

Important Dates

May

- 25 **PROM**
- 27 **ES Spring Concert, 8:30am in The QET**
- 28 **IBI Art Exam Exhibition, 3:00-4:00pm in the Upper Corridor**
- 29 **“Jazz in The Street”, 12:30-1:30pm**
- 29 **Duke of Edinburgh Award Information Meeting, 3:30pm**
- 31 **K-2 Sports Day, 1:00-2:55pm**

June

- 1 **SAT**
- 1 **Graduation, 2:00pm in The QET**
- 3 **PTO Meeting (off campus)**
- 5-11 **HS Semester 2 Exams**
- 5 **Pre-School Sports Day**
- 5 **MS “An Evening of the Arts, 6:00 for 6:30pm in The QET**
- 7 **Spirit Wear Day**
- 7 **Grades 3-5 Sports Day, 1:00-2:55pm**
- 11 **MS House Challenge**
- 11 **Pre-School End of Year Celebration, 10:00am in The QET**
- 11 **Last Day for Pre-School – Dismissal at 11:00am**
- 12 **MS/HS Assembly, 10:15am**
- 12 **EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM – Start of the Summer Holiday**

► **From the Head of School**

Dear Parents,

Humans don't always have nations, churches or clubs, but always families. When they work well, families provide intimacy and care – after food and water the two most essential factors for human survival. No wonder so many people like to describe their nations, churches or clubs as families; rarely the other way round.

But in reality, it is not always the same. At ISA when school money is spent, first the Business Office checks that we have the money, then I check to see that it is being spent on the correct purpose. A Board committee check both of us, and external audits check the whole lot of us. It's nothing personal, of course; no-one has decided that me, as Head of School, needs particular scrutiny, but somebody else in the same job would be OK. This is the process, regardless of the people involved, and the process will continue when we have all left and there is a different set of people.

With families, it is always personal. I am not sure how the same spending control would work. If the kids wanted to spend their pocket money would they have to submit a request form? And out of mum and dad, who would be the Business Office and who would be the Head? I guess the grandparents would have to be governors, but I have no idea who would be the external auditors.

It is not just in families that formal processes can be absurd, where we exercise the same good judgement of people based on our knowledge of them personally. We have to trust, because there can be no process of formal checks. Where we do things because we care, not because it is in a job description, and we are some interchangeable part.

This week, ISA hosted the International Schools Sports Association (ISSA) badminton and tennis tournaments. They were great examples of what we mean when we describe our community as the 'ISA Family'. Parents hosted students from other schools – not because it is in their job descriptions but as an act of care. Students played the games according to the rules but they also built meaningful relationships beyond the courts. Parents volunteered to sell drinks and snacks; sometimes, if a child in their kit didn't have cash on them, they asked them to pay later. They deviated from the process of drink for cash right now, because they trusted them. A trust that was always repaid.

When we think of ISA as a family, it is not of the formal processes in our offices; it is in the relationships of care and trust in our classrooms, corridors, gyms and fields; it is of those who step beyond what they have to do to reach out and make other people's lives better. It is of the fun we have in sports, in the arts and in service – the meaning that we earn through community.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

▶ **From the MS/HS Principal**

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

This week, ISA hosted badminton and tennis tournaments, and Friday saw Middle and High School students and teachers completing 6.5 laps of the lower pitch as part of the annual Mile Run. The students ran in three waves, with the 'elite' group comprising some very good athletes indeed. Students have been preparing for these events in their PE lessons, and I hope all will continue to make time for sports and exercise. Running, in particular, can be something of a mindfulness technique, allowing one to be more 'present'. It is, of course, very good fitness but can also allow the brain to focus on one specific issue or problem that requires sustained thought to be solved. Thinking about exercise and nutrition will allow students to be at their best in the upcoming semester exams at High School. (The June High School Exam Schedule is attached to this Thistle.)

Friday was also the High School Awards' Ceremony, and I enjoyed recognising and celebrating the success of our students. Success comes in many different forms but should be something all of our students can experience through hard work and perseverance. Not everyone has the same goals and aspirations but when we reach the high targets we have set ourselves, it is a mark of success. Middle School students have their ceremony on the penultimate day of the semester when awards are presented relating to the six ISA Values.

With Prom this weekend and Graduation the following one, we are very much in the home straight for summer. I hope our students will enjoy all the extra-curricular events taking place, but remember to conduct themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

▶ **From the Elementary Principal**

Dear Parents,

- **End of Year Exchange of Information**

With less than three weeks remaining in the school year, the prospect of lovely long summer days has begun to enter the thoughts of many of us in the ISA community. For teachers, the last part of a school year brings great satisfaction. We use the final weeks as a time to compare results with our year-long objectives and to assess our needs for the next year. We also write reports for students and parents that highlight individual student achievement. In our last report card, we use the word '**achievement**' instead of '**progress**' to indicate that the final assessment comes at the end of a school year. In essence, we are defining social and academic levels of progress at a given point in time. While we do not have another formal teacher conference, parents are encouraged to contact teachers with any questions or concerns they might have regarding a student's achievement. (Teachers are happy to share ideas for maintaining skills over the summer.)

