



# ISPS WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January

- 25 MS/HS Reports on Skyward
- 30– 3 (FEB) CAISSA—Season 2 D.R.
- 31 PYP Parent Meeting

### February

- 9 ACTs
- 15 ISPS Sports Day

### March

- 1 ISPS Carnival Jump-Up
- 1 All School Early Dismissal 11:30am
- 4-5 Carnival (No School)
- 6 Ash Wednesday (School Holiday)
- 7-8 Professional Development (Teacher Work Day; No School)
- 9 SATs
- 15 End of Term 2 (ES)
- 22 ES Reports on Skyward

## 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,

MS and HS Q2 finished on Friday the 18th and grades will be posted on Skyward on Friday the 25th. As I stated in last week's newsletter, it is a good opportunity for parents to sit with your son/daughter to review progress in each subject area. Setting goals for improvement is also a good idea. When setting goals, it is wise to make sure the goal is measurable, attainable and time bound. Sometimes, giving incentives for reaching goals is also effective.

Our HS Model United Nations students have reached safely and Ms O'Donovan e-mailed me this morning telling me that activities for the conference begin today. While in shock from the abrupt change in climate, it appears that all students are enjoying the experience so far.

We had a group of 9 HS students attend the Public Consultation held by the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal affairs. During this public consultation, the topic of decriminalization of marijuana in T&T was presented. Data was shared by the Attorney General and then the floor was opened up to the public for comment. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to see Government in action and the process of changing laws in a country. It was an opportunity for them to connect a real life

topic to a National issue which is currently being debated.

Our CAISSA football teams are in final preparation for their tournament that begins next week in the Dominican Republic. We wish them well.

The next Open Forum will be held on February 6th in the cafeteria. Normally the Open Forum does not have an agenda, but at this Open Forum I will be sharing with parents excerpts from the AdvancEd report. I will highlight areas where the visiting team thought ISPS is doing well, as well as areas where ISPS needs to improve. I will also be sharing our academic progress as indicated through MAP and ERB trends. In addition there has been a lot of progress made at ISPS during this school year in reaching goals that we set in our Continuous Improvement Plan (CIT). I encourage all parents to attend and please put this date into your calendar.

As a reminder to all parents Mr Huerta and Ms Julien are in the US attending a recruitment fair. Angela Shahien, John Steinbach, Pam Hyndman, Louis Moore, and I are available to parents if an item comes up in their absence.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

J Barney Latham

Director



David Zhang (Gr. 7)



## WALK-A-THON & SPORTS DAY SCHEDULE

### Friday February 15th 2019

- School day begins as usual 7:30
- After attendance the Walk A Thon begins at 7:45 - 8:45
- Sports day events will begin at approximately 10:00 am
- All school Dismissal: 12:00 noon
- This year we will charge a flat registration/participation fee of (\$20TTD) for students and parents. A parent wishing to donate \$\$ can make their contribution in an envelope with their name on it to the Front desk/Ms Hazel labeled "Walk A Thon Donation".
- Beginning next week, January 28, parents can register between 7:00 - 7:30 am, at the PHE office/gym area. Students can register throughout the day.
- House points will be awarded, for parents and students and will count towards the overall points for the year.
- Let me know if you have any questions.

**NOTE:** Walk A Thon Registration takes place from January 28th from 7:00-7:30 am in the PE Office or through the homeroom teachers.

### The main objectives of the walkathon are:

- Fundraising – through the donations from students PK-12
- Awareness – the walkathon contributes greatly to achieving our mission to enhance the awareness of inherited blood disorders (namely Thalassemia; Sickle Cell Anemia and Hemophilia). This is a public health issue due to the high prevalence of these disorders in Trinidad and Tobago – approximately 1 in 10 carry the Sickle Cell gene; 1 in 15 carry the Thalassemia gene; 1 in 10,000 people have Hemophilia.
- Providing an opportunity for bringing all our stakeholders to assist in this much needed community who struggle daily, living with inherited blood disorders (IBDs)



# HIGH SCHOOL HEADS UP

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

As we wrap up the first month 2019 and begin our second semester, there are several happenings in our High School to be highlighted. Last quarter there was a focus on our discipline policies with collaborative efforts across our Homerooms and I am pleased with the results as our students have increased awareness of the school’s guidelines on key matters. We would like continued support from our parent community in the areas of attendance and tardiness so our students can maximize instructional time.

