



ISSUE #4

16 September 2011

THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all

I look forward to seeing you at Fall Fair tomorrow. Please see details about this exciting event further below.

I also look forward to spending more time with some of you over the next few weeks in discussions about your child's learning at ISU. As mentioned in one of the earlier *Medee* editions, as part of my plan to learn as much as I can about ISU before fixing my goals as Director for this academic year, I would like to discuss with a sample of parents, their views on ISU as an institution of international education. If you have the time and interest in a 45-min meeting with me, please email my assistant, Enkhee, at administration@isumongolia.edu.mn to set up a date and time within the next few weeks. She will provide you with a set of questions that will help focus our discussion.

Parents are also a very important group with whom the Accreditation Visiting Team will wish to consult during their visit in mid-October. Please see the section below "Accreditation Team Visit" with a request from Margriet Faber. The main purpose of their visit, and indeed the whole accreditation process in which ISU has been engaged in the past year, is school improvement. To that end, the Visiting Team will produce a report commending ISU for areas in which it meets or exceeds international school standards as well as making very specific recommendations on areas for improvement. Your contribution to this process will be very valuable.

Speaking of improvement, we are seeing a better traffic flow through our parking lot in the mornings – a safer situation for our students as they get out of their properly parked cars. We have stationed some of our support staff in the parking lot for the time being to remind drivers to park their vehicle opposite the west wall or east curb so that the children can exit their car safely.

We have also noticed a significant number of students arriving late in the mornings – both on our school buses as well as in private cars. This situation is starting to affect the start-up of our school day. It would seem that the traffic problems on Olympic Avenue are getting worse, especially at the junction with Mahatma Gandhi Avenue. Not anticipating any reduction in this traffic congestion in the near future, I can only ask those of you getting trapped in this frustrating situation, to please leave a bit earlier in the mornings so that your children arrive on time.

Best wishes for a happy time at the Fall Fair. See you on Saturday.

Robert Stearns, Director

DIARY DATES:

Saturday-September 17

ISU Annual Fall Fair-11:00-14:00

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

Friday-September 23

School Photo Day

October 9-14

IBO/CIS/NEASC Evaluation Team visit

October 17-25

Fall Break

School Information Sessions

Thank you very much for those Mongolian and Korean parents who attended the School Information Sessions that took place yesterday in their native languages. The parents commented that these information sessions answered many of their questions and they found it to be really useful.

Special thank you to Mr. Choi, Mrs. Hanselmann, Ms. Enkhee & Ms. Eggie who helped to translate and lead the sessions.

Tuul Arildii
Deputy Director/Business

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Accreditation Team Visit

Dear parents,

From the 9th to the 14th of October the IBO/CIS/NEASC accreditation team will be visiting ISU to look at all aspects of school life. During this week they will meet with all of the teachers, support staff, numerous students, and parents.

We need a group of parents, representing each grade level to meet with the visiting team on Monday the 10th of October from 15.00 to 15.45.

If you would like to be part of these meetings please send an email with your name, the grade your child is in and a contact telephone number to Betsy Hanselmann secondaryhead@isumongolia.edu.mn

Thank you for your support,

Margriet Faber, PYP Coordinator

ISU FALL FAIR

Dear ISU Families,

As you all know by now, we are having our annual **Fall Fair** this weekend on **Saturday from 11:00 – 14:00**. There will be plenty of games, other activities and vendors. One special treat will be a performance by members of the Canadian “Red Sky” troupe who performed this week in the Opera and Ballet House.

The students and teachers are very much looking forward to this day, but we still need your help. You can help us by signing up to take turns (30 minutes or 1 hour) at the Bake sale, Tickets sale, and Prize tables. You can also make/bake some food for the Bake sale.

Please contact Elena at elenamarchenko@yahoo.co.uk , mb: 9587 5839 or Bileg at eebileg@gmail.com, mb: 9905 5243. It will be a great event if everyone pitches in to help. See you there!

Thank you,

the ISU Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

NEW ROAD OPENING

Dear Parents,

We expect that the new 4-lane, east-west road to the north of our school (that connects to Olympic Avenue) will open tomorrow, Saturday, September 17th.

