



NEWS THAT MATTERS

It's time to communicate

OCTOBER
2011
EDITION

ICS is an independent International Baccalaureate World School located in London providing a dynamic learning community for 3 to 18 year old learners

Welcome to the Latest Edition of our Newsletter

BRENDA MURRY - SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



This term there have been numerous events, trips and learning experiences that have involved the whole ICS community. In the last few days, I have returned from an immensely enjoyable and enriching Travel & Learn trip to Egypt.

We began the school year by welcoming back Philip Hurd, our Head of School and bade a temporary farewell to Rose Threlfall, who will be travelling the world as part of her sabbatical year, before returning to ICS for September 2012. Since then we have had an action packed 10 weeks.

In this half term's edition of News That Matters, we will be highlighting a number of the students' learning experiences, particularly a very successful trip to our Outdoor Education centre at Bawdsey. Here students spent time using the outdoor environment as their classroom and worked with video and blogs to record their learning experiences. By using these media they were able to share their learning with others. We also held a very well attended Social evening for parents and guardians and it was wonderful to see so many of you meeting the teaching faculty in a less formal setting.

On the academic front parents will have received students' baseline tests, which are mainly diagnostic but also provide a starting point against which students' progress can be measured at various points throughout the year. The midterm reports to be made available at the Parent/ Student/ Teacher conference will provide initial evidence of your child's progress and hence the basis of a conversation between you, your child and the teachers. We therefore, hope to welcome as many parents/ guardians as possible on 3rd November and look forward to including you in the learning review process.

We are also looking back in this edition to our end of year Prom in June and have shared with you the words of a departing student that encapsulated his experiences at ICS. Earlier this term, we were also delighted that seven current students were presented with a certificate awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organisation for successful completion of Year 5 of the Middle Years Programme.

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Message from the Editorial Team

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read our secondary school newsletter. If you have any comments, please contact our Editor in Chief, Matthew, at matthew.cook@ics.uk.net.

The goal of each edition is to inform you of key strategies that are unfolding at the school, their impact on teaching and learning, and to keep you connected with events past, present and future.

Best wishes
The Editorial Team





Bloggng to Enhance Teaching and Learning

DR KATYA TONEVA: DIRECTOR OF ICT
MARYAM THAWFEEGA: ENGLISH TEACHER

Bloggng has the potential for enhancing teaching and learning – blogs are not only great tools for personal reflection and sharing opinions but they can also be used effectively in the delivery of formal curricula and can boost student communication skills.

At ICS, we are seeing good initial practice emerging, where teachers are guiding students on how they can effectively utilise Bloggng for their learning.

We are expecting the following impact on learning:

- the information in a Blog is accessible 24/7 and could be used for revision and reflection and as evidence for learning and assessment;
- students can use Blogs to develop their e-portfolios;
- reading the Blogs will allow the teacher to get feedback of what the students have understood or misunderstood and also what has motivated them. This will allow the teacher to structure the lessons to assist more personalised learning; students can also learn from their peers and take control of their own learning;
- quiet or shy students and those who have English as a second language can blog at their own pace;
- Bloggng could be used as a catalyst for sharing opinions by all students and could encourage students to explore their comments in face-to-face discussions;
- finally, we expect students to enjoy and have fun whilst Bloggng which can enhance their overall performance and achievements.

The pilot Bloggng case studies have been very encouraging. Initially, teachers created blogs for publishing students' work and comments. The published examples of students' work and students' comments have been used for reflection and provided evidence for student learning.

For example, the MYP 2 English group have been using their netbooks to work on a Glogster multimedia poster for their English lessons this term.



WRITEPATH INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

ANNALISE TAYLOR - ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Writing as part of an Academic Literacy is a major focus for ICS this year.

On the 13th and 14th of October, MYP2 students took part in an International event whereby they contributed to collaborative stories and poems.

The writing was fast and furious as the group only had a one hour slot to read all that had been written by other schools earlier in the day then compose their own 250 word continuation.

