



ISPS WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

- 14 Last Day of School
11:30 am Early Dismissal
- 15 Start of Holiday Break

January

- 7 School Resumes
- 17 HS Music Recital
- 18 End of Q2 MS/HS
- 22-30 MUN Montreal, Canada
- 30-3 (FEB) CAISSA—Season 2 D.R.

February

- 9 ACTs

MISSION

ISPS is a vibrant learning community dedicated to developing passionate learners who strive for excellence and pursue their unique potential.

We encourage resilience, innovation and collaboration, preparing students to act with confidence and integrity as caring global citizens.

VISION

Inspiring thinkers and doers to shape a better world.

MOTTO

Difference Makers,
Future Shapers

ISPS Contact #: 633-4777

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents,

The end of term is upon us.

We have had a very productive first half of the school year, and everyone is looking forward to a break.

Congratulations to the entire ES for a very enjoyable performance of the Nutcracker. It was lovely to see the theatre full on Wednesday evening and I hope you enjoyed the production. Again, thank you to the entire ES staff for the work put into this production and a very special thanks to Ketisha Williams, Kendra Sylvester, Aaron Low Chew Tung and our entire maintenance staff for their efforts in putting on a great show.

Congratulations also to the Middle School and High School students for their efforts with decorating their sections and bringing the Christmas spirit to life. The Middle Schoolers explored Christmas themes from different cultures from around the world for his years' Deck The Halls Competition, while the High Schoolers had Homeroom decorating competitions.

I would like to wish all students, parents and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new year. Please remember that school starts back on the 7th of January.

Enjoy the holidays.

J Barney Latham

Director



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE NUTCRACKER

Every year the ISPS Elementary School puts on a production in December. This year “Nutcracker - A Youth Musical” was selected and much of the music programme this term has been focused on viewing music as a performing art that utilizes music and movement concepts learnt.

Auditions for the main cast were open to Grades 2 to 5 students who displayed such enthusiasm that we had to adapt the script to provide more parts!

We are therefore pleased to present this year’s Elementary School production featuring student-created choreography and the myriad other theatrical talents of the diverse student body.

Here are a few highlights from their rehearsal of the play.



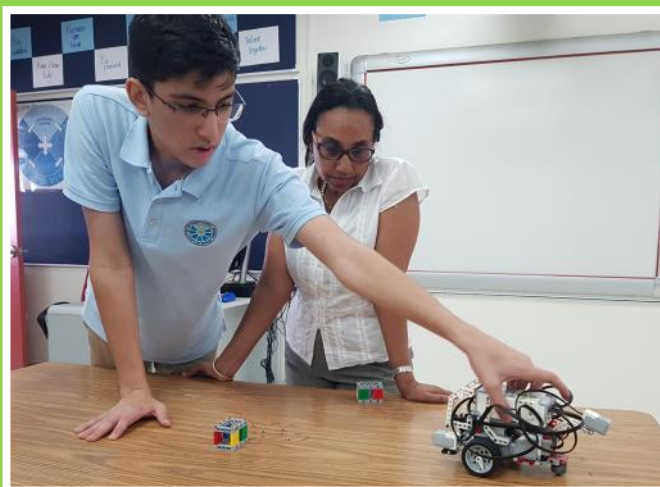
MIDDLE MATTERS



Building School Spirit in Middle School.

Grade 7 won with their depiction of Santa's Workshop.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS



Grade 8 displayed the robots they have been working on this past unit. They were to design, or innovate a design, build and program their robots to work on its own by the push of a button.

Joanna Meade

In light of the Christmas Season, the **Middle School Student Council** along with our Athletics coach **Mr. Sprott**, held a toy drive for the children of Beetham Gardens.

The toys will be shared this Saturday, 15th at the Beetham Community Centre at their annual Christmas party.



A Christmas Message

The ISPS PTO would like to thank you for your willingness to give of your time and effort in support of our events this term.

As we reflect on what Christmas means to us, let us not forget the true meaning.

In keeping with the spirit of giving, we hope that you remember those who are less fortunate this season.

With your support, we have been able to realise our goal of assisting various charities this year.

Donations have been made to:

St. Mary's Children's Home
Roystonia Youth Football Club
Beetham Gardens Community Council
CKFTO
Rebecca Ann Foundation
Angels of Hope

Thank you again and we wish you all a blessed holiday.

May the closeness of friends and the comfort of family renew your spirits this festive season!



ES Counselor's Corner



KINDNESS TREE

Ryan	3W	For helping a friend put on his shoes because he has a broken arm
Pernek	KKh	willingly helped a classmate pack up all his things from his lunch kit after it fell.
Mikel	4B	With a smile on his face, he repeatedly held the door for a teacher when they were walking in the same direction.
Yasmin	5W	Gave up her lunch play to comfort a classmate who was sad and crying.
Camila	4G	Left her friends during lunch play to comfort a crying student from a higher grade.



