



12 December 2019

Important Dates

December

- NB: PowerSchool now closed to parents until 13 December at 4:00pm**
13 EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM – START OF WINTER HOLIDAY
13 PowerSchool opens to parents at 4:00pm

January

- 6 Start of 2nd Semester**
10 New Parent Welcome Coffee, 8:30-10:00am in The Street
11 SAT
13-17 Digital Citizenship Week
13 PTO Meeting, 9:30am
16 National Honor Society (NHS) Trivia Night, 3:30-4:30pm
18-19 Language Immersion Workshop – Language B Students

▶ **From the Head of School**

Dear Parents,

In 1867, Britain extended the vote to most men over the age of 21. Robert Lowe wrote at the time, “We cannot suffer any large number of our citizens, now that they have obtained the right of influencing the destinies of the country, to remain uneducated.” Three years later, Parliament passed the Elementary Education Act to ensure universal basic literacy and numeracy.

We educate for many reasons: for a good job, to socialise children, to improve the economy, to realise individual potential; but in a democracy, the most significant reason is citizenship - which is all those other things and more. It is also at the heart of ISA’s mission. It starts by highlighting the importance of an excellent education in a safe and caring environment. Which exists to challenge students to reach their maximum potential. So that as lifelong learners, they become “socially responsible active global citizens”.

Global citizenship starts with taking responsibility locally. The votes we cast this week are the most visible manifestation of democracy. It is a reminder that government isn’t just imposed upon us. Leaders are accountable for their decisions, and should face questions about what they do as well as how and why they do it. Students who are becoming citizens have to learn to ask good questions, to understand different perspectives and to engage with opposing views. These qualities are built into an international curriculum, which is as much about how you learn as what you learn.

Citizens don’t see government as parent to a child-like population. They not only expect to be part of the same discussion, they also take direct action. ISA students don’t just learn subjects,

they actively engage with environmental, community and political issues through activities such as eco-club, Amnesty International and the Wheelchair foundation. Indeed, students cannot graduate unless they can show service and involvement in the community.

I lived for 16 years in a dictatorship. The important difference between a dictatorship and a democracy isn't elections. Elections represent a larger idea: that we are all equal in dignity, and all can participate in decisions about our future. These are meaningful ideas on a day to day basis, not just every few years. And as Robert Lowe observed 150 years ago, to create this culture of trust and dignity requires education. At ISA, we believe an international education is the most effective way to do this.

I hope you have a great rest over the festive season and enjoy time with family and friends.

Best regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

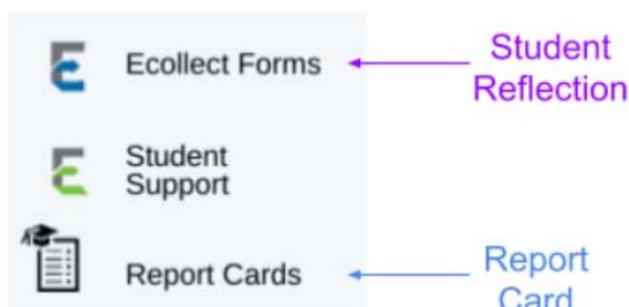
▶ From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

I hope the musical performances over the past couple of weeks have put you in the mood for an enjoyable break with family and friends. The '12 Days' song is now an established tradition at our final assembly, and is a fun way to round off the semester. I hope any parents joining us on Friday for that assembly at 10:00am will be in good voice!

This week, we have had students from Middle School travelling to a media event in Dundee, with others exploring the new Art Gallery in town. Thursday's trip to the ice rink, Transition Extreme and Innoflate was a fantastic way to close the semester, building a strong sense of community in our Middle School. When we return, we have a National Honor Society (NHS) Trivia Night to look forward to, along with Digital Citizenship Week and, for the first time, language immersion workshops for IB students.

PowerSchool re-opens as the semester finishes, and reports will be shared electronically through that system. Students have also completed a reflection (in the Ecollect section) and looked ahead to what they hope to develop next semester. A screenshot to point you in the direction of these is shown below. Do remember there is a lot more information stored within PowerSchool regarding academic achievement that you can access, and I would encourage you to log in and explore the system. To access reports you will need to be using a web browser rather than the app.



I look forward to welcoming back the students on 6th January 2020, and wish you a pleasant and safe holiday.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

▶ **From the Elementary Principal**

Dear Parents,

• **Happy Holidays!**

I'm sure that family fun and reunions with friends and loved ones will be a focus for many of you over the next three weeks. (Safe travels to everyone on the go!) I hope your vacation brings you great joy and much laughter. It's been a very strong first half of the school year and your children have all made solid progress. In the Elementary School, we divide our year into equal quarters. The mid-year progress reports will be mailed out on 24th January.

