

Dear Elementary School Families,

This month is packed full of important and exciting information and events.

MAP Assessment

This week students in kindergarten through grade 5 took the MAP (measure of academic progress assessment) in English Language Arts and Math. Tomorrow students will take make-up assessments, please make sure your child is present and well rested if he or she was absent and did not take their assessment earlier in the week as they will take it tomorrow morning. We look forward to viewing the numeric evidence of our students' academic growth in the near future. MAP results will be distributed via Plus Portals as well as in hard copy form on Friday December 17th.

Winter Fun Day

On December 15th students will participate in a friendly ISO themed Kahoot competition which will be followed by hot chocolate and a plethora of winter themed activities including crafts, story time and a special STEAM project. It is sure to be a day full of fun-filled learning.

Celebration of The Arts

Congratulations to our students and fine arts department for hosting a wonderful Celebration of the Arts last week. We are truly privileged to be in the presence of such talented artists, singers and dancers!

Learning During Winter Break

Winter break is a wonderful opportunity to engage your children in activities that are fun and engaging while also academically focused. Consider doing some of the following during the 3 week vacation from school:

- Read with your child
- Allow your child to make his/ her own book
- Make and send greeting cards to friends and family either digitally or on paper
- Follow a recipe to make a delicious treat
- Visit a local museum or park
- Go on a nature walk and explore local plants and animals
- Construct a new gadget using items from around the house

Letter From The Elementary School Principal

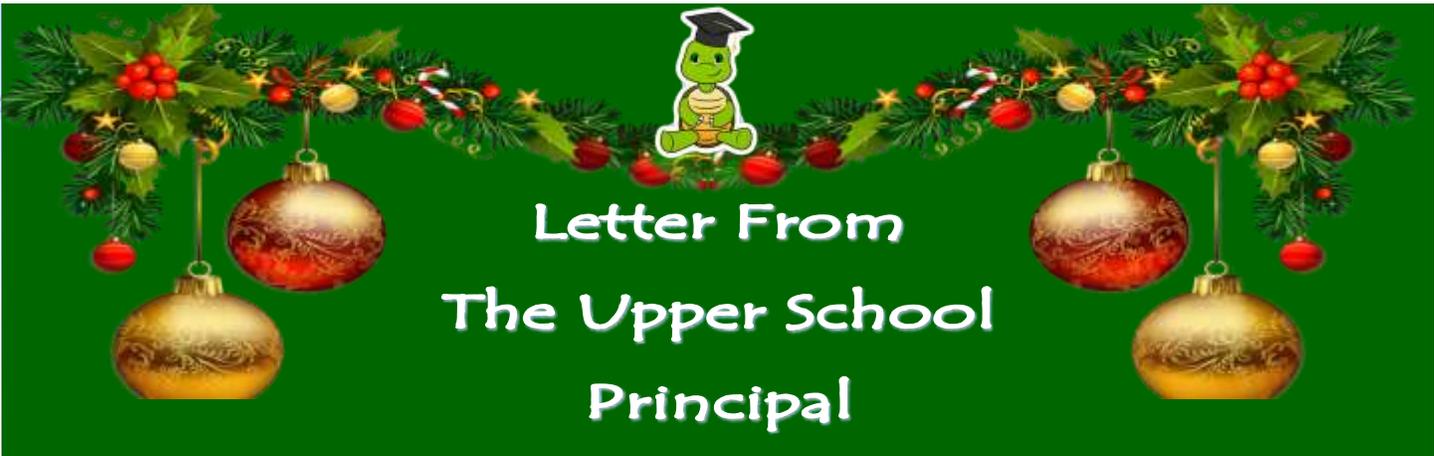
Please be sure to inform your child's teacher if he/she will be absent from school due to winter travel. Please be reminded that students should not attend school if they have any signs of sickness including cough, fever and runny nose as this is a time when virus is easily spread.

Thank you,

Ms. Mixon

Elementary School Principal





Dear Upper School Parents,

As we near the Winter Break, we remain **vigilant** in our efforts to protect the **health and safety** of your children. We will continue to evaluate protocols as needed, always focusing on creating the **best possible learning environment**. In that regard, we welcomed back our Social/Emotional Counselor, Ms. Laurence Traore, from maternity leave. We must never lose sight of the fact that during stressful, challenging times the **ENTIRE child needs support** and nurturing including mental, social and emotional health.

