



# ISPS Weekly Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 36: Friday 26th June, 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 have had a good last week of the 2008-09 school year. We have enjoyed transition ceremonies in prekindergarten, kindergarten, grade five and grade eight. Tonight we celebrate the graduation of our seniors. It has truly been a pleasure to be a part of our students' lives as they have grown and learned this year. A special congratulations to the class of 2009!

The week has also been one of saying goodbye. On behalf of the school community, I bid farewell to the families who are leaving ISPS and wish you all the best in your new adventures. Thank you for being part of our school family. We will miss you and encourage you to stay in touch. We are only a click away: [www.isps.edu.tt](http://www.isps.edu.tt)

For those returning next year, we look forward to another year together. The first day of school is August 24<sup>th</sup>. There is also an orientation for new families on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to the parents who returned our annual school survey. We are collating the results and will use them in our ongoing efforts to improve the education we provide our students. We will publish the results at the start of next school year.

*Have a great summer and be sure to spend time with your children.*

Eric Larson

**Dates for your Diary:**

- June 26 Kinder Transition Ceremony
- Last Day of School: Dismissal 11:30am**
- Class of 2009 Graduation: 6:30pm
- Jun 29 Summer Camp Begins
- Jul 17 Last Day of Summer Camp
- Aug 21 New Family Orientation
- Aug 24 First Day of 2009-2010 School Year

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## Administrative Notice from Accounts

### 10% SURCHARGE FOR LATE PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A 10% interest surcharge has been imposed for the late payment of tuition fees. This will take effect in the new academic year commencing August 1st, 2009. It is therefore suggested that parents/guardians take note of the due dates which are stated on your contracts for payment of tuition fees.

If in doubt, kindly contact Mrs. Akien in the Business Office for further clarification or information.

*Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence*

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

# IMPORTANT UNIFORM UPDATE

## Middle School & High School

We have been working with our uniform suppliers at The Knowledge Zone to ensure that we have a full range of sizes of blue Polo shirts for our Middle and High School students available for next year. This will include Junior sizes and Ladies cut with a more tapered fit. Unfortunately, the shipment will not arrive in the country in time for the new school year. We apologize for this inconvenience but it is beyond our control

Therefore, we will extend the uniform transition period until December. Middle School and High School students may continue to wear white Polo shirts or the Oxford shirts in blue or white. You can contact the school to see if we have Oxford shirts in your child's size. Starting in January, all Middle and High School students will be expected to wear the blue Polo shirts.

Other parts of the uniform remain unchanged:

### Girls

Khaki A-line skirt (no shorter than 2" above the knee) or khaki pants (cargo pants, corduroys and jeans are not allowed)

Totally black shoes or sneakers and white socks (must be visible)

Grey sweatshirt with school logo

### Boys

Khaki pants (cargo pants, corduroys and jeans are not allowed)

Totally black shoes or sneakers

Grey sweatshirt with school logo

### Physical Education

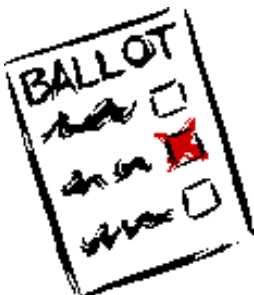
Grey T-shirt with school logo

Blue Shorts with school logo

## Elementary School

There are no changes to the uniform, but parents are reminded that all ES students are to wear totally black shoes or sneakers.

## Congratulations to the incoming **PTO Board 2009-2010 Academic Year**



**President:** Debra De Montrichard

**1st Vice President:** Ernie Ross

**2nd Vice President:** Mirtha de Cruz

**Secretary:** Susan Philips

**Treasurer:** Lou Anna Patterson

# College Acceptances

Following is a list of the universities and colleges to which the members of the senior class have been admitted, and will be attending:

*Please join us in congratulating them all.*

## Congratulations!



## Class of 2009

Ryerson University  
The University of Tampa  
Rice University  
University of Miami  
Texas Christian University  
Stanford University  
Brooklyn College of the CUNY  
Cornell College  
Boston College  
Pratt Institute

Georgia Institute of Technology  
University of Guelph  
University of Waterloo  
York University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Boston University  
University of Central Florida  
Nova Southeastern University  
Texas Christian University  
Howard University  
The Ohio State University  
Barry University  
University of the West of England, Bristol  
Bentley University  
Lynn University  
Oxford University  
Johnson & Wales University  
University of Salford  
University of Toronto  
Trinity University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
University of Pennsylvania  
Florida Institute of Technology



# Student Achievements

## **GYMNASTICS**

ISPS hosted the 15th National Invitational Gymnastics Championships over the past weekend and the results are as follows:

