



15th March 2019

Important Dates

March 2019

| | |
|-------|---|
| 18-22 | MS/HS Spirit Week |
| 21-22 | Poet Visit (MS/HS) |
| 21 | IB2 Final Art Exhibition in the Black Box & Upper Corridor |
| 22 | HS Breakfast, 9:40am |
| 22 | MS Free Event, 4:00-6:00pm |
| 28 | Aberdeen Youth Jazz Festival |
| 28 | EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM |
| 28 | Staff Appreciation Lunch, 10:00am-12 noon |
| 28-29 | Parent-Teacher Conferences |
| 31 | CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR AT 01:00AM |

► From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Egypt's first pharaoh ascended his throne just over 5000 years ago. Within a fairly short space of time his dynasty had established all the recognisable features of Egyptian civilisation: its religious system, the mummies, the hieroglyphics and the pyramids. It lasted like that for the next 3000 years. Compare that to the Mongol Empire (150 years), the British Empire (200 years) or even the Roman Empire (really no more than 500 years) - it's pretty amazing.

Egypt's geography was both the secret to its longevity, and the equally remarkable fact that it hardly changed over all that time. Egyptian civilisation is based around the Nile, which made the nearby lands incredible fertile, with enough surpluses to allow arts and culture to flourish. But either side were vast deserts, which both defended and insulated; the only access, in or out, was at the mouth of the Nile, which could be easily defended and beyond which the Egyptians had little reason to travel.

The Greeks on the other hand had all kinds of access to other peoples from their jagged coasts and their numerous small islands. They learnt their writing from others, their philosophy, their sculpture and their architecture. However, in a very short space of time they rapidly developed each of these into plays we still attend, philosophy we still read, and sculpture we still marvel at. Their rapid development is as remarkable as Egypt's stability.

Contact with others with different ways of doing things can be unsettling; if we shut up shop, we may feel like we can keep things as they are for ever: unchanging but safe. In the modern world, it can feel like we are divided between those that want their countries to be an Egypt and those that want them to be like Greece.

But we don't really have that choice: nowhere is surrounded by impassable terrain. We can only choose how, not whether, we engage with a diverse and globalised world. At ISA, this is not by putting our heads in the desert sands. For us, engagement encourages dynamism and creativity. Just this month, we have hosted international schools around the region for one tournament and visited Barcelona for another; Elementary teachers have gone to an Edinburgh conference to listen to educational academics from across the world (read Don Newbury's article below); Angus Carmichael has been on an accreditation visit to Kazakhstan, and I will go on one to Uganda. Each of these events has been an opportunity to learn from and influence others who do things differently.

ISA alumni will thrive in a rapidly changing world, equipped with a solid core of values such as respect, excellence, community, integrity and diversity. They will become lifelong learners, measuring their success by how they learn and grow, not like ancient Egypt by how much they resolutely stay the same.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little

Head of School

► **From ISA Re-accreditation Co-Chairs**

Dear All,

As part of our commitment towards self-reflection and professional development at ISA, we are currently undertaking the re-accreditation of our memberships to the professional bodies of the Council of International Schools (CIS) and The Middle States Association (MSA). Having membership with these organisations allows us to ensure that our current practice and facilities are meeting the high standard for which we strive, whilst benefitting from support and guidance from regional representatives. This re-accreditation process consists of a thorough period of self-reflection for the School, referred to as the 'Self-Study'. This involves in-depth discussions upon a number of essential questions, which are split into 8 domains, and the collection of data to show how well aligned we are to each of the standards within the CIS framework.

At ISA, we are a true partnership of students, parents, faculty, support staff and Board members and as a result of this, we would like to extend an invitation to you to become involved in the Self-Study process. We will shortly be sending you all an email with a link to our community survey. We do ask that you take the time to help us collect the highest quality of data we can by filling out this questionnaire in order to focus our discussions during this self-reflection process. Along with this opportunity, we are also looking for between 8 and 16 parent volunteers who would be willing to sit on one of the 8 domain committees for the Self-Study. If you think that this would be of interest to you and you have the time to commit to attending a few meetings, including helping to gather or suggest some relevant pieces of evidence, please let us know by registering your interest with our Google Form, available here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qActqkaXESg07QkEuNIDW7JaCTJOjqYZ7_ypDIbFrIE/edit

Please note, attendance to meetings on Friday, 5th April will be necessary, with more details to follow.

Kind regards,

Natalie Dalziel and Paul Bertolotto

► From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

I hope you will be able to find a time to meet with your child's teachers and discuss their progress later this month. The booking system for appointments opens at 4:00pm on 20th March. Taking part in these conferences and attending 'open house' sessions is an important aspect of being involved in what your child is doing. Further ways to engage could include asking children to take you through their assignments or probing for reflections on what was learnt in a particular class. Asking children about their school day as part of a daily routine will likely have a positive impact on their academic performance.