Our cohort for the 2019 Model United Nations Conference have left for Montreal to represent ISPS at this prestigious assembly. We wish them the very best in this venture. At the end of this month our CAISSA football team will compete in the Dominican Republic against several regional teams. They have trained hard over the months and we are proud of their dedication.

This quarter our seniors will be abuzz with college and graduation preparations and their teachers are committed to ensuring this be a memorable and smooth transition for them. Overall, I am looking forward to a successful 2nd Semester with our High School.

- Frank Huerta, High School Principal

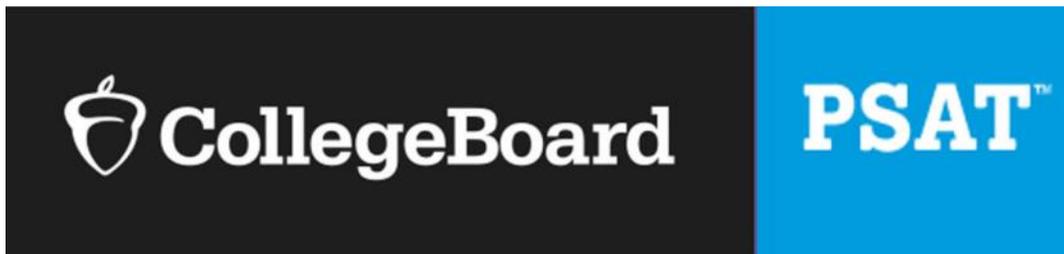


This year we are taking a team of 12 ISPS students to McMUN in Montreal for the Model United Nations Conference. Our students have been preparing their documents for their respective committee’s and have recently completed their positions papers for submission prior to our arrival. We are excited to add another new destination to our group and look forward to stepping up to this latest challenge.

We celebrate our involvement in this conference as it offers students a wonderful opportunity to look at global issues through a different lens and challenge their own perception on key social, economic, and political issues that confront nations around the globe. - Matthew Broughton, AP World History Teacher



Last quarter, the High School Student Council (STUCO) got festive as we celebrated the holidays like Halloween and Christmas. Our first big event, a Halloween Haunted Scavenger Hunt, where we transformed the high school area into a terrifying, horror maze filled with jump scares and even turned some classrooms into horror-movie-themed escape rooms, was a success. For Christmas, STUCO baked and decorated hundreds of Christmas cookies for our Christmas Cookie Grams. We also brought back a long time high-school favourite by organizing the annual Spirit Week where students got to dress up in crazy themed outfits all week. Next quarter, we’re looking forward to hosting many different sports tournaments but with a twist, such as water balloon dodgeball and slip-n-slide kickball. We’re also excited to plan some fun Easter events as well as many friendly activities like lip sync battles and crazy eating contests. — Sol Franco



*COLLEGE UPDATE*

Dear parents/students,

January 24, 2019

In October students did the PSAT and since early December students have had access to their results online via their accounts on the College Board's website. Tenth and 11th graders would have created their accounts before, and the 9th graders would have done so recently on their own or in Guidance classes.

On a purely informational note, the College Board is the organization that produces the SAT test as well as the AP subjects and exams. Their website is where students register for the SATs as well as receive PSAT, SAT and AP scores. Students must also use the College Board's website to send test scores to colleges and universities. As such, the College Board's website is a must for most if not all of our students. The website address is [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

We have now received the paper (hard-copy) version of the PSAT results and these will be distributed to students through homerooms this week. Student will receive hard copies of:

- Their individual Student Score Report, and
- An actual PSAT test booklet

In addition to this, a document which helps parents understand their child's score report will be available in Skyward as an attachment. As such, it is important that all parents and students read this carefully in order to fully benefit from their score reports.