**Just remember that this was the National Championships!**

### **Level 1: 7 & 8 year Olds**

**Jade Zaharia:** 1st on Bars, 2nd on Vault & 2nd All Around

### **Level 3: 10+**

**Rachel Davies Lue Shue:** 2nd on Bars, 3rd on Floor & 2nd All Around

### **Level 5: 11+**

**Sara Low:** 3rd Tied on Beam, 3rd on Floor & 5th All Around

## **T & T MATHEMATIC OLYMPIAD SELECTION**

**Congratulations to Prithvi Ramakrishnan who is one of the six-member Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the International Mathematics Olympiad to be held in Germany from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

This is a tremendous achievement for Prithvi as he is also the youngest member of the team.

**Well done Prithvi and good luck in Germany!**



## **BASKETBALL**

ISPS was recognized at the 2009 School' Basketball League Closing Ceremony for the achievements listed below:

**North Zone National Champs U 15**

**North Zone National Champs U 17**

**North Zone National Champs Girls Open**

**North Zone MVP: Emma Goldborne**

**National Champs U 15**

**MVP: Matthew Temple**

**2nd Place National U 17**

**&**

**2nd Place National Girls Open**



## **WATER POLO**

The ISPS male 12 & under water polo team finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams winning their final game last Sunday at the completion of the National Primary schools Mini-polo League for 2009.

**I would like to congratulate the following athletes on the team for their excellent performances throughout the league:**

**Gabriel Lombard** – recent MVP recipient at our sports awards

**Isaac Bayne**

**Jerome Grimes**

**Julian Niccolai** – recent Most Improved recipient at our sports awards

**Nicolas O' Callaghan**

**Aravinda Sharma**

I look forward to next year and their continued involvement.

**Coach Francis**

# Athletic News

## After School Activities:

On behalf of all the instructors, I would like to thank all parents and students for your support during the last year. Registration forms for Session 1: 2009/2010 are available at the front office.

## CAIMAN Sports:

The Athletic Department would like to thank all sponsors, parents and athletes for making 2008/2009 successful.

### **Achievements in 2008/2009**

- **The Girls CAISSA Soccer Champs (for the first time in our history)**
- **The National U 14 Rugby Champs for the second year straight**
- **The National Boys U 15 Basketball Champs for the second straight year**
  - **National finalist in the Boys U 17 Basketball division**
  - **National finalist in the Girls Open Basketball Division**
    - **The CAISSA Girls basketball Champs**
  - **National Secondary School s Girls Tennis Champs**
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Place in National Secondary Schools Boys Tennis**
- **Most improved School in National Secondary Schools Swimming**
- **Champion Co-Ed School in National Secondary Schools Swimming**

*All this with a school population of just over 450 and a High School population of only 150.*

*At ISPS we define success not by winning but by the positive strides that are made by our students.*

## CAISSA:

**We will not be hosting CAISSA next year.** Volleyball CAISSA will be held in Venezuela from November 11 to 15, CAISSA Boys basketball and Girls Soccer will be in Ecuador from March 3 to March 7, and CAISSA Girls Basketball and Boys Soccer will be held in the Dominican Republic from May 21 to May 25.

*When you combine wonderful parents, willing students, eager and knowledgeable coaches in an environment that puts students first and winning second Success is the result. I would like to thank all the students who are leaving. Thank you so very much for being Caimans. We will miss you dearly, but you leave knowing that you have contributed greatly to a school and department that loves you dearly. You can never be replaced in our hearts and on the field of play. Thank you for your commitment, discipline and your spirit. Best of luck to you all.*



# Science Corner



*Welcome to our last newsletter for this academic year!*

## A look at Science Week

The Science department held a Science week on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> of May. This was very successful as is evident by these photos. Our older Science students engaged the Elementary School students who were hugely excited at being taught by Middle and High School students. Likewise, the Middle School students had a few things to teach High School students.

*The main objective of Science week is to share with other levels of the school what they have learned during the academic year.*



I would like to thank all of our students and Science teachers for all their hard work.

Special thanks to Venebles, our Science Lab assistant who worked very hard that week!!

I think that all will agree, it was well worth the effort.



# Science Corner Continued

## *Environmental Science by: Nick Yaremchuk*

For Science Week at ISPS this year, Mr. Y's Environmental Science class welcomed several elementary classes to illustrate the process of paper recycling. This was a hands-on experience with students ripping up used paper, blending that paper into pulp, and using the pulp to make new paper. The high school science students showed great patience with the young people and they were rewarded with the awe and energy that our elementary teachers see every day. (When the boys and girls left, we also experienced a fraction of the exhaustion our esteemed elementary teachers must feel every day!)

