



International School of Tucson

Newsletter

No 187

6 August 2010

Coming Events

2 – 13 August
Diagnostic Period

[Clubs](#) Trial Period

Monday 9 August
6.00pm
[ISTPA Monthly Meeting](#)

Wednesday 11 August
8.30 – 10.00am
[Parent Coffee with the Head of Programme](#)

11.00am
Fire Drill

Thursday 12 August
[Finance Committee](#) meeting

17 – 19 August
[Diagnostic Period Parent Teacher meetings](#)

Thursday 19 August
[Board of Trustees](#) meeting

Friday 3 September
Head of School to AAIS Heads meeting, Phoenix

Friday 10 September
IST hosts AAIS Elementary Heads meeting

[Semester One School Photographs](#)

Saturday 11 September
[Days of Caring](#)

Attachments

- Parent-Teacher Meeting Schedules

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www.InternationalSchoolofTucson.org

Open the World to Your Child

Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone, and welcome to the families who are reading this Newsletter for the first time. Happy New Year to all! Regular readers will notice that the Newsletter has grown from its former two sides plus Events news to become three pages, plus Events news, with important information in all four corners! Most parents will read this on the website, although a small number of printed copies will be available from both the Pre-School and Junior School offices.

A big “thank you” to parent Fr June Olsen (Kitar J1 Ge), her team and the ISTPA for the wonderful luau on Friday. It was a great way to start the year. A big “thank you” to parents Mme Casey Hanhart (Ashley J3 Fr, Abigail P5 Fr, Allyson P3 Fr) and Fr Bambi Nehring (Kaitlyn P4 Ge) for their valiant efforts in the Library. When everything was relocated in the Summer, it was also literally relocated and they have been working hard at sorting, organising, classifying and soon cataloguing. A big “thank you” to parents Mme Amy Clashman (John Henry J3-5 Fr) and Mme Amy Cook (Ben J3-5 Fr) who came in over the summer and watered the plants around the JS buildings.

As the year gains momentum, the “Coming Events” list to the left will become fuller. We are putting increasingly more event announcements on the website so please be sure to check it regularly. Parent-Teacher meetings to review the Diagnostic Period are coming up; the last page of this Newsletter contains a programme; details are also available [on our website](#). Please note that these meetings are to discuss class-groups only; if you would like to discuss your own child, please contact the Head of Pre-School / Junior School. The first Parent Coffee morning will be held next week (see below) which will also give you a chance to learn more about IST’s Programme; details are available [on our website](#).

Today we welcomed our first international visitors, a group of Indonesian college students who are studying at UA. We regularly host such visitors, including many from the US State Department, and are delighted both to show them our school and to have them interact with our students. For security reasons, some of the visits are not announced ahead of time, and any parents with queries or concerns should contact me.

I would like to clarify the policies on minors picking up students from school. A sibling or babysitter may only sign out a student if : (1) s/he has been previously so authorised in writing by the parent and (2) is at least 16 years of age.

Proof of age will be required, and so an appropriate picture ID will be needed.

Finally, a reminder to JS parents that they must file an “[Affidavit of Intent](#)” with the Pima County Superintendent of Education. I can also email you the link or a pdf version.

Robert Young
Head of School

Fire Drills

IST takes the Health and Safety of your child(ren) very seriously and so we run a monthly Fire Drill, with the first scheduled and announced in advance, and the others unscheduled.

The first Fire Drill is coming up at 11.00am, Wednesday 11 August. The alarm will sound and the children will be led by their teachers to their Assembly Points, where teachers will take attendance, before everyone returns to their classrooms for the rest of the lesson.

The emphasis in the Drill is on familiarity and routine; in the unlikely event of an alarm or an actual fire, we would expect our students to respond calmly and without any panic or concerns.

Parents of P3/4 Students

It would assist us greatly if you could begin speaking to your child(ren) about the Fire Drill to complement what the teachers will be doing as the noise of the siren can be at best disconcerting!

Coffee Morning

Parents are invited for coffee, 8.30 – 10.00am Wednesday 11 August, in the Big Room at 715.

