



ISSUE #15

9 December 2011

THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all

It was a heartwarming Alice-in-Wonderland performance by our Primary students this week – reminiscent of a Broadway production with its large cast of characters, colourful costumes and imaginative stage props. Congratulations to all of the student performers, to our musical director Mrs. Bailey-Summers and assistant director Mrs. Sarantungaa, to the backstage set designers, costume designers, make-up artists, and sound and lighting technicians. Thank you to the PTG for organising the bake sale. All of you have helped us end this fall term of school on such a high note!



Of course we are also coming to the end of another calendar year. This will be the time to reflect back on the year past and make plans and resolutions for the year to come.

The act of thoughtful reflection is a very important part of learning in the IB programme. There is much emphasis in the PYP, MYP and DP on students analyzing and evaluating their work and then looking forward to how they would change what they have done to do it better next time. In some ways, this part of the learning process is the most difficult of all – and yet, it is the most powerful step in learning. Some people call it learning by trial and error, or learning from one's mistakes. Whatever you call it, active reflection on what was done and how it could be done better is very productive learning.

As we come to the end of one year and begin the next, I would urge you to try to find time over this holiday period to sit down with your child and reflect together on his or her past months – maybe focusing on the academic only, or even better, looking at their overall experiences at school and home. Consider the major highlights for them and why and how these were so positive to your child.

Consider what didn't go so well, what didn't meet expectations, and why this was so. From an inventory of the plusses and minuses of the year past, try to derive some very specific goals for the year ahead. What needs to be done to achieve these goals? How can you as the parent assist your child in reaching his or her goals?

Whatever resolutions you make for the next half of this academic year, please remember that your child's teacher(s) at ISU are here to help as you need them. Keep them informed; ask them for their advice; work together in partnership towards your child's learning.

Best Regards,

Robert Stearns, Director

FRONT PAGE— THE MEDEE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE EACH WEEK AT: WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN

DIARY DATES:

December 16	12 noon dismissal.
December 19-January 8	Winter break
January 9	School re-opens after winter break

SECONDARY NEWS

This has been a busy week for the older students – exams, papers, a visit for the girls from a college in the USA, basketball games for the girls and boys, and much more. We are getting closer to the winter holiday, so please help us keep our students healthy by insisting on plenty of sleep, a balanced diet, and time for life as well as school. We all have to keep balanced to remain healthy.

I also encourage all parents who send their children to school with a driver to be sure that your child(ren) is wearing outdoor clothing appropriate to this climate. It is bitter cold now in the mornings and through the day, and it still shocks me to see students arriving wearing no hats, no gloves/mittens, not even winter coats. Please do not take such risks with your child(ren).

Lastly, I want to thank all of the student council members for supporting our whole school by helping at the primary production of *Alice in Wonderland* with drink sales. All of their hard work goes into making other students happy, as well as raising funds to pay for their end of year party. Nice work everyone!

Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary

PRIMARY NEWS

Congratulations to all the primary students! What incredible performances of *Alice in Wonderland* they put on for all of us to enjoy. A special thank you goes to Ms. Karen Bailey-Summers and Ms. Sarantungaa who have, through their passion, direction and expertise, truly enhanced the performing arts learning experiences of the primary students. Thanks also to the members of the Primary Production committee and the numerous other volunteers who collaborated and planned the event over the last several months, and to the PTG for organizing the bake sale before the show.

I would like to thank you for seeing that your children come to school dressed for the cold weather. The short play period on the playground, when the temperature is above -25 C, helps them with their concentration in the classroom the remainder of the day.

Rick Elya, Head of Primary

LOST and FOUND

Dear parents and guardians,

We have got lots of clothing at the reception for LOST & FOUND. Please come to school and check thru them. Since we have no storage space for those items, they will be donated to Rainbow Center (Disabled children's center) on 16 Dec 2011 before winter break.

Thank you all,
ISU

From the ISU PTG President, *Charlotte O'Connell*

Dear parents,

As we approach this holiday season, I wish to bring warm greetings to you on behalf of the *Parent Teacher Group* (PTG) of ISU! Whether you are a Mongolian or an expat – whatever your country of origin, we hope you are feeling at home here at ISU. We hope you will feel free to contribute the best of your country and culture to our ISU community.

It is important for you to know that ISU is a private, non-profit school governed by its parent community as represented by the Board of Trustees. It is not owned by someone intending to make money for themselves or to offer a curriculum of whatever educational philosophy they wish to promote. ISU is a fully accredited international school offering the International Baccalaureate programme.

It is important for you to know as a parent of an ISU student you are a member of the *Parent Teacher Group* and, like all international IB World schools, you are expected to take an active part in your child's education and in its school community.

The PTG is the parent organisation at ISU. At various times during the school year, we will be requiring your assistance. We need parents to head up fundraising events and to seek donations of goods and services from local businesses for our Fall Fair event. We need parents to act as translators. We also want to set up a room parent system.

There are so many ways in which you can actively contribute to the PTG and ISU. Whatever you will be able to do, your participation is vital. As an ISU parent, it is expected.

I ask that each parent of an ISU child to please complete the form on the next page to let us know how you would like to participate in the PTG and at ISU. (You may complete the form by hand or electronically.)

Please return the form in hard copy to reception or email it directly to me. Please feel free to contact me directly by email or telephone if you have any questions or concerns.

As President of the PTG, I look forward to personally welcoming you to our ISU community.

Thank you,
Charlotte O'Connell
char@oconindc.com
9568-1870

HOLIDAY SEASON MARKET

The Alliance Française of Mongolia (French cultural centre) is organizing on **Friday 9th Dec (from 2pm to 8 pm)** and **Saturday 10th Dec (10am to 8pm)** a holiday season market : **Mongolian handicraft, food, wines, workshops for children, gluhwein, etc. ...**

Everybody is welcome !

The Alliance Française is located near the Dashchoilin Monastery in the same building as the Foreign student dormitory. More information on www.afm.mn (French and Mongolian) Phone : 11 351914 (Mongolian and French) or contact me (phone # below)
Marie Lefèvre (+976) 9520-2065



PARENT INFORMATION

PARENT TEACHER GROUP

for handwritten completion

1. **Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

2. **Email(s):** _____

3. **Home Phone:** _____ **Office Phone:** _____ **Mobile:** _____

4. I am the **mother** / **father** / _____ of ...
other - e.g. aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather, guardian, etc.

 Name Grade

 Name Grade

 Name Grade

 Name Grade

5. As a member of the PTG, I wish to participate in the following ways at ISU:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> serving on a committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bake sales | <input type="checkbox"/> seeking donations from local businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> library assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> participating in community service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> sharing my culture with ISU community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> class volunteer (e.g. reading) | <input type="checkbox"/> speaker for class on topic of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> local field trip supervision | <input type="checkbox"/> translation (from English to _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leading or assisting in an ASA..... | _____ |

Other ways I could to contribute to the PTG and ISU:

Please return to Charlotte O'Connell at ISU reception desk or by email to char@oconindc.com.