The score report is designed to be used with the test booklet, so that students can actually see the questions that they got right or wrong as well as determine the level of difficulty for each question. This gives students a first-hand view of the areas in which they may have strengths or weaknesses. Identifying these areas is one of the main reasons we ask students to take this test.

Please note that on the front cover of the report there is an "Access Code". This can be used to access the full report online. It is a good idea to copy this code somewhere safe so that you will always have access to the report, even if you misplace the hard copy.

It is very important that the results of this test are used in a constructive fashion so that our students are given all the opportunities to best prepare for college and beyond.

Regards and have a great 2019,

**Louis P. Moore**

Guidance Counselor, International School of Port of Spain



# ES Counselor's Corner



- |        |     |  |
|--------|-----|--|
| Yoel   | 1A  | Realized a friend forgot her lunch kit in class and brought it for her.  |
| Thiago | KKe | Reassured a friend that he would play with him when he was feeling sad   |
| Eden   | 5B  | Helped someone clean up their mess they made with white out  |
| Elias  | 1A  | When a classmate was upset, he encouraged him to return to the line by putting his arm around him and talking to him to calm him down. |
| Hanayo | KKh | Spontaneously left her seat to pick up a teacher's pencil.   |



The Trinidad & Tobago Athletic Association will be hosting their annual **Milo Games** on **Tuesday 19 March 2019**.

The International School is interested in participating in this event. Students can be a part of this event as members of the track & field team or the walk past team.

This event is scheduled on a school day which means that they will be absent from classes on that day.

Please note that the Milo Games is a competitive meet and as such, we will begin internal try-outs next week, to select students for the individual races, relay races and the field events.

All students will be informed about the games and all interested students will meet with Ms. Joseph.

Once your child displays their interest you will receive a future information regarding our preparation.



# NOTES

## From the Nurse

VANDA GIBBINGS-GOMES  
SCHOOL NURSE, R.N., R.M.

If you want the flu shot please let me know so that I can put your name on the list. The cost is \$90.00 per shot.

Some people have doubts about taking the shot. Here is some information to help clarify some concerns you may have:

### 5 Persisting Myths About Flu and the Flu Vaccine

The flu season predictably comes and goes each year and still people choose to ignore its perils by eschewing the annual flu shot. In fact, more than 40% of adults in one survey said that they hadn't been, and didn't intend to be, vaccinated against flu.

This is unfortunate, experts agree, because influenza can strike even the healthiest among us and, at the very least, give those afflicted a miserable ride before they begin to recover.

Why people avoid the annual flu shot is complicated, but at least some of the avoidance has to do with misconceptions about influenza and the vaccines that are designed to prevent it. (Read more [here](#))

In conversation with  
*Deneka*

How spoken word poetry, personal branding and a kick-ass style gave this Belmont girl an International audience.

Thursday 7th February

The Writers Centre  
14 Alcazar Street, St. Clair  
Time: 6PM  
**ADMISSION: FREE**

HCC  
OCAS  
Lit Fes

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THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PORT OF SPAIN