Head of Programme Mr Mike Scionti, who has joined IST this year from the Anglo-American School in Moscow, will talk about our programme and inquiry-based teaching and learning, and will answer any questions parents might have.

Mr Scionti is also Head of Music and the JS Music teacher.

Open the World to Your Child

From the Board of Trustees

Welcome Back!!

The new school year is off to a great start. Many thanks to the Parent's Association for a wonderful welcome back luau. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to talk with a number of new and prospective parents. Welcome to the school!!

With the finalisation of the transfer the Board is moving forward on a number of initiatives including kicking-off a fundraising campaign to cover the remaining cost of the 1730 Addition and the 715 renovations. We are also in the planning stages for the renovation of the balance of 715 as we actively explore the possibility of acquiring the school sites. On the academic front, I would like to welcome some great new teachers to the School. I had a chance to meet and interact with the entire staff their in-service meetings and in a more social setting at a reception at my home. They are really a great group! Efforts are ongoing and increasing to gain full NAEYC accreditation. Mr Young and Ms Loomis may be contacting you for additional input on the accreditation process. Lastly, we have asked parent Ms Jen Richardson (Madeline J3 Sp, William P3/4 Sp) to join the Board of Trustees. Jen's history and experience with the school and her great enthusiasm will be a fantastic addition to the Board.

The Board is recruiting people to help on a number of sub-committees, but most especially in the areas of Marketing and Development. The school's dual-immersion format is the finest teaching environment in the area but it is also one of the most expensive. We must continue to grow the school to be successful. We need all of your help. Please refer friends and their kids. Participate and get others to participate in the State tax credit. And please consider getting involved in a board sub-committee to support the school.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you around the school.

Michael M Racy
IST Board of Trustees

From the Pre-School

Happy 2010-2011 Academic Year!!!

I would first like to thank the entire staff for all of their hard work in preparing for each and every one of the students that have walked through our front door. The teachers returned 26 July for a full week of meetings and classroom organisation/decoration. So much planning has gone into starting the new year off just right. I had to take this opportunity to let everyone know how lucky we all are to have such great educators setting our students up to be lifelong learners and productive citizens of the world!

Welcome to all of our new families and welcome back to those who are returning for yet another fabulous year with IST. I know it can be a challenge getting used to school hours and our little ones may be a bit more tired than usual but soon we'll be in the swing of things and before you know it, our first Exhibition will be upon us. If there's anything we can do to make the first weeks of transition easier, please let us know.

These first two weeks of classes are our 'Diagnostic Period' and during this time, the teachers will be observing the dynamic of the class as a whole, as well as individuals in the following areas: Academic, Social, Emotional and Physical. A meeting will follow in the next couple of weeks where the teachers will go over their observations of the whole group, and you may make an appointment

with them to discuss your individual student.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend and I am incredibly excited for another year, our great team and amazing students!

Reminders

- for those of our little ones who nap...please bring a fitted sheet for their nap mat, even if they have a sleeping bag
- please put a name on everything! We've already had a couple of water bottles and hats get misplaced. If you find something in a lunch box or backpack which doesn't belong to you, please bring it back to the classroom as soon as you discover it...it happens:)
- There will be a 'gathering' in the next week or so which will allow you to meet our new Head of Programme and Music teacher, Mr Scionti, please look for the notices as Ms Thompson and I will be giving a short overview of what happens 'behind the scenes', so to speak, in our respective programmes

Brenda Loomis
Head of Pre-School
loomis@InternationalSchoolofTucson.org

From the Junior School

This first week of school is always wonderful: the students are always excited to be back at school, happy to see their friends and so "fresh" and motivated to learn! The other special part about this time is to see how much the students have grown and matured over the summer break. Sometimes it's really noticeable like 4 inches taller or braces and sometimes it's the outgoing demeanor on a child who only two months ago was typically shy.

As you know, this and next week are the Diagnostic Weeks, the period in which Teachers can see what students know and know how to do, and they then can plan accordingly for the year ahead. After this period, we'll hold our Diagnostic Meetings 17 – 18 August in which your child's Teachers will give you feedback as to the class as a whole. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your child's Teachers about his/her individual progress, then this type of meeting is something you can arrange at anytime of the year. Please just let us know.

