



# ICSA TODAY

## Director's Message



@ICSAbidjan

**Monday, May 16** (this Monday): Please remember this is a holiday and so there will be no school for your children.

**Concert and Art Show:** The Lower School is putting this on tonight. The Art Show will be in the Lower School Library beginning at 5:30. The Music Concert will be held in the Preau and begins at 6:30. There will be artisans selling high quality crafts as well.

**Musical Production of Aladdin:** The tickets are on sale for this play involving more than 30 of our students. The grand opening is set for next Friday but there will also be a show on Saturday. Come out and support our performers.

**Survey:** Linked [here](#) is the survey we sent out earlier in the year. The information was very useful. However, as it was at the beginning of the year, results are likely what they might be a bit later on in the year. Therefore, next year, we will be sending out the survey a bit later on but still before the winter break.

**Re-Registration:** Classes are getting full. Please come in and complete this very important painless and timeless process.

**End of Year:** Less than a month to go as June 9 is the students' last day! Parents, please help us keep the importance on learning and not on vacation plans - there is still so much to do.

### UPCOMING DATES

#### MAY

- 16: Pentecost Holiday / No School
- 17: Board Meeting @ 6PM
- 19: PTO General Meeting
- 20-21: Aladdin Concert
- 26: US STEM Fair
- 28: Senior Prom
- 30-31: Senior Exams

#### JUNE

- 1: Senior Exams
- 4: Graduation
- 9: Last Day of School/Noon Release

### Sixth Graders are Winners in Global Website Design Contest!

**Congratulations** are in order for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders! This year, Class 6B along with their teammates in India and the US won **Silver Prize, Second Place**, in the Global Virtual Classroom Website Design Contest, Primary Division, for their website, [Preserving Heritage to Promote Peace!](#) Class 6A, with their teammates in the US and the Czech Republic have also been awarded a **Merit Award for Academic Excellence** for their website, [A World of Our Own Making](#). Through their participation, our students learn a myriad of research, technology, and international collaboration skills, and engage in cross cultural exchange as they get to know and work with their international team mates.

*Enjoy your weekend  
Peter Zeitoun*

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Lower School News</h2> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">William Seward Lower School Principal</p>	 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —  INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —  INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —  INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Lower School News</h2> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">May 13, 2016</p>
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## We Miss You When You're Not Here: The Importance of Student Attendance

**William Seward**  
Lower School Principal

“It was only one day.” “We have the opportunity to visit a wonderful city.” “It’s only a few days before vacation anyway.” Parents have many reasons why their children miss school. I always trust that each and every reason is valid and indeed important to the family.

In some instances, absences cannot be avoided. Medical reasons and family emergencies do come up from time to time throughout the school year. Unfortunately, many of our students are absent due to extending vacation times, or non-essential travel during the academic year. These instances are worrisome for a couple of reasons.

First, research shows us that being at school is vital for the success of students. Children who are absent excessively often lag behind their peers in academic performance. It makes sense because when students are absent from class, they not only miss the teacher’s lesson, they miss the discussion and questions from their peers. They are not there to take part in the development of a learning community.

Second, we also know from research that students who are absent a lot from school develop a negative attitude towards school. They do not cultivate the love of learning that is so important in becoming successful, lifelong learners.

We know all of our students have the capability to reach the highest goals and develop into successful students who move forward as successful adults. We just want them to be here so we can help them reach those goals. With this in mind, I wanted to bring your attention to a few updates in our school’s attendance policy which will go into effect for the 2016-17 academic year.

## Updated Information Attendance Policy 2016-17

Students absent **more than 10% of school year**, excused or unexcused, are in jeopardy of not receiving credit for the year and not being promoted to the next grade. This would be 18 days of a 180 day school year.

**Excused absences:** sick with a medical note from a doctor, emergency family matter (i.e. funeral, sick relative) and other serious reasons.

Parents should complete a **Request for Pre-Approved Absence Form** for any upcoming absence that will be longer than two days. The form needs to be returned to school at least seven (7) days prior to the absences.



Help Your Child Succeed in School:  
**Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**  
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)



With Ms. Charlotte Fomengia  
Lower School Counselor



## Test Taking Tips for Parents

### Help your child with Test Taking

As you know, MAP testing will begin next week for Lower School Students. Although these tests are important, there are several ways to help your student minimize stress and maximize performance throughout the testing process.

