Important Dates

September
27 HS Dance, 6:30-9:00pm
30-4 Oct MS Activities Week

October
1 Grade 11 University & Admissions Overview, 3:00-4:00pm
1 Careers Clinic with Grade 11 Students, 4:00-5:00pm
1 Alternative Routes Talk for Parents, 6:00-7:00pm
3-5 MS Volleyball Tournament
3 French Play “Les garçons”, 11:45am-12:45pm in the Black Box
4 HS Breakfast, 9:40am
5 SAT
7-11 International Week
7 ES International Assembly, 8:30am in The QET
7 PTO Meeting, 9:30am
10 International Flag Parade/Global Village, 6:00pm
14-18 OCTOBER HOLIDAY WEEK

From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Most of my childhood memories come from special events rather than every day routines. It’s birthdays and Christmases that, looking back, I use to mark the passage of time; not the daily requirement to make my bed or wash up after dinner. Those tasks may have been done a hundred times more; but now, although I know that I did them, I struggle to conjure up a specific memory. Images of my twelfth birthday will never leave me.

It is the same for school: I remember running in a sports day but not any of the hundreds of PE lessons I had, taking surveys on a geographic field trip more than time in the classroom, speaking French on a weekend exchange trip but not the course either side.

Of course, if life were all events and no routines it would be considerably more stressful and chaotic; I am not sure that would make it more memorable. Schools should mix the two. Students should build up knowledge, skills and understanding through every day practice, but also have opportunities to put those new attributes into practice and to broaden their character.

At ISA this month, there has been plenty of opportunities for both. In the first couple of weeks of a school year, teachers establish routines and expectations with their classes. When everyone knows what they should be doing, as well as how and when, the classroom becomes a place of
productive, intentional and ongoing learning. This doesn’t happen if students are filling up their brains with questions like ‘where do I sit?’ or ‘where’s my pen?’ instead of ‘how do I best express this idea?’ Years later, students may not remember specific moments in learning, but do develop with deep structures of understanding.

With routines established in August, September has been a month of memorable moments as well: trips to the Edinburgh Book Festival, old people’s homes, hotels, and National Trust properties, the Grade 5 camp, IB Biology and ESS investigations, Grade 4’s ‘First Note Day’, a talk from a Holocaust survivor - to name just the most obvious. All of these have given students to explore the world beyond the classroom, to develop themselves more fully.

ISA is a place both of rigorous learning and of opportunity. It is through both that students become tomorrow’s global citizens.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

Thank you to those who made it in for the Principal's Coffee Morning. It was great to hear from our students and gain an insight into some of the exciting projects they are working on. Sustainable development is an important theme in our curriculum, and I am always pleased when students think about issues through the 3 lenses of Environmental, Economic, and Social sustainability. One of our environmental clubs is having to think hard about how it can create the best buy-in for the concept of ‘Fairtrade’ goods, as it aims to move us towards being a Fairtrade School. I am sure you will see more events relating to this over the coming months.

The School has recently reviewed its language acquisition policy, and the next step of the process will be to make this a living document, putting the vision into practice. It was timely, then, that this week saw a Scots language expert visiting ISA to run a presentation in The Queen Elizabeth Theatre for Middle and High School students. Next week, our HS French students can look forward to a French play being performed on campus, ahead of International Week which will see many more languages and cultures celebrated.

Last week, our Middle School voted on its Executive Committee – congratulations to the new office holders; and, this evening, the HS Student Council will hold its first event of the year, the Neon Dance. Our MS students have a lot of fun activities to look forward to from Monday, whether it is at the outdoor education centre or locally-based. For Grade 11 students and their parents, there are opportunities to look ahead to life beyond ISA, and the week will finish on a high with our HS Student Council hosting a breakfast.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal
Dear Parents,

Transfer as the POINT of Education:
"We feel disappointed because we dominated the 90 minutes, but we were not aggressive in the last third in the way you expect." Premier League Manager 24/09/19

I’m a sports fan. In particular, I enjoy football. As a supporter of one team, I’m hopeful every year that my club can improve and compete for trophies. For that to happen, I often look to what is called the ‘Transfer Window’ with great expectation. This year, I faced the usual disappointment as my team once again did not ambitiously improve their defensive player options. After the transfer window closed, expert commentators passed a grim judgement on the likelihood of success for my team.

