

ICSA TODAY



@ICSAbidjan

Director's Message

Coding

Mark Zuckerberg states, "In fifteen years, we'll be teaching programming like we teach reading and writing...and wondering why we didn't do it sooner." The Hour of Code, which ICSA is participating in, is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics (even you, parents!).

This grassroots campaign goal is for tens of millions of students to try an Hour of Code during December 7-13, in celebration of Computer Science Education Week. It is not held to just one hour - you can do the Hour of Code anytime during this week. ICSA in fact is making this a three-week event.

Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. It is organized by a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools. Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the College Board have come together to support this fun event.

From kindergarten on up, there are tutorials for everyone of all experience levels to try and are guaranteed to offer a ton of laughter while on the way. It works on all devices so really there is no excuse (even for those without a computer). Don't be surprised to see Star Wars characters as well as Angry Birds and Minecraft in there.

Enjoy your weekends,

Peter

IN-SERVICE DAY SCHEDULE CHANGE

The **February 15th** Teachers In-service Day has been moved to **February 19th**, 2016
*****No school for students on this Day*****

Upcoming Dates

December

11: Winter Break Begins (Noon dismissal)

January

6: School Resumes

18: ICSA Day of Service

22: Quarter 2 / Semester 1 Ends

25: Quarter 3 / Semester 2 Begins

February

19: Teacher PD Day – no school for students

Lower School

Student Support Teams

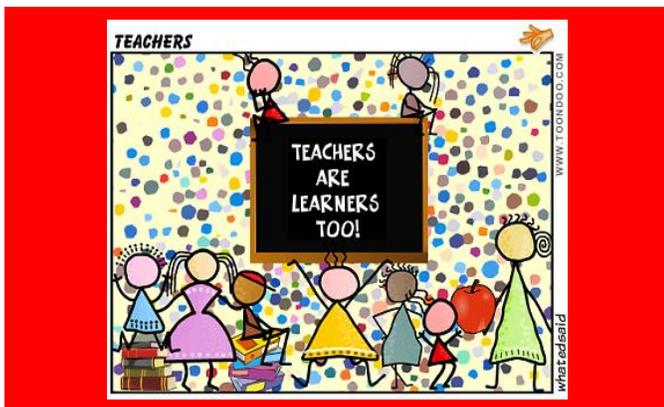


Working together to serve the needs of all our students. That is a primary goal of ours here in the Lower School. We are happy to announce we are expanding our program of Student Support Teams to better support the diversity of learners in the Lower School.

Here's how it works. A teacher has been working with a student around an academic or behavioral concern. The teacher has put strategies into place, but is not happy with the results. So, the teacher submits an SST Referral for the LS Counselor outlining the concerns and what's been done to date. The Counselor pulls together a Student Support Team (SST) for that particular student. The team meets and discusses the student's strengths and challenges. The hope being that working together, as a team, we are more powerful to provide the additional support this student requires to assist him/her in reaching the academic or behavioral goals that have been set.

Parents are informed about the SST's work and will sometimes be asked to meet with the SST in order to help provide more information about the student. Working together, home and school, we are better able to meet our students where they are and help them work towards their goals. It's a win-win for our students. We look forward to having you as part of our Student Support Teams.

Professional Development Workshops.... Coming soon in January.



Vincent Ventura
Director of LitLife

Diving Into
Balanced Literacy:
Spotlight on Workshop

I am thrilled to announce that the Lower School will be bringing Mr. Vincent Ventura to provide our teachers with some professional development workshops in January. Mr. Ventura is the Director of LitLife Latin America. While he works with

Schools primarily in Latin America, he also works with international schools around the world. LitLife was founded in 2002 and initially provided professional development to educators in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in the United States. Mr. Ventura joined the organization in 2012 and since that time, LitLife has expanded its work to include international schools.

We are happy to welcome him to ICSA and even more excited to learn with him new ways we can expand our literacy instruction. **AKWABA!**

MOVIE NIGHTS

- Monday, **December 7**: LS STUCO Movie, Pre-K to 2nd
2:45-4:00 (1,000 CFA). Pick up Time: 4PM @ Preau
- Tuesday, **December 8**: LS STUCO Movie, 3rd to 5th
2:45-4:00 (1,000 CFA) Pick up Time: 4PM @ Preau



ICSA Community Unites!

What a great couple of weeks we have had at ICSA. On the heels of UN Day I could not be more proud of our students, parents, staff and faculty. UN Day was an incredible success and that is a result of the effort of our entire school community. It is great to see everyone so involved and interested in participating in an event that is so meaningful. The beautiful clothing, wonderful food, special guest, flag presentation, and the entertainment was impressive to say the least. I would like to say a big thank you to the ICSA community for their efforts!

The winter concerts were just another example of the school and community spirit we have at ICSA. Watching all of our talented students perform whether it be singing, dancing, or playing an instrument it is always

impressive to see the talented youth that we have the privilege of serving each and every day. If that wasn't enough seeing the families come out in full force wearing their pagne let me know how tight of a community we really have. It was great to see friends and family join in with the ICSA faculty and staff to create two magical evenings.

Before we know it we will be on our way to a well deserved break. As we return to school in 2016 we will have two short weeks before we have the MLK Day of Service on January 18th. This will be another example of our school uniting to give back to our local community. There will be opportunities for students to work at the zoo, coach youth in a soccer camp, volunteer at schools and orphanages, walkathons, swimathons and more. We look forward to having the opportunity to make an impact in our community.

As we wrap up 2015 I would like to say thank you to all of the parents for their support. We have had a great school year so far and I look forward to the great things that our students can accomplish upon return from the break. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season as many of you will travel near and far over the next couple of weeks. Please be safe and enjoy your family and friends.

Thank you,
Jim O'Malley