



20th September 2019

Important Dates

September

- 21-23 Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award Practice Expedition
- 23 ABERDEEN LOCAL HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- 26 MS/HS Parent Coffee, 8:30am
- 27 University of Dundee: University Application & Admissions Talk
- 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
- 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

► From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

My wife also started back at school last month, on a college course to qualify her for a UK university. She completed her education in China before our children were born; now that they have left home, she is keen to start again in her new country.

One of her first assignments was to write a discursive essay on any topic she fancied. This is something her previous education had never prepared her for. She had written essays that described or explained issues; never one that asked for a discussion. This is something beyond the abilities to analyse and present arguments; it requires engagement with another point of view. That means treating other points of view with respect, not just brief consideration to find ways to dismiss them.

Public debate is a core feature of democracy, and the ability to engage in that debate what it means to be a citizen. All Western education systems find room to develop the skills to do it, but they don't do it equally as well. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is recognised by universities in both the US and UK as far more likely than equivalent English, Scottish and US courses to nurture an open mind, encourage a global outlook and develop intercultural skills. We may view these aptitudes as more laudable than useful, but the same students were judged more likely to complete their degree and far more likely to be developing workplace skills.

Over the last week, I have been listening to Grade 12 Theory of Knowledge (ToK) presentations. ToK is a core requirement of the IB Diploma. Students chose an issue, not to consider, but to examine how it can be considered: the different approaches a scientist would have to an historian or an artist; the role of reason, intuition, emotion or faith. The different perspectives we have and why we have them.

This is a higher level of thinking, and all the students engage with it. It requires them to step back and think more widely. Other curriculums touch upon this; none do it so well. It is no wonder they can cope with modern workplaces, that like modern societies, are multicultural (full of different perspectives) and fast changing.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Little
Head of School

► **From the MS/HS Principal**

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

This week, the Lanterna group ran workshops for Grades 11 and 12 to help them develop their study skills and time management; key approaches to learning to take forward through the IB Programme and beyond. Our Grade 6 students began their service learning projects at Haddo House, and those studying music attended a workshop at the Music Hall.

Middle School students have begun sitting online MAP tests in a few of their core subject classes. These short online tests, that dynamically adjust to each student's responses and require no preparation on the part of the student, will be done at the start and end of the year. Along with the ISA testing next semester, they will provide valuable information for teachers on their programmes. The class data is used holistically but each student's results will be shared with families for their reference. Without major semester exams, IGCSEs or the IBDP at this level, it helps us ensure sufficient challenge and good growth between testing periods.

The Middle School Activities Week is looking like a fantastic set of experiences, and I am excited to be involved with some of the local day outings that will be taking place. Information is being shared regarding the HS Activities Week in March, and you will receive notifications through iPayImpact to allow you to reserve a place with either the travelling group or for the local experiences.

I believe one of the strengths of our school to be the open communication, and I would encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher if there is anything you are unsure or worried about. On Thursday, 26th September there is a Principal's Coffee, and you are welcome to join me at 8:30am in the Seminar Room to hear from myself and a handful of students about aspects of life at ISA.

Please note, next Monday, 23rd September is a local holiday - I hope the students will enjoy a well-earned rest over the extended weekend.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

▶ From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

An International Family

When students and parents describe our school they often use the term 'family' to show their affection for an organisation that uses a caring approach to give **every child, every opportunity** to develop their full potential. We pride ourselves on making education a celebration of both individual progress and a vehicle to experience the benefits of working positively with others. Of course, the international make-up of our student body contributes greatly to the vibrant and culturally-rich experience we have in just getting to know each other.

Early in each school year, we hold a special event to honour the many nationalities represented at the school. At present, ISA has students who claim nationality with 50 countries. (Many families, like my own, are made up of citizens from at least two countries.) Please highlight the **International Festival on Thursday, 10th October** on your calendar so you don't miss out on this magical celebration.

In the Elementary School, all the classes are currently studying a different country and part of the world to coincide with the International Festival. The students will showcase some of their efforts in the Elementary Assembly on **Monday, 7th October**. The countries being studied are as follows:

Pre-School: Russia
Kindergarten: China
First Grade: Mexico
Second Grade: Italy
Third Grade: Nigeria
Fourth Grade: Malawi
Fifth Grade: Germany

Parents are, as always, invited to attend the Assembly, and we all look forward to seeing all our families on **Thursday, 10th October at 6:00pm in the gym** for the International Parade and Celebration.

