



ISPS Weekly Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 22: Friday 20 February 2009

Vision:

ISPS will strive to be one of the premier international schools.

Mission:

ISPS will provide an outstanding educational programme for both international and resident families who want their children to pursue higher education.

From the Director

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting week at ISPS. The wide variety of Carnival activities and performances proved a great celebration and opportunity for our students to learn more about this vibrant part of Trinidadian culture. A BIG, jump up thanks to the Carnival committee, teachers and parents who helped make this experience possible.

I returned from a successful recruiting trip to the US this week. I am pleased to inform you that I hired a highly experienced AP Physics teacher who currently teaches at a private high school in San Francisco. Although our current physics teacher, Mr. Smith, will be a hard act to follow, I am confident that the new teacher will continue the high quality programs in place now.

As many of you are aware, this is Ms Lisa Mahabir's last day of teaching at ISPS. Ms Mahabir has served as a first grade teacher for the past three and a half years and has to leave us for personal reasons. Ms Shahien, our PYP coordinator and highly experienced teacher, will teach this first grade class for the remainder of the year. We held a meeting with parents on Thursday morning to introduce Ms Shahien and discuss plans for the transition in teachers. On behalf of the ISPS community, I would like to thank Ms Mahabir for her service to our school and wish her the best for the future.

The PTO officers met on Wednesday. One of the items we discussed was the recent parent coffee for new parents. At that meeting, parents were asked to develop a list of topics they would like more information about. The PTO will publish this list in next week's newsletter and we will begin to address the issues raised in a variety of different ways, (newsletter articles, special meetings and additions in school publications). The PTO also discussed the upcoming Book Fair on March 13th which we hope you will be able to support with donated books, (see further details in this newsletter).

March will be a busy and fun month at ISPS. On March 1st Ms O'Donovan will lead our annual Beach clean up and all family members are invited to help out. Parents are also welcome and encouraged to take part in our Walkathon on March 7th to raise funds for the Christ Child Convalescent Home and the Cyril Ross Nursery. In addition, middle school and high school parents are invited to conference with teachers on March 20th.

Have a safe and fun Carnival! School will resume on Thursday, February 26th.

Eric Larson

Dates for your Diary:

- Feb 20 School Carnival Jump-Up (1/2 day classes)
- Feb 23-24 Carnival (**No School**)
- Feb 25 Ash Wednesday (**No School**)
- Mar 3 & 4 ERB Testing Grades 3-5
- Mar 4-8 CAISSA Tournament
- Mar 7 Walk A Thon
- Mar 9 MS Q3 Progress Reports
- Mar 10-13 8th Grade Outdoor Trip
- Mar 13 PTO Used Book Sale

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Goodbye to

**Sang-Yeon Won,
Kevin Natenstedt,
Hannah & Stefanie Saddey
who are relocating to
another country**

RE-ENROLLMENT NOTICE

That time of year is fast approaching and re-enrollment forms will be sent home on March 6th. If you are already aware that your family will not be returning to ISPS for the 09-10 Academic Year, it will be appreciated if you can send an e-mail to Jackie Fung-Kee-Fung: Admissions Director at jfungkeefung@isps.edu.tt or a written note as soon as possible.

Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence

Nurse's Notes

Hello everyone,

Its Carnival time! Lets have fun and be safe. Here are some guidelines for Carnival safety.

- Stay with your group do not walk around alone.
- Do not display cash in public.
- If wearing a pouch around your waist with valuables keep it in front of you.
- Do not accept lifts from strangers.
- Do not accept drinks and food from strangers.
- If drinking alcohol DO NOT DRIVE!
- Avoid mixing drinks.
- Have a proper breakfast before you leave home.
- Eat fruits like oranges, bananas and watermelon.
- Apply sunscreen before you leave home and every 2-3 hrs.
- Wear clothing with sleeves if possible.
- Wear a hat with a brim to protect your face and neck.
- Sit or stand in the shade whenever possible.
- Wear comfortable shoes, avoid new shoes.
- Apply band aides to back of feet, toes and any area shoe may rub.
- Do not buy from street food vendors unless you see a food badge displayed.
- Do drink a lot of liquids to keep well hydrated.

I have not received all the Yellow fever shots. Due to a shortage they are being rationed. I will call you individually as I get them.

You can pay Mrs. Irene Akien in the accounts department in advance.

Do have a great time.

Vanda Gomes R.N.R.M. - School Nurse



Photo Journal

Elementary teachers captured in deep concentration during their two day Junior Great Book Workshop last Thursday & Friday evening...



We were graced with the presence of DIGICEL Artists Kes & Jay D at the Soca School Tour "Song & Lyric" Caravan



Positive Messages



Thank You Digicel!

