



ISPS WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

30 ES Parent Conferences
11:30 Dismissal ES ONLY

December

1 SATs
 5 Open Forum
 8 ACTs
 9 Charity Concert:
 Sweet Trinidad
 12-13 ES Holiday Production:
 "The Nutcracker"
 14 Last Day of School
 11:30 am Early Dismissal
 15 Start of Holiday Break

January

7 School Resumes

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,

We are another week closer to breaking for the Christmas Holidays. The anticipation of the holiday can be felt here at the school and decorations are appearing all over the building. We have a variety of projects collecting for various charities, and the "spirit" of Christmas is alive and well within ISPS.

Several weeks ago I noted in this newsletter that we were going to be raising funds for two of our staff members who suffered serious losses during the recent floods. The business office is still collecting funds, if you still want to help out. Please drop into the business office to donate or e-mail Tricia Thong at tthong@isps.edu.tt letting her know you would like to donate. Many thanks for parents, students and staff who have already contributed.

Congratulations and thanks to Frank Huerta and the MS team who hosted the Grade 6 "lock-in". The event was a huge success and the kids not only had a great time, but were able to make new friends. Thank you to all who participated.

Congratulations also to our HS National Honor Society (NHS) members and their supervisor, Ms. Amow. The BINGO event was a huge success and they raised \$52,000 which will help support a variety of Children's charities. A job very well done NHS.

We have ES Conferences tomorrow, Friday the 30th of November. A reminder to all ES parents that we will be dismissing students at 11:30 and conferences begin at 12:00.

On Saturday, Dec. 1st, we will be hosting the SAT exam here at ISPS. 31 ISPS students will be taking the exam on Saturday, but

students from other schools around Trinidad will also be attending (80+). If your son/daughter are taking the exam, please ensure an early arrival as every student must verify their identity and entrance into the exam can be a lengthy process. The suggested arrival time is 7:30am. Good luck to all ISPS students who will be taking the exam.

On Wednesday, Dec. 5th, I will be hosting an Open Forum in the cafeteria. As a reminder, this Forum does not have an agenda and it is time for parents to come in to ask questions, share concerns, or share praise. The Forum will begin at 7:00pm.

December 8th we will be hosting the ACT exam. This exam is much less popular, yet there are some universities that require the ACT exam as part of their entrance requirement. If your son/daughter is required to take the ACT, please make sure they have spoken to Mr. Sieunath.

Semester exams for HS are carded for Dec 10-13. An exam schedule will be distributed next week. Please discuss exams with your children and help them budget their time as this can be a stressful event for HS students.

The ES Holiday Production will be held Dec. 12th starting at 6:00pm in the theatre. The Production will be repeated on the 13th at 1:00pm. I know that all ES students and teachers have been working hard, getting ready for the big show. There are many parents helping out as well and we thank you for your support.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend

J Barney Latham
 Director

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT CONFERENCES
 TOMORROW
12-3:30 PM | CLASSROOMS
 11:30AM DISMISSAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ONLY

ELEMENTARY NOTES

November 29, 2018



Volume 17, Issue 6

Dear Parents,

Term One has ended, and we have had many positive experiences during the term. Thank you to all our teachers, students and parents who have contributed to a successful term. You will have the opportunity tomorrow to attend your child’s parent conferences. Conferences are held in students’ classes, specialists conferences will be held in the music room. All parents should visit the library to learn about our upgraded Accelerated Reading programs, and tools to track students’ reading. We encourage our students to check out books for the holidays. Subscription to online children magazines (sports, science etc.) are also great holiday gifts.

Our teachers spent approximately 13 hours learning about Lucy Calkins balanced program for literacy on November 16 & 17. Although we previously used components of the program, we now have a collective understanding of how to integrate Lucy Calkins in our program. We will be sending information to update you on the program.