A Three-Day Weekend

Any time we have an extended weekend is a time for celebration. This upcoming Monday is a local holiday, and I hope an occasion for families to enjoy some time to enjoy this wonderful community we all share. Historic places, like those belonging to the National Trust, are still open and there are so many exciting destinations like Old Aberdeen, the beach or a walk along the coast by Dunnottar Castle. I hope the weekend brings a lot of family fun for everyone.

Best regards,

Don Newbury,
Elementary Principal

▶ From the Fine Arts Department

The IB Music, HS Instrumentalists and the MS Songwriters attended a phenomenal workshop with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra on Wednesday, 18th September. The SCO performed an original composition by Conductor James MacMillan. A musical analysis of the composition was given

prior to the performance, breaking the piece down to interesting musical details. A wonderful workshop for everyone!

The ISA Fine Arts Department

▶ Tech Talk

Conducting online research in a safe, child-friendly way

Students across the Elementary School are currently researching and learning about various countries, including Russia, China, Mexico, Italy, Nigeria, Malawi and Germany. Information that can be found on the World Wide Web can be enormously useful for students when researching new topics. However, it can be incredibly tricky for students to find information that is accurate, up-to-date, unbiased and appropriate for specific age groups and reading levels. For this reason, when students at ISA are tasked with conducting research online, we don't simply allow them to conduct a search using Google Search; instead, we point them in the direction of research tools and search engines that are specifically designed for young people, with their safety and education in mind. Listed below are a range of research tools and child-friendly search engines that students have been introduced to here at ISA. World Book Online is a particularly useful resource because it offers articles at multiple reading levels (Kids, Student, Advanced), can read the text aloud to students, and can translate articles into a vast array of different languages.

Research Tools:

[World Book Online](#)

You will need to log in to use this resource. For username and password, please check my recent Edmodo post (Grades 3-5) or contact me directly (mkajiwara@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk).

[Brainpop](#)

You will need to log in to use this resource. For username and password, please check my recent Edmodo post (Grades 3-5) or contact me directly (mkajiwara@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk).

[Kpedia](#) (by Kiddle)

For more information on how Kpedia is structured for kids, click [here](#).

Child-friendly Search Engines:

Choose these instead of just doing a Google search.

[Swiggle](#)

[SweetSearch](#)

[Kiddle](#)

Morio Kajiwara

Assistant Principal

▶ From the Transport Co-ordinator

Dear Parents

Yet again, students from all grades failing to wear their seatbelts on the school buses has become an issue.

Drivers report that even when they have checked to confirm that seatbelts are being worn before departing, no sooner have they left the School then they can hear the sound of seatbelts being undone.

In the interests of safety and to prevent injury, it would be appreciated if parents could reinforce the importance of wearing seatbelts.

Thank you.

Ron Falconer
Transport Co-ordinator

► **From the International Committee**

We are looking forward to The International Festival at ISA on Thursday, 10th October starting promptly at 6:15pm in the school gym. This is a wonderful evening for all of the ISA community. We encourage everyone to dress in national costume or colours of their country. The evening consists of a flag parade, international food, a global village and entertainment.

We start the evening with a flag parade which is for all the students. The students each parade behind their own national flag, in alphabetical order. If they have more than one nationality they must choose just one. There is always an opportunity for a fabulous photo when they are on stage. **(Please note that today is the last day for submission of flag/banner bearer nominations.)**

The parade is followed by a food tasting experience in The Street and directly outside the cafeteria. Everyone is invited to taste delicious bites and nibbles from around the world.

In The Queen Elizabeth Theatre there is entertainment for everyone to drop in and enjoy. There will be a variety of performances including some dances.

Please enjoy The Global Village while you are in the theatre. Students, teachers and parents will have prepared tables to showcase their beautiful home countries. In addition, the Elementary classes will be open for you to look at all the country displays the students have been working on.

The International Committee



► From the Yearbook Club Co-ordinator

Attention artists of all ages, K-12!