The spirit of community involvement and giving is prospering in Upper School. As part of a Grade 11-12 Service Learning Group calling themselves, “Building Blocks”, students spear-headed a drive to collect milk and diapers for a local orphanage. Students experienced real **gratification in giving back**, as well as realizing their good fortune. Grade 9 was rewarded with a pizza party for their winning contribution. Upper School also started a **Food and Toy Drive from now until December 13**. We have identified ten needy families in the area that could benefit from a gift basket at this time of the year. Please consider helping us with this community outreach effort by sending canned and dry goods, as well as old toys.

On November 18th and 19th, the Grade 10 Theater class treated audiences to a **delightful evening** of an Agatha Christie adaption during a **Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**. What is remarkable about this is that many of the students never had performed before an audience. While there were a few opening night jitters, students delivered their lines with precision and timing allowing the audience to enjoy the play’s humor. Student’s artistic ability was also on display December 10 through Celebration of the Arts. This multi-media event and the theater production confirm what ISO’s program demonstrates..... when we encourage students to take **risks with support and guidance**, they grow!

Letter From The Upper School Principal

Our second installment of the **Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)** testing began on December 6. These tests are crucial in shaping instruction. They help us determine what areas of instruction need more attention, or what basic skills students may be lacking. As a school, we are focusing on making more **efficient use of the data** that this testing provides. Also, parents of Grades 8-10 attended a **University Night** on December 7. Parents and students gathered to hear important information about **graduation requirements, testing, and college admission**. We know that the sooner students and parents start planning ahead for college, the better the results. Ms. Sanfo, our College Counselor, and I are prepared to offer **whatever guidance and support is required** to make college planning a positive and exciting step into the future.

If **your child struggled academically** during the first quarter, please speak with them about the importance of improvement during Quarter 2. First and second quarter are averaged to arrive at a Semester grade. If the average of these two grades is not above 59, the student **WILL NOT** receive course credit in grades 9-12.

Graduation requires a predetermined number of credits. Therefore, failing to obtain a passing average for the semester will create a **credit deficit**. Additional steps then must be taken for credit recovery. This can be avoided. PLEASE, **let's work together** to make sure this does not happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our entire Upper School community an enjoyable and well deserved Winter Break. I will continue to strive to facilitate a learning environment of **cooperation, trust and growth**.

Dean Jex

Associate Upper School Principal



IBDP Contribution

The December break is at our doors. Three full weeks away from school! A great opportunity to rest, but also to forget things we've learned. It is therefore important to have a plan. We want you to enjoy this break, but we also want to make sure we don't have to reteach everything when you come back. Set aside regular review or study time during those holidays to make sure this doesn't happen. Grade 12 students especially, there are still important Internal and External assessments due in January and February. Don't wait until the last minute to finish them.

If you haven't done so already, I strongly encourage you to watch the "Study Smarter, Not Longer" [webinar](#) by Joyce Halsey, an experienced IB teacher. She gives tips on what to do when you study and how to build your long-term memory. "Making a few small changes to your study now can make all the difference when your IB exams roll around." (OSC 2021)

Marie-Hélène Pichette

US Celebration Of The Arts

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the first COTA for Upper School students grades 6-12 of the 2021 year! What a fine time to celebrate the art, music and theatre of these ISO students.

The celebration will take place this Friday, December 10, in the ISO auditorium, and will run approximately 6-7:30ish. There will be no after school activity on that day. Dismissal will be at 15h15.

The doors of the auditorium will be open from 6-6:30 (and possibly another room across the hall) to see the art on the panels, as well as a slide show. The music/drama part will start at 6:30, and will run for about 45 minutes. After that, there will be time to look at art again. We look forward to seeing you all there to support the students' efforts, and to enjoy the experience of the arts coming together.

The Fine Arts Department- art, drama, music



Upper School
CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

DECEMBER 10. 2021
@18H00-ISO

Join us in the Auditorium and the showrooms to enjoy upper school art!