The students are engaged in scheduled rehearsals for the upcoming play: *The Nutcracker*. Information on tickets will be sent to you next week. Thank you to all our parents who are working on organizing the costumes and props for the play. In addition, class teachers, art teachers, Mr. Low Chew Tung, Ms. Sylvester, and Ms. Williams have been doing excellent work with the students on stage.

Students in grades 3-5 are preparing for the upcoming Wordmasters Analogy Challenge 1. There are two more challenges in the new year, and we will inform you of those challenges.

We have noticed that several of our students arrive late to school, and being late for school on a regular basis is not a good practice. We do ask that you make every effort to get your students to school by 7:25 a.m.

As we come to the end of the 2018 year, we want to wish our community members a great holiday with family and friends.

Happy Holidays!

Suzette Julien

Elementary Principal



Dates to Remember:

- November 28—Reports posted to Skyward
- November 30—Parent Conferences, 12:00noon—3:30 p.m.
- December 12—Holiday Production *“The Nutcracker”* 6:00pm
- December 13—Holiday Production *“The Nutcracker”* 1:00pm
- January 7—School reopens

Primary Years Program (PYP)

All classes have completed their first two units and have either started their third unit or a stand alone (not taught directly within a PYP unit). The PYP has been reviewed and new changes have been made to the program. One of these changes involves the principle of agency which is treaded throughout the program. The new organizing structure is divided into the learner, learning and teaching and the learning community. The promotion of agency allows students to move beyond and explore the implications of, solutions to, opportunities and



challenges of the changing times. The concept of agency also means that we are all agents involved in the learning process and as such we support the students in their learning. The new changes will be gradually implemented

with the goal of having all changes fully implemented by 2020.

Angela Shahien,
IB/ PYP Coordinator

Lucy Calkins Literacy Program

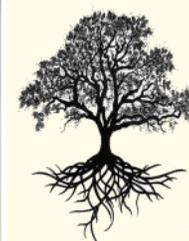
Based on the workshop that teachers from Pre-K–8 attended on November 16/17, we have to make changes to the existing language arts program in terms of daily minutes/periods to effectively implement the reading and writing workshop. An ideal program would be five times a week, and some grades already have that time allocated while other grades are ensuring that four times a week will be feasible until changes are made to the overall schedule.

Components of Balanced Literacy





ES Counselor's Corner



KINDNESS TREE

- Jonas 5W Went back to encourage a classmate as she completed the 2 laps run/walk/jog around the big field.
- Siem 5W Went back to encourage a classmate as she completed the 2 laps run/walk/jog around the big field.
- Eric 3J Helped a 4th grader when his food fell outside of the classroom
- Nathan 5W Brightens an MS teacher's day by popping in his office and saying "Hi" with a big smile on his face.
- Ryan 3W Was very kind to the substitute teacher when his teacher was absent.

ISPS PHOTO ORDERS...

Extension: December 13, 2018



Orders should be submitted by DECEMBER 13, 2018

It's Easy...

Photo Retakes: JANUARY 29, 2019

Order School Portraits today

SHOP NOW



- 1 **Review** your portrait
 - 2 **Print** order form ([CLICK HERE](#)).
 - 3 **Complete** form, using the image numbers found in the online gallery.
 - 4 **Return** form and payment to ISPS by the deadline date.
- ** ONE FORM must be used PER child**

*** please note that failure to follow instructions may result in your order being returned or delivery delayed ***

Private Online Gallery: <https://tinyurl.com/y7vbslqv>

Password: ISPS Students 2019

GRADE 6 Lock-in

Parent Feedback



Thank you for this opportunity for enhancing camaraderie and teamwork amongst the Grade 6 students. From all accounts, they all enjoyed it immensely.
- Sushma Lalla

