of these sessions with Anna Tolstyko by email at: admin@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk. Alternatively, or additionally, you may share your thoughts through email at hos.search@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

Whichever way you choose to participate, we hope you will give us the benefit of your knowledge and experience.

Regards

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

► From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

It was great to see so many of you at the Open House on Thursday, 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's 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", this week the Grade 11 and 12 students spent time working with a representative from a revision group called Lanterna. Lanterna only employs graduates that hold near perfect IB Diploma scores, and our visitor helped the students develop their time management and organisational skills. She also gave the IB2 students some excellent revision tips to help them get ready for May.

As you read this, our HS students will be gearing up for the Neon Dance: the first HS StuCo event of the year; and our MS students will be finalising election speeches ahead of voting next Friday. That same day sees team building sessions for MS students, which promise to be a lot of fun. On Tuesday (19th), our Middle and High School students will have their pictures taken and so they might like to give some thought to their choice of clothing and general appearance that day. The photos will be available for sale to families and made use of in the Yearbook.

I am greatly encouraged by the large number of students taking advantage of our after-school programme and the likely benefits to their interpersonal skills and general wellbeing. I hope our students will continue to enjoy the range of activities available to them.

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 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*.

Look out for the 9th October assembly that will introduce events (with mystery performers), leading up to the International Festival Parade on Thursday, 12th October. Throughout the year, I hope all of the Elementary parents will have an occasion to be at one or more of the Elementary assemblies.

* 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.

• 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 or eleven 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 a better team player."

"... to make new friends and get to know my class really well."

“... to overcome my fear of heights.”

“... to not be easily distracted.”

“... to be mature and responsible, especially when no one is watching.”

Twenty-seven 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 fifth grader next week in school, be sure to ask them how their week went and whether they met their personal goal.

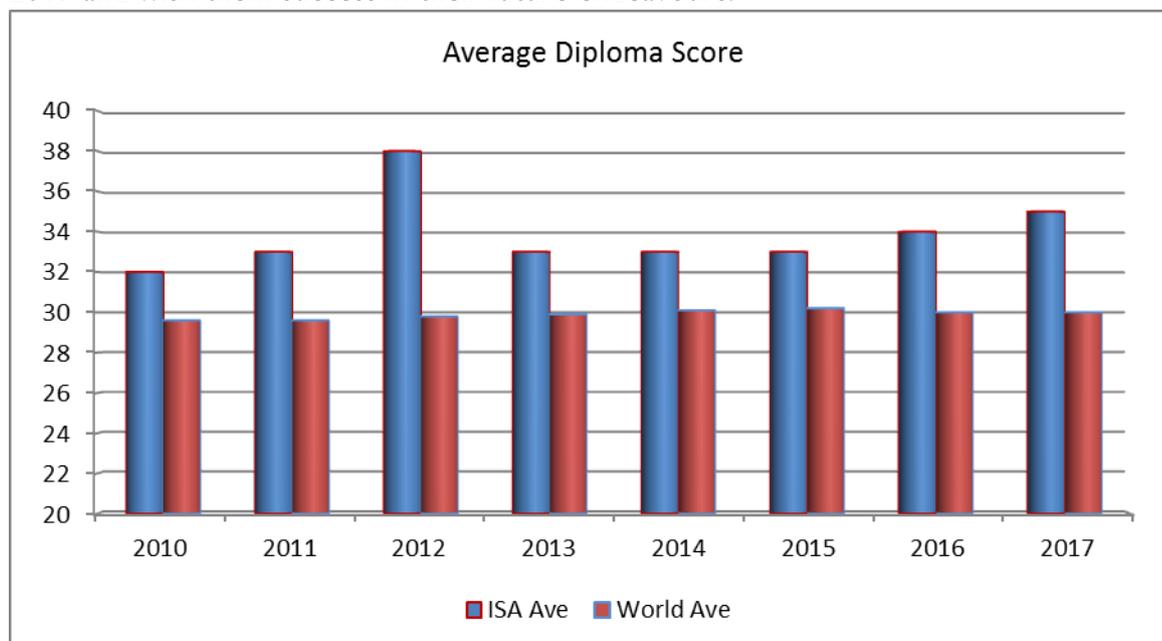
Best regards,

Don Newbury
Elementary Principal

► From the IBDP Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

The IB scores were released to the students over the summer and we are thrilled with the ISA results! 95% of the students earned their diploma with an average overall score of 35 points. Very impressive considering that the world average hovers around 30. In addition, the average mark per subject was 5.5, again well above the world average of 4.8. We want to congratulate the Class of 2017 and wish them success in their future endeavours.



The current grade 12 students have hit the ground running and are busy working on their Extended Essay, which is due 31st October. It is very important that they meet this final deadline, otherwise it will have a knock-on effect with regards to meeting future deadlines. November and December are quite busy months and we want to ensure the students keep on top of their work.

