



# ISPS Weekly Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 26: Friday 27 March 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,

Elementary school conferences took place on Thursday. This trimester the conferences were led by the students, a format which allowed students to present their achievements. From all accounts, the new format received a positive response from parents.

We had a surprise visit by a drum line and cheerleading squad from the United States yesterday morning. The visitors are in Trinidad to perform at the half time show of the football qualifier between the Soca Warriors and Honduras this weekend. Thanks to Mr. Ernie Ross for helping arrange the visit to ISPS- it was a blast to see them perform.

Today is the last day of the second session of After School Activities. In total, 32 activities were offered during this session. The final session will begin on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact our Athletics Director, Mr. Ali, if you would like to volunteer to help with an activity.

There will be a meeting for parents of CAISSA athletes on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. to prepare for the tournament hosted by ISPS in May. In conjunction with the upcoming tournament, we are forming a committee of students, parents, and staff to develop an athlete's code of conduct and to review guidelines for host families. Please contact me directly if you wish to serve on this committee (elarson@isps.edu.tt). We look forward to a great tournament in May.

The third quarter for middle and high school students ends on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reports for middle school and high school students will be sent home after the Easter break on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

ISPS will have our reaccreditation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools April 20-22. A visiting team of education professionals will be here to assess the level to which our school meets the SACS standards. They will be meeting with students, teachers, administrators, parents and the Board of Directors throughout their visit. The accreditation process allows us to gauge the effectiveness of our school and helps guide us in our ongoing efforts to improve the education we provide. In addition, your child's attendance at an accredited school ensures they are getting a quality education at an international standard.

ISPS will be on Easter break April 4-19. School resumes on **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please make your vacation plans to ensure your children are in school on Monday.

Reenrollment forms for the 2009-10 school year are due by Wednesday **April 1st** of next week. Following this deadline, we cannot guarantee a place for your child next year and we ask you return the forms even if your child will not attend ISPS next academic year.

Monday is a holiday for Shouter Baptist Day. I hope you have a good long weekend.

Eric Larson

**Dates for your Diary:**

- Mar 30 Shouter Baptist Day: No School**
- Apr 3 Last Day of School
- Apr 6 - 17 Easter Break
- Apr 20 School Resumes
- Apr 20-22 ISPS Accreditation Visit

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**Please be reminded that the deadline for returning your child or children's re-enrollment forms is NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY: April 1st.**

**If you have not yet followed the directives given in the letter that was enclosed in your family's re-enrollment package, we urge you to do so now as enrollment continues to be in demand, and families that do not adhere to this deadline or return forms without remitting the stated re-enrollment deposit may be in jeopardy of losing their child/children's placement for the upcoming year.**



## *Message from the PTO*

As we approach Easter and are well past the half way point in the year, on behalf of the PTO Board, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents and school staff who have volunteered their time in support of PTO activities to date. Specific mention must go to Lisa Davis and Gaye Pickering, the organisers of the international food festival, Debbie Zempel, who has taken on the running of the uniform sub-committee, and the class room reps ('the room mums') who provide such great support to the teachers for beyond classroom educational activities. Our PTO Vice President Debra de Montrichard also deserves specific mention for her tireless efforts with staff appreciation activities and the recent book fair. I should also mention the school operations and security staff who frequently turn out on non-school days to support PTO activities.

As we look forward towards the end of the academic year, there are some further events and dates which I would also like to highlight for your diaries. This year we are planning to bring the AGM forward to mid May. At this meeting we will hold the elections for PTO officers and nomination election for any required replacement of parent directors. We will also be seeking volunteers for classroom reps for the next academic year in order facilitate a smooth handover and allow for earlier planning of activities for the new year. We have provisionally set May 13th as the date for this meeting. Anyone interested in taking on a PTO role next year is invited to get in touch with any board member.

Through the year we have also received feedback from many parents on a range of issues which we have passed on to the appropriate area of the school. The love and logic programme is of particular interest to many parents and we are looking at ways to join with efforts the school already has to support parent involvement in this area. We have also received feedback about IT skills and a desire by many parents for greater awareness of the skills being developed by their children. We are currently looking at the possibility of holding some sessions with the school to address this issue.

We are also planning a further garage sale in May/June and an end of year family social event will be added to the calendar at a similar time to celebrate the successes of 2008/09 and to say farewell to departing families.

Finally, the school has now redeveloped the website which will allow posting of more PTO information and we will shortly post a new calendar on the site to better enable you to keep in touch with the events diary. In the meantime please do get in touch with me or anyone of the board if you wish to discuss any issue or provide feedback.