Within the Elementary School, a great deal of time and effort is put into making the transition from one grade to another as smooth as possible. All teachers are involved in meetings to exchange information on the students they are passing on to each other. For next year, we've already started planning new initiatives. In 2019-2020, for example, we will further our discussions on IT Safety and the impact of Social Media on our younger students. (Parent workshops are planned.)

Parents who are moving away from Aberdeen at the end of the school year are reminded that we need your information as soon as possible, so that we can complete all of the necessary transfer forms in a reasonable manner during an especially busy period at the School.

At the end of the year, there are many opportunities for parents to share in school activities such as the Elementary Choir/Band Assembly on 27th May or the Sports Days on 31st May for K-2, 3rd June for PS and 7th June for 3-5.

Best regards,

Don Newbury,
Elementary Principal

▶ **Student Pick-up / Drop-off Procedure**

Recently, we have been reviewing our procedures surrounding student pick-up / drop-off between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm.

We would kindly request that if your child is **under 16 years of age** and you are dropping off or collecting your child during the school day, that you come into the school to sign your child in / out at reception. Maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our students is our top priority.

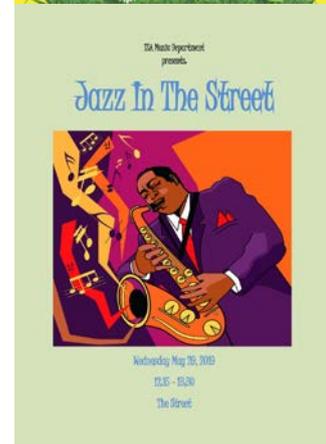
► From the Fine Arts Department

Mark your calendars for some great shows coming your way!

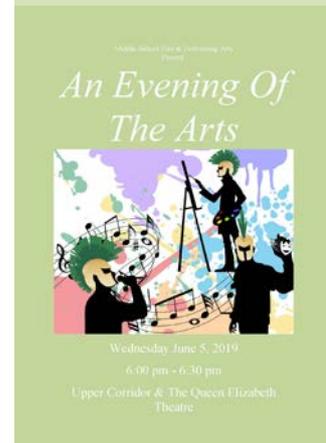
“A Spring Concert”
Elementary School Band & Choir
Monday, 27th May 2019
8:30am
The Queen Elizabeth Theatre



“Jazz In The Street”
featuring the **High School Jazz Band**
Wednesday, 29th May 2019
12:15pm
The ISA Street



“An Evening of The Arts”
Middle School Fine & Performing Arts
Wednesday, 5th June 2019
6:00pm for 6:30pm
The Upper Corridor & The Queen Elizabeth Theatre



► From the Library

It's been a busy year in the library – we've had over 19,000 items borrowed, with still a few weeks to go!

If your children are continuing at ISA in August, they are very welcome to borrow library books for the holiday. However, if your family is leaving ISA (or if there is a chance of this happening), please make sure that they have returned all of their library books by **Wednesday, 5th June**. If you would like to check what your child has checked out, please email library@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

If you are looking for ways to keep your children reading over the summer, a visit to your public library is highly recommended as Aberdeenshire Libraries (and possibly Aberdeen City) will be running the Summer Reading Challenge again. If you will be away from Aberdeen over the holiday, you can still download their great ebooks and audiobooks for free directly through an app (BorrowBox for Aberdeen City, Overdrive for Aberdeenshire) – all your family need to access this is a library card and a pincode.

Josie Crimp
Librarian

▶ **From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**



Attention 8th Grade Students and Parents:

Sign-up is in progress for participation in the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze level award for next school year. For planning purposes, it is imperative that students are signed up by Friday, 31st May, if they plan to participate.

There will be a 3:30pm information meeting on Wednesday, 29th May, in Room #214 (Mr Crock's room). The DofE Award Scheme will be fully explained. We will talk about why you should and why you should not sign up for DofE. Please come along and bring all of your questions. Alternatively, see the email you should have received Thursday afternoon, 16th May, or contact Mr Crock (bcrock@isa247.org.uk).

Attention High School Students:

If you are still interested in participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and have not previously participated, please contact Mr Crock immediately.

If you are a current DofE participant and are interested in progressing to the next level, please remember that your registration forms for the next level are also due to Mr Crock by Friday, 31st May.

▶ **From the School Nurse**

Hi all,

This week we just wanted to give a little reminder to you all with regards to our little friend the Head Louse.



Bug Busting

As you know, head lice are always on the go but we have had a few of the older students who appear to have picked them up; don't panic as this is an extremely common occurrence in schools. The best way to know if your child or you have head lice is to comb through your hair when wet. If you find any then you can go to your local pharmacy and buy one of the proprietary brand treatments or ask for a "Bug Busting Kit", all of which can be supplied on the minor illness system.,,There is no need to attend at your GP for head lice.

If your child does have head lice then it is best to treat the whole family and, also, if you could advise the school as this is our only way of knowing how many cases there are. There is an excellent website that you can access to give you more information:
<http://www.chc.org/homedir/faq.cfm>.