This year sees several new students entering Grade 11, and it was great to meet them at the recent induction day. I look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Jennifer Purpura
IB DP Co-ordinator

► **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 Transport Co-ordinator**

Roadworks in and around Aberdeen are likely to cause disruption and delays in the next few weeks affecting routes 1, 3, 6 and 8. Be aware that pick-up and drop-off times on these routes may be affected and will be monitored daily.

Buses 1 and 3

RESURFACING - A93 NORTH DEESIDE ROAD JUST WEST OF MILLTIMBER BRAE FROM 6AM 18TH SEPTEMBER UNTIL 10PM ON 22ND SEPTEMBER

This may delay the arrival of Buses 1 and 3 as there's likely to be congestion.

Bus 6

ROAD CLOSURE - CROMWELL ROAD BETWEEN ANDERSON DRIVE AND FOREST AVENUE FROM 5.30AM 18TH SEPTEMBER UNTIL 10PM ON 22ND SEPTEMBER

Bus 6 will merely negotiate the roundabout at Forest Avenue, return up that road and pick-up and drop-off passengers at Learney Place.

Bus 8

ROAD CLOSURE - COUNTESSWELLS ROAD BETWEEN AIRYHALL AVENUE FROM 5.30AM ON 25TH SEPTEMBER UNTIL 10PM ON 30TH SEPTEMBER

Bus 8 will be unable to travel in Countesswells Road to Macaulay Drive. Parents have been notified of the temporary pick-up and drop-off point in Springfield Road at Springfield Gardens.

Regards

Ron Falconer

► From the School Nurse

Hi,

We have had a lot of illness this week amongst the students and some members of staff. As a school, we ask that should your child have a fever $>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ (98.6°F), they remain off for 24hrs post fever (from when it ends and returns to normal). If they are off colour/unwell, have vomiting and/or diarrhoea, they should remain at home for 48hrs post last episode. If you have any concerns regarding their health, it is advisable to get an appointment with your GP at the earliest convenience - please do not go to the Emergency Department at the hospital. You can also use the Minor Ailments service at your nearest Pharmacy, who can supply non-prescription medicines. I know it seems as though I am nagging, but this is for your child and family as well as the other ISA staff and students.

I am also still missing lots of Flu Immunisation forms; even if your child is not to have the vaccine, please return the form with that choice ticked.



Karen

► From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



Duke of Edinburgh

Training is complete. All levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold, have completed their required trainings. Training at all levels includes risk abatement, safety and first aid, map and compass skills, as well as camp craft and awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Bronze level training also includes practise setting tents, learning to safely use camp stoves, and basic orienteering skills.

Parent Meetings: Tuesday, 19th September: There will be a meeting for the parents of Silver level participants at 3:30pm on Tuesday, 19th September. A meeting for the parents of Bronze level participants will take place at 4:15pm, following the preceding meeting. Bring your questions, learn a bit about the upcoming expeditions, and meet some of the expedition leaders from Go for Gold!

Practice Expeditions: The dates for the practice expeditions, at all three levels, are rapidly approaching:

Silver: 23rd –25th September, Saturday–Monday

Gold: 29th September–2nd October, Friday–Monday

Bronze: 30th September–1st October, Saturday–Sunday

Participants: you might wish to consider wearing your walking boots/shoes to school each day to get your feet used to them. This weekend is the last opportunity for Silver participants to put in some practice miles with your rucksack. Bronze and Gold, you have two weekends to do some practice

