



ISPS WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

- 16 MS/HS Parent Discussion Group; 7:30 - 8:30am, Green Room
- 17 Yearbook Retakes & Staff Photo; 7:30am - 12:30pm, Theatre & Green Court
- 17 All School Design & Build Competition; 11:30am-2pm
- 18 ES Parenting Group; 7:40-8:55, Drama Room
- 19 HS Music Recital; 8:00 - 9:00am, Theatre
- 23 MS/HS Parent Discussion Group; 7:30 - 8:30am, Green Room

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,

A very warm welcome back to ISPS and welcome to 2018.

I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday with family and friends. In conversations I have had with your children there were families that did quite a bit of travel, there were families that went home, and there were families that stayed home.

Our students seem to be happy to be back at school, and there is a concerted effort from them to "get down to business", meaning that we are seeing kids engaged in their studies. We have five weeks of uninterrupted classes before our Carnival break, and we are using this valuable time to get through units of study in the PYP and MYP. In non MYP HS classes and AP courses

there will be a push to cover material.

The excitement is already starting to build for the CAISSA Tournament that we will be hosting from the 24-28th of January, with a PTO sponsored Family Day on the 27th. This will be a great opportunity to have fun with friends and support our Caimans during the finals in Boys Basketball and Girls Football. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank families who have already volunteered to host visiting athletes, and to encourage all ISPS families to consider hosting one or two visiting athletes.

Again, I wish you and your families the very best for 2018.

B Latham
Director

Welcome Back To School... And Welcome To Our New Families!



- Smets (Kindergarten)
- Moreno-Garcia (Grade 1)
- Siler (Grade 1)
- Gordon (Grade 3)
- Kalliecharan (Grade 11)



Student & Staff

JANUARY 17, 2018

**PHOTO
RETAKES**

Contact your Homeroom Teachers or Donna Clarke @ dclarke@isps.edu.tt

ELEMENTARY NOTES



January 11 2018

Volume 15, Issue 7

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

It was a pleasure seeing all our parents and students back from their vacation. Four families joined us this week and we welcome them to our community. Parent representatives, thank you for reaching out to them. We ended 2017 with our annual holiday performances, and we thank all our parents, students and teachers who made the event a success. Thank you to all the parents who have supported us during our first term. We encourage our parents to get involved with our school, and there are many opportunities to get involved in your child’s educational program. Being a partner with us augers well for building our relationship.

Late Start Wednesdays are allocated time for teachers to work on curriculum, school improvement plan, and professional development. A gentle reminder that teachers are not available until 8:30 a.m. on late start Wednesdays. We have limited space in the library for those students who travel a distance to school and arrive before 8:30 a.m.

Students who attend the early morning program (reading, writing and math) with class teachers are required to arrive by 7:10 a.m. If the child is going to make improvements we need him/ her to consistently be on time.

Grades 3-5 students will be taking the WordMasters analogy test in February, and class teachers will inform you of the date. Additionally, these students will be working on several tutorials and writing assignments via Writing Practice Program (WPP). These exercises assist the students with their ERB writing assessments.

We urge you to keep abreast with all activities and events that take place in the school. Also, we encourage you to check the weekly newsletter for events that are taking place during the term.

Carnival is a few weeks away, and teachers will be notifying you of the theme. Each year we have a town meeting on the Friday, February 9th. You will be invited to the Jump-Up (parade of the students dressed in their carnival costume). Class teachers and parent representatives will send more information to you.

Similar to last year, our grades 4 and 5 students will be involved in designing a weight-bearing structure in the All-School Design & Build Competition. Our students will be amongst the high and middle school students as they design their roof. Students will work in house teams. Come join us in the gym next Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Great to have our community back and we wish you a pleasant weekend.