Last week, the Girls Senior Basketballers performed heroically to take 3rd place at their tournament. With a small squad of younger players, their story is the stuff that films are made about. The Boys finished 6th in their tournament and received high praise from their coaches about how they pulled together as a team, and very positive comments about their conduct came from the host families. Well done to all our athletes. A team of Grade 11 Chemists successfully defended the Schools' Analyst trophy and will go forward to the national final in June. The competition at Robert Gordon University used forensic, lab-based investigations to assess the team's collaborative and problem-solving skills. This is the third time in four years that ISA has won the competition, and I feel the Approaches to Learning these students develop as part of the IB Diploma Programme have been a major factor in this success.

A group of art students is collaborating with artists from the Gray's School on a World War One project. The final pieces will be displayed at the Scottish Parliament. Other collaborative projects running at the moment include the Grade 10 Global Perspective presentations and the Grade 11 Group Four Project. Being able to collaborate effectively is important and something that will be prized in the workplace. Add to this the opportunities to be a part of a sports team, Duke of Edinburgh group or Model United Nations (MUN) delegation, for example, and our students will be well-prepared for working with others later in life.

Next week is the MS/HS Spirit Week, so ask your son or daughter about the daily themes and encourage them to get involved.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

► From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

- **Visible Learning and Teaching**

Have you ever quizzed your son or daughter, **"How was your day at school?"** It's a common question, probably asked millions of times daily by parents all over the world. My son and daughter would respond to this nightly question either with a great deal of detail, or the obligatory, **"Fine."** (My son was always brief and to the point!)

This week, I was fortunate to attend, with five other Elementary teachers, a two-day world conference in Edinburgh on **Visible Learning and Teaching**. This is a philosophy developed by the widely respected researcher John Hattie. He promotes the idea that, *"Accomplishing the maximum impact on student learning depends on teams of teachers working together, agreeing on*

worthwhile outcomes, setting high expectations, knowing the students' starting place and desired success in learning, seeking evidence continually about their impact on all students, modifying their teaching in light of this evaluation, and joining in the success of truly making a difference to student outcomes.”

— *John A.C. Hattie, [Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning](#)*

In a more simplified statement, Hattie claims that, **“Visible Learning and Teaching occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of students and help them become their own teachers”**. The term **“VISIBLE”** was developed because it’s desirable to shine a bright light on the learning that occurs in schools; learning that is all too often too **“INVISIBLE”** to students, teachers and parents. We achieve this greater transparency in many ways, but a common thread is through the use of feedback that is purposeful, visible and timely. At the conference, several educators, who are recognized as the leaders in their field, treated the six of us from ISA to inspiring discussions on how to promote learning.

In the context of Visible Learning and Teaching all of the conference speakers emphasized the importance of distinguishing between surface, deep and transfer learning and the encouragement and the use of feedback, including student-to-teacher and peer-to-peer feedback. They also highlighted the value of ‘within-lesson feedback’, which has so many advantages over the more traditional reliance on post-lesson comments. There was so much to digest from this exciting conference that we will be talking about our learning for a while, and especially during our collaborative learning times over the next few months.

One way parents can assist with the promotion of **Visible Teaching and Learning** is to change their nightly question from, **“How was your day?”** to the more direct, **“What feedback have you received today?”**

This **‘feedback’** question focuses attention on learning and directly encourages a shared vision, between home and school to promote excellence in education.

- **Parent Conferences**

As teachers, we’re looking forward to the opportunity to conference with parents on 28th and 29th March. Hopefully, you’ve already received details of specific dates and times. Parents are encouraged to make appropriate requests to see any other teacher, in addition to the grade level (classroom) teacher who works with their child(ren).

Our school is so successful because it’s a place where students, parents, and teachers work together on the common goal of excellence in education. After the conference, be sure to review with your child(ren) the important goals set for the remainder of the school year. If you have any questions about your conference times, please contact Mary Rayne.

- **RED NOSE DAY**

15th March is Red Nose Day throughout Britain. Our school enjoys participating in UK-wide events that promote support for others who are less fortunate in the UK and the wider world. Elementary students have been learning where donations to Comic Relief are going.

At ISA, we had a very successful walkathon on Friday.

The final sums raised from the walkathon, and the hundreds of noses sold in school, have still to be calculated, but our students can be assured that their efforts will make a big difference to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Congratulations to all of the participants and special recognition to our fifth grade teachers, Lucy Thompson and Graham Brace and their students, who took the lead in organising the Comic Relief event for the Elementary School. If you are in school next week look out for a sign advertising the total raised.

Best regards,

Don Newbury,
Elementary Principal

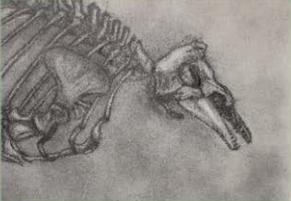
▶ **From the Fine Arts Department**



The ISA Jazz Band is proud to perform in the 2019 Aberdeen Jazz Festival on Thursday, 28th March at 12:30pm in THE BLUE LAMP!

Entrance is FREE!!! Come support these fine musicians!