Thank you all for your patience regarding the partial 715 building renovations. This has been such a long and drawn-out process and so so aggravating as well as much more costly than we originally anticipated. We do wish to beautify these classrooms in a number of ways and we hope to do this as soon as possible. This week we have not had homework for students although next week this will begin. For J1 and J2 students, their homework will alternate each night between each language. For example, Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be English while Tuesday and Thursday will be French, Spanish or German. The description of the assignment will be in your child's Blue Book so it's important to read this each and every night. The assignment should not need your help except for your allowing the time and place conducive for such; your child should be able to do the assignment on his/her own.

For J3 - J5 students, homework is given by both Language Teachers so that your child should have 10-15 minutes of homework from each of his classes / language. Again, this homework should not need parent help; your child should be

able to do this on his/her own.

Next week, Wednesday 11 August, 8:30 - 10:00am, we'll have Coffee with the Head of Programme, Mr Mike Scionti. Please come and meet Mike! This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the PYP, the Primary Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate, and what this means for you and your child. We'll also talk more about some of the academics at IST and hopefully be able to answer some questions you may have. For those of you who may not be able to attend, we'll have a second meeting soon thereafter. Please feel free to suggest a time that may work for you.

As you read in your child's Blue Book this week, next week we will start the Student Council election process. On Friday, August 13, we will hold the elections for President and Vice President. Students will be allowed to put up their posters along the inside of the wooden wall of the 711 corridor. Students who do not become elected to either President or Vice President may choose to run for Class Representative; elections for these positions will occur the following Friday, August 20. We look forward to working with the new group of elected officers and supporting them in many of their initiated school projects.

I apologize that Kung Fu Club did not happen this week and it will not occur next week as well as parent, Mr Kelley Graham (Connor JS Sp 3 and Lauren PS Fr 4/5) is still away on work in Malaysia. Kung Fu Club will start on Tuesday 17 August, and this day students will be able to try out the Club to see if they like it. Regarding the rest of the after school Clubs, it appears that students have enjoyed trying them out this week. They will be allowed to try out the Clubs for one week more and after this point, they will have to choose to which Clubs they would commit and sign the Commitment Form available on the IST website in order to participate (excluding Kung Fu). Also, although this and next week, students do not have to wear the Activity Uniform for our more active after school Clubs (Basketball which is off-campus, Kung Fu which is on-campus, and Soccer which is off-campus), they will need to wear this uniform starting the third week of school.

Almost all students have been wearing the full IST Junior School uniform! This is excellent! For the few who haven't, I understand that you have not received the order you placed weeks ago and thank you for trying to dress your child in the closest-uniform look-alike.

I would also like to thank our absolutely fabulous group of JS Teachers this year. I really do feel that this is our strongest group of Teachers yet and I am thrilled that they are so enthusiastic to teach and be a part of IST. Not only are the students buzzing with excitement at being back at school but so are our Teachers!

Have a nice weekend!

Sally Thompson
Head of Junior School
thompson@InternationalSchoolofTucson.org

Programme Matters

We are off to a good start in this new year, and I'm happy to report that the school's road to officially offering the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) is well underway. Teachers engaged in ten hours of training prior to the start of classes to help build their understanding of the PYP's essential elements and to plan dynamic educational units that will inspire our children to learn and discover.

Please consider attending this week's Parent Coffee on Wednesday morning to learn more about why the PYP is such an effective approach to learning and why it is a great match for the IST

community!

I am happy to announce that we have hired an amazing team of Music Educators in Residence to teach our children private and group music lessons. If you haven't had a chance to sign up, please visit the website and fill out your form today! Your child has the choice of cello, piano, guitar, violin, and percussion, as well as choosing whether to explore a new instrument (one lesson weekly) or commit to really learning how to play like a pro (three lessons weekly).

We've also kicked off our year of music learning with a "boom" and had our first rehearsal with the new JS Choir.

Mike Scionti
Head of Pre-School
scionti@InternationalSchoolofTucson.org

From the ISTPA

Please be sure to attend the first IST Parents' Association meeting on Monday 9 August, at 6:00pm at the Junior School. Be informed about what's happening at IST. Contribute your ideas. And get involved in the life of the school! All attendees will be entered and one will win a new Land's End IST backpack worth \$40. The meeting will be a great time to get to know other parents and get involved in the IST community. Free childcare will be provided at the Preschool by M. Drame.