Suzette Julien,
ES Principal

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM (PYP)

Grades PK–5 students are working on their unit three. Teachers will keep you informed of the expectations. Many of the units have been changed this academic year because of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the teachers are creating units to reflect not only science, but also all other subject areas. Words this month: **Respect and Communication**

Angela Shahien
PYP Coordinator

Term 1 Survey (10 questions) was sent out after the reporting period in December and based on 43 (small sample) parent responses:

- (Q. 1). 91% agreed that they were kept informed regarding subject area programs.
- (Q. 2). 84% of parents were pleased with the level of academic challenge in the classroom.
- (Q. 3). 98% of parents were informed about the inquiry-based units.
- (Q. 4). 84% of parents were pleased with parent conferences.
- (Q. 5). 79% of parents are aware of the IB Learner Profile and Attitudes (e.g., open-mindedness, risk-taker, inquirer, thinkers, caring, etc.).
- (Q. 6). 98 % of our parents indicated that generally speaking, my child is happy at ISPS.
- (Q. 7). 99% of our parents were kept informed through Friday Folders, newsletters, Google Classroom, SkyWard, SeeSaw, Wazzup and/or teacher notes.
- (Q. 8). 86% of parents have easy access to the Principal.
- (Q. 9). 72.1 % indicated that Support Services (Counselor, Student Services) meet the needs of my child
- (Q. 10). 81 % of the parents indicated that issues are resolved in a timely manner.

Based on this small sample of responses, there are areas we want to improve. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. There will be one more survey in Term 2, and we encourage you to give us feedback.

ES Parenting Group Workshops
We welcome our new parent group to the workshop starting on January 18th. Please contact Ms. Hydman for further information. We value your commitment to making our school a better place.

UPCOMING DATES

January 17	All-School Design & Build Competition
January 18	ES Parenting Group Workshop
January 25	7:40-8:55am
January 27	PTO Family Day
February 9	School Carnival Parade, 9:00-11:30am
February 12 & 13	National Carnival—NO SCHOOL
February 14	Ash Wednesday—SCHOOL HOLIDAY
February 15 & 16	Teacher Professional Development No School for Students

MIDDLE SCHOOL StuCo

Empowering Today's Learners Through Student Voice

Ms. Trim

Middle School Student Council (StuCo) seeks to empower students to have a say in issues that affect them in Middle School. They work with all stakeholders including their principal, counselor, teachers and of course their parents to find a balance between making a difference in the ISPS and wider community with having fun and building a unified Middle School. Late last year StuCo held elections and welcomed a new executive team from Grade 8. To support them there were internal class elections where Class Representatives were chosen.

Even though StuCo came together late, they were able to have two successful events. The first was The Beetham Gardens Toy Drive. Every year our own Mr. Albert Sprott teams up with members of his community to have a Christmas party for the children of that community. Our students had "free dress" days on the last three days of school where they brought toys in exchange for getting to be out of uniform. The themes for the "free dress" were House Colors, Pajama Day and Christmas Spirit where they could wear silver, gold, white, red and or green. The Toy Drive was a huge success and we were able to give Mr. Sprott about ten bags of toys.

On the last day of school, StuCo helped facilitate a brunch where all the students came together to enjoy snacks, lunch and desserts before going off to break. They played games, listened to music and chatted with each other. Parents helped and once again, it is safe to say that event was also a success as students were able to spend some time bonding together before going off to break.

StuCo has not met yet for 2018, but some proposed events by the students include candy grams for Valentines, a Spring Dance, a Middle School retreat and bake sales to raise funds for charity events. Stay tuned for updates on what StuCo will be doing and how you can help!



On behalf of the Science department of ISPS, I wish you all a happy new year! I hope you had a well-deserved rest whether you spent it here or abroad.

Biology

Biology students will soon complete a summative assessment in which they are required to design a lab based on osmosis and diffusion, hypothesize the outcome of the lab, run the lab, collect data and produce a lab write up.

In preparation for this they completed an egg diffusion lab before the Christmas vacation. They completed this unit following a unit on Cells. There were some very innovative models of cells produced.



