



# ISPS Weekly Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 19: Friday 30 January 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,

We had a good visit with Paul Poore, the Executive Director of the Association of American Schools in South America, on Monday this week. We learned more about AASSA's services to schools and it was helpful to become acquainted with Mr. Poore.

Middle school and High school first semester reports are being sent home today. I urge you to review the reports with your child and discuss how school is going. It would be useful for you to set goals for the second semester, too. Your active participation in your child's education is important and will help make school a positive and successful experience. Parent conferences are scheduled for March, however, if you have any immediate concerns you can schedule a meeting with your child's class teachers.

The Board of Directors met this week and approved the calendar for the 2009-10 school year. The first day of the school year will be August 24<sup>th</sup> and the calendar will be posted on our web site early next week. I encourage you to refer to the calendar when planning trips so your children do not miss school. The Board also approved tuition fees for next year as they appear on our school web site. As previously planned, tuition fees will increase 5% next year and all other fees remain the same. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the calendar or tuition fee schedule.

I will be travelling to the US from February 5-16 to recruit teachers for next academic year. Mrs. Julien will act in my place from February 5-10 and Ms Solozano will be in charge from February 11-16. I expect to hire outstanding teachers to meet our staffing needs and consider this one of the most important aspects of my job.

Please note that there will be an information meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the Primary Years Program that we utilize in our elementary classrooms. The PYP is an enquiry based approach and a highly effective way for children to engage in their learning. All parents with elementary children are invited to attend even though the meeting is mostly intended for parents unfamiliar with the PYP. The meeting will allow everyone to ask any questions they have about the PYP.

Have a good weekend.

Eric Larson

**Dates for your Diary:**

Jan 30	MS & HS Q2 Reports distributed
Feb 7	ACT's 8:00-11:45am
Feb 11	ES Parents PYP Informational Coffee Morning 7:30am
Feb 19	Soca School Bus Tour
Feb 20	School Carnival Jump-Up (1/2 day classes)
Feb 23-24	Carnival ( <b>No School</b> )
Feb 25	Ash Wednesday ( <b>No School</b> )

**What's Inside**

Science Corner Special	2
Nurse's Notes	2
Walk-A-Thon	2
Athletics	3
Community Notice Board	4
Easy Print Page: Café Menu	5
February Calendar	6

*Schedule these upcoming events listed below in your calendar!*



**CARNIVAL JUMP-UP: *What is it you ask?*** For those of you who are new to the ISPS community, you may be wondering what is going to happen at the school's jump-up. Each grade will form a "band" that will parade in costume. However, this will be no ordinary parade! The high-energy Soca music is sure to get all the students (and parents) moving, jumping and waving. Plan on being here on **Friday 20th February** to be part of the excitement! Look out for more updates as Carnival gets closer.



**BEACH CLEAN UP:** The Annual Beach Clean Up in Matura will be on **Sunday March 1st**. The Science Corner Special Update has more information on the importance of this event to ISPS and the preservation of nature



**WALK-A-THON:** The Annual Walk-a-thon is carded for **Saturday March 7th**. See inside for more information.

*Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence*

*Website: <http://www.isps.edu.tt>*

## Annual Matura Beach Clean Up

Well it's that time of year again and the Annual Beach Clean Up in Matura will be on Sunday March 1st. I will be taking my Biology classes up as usual but again I am encouraging this to be a school wide event and hope that we will get families from all levels of the school participating.

As you may remember, this is not just a regular beach clean up, but one that will facilitate the successful nesting of the Leatherback Turtle during the nesting season. Nature Seekers have always been extremely grateful for the continued efforts of ISPS in this endeavour and I am hoping that this year will be no exception.



I will be sending out more details during the course of next month, but in the meantime, take note of the date and make it a family day. Every year, my students and I see the real benefit of this beach clean up, when we take our second trip to become conservationists for a night (May/June). Having the beach clear of debris/logs/rope etc really facilitates the turtles when they attempt to nest. Otherwise they stumble over bits of wood, get caught in rope and often lay their eggs in ground too wet, shallow or even turn back to sea.

