



ICSA Today

learning and leading in a collaborative culture



Board President's Message

January 27, 2017

Dear Parents

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Without doubt, the biggest news for the school community is the Board's decision to move ahead with the design and building of the school's new pool while the Sports and Arts Complex awaits further funding. Very soon, and I mean by the beginning of next academic year, our students will be having exciting times taking swim lessons in our own pool.

As you aware, the Board is responsible for setting the school's financial direction which takes into account the various programs, activities, and facilities. As is the case with most international schools, the vast majority of the operational budget comes from tuition. Over the last three years, tuition has increased from five to 30 percent depending on the category. For this coming academic year, the Board has voted to increase the tuition fee by three percent across the board. Please see the table below showing the changes.

	2016-17	2017-18
Pre-K	10,804	11,128
Kinder	13,450	13,853
1-5	17,970	18,509
6-8	19,294	19,872
9-12	20,176	20,781

Yomi Ayodabo
Board President

UPCOMING DATES

January

- 27: Q2 Ends
- 30: Q3 Begins
- 30: Grade 10 Parent IB Info Session - Phase 1

February

- 6: Reports Cards to Parents
- 7: PTO Meeting (3:15 pm)
- 8: Parent-to-Parent Talk
- 9: Upper School STEM Fair #1
- 10: Upper School Awards Ceremony
- 13: Board Meeting (6pm)
- 14: Lower School Career Day
- 15: Half Day/Teacher In-Service
- 15: Upper School Awards Ceremony
- 17: Talent Show
- 24: AAAHCM Assembly
- 27: Counselor Corner w/Parents

Director's Message

Speaking about swimming, did you know that our Swim Team is in Ghana this weekend? They are competing at a meet there and we wish them the best of luck. Competition is good for students for a number of reasons but my favorite is that young people learn how to win, and how to lose, with grace. I am happy to know our coaches instill both a competitive spirit and sportsmanship in our student-athletes.

Our Boys and Girls Basketball teams are traveling to Ouagadougou next Wednesday for the WAISAL tournament there. I am excited as head of school that we are able to send three teams when last year we did not even send one. Obviously something is catching on! There is no doubt that ICSA is now a contributing member our our inter-school athletics league.

Later on in the year (April), ICSA will be hosting the WAISAL's biggest competition of the year - the High School Soccer Tournament! As hosts, we will make sure we put on an unforgettable event. This will be three days of full on soccer games between at least 14 teams (seven boys and seven girls). We will be counting on the support of parents to host athletes from other schools in their homes. At the same time, we hope the entire school community comes out and cheers on all teams!

Apart from athletics, we will be sending two Model United Nations teams out to Ghana and South Africa and I will write more on that at a later date. Additionally, we will be having art exhibits and music performances (there is one this evening for Middle School). There is no doubt that ICSA is all about Academics, Athletics and Arts and I am proud these are developing into strong main-stay programs here.

Enjoy the weekend

Peter



Lower School News

ATTENDANCE & GATE PASSES

Please be sure to let your child's teacher know about planned absences and planned late arrivals or early pick-ups. This allows the classroom teacher to be prepared.

If your child will require a GATE PASS, you also need to notify the LS Office so a pass can be prepared for your child.

E-mail lsoffice@icsabidjan.org

While this might seem like a bothersome process, it is to ensure the safety of our students. I am sure you would all agree that it is worth the additional couple of minutes it might take.

REPORT CARDS



Report cards will be sent to parents via RenWeb on February 6th. Students will receive feedback on their progress in Reading, Writing, Math, Science/Social Studies, Specials, French and Life Skills. Some questions parents might want to ask of their child's teachers are listed below.

- What academic standards do you use, and what do I need to know about them?
- How will you respond if or when my child struggles in class?
- What are the most important and complex (content-related) ideas my child needs to understand by the end of the year?
- What can I do to support literacy in my home?
- What kinds of questions do you suggest that I ask my children on a daily basis about your class?
- How exactly is learning personalized in your classroom? In the school?



The recent events in Abidjan have created a sense of unease across the city, and even here in our school. I wanted to let you know that teachers have been monitoring students for any signs of anxiety or stress that might be related to these recent events. The Lower School has also been reminding students of what to do in case we have an emergency while at school. Procedures for lockdown and safe haven events have been reviewed.

If you believe your child would benefit from some additional support, please contact Ms. Fomengia and she would be happy to meet with your child to discuss their concerns.

LS Stuco Valentine's Day Candy-grams

The LS Student Council will be selling Valentine's Day Candy-grams for 500 CFA each. The funds will go to a local charity. Sales run from January 30th - February 10th. Come to the ECC Preau during LS recess times to make your purchase.



- **Attendance** - students are marked tardy if they arrive to class after 8:00 AM.
- You will receive an automated email via RenWeb on days your child is marked absent or tardy.
- **Dismissal** is at 3:00PM. Please be on time.
- **Gate Passes** - Passes must be requested via e-

mail.



Handling Crisis Situations: Tips for Parents

With the country's most recent civil disturbances and unrest, we understand that this has caused a variety of emotions including worry and uncertainty among parents and students. These feelings are all normal and it is important to recognize and express your feelings in a healthy manner. This is also a great opportunity to review your own emergency plans with your family. In addition, to the school's emergency preparedness plan, here are some helpful tips you can use with your children:

1. Keep your child informed and updated, keeping in mind the developmental and cognitive level of the child. Children need to feel involved and as in control as much as possible.
2. Watch for signs of distress. Loss of appetite, aggression, acting out, being withdrawn, sleeping disorders, and other behavior changes can indicate problems.
3. Send your child to school if possible. The stability and routine of a familiar situation will help young people feel more secure.
4. Remember that everyone reacts to stress and/or crisis in different ways. There is no one way to act in a crisis situation.
5. Allow children the opportunity to express feelings. It is important to validate these feelings.
6. A good diet and plenty of exercise are important for children who are under stress. Encourage your child to eat well and get plenty of exercise.
7. Be honest about your own concerns, but stress your and your child's ability to cope with the situation.
8. Be available and listen to your child.
9. Remember to take care of yourself.
10. Obtain outside help if necessary.

Lastly, if you or your child would like to speak with me, I am always available to offer support.

Charlotte Fomengia
Lower School Counselor



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