Science Corner

Maeve O'Donovan, Head of Science

AP Chemistry

John Gillespie
HS Chemistry



The AP Chemistry classes have been preparing for the AP exam through lectures and labs. Here the students are conducting a lab on Thermochemistry by finding the best chemical compound to use as a hand warmer. They are measuring the heat changes in various materials and they must decide which compound is the best both economically & efficiently.



Elementary School Science

SHARING OUR PLANET

The Grade 4 students have just completed our unit Sharing The Planet. In this unit they explored the types of adaptations that help animals and plants to survive in a variety of habitats.



We created our own animals to survive in the Sahara Desert which is very hot with very little water.

My animal which is a scarab beetle and a horned viper has shovel liked claws, horns to sense prey, camouflage, has a lot of color to look like it's poisonous to survive. — Zuriel

The Sandy Tiger has sharp teeth, a long wide tail that can make a sandy base. He stores water to stay alive because the desert is very hot in the sandy base. My animal eats big animals. – Nathan

My animal is a Night Glow Iguana which has a long tail to protect himself from predators and can use it to catch prey to eat and can also attack with its spiked neck. It also has little feet but can run as fast as a lion. – Tannar



By Kane & Adam

Rock Hard
We created Rock Hard to survive a mountainous territory. The spire at the top of our shelter is meant to collect rainwater for drinking. The foil represents shiny rocks, which is meant to reflect the

light and keep the home cool. It is dome-shaped because these shelters are the strongest and can survive natural disasters.

Sahara Desert

Continued on Page 6

Brazilian Amazon

Our habitat is the Brazilian Amazon. There is a lot of rainfall that can get up to 6,000 mm per year. The temperature there can be very hot (80-100 degrees Fahrenheit). At night time the temperature is only 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Our animals have adaptations to help them survive in the Amazon.



Nicole made a Tikey, Jonas made a Poison Dart Lizard, Ollie made a Poison Dart Dolphin



Jungle

Our Jungle Fortress would survive in the jungle because it's built in a tall, strong tree which prevents predators from eating us. There is a water filter at the top for when it rains so we can collect and drink clean water. The roof hangs over the shelter to allow the rain to easily slide off. The roof is made of leaves and vines which is slippery. The rest of the house is made of wood which is plentiful in the jungle.

Deep Ocean

Our habitat is the deep ocean. There is little sunlight. It is very, very cold and can get to -2 degrees Celsius. It is under high pressure.

Our animals must have various adaptations. The structural adaptations they have are sharp body parts, lights, and back fins. These will help them to defend against predators and catch prey.

Their functional adaptations are that they have a lantern that glows to help lure prey and help them see in the dark. They also have bodies with no air spaces because of all the pressure.



Siem made a Snazaures and Yasmin made a Unicorn Fish. Wajeeha made a Texas Unicorn Fish, Eden made a Pincher Fish, James made a Angler big Fin Fish, Lelia made a Malty Octopus and Sam made an Angler Shark.

Features:

- They are patient to help them catch prey
- They are capable of running on water
- They have camouflage
- Some of them have bright colours to warn predators that they are poisonous



Rainforest

Our habitat is the rainforest, and in a rainforest there are animals, rivers and plants and a lot of rain. The first feature is our escape boat which is on the right side of our deck. If our house sinks, (it is a houseboat) the family will use the boat to stay afloat.

We have a rain panel to generate electricity because there's more rain than sun in a rainforest. There is also a ladder so that when it isn't raining somebody can climb up the ladder and fold the rain panel.