# PICTURE RETAKES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

**ABSENT ON  
PICTURE DAY?**

OR

**JUST NEED  
A RETAKE?**



## New to your Library: myON Reader!

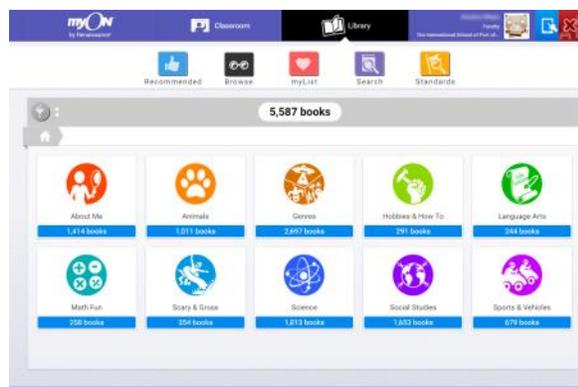
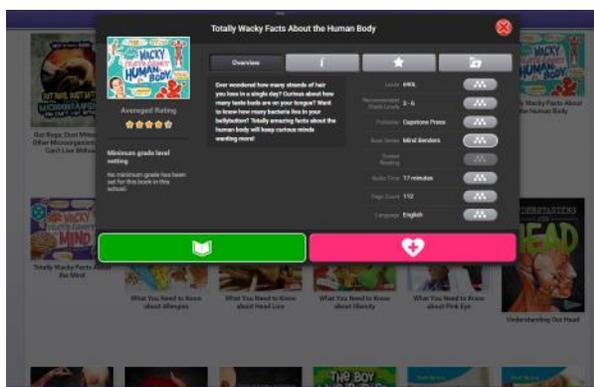
Renaissance myON® Reader is an online digital library offering 5,587 enhanced digital books to ISPS students from Pre-K - Grade 10. The great thing about this is that our students can access this platform anytime, anywhere! myON dynamically generates a list of just-right titles for each student that matches his or her current interests, grade, and Lexile® level. It works on any device that supports flash and has a free mobile app. Titles are mostly non-fiction but some fiction and even Spanish titles are available. Students can choose whether they want to be read to or not and there are built-in literacy tools available for them to interact with the text in ways they would not be able to with physical texts. If you have any further questions please contact the Library as we are still in the implementation phase.



## Library Corner

By Jessica Maya

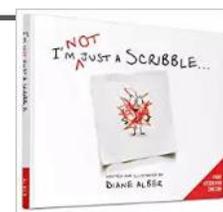
Read more at this link: [myON Brochure](#)



## A story About Kindness and Inclusion

Library class with Pre-K 4.

Each child created their own Scribble. Scribble, the book's main character, never thought he was different until he met his first drawing. Then, After being left out because he didn't look like everyone else. Scribble teaches the drawings how to accept each other for who they are. Which enables them to create amazing art.



This book not only has illustrations that any child can personally recognize but it also addresses inclusion without boundaries so that anyone can relate to it. Each book comes with 100 stickers so that children can create their very own Scribble. They will be able to learn different emotions (that were discussed in the book) as well as associate colors with feelings in a fun creative way.





# ISPS Lunch Menu

January 28—February 8

January 2019	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 31	Friday 1
<b>Proteins</b>	Shake "n" Bake Chicken Or Baked Fish with Tomato Sauce	Grilled Italian Chicken Strips Or Italian Baked Fish	Honey Glazed Chicken Legs Or Lemon Fish	Korean Sticky Chicken Or Teriyaki Glazed Fish	Pizza Day Add chicken Add pineapple Add bacon
<b>Starches</b>	Parley Potato Mash	Ratatouille in Tomato Sauce	Scallop Potato Pie	Vegetable Rice	Tomato & Mozzarella Pizza
<b>Peas/Veggie</b>	Grilled Vegetables	Spinach Mixed Greens Salad	Steamed Broccoli	Chunky Vegetables	Mixed Green Salad
<b>Vegan</b>	Shake "n" Bake Tofu Steak	Italian Vegetable Pitta Pockets	Black Beans	Teriyaki Glazed Tofu	Tomato & Mozzarella Pizza
<b>Soup of the Day</b>					Beef in Dumpling Soup

If you have a special diet or have any allergic reactions to certain foods, please advise our caterers at your earliest convenience so that they may prepare a menu that fits your needs.

February 2019	Monday 4	Tuesday 5	Wednesday 6	Thursday 7	Friday 8
<b>Proteins</b>	Italian Chicken Parmesan Or Tuscan Baked Fish	Oven Baked Breast Or Pan Fried Fish	Beef Lasagna	Curry Chicken	Burrito Day Mexican Chicken/Fish Strips
<b>Starches</b>	Spaghetti Pasta	Cranberry Wild Rice	Cheesy Garlic Bread	Buss Up Shut	White Rice Flour Tortilla
<b>Peas/Veggie</b>	Fresh Salad	Sautéed Vegetables	Green Salad	Mango Masala Potato & Channa	Tomato Salsa Sweet Peppers & Charred Onions Guacamole
<b>Vegan</b>	Grilled Tofu	Roast Lentil Loaf	Vegetable Lasagna	Curry Tofu	
<b>Soup of the Day</b>					Pumpkin Bisque