Over the break, games, reading and outdoor fun will be featured in many homes. I'm sure you will also enjoy lots of chatter from your children throughout the holiday. When it comes to conversations from children, I'd encourage parents to use this time as an opportunity to build up articulation skills. For young boys and girls, you might want to insist on the use of complete sentences, and for the older children parents could ask for additional and focused details about a particular experience. If you have relatives around, it might be a great opportunity to share wonderful stories about life in Aberdeen. After a holiday, filled with family fun, I look forward to seeing you when we return on Monday, 6th January 2020.

Best regards,

Don Newbury,
Elementary Principal

▶ **From the Fine Arts Department**

Outstanding work to all the ISA Elementary Performers in LUDWIG and A Winter Concert!!! Your hard work and effort really paid off! These were two beautiful performances!!!

BRAVO!!!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the ISA Fine Arts Department.

ATTENTION ALL ELEMENTARY PARENTS....

Any former band musicians out there? How long has it been since you played your band instrument? Time to get started again!

The Elementary School Band would like to invite all Elementary School parents who have played a band instrument long ago or currently to perform with the band. Yep! Now is your chance to play in that dream band once again! The idea is to create a bigger band and to share some quality time with parents and children.

We will perform one, possibly two pieces of music at an Elementary School Monday Assembly right before the April Holiday. I will give you the music in January.

So, while home this holiday season, find your instrument and bring it back with you. I can help get it into working condition and get you started!

If you have any questions, please let me know. I will be happy to help.

This is going to be awesome!

Kent Walter

ISA Band Director

kwalter@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

▶ From the School Nurse



Hi everyone – it's the last Thistle Talk of 2019.

We really want to see everyone back here after the holidays, safe and sound.

To those of you leaving the school, good luck in your travels and in your future ventures. We will miss you.

We hope everyone has an amazing Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Karen

School Nurse



Malawian boy with a streak of genius William Kamkwamba Visits School

By Finlay Angella, Iona Davies and Oluwateniola Sanya in Grade 4

A Malawian boy, William Kamkwamba, who made a windmill to save his village from a terrible famine, visited The International School Aberdeen on Friday, 6th December to give a talk to students from Grade 4 to Grade 8.

He got the idea to build a windmill while searching in a pile of books in a library, after being expelled from school because he could not afford to pay the fees. He managed to get all of the pieces for his windmill in a scrapyard near his house and built the windmill to light his house and pump water for the fields to grow maize to feed his family.

Many people and journalists came to see him and his windmill. William wrote a book with the help of Bryan Mealer called *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*. Netflix made a movie about his life so the whole world could see what he had done.

The Scotland-Malawi Partnership convinced William to come to Scotland and Mrs Lulu Davies got in touch and asked if he could come to the school (ISA) as Grade 4 have been learning all about Malawi, electricity and sustainability. Thankfully he did. Riverbank, Strathdon, Elrick, and Kinellar schools also came and everyone gathered in The QET (The Queen Elizabeth Theatre) to hear William's talk. The theatre was completely full.

When William Kamkwamba stepped up the stage, I was so thrilled that a real famous author had come to our school. I know other authors have come to my school before but for some reason it was different. I had learned so much about his story. As we walked down to the front row there he was in the flesh! I was so excited!

William explained how he wanted to build a windmill but everyone laughed at him, even William's mom thought he was crazy! At the end the children got the chance to ask some questions. He says nowadays he's building a place for children who have ideas for inventions and want to make them. He tries to inspire young people and he says "I try, and I made it!"

I went to sleep dreaming of Malawi, and all the things made possible when your dreams are powered by your heart. He certainly inspired us.



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

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.

NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

DEC 12
2019



ISA Parent Teacher
Organisation



pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It's a wrap! The first semester is over. We hope you all enjoyed it and are now off to spend some time with family and friends to recharge. Thank you to all who joined or supported the PTO events for this part of the year and hoping to see you all back more PTO events in 2020. There is more in store! Have a lovely break and see you back at ISA on Monday January 6th, 2020!



2020



NEW PARENT
WELCOME
COFFEE

NEW PARENT WELCOME COFFEE

Friday, January 10th at 8:30 AM

On Friday January 10th, we will be welcoming new ISA families to our school. Feel free to come and join for a nice cup of coffee to catchup with new and familiar faces at school. Looking forward to seeing you then after a long and relaxed break from school. Location: the Street on the ground floor.

ISA DAD'S CLUB FAMILY CURLING EVENT

Please join the ISA Dad's club on Sunday January 19th, 2020 from 10:00-12:00 AM for a curling event. Feel free to bring the entire family for a couple of hours of activity on the ice. The price is £25 per person. Please email isa.dads.club@gmail.com if you're interested. We need to lock the final number of participants by January 5th.



ISA
DAD'S CLUB
CURLING EVENT

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER PARTY

Marcliffe hotel
7:00 PM
March 14
Adults only



PTO
BOARD
MEETING

NEXT PTO MEETING

Monday
January 13
9.30 AM
St Andrew's
meeting room

PTO ADVERTS PAGE

DEC 12
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
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