**Ewen Denning**  
**PTO President**

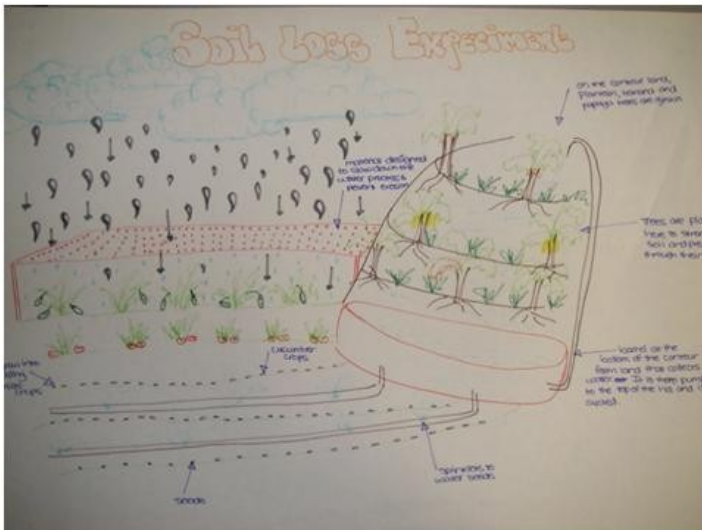
# Science Corner

## High School Environmental Science

Students in Environmental Science have been examining the role of soil, (don't call it dirt!), in natural ecosystems. Soil is the naturally occurring, unconsolidated or loose covering on the Earth's surface.

The importance of soil is often underestimated when we consider the Earth's resources, and few countries have laws that adequately protect soil as a resource.

Most people in Trinidad understand that, during heavy rains, soil enters the waterways. Certainly, farmers in Trinidad know that soil loss is an important issue. If farmers are not properly prepared for the rainy season (or unexpected rains during the dry season), they can lose precious arable, (agriculturally productive), soil due to erosion. Soil loss, and its associated impacts, are some of the most important, (yet probably the least well-known), of today's environmental problems.



The Environmental Science students at ISPS were given the task of planning an experimental farm designed to deal exclusively with the problem of soil erosion. Their experimental plot was a fictitious five hectares of mixed fruit and vegetables; half of the farm was assumed to be hillside and half was flat valley bottom.

Students used their problem solving skills and came up with a variety of experimental farm designs. Many students came up with the idea of “companion planting”, where different agricultural species are planted in proximity to share benefits. Technological innovations, such as ground covering and advanced irrigation techniques, were also designed.

Students were not assessed on whether or not their designs were realistic, but were instead graded on their creativity in the design process. They were also marked on their ability to use science to address the problem. The group work in the lab also encouraged interpersonal skills and consensus building. I encourage you to discuss what is happening in the Environmental Science classroom with your son or daughter!



*Nick Yaremchuk*

# Science Corner

*Middle School: Grade 8*

I was extremely impressed with the projects produced by grade 8 students. The unit on Coral Reef Ecology culminated with a trip to Tobago. Students had to model a coral reef and there were some very impressive models created. See for yourself!



## Our Coral Reef Creations!



Finally a reminder that our Science week will run from May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be more on this next month. Have a safe and peaceful Easter!

*Maeve O Donovan: Science Dept*

# Athletic News

## After School Activities

Session 2 of After School Activities ends today on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The next session starts on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Registration forms will be available at the front desk from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. Parents are reminded early as registration closes on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

## ISPS Hosts CAISSA in May

ISPS will be hosting season 3 of CAISSA from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Escuela Campo Alegre, The Carol Morgan School and Academia Cotopaxi can look forward to a very hot tournament in the gym and on the playfield.

All parents interested in assisting with staging CAISSA Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball from May 22 to May 26 are invited to a special meeting in the PE classroom on Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm. We will be discussing the Budget for the tournament, Sponsorship, Fund Raising, Hospitality Rooms, and Housing and housing guidelines.

*For more information call Ashmir Ali (620 6866, [aali@isps.edu.tt](mailto:aali@isps.edu.tt)).*

## Caimans Basketball

Our Girls Basketball team is the North Zone Champs once again. They will now meet the other Zonal Champs (South, East and Tobago) for the National Title. The date is yet to be announced.

The Boys Under 17s have made it to the Semi-finals of the North Zone. They will take on Tranquility College on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and move on to the finals on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Come on out and cheer on our boys on their quest to win another National Title. All games will take place in our gym from 3:00pm.

Our Boys Under 15s have won the Zonal title for the second year running. They will now compete against the winners of the South Zone, Tobago, and the East Zone winners for the National title.

