



ICSA Today

learning and leading in a collaborative culture



Director's Message

March 24, 2017

Odds an Ends

Board Elections: You received a Special Flash yesterday with attachments for the application and board policy. If you are interested, here they are again.

[Board Member Application Form](#)

[Board Operations Policy](#)

Spring Arts Festival: This starts at 2 PM tomorrow. We will have all sorts of arts presentations going on throughout the afternoon in a number of venues throughout the school. There will be more than 25 community members selling all sorts of things from household items to food etc. There will be opportunities for you to participate in artistic activities. At 5:00 pm we will have the art auction click [ICSA Art Auction 2017](#) to view the pieces.

WAISAL: I know you might be tired of hearing about this from me but wait until the tournament - I know you will be hooting and hollering for ICSA Panthers to win! We now have enough parents hosting all the athletes and for that I am very grateful as this is without a doubt the most important logistical aspect of making this tournament a success.

School Website: I sent out a short survey regarding its usefulness. If you have not done so and would like to make a comment or two, please do so [here](#).

Enjoy your weekend,

Peter Zeitoun

UPCOMING DATES

March

25: PTO Spring Arts Fest (2:00pm)

30: Grade 10 IB Info Session - Phase 2 (6:00pm, MPR)

31: Q3 Ends

31: MS Concert (6:00pm, MPR)

April

3: Q4 Begins

3: Board Meeting (6:00pm)

4: PTO meeting (3:15pm)

5: Half Day/Teacher In-Service

5: Upper School Career Day

6-8: WAISAL Tournament

10: Report Cards to Parents

11: Half Day - Parent Teacher Conferences

14: Half Day - Good Friday

17-21: Easter Break



What Happens at 3:15?

Important Changes are Coming - Please Read

In an effort to ensure the safety of all our students, beginning on Monday, April 3rd, any student not picked up by 3:15, and not participating in after-school activities, will be supervised in the ECC Playground area. In the past, students were asked to remain in the LS Playground area until they were picked up to go home. However, we have had some problems with students leaving and being found in all parts of the campus. This is not safe, thus the changes being put into place on April 3rd.

Teachers will take students to the ECC Playground at 3:15 (using the gate located by first grade) and that is where parents can pick their children up when they arrive (also using the gate located by first grade). This will be the only area where supervision will be provided by the school after 3:15. Any LS student on campus will need to be in an after-school activity, with their parent on campus, or in the ECC Playground area.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. As always, our goal is your child's safety.

[What If Everything You Knew About Disciplining Kids Was Wrong?](#)

by Katherine Reynolds Lewis

Dear Parents,

I found this article from "Mother Jones" to be interesting. I hope you find it to be useful as well. Please just click on the title and the link should take you to the article.

William

As we continue to move in the direction of our goal of having a standards-based grading system, I wanted to share this article with you. It addresses some of the fears and misconceptions surrounding standards-based grading. The school is moving to a new student information system for next year. We will adopt Skyward. This is a system that allows for standards-based grading in a much easier manner and without the restrictions we have encountered with RenWeb. It will be a process that is planned out and discussed. Still, I have no doubt that we will hit some bumps along the way. In the end, however, the benefits of a standards-based grading system outweigh the uncomfortableness we feel with change.



[Standards-Based Grading Made My Kid Average](#)

by Peter DeWitt



Meditation in Schools

I recently started meditating with a group of students during lunch recess. I was amazed and delighted with the results. Not only did the students enjoy the exercises but they reported feeling calmer and more aware after the exercises. According to EOC Institute:

Benefits of Meditation in the Classroom

Greater relaxation, better focus, and more self-awareness are among the most often cited benefits of meditation in the classroom. Numerous studies and anecdotes from educators point to the positive changes meditation brings to the classroom:

- A study published in the Journal of Applied School Psychology showed that mindful awareness exercises helped first, second, and third graders reduce their anxiety and do better in school
- A study at the University of British Columbia showed that mindfulness exercises heightened optimism, attention, and behavior and reduced aggression among fourth through seventh graders
- Teachers report classrooms are more peaceful when they build meditation into their lesson plans
- Teachers report that relationships between students improve, with the children showing more compassion toward one another
- Teachers find that meditation can better prepare students for learning by improving their attention skills and reducing test anxiety
- Meditation has helped children with ADHD improve their attention span so that they can participate in classroom learning
- Educators are using meditation in working with children with autism

I am looking forward to future meditation exercises with students and future meditation collaborations with teachers.



Upper School News

Grade 10 IB Info Sessions- Phase 2

ICSA will be holding our grade 10 IB info session Thursday at 6PM. Parents are invited to join us. This session will allow you to get a snapshot of what the different IB groups offer our students

academically. There will be a short informational discussion lead by Fatou Amany, our IB Coordinator followed by a classroom rotation. The rotation will take you into the classroom and provide an opportunity for the teachers to share the curriculum and expectations for their classes.

Art Show Saturday!

We will be hosting an Art Show Saturday from 2:00-5:00. There will be many great opportunities for you and your children Saturday. There will be hands on events, activities and a culminating art auction to end the day. Get out and support our art department and take advantage of this fantastic event on campus. See you there!

Upper School 3rd Quarter Music Concert Friday!

I would like to encourage parents, family, and friends to come out Friday evening and join us for our 3rd Quarter Music Concert. If your student is taking music during the third quarter, don't miss this opportunity to see them perform. If you don't have a student performing, don't miss out on taking part in the fun anyways. Don't miss out on all of the fun!

WAISAL Soccer Tournament Comes to ICSA

We are less than two weeks away from hosting an incredible event here on our campus. Many of you have volunteered to host athletes at your house. We couldn't be more grateful for all of the support and help we have received from our families. A sincere thank you to all who have helped. Students will arrive one week from Wednesday, and the fun will begin. If you haven't signed up to help and would still like to contribute, it is not too late. Contact Carlos Sandoval @ csandoval@icsabidjan.org for more information.

Academic Probation and Credit Recovery

Over the last two weeks, our counselor Mr. Mellman and I have met with several families regarding academic progress. Any middle school student who has failed two core classes or more for the semester have been placed on academic probation. The expectation is that they will pass the second semester to stay on track to be able to pass the grade for the year. Any high school student who has failed a class that will affect their ability to graduate with the required credits will be required to enroll in a credit recovery class. This will enable those students to make up the credit they lost by failing the class. They may also be placed on academic probation.



The **Spring Arts Festis** here! Come this Saturday from 2:00-6:00 PM to enjoy artactivities and displays, an art auction, a bouncy castle, a raffle, and yardsale. Entrance tickets are only 2000 CFA and will be sold at the door, alongwith raffle tickets and your chance to win a round trip ticket to Accra withEmirates. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of a pottery kiln.

Elodie Mosby will becollecting used cleats for the children who play in a local rugby clubBAREFOOT. You can bring your donations to the Spring Art Fest or put them inthe donation box in the preau for one week after.

We welcome you to email us at icsa.pto@icsabidjan.org

Have a great weekend!



[Visit our website](#)

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