This was a truly international event as our stories travelled from England to Australia (while we slept), Amsterdam, London, Slough and ended up in Louisiana USA. The time limit acted as a pressure cooker and helped the students create some fabulous writing.

If you would like to read the poems and stories please go to:
<http://writepath.ning.com/> and select Blogs.

Abridged Valedictory Speech June 2001

AZIZ EMILBECK GRADUATING STUDENT

Good evening everyone.

First of all I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time at the International Community School. Admittedly, the lessons and exams got in the way of our enjoyment some times, but I suppose we had to put up with some lack of consideration!

ICS was my first experience of schooling in the UK. Previously I went to school in Budapest, at the American International School. That was my first time studying in England and not following the Russian curriculum. Believe me, for the first 3 months, it was very hard. Fortunately it was a good transition for coming to the UK and joining ICS. As Oscar Wilde said, "...we have really everything in common, except, of course, the language."

I have made a great number of friends and, although we may be parting our ways this evening, I'm sure our friendship will carry on for the rest of our lives. It's a small world nowadays and we never know when we will meet up again.

We are faced this evening with mixed feelings, particularly pride and a sense of accomplishment for all that we have achieved so far. Fellow students believe in yourselves, you have the ability, you have the skills, you have the education and you have the opportunities. Always believe in the talents that you have, and nurture these over the years and continue to develop them.

There were times when the going was tough and I could have cheerfully given up. However at that time, a small voice inside me told me that as you go through life you will find more and more difficult decisions that have to be made and so I carried on. As the mountaineering motto says "to rest is not to conquer". Well, we haven't reached the summit of the mountain yet, indeed we are only just starting the ascent and I know there will be more times when to give up will be the easy way out. But that's not the way to achieve your goals and I implore you all to work hard to achieve the best you can.

As Ruth Westheimers said: "My favourite animal is the turtle. The reason is that in order for the turtle to move, it has to stick its neck out. There are going to be times in your life when you're going to have to stick your neck out and take risks. There will be challenges and instead of hiding in a shell, you have to go out and meet them." The ICS teachers have educated us and taught us to respect ourselves and each other.

I must say a few special thanks: To Mr Keith who showed me that Biology was more than just being able to tell the difference between a cow and a sheep, a tree or a flower. I really appreciated the day he told me that my project work was outstanding; I couldn't actually remember submitting it!

Ms Andrea, who taught me to understand Economics and how to manage cash flow and spreadsheets. Thank you, I wanted to buy you a small present but, unfortunately when I checked my bank account I found I was overdrawn. Looks like I still have some things to learn about cash flow!

To Ms Rose, for all her help and assistance with my UCAS submissions. If I get into the wrong universities, I'll blame you!

To Ms Joanna, for pushing us to the limits by removing the sofa, microwave, two pillows and curtains from the A-level centre. However, she bought us Starbucks every month. Hence the motivation and courage for learning she gave us when we needed her most. Thank you.

To my Statistics teacher Ms Ismet who taught me how to calculate the probabilities of success and failure in all life situations. And Mr Muz, thanks for all the extra support you have provided me with for my exams.

To a man who has pulled every imaginable trick to get us at first interested in Maths, then good at it, and now excellent graduates - Mr Ean. He taught me not to take things at face value but to sum up all the facts minus any preconceived ideas, divide my time equally and multiply my efforts to come to a solution. Mr Ean your enthusiasm for the subject was a big plus to me.

As Karl Menninger wrote, "What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches" and thanks to teachers, now like my fellow graduate Samir, I have the belief, skills, persistence, and desire to go on to Higher Education.

Thank you to all my friends here at ICS, for your help and support when I needed it. I'm sure I couldn't have made it this far without you all. For the future I would say get out there, keep learning and believe you can achieve. Finally, a great big thank you to my Mum and Dad for their support and encouragement at home. Congratulations to you all and a big thanks to all my teachers!

