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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Best wishes to you in reaching all of your goals for this upcoming year.

I hope that you had an enjoyable three weeks of holiday time wherever you were. Yvonne and I stayed here in UB and enjoyed very much the opportunity to hike in the hills north, south, east and west of the city. Now that school has restarted, I'm sure that our two dogs are enjoying the rest!



Mrs Hanselmann and Mr. Elya cut short their holidays by a few days in order to participate in a teacher recruitment fair that started last weekend in Bangkok. Now they are in Hong Kong attending a second recruitment fair. On January 25th, Mrs. Tuul and I will go to Toronto and then Boston to attend two more recruitment fairs. Our goal at all of these fairs is to seek and hire the best teachers that we can find for our students here at ISU.

How do we do this? Well, firstly, we use the services of one or more teacher recruitment agencies that act as intermediaries between teacher applicants and international schools. These agencies organise the recruitment fairs and provide us with very detailed preliminary information on each applicant, including confidential references from current and past school employers.

Our first screening of all applicants involves a very close look at their credentials – ensuring that they are fully qualified in the areas to which they've applied. We then look at their teaching background – especially if they've had any experience teaching in the IB programme, or if not, in an inquiry-based and student-centered programme similar to the IB.

We read carefully their statements of educational philosophy and pay very close attention to the detailed reference forms that are provided to us by the recruitment agency. If, after all of this, we determine that the applicant is somebody of interest to us, we meet them for a preliminary interview. If, after the interview, we think they might make a good fit with our needs at ISU, we schedule a more in-depth second interview. We may then, if we are convinced that the applicant would be a good addition to our school, make a preliminary offer of employment.

We encourage the applicant at that stage to become as knowledgeable as possible about ISU, UB and Mongolia – beyond the information we provide and to contact one or more of our current teachers at ISU who may have similar personal circumstances so that they can ask pertinent questions about the school and life in UB. Only after all of that will we finalise the offer of employment.

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

THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar



So what kind of teachers are we seeking for ISU? First and foremost, we want teachers for whom the performance and welfare of their students are their absolute priorities – teachers who relate well to and care strongly for their students. We are looking for teachers who are committed to the philosophy of assessment for learning, not just assessment for performance scores; teachers who work hard to differentiate their teaching for student learning; teachers who highly value collaboration with peers for planning and professional development; and teachers who themselves are learners.

We are looking for teachers who are adventurous and self-reliant; enjoy outdoor activities; are able to deal with uncertainty; live a balanced lifestyle; don't get frustrated easily and, when they do, can deal with it well. We want teachers who we think will settle in comfortably to Ulaanbaatar and ISU and who will contribute actively to the strategic goals we have determined for our school.

Hiring high-quality teachers for a school is one of the most significant responsibilities that falls on our shoulders as administrators. You can be assured that the admin team here at ISU takes that responsibility very seriously and we do our very best to do it right.

Best regards

Robert Stearns, Director

Diary Dates:

- January 16-23 DP Mock Exams (G-12)
- January 18 PTG meeting 8:20am
- January 23-25 DP Semester 1 Exams (G-11)
- January 27 Semester 1 ends
- January 30 Semester 2 begins
- January 31 Quarter 3 ASAs start



CAUTION & COURTESY PLEASE

WHEN DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD IN THE ISU PARKING LOT

Many cars are entering, parking and then exiting the ISU parking lot every morning. Most drivers are very aware of the many little children getting out of cars and walking across the parking lot. BUT some drivers act as if dropping off their child quickly and racing out of the parking lot is the only thing on their mind. They seem unaware of the other children and other cars as they selfishly refuse to park their car properly or reverse their car quickly into the path of another car moving through the lot. Some even find it necessary to pull out and pass other cars in the middle of the parking lot as if they are on a wide open highway.

Our expectations for drivers are clear. Drivers are to enter the parking lot through the south entranceway, drive slowly and cautiously to an appropriate spot, then park the car perpendicular to the sidewalk or back fence. When reversing, drivers are expected to be courteous and allow other cars to move beyond them if already in motion. At no time should any driver be passing another car while in the lot. All drivers should proceed slowly and cautiously to the north exit. The speed limit on the roadways around ISU is 25 km/h.

We will not tolerate careless unsafe driving or inappropriate parking in our ISU parking lot. Parents – if you use a driver to take your children to school, could you please insist that they drive and park appropriately in our school parking lot. License numbers of those who refuse to drive cautiously and courteously will be recorded and reported to the traffic police. We will ban those vehicles from using our parking lot.

Please—the lives of our children are too precious to be putting them at risk by careless, thoughtless driving.

Robert Stearns
Director