The Yearbook Club needs your help! Currently, the cover of the yearbook is blank and we would love a talented artist to fill it in.

The theme for this year's yearbook is "Blast to the Past" and will be centred around different time periods across history. You could paint a giant clock, a T-Rex stomping across the Roman Empire, or a giant timeline with your favourite bits of history, or whatever you want! The only rules are:

- 1) The artwork must include the phrase "Blast to the Past"
- 2) You may either do one large landscape artwork or 2 portrait. Remember the cover extends from the front to the back.
- 3) Artwork may either be physical or digital.
- 4) Deadline for submissions will be 31st October, 2019

If you have any questions, please email Mr Kempton rkempton@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk.

Thank you and good luck!

Rob Kempton

Yearbook Club Co-ordinator

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.

Clothes Recycling Bank

For their CAS project, a group of grade 12 students, Andre, Crawford and David are working with a local charity organization, “Cash for Kids”. They have organized a clothing donations bin where the ISA community can drop off unused or unwanted clothing.

The big blue bin can be found at the top of the driveway across from the pre-school area.



Please help support this charity by dropping off your unwanted clothing as soon as possible!

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS

The International Committee are on the look out for singers, dancers and performers for the International Evening on October 10th.

Please contact Mr Walter or Mr Coutts to sign up.





The Global Village is an important part of the celebrations of International Week at ISA. The Global Village will represent the 45 nations belonging to the ISA community. Tables and displays will be decorated by parents and Middle and High School students to showcase artefacts from these different nations. These will be located along the 'Street' area and in the Theatre.

In addition, students in Pre-school through Grade five have learned about a country as part of their international study. Parents are encouraged to visit these classrooms.

If you have lived in, visited, or are from any of the 45 countries and would be willing to lend artefacts which could be displayed on a nation's table it would be greatly appreciated. To showcase cultural artefacts, as part of the Global Village, is a great opportunity to display interesting and vibrant objects in celebration of our wonderfully diverse community!

Artefacts donated for the night must be CLEARLY LABELLED with the family name and be non-breakable!

They can be handed into Reception during the week commencing Monday, 7th October.

Thank you for your continued support,

The International Festival Committee

NEWS FROM YOUR PTO

SEPT 20 2019



ISA Parent Teacher Organisation



pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEERS



During the International Festival on Thursday October 10th, every family is invited to bring a dish that represents their county. Start thinking about what you would like to prepare! If you're interested in helping to coordinate the food for the following regions, please let PTO (Versha and Phoebe) know: Europe, UK, Africa, N-America, S-America, Middle East, Asia, Oceania. Schedule of the evening below.

NEXT PTO MEETING

Monday
October 7
9.30 AM
St. Andrews room

THURSDAY OCT 10



FLAG PARADE
6:15-7.00 PM
SPORTS HALL



During the International Week, taking place from October 7-11, we invite all parents to join in the fun on Thursday October 10th, from 6 till 8 PM. Doors open at 6:00PM. Make sure to make way to the sports hall to be captivated by the Flag Parade, starting at 6:15PM.



GLOBAL VILLAGE
7:00-8.00 PM
QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE

In the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, students will sing, dance and perform on stage! The Global Village will represent many nations belonging to the ISA community. Tables will be decorated by teachers, parents and MS/HS students to showcase artefacts from around the world. Students from PS to G5 will learn about a country as part of their international study. Parents are encouraged to visit these classrooms.

If you lived in, visited or are from any of the countries and would be willing to lend artefacts; artefacts donated must be CLEARLY LABELLED with family name and non-breakable. They can be handed into reception during the w/c Monday October 7.



STREET FOOD
7:00-8.00 PM
THE STREET

In the Street, parents will be serving some amazing nibbles and samples from their countries. Make sure to indulge in the flavours of the world, and try something you might not have tasted before. Don't expect a full meal, but some flavoursome samples. Rest assured, there is plenty to taste on offer.

For food sharing: please read the guidelines for food preparation. Feel free to go nuts, but NO NUTS please!

Avoid single use plastic



School has a NO NUTS policy



PTO ADVERTS PAGE

SEPT 20
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



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North Deeside Road
Milltimber
Aberdeen
AB13 0AB

Tel: 01224 734747
E: apc@kippielodge.co.uk
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