Community Notice Board : Upcoming Events & Notices

PTO Second Hand Book Fair on March 13, 2009

If you would like to donate, Books, DVDS Tapes, Movies or Magazines in all different languages to be sold at the Book Fair you can drop off your donation at the ISPS Front Desk Reception labeled Book Fair.

The items should be in good condition for resale. Any and or all contributions will be appreciated.

For further information please contact Debra de Montrichard at 788-8949 or e-mail ddem@usa.com



ISPS Walk-A-Thon : March 7th

Donation sheets were sent home last week to Elementary, Middle and High School students.

If you did not receive your sheet, please contact your child or children's class or homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

Guidelines will be posted in the next newsletter on March 6th.

Mrs. Suzette Julien
ES Principal and Walk-a-thon Co-ordinator



DON'T FORGET
Annual Matura Beach Clean Up:
March 1st

Nature Seekers
Be a nature seeker and help preserve wildlife



ATHLETICS

Caiman Athletics

Our Girls Basketball team has won their first league game. They overcame Mucurapo and St. Martins Girls by large margins and look in a no-nonsense mood. They are very focused on retaining the National Title that they won last year for the first time.

The Boys Under 17s and Under 15s have so far gone unbeaten in the three games that they have played. Last year the younger boys won the National title and so far have not been pushed by the other teams. Coaches Sprott and Lue Shue are very confident and are working hard to bring more glory to ISPS.

CAISSA Update

The ISPS Caimans will be leaving on the Wednesday 4th March to participate in the CAISSA Invitational Boys Basketball and Girls Soccer Tournament in the Dominican Republic. The host School (The Carol Morgan School) is hosting the tournament for the first time in almost three years. Last year our boys placed a creditable third behind Academia Cotopaxi and Champs Escuela Campo Alegre. This year Coach Sprott is hoping that they perform well, despite being the youngest team in the competition. The girls are one of the power houses in the tournament and we are expecting this young, eager and well trained team to challenge last year's champion, ECA, for the top spot. Our team will be returning home on Monday March 9th. **GOOD LUCK CAIMANS!!!**

ISPS will be hosting season 3 of CAISSA from May 22nd to May 26th 2009. Girls Basketball and Boys Soccer will take the center stage as ISPS Caimans register two teams in each sport. The entire ISPS community can look forward to a very competitive tournament and a very festive atmosphere. Our girls were dethroned last year by Academia Cotopaxi at 3000m and our boys succumbed to the conditions to place third. Teams coming to Trinidad can look forward to a very hot tournament in the gym and on the playfield. All are invited to the games and to give our visitors a very warm welcome. Call Ashmir (620 6866) or anyone of the PE teachers to assist with the tournament or for more information.

Ashmir Ali

Athletic Director



Easy Print Page

Dates for your Diary:



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 Feb 23-24 Carnival (No School)
 Feb 25 Ash Wednesday (No School)
 Mar 3 & 4 ERB Testing Grades 3-5
 Mar 4-8 CAISSA Tournament
 Mar 7 Walk A Thon

Cafeteria Menu: February 26th & 27th and March 2nd-6th

Everyday there will be a set menu at a fixed cost (Table 'd' hote) and some days may have an a la carte menu where items are priced individually (A la Carte)

- Thu 26th:** Geera Chicken, Jerk Pork, Bhagee Rice, Pumpkin Ragout, Cucumber Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice
- Fri 27th:** Old Fashioned Fried Chicken, Fish Orly/Tartar Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Herb Rice, Blackbeans, Coleslaw & Fresh Fruit Juice

MARCH 2nd-6th

- Mon 2nd:** Tandoori Fish, Saffron Chicken, Snowflake Rice, Dhal, Braised Cabbage and Patchoi, Greek Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice
- Tue 3rd:** Beef Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Fish Broth, Bread Rolls, Fresh Fruit Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice
- Wed 4th:** Sweet and Sour Ribs, Stir Fry Chicken, Honey Garlic Fish, Fried Rice, Chunky Vegetables, Fresh Greens & Fresh Fruit Juice
- Thu 5th:** Hawaiian Lamb Chops, Stuffed Chicken, Potato Au Gratin, Glazed Vegetables, Tossed Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice
- Fri 6th:** Hot Dogs, Burgers, Pizzas, Sloppy Joes, French Fries, Salad Bar & Fresh Fruit Juice (A LA CARTE)
OR Chicken Pelau, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit Juice

Prices for Lunch: VAT INCLUSIVE (Table 'd' hote)- Fixed Menu

Small: \$20.70 Large: \$25.30

Prices for (A la Carte Menu) : VAT INCLUSIVE

Hot Dogs:\$8.05 , Burgers:\$18.40/\$20.70, Cheese Pizza:\$11.50/Meat Pizza \$13.80, French Fries: \$9.20
Regular Juices: Small \$4.60 Large: \$9.20

Note: Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Students & Staff who suffer from allergies or have dietary requirements, please let the café know in advance so that they can try to facilitate you.

