

9th June 2017

Important Dates

June

- 7-12 HS Semester 2 Exams
- 12 PS-Grade 5 After-School Care Parent Meeting & Registration, 3:30-6:30pm
- 13 MS Fun Day
- 13 IB1 Extended Essay Breakfast, 8:30am
- 13 Pre-School End of Year Celebration, 10:00am in The Queen Elizabeth Theatre
- 13 Last Day for Pre-School, Dismissal at 11:00am
- 14 MS/HS Assembly
- 14 EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:00AM; START OF SUMMER HOLIDAY

August

- 15 New Student Orientation, 1:00-3:00pm
- 17 Start of 1st Semester
- 18 PTO Welcome Coffee, 8:30am

4 From the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Graduated Class of 2017

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! We hope you enjoyed the ISA graduation ceremony last Saturday. Thank you to Mr Hollis who was selected by the graduating class to deliver the Commencement speech; it was insightful and inspiring. We wish the class of 2017 all the best and know that they are heading out to make difference in the world!

Departing Staff

Every year we need to say farewell to families and students as they depart ISA; this is also a reality for staff who become such an important part of our School. This year, we say goodbye to several teachers and early years practitioners who are heading out on new adventures around the world. We wish Catarina Almeida, Irose and Joseph Hansen, Jeff Harper, Bill Hollis, Jen and Matt Sutherland all the very best in their new teaching adventures. They have made a big difference in the lives of so many children at ISA, and will continue to have an impact on students around the world. Gustaw Padukiewicz, our part-time custodian, will be leaving in June and we wish him all the best with his studies. We wish Sheila Sibley, who has been a member of our Admissions team, all the best and thank her for the last 10 years of dedication to ISA. It is also difficult to say goodbye to Wanda Hollis, who was hired to provide administrative assistance and did a bit of ...everything!

We also have some maternity leaves at the School and must say *au revoir/adios* to Amélie Caritey, who has covered two maternity leaves (one year of French and one of Spanish) and we welcome back Señora Ubet and Heather Barker from their maternity leaves. We wish Krista Lamming all the

best in her new role of mom. You will have noticed that Ms Jo (Jo Gannon) as well as Autumn Ordonez have accepted roles in Reception and Admissions. Jo Curnock will also be off on maternity leave next school year, and we wish her all the best in the coming year. New to ISA next year we will welcome Paul Bertolotto, Graham Brace, Nancy Carmichael, Jean Lamont, and Marcus Pereira to the ISA faculty. We were fortunate that all of our top choices of hires accepted offers to work here at ISA, and think this is a particularly talented group of educators. I look forward to you meeting them in August 2017.

End of a School Year

The year seems to have gone by at *“Warp Speed”*. I’m grateful to Chandra Gair and her team for putting together the yearbook, so that students can look back on the 2016-17 school year and reflect on their many achievements (and how much they have grown!). Thank you to all our parents, students, faculty and staff for a great school year. I wish all the families leaving ISA our very best and thank you for your support. I wish everyone a safe and restful summer break.

Kind regards,

Sarah Bruce
Head of School

4 From the MS/HS Principal

Dear Middle/High School Parents,

What a great night on Wednesday! Wonderful performances showcasing the artistic talents of the Middle School students. As a relatively small school, we are able to give each student the chance to show what they can do at evenings like this and to a person, every musician, artist and actor put on a great show. Sound and lighting were well supported by our MS Tech Team and, of course, none of it would have been possible without the hard work of our Fine Arts teachers. I hope you were fortunate enough to be a part of the large audience.

We finish at 11:00am on Wednesday and prior to that, at 10:00am, will have an end of semester assembly. Students have prepared presentations to revisit highlights from the year, and we will say farewell to our leaving students. On Tuesday, the MS Fun Day will see the students build boats that they will then race in the pool to mark the culmination of this year’s House Challenge. The MS Awards will be presented later that day at 2:00pm. Grade 11 students should remember that they have an Extended Essay breakfast at 8.30am that day, too.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Bill and Wanda Hollis, Amelie Caritey, and Jeff Harper. I would like to thank them for their service to the School and the positive impact they have had on our students. We also wish Jo Curnock well as she starts her maternity leave at the beginning of August.

Teachers are currently marking exams and writing reports and the scores and comments will be shared via PowerSchool when it re-opens to parents on Thursday evening. Hard copies of reports will then be posted out shortly after this.