#### Test Taking Tips For Parents

1. **Talk about the tests at home.** Encourage your child to do his or her best, but not to stress about them. It's helpful for children to understand why schools give tests and to know the different kinds of tests they will take.
2. **Give words of encouragement.** Remind your child that he or she has been preparing for this all year. They are ready!
3. **Have your child get a good night's rest.** Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges. Rest is important in having people feel their best.
4. **Eat a good breakfast.** Students who are full can focus easier and longer than students who feel hungry.
5. **Get to school on time.** Students who feel rushed to get to school, start their day with anxiety, and anxiety leads to frustration and poorer test performance.
6. **Make sure students have everything they need.**
7. **Talk to your student about how the test went, what he or she did well and what he or she would have done differently.** Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand.

## Giving Back - Oasis Orphanage in Koumassi



Nearly **600,000 CFA**-worth of donations were recently given to L'Oasis Orphanage in Koumassi by the following groups: the LS Student Council, the US Community Service Club, and the 7th grade beginning French class. Joining forces, the groups bought 60 child-sized plastic chairs, 5 twin-sized beds (complete with wooden frames, mattresses, pillows, and sheets), and nearly **150,000 CFA** of food, diapers, and cleaning supplies. The money was raised through the walk-a-thon and swim-a-thon held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, various LS Student Council fundraisers, and a water balloon activity (in which teachers and students were the targets) hosted by the 7th grade beginning French class. On Tuesday, May 10, six LS STUCO members and adult chaperones took a field trip to the orphanage to deliver some of the items.

We'd like to extend a hearty **"Thank You"** to the ICSA community for your support of our fundraising activities throughout the year. We have been able to give these gifts to the Oasis Orphanage in Koumassi because of your generous spirit. Thank you all once again!

<p><b>Upper School News</b></p> <p>Jim O'Malley Upper School Principal</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —</p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —</p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —</p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY — SCHOOL OF ABIDJAN —</p>	<p><b>Upper School News</b></p> <p>April 29, 2016</p>
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### Sprint to the Finish!

It is hard to believe that we are less than a month away from the end of the school year. In three short weeks the Class of 2016 will have achieved a major milestone in their lives. They will be beginning a new chapter which is incredibly exciting. There are plenty of events to keep you busy here at ICSA as we close out the school year and I will outline a few of them:

**Aladdin**

Mrs. McDaniel along with many faculty and staff members have been hard at work for months to produce a great event that will happen May 20th and 21st. Aladdin comes to ICSA. There are only two shows so get your tickets before they sell out. We would love to see everyone come out and support the drama program next week.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fair**

The US STEM fair will be held May 26th after lunch. Our students work will be on display and we would love for you to have the opportunity to see our/your students' creativeness, innovativeness, and motivation to create a dynamic project to display.

**Middle School Dance**

The MS Student Council will be hosting a middle school dance on May 27th from 6:00-9:00. If you have a middle school student encourage them to join in on the fun. There will be plenty of snacks, drinks, music, fun, and supervision. We hope to see everyone there.

**Girls Soccer Match**

The girls will be playing their last match of the year here at ICSA on the 27th of May. Come out and support the Lady Panthers. The match starts at 3:15 here at ICSA.

**Senior Prom**

The senior prom will be held on the 28th of May. There is a ton of excitement in the air and the students are really getting excited for prom.

**Senior Exams**

Our seniors will close out their academic responsibilities by taking their final exams. These will be held May 30, 31, and June 1st. They will be held in the multipurpose room. The seniors will be required to attend school May 30th from 12:00-2:00, May 31st and June 1st from 9:00-11:00, and 12:00-2:00. Seniors should be on campus by 11:30 if they have eaten lunch on the 30th, they should be here at 11:00 if they plan on eating lunch at school on the 30th. They may leave campus at 2:00 all three days. The 31st and 1st all seniors should be on campus by 8:30 and no later. They cannot be tardy for their exams.

**Senior Getaway Day**

We are planning a day away at The International Club on June 2nd. This will be a day of fun in the sun for the Class of 2016.

**Senior Luncheon**

The Class of 2016 will have their annual senior luncheon on the 3rd. More details will be provided shortly. During this luncheon some awards will be handed out to the seniors.

**Graduation**

Graduation will be held on June 4th at 7:00PM

**Message from our School Canteen**

Just a reminder to our parents that the 2016/17 school lunch invoices and 2015/16 justification receipts are being prepared and can be collected at the school cafeteria office or by sending an email request to [md@tamucuisine.com](mailto:md@tamucuisine.com).

Please provide the following information - 1] Name of Parent, 2] Name of Student and 3] Grade.

Thank you for your support.

Tamu Tamu Cuisine