***Congratulations to all players and the Coaches!!***

## Caimans Soccer

Our CAISSA team will officially kick off their preparations on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2009 with a general meeting at 2:30pm - 3:00pm in the PE classroom. Practice days are scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays until further notice. Training sessions will be at the school from 3:30pm – 5:30pm. The Saturday session will be either in the morning or in the afternoon based on field availability.

Selection for the CAISSA teams will be based on skills, fitness, attitude, attendance, understanding of position and teamwork. Players with injuries are expected to report all injuries to the coaches so treatment and rehabilitation can be monitored. Injuries do not prevent one from making the team, however, safety of players are of great importance both short and long term.

# Athletic News Continued

## CAIMANS Training Schedules for Team Sports

### Season 3 (Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball) from March to May:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boys Soccer MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Basketball Grades MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Soccer MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Basketball MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Soccer MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Basketball 8-14 years 9:00-10:30 am Boys Basketball 15-18 years 11:00am-2:00 pm
Girls Basketball MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm		Girls Basketball MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm		Girls Basketball MS/HS 3:30-5:30 pm	Boys Soccer MS/HS

### CAISSA Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball in Trinidad

from May 22 to May 26

*Only students from Grade 8 to 12 will be considered for CAISSA Teams*

## Nurse's Notes

Hello Everyone,

Wow! We are on the last lap to Easter Break.

As usual there is always something happening in my office. We now have three cases of "Red Eye" or "Conjunctivitis". This condition is highly contagious.

We can prevent ourselves from getting it by not touching our faces, washing hands before touching our faces, and avoid rubbing or scratching eyes. If your eyes appear red, are painful and secrete mucus even after you have cleaned them, get them checked. Antibiotic drops or ointment will do the trick.

This is a reminder to those who requested the yellow fever shots that they are now available. Just pay accounts and come to my office and I will give it to you. Please remember to bring your immunization cards to get them signed and stamped.

Enjoy the long weekend.

Vanda Gomes R.N. R.M.

School Nurse

## Community Notice Board : Upcoming Events & Notices



**The Shelter** is a home for abused women here in Trinidad and they need *YOUR* help.

You can help by simply bringing in

- Non-perishable food (sugar, cans, flour, powdered milk etc.
- Linen/pillows/towels
- Cleaning supplies (antibacterial spray etc.)
- Pots and pans and other kitchen utensils

Bring all items to Ms. Hazel at the front desk, there will be a box there. This drive starts now and will be continued after the Easter Break until the **1st of May**.

Please help us to help women and children in need by supporting our NHS project. Every item is greatly appreciated and we ask that you supply only useable items, **NO JUNK** please!



For more information on the organization, visit The Shelter's website:

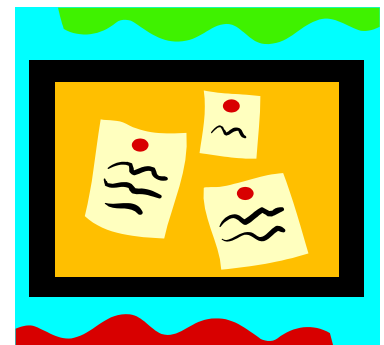
<http://www.opus.co.tt/shelter/>

*Thanks in advance for your generous donations*

**Emma Golborne**



*When you have sometime, please check the notice board in front of the school to see what's happening in the community, upcoming social events from organizations to which some of our parents belong, or just to keep abreast of information we've been asked to pass on.*





# Easy Print Page

Dates for your Diary:



Mar 30 Shouter Baptist Day: No School  
Apr 3 Last Day of School  
Apr 6 - 17 Easter Break  
Apr 20 School Resumes  
Apr 20-22 ISPS Accreditation Visit

## Cafeteria Menu: Mar 30th-Apr 3rd

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 30th:** Spiritual Baptist Day: Public Holiday: No School

**Tue 31st:** Barbeque Beef Subs, Chicken Teriyaki Subs, Meatball Subs, Veggie Subs, Salad Bar, French Fries & Fresh Fruit Juice (**A la Carte**)

**OR** Curried Goat or Curried Chicken, Roti, Curry Aloo & Fresh Fruit Juice (**Table 'd' hote**)

**Wed 1st:** Beef Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Minestrone Soup, Fresh Bread Rolls, Fresh Fruit Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice

**Thu 2nd:** Meatballs in Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti, Black beans, Caesar Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice

**Fri 3rd:** Grilled Chicken, Grilled Fish, Macaroni Pie, Spanish Rice, Greek Salad & 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

**Burritos: Beef \$16.10 & Chicken \$17.25      Bake & Shark \$20.70      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

### **\*\* Special Note\*\***

*Freshly baked breads are still available for purchase from your ISPS Café on Friday afternoons. If you are interested, please place your orders during the week from Monday through to Thursday with Mrs. Prime or her staff.*