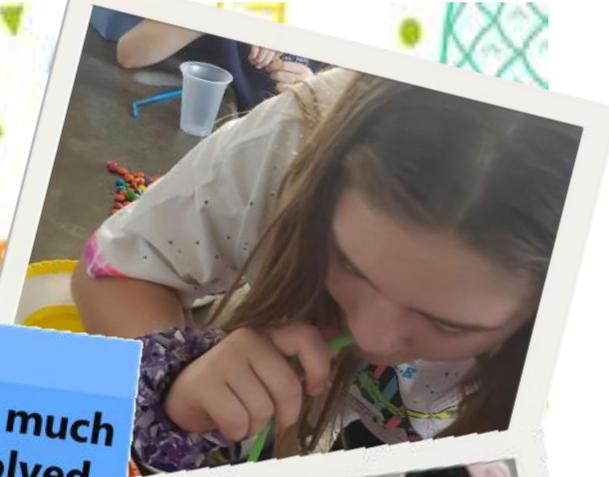


Thank you for organizing this Lock-in. Nice bonding experience and fun. Thanks to all involved.
- Yannick Cabassu



Thank you so much everyone involved. This is a big and amazing experience for our kids!

Sandra Rodrigues



Thank you to everyone, all our teachers, Mr. Huerta, Mr. Latham and all our lovely parents for this exceptional life experience.

- Rachel Baker



Thanks so much to all the teachers this was a great team building exercise.

- Elizabeth Aleong



International School of Po



CAIMANS ATHLETICS

After School Activities

This is the last week for After School Activities. Registration Forms are available at the Front Office (by Ms. Hazel) or you can click [here](#) to download.

Thank you for all your help to make this program successful. Happy Holidays to all.

Sincerely,

Ashmir

PE/Athletics Director



Sports Teams Development Program

ISPS Registration Form for Sports Teams Developmental Program

Complete this form and return with payment to the Front Desk no later than Friday 14th January, 2019.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

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

Basketball Soccer Volleyball Rugby Field Hockey

Parent's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Each club costs \$600

Total Paid: _____

**Training Schedule for Developmental Sports teams for Season 2
January 14th to April 5th**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3:45-5:15pm Volleyball Grades 8 -12	3:45-5:15pm Basketball Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15pm Volleyball Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15pm Volleyball Grades 3 -12	2:45-4:15pm Basketball Grades 3 -12	
	3:45-5:15 Soccer Grades 3 -12	3:45-5:15pm Rugby Grades 3-12	3:45-5:15 Soccer Grades 3 -12		9:00-10:30am Rugby Grades 3-12
		3:45-5:15pm Field Hockey Grades 3-12		4:15-5:45pm Field Hockey Grades 3-12	



ISPS



2018 - 2019 Events Calendar

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SATs 7:30-2:00pm
2	3	4	5 Open Forum 7:00-9:00am Cafeteria	6	7	8 ACTs 7:30-2:00pm
9	10	11	12 ES Holiday Production "The Nutcracker" 6:00-7:00pm Theatre	13 ES Holiday Production "The Nutcracker" 1:00-2:00pm Theatre	14 Last Day of School All School Early Dismissal @ 11:30am	15
16	17 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	18 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	19 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	20 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	21 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	22
23	24 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	25 Christmas Day NATIONAL HOLIDAY	26 Boxing Day NATIONAL HOLIDAY	27 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	28 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	29
30	31 SCHOOL HOLIDAY	Important Reminders SCHOOL RESUMES ON JANUARY 7, 2019				

2018

a·la·cARTe

Breakfast

Ham and Cheese Omelette	\$15.00
Three Cheese Omelette (Cheddar, Parmesan, Pepper Jack)	\$15.00
Garden Omelette (Bell peppers, Tomatoes, Onions)	\$14.00
All omelettes are served with 2 pieces of Toast, Garlic Butter and Roasted Tomatoes	
Choka Trio (pumpkin, spinach, fried aloo) served with Sada or Roast Bake	\$14.00
Salt fish or Smoked Herring served with Sada or Roast Bake	\$16.00
Large Pancake with Eggs and Breakfast Sausages, Butter, Maple Syrup	\$25.00
Pancake	\$ 8.00
Wild Berry Waffles	\$10.00
Extra Syrup	\$ 3.00
Grilled Cheese Melt	\$15.00