Fortunately, there is more than one type of transfer. Thus far this season, my team has done better than many predicted. Success on the pitch, however, has not been from newly-acquired players, but largely from the existing team and a number of young players who have worked through the club’s youth ranks. The established team seems better at adjusting to the demands of their manager, and have been able to react more effectively to each opponent they face. The defense is still poor, but the team, as a whole, has transferred its manager’s strong work ethic and a positive attacking formation into success on the pitch.

Application of the skills taught on the training ground to a game situation is what any team manager would expect. There is no point in doing drills if the team can only react to an opponent if they line up and play exactly as rehearsed in practice.

In education, we also value the ability of our students to apply their learning, especially to novel situations. Grant Wiggins, an advocate for Authentic Education, described Transfer as the aim of education. “The point of school is not to get good at school but to effectively parlay what we learned in school in other learning and in life.”

In our class lessons, teachers are aware that transfer doesn’t occur just because content is covered. A perfect score on a worksheet about personification doesn’t demonstrate understanding of the value/impact, particularly for empathy, of this literary device. We need to provide opportunities for application to occur if we want our students to demonstrate authentic transfer.

The following is an example of personification used when fifth graders read The One and Only Ivan by Katharine Applegate. The main character, Ivan, is a gorilla that is given human qualities. Ivan states in the book:

“I think for a while. It's hard to put into words. Gorillas are not complainers. We're dreamers, poets, philosophers, nap takers.”

Students can only prove their understanding of a topic like personification, if they are given opportunities to use their learning in different and often unfamiliar tasks. Personification is best understood, and indeed assessed, if learners have to complete tasks that challenge them to make sense of past learning in unfamiliar tasks.

As a best practice school, our goal is not simply to ask students to learn stuff and then be tested on that learning. Rather, as Wiggins explains, “Assumptions about transfer accompany the belief that it is better to broadly ‘educate’ people than simply ‘train’ them to perform particular tasks.”
As parents, when your child comes home to share a piece of individual learning with you, try to challenge him/her by creating new and unfamiliar scenarios/tasks to see if the learning has been transferred.

* (Taken from ‘Transfer as the point of education” a blog posted by Grant Wiggins 11/01/12)

Best regards,

**Don Newbury,**
Elementary Principal

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**From the Fine Arts Department**

*‘The Global Village’*
**Thursday, 10th October 2019**
The Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Following The International Flag Parade

Enjoy cultural talents from around the world from our ISA community!!

*The Armistice Day Recital*
*‘Empowering Women Together’*
**Tuesday, 5th November 2019**
9:15am
The Queen Elizabeth Theatre

The ISA Performing Arts Departments are proud to present this year's Armistice Day Recital, ‘Empowering Women Together’. Join us as we commemorate our veterans of past and present.

This week the High School Art and ToK students had the privilege of meeting the American artist, Tom Huck. This artist is completing a residency at Peacock Visual Arts over an 8-week period, where he is making his latest print for the New York Art Fair 2020. Tom Huck took time out of his busy schedule to give a very personal and fascinating talk about what it means to be an artist and how his artwork has developed over the years. At the end of the talk, the students asked some very thought-provoking questions, which will enhance their learning in ToK and their art classes.
Each student was delighted to receive an original artwork by the artist which helped give a very memorable morning for all who attended.