<http://www.aberdeenjazzfestival.com/programme/artists/aberdeen-youth-jazz-band.html>



IB2 FINAL ART EXHIBITION









Nell Bond
 Luke Cowen
 Megan Duncanson
 Beth Edgar
 Jessica Ferrier
 Toby Wesselingh

21ST
 MARCH
 3PM
 UPPER
 CORRIDOR
 AND BLACK
 BOX
 EVERYONE
 WELCOME

► **From the Middle School Student Council**

MS SPIRIT WEEK – 18TH TO 22ND MARCH

Your house needs you! There is a mission to be accomplished, up to 100 points per student. You have the chance to win house points in this year's spirit week combined with High School!

During this super exciting event, you get the chance to dress-up in differently themed costumes every day. The themes are:

- Movie Monday
- Twin Tuesday
- World or Winner Wednesday
- Tracky Thursday
- Friday Onesie

Be sure to show your school spirit... and we'll see if the teachers join in, too!

Also...

MS FREE EVENT – 22ND MARCH 4:00 TO 6:00PM – BIG GYM – GAMES AND FOOD FOR FREE.

It's the YEARBOOK!!

Order Form for 2018-19 Book

The price of this year's book is **£25**. The book will be distributed in the spring.
(Please make cheques payable to 'International School of Aberdeen' or 'ISA'.)

Students' names, grade levels (and in case of elementary students please also include teacher's name):

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Date: _____

Payment of £_____ made by:

Cash Cheque Card IPayImpact
cheque # _____

Yearbooks may be paid for in the business office. No money to be accepted at Reception. Books will be distributed in the spring by the Yearbook staff.

Customer Receipt

The price for yearbooks is £25 **per** book.

Number of books ordered and paid for: _____

Family name: _____

Date: _____

Payment of £_____ made by:

Cash Cheque Card IPayImpact
cheque # _____

Yearbooks may be paid for in the business office. No money to be accepted at Reception. Books will be distributed in the spring by the Yearbook staff.

In case of cash payment: Signature of salesperson/Business Office stamp: _____



News from your PTO

Friday 15th March, 2019



Come see us! We still have some shoes to fill

So you're thinking you'd like to get more involved but think PTO isn't for you? Worried that we might be high maintenance "professional" PTO parents? Then come meet us! Somehow we manage to pull off some pretty great social events, support awesome enrichments and boost school spirit without succumbing to the stereotype! Ok, ok, some of us do like to carry a latte in a reusable cup but that's purely for sustenance...

Drop by and see us in "the street" for a chat and a coffee over the next two weeks... See what we are really all about!

Monday 11th & 18th
before and after the assembly

Wednesday 13th & 20th
after school

Friday 15th & 22nd
after school

- Fundraising Coordinator (Team Cheerleader)
- Social Associate (Party Planner Extraordinaire)
- Spiritwear Associate (Cheerleader in Training)
- MS CEC Rep (MS Team Builder)
- Volunteer Coordinator (Social Networker)
- HS CEC Rep (HS Team Builder)
- Cultural Liaison (Relationship Expert)

Nominations will be open until Friday, March 29th.
The slate will be voted on at AGM on 22nd April.

ISA Parent Teacher Organisation

pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

STAFF Appreciation LUNCH

This event is held on **March 28th in the Cafeteria** for all staff of ISA, including our amazing teachers, bus drivers, kitchen staff, custodial team, etc... This is also the day of parent/teacher conferences so it is a long day for many of our staff members and the lunch is very much appreciated!

This year, we will be serving up a soup and salad bar that will be accompanied by a little taste around the world to represent some of the different cultures that make up ISA.

Please sign up to bring something tasty, a requested ingredient, a monetary contribution, or make a dessert of your choice.

Sign up here to let us know what you will be bringing:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444abac29a7f94-staff>



Additional details can be found in the signup as far as instructions on where/when to bring items.

Thanks in advance for your participation in making this event a success. We look forward to showing our staff how much we appreciate what they do to make a warm and safe environment for learning every day!

Kim Ferris:

Kimberlyferris2@gmail.com

Alison Johannessen:

ISApovolcoord@gmail.com

DEADLINE 31ST MARCH 2019

ENRICHMENT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

LETS ALL MAKE THE MOST OF THE MONEY
THAT WE HAVE RAISED FOR THE PTO

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT ANY
SCHOOL CLUB, ACTIVITY, EXPERIENCE OR EQUIPMENT
DEADLINE 31ST MARCH!!!





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

WWW.SONYAANGUS.COM



It's V.I.P season...

...AND THAT MEANS
VERY IMPORTANT PARENT!

Whether it's mum, mum-to-be, mother-in-law, grandmother or someone else, all motherly figures deserve to be celebrated on Sunday 31st March.

So, treat the lovely ladies in your life with our glorious gifts.

Pop in for our annual Mother's Day Made Easy event, where gift wrapping is included (with donations to Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland encouraged)

P.S. Mini bottle of fizz if you spend over £30, while stocks last!

FRIDAY 29TH AND SATURDAY 30TH MARCH. 10AM - 5PM



Sonya Angus

GIFTS. FURNITURE. INTERIORS.

PRET A PORTER

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