Sides

Eggs	\$8.00	Hash Browns	\$13.00	Breakfast Sausage	\$5.00
Maple Bacon	\$9.00	Turkey bacon	\$7.00	Bagel & Cream Cheese	\$14.00
Parmesan rolls	\$10.00	Mushrooms	\$10.00	Toast	\$6.00
Croissants	\$5.00				

Lunch

GCG 4oz Gourmet Burger 3oz fries (Smoked Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Garlic Mayo)	\$40.00
Crispy Fish Po Boy (Cole Slaw, Pickles, Tomato and Herb Mayo)	\$45.00
Steak & Cheese Melt Press (Bell Pepper, Onions, Chilli Cheddar)	\$45.00
Linguini Pasta Alfredo	\$50.00
Add Chicken \$10	Shrimp \$20
Wings (Cajun, Honey Buttered, Buffalo) Served with French Fries / Waffles	\$35.00



ISPS Lunch Menu

December 3—December 14

Dec-18	MONDAY 3	TUESDAY 4	WEDNESDAY 5	THURSDAY 6	FRIDAY 7
PROTEINS	CHICKEN KEBAB	BREADED CHICKEN	ASSORTED PASTELLES (Chicken, Beef, Veggie) SORREL BAKED HAM ROASTED TURKEY	BEEF CON CARNE	STEW CHICKEN
STARCHES	LOADED POTATO SKINS	POTATO WEDGES	WILD RICE PILAF	SPAGHETTI	VEG PELAU
PEAS/VEGGIE	GLAZED CARROTS	COLESLAW	VEGETABLE MEDLEY PIGEON PEAS FRESH FRUIT SALAD	FRESH SALAD	
VEGAN	TOFU (BY ORDER)	TOFU (BY ORDER)	TOFU (BY ORDER)	TOFU (BY ORDER)	TOFU (BY ORDER)
SOUP OF THE DAY					BEEF SOUP
DESSERT			TRES LECHE		

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.

Dec-18	MONDAY 10	TUESDAY 11	WEDNESDAY 12	THURSDAY 13	FRIDAY 14
PROTEINS	SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN	STEW CHICKEN (BONES)	GRILLED BREAST	CURRY CHICKEN	BAKE AND SHARK WITH ACCOMPANIMENTS
STARCHES	VEGETABLE RICE	SCALLOP POTATOES	MAC AND CHEESE	BUS UP SHUT	
PEAS/VEGGIE	CHUNKY VEG	STEAM BROCCOLI	ROASTED VEGETABLES	MASALA MANGO POTATO AND CHANNA	
VEGAN	TOFU (BY ORDER)	RED BEANS	TOFU (BY ORDER)	CURRY TOFU	
SOUP OF THE DAY					CORN SOUP
DESSERT			TRES LECHE		



OPEN FORUM

November 7, 2018



Open Forum Notes: November 7th, 2018

B Latham (BL) presented the AdvancED Preliminary Report which had been shared with the Board and Faculty.

Next step:

Sometime this month we will receive a detailed report on how we rate on all of the 30 standards, which will be shared with the community. The information will be used by the school to help formulate the Strategic Plan and the next School Improvement Plan. The SIP should be in place before the end of this school year.

We have been accredited with AdvancEd since 1997. Accreditation takes place every 5 years when their protocol is updated. This is the first year of the new protocol and we fully expect to be accredited for another 5 years. Their tools help us to reflect on what we are doing by focusing on the standards.

The organisation used to be called SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) which focused on schools in the southern region of the USA. About 10 years ago they merged with another accrediting organization and they look at the international schools in Latin America, the Caribbean, Saudi Arabia and the southern USA. We need valid accreditation for our kids to receive a US High School diploma. We must have a SIP and we must show improvement. The plan is going to be developed and completed before B Latham leaves. Many teachers are on the SIP subcommittees and they are driving the SIP as well as the directors and administrators. We are currently on the right track; the board knows we are developing a new SIP which will incorporate elements from the Strategic Plan.

