



11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Important Dates

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### October

- 14-18 **OCTOBER HOLIDAY WEEK**
- 21 **PTO Autumn General Meeting, 9:00am**
- 25 **University of Aberdeen Admissions Presentation**
- 25 **MS Halloween Dance, 5:30-8:00pm**
- 26 **NHS 'Trunk or Treat', 4:00-6:00pm**
- 27 **CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR AT 02:00AM**
- 30 **PSAT II Testing**

### November

- 1-2 **MS Soccer Tournament**
- 1 **Peacock Visual Arts IB Workshop**
- 2 **SAT**
- 4 **PTO Meeting, 9:30am**
- 4 **'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' (Grade II)**
- 5 **Armistice Day Recital, 9:15am in The QET**
- 6-9 **ISSA Boys' Soccer Tournament**
- 6-10 **ISSA Girls' Soccer Tournament**
- 7 **EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM**
- 7-8 **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

## ► **From the Head of School**

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**Dear Parents,**

When I was at school, I learnt that vaccines had been invented by the British doctor, Edward Jenner. I also learnt about other great British inventions: the steam engine, the train and industrialisation being just three that spring to mind from a far longer list designed to install patriotic pride.

A few years later when I was working in China, I discovered that Chinese doctors had known all about vaccination since the 10th century, several hundred years before Jenner had ever begun why milk maids didn't get smallpox.

Later still, a French colleague told me that effective vaccinations began after his compatriot Louis Pasteur came up with germ theory.

What I was taught as a simple fact as a child, turned out to be a matter of perspective.

Yesterday, I met with Scotland's three other IB schools and the IB's UK representative to discuss future developments in a programme that has grown from just 54 students graduating students in 1971, to more than 150,000 today.

As a formal set of exams, it began in the 1970s - as a thought it traces its origins back to the International School Geneva (ISG) in 1950, which in the wake of World War II, it determined to promote an "understanding of the present world as a world in which peoples are interdependent and which cooperation is necessary."

In the next couple of decades as both international trade and international institutions grew, more people worked abroad; international schools grew in size and became more diverse.

Bob Leach was teaching history at ISG during those times of growth and change. One year, he introduced the topic of World War II; one girl announced - as a matter of fact she had learnt back home - that her country had 'won the war.' Students from other nations in the classroom were confused, they had been told it was their country that had won the war (although others may have helped).

Leach realised that an international classroom required not only mutual respect but higher level thinking skills. Students couldn't merely repeat 'facts' given by their teacher, they had to be able to inquire critically into sources of information, consider their perspectives and to evaluate their worth.

Over the next ten years he worked with colleagues from around the world to develop the IB Diploma programme into one that developed higher level thinking skills to promote "an understanding of those things that unite us."

At last night's International Festival we celebrated the ISA's values of respect, diversity and community. But it is also worth remembering that to exercise them well requires the further ISA value of excellence - academic excellence specifically.

Last night, students carried their own flags proudly - we *should* be proud of our own heritage - Jenner was definitely part of the story of human progress - but we should also realise that we are part of a common human heritage - Jenner was not the whole story of vaccination.

Kind regards,

**Nicholas Little**  
Head of School

## ▶ **From the MS/HS Principal**

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**Dear Middle/High School Parents,**

The students and teachers are about to receive a well-earned break, and I hope you are able to enjoy some time with family and friends. The last few weeks have gone by incredibly quickly but, hopefully, the comments and feedback shared in the progress reports on PowerSchool will enable students to finish the second half of this semester strongly when they return.

I have enjoyed hearing stories from the MS Activities Week, and we are already talking about options for next Autumn and, indeed, 2021. We are hoping to be able to make use of different

centres around the country so that students spending three years in our Middle School get the opportunity to have a range of experiences during their time with us.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended and supported the International Night celebrations. This is the high point of a very enjoyable week in our calendar. I am keen, though, that our students maintain an international mind-set throughout the whole year, and our presenter at the recent assembly highlighted the importance of this. It is worth noting that the IB's Mission Statement speaks directly to this theme; 'The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect....'

There is the Middle School Halloween dance and 'Trunk or Treat' at the end of the week when we return, all of which will hopefully make coming back to school after a restful holiday a little easier.

**Angus Carmichael**  
MS/HS Principal

## ▶ **From the Elementary Principal**

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Dear Parents,

### • **Story Telling and Picture Books**

The Circus by Brian Wildsmith is the title of one of my favourite picture books. The story begins, "The circus comes to town" ... and ends, "The circus goes away". These are the only words in the book.

