Letter From The Elementary School Principal



Dear Elementary School Families,

We have successfully completed our first few weeks of teaching and learning at ISO! This year we welcomed several new students and our returning students arrived with great joy to meet new friends and new teachers.

This week was packed with fun activities and events. On Tuesday we welcomed dozens of families for Open House during which parents had the opportunity to meet teachers and learn about curriculum, classroom norm expectations and tour our beautiful facilities.



On Wednesday we celebrated International Literacy Day which began with Buddy Reading and culminated with an awesome vocabulary parade in which students stunted around campus in costume showing off newly acquired vocabulary.

A huge thank you to students and parents for continuing to adhere to our health and safety protocol. Our newly installed hand washing stations, automated hand sanitizer dispensers, masks, and daily temperature checks all play a vital role in keeping the school community healthy and safe, and serve as an extra layer of comfort and peace of mind.

At ISO we regularly practice **safety** and **security drills**. We had our first fire drill of the school year on August 31st, our classroom lockdown drill will take place on September 16th and the On Campus Safe Haven drill is scheduled to occur on. September 30th. These drills are in place to ensure our students have the skills needed to be healthy and safe in the event that a real emergency situation arises. Please talk to your child at home about these drills and address any concerns that may arise.



Every child loves celebrating his or her birthday with friends! We recognize that this is important to young children. Please contact your child's teacher and make advance arrangements if you would like to have a small celebration for your child. Given the current global pandemic all birthday celebrations that take place in school must contain food that is individually wrapped in advance. All celebrations must take place outdoors and with social distancing norms in place. Larger birthday celebrations may be arranged off campus/ outside of regular school hours.

Letter From The Elementary School Principal

Thank you so much for helping students have an awesome start of the school year! I look forward to a year of great joy and growth for our students and the greater ISO community.

Ms. Mixon
Elementary School Principal



Letter From The Upper School Principal



Dear Upper School Parents,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! As the new Upper School Associate Principal, let me express my willingness to work with you in creating the best possible learning experience for your children. I am being ably assisted in this by Ms. Pichette (IBDP Coordinator) and Ms. Sanfo (Dean of Students). I would like to spell out some basic objectives that I will focus on this year to achieve success:

Rigor – Strengthening the overall framework for student learning. This would include utilization of resources, consistent/ meaningful teacher evaluation, professional development and instructional planning and assessments that are data driven.

Resilience – Establishing a positive environment that understands the need to nurture the entire child, particularly in the face of restrictions imposed by pandemic protocols. Social and academic growth must continue at a high level.

Innovation – Being receptive to new ideas and approaches to learning. Encouraging staff to think out of the box when exploring ways to reach students.

We are off to great start. The year began with an assembly where students received their schedules, new teachers were introduced, and basic safety protocols revisited. A Buddy Program was quickly initiated to ensure students were supported in feeling welcome. Additionally, all teachers spent time having students participate in "ice breakers" that helped form connections in the classroom. This small investment of time building rapport will pay substantial dividends in the long run.

Students needing extra support for English acquisition were quickly identified and have now begun an Intensive English Program after school. This in addition to our ESOL program administered during the school day. After School Activities Program was also launched. Students will be participating in a variety of activities to enrich their school experience from 3:30-4;30 on designated days. Any student not participating must be picked up at the normal time.

Open House was held Tuesday, September 7. This gave us an opportunity to meet parents and provide them with a concise overview of subjects being taught. A separate Parent Information Night will also be held September 14, 2021 @ 18:30 to explain the IBDP in detail. Open House gave parents a chance to meet new staff members: Niocie Browne (Math) Scott Chaffin (English) and Keyara Fleece (IT/Music). Your attendance was much appreciated.

Letter From The Upper School Principal

Lastly, please know we are doing all we can to keep your children safe. We all know that this has been disruptive. However, we must remain vigilant in maintaining protocols for the **health** and **safety** of all concerned. Thank you, and know that I am committed to doing my utmost to see that your children reach their potential. I look forward to partnering with you in the coming year to reach that goal.

IBDP Contribution

The International Baccalaureate's Diploma Programme (IBDP) entered its second year at ISO. 17 students are currently registered in the full DP, while 1 student is registered for a certificate. The year started with a student orientation: grade 12 students met with each of their teachers to review each discipline's expectations and upcoming assessments while the grade 11 students were introduced to main areas of the DP as well as skills necessary to successfully complete the programme.

This year our first cohort will take their final exams in May 2022. To ensure the success of our Seniors, all DP teachers are regularly meeting and participating in IB certified professional development. As the IBDP Coordinator, I will closely monitor all our students and engage in frequent communications with parents. Our first invitation is on **Tuesday, September 14th** where we will talk specifically about the year 2 assessments and specific expectations. It will be followed by individual meetings with each family to talk about predicted grades and the student's progress. These meetings will be scheduled during the last weeks of September. We believe that with both parent and teacher collaboration, we will ensure each student's success.

Marie-Hélène Pichette

Sincerely,

Dean Jex
Associate Upper School Principal