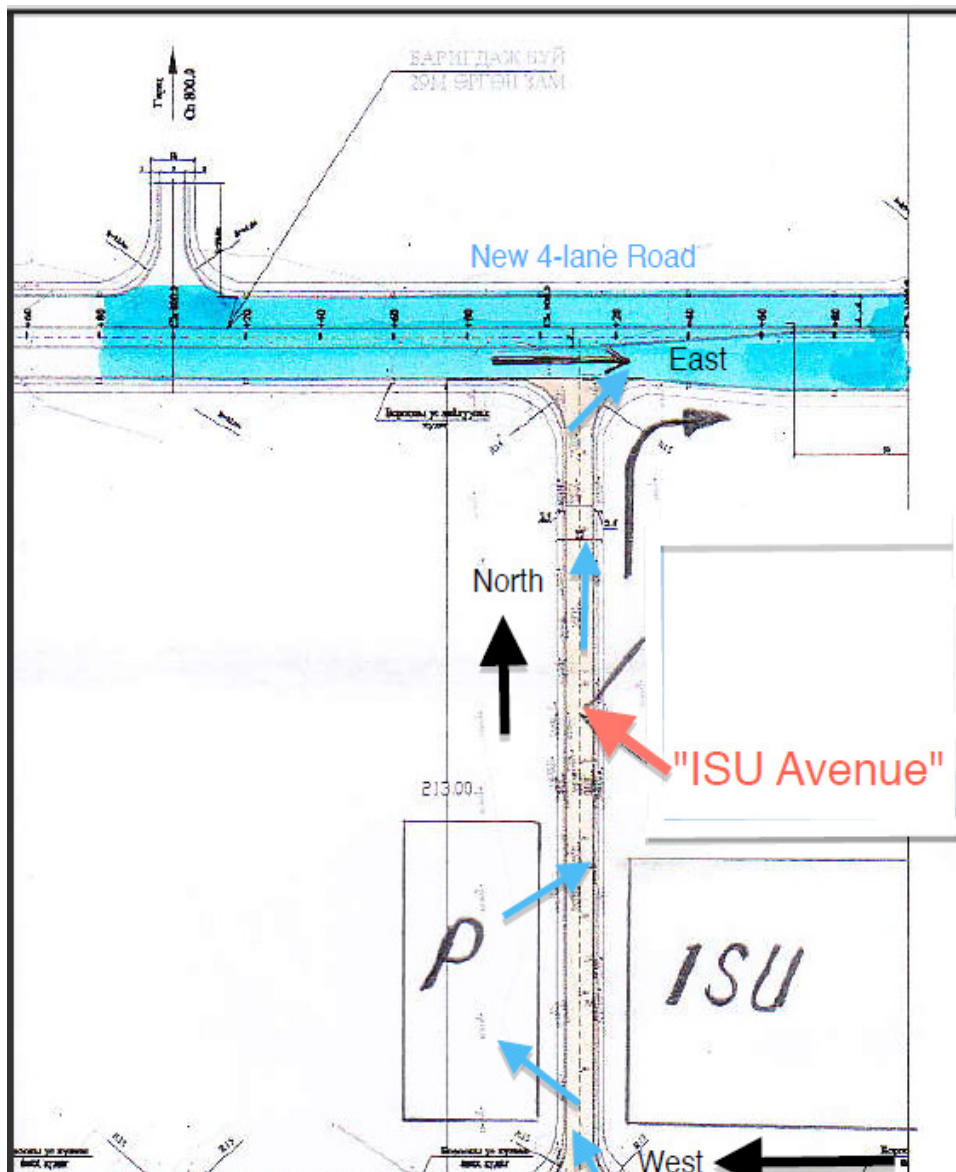
The road between our ISU school building and our parking lot (we'll name it ISU Avenue) will be unchanged. That is, it will continue to be a one-way route from south to north and our current traffic flow should not be affected.

There will be signs on the newly-opened 4-lane road informing drivers in the east bound lanes that left turns onto "ISU Avenue" are not permitted. However we need to be alert that this may happen until drivers become fully accustomed to driving on this new 4-lane road.

To our own drivers in the ISU community: please continue to drive to ISU as you always have been. You will not be able to reach ISU by way of the new 4-lane road. Please be alert to drivers who mistakenly drive up ISU Avenue in the wrong direction.

If you have any questions, please contact us at administration@isumongolia.edu.mn or by telephone at 7016 0010.

Robert Stearns, Director



MAP TESTING

Dear Parents of students in Grades 3-10:

In the next 2-3 weeks, your child will be writing computer-generated tests called “Measure of Academic Progress”-MAP tests. Last year our Primary students did these tests in the areas of reading and mathematics. The Secondary students did reading, language, mathematics and science tests. We will do the same this year, with the addition of the language testing for our Primary students.

The MAP tests are not timed, which means that each child can pace herself/himself to answer to the best of their ability. By comparing a student’s results for one MAP test session to those from a previous session, the specific progress of their learning can be measured. It is important to understand that the data is not used to compare one student’s performance level with another’s. It is for internal ISU use only so that our teachers can determine how they can best serve their students as a whole and individual student in specific areas as appropriate. It is used to help our teachers improve their students’ learning.

Our students do not have to “study” or otherwise do anything special to prepare for these tests. The results will not directly affect their ISU grades. We ask you as parents to help convey this message to your child should he or she seem anxious about the testing. Another way in which you may help your child perform to the best of their ability is ensure that they eat well and get plenty of sleep.

Their brains function better for learning when they are well-rested and well-fueled.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact either myself or Mr. Elya, our Head of Primary.

Betsy Hanselmann, M.Ed., Head of Secondary

PRIMARY NEWS

At this time, students are discovering and exploring their first unit of inquiry. It is exciting to see their interests and knowledge grow. What I find most impressive is the amount of opportunities teachers and assistants have provided for children to learn from the community around them. Numerous volunteer guest speakers have supported the grades 4 and 5 units of inquiry by sharing their knowledge and insights on beliefs and values, and decision making. Grades 2 through 5 students have visited several sites outside of school, such as a food market, an Art museum, a monastery, and a church. These community resources are known as ‘primary resources’ and are invaluable in providing a holistic education for your child. We are fortunate to have such resourceful staff seeking such opportunities.

With the changing season and the cool mornings, please see that your child is coming to school dressed appropriately for the weather. A warm jacket, and hat are essential for the morning, and often necessary at morning break recess time.

See you at the Fall Fair tomorrow!

Rick Elya, Head of Primary