In Kindergarten, the stage one books from the Oxford Reading Series also tell a story without an emphasis on words. In the first weeks of Kindergarten, the teachers use books with few or no words to stimulate language development in children. Wordless books, such as 'The Haircut', allow children to enjoy following a plot without straining to decode words. The pictures free a child's imagination to interpret the author's ideas in their own way. If your child brings home a picture book, either from the classroom or the Library, encourage them to interpret the pictures to tell a story. The skills they use to infer, predict, or invent plot details will serve them well as they develop their reading skills.

In all of our grades, storytelling is a valuable teaching tool and a means for encouraging oral expression. Over the October holiday, I hope each of our students has exciting experiences, which can lead to stories they can share with their classmates. Parents are encouraged to send their children back to school on 21<sup>st</sup> October with one or two well-rehearsed holiday tales.

### • **A Final Note on the International Festival at ISA**

This week, a great 'buzz' echoed throughout the School as students, teachers and parents celebrated internationalism at ISA. I often ask the children to share their outfit plans for the Parade. They always smile and many say, "It's a secret!" It's clear to see the delight everyone has in celebrating where they come from. It's also so encouraging to share in the joy children and parents get from making the most of the occasion! Of course, on Friday, many students talked of their pleasure from trying food from other countries and visiting the wonderful displays in the classrooms and hallways. In our current fifth grade, we have students from at least 21 countries representing 15 different mother tongue languages. (Some children have more than one nationality.) The fifth grade population is a great example of our International student body. In a busy and ambitious school, we often don't take time to pause and reflect on the unique make-up

of our student population. I believe the 'International Festival' week is extremely important because we all get to observe, reflect and celebrate the rich cultural diversity we enjoy amongst the families who attend ISA. The Elementary assembly on Monday allowed each class to share what they have learned about another country. The student performances were amazing! By learning about an unfamiliar culture/nation, the children have enhanced their appreciation of cultural diversity and, hopefully, established a more personal connection/respect for others. The 'link' with other cultures is further fostered by our colourful Flag Parade of countries on Thursday evening and, of course, with the entertainment and amazing spread of tasty food from so many different places found in the 'Global Village'. I especially liked a comment this year from one of our teachers, *"My favourite part of the evening celebration is to share in the wonderful friendships that are at the heart of our international community."* I'm excited to see our 'INTERNATIONAL' celebrations continue all year, and encourage families to share their own cultural traditions with the School in a timely manner.

Whether you are travelling or staying in Aberdeen, I hope your October holiday is rewarding and filled with lots of family fun.

Best regards,

**Don Newbury,**  
Elementary Principal

## ▶ **From the Fine Arts Department**

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OUTSTANDING work from the ISA MS Tech Crew in the Global Village! Well done on a brilliant performance!!!

**The Armistice Day Recital**  
**'Empowering Women Together'**  
**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The ISA Fine Arts Department**

# 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

## ▶ From the Transport Co-ordinator

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### REFLECTIVE CLOTHING

With the clocks going back soon, winter is not far away. Soon your child will be travelling to and from school in darkness.

**It can be very difficult to see pedestrians who are dressed in dark clothes.** To improve your children's safety, now is the time for them and you to wear bright and reflective clothing, or armbands, when walking to and from the bus pick-up and drop-off points.

**Think safety!**

Kind regards  
**Ron Falconer**

## ▶ From the Pre-School

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**Thank You** - All at Pre-School would like to say a huge thank you to the PTO, as we recently took delivery of our new mud kitchen, which they very kindly funded. Local craftsman, Callum Crews, from Crews Wood Crafts, did an outstanding job - we especially love our school sign! The children have demonstrated a renewed enthusiasm for mud pies and other tasty treats, using the oven for that 'perfect bake' or the hob to heat the hot chocolate for the colder days, using the wonderful resources that nature provides - which includes washing the dishes afterwards!



## ▶ From the Pool

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Please note that all ISA swimming pool events are now available on the ISA website. All swimming sessions are updated regularly, so please refer to the following:

<https://www.isa.aberdeen.sch.uk/pages/news-info/isa-pool-calendar>

**Sam Kazmierski**  
Aquatics Manager

## ► From the Middle School Student Council

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Middle School students are invited to the annual **Halloween Dance on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Black Box from 5:30 to 8:00pm, £5 per student.**

There will be pizza, soft drinks and sweet treats. Students are asked to wear their best Halloween outfits to the dance. There will be prizes for the scariest, most creative and best group effort costumes.

We are looking forward to a fun evening of good music and good company.

Please remember that mobile phones will not be allowed at the dance.

Parents, please be prompt in picking up your child from the dance at 8:00pm. Thank you.