Hello everyone,
As we break for the festive season I wish everyone the best for the holidays and the New Year.

Some students this week complained about stomachaches and sore throats, some had diarrhea.

Generally students were upbeat and looking forward to the holidays.

Take care, have fun and be safe!



Healthy Tips for the Holiday Season

Everything in Moderation

Fill your plate with smaller portions to avoid overindulging.



Get Plenty of Sleep

Getting sufficient sleep is necessary to stay healthy.

Avoid Empty Calories

Make choices like water or low-calorie drinks instead of soda or alcohol.



Wash Your Hands

Reduce the spread of germs by washing properly.

Get Moving

Any movement counts! Enjoy a walk with family and friends.



Manage Stress

Balance work, home and play. Take time to relax!



ISPS

2018 - 2019 Events Calendar



January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day NATIONAL HOLIDAY	2 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	3 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	4 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	5
6	7 SCHOOL RESUMES	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 After School Activities Session 2 Begins (Jan 14-April 5)	15	16	17 HS Music Recital 8:00-9:00am Theatre	18 End of Q2 MS/HS	19
20	21	22 MUN Montreal, Canada	23 MUN Montreal, Canada	24 MUN Montreal, Canada	25 MUN Montreal, Canada	26 MUN Montreal, Canada
27 MUN Montreal, Canada	28 MUN Montreal, Canada	29 MUN Montreal, Canada	30 MUN Montreal, Canada CAISSA - Season 2 D.R.	31 CAISSA - Season 2 D.R.		



CHILDREN 5 - 10 YEARS OLD

CHRISTMAS CAMP

BAKING GOODIES
MOVIES
ARTS & CRAFTS
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
A SPECIAL SURPRISE!

When: Monday 17th - 21st, December from 9am-2pm
(OR call for after hour care)
Where: Cascade
Cost: \$600 OR \$130/day
Call us for more details: Ms Alley 722-9999
OR
Ms Hadeed 686-5094



20% Off
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSESSMENTS

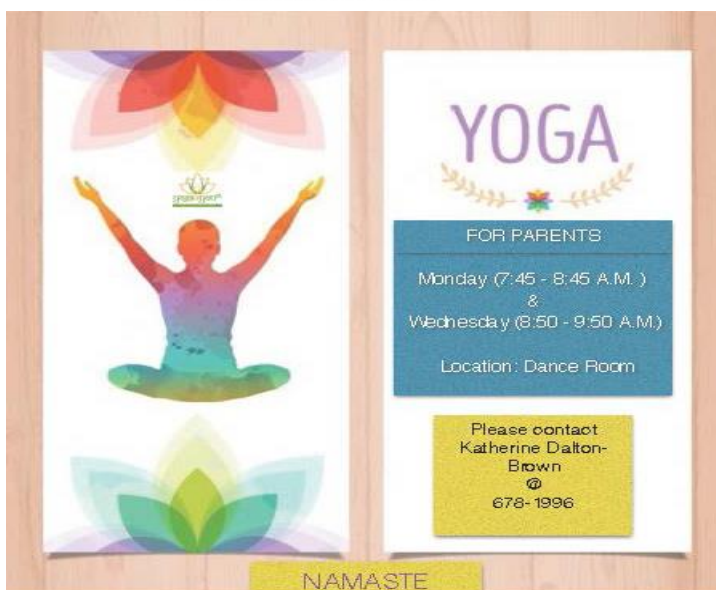
CKFTO
Child and Adolescent Occupational Therapy

Merry Christmas

COUPON CODE : SANTA

For more info call CKFTO 628-3268

20% OFF
UP TO
31st January 2019



YOGA

FOR PARENTS:

Monday (7:45 - 8:45 A.M.)
&
Wednesday (8:50 - 9:50 A.M.)

Location : Dance Room

Please contact:
Katherine Dalton-Brown
678-1996

NAMASTE

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PORT OF SPAIN

PICTURE RETAKES

— TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 —

**ABSENT ON
PICTURE DAY?**

OR

**JUST NEED
A RETAKE?**



OPEN FORUM

December 5, 2018



COMMENTS

New students:

There was praise for the admission and acceptance of new students. New parents feel their students are fitting in well; beauty of small schools is that everybody knows who the students are.

MAP in High School:

- How do we check progress in HS? We used to do it in the HS, but dropped it 3 years ago – much harder to track the growth and the design of the MAP test as the kids get older there is much smaller growth.
- Math department looking to introduce it in grades 9 and 10.
- MAP done twice a year.
- Advised by Data Analyst, Scott Genzer to start using the PSAT and SAT to get useful data, we started PSAT testing from Grade 9.
- We Use MAP to screen incoming students to Grade 11 and 12 to decide the math program

Summary:

MAP is done twice a year. The Math Department is looking to introduce MAP in grades 9 and 10.