Aside from glass, the recycling industry in Trinidad and Tobago is undeveloped. From an environmental perspective, this is concerning because households and businesses do not efficiently use many materials. The students are now painfully aware that what most people call "garbage" can be efficiently manufactured into new products.

When we began the recycling unit in Environmental Science, most students were unaware of how materials like glass, paper and plastic are recycled. They are now apprised of the processes but, more importantly, understanding of the opportunities present in Trinidad and Tobago. As this country develops, there will inevitably be more efficient handling of resources and the current system of sending "garbage" to the Beetham Landfill must change.

At home, parents can support the environmental learning that happens at all levels of ISPS by:

- Talking to your children about their school units on reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Making sure that your household glass gets to a Carib recycling container in your neighborhood, or at the school (this is a homegrown recycling industry and needs your support!).
- Expanding the recycling in your home by separating paper, aluminum, batteries, recyclable plastics, etc. from your garbage.
- Making sure recyclables are regularly taken to a collection center (remember that many types of recyclables are accepted in bins at ISPS).
- Begin a composting program at home (Environmental Science students have a plan for your house already!).

It has been a pleasure working with young people on these issues this year, and I look forward to reducing our community's environmental footprint next year.



## *AP Biology*



AP students were busy with dissections this past week, amongst them squid and earthworm. However it did not end there, with one group cooking up some great calamari!

# Science Corner Continued

## High School Biology



On June 5<sup>th</sup>, students of the Biology class, embarked on the second of two trips to Matura, a small village, located on the North East coast of Trinidad. The first of these two trips occurred in January when students were involved in a Beach clean up. This was not just a regular beach clean up, but one that facilitates the successful nesting of the Leatherback turtle during nesting season. Matura supports the second largest nesting assemblage of Leatherback sea turtles in the Republic and is one of the five most valuable nesting beaches on earth, for critically endangered Leatherbacks.

On the second trip, the students *became conservationists* for a night and learned about the dedication of a conservation groups called Nature Seekers. Nature Seekers is a non profitable community based organization, established in 1990 for the protection and conservation of the endangered leatherback turtle in Matura. They act as an approved tour guide agency to facilitate the viewing and the bonding of the marine turtles and visitors to prevent harassment and disturbance to the endangered marine reptiles. Over the last 10 years the Nature Seekers have helped reduce the slaughtering of egg baring leather back turtles from 30% or more a year to 0%. Their conservation program has received seven national awards. Their most recent achievement is the nomination of one of their founders for CNN's hero award.



The students patrolled the beaches, tagging and measuring turtles, collecting data and although an exhausting endeavor, it was also exhilarating as the students learned about the commitment of Nature Seekers.

## Middle School

Congratulations to Ms De Boucher and her team for a hugely successful Mousetrap car Derby. I was highly impressed with the quality of the cars and how well organized the event was. I'm sure anybody who dropped by was equally impressed.

### **Report: Annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mousetrap Car Races 2009**

At ISPS, the Grade 6 Integrated Math/Science classes held their annual Mousetrap Car Races on Wednesday, June 22 in the school gym. The research, design, and construction of vehicles powered by one single mousetrap were an integral part of their study of Newton's 3 Laws of Motion, including inertia, acceleration, and momentum.

After many hours spent on construction and testing, everyone enjoyed the morning of races attended by parents, other students, and many onlookers. One tournament included the "distance cars" while the other was for the "speedsters." Over 80 heats were held during the 3-hour event.

# Science Corner Continued



*Distance Car Winner*

*Samir Chehade*



*Distance Car Runner-Up*

*Isaac Bayne*



*Speed Car Runner-Up*

*Julian Azar*

**Missing is Speed Car Winner: Patrick Wigger**

It is always sad to say goodbye to our teachers when they leave and this year is no exception. Four of our Science teachers leave us, Mr. Smith from High School, Ms. Craig and Ms. Arnold from Middle school and Mrs. Sara Mc Cartney goes on a year's sabbatical. On behalf of the Science department, I would like to thank all of these teachers for their enormous contributions to Science at ISPS. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

I can honestly say that in my whole teaching year I have never witnessed an academic year go by so quickly. I would like to thank you our parents for your continued support in all levels of the school and I look forward to next year. I do plan to get some rest this Summer and I encourage you to do the same. In the meantime, have a peaceful, safe and enjoyable Summer vacation.

Until next year

*Maeve O Donovan: Science Department Head*

## Notice to Parents of Returning Students & New Students

School Supply listings for Elementary, Middle & High School are available on the school's website [www.isps.edu.tt](http://www.isps.edu.tt)

or at the front office during the school vacation period office hours of 8:00am-12 noon