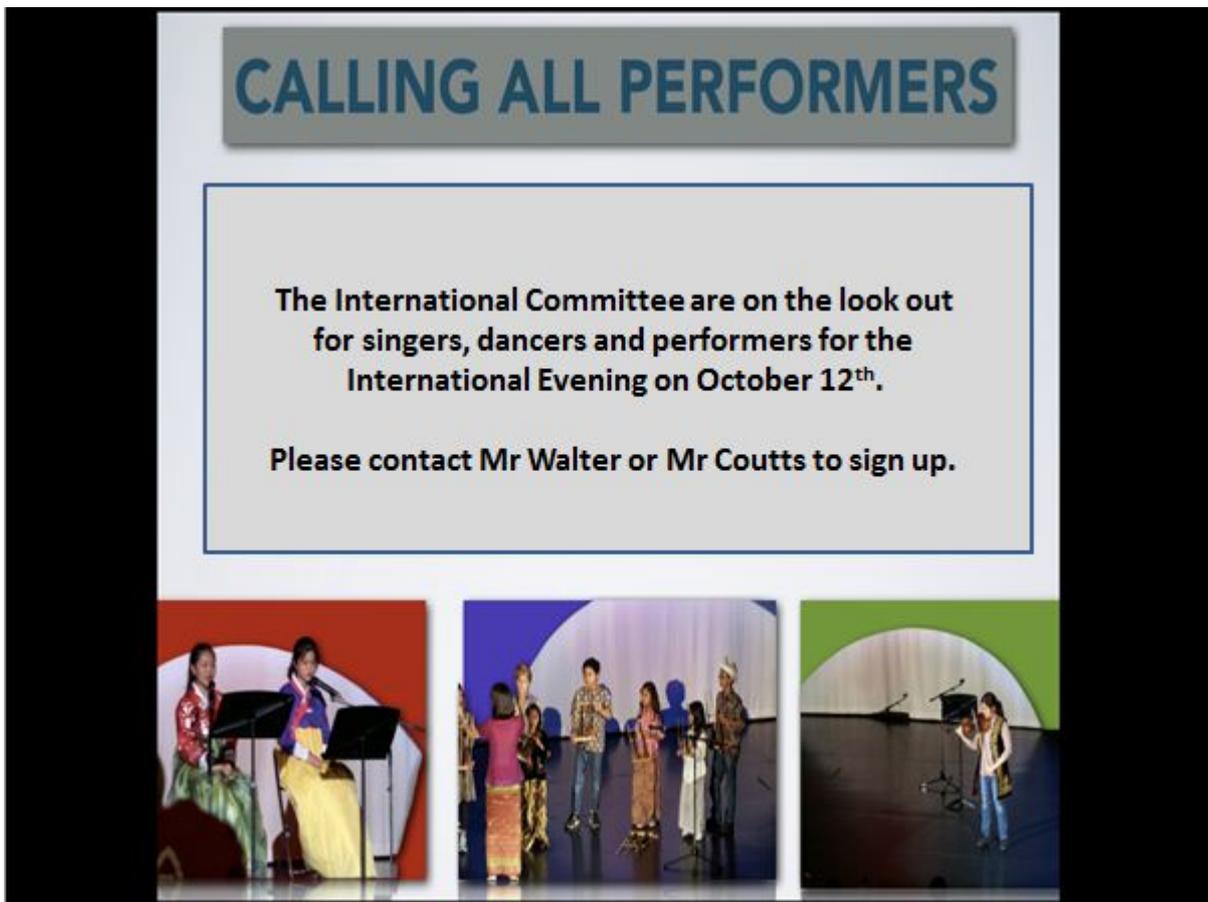
walking. During your expedition you are sure to appreciate any practice walking you do with your boots and rucksack.

Questions? Contact Mr Crock - bcrock@isa247.org.uk

▶ **Slipper Day Fundraiser**

A whopping £740.36 was raised from last Friday's Slipper Day in aid of Save the Children.

Many thanks to everyone who participated.



CALLING ALL PERFORMERS

The International Committee are on the look out for singers, dancers and performers for the International Evening on October 12th.

Please contact Mr Walter or Mr Coutts to sign up.

MSSC 2017-2018 ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Elections 22/09 9:40am

These are your candidates:

PRESIDENT

Johnathan Brink
Bill Collins
Gregoire Delcros

VICE-PRESIDENT

Charlotte Vavasseur
Nico McCracken

SECRETARY

Joaquin Acevedo
Jash Pooni

DIRECTOR OF COMMS

Katherine Antao
Pia Eide
Matthew Gorbald

These are your class representatives per grade:

6

Finn Clark
Maria Sofia Rocco
Mat Lavaux
Aylin Cimen
Tom Gorbald
Deedee Shote

7

Ene Ojabo
Sophia Harlan
Irene Madu

8

Finn Lestrangle



ENRICHMENT APPLICATIONS

The Enrichment program aims to support excellence in educational supplies and/or experiences. Whilst it is not intended to pay for essentials, we are keen to support activities/projects that benefit as many students as possible, whilst promoting the PTO mission statement:

- Provide positive support towards educational excellence
- Celebrate cultural diversity
- Foster a spirit of community.

Application forms can be found on the ISA Website:

www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk/pages/about/people/pto

The deadline is 31st October 2017.

Melinda Hulm
PTO President

FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE

A HUGE thank you to all who kindly donated raffle items and purchased tickets, prepared delicious food, supported slipper day and to everyone else who helped make it a successful benefit! Special mention to all the hard working students who volunteered serving. We raised **over £3000** that will be given to the Houston Food Bank and Save the Children.

Thank you!! Sandra & Melinda

VACANCY G11 CEC REP

We are still desperately seeking a volunteer to act as Class Events Coordinator for Grade 11. It is important to have someone from the grade to provide support to the teachers, staff members and our international community as a whole.

If you would like to know more, feel free to email us

pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

WALK + CHAT + FRIENDSHIP

&

Costa Coffee



All Parents Welcome!
Walk along railway line
Thur 21st September
Meet 8.30am @ School