Thank you to parents Ms Nancy Beer (Alex J1 Sp, Zoe J2 Sp) and Ms Shookie Yap (Ashling J1 Sp, Kieran J2 Sp) for organising the uniform exchange at the Luau. And thank you to the parents who participated and made it a great success! We still have a few gently used shorts and t-shirts in sizes 4 and smaller. You may purchase these at a very discounted price. If you are interested, please contact MS Nancy Beer at 520 – 444 – 5989.

Please consider serving as your student's Class Representative. Each representative will serve as a liaison to get important communications out to the families in his/her class and back to the ISTPA. In addition, he/she will encourage good relations in the class by sponsoring a class get-together each semester. This is a great way to contribute to the life of IST, but with a limited time commitment. Please contact Ms Melissa Elliott, ISTPA President, at parents@internationalschooloftucson.org or 520 – 258 – 2127 for more information.

Melissa Elliott
ISTPA President
parents@internationalschooloftucson.org

Notices and News

JS Community Service

To all the IST families that participated in the Holiday Giving Event this past December, the Gift family wanted to send a huge "thank you" for making it an amazing Christmas for their family. Unfortunately, their daughter Madison passed away this summer. They will always be thankful that IST made their last Christmas with their daughter a very special one. Thank you again for being such a giving community!

JS Basketball

It was a great first practice for the IST basketball squad on

Monday. Despite the fact that we had to endure the heat of the outdoor courts due to the indoor gym closing at the last minute for maintenance, students made the most of the practice and really enjoyed their first basketball session of the new year.

It was wonderful to see the vast majority of last year's squad return in addition to some new faces from a range of different grade levels within the Junior School. I was particularly impressed with the outstanding effort and skill level of the newcomers and cannot wait to see them as a permanent part of IST Basketball.

The unwavering enthusiasm and team spirit shown by both new and returning team members has provided me with a great amount of optimism and excitement for the upcoming year. With regular matches and events planned throughout the year for IST Basketball, it is essential that we develop a deep and committed squad. I am really looking forward to getting back into the gym next Monday afternoon to build upon the enjoyment and enthusiasm shown by the kids in our first training session today.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the IST students and their families who braved the heat out there on Monday afternoon and I cannot wait to see everybody at the feared indoor home ground of IST basketball (Fortress IST) next week. Go Ambassadors!!

David Rutledge

IST Basketball

basketball@InternationalSchoolofTucson.org

Girls and Mathematics

"If you look at girls that did succeed in math, chances are that parents encouraged them to:

1. Enroll in competitive sports - They learn to win and lose and separate effort from results.
2. Learn how to recover from mistakes - Chess is especially effective at this.
3. Have women role models in math and science - Building confidence is a must.
4. Concentrate on word problems - This is where girls tend to struggle.
5. Get help at first sign of trouble - After 7th grade it's much harder to remedy math struggle."

www.door2math.com

2010 Days of Caring

IST is excited to participate again in the Tucson United Way's Days of Caring, 11 and 15 September. Last year more than 3,400 volunteers from 100 area workplaces and organizations volunteered at 81 nonprofits throughout Southern Arizona and completed 251 projects. It is a remarkable communitywide event that IST is proud to be part of! We will be asking for Days of Caring volunteers for the following projects:

- Painting exterior walls and 4/6 square games for the Junior School
- Creating a table-top display for the school to use at events and fundraisers
- Building a loft for one of the preschool rooms
- Building a fort and/or 3-sided playshed for the preschool playground
- Building and painting a new fence for new J3 classrooms
- Building and painting new picnic tables for the junior school and benches for the preschool

We will need at least one parent volunteer for each project to coordinate the volunteers on the day of the event and help gather supplies before the event. For each day we will be feeding the volunteers a potluck lunch, and will also need one or two parents to coordinate the potluck on each day.