I am grateful to the many parents who have helped out with events at school this semester, and to those who have been so supportive in following up on communications from teachers or myself. I appreciate the strong sense of community that exists at ISA and look forward to the new academic year in August. Before then, of course, there is the small matter of a well-deserved holiday for our students, and some quality time with family and friends. I hope you have a very pleasant break.

Angus Carmichael
MS/HS Principal

From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents,

A student on the K-2 sports day commented, *"This is the best day ever!"*

Sports days, music concerts and field trips are always so exciting for our students, and one of the many traditions that typically come at the end of a year. It's so nice to fill June with special activities. Congratulations to all the teachers for planning so many opportunities to celebrate learning. In this, the last *Thistle* article before the summer holiday, I have a number of further congratulations.

I've begun my annual job of putting together photographs taken from August to June for a slideshow at 8:45am on the last day. As I look over so many precious moments, it's easy to appreciate how happy ISA students are and what amazing experiences they have had all year.

This June, we have our usual turnover of students. Transitions away from a familiar and comfortable home can be challenging, especially when the next assignment is unknown, or there are concerns with school waiting lists. It is my hope, however, that all our families, both returning and leaving, will look back on the 2016-17 school year with many fond memories. As always, it's a pleasure to serve as the Elementary Principal at an ambitious school with happy kids, supportive parents and dedicated teachers. I know from reading each report card that this has been a successful year for student learning. I also sense that for our students it's been a year of strong personal growth, with confidence 'blooming', and the capacity for hard work and independent study strengthening.

All the teachers will be looking forward to a summer break. They have worked so hard for your children and deserve a superb holiday. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their efforts to help make this a successful year. I also wish all of our school families a wonderful summer break. I've appreciated your support all year. Your children have earned all of those special days of holiday ahead of them!

Bon Accord

14th June symbolises the start of summer fun, but it is also a time to say goodbye to many friends who will be leaving Aberdeen. The motto of the City of Aberdeen is *Bon Accord*, which means *"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again"*. At the end of each school year we say goodbye to families, all of whom have meant so much to the life of the School. For those of you who are moving from Aberdeen, we wish you all of the best and hope you take with you many cherished memories of your time in Scotland. Who knows, one day you might be back!

This year in the Elementary School, we also say goodbye to several staff members. Each of these teachers has made significant contributions to the education of our students and enriched the lives of everyone who worked with them.

Catarina Almeida has been an Early Years Practitioner at the International School Aberdeen from August 2014 until June 2017. What a fantastic member of the team she has been! She deserves credit for helping to create a world-class environment for the children to learn in. She is passionate about early learning and the Pre-School children have benefited from her dedication to their progress. Over the last four years, we've also been fortunate to enjoy Catarina's own lovely children, Sarah and Tiago, who leave ISA in fifth grade. Next year, Catarina and her family will be relocating to Oman. We thank her for her important contributions to our school and wish her well in Oman.

Amelie Caritey has been a modern languages and EAL teacher at ISA from August 2014. Although mostly working in the Upper School, we were fortunate to have her teaching in the Elementary School this year. During her time, she has strengthened our Spanish programme and helped our

second graders and Pre-Schoolers have a positive and productive year of studies. She plans to take some time to travel next year. We wish her well and hope she will come back to ISA in the future.

Joseph Hansen has been a wonderful teacher at ISA for 13 years. He worked for 12 years as a first and then third grade classroom teacher. He's impacted hundreds of students during his time at ISA and will leave behind a wonderful legacy of accomplishment. Joseph has been a great colleague to us all at the School, one who always contributes enthusiastically to the School in any way he can. This year, he served an excellent role as both an EAL and learning support teacher. He will be missed next year, as will his second grade son Jarle, but we wish the Hansen family well in their new life in China.

Irose Hansen has been part of ISA since August 2005. She has played such an important role in creating our world-class Pre-School programme. As a core member of the team she has assisted in the planning of our new facility and implementing the Curriculum for Excellence. She has been an outstanding team leader of the Crathes group within Pre-School. The children adore her. Irose leaves ISA after so many years with the deep respect of her colleagues and the parents. Her next move will be to a pre-school in China, where she will be the lead teacher. We will certainly miss her at ISA and wish her well in the new venture, knowing that the next school is very lucky to have such a talented teacher.