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PROM 2011 Silk, Satin and Smiles

EAN ALLEYNE - MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

The ink from the final exams was drying, and the last week of the academic year loomed on the horizon, all the fabric had been sewn and shoes fitted, bonds had been formed and the food and decorations meticulously ordered.

The stage was set for the final formal farewell of the academic year, and it was PROM 2011. This year's theme, 'Don't Stop Believing... Hold Onto Your Dreams'. The first guests started to arrive on the red carpet, and gents in silk ties and ladies finely dressed and adorned in various blends of satin, and everyone all smiles, helped to set the celebratory tone for the evening.

Students sat down to a very tasty meal at the Frontline restaurant ranging from two to three courses each, and dined by candle light. After dinner, it was time to say farewell to those moving on to other countries next year, and form tutors prepared special rhymes and prosaic speeches full of humour.

The speeches were intersected by musical interludes on guitar by Hugues Bertrand, and on piano by Samir Boutrous. Then, came time to reveal the winner of the ICS Academy Awards. Students were nominated by the academy to receive an Oscar bust for their performance in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which was performed in January.

The Director's Award was awarded to graduating senior Aziz Emilbek Uulu. Aziz also gave the valedictory address of the evening. After the formalities of the evening, students partied to finely selected hits from our resident ICS DJ, Mr. Laci. A great time was had by all and it was a true evening of celebration and fond farewells.



KILIMANJARO TREK FOR CHARITY

ONE CHALLENGE, ONE MET AND MORE TO COME!

BRENDA MURRAY - SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Many thanks to all my well wishers and all those in particular, who made donations to my chosen charity, Homestart Westminster. It is my pleasure to be able to present Homestart Westminster with a gift of £3000 collected on their behalf.

In the absence of any physical blemishes like a blister or a sore foot I must admit that the trek, though incredibly difficult at the summit, was a fantastic experience indeed. The days following the trek may have left me feeling a little disjointed mentally and physically but was it happily countered by an overriding sense of having achieved something out of my comfort zone without the benefit of the numerous props to support us in the developed world. I had after all, enjoyed a wonderful sense of anticipation, the excitement of the preparation and the prospect of a challenge of my own choosing.

My greatest admiration lies with the porters and guides on the trek who gave of themselves so naturally, so easily, even to the point of lending their walking boots to a member of my group to ensure he was able to walk comfortably. They were generosity itself.

The symbolism of climbing a mountain rarely escapes people and while it was my first mountain to climb physically, I am mindful of the challenges the underprivileged in our local community face on a daily basis, my trek to Kilimanjaro pales into insignificance. However, as a community, there is much we can achieve at International Community School among our staff and students through our Community and Service programmes and make it a rewarding experience for all to look beyond ourselves and our own needs.

In the next academic year I look forward to increasing our efforts and involvement with Homestart Westminster and I hope the donations made on this occasion will bring some comfort however small to a family in need.



Student Council 2010-2011

ALEXANDRA MORENO HEMMING - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The student council at ICS secondary school organised a campaign at the primary and secondary school for students to donate toys, CDs, books, clothes or shoes for children under 5. The donations were delivered to Homestart Westminster, for families and children, who are less fortunate and privileged than ourselves.

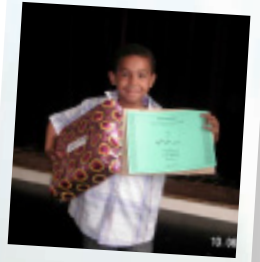
Thanks to all parents, guardians and students for the donations which will contribute to changing the lives of children and families in our local community.

