



7th September 2018

Important Dates

September

10-14	Grade 5 Field Trip
10	Start of MS StuCo Election Campaign
10	Grade 5 Parent Welcome Coffee, 9:00am
10	Grade 6 Parent Welcome Coffee, 2:00pm
11	Grade 12 UCAS Statement Workshop (with Inspiring Futures), 3:00-4.30pm
13	MS/HS Open House, 6:00-8:15pm
14	University of Dundee – Application & Admissions Presentation, 9:30-10:30am
14-16	Grades 6-9 Boys & Girls Volleyball Tournament
14-16	MUN Conference
17	Lanterna Visit (for IB Students)
19	PTO Walk & Coffee, 8:30am
21	IB Art Trip
21	MS Student Council Elections
22-24	DofE Silver Award Practice Expedition
24	ABERDEEN LOCAL HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

► From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

In 1904, shortly after the Wright brothers had flown a few hundred yards at Kitty Hawk heralding a new era of powered flight, a British newspaper offered the incredible sum of £1000 to anyone who built a plane that could fly across the English Channel. Around 40 miles or so. Le Matin, a Parisian paper immediately denounced it as a gimmick: money that would never have to be paid, such a long flight clearly being impossible.

Indeed, the prize remained unclaimed for 5 years despite the best efforts of many people. But in 1909, Louis Bleriot, at his twelfth attempt, finally managed to make it across this once-impossible divide. And he didn't just fly his plane, he had designed and built it as well.

It is the story of a lone genius. The highly gifted and determined individual. Education systems at the time liked these kinds of stories. They designed classrooms which separated children from each other on lone desks; they singled out, promoted and celebrated the students with the highest academic scores; everyone else could keep their face down.

That is not the modern world. The achievements of our age are made through collaboration, in utilising the talents of many, not just the few.

Bleriot flew 60 km and 72 km/h at a height of 76 metres. The Boeing 777, designed a bit closer to our time, flies at 900 km/h at an altitude of 11km, and could still make it across the English Channel if it flew from Japan. And when it does fly that far, it isn't a Mr Boeing at the controls, in a plane he made and designed himself. In fact, teams of engineers from companies in the US, Britain, Japan, Australia and Hong Kong designed and built it. A collaborative culture that is 15 times as fast and 150 times higher than one of lone geniuses.

At ISA we believe in "each child, every opportunity." We live in a world that cannot afford to celebrate just the few, but must encourage everyone to achieve their personal bests.

By working together, we can achieve so much more.

Next week, Grade 5s go on their overnight field trip. Next month, Middle-Schoolers will do the same. In a couple of weeks, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has its first practice expeditions of the year. Such activities are not nice add-ons to the real business of learning. They are a vital part of it. These are opportunities for students to challenge themselves, and to meet those challenges by working with others.

Make sure your child uses the opportunity to take part. Together we fly higher and further.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

► From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

This next week is the Middle and High School Open House on Thursday, starting at 6pm in The QET, and I hope you will be able to visit the School that evening. It is a great opportunity to put a name to a teacher's face, and the insight you will get into your child's courses will help you talk to them about their daily experiences. It is also an important first step in building a partnership with the teachers to help your son or daughter get the most from their time at ISA.

Parents and students will have access again to gradebooks on Powerschool from Monday. New families will have log-in details sent to them, and returning families will still have access using their previous usernames and passwords. If you are struggling to access the system, please contact Sinatra Farquharson. I encourage you to 'click freely' and explore the software, as often more information can be found behind the initial number displayed. I am keen that students avoid becoming overly focused on the numerical aspect to the feedback. The indicators serve as a means to open conversations between teachers, students and parents to support students in reaching their full potential.

The Middle School Activities week is looking like being a busy and fun-packed 5 days. Students were in good spirits for the recent House Challenge day, and I hope friendships can continue to be built during this week in October.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the HS survey on trips. With the Grade 10 trip established for this year it will be hard to make large scale changes this time round. The very varied feedback suggests we will struggle to please everyone, but looking beyond this academic year I believe there are things we can look at as a faculty to meet more of our families' needs.

Middle School students will be thinking about the upcoming elections, and I would encourage anyone considering running for a post to take the chance and get involved. Many students in High School are running for Class Representative positions, and I am impressed by how both these groups are evolving; to provide an effective student voice and a platform to develop leadership and collaborative skills.

Finally, a reminder that whilst we are fortunate enough to be part of a community where the ISA Values are generally well upheld, looking after one's possessions is a good habit for students to form. Our lost property box is already full, and students should remember that their lockers have codes that they can use to safeguard valuable items.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

► From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

• A Time for Sharing Information

I'm lucky to have a beautiful office at the front of the School and in the centre of the Elementary classrooms. Each morning, I see happy children (and teachers) sauntering by with their friends, eager to greet each other, share a story, or show off their enthusiasm for being in school, often in a rush to get to their locker.