We were one of the first schools to be assessed under the new protocols; it now focuses on student data and improvement over time, and what we will look like in the future. There are 32 statements that we focus on to assure AdvancEd that we are doing certain things like, Child Safety, whether staff are staying current in their field by taking courses, Professional Development, do we have a Crisis Management Plan, are our finances audited, etc.

Other Business:

We do not do MAP testing in the High School, however AdvancEd has said that we need the longitudinal data so we are looking at using MAP in Grades 9 and 10. But the company that produces the MAP says there is less growth between these two grades. We are looking at the MYP e-assessment, an external exam done at the end of Grade 10. We use the external data collected to assess student learning, and are also using internal data. We use standardized test data, like the PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP results for the High School students.

As part of our SIP we set targets for our MYP students in terms of class averages by term and we are using that data to inform us as to how we are doing against our own goals.

In the Elementary School we look at the report cards to see how the grades match the MAP reading and writing and the ERB scores. The MAP measures specific standards which means that our curriculum has to be aligned with what they look at. As curricula has been used in more schools, e.g. the MYP, MAP is aligning itself to IB.

Use of Technology

The school also has to work on what the kids are doing, the parent mentioned remembering having to sign an AUP (Acceptable Use Policy). Does the school continuously ensure that the kids are not using the technology in the wrong way?

This is being done in the Digital Design class as part of the curriculum and also is a part of the Guidance and Library programs. There is a philosophy that says you can't list all the things you cannot do; we emphasize to our students making good decisions and doing the right thing. We will be speaking with the grade involved in a particular incident after we have completed our investigations.

How do we build into the system those sorts of parameters, e.g. teaching of discretion, so that it continues to be a piece of learning? It is a continuous path that we always have to remind students. We need to remind them that they know right from wrong, that there will be challenges as technology evolves, but they have to keep the same values to do what is right. The AUP is signed every year by every student and discussed at the start of the year in homerooms.

An interview on Hard Talk, on the BBC with an educator living in Britain was discussed. He had done a tremendous amount of research on DNA and its effect on our being. You can put a child into one type of environment and put a similar child in another environment and it's usually the DNA that takes over; it's nature not the nurture that matters. data shows inconclusively that all the money you are paying on those great schools has no effect on the child later on in life. A fascinating read. It is our job to educate the students in tandem with the parents on values.

Marketing

What is the school doing to promote itself; there is always negative information out in the community. The website has been redone, The marketing has been working on the Branding of ISPS, our best marketing tools are our students and parents who are happy.

Vaping

Last year we had the rise of vaping. The director promised to distribute an article he had read on this topic – vaping is the fastest rising epidemic in the USA; it is more addictive because of the amount of nicotine in the e-cigarettes. Our discipline matrix has rules and consequences for vaping.

Uniforms

There is an official skirt length in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Clubs

Why are parents paying a certain amount of money to buy uniforms for club activities? They are paying fees per term, where is the money going? They recently had to put money together to hire a port-a-loo. Shouldn't expenses like this come from the fees? Mr. Latham to speak with Mr. Ali. Can they have sun hats in the Elementary School – no hat no play. The same principle used by a Spanish teacher who sends children outside if they use English in class; they are told to count to 10 then come back in.

There is concern about Mr. Latham leaving with all the plans being developed. There is going to be people here, after Mr. Latham leaves, who wants the school to be successful. Another concern is that the SIP should be developed before he leaves and the new director comes in, perhaps the new director should come in now?

Director Search

The director advised 4 international director candidates were coming to attend interviews and visit the school during the following week. They will also meet with representatives from the Board, PTO, and students and will attend the Parade of Flags when parents can meet them informally. A letter will be sent out at the end of this week from the Board.

Elementary Update

On Friday 16th Elementary will be dismissed at lunchtime. Teachers will be in a Writing workshop on the Friday and Saturday.