Jennifer Sutherland has been at the school for four years and, wow, has she packed a lot of teaching in that time. She began in second grade, where her first year included a visit by Her Majesty The Queen to her classroom. She also taught fourth grade and third grade. Jen's classrooms are characterised by great joy, student engagement and choice. Jen has improved the curriculum of studies in whichever grade she taught and most importantly made sure all her students had a course of study that left them ready for whatever new challenges they might face. Jen also has the distinction of being the only teacher, along with husband Matt, to have a mock school wedding ceremony. Jen will be missed by her students, colleagues and parents for many reasons, including her wonderful spirit and contributions to all aspects of school life. We wish Jen and Matt great joy in their next school in Tokyo.

I recently asked some students of Matt Sutherland what they liked most about their teacher. The response included, *"He makes us comfortable to learn and to try hard work."* They went on about his sense of humour, how much fun lessons were, and how every child felt respected and, therefore, confident to speak/contribute in class. Matt's students are obviously very fond of their teacher and so, too, are their parents and his colleagues. Matt has been at ISA since August 2013 as a fifth grade teacher. He's made tremendous contributions to all aspects of school life at ISA, as well as adding a great deal to the fifth grade programme of studies. Matt will be greatly missed at ISA, but it's nice to think this wonderful teacher will still be making a huge difference to children in Japan.

Each of these teachers has made countless contributions to ISA life and, while we will miss them, we wish them all the best.

Whether your family is returning next year or moving on to other adventures, I want to thank you for your contributions to the ISA family this year.

Best Regards,

Don Newbury
Elementary Principal

4 From the Fine Arts Department

FANTASTIC WORK Middle School musicians, technicians, artists and actors! What an incredible evening! We are very proud of you! BRAVO!!

Have a great, relaxing summer holiday! See you in August!

The Fine Arts Department

4 From the Pool

Dear Parents and Students,

The swimming pool timetable is changing for the summer, so please make a note of the following:

Saturday Family Swim

Please note that the **last** family swimming session during this term will take place on 17th June 2017 at 12:30-1:45pm. The session will be resumed on the 26th August 2017

Early Morning Parents & Staff

The early morning 6:00-7:45am session will be continued until 28th June 2017. It will be resumed on 7th August 2017.

After-School Swimming (Students)

All Elementary School after-school activities (including swimming session on Tuesday) finish on Friday, 9th June.

Last after-school swimming session for Middle and High Schools (3:15 pm start) will take place on Tuesday, 13th June.

These sessions will resume the second week of the new school term.

Have a great holiday - and keep swimming!

Kind Regards,

Samuel Kazmierski
ISA Aquatics

4 From the Library

Students can borrow books over the summer holiday

We hope our students have enjoyed the library books that they have been reading this year. All students, parents and staff who are continuing at ISA next year are welcome to borrow books over the summer holiday – all books borrowed from 7th June onwards will be due back when school restarts in August.

Josie Crimp
Librarian

4 From the School Nurse

Hi everyone – we are almost there, the summer is in sight!!

This is just a short *Thistle* today to wish everyone an amazing vacation and a fond adieu to those who are leaving us.

And, for the final time, please, please come pick up any medication that we are holding for you – I will need to dispose of it otherwise.

Let's end the school year well and have a great summer. Come back safe and remember:

Slip – slip on a shirt, **Slop** – slop on sunscreen, and **Slap** – slap on a hat



See y'all real soon
Karen



Congratulations to the Class of 2017! Good luck and remember ENJOY LIFE !!!

4 From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Duke of Edinburgh



Attention all ISA students and parents:

The sign-up process for all levels of DofE participation (Bronze, Silver and Gold) is currently in progress. Whether you will be new to DofE (current 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th grades), or are a current participant and plan to move on to the next level for the school year 2017-18, you should be in contact with Mr Crock and make sure he knows of your intention to participate. For expedition planning purposes, it is important that accurate numbers are known before we leave for the summer.

All students who plan to participate in the Bronze level, next school year, should pay a £20 registration fee (includes the welcome pack) and a £180 deposit by **Monday, 12th June 2017** to reserve a place in the ISA-sponsored trainings and expeditions. Cheques should be made payable to The International School Aberdeen (cash accepted) and submitted to Bret Crock. Alternatively, payment may be made through iPayimpact in the Business Office.