MYP 1 POETRY

When I first came to ICS

When I first came to ICS I was happy
I met people that are chatty
I met people who are quiet as a mouse
Here they like football just like me
I discovered there is a trip close to the sea
I like loud lunch sports
It never rots
Here we have netbooks
Instead of Mac Books
The doors here make a big slam
Yesterday at lunch we had ham
Here it is a lot of fun
We may not chew gum

EDUARDO



Bader

Excitedly Moody

When I first walked in the ICS School I was excitedly moody
I knew it would be cool not cruel and so clean
It was like I was a small ant to the big big tarantulas stomping
On us going bang bang on our feet
But after a while
I liked the school I got used to being the youngest
And the smallest
I thought it was nice and not foul. The students
Are nice and cool and the teachers are super
Nice and not strictly nice
So I went to class and loved it and I changed
My mind I love this school and I like the food
And after eating the food
In ICS we went to lunch sports.
When I first walked in the ICS School I was excitedly moody.

BADER

Poem about the first day at ICS

As I entered the school my stomach filled with butterflies.
When I walked in to see all the kids I felt really small like an ant surrounded by giants.
Is the canteen there good and do they have pie!
Would I have friends or would I have none.
I hope my teacher has a good sense of humour, and is really fun.
So much to learn I really can't wait.
I love all my subjects there's none I hate.
Reading books and drawing are my favourite things to do.
I once drew a picture of a kicking karate kangaroo.
I'm sure I will have fun at the International Community School.
I bet it will be really cool.

JAMES

It's Amazing Having A Piano Tree!

A tree piano on my tree
A tree on my piano tree
I play piano and the birds sing
The birds sing and I play piano
The squirrels jump and I feed the squirrels
From my amazing piano tree, I feed the squirrels
It's amazing having a piano tree!
The sky is blue, my piano is golden
Golden like that sun in the blue sky
It's not just the colour that's amazing
It's this piano's value for us.
Here can't you see, that they agree
The squirrels are jumping and the birds are singing
We agree, it's amazing having a piano tree

ASEEL

BAWDSEY: MYP3 Technology Project: Animal Liberation

ANDREA BLADES - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

For the Design and Technology Project students had to create large scale wire mesh animals representing a bat & a moth, using the natural environment as a resource.

Over time the animals will naturally, merge into their environment as they adapt, weather and decay.

Students really enjoyed themselves and all got involved due to the fantastic leadership of Magnus and Muein.

The animals have now been placed in Bawdsey to take root and become part of nature.



Bawdsey Trip: IB Diploma - Group 4 Project

JOANNA COOPER - IB DIPLOMA COORDINATOR

The trip to Bawdsey gave our Diploma students the opportunity to use the Outdoor classroom. The outdoor space of Bawdsey was an absolute necessity, as all the Diploma students worked on their Group 4 project. The Group 4 project is a compulsory part of the internal assessment component of each Science subject, consequently it involves Biology, Chemistry and Physics students working together to research and devise a scientific experiment of their choice.

Students worked together to plan an investigation that determined how to maximise the range of a projectile (rocket), with students from each discipline using their subject knowledge and skills to devise the most effective technique. Once the planning phase was finished each group began the action phase, which required them to test their methods as a team and collate their scientific results.

Scientific rigour was demanded by Mr. Ryan and Mr. Keith, so the students had to do numerous trials to test the efficiency of their chosen method and this is when the space was needed, as rockets flew into the air and their range was measured! All in all, the activity served two purposes, it allowed the Diploma students to complete a very important piece of internal assessment and also encouraged good teamwork and collaboration. Most importantly, it set the tone for what will be a very productive year for all of our Diploma students and staff.

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Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 3 Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences - No lessons Morning Session: 9.30am - 12.30pm and Afternoon Session: 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- 8-10 National Autism Society Accreditation Inspection
- 11 School Closed – Teaching Faculty Training Day
- 14 IB Diploma Extended Essay – Interviews
- 17 IB Diploma Information Evening for MYP students
- 25 Whole school Westminster Homestart Charity presentation
- 30 MYP5 Personal Project Release Day (in school)

DECEMBER

- 1-3 Travel and Learn Visit to Cern, Switzerland – Science focus
- 7-9 End of Term Exams
- 12-15 Whole school 'Language A/Mother Tongue' Week
- 15 Last day of Autumn Term