At last night's Open House, it was lovely to see so many parents, who also seemed delighted to be active participants in our school. The evening will have provided parents with a sense of what success looks like in each class, and how we strive for both academic and social achievement in an ambitious manner. We trust that you also gained a perception of grade level expectations and how, as parents, you can assist in making this a year of strong personal growth for any child you have at ISA. Hopefully, you sensed the joy and great fun we have every day in our classrooms. We all feel very fortunate to work at ISA and, of course, with each family.

As the year proceeds, the teachers will continue to keep you well informed of student progress. While we are delighted with our students, we don't intend to go easy on them.

A successful partnership in education requires mutual agreement and active support for high expectations, especially in regards to the quality of student work and the encouragement of student responsibility. As parents, we encourage you also to communicate with appropriate teachers to share questions, concerns and good news in a timely manner. Our motto is 'NO SURPRISES' as it's important that we always keep each other informed of student issues and progress.

• Practical Matters

I thought it might be helpful to list some reminders to assist in keeping our students safe and everyone aware of the school rules/requirements. Thank you for your support.

After School:

- Please pick up children on time if they are in an activity and supervise your son/daughter if they are waiting in The Street or at the playground.
- The purchase of snacks from the cafeteria is not allowed for Elementary students unless they are accompanied by a parent. Children should not attempt to buy a snack before boarding a school bus at 3pm.

Valuables at School:

Please do not send children to school with expensive phones or other items such as jewellery. We have a wonderful environment where property is respected, but can't be responsible for items that get lost or go missing.

Health and Consent Forms:

If you haven't turned your forms in yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Cycling to School:

We are delighted to see students cycle to school, but ask that they walk their cycles when they enter the car park and pedestrian areas of the school grounds.

Best regards,

Don Newbury
Elementary Principal

► **From the Fine Arts Department**

Enjoy the beautiful artwork around ISA and watch the digital display board outside The Queen Elizabeth Theatre for upcoming shows, concerts and arts events!

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS! Share your talent in the cultural performance of The Global Village on Thursday, 25th October in The QET! Sign up to perform with Mr Walter or Mr Coutts. Be a part of this wonderful evening!

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS

The International Committee are on the look out for singers, dancers and performers for the International Evening on October 25th.

Please contact Mr Walter or Mr Coutts to sign up.

The image shows a digital display board with a grey header containing the text 'CALLING ALL PERFORMERS'. Below the header is a white box with a blue border containing the text: 'The International Committee are on the look out for singers, dancers and performers for the International Evening on October 25th. Please contact Mr Walter or Mr Coutts to sign up.' At the bottom of the board are three photographs: the first shows two women in traditional attire performing on stage; the second shows a group of performers on stage; the third shows a woman playing a violin on stage.

► From the School Nurse

Hi everyone – Friday again!

Next week, I am going to be sending out flu immunisation forms for the Kindergarten through to and including G6; you will have until the 21st September to return these. The schedule will be carried out on 29th November. I know that's a while away but, unfortunately, the NHS have to wait for their pharmacy to obtain the vaccine. Pre-School children should be called to have this done by your health visitor, and anyone with a lower immune system due to an on-going condition will be invited to attend at their GP surgery for theirs. Older students will, unfortunately, need to go privately if you want them to be vaccinated. Remember, even if you don't want your child to have this done, please still return the form as non-consent. If you have any concerns with these forms then please feel free to either drop in by the Nurse's Office or give me a call, and I will do my best to answer any questions you may have. Thanks for this; I really do appreciate all your co-operation with the forms, etc.



Enough from me - I hope you all have a great weekend. Keep safe and well.

Karen
School Nurse



What's New This Week

Friday 7th September 2018

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Thanks to everyone who made it to the Grade coffees this week. They have been so well attended by both new and returning parents. Our Reps and CECs have been working hard to share grade specific information with you, so if you haven't already done so, it would be very helpful to get the remaining data protection forms in so that we can reach out to you all directly. If you haven't heard from your CEC please reach out to them so that they have your contact details for sharing further information.

Happy Spirit Wear Day! Nienke and Jacqueline from Spirit Wear have been working hard to ensure that our kiddos, parents and teachers are able to show off their school spirit! With the cooler weather on it's way and sporting teams traveling on their first trips away, let them help you to prepare. See Jacqueline and Nienke every Wednesday for team jackets, hoodies, fleeces, dry fit shirts and more! All proceeds go to the PTO to help fund the activities and enrichments that we support.

Have a great week!

the PTO team

 ISA Parent Teacher Organisation
 pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

Join in the fun
Get involved as a CEC



Grade 12 parents!
we are looking for a
Grade 12 CEC

SPIRIT WEAR TEAM JACKETS

Our team jackets are perfect for this time of year
If your kids are traveling away to represent the school or simply complaining "but everyone else has one", see Nienke and Jacqueline on Wednesday outside the library in the street from 2.30 until 4.30
or contact them by email
spiritwearisa@gmail.com

PTO

WALK AND COFFEE

8.30 WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

Join us at 8.30 for a walk along the Deeside line to Costa Coffee in Cults
Meet old friends, make new friends, get some fresh air and enjoy a warm cuppal
We look forward to seeing you