Currently, the following dates are on the calendar:

Bronze

- Saturday, 26th August - Bronze training part 1 (9:00am–1:00pm)
- Saturday, 2nd September - Bronze training part 2 / route planning (9:00am–1:00pm)
- Saturday, 30th September – Sunday, 1st October - Bronze practice expedition
- Wednesday, 28th February 2018 - Bronze route planning (3:15–5:15pm)
- Saturday, 21st - Sunday, 22nd April 2018 - Bronze qualifying expedition

Silver

- Wednesday, 23rd August - Silver refresher training (3:15–5:15pm)
- Wednesday, 30th August - Silver route planning (3:15–5:15pm)
- Saturday, 23rd – Monday, 25th September - Silver practice expedition
- Wednesday, 14th March 2018 - Silver route planning (3:15–5:15pm)
- Friday, 13th – Sunday, 15th April 2018 - Silver qualifying expedition

If you have any questions related to DofE please direct them to:

Mr Bret Crock - bcrock@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk



Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you again for the wonderful array of Staff/Teacher Treats you arrange for us every month. These are greatly appreciated by us all!

There are a number of plates and dishes in the Faculty Lounge, we would like to see returned to you. Please feel free to pop into the lounge to collect these. They will be on a table near the fridge or in the cupboards under the counter.

If you need any help, please just let me know.

Kind regards,

Annette Brand
MS/HS Secretary





Leaving ISA in June or sooner?

Please complete the attached Withdrawal Form and return it to Mary Rayne (Elementary) or Annette Brand (Middle/High) as soon as possible.

This will ensure that all student records are ready in time for your departure and that we have your forwarding details.

If you think you **may** be leaving but this has not yet been confirmed, please could you let us know? This will help us to be prepared for you and in no way jeopardises your child's place at ISA.

Thank you.

Mary Rayne
Annette Brand





WITHDRAWAL FORM

Please notify us as soon as possible if you know you will be leaving in the next few months. Even if you know you are leaving but do not have a definite date, it would be helpful for us to know.

Please complete and email to either: Annette Brand (Middle/High School Secretary) at abrand@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk or Mary Rayne (Elementary School Secretary) at mrayne@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk

FAMILY NAME:		WITHDRAWAL DATE (or estimated if not confirmed):
STUDENT'S NAME:		GRADE:
RECEIVING SCHOOL: (NAME & ADDRESS)		
STUDENT'S NAME:		GRADE:
RECEIVING SCHOOL: (NAME & ADDRESS)		
STUDENT'S NAME:		GRADE:
RECEIVING SCHOOL: (NAME & ADDRESS)		
STUDENT'S NAME:		GRADE:
RECEIVING SCHOOL: (NAME & ADDRESS)		
STUDENT'S NAME:		GRADE:
RECEIVING SCHOOL: (NAME & ADDRESS)		
COMPANY:		
FAMILY FORWARDING ADDRESS: (if new address is unknown, please supply an alternative e.g. relative/friend)		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		

Any confidential psychological or educational psychology assessments will be handed directly to parents in a sealed envelope to present to the receiving schools.

PARENT SIGNATURE (permission to release records):	DATE:



BIG THANKS

The end of the school year at an international school is always full of mixed emotions. The PTO would like to wish our leaving families a smooth transition to their new schools. You all will be greatly missed! Preparations are in full swing to welcome all our new and returning families into our community. Have a great summer holiday and we look forward to another exciting year at ISA!

Melinda Hulm
PTO President

PTO VACANCY

We are welcoming applicants for position of **Treasurer** for 2017/18.

Full list of duties posted on PTO bulletin board. Please contact Melinda Hulm or email pto@isa.aberdeen.sch.uk for more information. Nominations for treasurer are open until 12 June 2017

KILTWALK

A massive thank you to everyone (2 and 4 legged) who participated in the Kiltwalk on Sunday, June 4! We had fabulous weather and enjoyed spectacular views along the Deeside pathway to the finish line at Potarch Green Park, west of Banchory.

Tasha



The Buddy program aims to welcome new families into our community and is extended friendship to help make the transition to Aberdeen a 'wee' bit easier.

BUDDY SIGN UP

A buddy family can help with questions about school, the community or just be a familiar face in school. If you are staying on next year, please sign up and help a new family!

www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4baea82fa5f58-buddy