



News in the HS @ ISP

February 20, 2009

This is around the time of year when we realize how quickly things are moving. I feel as if I have only just arrived in Panama and at ISP, and yet the school year is approaching the three-quarters point. The rhythm of the year has us moving from one big project to the next. Here I have attempted to give you a few updates on a few of the big and small projects that we take pride in.

And before you have a look, I would just like to wish all ISP families a fantastic Carnival break!

Daniel McKee
HS Principal

Progress Reports, Report Cards & April Conferences

Parents will be receiving progress reports this week for all classes, marking the mid-point of the third quarter. Teachers send the reports home with the students. Please ask to see them all, and take note of your son or daughter's progress to date. Keep in mind that the third quarter will end on March 27, and that report cards will be issued on April 1. On April 15 and 16 we invite parents in to meet with teachers, in our second annual Parent – Teacher Conference. Please know that appointments for these conferences can be initiated by teacher, or parent. Most HS teachers teach about 70 or 80 students, so they could not possibly meet with all parents. The teachers will ask for appointments with you if there are any concerns or if your child is struggling in any way. But they are happy to meet with any parent who would like to meet them. Please contact the HS secretary Sharon Johnson if you would like appointments with any teachers on April 15 or 16. Of course, appointments can be arranged at other times too.

The Sound of Music

On February 13 and 14 the ISP Drama Program brought the Sound of Music to the stage, at the Teatro en Circulo. This was the third year now that the school has staged a musical production. ISP drama teacher and show director, Mr. Arturo Wong, brought out many fine performances in eleven high school and ten middle school students. The theater was full for all three performances, and by the last show on Saturday evening the performers were spot-on in the timing, staging, singing and dancing. The show featured senior Charlotte Arnoux and sophomore Julian Atehortua in the starring roles, with fine singing and acting performances from the whole cast. It bears mentioning that shows like this require a hard-working backstage crew as well, and a group of ten HS students were a great help to the production without ever being in the spot-light. Music teachers Ms. Kari King and Mr. Simon Green were also valuable partners in the preparation of the show. And without the efforts of Ms. Alida Garcia de Paredes, there could not have been a show. Congratulations to the cast, crew, creative directors and producers!



THIMUN Report

A report from the trip coordinator, and ISP science teacher, Mr. Ron Patrick:

The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) conference ran from January 21 until February 1 in the Netherlands. Thirty ISP students attended this year's conference, our largest delegation ever. Our students represented the countries of Chile and Djibouti, and we also had students representing the non-governmental organization, Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia. On top of that, ISP was honored with two officer positions, including a deputy chair position in the General Assembly (Alex Turnbull) and the president of the International Court of Justice (Tae-Young Kim). ISP also provided the webmaster for THIMUN (Daniel Castro), and two members of the press corps (Isabel Roberth and Ines Chung). For five days, our students excelled at debate and tabled many resolutions, amendments and mergers. Our delegates worked extremely well under pressure. Debating in a conference of over 3,000 of your peers can be scary. The ISP community can be proud of the way these exceptional young people represented our school and Panama.



IB Coordinator's Corner – From Mr. Salah Altaji



IB Subject Orientation for 10th Graders: (Students only) Wednesday March 4 at 12:40 pm in the ISP Cafetorium.

General IB Program Orientation for 10th Graders: (Parents and Students): Saturday, March 7 at 10:00 am in the ISP Cafetorium.

Please see the IB Newsletter and the ISP website for more details on the IB Program.

CAS Projects – Patronato

A report from CAS Coordinator, Marelisa Vega from Las Lajitas, Chepo:

On January 14th, 2009, 23 of our high school students packed pickup trucks and 4 by 4's to set off on a CAS trip unlike any other. For some years now, ISP has “adopted” a sustainable farm called “La Granja el Buen Pastor” in Las Lajitas with the Patronato de Nutrición. This year our students incorporated all three components of the CAS program - creativity, action, and service - to meet the goals of preparing a field for growing peppers and tomatoes, installing an irrigation system, and repairing the fence surrounding the farm. They also held a party for over 80 children and adults, taught an English class to the community, donated much of their food and belongings, and created a lasting bond with the farm partners and their families. Though students had to leave the comfort of their homes during their last week of vacation, their motivation, their hard work, and their comments reflected joy and growth. The experience of living as a community with students, teachers, rural farm workers, and their families provided a tremendous opportunity for learning. Students were amazed at how little these people had materially and how much they had in character. They were overjoyed to be a part of this spirit of hospitality, generosity, friendship, and collaboration. Our hope is that ISP students will carry this experience with them throughout their lives, as they continue their edification in becoming caring, ethical, internationally-minded individuals.

Counselor's Notes From Mr. Jeremy Seedorf

As the school year rolls into March, 37 of the 50 seniors have applied to various Universities. A majority of the applications were to programs in the United States, but numerous students also applied to Universities in Canada and the United Kingdom. Over 200 applications have been submitted by this year's graduating class. For those remaining in Panama, most have verbally committed to study at Florida State (Panama) or the University of Louisville (Panama).

- Attention Parents of Juniors:
February 27th is the deadline to register for the **April 4th** ACT. Register at act.org
March 31st is the deadline to register for the **May 2nd** SAT I/II. Register at collegeboard.com.

- A listing of Summer Programs is available for students in Grades 9, 10 & 11. It will be posted on the ISP website.

Please contact Mr. Seedorf with any questions regarding college preparations or the counseling program at ISP.

AASCA Soccer & Volleyball

The ISP boys soccer team is currently in Guatemala participating in the AASCA Big Schools tournament. The boys and their coaches decided not to wait for the next small schools' tournament, but to give our best to a tournament where ISP is competing against the high schools of the region that have 500 and 600 students, where ISP has 200. The competition is tough there, but our boys have shown great spirit and willingness to take that challenge.

From March 26 to 28, our boys' and girls' volleyball teams will travel to La Ceiba, Honduras to participate in the final AASCA tournament of the school year. Coaches Laura Quarin and Clyde Cumberbatch have been busy most afternoons preparing our athletes for this tournament.



Upcoming Dates for HS

February 18-22	AASCA Soccer Tournament in Guatemala City
February 20	3 rd Quarter Progress Reports
February 23 to 27	Carnival Break
March 21	IB Mock Exams Begin (Seniors Only)
March 25-29	AASCA Volleyball Tournament in La Ceiba, Honduras
March 27	End of Third Quarter
April 1	Report Cards Issued
April 6-10	Spring Break / Semana Santa
April 15-16	Parent – Teacher Conferences

Para Español

Si algun padre de familia necesita una traducción del contenido de esta carta, por favor comuníquese con Sharon Johnson en la oficina del HS.