The ISA Fine Arts Department

From the Middle School Student Council

We are delighted to announce the Middle School have voted for their representatives for 2019-20

Thank you to all the candidates who participated in the election campaign this year. It takes a lot of courage to deliver such quality speeches in front of an audience. Thank you also to the candidates who, despite not being chosen, still want to be part of the StuCo as Class Representatives. We are a big team, and I’m looking forward to working with you all. Our first meeting is Wednesday, 25th September.

Have a great weekend.

Ms Sanz

MS StuCo 2019-2020

PRESIDENT
Connor Huff

VICE-PRESIDENT
Marla Carmichael

SECRETARY
Orla Woods

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Enisa Kolonic
Class representatives

6
Ahmad Kadhum
Guillemette Delcros
Sonya Swavrick

7
Jonathan Lupfer
Sadie Roberts
Andreas Jones
Ola Ogunsakin
Fisola Onafeko

8
Marco Mosca
Lateefah Adebayo

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.
GRADE TWO PLAY
TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 18.30
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 16.30
Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Tickets cost 5 Pounds
Please ask at Reception

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ABERDEEN
presents
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE TRASH KIND
Trunk or Treat 2019!

October 26
4-6 PM

Bring your car, bring your family and have fun!

Sign up to decorate your car now by emailing lklopp@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk!
STREET FOOD
A great opportunity for you to share a national dish!

The PTO is organising the food for the International Festival, and hence we would like to encourage all of you to bring in a finger food national dish (a dish you would eat in your home country). In this page you will find more information.

Please refer to the school guidelines for food preparation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO BRINGS A NATIONAL DISH?
We are asking all parents to please bring a national dish.

WHO WILL TASTE MY DISH?
All dishes will make up an International buffet in the area around the cafeteria for all parents, children and ISA staff to taste.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I BRING?
One plate of your national dish per family, or more. It is all up to you!

DO I NEED TO LABEL FOOD?
Yes, over the next week you will receive a simple form that needs to be completed and brought in with your dish.

FOODS TO AVOID?
Please do not bring dishes that contain nuts. ISA has a ‘No Nuts’ policy. We would recommend that you avoid fresh cream as it is very sensitive to temperatures.

CAN I SERVE HOT FOOD?
If you intend to serve hot food or soups please be aware that they need to be served at a slightly cooler, safe and easy to eat temperature to avoid scalding.

WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE?
Tables will be set up. Recyclable plates, cups, and cutlery will be provided, as well as napkins. Water stations will be available.

CAN I VOLUNTEER TO HELP?
Yes, we always welcome volunteers. More information about helping out will be released early next week. Alternatively please email PTO with your name and we will be in touch.

FOOD LOGISTICS

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I BRING MY FOOD?
Please bring your dish and the completed form to the event. Volunteers will help direct you where to place the dish before making your way to the Gym hall for 6:00PM.

Dishes can be dropped-off at the Crathes meeting room opposite the Pitfodels House reception. Please clearly mark if it requires refrigeration. The volunteer team will ensure it is placed in the cafe fridges.

If you are sending dishes in with your children there will be a trolley placed at the drop-off reception.

Event volunteers and coordinators will be there to help you during the day.

STREET FOOD
7:00-8.00 PM
THE STREET

NEXT PTO MEETING
Monday
October 7
9.30 AM
St. Andrews room

FOOD COORDINATORS

UK - Melanie Kinch Cutler
France - Sonia Gasbarian
Indonesia - Megawati Lim
Africa - Ngor Ojabo and Christabelle Aguy
India - Swati Podar
Italy - Giulia Melzani
Netherlands - Nienke Dashorst
Scandinavia - Lisbeth Kathleen and Trine Haugen
Lebanon - Rana Aljabr
Brazil - Francine Alves Nunes
Russia - Yulia Oag
USA - Kelly Byerley

If you are bringing food for countries/regions not mentioned here please do not worry the above are volunteers who have stepped forward to help coordinate the numbers of dishes, so please continue to bring a dish in and we will ensure it is placed with the right region on the night.

Email addresses of food coordinators available on FB.
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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