If you are interested in coordinating a project or the potluck, or just helping out in general, please contact parent Ms Kelly Mott Lacroix (Genevieve P3/4 Fr) at kmottlacroix@yahoo.com or come talk to her after next week's ISTPA meeting. If your workplace would like to participate in this year's Days of Caring you can sign up through the United Way's Days of Caring webpage at: <http://www.unitedwaytucson.org/days-of-caring/2010>

Looking for ...

We would love donations of the following if anyone has items they no longer need :

- Large side-draft swamp cooler

Diagnostic Period Review Parent Teacher Meetings 17 - 19 August 2010

Meetings will be held on your teacher's classroom. Please keep to the timeframes below as other parents may have more than one meeting or may have taken time from another activity to be here. These Meetings are to discuss the group as a group only; if you wish to have a meeting to discuss your child, please arrange this through the IST Office.

Time	Pre-School	Junior School
Tuesday 17 August 2010		
6.00 – 6.25	Ms Lien (P3/4 Ch)	Mr Magnin / Mr Rutledge / Mr Scionti (J1 Fr)
6.30 – 6.55	Sra Brambila (P3/4 Sp)	Fr Schlottoff / Mr Rutledge / Mr Scionti (J1 Ge)
7.00 – 7.25	Mme Magnin (P3/4 Fr)	Sra Villegas / Mr Rutledge / Mr Scionti (J1 Sp)
7.30 – 8.00	Mr Drame (P4/5 Fr)	Sra Villegas / Ms Nelson / Mr Scionti (J2 Sp)
Wednesday 18 August 2010		
6.00 – 6.25	Fr Brandauer (P3/4 Ge)	Fr Schlottoff / Ms McDonald / Mr Scionti (J3-5 Ge)
6.30 – 6.55	Fr Buchberger (P4/5 Ge)	Mr Magnin / Ms McDonald / Mr Scionti (J3-5 Fr)
7.00 – 7.25	Sra Rivera (P4/5 Sp)	Sra McKenna / Ms McDonald / Mr Scionti (J3-5 Sp)
7.30 – 8.00	Sra Boudreau (P5 Sp)	



Information on Renting or Purchasing a Music Instrument

You may want to consider purchasing a musical instrument to help support your child's development and ability to practice and improve their skills at home. There are many options available locally and online, so here are some suggestions to help you narrow down the choices.

Piano:

A good place to start looking for a rental piano is Hachenberg Pianos, located at 4333 East Broadway (520.327.0371). They typically will have pianos available for around \$30-50 per month, without a long-term contractual requirement. They are a locally owned business and are also likely to negotiate with you if you have special needs or circumstances. If you decide to buy a piano, Hachenberg also sells them or the Chicago Store downtown has several pianos for sale. Another good place to find a used piano for a cheap price would be Craigslist.com.

Guitar:

To rent a guitar, I would recommend Metro Gnome Music on 4044 East Speedway (520.320.3780). They have ½ and ¾ size guitars advertised for rent at \$16 per month. They offer a one-month minimum rental with repairs included and you can apply 100% of your rental fees to the purchase price if you so desire. To buy a guitar, I would recommend Southwest Guitar Studio on 4889 East Speedway (520.790.2377). The owner of the store (Phil Hemmo) has offered our students a special rate of \$90 for a ½ or ¾ size guitar with a storage bag.

Violin:

To rent a violin, I would recommend Metro Gnome Music on 4044 East Speedway (520.320.3780). They have a variety of violin sizes (you have to measure your child's arm - from sternum to palm) advertised for rent at \$11-15 per month. They offer a one-month minimum rental with repairs included and you can apply 100% of your rental fees to the purchase price if you so desire. To buy a violin, I would recommend an eBay seller named GreatBuilder (go to ebay.com and search "Berkeley Violin Fiddle"). They will set up the instrument and ship it to you with accessories for under \$50.

Percussion:

There is a wide range of stores that sell and rent a range of percussion instruments. It would probably be recommended to start with a practice pad and/or a snare drum, although there are other options too. Metro Gnome and Chicago Store rent and sell a variety of percussion instruments, and it is recommended that you speak with your private percussion instructor for further guidance.

Michael Scionti
Head of Music

www.InternationalSchoolofTucson.org