Also, we have had a few suspected cases of chicken pox in High School this week. If your child has spots and feels unwell then please keep them off school until the spots have either crusted over or gone.

So now I have you all itching (me too!) have a great weekend and see you all next week.



Karen Munro
School Nurse

RECYCLING FOR A GOOD CAUSE ...

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Please collect all your used postage stamps and hand them in to Mary Rayne, Elementary School Secretary.

They will be sent off to The Oldies Club which is a charity for old dogs. They rescue and try to find forever homes for older dogs ... <http://www.oldies.org.uk/>

Thank you.
Mary

High School Exam Schedule

Wednesday, June 5			Thursday, June 6			Friday, June 7			Monday, June 10		
BLOCK D/C @ 8:30-10:30a.m			BLOCK H/G @ 8:30-10:30a.m			BLOCK A/B @ 8:30-10:30a.m			BLOCK A/B @ 8:30-10:30a.m		
RM 213	Physics 10	Thomson	RM 211	IB1 ESS	West	RM 215	Chemistry 10	West	MPR 2	Int Sci 9	NC/GT
RM 209	IB1 English	Ordonez	RM 117	Span L Int	Gair	MPR 1	IB1 Chem	Carmichael	RM 217	Biology 10	Fletcher
RM 218	Maths 9C	Hoey	RM 116	Fre L Int	CB/AC	MPR 2	Global Per 9	LK/CB	RM 212	IB1 Econ	Ritschel
MPR 2	Math 9E	Crock	RM 114	French U Int	de Haan						
			Rm 115	Span U Int	Ubet						
LS Room	JP/KF		LS Room	KF/NC		LS Room	JC/KW		LS Room	CO/NR	
Room 211	JF/CR								Room 211	JU/GV	
Wednesday, June 5			Thursday, June 6			Friday, June 7			Monday, June 10		
BLOCK B/A @ 12:00-2:00p.m.			BLOCK F/E @ 12:00-2:00p.m.			BLOCK C/D @ 12:00-2:00p.m.			BLOCK C/D @ 12:00-2:00p.m.		
RM 218	1B1 Math SL	Purpura	MPR 1	English 9	VG/AD	MPR 1	Comp Sci	Veitch	MPR 2	Maths 10E	Crock
RM 214	1B1 Math Stud	Crock	MPR 2	English 10	Ordonez	RM 218	IB1 History	VG/LK	RM 218	Maths 10C	Purpura
RM 216	IB1 Math HL	T Garry	RM 217/215	IB1 Biology	JF/NC		<i>IGCSE Chem</i>		RM 117	IB1 Spanish Ab	Gair
MPR 1	GP 10	Klopp	RM 213	IB1 Physics	Thomson				RM 115	IB1 Spanish	Ubet
									RM 114	IB1 French Ab	de Haan
									RM 116	IB1 French	Bonnard
LS Room	RH/NR		LS Room	CG/KW		LS Room	LdH/KF		LS Room	CS/KF	
			Room 211	JW/MD							

Tuesday June 11th is Exam Make Up Day. There is also the Extended Essay breakfast and CAS session from 8:30am to 12:00pm for IB1 Students
Courses not listed have in-class projects *in lieu* of exams. Dead week starts on Thursday 30th May.
Grade 10 students that took an IGCSE in a particular subject are not required to sit the semester exam.



EMMA BOYD
JENNA SCOTT
NADIA
MCQUAKER
KAJIWARA
NYAH RITCHIE
KATIE TRIM

IB ONE ART FINAL EXHIBITION
3PM-4PM

TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2019
UPPER CORRIDOR

EVERYONE WELCOME



News From Your PTO

Friday 24th May 2019

KILT WALK

SUNDAY JUNE 2ND - ABERDEEN

Kilt Walk is a great Scottish fundraiser, where participants fund-raise for any registered Scottish Charity. Many current participants are fundraising on behalf of The Archie Foundation, The Trussel Trust which supports local food banks, and Cancer Charities.

The PTO's June Brown has very kindly organised a team for this year's Kilt Walk. 'The Big Stroll' is a 15 mile walk from Crathes Castle to Duthie Park.

Should you be interested in joining us then to register log on to the following website www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/events/aberdeen and when it asks for your team, enter The International School of Aberdeen PTO.

Many thanks and we hope to see a lot of you there on the day wearing your ISA Spirit Wear!

Further details - pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

THE Big Stroll



- Miles: 15
- £31.65 per adult/child (10-15 years)
- Departs from Crathes Castle at 11am.
- Hot meal provided at the finish line!
- Dogs welcome (no registration required)
- Strollers are permitted, however portions of the walk may prove difficult!

PTO VACANCIES

Want to meet other ISA families? Exercise your skills and share your perspectives? There is a place for you on our PTO Board! Open vacancies:

- Fundraising Coordinator
- Social Coordinator
- Social Associate



If you are interested reach out to any PTO board member or contact us through Facebook or at pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

ISA SPIRITWEAR

ON SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 2:30-4:30



Micro Fleece Zip/Up Jacket

Pullover Hoodie w/Tartan ISA Logo

Prepare for the Kilt Walk and show off your Spiritwear! For more information email spiritwearisa@gmail.com



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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