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## Director's Message

ISO Community,

Once again, as we start the second part of the year, after an "eventful" first few weeks of our second semester, I am happy to report that our largest "new" student cohort in years has successfully settled into our program. I am also pleased to report that the Board of Trustees, and the Parent Teacher Association have been reconstituted. Our teachers and parents are fully prepared to work together to assist our students in their learning process, as most have met to create an "**action plan**" with their academic goals for this year.

It has been a busy, but **extremely stressful** start to the first part of our 46<sup>th</sup> year here at the International School of Ouagadougou.

To that end, ISO adopted **PlusPortals** – our student information system -to improve communication between home and school, and to enable parents to monitor their students' grades and performance. One added feature is that PlusPortals can also produce report cards, which will be published on **Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Last week, the Government decreed that schools **would be suspended and no formal classes would be held**. We did, however, quietly, at the discretion of the teachers, use both PlusPortals and other online platforms to work with students and maintain some IB contact hours where teachers (and most students) felt it was important to be maintained.

Going forward, we trust that school will only be suspended when there is a potential hazard that poses an overall safety concern. We have the PlusPortals and other tools as part of our **Emergency Action Contingency Planning**. Nevertheless, we are all clear that the best learning happens physically in the classroom.

# Director's Message



We were all reminded last week that safety and security are our major priorities, and that they need to be constantly monitored. Nonetheless, we used this opportunity to re-establish our strong ties to both the diplomatic community, as well as our national partners. We will continue to practice our drills on a regular basis, and meet with various security officers, to improve the school's physical safety.



# From the Board of Trustees and the Director

ISO Community,

Once again, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank my colleagues for handling last week's Government Transition of Power, full of many unknowns, very professionally. Both our teachers and our community showed resilience, perseverance, and dedication to our community.

To that end, yesterday, during our weekly staff meeting, we had a "**Lessons Learned**" session to find out **what the school did well**, and **what needs to be improved upon**, based on the events that took place last week. The feedback was very rich, and it will clearly help the administration and the Board better position the school, should other times of uncertainty arise.

Some of the challenges we faced during the Government Transition of Power were:

- The general "**vagueness**" - especially earlier in the week - of what was occurring in the country, and in terms of education.
- Could teachers be at school?
- Could formally directed distance learning take place?
- When could school re-open physically to the community?

The answers to these questions were not evident in the Ministry of Education decrees. The only thing that was clear **was that school was closed**, first for two days, and then for three days. In effect, school was slowly canceled for the week.

To help both the administration and the Board deal with future challenges like this (or any potential events that may arise in either the short or long-term), especially when parts of the Internet are shut off, we would also like to invite you, **our parent community**, to provide us with some "**Lessons Learned**".

The more feedback we have, the better! This will help us make informed decisions, and create or amend policies (*as times have changed*) so that we can continue to work together on our primary goal of ensuring the **safety and well being** of all our students.

The lessons learned feedback form can be found at this [link](#).

Thanks for helping to make the International School of Ouagadougou even stronger!!

Jeff Trudeau  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees.



# From the School Counselor



Dear Families,

During Quarter 3 our Elementary School Teachers will be using the Second Step Child Protection unit as part of the Health and Wellness section of our curriculum. The program helps our school to be a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

During the Child Protection unit our children will learn three types of skills:

**Personal Safety:** Children will learn important safety rules such as safety with sharp objects, fire or when riding in vehicles or on bicycles. They will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.

**Touching Safety:** Children will learn about safe, unsafe and unwanted touches and rules about touching private body parts. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches and how to tell a grown-up if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.

**Assertiveness:** These lessons will also give children a chance to practice asking a grown-up for help, telling a grown-up about an unsafe situation and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

Children will be learning about Private Parts and, when appropriate during the lessons, will be using the following terminology: bottom, breast, vagina, penis.

Please take some time to talk with your child about what he or she is learning about during Health and Wellness. Your child might bring home simple, fun activities called Home Links that will help you understand what he or she is learning about safety at school and which will give your child another chance to practice safety skills.

To keep your child safe and protected, everyone at school needs to be involved. All of our ES teachers have discussed:

How to recognize and report suspected child sexual abuse.

How to respond to and support children who have been abused or who are facing challenges.

How to use strategies that promote a safe and supportive climate for learning.

If you have any questions about the Child Protection Unit or the Second Step program that we will be using, please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher for more information. We will be happy to share the resources we are using and to discuss any questions you might have. You may also reach out to Laurence Traore-Tyano, our Social Emotional Counselor, who will be actively involved in this unit.

Thank you for your continued support,

Laurence Traore-Tyano  
ISO School Counselor  
l.traore@iso.bf

# 100th Day of School



**We will celebrate the 100th day of school on Friday February 11th, 2022!**

The day will be packed full of 100 themed activities including:

A 100 year old fashion show

STEAM activities

Arts and crafts

Show and tell

A fitness challenge



## **Help your child prepare for the special day by:**

-Helping them select items to wear in preparation for the fashion show

-Helping them collect 100 items for show and tell (coins, buttons, beads, list of 100 words, craft with 100 items etc.)

-Reflecting with your child about the triumphs and lessons learned during the first 100 days of this academic year.



# StuCo Love Fundraiser

## Show your love for the Elementary Student Council and earn delicious treats for your classmates!

The ISO Elementary Students council needs your help to raise funds to continue doing wonderful things such as:

- Donating gifts to less fortunate children
- Providing snacks for elementary school events
- Hosting events and fun activities

Treats will be distributed on Friday February 11th, based on the amount of money raised by each class.

### Class Prize Levels:

- ~ 25,000cfa- Everyone will receive a piece of candy
- ~50,000cfa- Everyone will receive a piece of candy and a cookie
- ~100,000cfa - Everyone will receive a piece of candy and a cupcake



# Snack Shack Menu: February



Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
<b>HOT MEALS are served with a choice of daily veggie or fruit, but soups are not</b>									
Chicken white sauce pasta	1300	Creamy beef steak w/sauteed potato	1500	Beef ham	1500	Roasted chicken w/ Salad and bread	1500	Hamburger	500
				Pizza W/ mixed salad	1200			Or	
				W/out mixed Salad					Mini Cheese Burger
Veggie white sauce pasta	1000	Creamy veggie w/ sauteed potato	1000	Pizza margherita w/ mixed salad	1500	Roasted veggie w/salad and bread	1200	Hotdog (beef)	700
				Or w/out mixed salad	1200				
								Aloco OR French Fries	500
Chicken vermicelli soup	500	Potato and carrot soup	500			Chicken vermicelli soup	500		
<b>SANDWICHES</b>									
Grilled cheese	1000	Omelette	700			Grilled cheese	1000		
Veggie	700	Veggie	700			Veggie	700		
Falafel	750	Falafel	750			Falafel	750		

## Snacks & Drinks

SNACKS					DRINKS				
Plantain Chips	500	Mango Chips	500	Fruit Cup	500	Water Bottle	500	Fan Milk	200
Peanuts	200	Cake	500	Popcorn	100	Juices		Fan Chocolate	250
Cashews	500					box juice	500		
		Lemonade	500						
						Bissap	300		

\*All prices are in CFA

# ISO Community Calendar

>>> February 2022



International School of  
Ouagadougou



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Q2 Reports Online  12h05: Grade 9 IT Presentation	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 100th Day of School	12 ACT
13	14	15 18:00 Board Meet- ing	16	17	18 PD Day / No School for Students	19
20	21 Internation al Mother Tongue/ Language Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					