Please help them and us and make this a school wide event. Looking forward to your support!

*Ms. O'Donovan : Department Head*



*Captioned photo above is copyrighted by Sandy Nesbitt and sourced from Earthwatch Institute [www.earthwatch.org/expeditions](http://www.earthwatch.org/expeditions)*

## ISPS

## Annual Walk-a-thon



**The annual ISPS Walk-A-Thon will be held this year on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March.** As in previous years, all proceeds from this event will go towards assisting charitable organizations such as the Christ Child Convalescent Home and the Cyril Ross Nursery. We look forward to significant student and parent participation in this worthwhile event. More information regarding the Walk-A-Thon will be forthcoming.

### Nurse's Notes

Hello Everyone,

I ordered the yellow fever vaccine but was unable to get it this week. Hopefully we will be getting it next week. I will keep you posted.

Yellow fever is a viral disease. It primarily affects humans and monkeys and is transmitted via the Aedes mosquito, the same one which transmits the dengue fever.

The first symptoms usually appear 3-6 days after infection. Fever muscle pain, headache, shivers, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting are usually the symptoms. After 3-4 days symptoms usually disappear. In some cases the disease enters the toxic phase where fever reappears and the patient develops jaundice and sometimes with blood in the vomit.

There is no specific treatment for yellow fever. Therefore vaccination is recommended as a preventative measure.

Some Health Centers still have some vaccines available.

*Have a good weekend.*

*Vanda Gomes R.N. R.M.*

*School Nurse*

# Athletics



**Soccer:** As we prepare for CAISSA girl's soccer in Dominica Republic, we have a couple exciting practice games scheduled:

**Date:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Venue:** ISPS

**Game:** ISPS vs. Providence Girls'

**Time:** 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**Date:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February

**Venue:** ISPS

**Game:** ISPS vs. Maple Leaf

**Time:** 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**Come out and support our Caimans!!!**



**Basketball:** With the National Schools' Basketball League in action our Caimans have been playing very well. The games have been filled with lots of spills and thrills and overall excitement. Next week both our boys and girls are in action at the ISPS school gymnasium.

**Date:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**Venue:** ISPS Gym

**Game:** U-15 Boys vs. S.L.S.S

**Time:** 3:30pm

**Date:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Venue:** ISPS Gym

**Game:** ISPS Girls vs. Mucurapo

**Time:** 3:30pm



**Sailing:** ASA sailing is cancelled until session 3. For information on cancellation contact the PE office.



**Swimming:** On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009, ISPS will be taking part in the T.S.T.T Foundation Annual National Secondary Schools' Swim Championship, at the **Joao Havelange Centre of Excellence Swimming Pool, Macoya**. ISPS will be represented by 9 swimmers aiming to retain the top COED school trophy.



**Congratulations:** The PE department would like to congratulate Ms. Louise Smart for her outstanding performance in the CLICO Marathon. Ms. Smart placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> timers category.




## **Secondary Schools Water Polo League Update:**

As our young Caimans took to the pool last weekend to compete in National Secondary School's water polo league, they had a hard match against St. Mary's College. But for their first ever competitive game they put up a good fight but lost 11 – 1. On Sunday they played St. Anthony's, an even tougher test. The improvement from the previous game was obvious for those who were there to see even though we lost 10 – 2. Much thanks to those who came out to support. Next game will be Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 pm against St. Dominic's Trade School & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 noon against Fatima at Marlins/St. Anthony's pool. We must win one of these games to progress to the semi-finals. Support will be needed.

You can purchase a lovely Caimans shirt as displayed in the picture in the PE office to show your support.

