

# ICSA TODAY



## Director's Message

### IB Authorization

You may have heard already but if you have not, you are hearing about it now. ICSA just received notice this week that we have been authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the Diploma Program to our students in grades 11 and 12!

This is a world class curriculum and our students will be receiving the very same rigorous education that students in 4,000+ schools around the world receive. Not only is it world class, it is also recognized by thousands of universities around the world. When an IB student applies to a university, the university takes notice.

The universities also take notice not just of the academics the program provides but also because the program develops inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring people. The IB hopes students will build a better world through intercultural understanding and respect by encouraging students to think critically, asking challenging questions, and by developing research skills proven to help in higher education and life beyond.

I want to thank all those professionals who were responsible for making this happen. Led by Fatou Amany, teachers worked hard as a team and I, for one, am delighted that ICSA can now call itself an IB World School.

*Enjoy your weekends,*

*Peter*

#### Upcoming Dates

##### March

**18: PTO Quiz night**

**21-24: La semaine de la Francophonie**

**25: Good Friday - Noon Release**

**26: Spring Break begins**

##### April:

**4: School Resumes**

**8: Quarter 3 Ends**

**15: Field Day**

#### MASTER PLAN

Our architectural firm has submitted their Progress on the Master Plan Report. The architects noted how clear students, parents, and teachers, were when discussing future plans – there was strong disposition towards the flag quad and the importance of keeping the spaces as wide and as green as possible.

I feel they captured these aspects and have done a tremendous job to date. Please come by the office to look at the five plans. If you cannot come, here is the [very long presentation](#) (81 slides) and a [short one](#) (10 slides).

<p><b>Lower School News</b> March 11, 2016</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —</p>	<p><b>Lower School News</b> March 11, 2016</p>
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**Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday  
with the  
LS Student Council's  
Week of Wacky Fun**

*"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book and read to a child."*

Dr Seuss



*with Ms. Charlotte Fomengia*

**It's that time again...Homework with your child**

Which homework routine is best?

- David likes to start homework right after school.
- Jazmine prefers to relax first and have a light
- Max listens to music when he studies.
- Bella needs silence.



snack.

They are all fine! With help from their parents, these students have discovered what works for them. Here are some helpful strategies for your child when helping them with their homework by Leslie Simpson M.Ed

When and where?

Try planning a regular time each day when family members do quiet activities. You will help your child focus by limiting distractions. For example, she can do homework in the kitchen after school while you pay bills or cook. Or everyone can read in the living room at night while she works in her room.

#### Take a break

Schedule short periods of work to fit your child's attention span. If he has an hour of homework, he can do 30 minutes and then take a break (play soccer, have a healthy snack) before finishing up. Tip? To keep track of his time and stay on task set an alarm to signal his break.

#### First things first

Before he starts, help your child put his assignments in order. Have you noticed he gets more done when he does written work first? If so, he can complete his math worksheet, then practice spelling and, finally, study science. Idea: Suggest that he rank homework from hardest to easiest and tackle the more complicated work first.

'The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day' – O. A. Battista

## Upper School News



### **ICSA- Officially an IB World School in 2016/2017**

It is with great pleasure to share with you that ICSA has received authorization and will officially be an IB World School next fall. Eighteen months of hard work and preparation paid off as we received word on Tuesday from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) that we earned our authorization. Our IB team worked extremely hard to put us in this exciting position.

The next step for us is to craft the schedule for next year. If your child is a sophomore or junior you will be receiving a schedule request form next week. You should look over this form carefully when selecting classes for next year. Once we receive the data, we will craft the best possible IB schedule for next year. The goal will be to accommodate our students in the best manner. This data will help us do that.

This is exciting news for our community and a great opportunity for our students to build an impressive and strong academic record as they graduate from ICSA and move towards their next steps in their academic career.

### **Senioritis is Setting In**

If you are a parent of a senior we would like to enlist your help. This is a tough time of the year for graduating seniors. Many of them have already been accepted to the colleges and universities of their choice. As their focus begins to drift towards the reality of being in college next fall their focus on their current academic responsibilities easily takes a back seat. It is important to help us at ICSA keep them focused on finishing their high school career on a strong note. Our counselor Steve Mellman and I have talked with them as a group and many individually about the importance of keeping their focus and finishing strong. Please help us relay that message at home.

### **3rd Quarter Rapidly Coming to a Close**

Incredibly we only have three full weeks left in the 3rd quarter. Parents should make sure they are monitoring Renweb to make sure their students are up to date on their work. With three weeks left students still have time to recover if their grades are lower than they would like. Make it a point to sit down with your student this week and take a look at their current performance. If you have issues with Renweb contact Remziya Rehman in the US Office; [rehman@icsabidjan.org](mailto:rehman@icsabidjan.org)

*Jim O'Malley*



#### **ATTENTION ALL PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ICSA STAFF!**

The PTO invites you to come share an adult only evening of fun, prizes, and a raffle on March 18 from 19:00-22:00 at the school. A "quiz night" (aka "trivia night") is where we break into table teams and answer trivia questions on a full range of topics such as politics, sports, entertainment, pop culture, food, and a wild card category. This is a great opportunity for us to build our community and socialize. The proceeds will go toward a popcorn machine and bouncy castle for school events, and to support the school's sports teams. The entry fee is 5000 CFA. Non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please bring a snack to share with your team.

We hope to see you there!