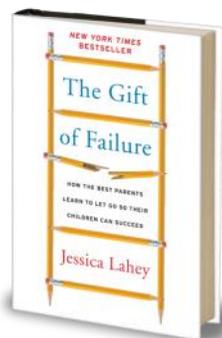
By Zachary, Amalie, and Julian

Freezie Arctic

This is a life size fort made to endure the Arctic region. It was made out of tape, lots of hot glue, brown paper, and tons and tons of cardboard boxes. We took this project to another level and made a life size fort instead of a small model fort. To ensure that the structure held up, we used a stand in the centre of the shelter. The entrance of the shelter is small so that predators cannot enter easily and heat will not be lost.

MIDDLE MATTERS

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MS. VIRGINIA:



The Gift of Failure Opens Parenting Talks

What: Parent book study/discussion group
Who: Middle School Parents
When: Every Tuesday, Jan 16-March 20
Where: Green Room

About the book:

Come and join a parent discussion group with Ms. Virginia and the New York Times Bestseller, "*The Gift of Failure. HOW THE BEST PARENTS LEARN TO LET GO SO THEIR CHILDREN CAN SUCCEED*" by Jessica Lahey.

New York Times Book Review:

"The ugly and wonderful truth about middle school,' [Lahey] says, is that 'failure is not an if proposition, it's a matter of when.' Or it used to be. Now that parents shelter their children every step of the way, we have 'failure deprived' college students (as administrators at Stanford and Harvard call them) and entitled, anxious 20-somethings who can't function in a world that's sometimes cold or cruel or indifferent.

So how can teachers snatch back their critical role and give children the necessary space to fail? They could start by making parents read Lahey." (Read the rest of the review, in the August 23, 2015 edition of the [New York Times](#)

Deeply rooted in research, Lahey's book will help parents learn how to instill the next generation with resilience, confidence and joy by teaching children how to fail. After all, learning from mistakes is

where we learn the most.

Research shows that anxiety in students is directly tied to the lack of skills to handle difficult situations, which can only come from actually tackling difficult or challenging situations and making mistakes.

These experiences help kids to build resilience and skills to cope with life's twists and turns. They ultimately help to foster resistance to stress and other related illnesses like anxiety in the long run. (Resilience for Anxious Students, Leah Shafer)

Attaining the book:

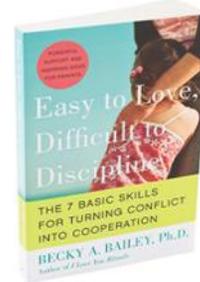
Parents can attain their own book by ordering an electronic copy or hard copy. The school will also order some for lending purposes or buying. The library will have some copies on Kindle to lend as well.

Parents of Middle school and High School students, are welcome to join me as we learn these and other valuable parenting tools every Tuesday morning from 7:30-8:30 in the Green Room from January 16 to March 20. I hope you can find the time to join us. If you are interested, please contact:

Ms. Virginia at
veggleston@isps.edu.tt

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

ES Parents ... **BOOK YOUR SPOT!**
 Our Parenting group 2018 starts
 NEXT WEEK!



Sounds familiar?
**"Clean your room!
 Finish your homework! Stop hitting your brother – be nice!"**
"I'm stopping this car right now!"

Or how about –

"I had it first! I hate you! Everyone else does - why can't I?"

Come join us in this interactive and supportive group as we learn more about:

- * *Helping your children to effectively manage their emotions*
- * *Setting effective guilt-free limits that would stand up*
- * *The value of safety & connection and their relationship to learning & school success*

Kindly email: phyndman@isps.edu.tt to secure your spot. Ms. Pam



Happy New Year to all!

The flu season this year is one of the worse in recent years. Already in the US there have been deaths from the flu.

Here are common signs and symptoms of the 2018 flu, according to the CDC: fever and/or chills, cough, sore throat, a runny and/or stuffy nose, body aches, and fatigue, some may also have diarrhea and vomiting. You may have all the symptoms or some of them! Please see your doctor if you are coughing more than three weeks, or are feeling very ill. Take your child or children if they are feeling ill for prolonged periods to be checked. Take care and be safe.