Other Available Items: Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit Juices, Milk Drinks, Pre-packed Juices, Cut Fruits, Freshly Baked Pastries & Snack Items

Freshly baked breads for parents & staff will be on sale in the Café every Friday afternoon



Dear Parents,

Each class has been actively involved in the preparation of the Carnival Jump-Up that will take place on Friday 20th, at 10:00 a.m. It will be the first experience for many of our students and they will be part of an elementary band (Pre-K-5) called *Our Precious Earth*. You will have the opportunity to see each grade tell a story about the earth. Please make sure that you arrive on time to see your child parade in his/her costume. In addition to the Jump-Up, there will be the Art headpiece competition in the cafeteria at 7:30 a.m. Any parent who wishes to take his/her child home prior to the 11:30 a.m. dismissal must notify the classroom teacher.

The Coffee Morning held on February 11 was poorly attended. At that meeting, the intent was to answer any concerns about the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and to introduce the programme to our new parents. If anyone has questions about the programme do not hesitate to contact the PYP coordinator (Angela Shahien).

International School Assessment (ISA) results were sent home this week and all questions regarding the test can be addressed with the classroom teachers or Ms. Koesterer. Our teachers in grades 3-5 have analyzed the test and will be addressing subject area weaknesses. Furthermore, teachers will collaborate and discuss strategies to use with students to further develop their skills.

Over the last few weeks many of our students have been preparing for the jump rope competition. Last Friday, they were eager to showcase their jumping skills and they did. The competition will continue for a few more weeks and hopefully we will see more students wanting to continue using these skills learned in physical education.

A hearty thank you to all the parents who treated the ISPS staff to the delicious snacks and food last Thursday. We truly appreciate your time and effort in preparing the many foods that you sent to us.

If you are participating in the varied events over the Carnival weekend, please make sure that you are taking all precautions to be safe, (please refer to the school's weekly newsletter).

School resumes on Thursday 26th. I am looking forward to seeing all students on that day.

The next newsletter will be sent on March 6th.

Happy Carnival!

Suzette Julien: Elementary Principal



PYP Corner

Last Thursday and Friday our classroom teachers and teaching assistants all participated in a 10-hour Junior Great Books workshop. On the first day of the workshop many of the teachers did not know how they would be able to stay awake after teaching all day and then participating in a workshop until after 7 p.m. After the first night we were very impressed with the knowledge we had gained and we did not mind returning the next day. We all knew that the two-day workshop was going to be arduous; yet we all actively participated in reading passages, identified and created varied forms of questions, led shared inquiry discussions with colleagues, learned strategies for vocabulary development and much more. At the end of it all, we felt that the information and training that we all received was worth our time. Moreover, we can return to our classrooms with more strategies to conduct shared inquiry with our students.

We will continue to update you on the happenings of the PYP. Please note we are soon approaching our conferences on March 26th. It is our first attempt to implement student-led conferences. These conferences are conducted by the students and the parent interacts directly with his/her child. Each student has a portfolio that consists of samples of work from the varied subject areas. All classroom teachers will be sending home a newsletter outlining the expectations of the conference. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher should you have an immediate concern about the upcoming conferences that will be held next month.

Angela Shahien, PYP Coordinator: ashahien@isps.edu.tt

Come support our 12th Walk-a-Thon

Each year we host a walk-a-thon to raise funds for needy children and we are excited about reaching out to the wider community. We encourage all families to come out and support this event, since we feel that our students are more fortunate than many other children in this country. Not to mention, that we are participating in a worthy cause. Over the last 11 years, we have always had an excellent turn out of our families and last year we raised over \$40,000 for the event. All monies collected are donated to charitable organizations. We understand that the event is a bit early at 6:30 a.m. but this is necessary since the temperature may become unbearable to walk any later. We encourage you to bring the entire family and come walk with us.

Date & Time: March 7, 2009 @ 6:30 a.m.

Place: Queen's Park Savannah

Dates to Remember:

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|-----------------|--|
| February 20: | Carnival Jump-Up (early dismissal 11:30 a.m.) & Art Competition |
| February 23-24: | National Carnival (no school) |
| February 25: | Ash Wednesday (No school) |
| March 3-4: | ERB Writing Test |
| March 7: | Walk-A-Thon |
| March 26: | Student-led Conferences 12:00– 3:15 p.m. early dismissal 11:00am |