# Community Notice Board : Upcoming Events & Notices



**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

**THE CHALLENGE :**  
To design an ISPS Carnival '09 T-shirt

DESIGNS SHOULD BE DONE ON A4 PAPER

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 2ND to the Middle School Office

Judging Categories:

- Visual Impact
- Originality
- Relevance to Carnival

The lucky winner gets:

- 2 Free T shirts!
- The pleasure of seeing your design mass produced and worn by the ISPS community
- Designer credit on the school's website

**Have your children outgrown their bedtime story books?**

**OR...have their taste in music & movies changed?**

**OR...BETTER YET!!!**

**Do you have shelves filled with books & magazines that you've read already and don't know what to do with them?**

**Well....The PTO is hosting a "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](mailto:ddem@usa.com)

## ISPS CARNIVAL '09 HEADPIECE COMPETITION



**Are you creative?...**

Then it's time to show off your skills!  
Design a headpiece that reflects the theme "Our Precious Earth!"

You can visually portray any aspect of the topic, for example, the effect of global warming or simply the beauty of the planet.  
Judging will take place on Friday 20th February.  
Headpieces must be worn and portrayed by the designer.

Entry forms containing further details are available in coloured envelopes around the school

Great prizes to be won!  
Lower Elem (Pre K & K)  
Middle Elem (Grades 1,2,3)  
Upper Elem (Grades 4,5)  
Middle School 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

Deadline for submission:  
Wednesday 18th February 09


Dear Parents,

The Carnival Committee would appreciate any help you may be able to give us in contacting and arranging visits from Carnival Artistes, Old Time Carnival Characters, etc for our Lead Up to Carnival Program.

Also, we are looking for entire costumes, headpieces included, that you may like to donate/lend to us for decorating the school.

Please contact Nicha Cassiram at 632-4591 ext 125 or e-mail [asolozano@isps.edu.tt](mailto:asolozano@isps.edu.tt) if you can assist with any of the above.

**Thanks.....The ISPS Carnival Committee**



**Middle School Student Council  
Valentines Day Dance**

**Date & Time:** Friday 13th February from 4:00-7:30pm

**Cost & Venue:** \$35.00 (inclusive of pizza & a drink) in the Cafeteria

**Dance is for MS Students only and tickets can be purchased from any Student Council member.**



# Easy Print Page

### Dates for your Diary:

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## Cafeteria Menu: February 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)

**Mon 2nd:** Barbeque Ribs, Barbeque Chicken, Spanish Rice, Sautéed Vegetables, Coleslaw & Fresh Fruit Juice  
**(Table 'd' hote) - Fixed Menu**

**Tue 3rd:** Shepherd's Pie Baked beans, Bread Rolls, Green Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice **(Table 'd' hote) - Fixed Menu**

**Wed 4th:** Stewed Chicken, Fish Creole, Ochro Rice/Dumplings, Lentils, Tossed Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice  
**(Table 'd' hote) - Fixed Menu**

**Thu 5th:** Baked Chicken, Fried Fish, Macaroni Pie, Savoury Rice, Pickled Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice  
**(Table 'd' hote) - Fixed Menu**

**Fri 6th:** Beef Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Corn Soup, Bread Rolls, Fresh Fruit Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice  
**(Table 'd' hote) - Fixed Menu**

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

**Small: \$20.70 Large: \$25.30**

*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**





# February 2009

## International School of Port of Spain

### 2008—2009 School Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 CAIMANS Soccer Game ISPS vs Providence 3:30pm @ ISPS	3 CAIMANS Basketball Game U-15 Boys vs S.L.S.S. 3:30pm @ ISPS Gym	4	5 CAIMANS Basketball Game ISPS Girls vs Mucurapo 3:30pm @ ISPS Gym	6 CAIMANS Soccer Game ISPS vs Maple Leaf 3:30pm @ ISPS	7 ACTs 8:00am—11:45am
8 TSTT Foundations Annual National Secondary Schools' Swim Championship Centre of Excellence Swimming Pool, Macoya	9	10	11 ES PYP Coffee Morning 7:30am in the Cafeteria	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 SOCA School Bus Tour	20 School Carnival Jump-Up Early Dismissal 11:30am	21
22	23 Carnival (No School)	24 Carnival (No School)	25 Ash Wednesday (No School)	26 MUN trip to Boston, MA Jan. 26—Mar. 3	27	28