KINDNESS TREE



JANUARY 08-12

Joel Gan	1Bed	When a new student dropped his lunch box and all of his food fell out, he immediately helped him put the items back in.
Norman	3K	Played with a new student on his first day when he saw that the student was playing alone.
Nicole	4S	Kindly and successfully included a classmate in play activities during the lunch break.

ROCK OUT WITH REACH OUT 2 Live

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY

Featuring:
Nigel Rojas
5 Miles to Midnight
Freetown Collective
Soliman
Rae
Logariddim (HS Band)
Joseph and more...

gates open from 6-10:30pm

\$50

Food & Drink on Sale
For more information contact: ablackburn@isps.edu.tt

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JANUARY 17, 2018

DESIGN & BUILD COMPETITION

THE COMPETITION
The Institution of Structural Engineers is having their 10th annual design and build competition on the 27th January 2018.

Teams of students will compete to design, build and test to failure an enclosed stadium roof (space frame) formed with Bamboo Skewers and String. As such, we will be having our internal competition to decide on the delegation to represent ISPS. Although the official competition is only open to high schoolers, ALL ISPS Students are invited to participate internally.

GUIDELINES
The structure must have a minimum plan dimension of 350 mm. Send an email to sscalbio@isps.edu.tt to register the house teams of 6 and get a full copy of the rules.
House Teams will be asked to test their structure by loading a provided platform at the center of the span until it collapses.

INTERNAL COMPETITION
Wednesday 17, January, 2018

MATERIALS
75 Bamboo Skewers (each skewer is approx. 300 mm)
String (Crochet Knitting Yarn 20-50 yards, approx. 46m)

OPEN TO ALL

Save Energy

Join the ISPS Renewable Energy (RE) Task Force!

Are you passionate about the environment?
This Task Force is for you!
ISPS Renewable Energy Task Force will be engaging in exciting activities that will involve assessing our facilities and developing plans to reduce our energy consumption and costs. We will be charged to find ways to implement various RE applications to make our School better stewards of the environment.

This venture is supported by Dr. Johan Sydow, parent and Director of SITEK Limited, and Ms. Aykean Matthews, Facilities Director.

Students lend your voice, time & skills to the Renewable Energy Task Force.

To express your interest in joining the task force, please e-mail: amatthews@isps.edu.tt by January 12, 2018.

New to ASA

HIP HOP & CHEERLEADING

(PARENT-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES)

HIP HOP - PK3 & PK4: TUE - 2:15-2:45 PM & K-12: 2:45-3:30 PM
COST: \$350/ TERM
Contact: Jordana Hadeed Rizk: jordanascadetrading.com

CHEERLEADING - Grade: 6-12 - WED - 5:00 PM- 6:00 PM
COST: \$400/ TERM
Contact: Jarine Knaggs: jarineknaggs@gmail.com



CAISSA:

CAISSA “Togetherness” is just 13 days away!

We are in desperate need of housing for our guests.

This is a whole school event. We need housing for all our guests. If you are an Elementary school parent, Middle School parent or High School parent it does not matter, all are welcome to house.

ISPS will be entering two Boys' teams in the Basketball Tournament (Varsity and JV).

Boys' Basketball Tournament — Five teams:

ISPS V, Carol Morgan School, Academia Cotopaxi, Escuela Campo Alegre and ISPS JV.

Girls Tournament — Four teams:

ISPS, Carol Morgan School, Escuela Campo Alegre and Cayman International School.

We will be kicking off the tournament in a very novel way.

On Wednesday 24th January at 11:30 am to 11:45 am we will be having our Pep Rally in the Gym. This will be followed by an official tournament game at 12:00pm. ISPS Varsity will come up against ISPS JV.

The game will end at 12:55pm.

You will get an opportunity to see our kids play and cheer them on.

CAISSA GREEN T-SHIRTS will be available at the front desk (**\$60**) from tomorrow.

Get your T-shirt and support our teams. Let's show the other schools "ISPS style" school spirit.

