



ISSUE #19

27 January 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Use of ISU Ice Rink by the ISU Community



Dear Staff, Students and Parents

Once again this year ISU has created an ice skating rink. We hope that you will have some opportunities over the many cold weeks to enjoy the fun and thrill of ice skating on our ISU ice rink.

Two issues need to be pointed out regarding the use of this ice rink by our ISU community:

1. protection of our new artificial turf;
2. safety and security of the skaters, especially the children.

PROTECTION OF THE ARTIFICIAL TURF

The ice rink has been created over the top of our newly-installed artificial turf covering the basketball court next to the cafeteria on the east side of the school.

The firm that installed this turf assured us that this would not cause any damage to the turf as long as blades of the skates do not come on contact with the surface of the artificial turf.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WHILE WEARING ICE SKATES YOU DO NOT WALK OVER THE SURFACE OF THE ARTIFICIAL TURF-EVEN IF THE TURF IS COVERED WITH SNOW!

We have taken steps to protect the turf by laying rubber matting around the perimeter of the ice rink and placing a barrier to stop access beyond the entrance to the rink. However, it is most important that no one at any time walk on this turf with their skates.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

To maintain the security of ISU and to ensure no extra costs for maintenance and cleaning, all ISU doors will be locked except for the east foyer door-and that will be open to the foyer only. There will be no access to toilets or to the school building. Users of the ice rink may use the foyer to put on and take off their skates.

WHO: The ice rink will be open to the ISU community. **Children unaccompanied by parents or adult guardians will not be permitted to use the ice rink.**

WHEN: The ISU community may have access to the ice rink during the weekends and evenings from 9:00am until 7:00 pm. In order to have this access, parents should fill in and sign the **waiver form** (see below) and submit it to Khaliunaa at reception.

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

THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

HOW: The Deputy Director, Mrs. Tuul, will add the parent's name into a users' list that will be kept by the school guards. When a parent comes to the school to use the ice rink, he/she will sign in, entering the time and number of accompanying children/adults.

ENTRANCE TO RINK: Users of the ice rink will need to go around the **north side** of the school building, through the parking lot and between the school garage and main building, past the storage containers, and then to the entrance of the ice rink. (There should be no passage through the school.)

SIGNING OUT: When families leave the school grounds they should be sure that the ice rink and the surrounding area are clean and that they take all their own equipment/possessions with them. They must sign out with the guard.

HELMETS: All people who use the ISU ice rink do so at their own risk. Ice skating is a very safe sport. However, one must be aware that the blades of the skates can be very sharp and therefore slicing and piercing injuries can occur. As well, the ice surface is very hard and falls onto the ice may also inflict injuries - particularly to the head. All users are encouraged to wear head-protecting helmets.

Robert Stearns, Director

DIARY DATES:

January 31 - Quarter 3 ASA's start

February 1 - Semester 1 Primary Reports

February 2 - X Week presentation for parents at ISU at 6:30 pm (see page 4)

February 8 - Semester 1 Secondary Reports

February 8-12 - ACAMIS Basketball in Suzhou, China

February 14 - Grade 5 - launch of the Exhibition at 8.30-9.30 in the ISU library (see page 6)

February 16 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTC) 13:00-19:00

February 21 - Tsagaan Sar Assembly (13:40) - ISU Gym

February 22-24 - Tsagaan Sar Holiday - No School

SECONDARY NEWS

The recruiting of new teachers for our team for next year is going very well. Mr. Elya and I were quite successful in Bangkok and Hong Kong, and now Mr. Stearns and Ms. Tuul are off to the next round of fairs in North America. I know they will be successful as well.

The information about X Week is written up again in this Medee, so please talk to your child(ren) about the choices that interest them – this will be a very exciting week this year in June! The sooner we have your input, the sooner we can plan more precisely with numbers and specific costs.

The basketball teams are getting prepared to enter the ACAMIS tournament soon, so please be supportive of the athletes – be sure they get enough sleep, eat a balanced diet, and stay on top of their schoolwork! This last piece is most important, as our athletes need to be solid students as well.

Our ASA booklet went home this week, and you should have helped your child make their choices – the activities begin next Tuesday, the 31st of January.

Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary

Dear parents,

Our students' safety is of the ultimate importance for us. We have developed sets of protocols for different emergency situations. As you know, we have tested several times the emergency evacuation procedures successfully in the past. Through these evacuation drills we not only give our students the necessary training and practice at such an important emergency response, we also gain valuable experience to allow us to revise and improve the procedures.