*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.*

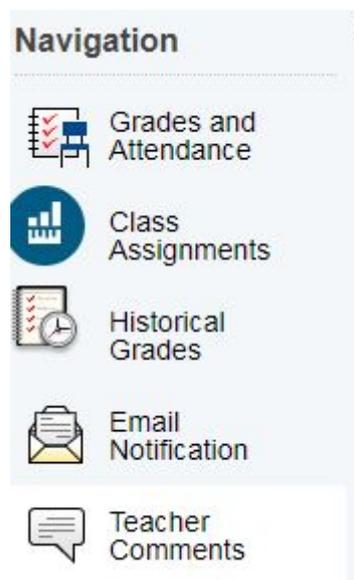
# Tech Talk - 11th October 2019

## PowerSchool - Reports

Some of you have been wondering why the grades are not available on the PowerSchool portal over the past week. This is because we always close off the grades to allow Middle and High School teachers to write their report comments and finalise grades for the Progress 1 report. We have also disabled access to some Elementary School data, as teachers are entering data there for the new Elementary School reports which we are trialling for Grade 5 at the end of Q1.

Middle and High School reports are now live and available on the PowerSchool Portal - follow the directions below to find out how to view all the data available:

1. Read teacher comments by clicking on 'Teacher Comments' on the left.
2. Click on 'Grades and Attendance' on the left and then on the 'Standards Grades' tab to see Learning Habits (Responsibility, Engagement and Collaboration) and reporting standards for Middle School students.  
TIP: Click on 'Expand All' to see them all at once!



3. Back on the 'Grades and Attendance' tab (shown above) you will see all the final grades for High School courses only. Middle School courses receive broken down grades in the Standards tab, rather than a 'Final Grade' for the subject.
4. To see even more data for each subject you can click on the Final Grade for High school, or on the [i] for Middle School (shown below)

Attendance By Class																
Exp	Last Week							This Week							Course	S1
	M	T	W	H	F	S	S	M	T	W	H	F	S	S		
A(1)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MS SPANISH B [i] Email [ ]	[i]
B(1)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MS ENGLISH 7 [i] Email [ ]	[i]
C(1)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	MS COMP STUDIES [i] Email [ ]	[i]

### WATCH THIS SPACE!

New improved printable PDF report cards are coming soon - we will be trialling this with Grade 5 student progress reports just after the October break, for rolling out to the whole school eventually!

# BE SEEN BE SAFE



## **Wearing the right clothing when out on the roads makes a huge difference to your safety.**

35 % of all traffic accidents involving pedestrians happen in the dark. Wearing a reflective item in the dark reduces the risk of being run over by 85 %. If you use reflective items, it will give the driver a whole 10 seconds to respond, as opposed to 2 second without reflectives!

## **Most of the students at ISA travel to and from school by bus.**

During winter months that will involve a commute in the dark. Students are vulnerable walking to and from their pick-up and drop-off locations and when crossing the road. Wearing Hi vis clothing and reflective discs will greatly improve their safety.



# BE BRIGHT BE SEEN. BE SAFE.



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# 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](mailto:LKLOPP@ISA.ABERDEEN.SCH.UK)!**

# NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

OCT 11  
2019



ISA Parent Teacher Organisation



[pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk)

## THANK YOU



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The PTO Cultural Liaison Team would like to thank all Teachers, Parents, Students and School Staff for their effort, commitment and support throughout the organisation of the International Festival. Without you the Event would just not be possible. Thank you all very much for contributing to the success of the Event.

Best wishes, Versha and Phoebe.

# Spree

ISA PTO is now fundraising via Spree! For every 2020 Spree book sold (priced at just 20£), ISA PTO will receive 5£. To get your book, email [kimberlyferris2@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyferris2@gmail.com) or look for us in the Street on Wednesdays. All vouchers in the 2020 book are valid now through to 1st Oct 2020.

## ISA PTO FUNDRAISING



ISA PTO FUNDRAISING VIA SPREE



HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

TRUNK OR TREAT

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 26TH  
4:00-6:00 PM**

Hosted by the High School National Honor Society: please join other ISA families for the Trunk or Treat from 4:00-5:15 PM and a Haunted House and Fun Fair from 4:30-5:45 PM. At 5:45 PM, after the Costume Parade, we will announce the winners for best costumes (kids) and best decorated car. All profits this year will support Grampian Flyers Wheelchair Basketball. Entrance to the event is free, but donations will be taken at the door.

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

As detailed under our objectives, the PTO works to raise funds to support the enrichment requests submitted by our ISA community. Teachers, staff and parents are welcome to make an "enrichment request" to the PTO for the part or full sponsorship of their project, activity or item. Application deadline for this term is October 31st!



## PTO AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING

Monday  
October 21  
9:00 AM

# PTO ADVERTS PAGE

OCT 11  
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](mailto:pto.advertising@gmail.com)



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