Vaping

Why progressive discipline for vaping but missing 3 classes results in detention?

- We hadn't many instances of vaping last year, when we put consequences together with tobacco, again, not many instances of smoking.
- This year, changed the rules and advised students. First instance results in automatic out-of-school suspension. To be communicated to parents via newsletter.
- Being regulated in the USA, like cigarettes.
- FCD (a global non-profit Substance Abuse Prevention Organization) is coming to have sessions with students, parents and teachers in February.
- New use for vape equipment – concentration pills, medication. Barney Latham to investigate and also to talk with Vape store personnel about what the children buy.

Summary:

The rules were recently changed and students were advised. First offense will now result in an automatic out-of-school suspension. To be communicated to parents via newsletter. The Director to look into new ways the vaping equipment is being used.

The FCD (a global non-profit Substance Abuse Prevention Organization) will hold sessions with students, parents and teachers in February.

Emergency Drills

- Each drill is practiced three times a year – lock down, fire, earthquake and shut-in (for a threat in the country).
- What about for sharp shooter? We need to be ready if there is a sharp shooter incident.
- Our security measures are based on an incident that happened about sixteen years ago and we also have an active shooter simulation during April, with the local police, SWAT, Fire services and other emergency personnel. Students, parents and staff are invited to participate.
- Emergency procedures documented in Emergency Manual and a brochure available at the Front Desk.
- Praise received from a parent for security procedures experienced by a family member.
- Some procedures advised by Shell will not work in a school.
- Praise for Hazel handling a High School student trying to leave. Handled with finesse and firmness; friendly, clear, no nonsense tone. She is very, very good.

Summary:

The ISPS has emergency procedures in place for shut-ins, lock downs, earthquakes and fires. Each drill is practiced three times a year. We also hold an annual Active Shooter Simulation after the Easter break, with the local police, SWAT, Fire and other emergency personnel, students, parents and staff. The procedures are documented in the Emergency Manual as well as a brochure which is available at the Front Desk.

Use of Technology in the School

- New policy introduced on phones. Frank Huerta to communicate to parents.
- An instance in High School, a test paper for AP was photographed by a student; child disciplined.
- New policy kids in High School must put their phones in a container, and will not be able to use their phones until break or lunch time. If they use the phone between classes, it will be confiscated for the day (1st offense), a week (2nd offense), a term (3rd offense).
- Policy applicable to grades 6 through 10.

Summary:

A new policy has been introduced on the use of phones by students during the school day, this will be communicated to parents by Mr. Huerta. It is applicable to students from Middle School through High School.

Privileges

- Effort in class; 3s and above.
- Have they skipped classes, grade, outstanding home-work; any discipline issues?
- Do not want to punish kids who do not have discipline issues but not hitting the grades.

Summary:

Rules are changing and will be implemented from January 2019. Students must meet certain criteria to get privileges.

Skyward/PowerSchool

We are moving back to PowerSchool from August 2019, which has the ability to accept Linx payments towards lunch accounts.

Cafeteria

Students love it

A bit expensive - but if you order a la carte. A normal lunch is \$35.00.

Finances

- We have met our enrollment targets for this year – 370+ students.
- Have a balanced budget; have cut costs.
- There may be a fee increase for next year.
- Looking at all the costs; looking at personnel who will help us be more efficient.
- Our contract offers a pre-payment plan; pay in full for three years to lock in the fees and you get a discount per year.

Summary:

The school is in a good financial position with over 370 students enrolled between August and December 2018. We are looking at the budget for next year – there may be a fee increase for the 2019-2020 school year. However, parents are urged to take up the offer to pay in full for three years to lock in the fees and you get a discount per year.

Detentions/Tardies

- Tracking number of kids in detention on a weekly basis and why.
- Numbers are starting to drop in MS and HS.
- Procedures put in place like academic probation, loss of credit warnings have been helping with attendance.
- Detention given for being late, no homework, indiscipline (altercations between kids, rudeness), uniform violations.
- Over the last year seen a noticeable difference in the discipline in the school.
- Number of infractions and disciplinary issues are very few; biggest is lateness to class.
- The kids are great – polite, want to do well, respectful.
- AdvanceED team said the same thing and wonderful resources.
- Other ways of discipline; come in and work over the weekend.

Summary:

Infractions usually for being late to class, no homework, indiscipline, rudeness, uniform violations, and have dropped over the year, because of the measures put in place since last year. AdvanceED team remarked on how polite and respectful the students are. Local schools have a more draconian disciplinary system in place, ISPS is much more progressive; don't sweat the small things. Perception in the community is that because we are relaxed and the kids feel comfortable there is no discipline.