



ISSUE #1

26 August 2011

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear members of the ISU community,

Thank you to all of you who have welcomed me to UB and ISU. My wife, Yvonne, and I are very excited to finally be here. We arrived from Hong Kong along with our two dogs, Pfoten and Phoebe, on July 30<sup>th</sup> and have been busy ever since getting settled and trying to get out and about to explore our new surroundings.

Of course, working intensely with my colleagues at ISU preparing for the August 22 opening was my top priority these past weeks. As many of you witnessed, we started the 2011-2012 school year on Monday with a small ceremony to mark the significance of the first day of school. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this event as we consider including more traditional Mongolian elements in next year's ceremony. Please email me at [director@isumongolia.edu.mn](mailto:director@isumongolia.edu.mn) with your comments or suggestions.

Over these next 8 weeks on the job at ISU, I plan to hit the ground learning rather than running. I need to consult many staff, students, parents and Board members as well as observe ISU in operation in as many areas as possible. My aim is to get to know my new school thoroughly in as short a time as possible. I will then write a report of my findings, my thoughts on their implications, and the plans I will form as priorities for my first year as Director at ISU. I will share this report with the Board of Trustees, staff and community when I have finished.

I had an opportunity to become familiar with ISU during my visit last May. What strongly impressed me at that time was the commitment by the ISU community to a strategically planned development of the school as Ulaanbaatar's economy and the size of the expat community continues to grow. The six goals of the strategic plan are very comprehensive and, very importantly, well aligned with the school's mission, vision and core values. It is precisely this set of values that attracted me to ISU – a perfect fit for my own views on international school education!

I look forward in these next weeks and months to meeting as many of you as possible and discussing how best we can make ISU, already a good school, into a really great school.

**Robert Stearns**  
Director

### DIARY DATES:

Tuesday-August 30

8:20-9:00 PTG meeting ISU cafeteria-all parents are invited

August 31-September 2  
Friday-September 2

Secondary Camp-Terelj, Buuveit and Hustai  
Primary Picnic—Lunch will be provided by ISU

Tuesday- September 6

ASA-s start

**FRONT PAGE**— THE MEDEE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE EACH WEEK AT: [WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN](http://WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN)

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# THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

Thursday-September 8	Whole School Open House evening with PTG Cheese and Wine reception 18:30-20:30 pm- <b>PARENTS ONLY EVENT</b>
Tuesday-September 13	Grade 12 Parents College Evening-18:30-20:00 ISU Library
Thursday-September 15	Mongolian and Korean Parents ISU Orientation Evening-separate meetings-18:30 pm
Saturday-September 17	ISU Annual Fall Fair-11:00-14:00
Friday-September 23	School Photo Day

### Open House

Open House is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and learn more about their child's day at school, the curriculum and the three IB programmes. Please mark your calendar for Thursday, September 8 from 18:30-20:30 pm.

### Forms on Fridays

In an effort to improve communication between school and home, Friday has been selected as the day that printed forms, newsletters and notices will be sent home. This way, you can plan on receiving any printed school or classroom news on the same day that you read the electronic Medee.

### Dear parents and students,

Have you noticed the flowers and bushes along the fence at the front of the school? This greenery is all there thanks to your support during our Roots & Shoots events last year.

We are continuing our Roots & Shoots meetings this year on Tuesdays and are looking forward to the projects that the students are going to organize. If you are concerned about an issue or are involved in a project you would like our help with, please let us know.



Kind regards,  
Margriet Faber

## SECONDARY NEWS

It is so good to see everyone back at school! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer as much as I did. I also hope that you get to know our new Director, Bob Stearns, and new head of primary, Rick Elya fairly quickly. They are great people and a true asset to our school – I am enjoying having them on our team.

Please remember that all of secondary goes to Camp next week – Wednesday through Friday. The middle school will be at one location (Terelj), the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade at another (Terelj), and the diploma students will be at a third (Hustai). Be sure that your child has the proper clothing and footwear to attend this outdoor event with our school. Each year it gets better and better with our activities and the fun we all have getting to know one another, but with the weather as unpredictable as it is here in Mongolia, we want everyone to be warm, dry and safe. Proper gear helps to insure this.

Lastly, I want everyone to know that one of our seniors this year, Neil Bolyard-Rutherford, has been awarded a Global Citizen Community Service Grant. Along with the honor of being chosen as one of the very few candidates in the EARCOS region, Neil will receive \$500. Congratulations to Neil and continued success on his project in Cambodia.

Have a great weekend as the summer comes to a close.

**Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary**

## PRIMARY NEWS

It is wonderful to be here at ISU and has been a pleasure meeting many of you this week. It is the ISU community's commitment to the IB philosophy, practices and action that made it my first choice school.

I come from Seattle, USA, where I began my career in elementary education teaching grades 1 through 5. My venture into international education and IB World schools began 11 years ago. Most recently I was in Guangzhou, China and prior to that, Osaka, Japan.

My aim is to see that your child is provided an inviting and safe learning environment, empowered to become an independent learner, rising to the challenges provided.

I look forward to meeting all of you over the next few weeks.

**Rick Elya, Head of Primary**

### Primary Picnic

The primary picnic will be held on Friday, September 2. The purpose of the picnic is to strengthen the sense of community within the Primary section of the school. Kindergarten through grade 4 students will be grouped across grade-levels and, as a team, rotate through activity stations. The grade 5 students will oversee the activity stations along with staff. Lunch will be provided and served on the field.

## Parent Teacher Group

The Parent Teacher Group (PTG) is here to bring together parents and teachers to support the school and help **foster school community spirit** and raise funds that can **benefit the education of all students** of ISU.

It is **open to all of you, parents and teachers**, even if you only have a small amount of time available to get involved.

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The PTG holds several fund-raisers throughout the year, including but not limited to bake sales, quiz nights, and the annual fall fair.

Some of the ways the PTG benefited ISU students during the last school year are:

- sponsoring the annual *International Food Evening*
- helping establish the *ISU National Honor Society*
- purchasing fly-tying equipment for the *Fly-fishing club*
- purchasing helmets for the *after-school ice-skating program*
- and promoting many other activities.

**The PTG needs your help to make ISU a better place for all of our students.**

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, August 30** from **8:20am to 9:00am** at the school cafeteria. All Parents are invited.

We hope to see you there!