One protocol we have not tested yet is our **Lock Down Procedure**. We plan to do so in the near future. The lock down procedure is a response protocol for the protection of our students and staff in the following situations:

- an out-of-control student who is a threat to the safety of our students, staff, or himself/herself;
- an intruder who has a gun or weapon;
- an attempted kidnapping or hostage-taking;
- hazardous chemical outside the school building;
- a weather-related event.

What happens if any of above situations occur at ISU? In brief, the Director or his designee will announce the lock down code which notifies faculty and staff to lock the doors of their classrooms, lower their blinds and keep students safe and quiet within the classroom. When the situation is resolved, an announcement will be made to end the lockdown.

Of course the entire protocol is more detailed than outlined above.

Our teachers will introduce the lockdown procedure to our students in the near future – explaining the drill and why it is important. Once we are satisfied that our students are ready for the lockdown drill, we will announce the date then will test it. We expect that we will run a second drill based on our observations of the first one and improvements that may have to be made.

We recognize that for our younger students, practicing a drill such as the lockdown procedure can be upsetting. We ask you as parents to assist us in making your child feel as comfortable as possible with this drill. We will inform you well in advance of the first drill. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Director.

Best regards,

Tuul Arildii, Deputy Director-Business

PRIMARY NEWS

Today marks the end of the 1st semester. On Wednesday, February 1, Primary students will bring home their semester report card. Please share this report with your child. Now is an opportunity to celebrate their progress and achievements and together set realistic goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please see your child's teacher.

Have a great weekend!

Rick Elya, Head of Primary

X Week

Reminder:

There will be a presentation on Thursday, the 2nd of February starting at 6:30 pm. We encourage all parents to attend and talk to the teachers who will be leading the trips/activities. The list of trips/activities is below.

David Chilton, MYP Coordinator

X Week June 4 - 8, 2012			
Activity	Outline	Students	Approximate cost
Moscow Performing Arts	Students will travel to Moscow and immerse themselves in the Moscow art scene. They will participate in a variety of activities in conjunction with the Anglo-American School of Moscow.	Grades 6-10 Maximum 16	\$2450
China CAS	Students will have the opportunity to visit and work in rural China as well as hiking the Great Wall and learning Chinese culinary skills.	Grade 11 Maximum 20	\$1500
Senior YACs Hiking Expedition	This expedition will build on the skills learnt over the course of the year and expose senior YACs to the Mongolian wilderness where they will complete a 5-day hiking journey with minimal support.	Grades 9-11 Maximum 15	\$400
Onon Canoe Expedition	An open canoe trip through the amazing Onon valley, close to the birth place of Chinggis Khaan, an area steeped in the fantastic history of Mongolia. The group will be camping each night and be expected to cook for themselves, with supervision.	Grades 6-8 Maximum 18	\$400
Arkhangai Horse Trekking	This is a 7-day, 6-night horse trek through Arkhangai's national parks where students will visit the White Lake and Khorgo Volcano. Students will camp each night and be led by professional horse wranglers.	Grades 9-11 Maximum 20	\$350
Arkhangai Environmental Study	This activity will focus on activities that fully engage and challenge students and to recognise and deepen their understanding of our Mongolia's natural and cultural resources. Students will participate in physical challenges as well as cultural experiences and environmental projects. Students will be housed in camp lodging during this week.	Grades 6-8 Maximum 30	\$440

Continued on page 5

X Week - continued

Installation Art Workshop (Local option)	ISU will host an international artist who will conduct a week-long workshop for students who want to develop their art skills. It will culminate with students creating their own installation. This activity is non-residential.	Grades 9-11 Maximum 15	\$300
UB Discovery (Local option)	Students will take part in a variety of activities in and around Ulaanbaatar including horse-riding, archery and Mongolian cultural activities. This activity is non-residential.	Grades 6-8 Maximum 20	\$175
Service project (Local option)	A week-long service project working with a local NGO where students will learn about the needs of the UB community and engage in meaningful service work. This activity is non-residential.	Grades 9-11 Maximum 15	\$100
Rocket heater (Local option)	Want to be part of the solution to UB pollution? Students with an interest in technology and engineering will work with <i>Flourishing Futures</i> NGO to build a rocket heater stove that could reduce emissions by up to 80%. This activity is non-residential.	Grades 9-11 Maximum 12	\$100

G-3 Field Trip to Modern Art Gallery

Grade 3 visited the Modern Art Gallery on January 18 as part of our unit on how we express ourselves. We looked at both realistic and abstract paintings, as well as a painting using symbols to convey meaning. Students learned about how artists express their feelings and ideas in abstract art through lines and color. Then they had the opportunity to be the artist and express their own feelings in an abstract painting. They used oil pastels and utilized lines and spaces to communicate their ideas.