Ways to Show Support:

Support by coming out to games, by hosting visiting student-athletes, wearing our Caimans' T-Shirts and colours, and by sponsoring. Please help us to make this a great ISPS event. Show your ISPS and Caiman Spirit.

All parents and members of the community who would like to support the event by supplying sports drinks, bottled water, fruits and other food items or in any other way can also contact Physical Education Department.

Your assistance is vital to hosting a successful event for the entire school community. Please call (**620-6866**) or email (aali@isps.edu.tt) if you are interested in assisting.

Make “Togetherness” the best CAISSA ever!!

By: Ashmir Ali

Caimans Athletics



SPORTS TEAMS Development Program:

Our new program has kicked off and students are participating. However, this will only succeed if students participate. Many Middle Schoolers who asked for this program have not signed up yet. We eagerly await your involvement. This can only improve our kids and how we participate in sport.

Soccer Coaches:

Teleshia Joseph, Karl Brown, Paul Decle and Imran Gopaul

Basketball Coaches:

Albert Sprott, Ricardo Lue Shue and Allison Dickman

Volleyball Coaches:

Saleem Ali, Daryl Davis and Janita Sullivan

Rugby Coach:

Junior Arismandez

- This is for Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball and Rugby. These clubs will range in grades from 2 to 12.
- These clubs will run throughout the year in three Seasons- August to December, January to March and March to June.
- Interested students will pay to register (\$600 TTD, see form below) for each club at the beginning of each season.
- This will not interfere with our existing After School Activity program as students are free to register for the activities of their choice.



ISPS Registration Form for Sports Teams Developmental Program
 Complete this form and return with payment to the Front Desk no later than
 Friday 12th January, 2018.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Tick off Sport that you would like to be involved in:

Basketball Soccer Volleyball Rugby

Total Paid: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

After School Activities:

- Click [here](#) for the registration forms for ASA Season 2.
- Please register before 12th January, 2018 to ensure a place in your favoured activity and to facilitate a smooth start of ASA 2.

Thank you very much for supporting the ASA and Athletic Programs.

Training Schedule for Developmental Sports Teams

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3:45-5:15 PM Basketball Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15 PM Basketball Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15 PM Rugby Grades 3-12	3:45-5:15 PM Volleyball Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15 PM Basketball Grades 8 -12	7:30-9:00 AM Rugby Grades 3-12
	3:45-5:15 PM Soccer Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15 PM Soccer Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15 PM Soccer Grades 7 -12		2:00-5:00 PM Volleyball Grades 3 -12

THIS IS A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WILL RUN FROM JANUARY 8TH TO MARCH 22ND
 IT WILL BE MONITORED CLOSELY



International School of Port of Spain

2017 - 2018 Events Calendar



JANUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day National Holiday	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 School Resumes	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 MS/HS Parent Discussion Group 7:30 - 8:30am Green Room	17 Yearbook Retakes & Staff Photo 7:30am - 12:30pm Theatre & Green court All-School Design and Build Competition 11:30am - 2:00pm Gym	18 ES Parenting Group 7:40 - 8:55am Drama Room	19 HS Music Recital 8:00 - 9:00am Theatre	20
21	22	23 MS/HS Parent Discussion Group 7:30 - 8:30am Green Room	24 CAISSA Season 2 ISPS CAISSA PEP Rally 2:00 - 2:30pm Gym	25 CAISSA Season 2 ISPS Opening Ceremony Gym ES Parenting Group 7:40 - 8:55am Drama Room	26 CAISSA Season 2 ISPS End Q2 MS/HS Rock Out with Reach Out 2 6:30 - 10:30pm North Field	27 CAISSA Season 2 ISPS PTO Family Day CAISSA Closing Ceremony 7:00 - 9:30pm Theatre & Gym
28	29	30 MS/HS Parent Discussion Group 7:30 - 8:30am Green Room	31			

NOTES