Joyce Bolyard, G-3 Teacher



Grade 5 Exhibition Launch

Dear Grade 5 parents and families,

It was wonderful to see you all for our Exhibition brainstorming session in November. Finally the time has come to put those ideas into action!

On Monday the 13th of February the grade 5 students will embark on their ten-week inquiry that is the Exhibition. The Exhibition is the culminating activity for the final year of the PYP in which the students will follow their own inquiry under the central idea: *We can have an impact on issues in the community by demonstrating social responsibility through action.*

All grade 5 parents and students are invited to the official **launch of the Exhibition**. In this information session we will cover the aims and expectations of the Exhibition, the roles of the students, teachers and parents and any questions you may have.

Tuesday the 14th of February 8.30 -9.30 in the ISU library.

See you all then!

Gary Herbison, Liz Covington, Mags Faber

Dear Parents,

The IBO (International Baccalaureate Organisation) now has its own Youtube channel. Some of the links are already posted on our ISU Facebook page but for more videos explaining the IBO mission, learner profile and the three programmes please use the links below.

PYP

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOhS6viEg4w&list=UUh0cEFxdfhGYhJBvVZ8ckEw&index=5&feature=plcp>

MYP

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwrOnNiNQ6Q&feature=relmfu>

DP

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNYiKmjxwo&feature=bf_prev&list=UUh0cEFxdfhGYhJBvVZ8ckEw&lf=plcp

Learner profile

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjvktq-TAQ&feature=relmfu>

Margriet Faber, PYP Coordinator

Grade One visits the Central Post Office of Mongolia

Our class had been writing letters to our pen pals, so we were curious and wanted to see how letters were processed from posting to sorting to delivery. Since in our current unit of inquiry: How We Organize Ourselves – How A Community Functions the children are inquiring into the work being done by community helpers, we thought a visit to the Mongol Post would be appropriate and help us with information-gathering.

With parent chaperones, the children pushed forward the revolving doors of the Mongol Post and were met by a smiling guide who explained the functions of each postal worker. We moved from the stamp/postcard section to the customs window and then we were shown the wooden towers of P.O. boxes. From there, we were ushered inside an area where workers moved small EMS Korea Post boxes along a conveyor belt onto a waiting delivery van.

Up a flight of stairs, we found ourselves in a room where huge boxes covered most of the floor space. We then hustled to a room filled with wooden pigeonholes, where workers wearing blue aprons sorted the letters according to destination. Large color-coded sacks, each one bearing the name of a country, were stacked in one corner of the room. Our guide picked up sacks marked BELGIUM, ÖSTERREICH and U.S.A.

From there, our group moved back to the corridors where a white door opened to a spacious room. The guide explained that this room contained all the mail/packages destined for Mongolia from all parts of the globe. We also had a peek at the stitching room where torn postal sacks were repaired.

To remind us of our visit, our guide gave us colorful stamps and tiny flowery envelopes.

Thanks to Ms. Selenge for organizing and facilitating this field visit, to Mrs. Carey and Mrs. Matthews for chaperoning us, and a great, big thank you to the Mongol Post for having us.

Greca Durant, G-1 Teacher



Ice Rink Use Waiver Form (Free Access)

This form must be submitted to ISU Reception well before the intended use of the ice rink. Only one form need be submitted per family for this skating season.

I, parent / guardian...
Full name (please print) cross-out one

of in Grade
child's/dependent's name (please print)

of in Grade
child's/dependent's name (please print)

of in Grade
child's/dependent's name (please print)

of in Grade
child's/dependent's name (please print)

...wish to use the ISU Ice Rink during the 2012 ice skating season.

I understand that we will use only the ice rink and will not be given access to the school facilities other than the small rear (east) entrance foyer.

I understand that at no time should we walk upon the artificial turf sports fields while wearing our ice skates.

I understand that I am responsible for the costs of repair or replacement in case of any damage to the school property, including the artificial turf, which is caused by me and/or my children/dependents.

In consideration for ISU allowing me and my children/dependents to use the ISU ice rink, I agree to waive my right to bring any claims related to any losses suffered by me or my children/dependents as a result of any loss, injury or damage to my children or directly to me and my children/dependents' property while using the ISU ice rink and to fully indemnify ISU for the same.

Date:..... Signature.....

PLEASE SUBMIT TO RECEPTION AT ISU WELL BEFOR INTENDED USE OF ISU ICE RINK.