

Secondary Spotlight



2nd November 2007

E-Mail: jalexander@istafrica.com

www.istafrica.com

Dates to watch...

Nov 2	Grades 6-8 ESP payments due at accounts office, Admin block, Upanga
Oct 30 – Nov 4	ISSEA Volleyball and Soccer in Johannesburg
Nov 3	SAT exam, 8am
Nov 3 – Nov 5	IAS Bronze Hike at Lushoto
Nov 5	Parent Group
Nov 6	Grade 6B snorkeling practice
Nov 7	Grade 6A snorkeling practice
Nov 8	Grade 6C snorkeling practice
	Personal Project product due
	Spanish Day
Nov 9	US/Canadian University Fair, 7pm, MPH
Nov 10	TOEFL exam, 8am
Nov 12-16	Grades 6-8 ESP Field Trips
Nov 14	Board Open Forum, SS Library, 7pm
Nov 15	Principal's Coffee – IB DP Coordinator
Nov 19	IST Holiday – no school for students

From the Director

The IST Community is invited to attend a Board Open Forum on Wednesday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in the Secondary School Library. There will be a presentation about initiatives currently in progress for school improvement. These initiatives include moving and expanding the Design Technology Lab at the Secondary School in order to create space for the creation of a new Science Laboratory Block. Details of the new Science Laboratory block will be on display and there will be an updating of the progress in its design and construction schedule. Other school renovation projects such as new admissions areas on both the Elementary and Secondary Schools, expansion of faculty housing, and the addition and remodeling of classrooms on both campuses will also be discussed. Details about the improvement of faculty salaries in order to retain and recruit top teachers, the dedication of extra funds for the upgrading of instructional materials, and the initiative to improve our library collections will be shared. There will be a discussion about the enrollment situation at IST. Currently there are waiting lists for three grades. Should IST plan to expand in response to the increased number of students wishing to attend?

There will be an opportunity for anyone attending to ask questions or express concerns. The Board and administration welcome your thoughts and comments. There is planning under way for a Strategic Planning Session to be held in the spring of this academic year. This Board Open Forum can help prepare the way for a productive strategic planning session by articulating questions and concerns that need medium term and long term answers.

Please join us at the Board Open Forum.

From the Principal

Hi everyone,

Thank you everyone for your participation in this week's Parent Conferences. As you are aware we trialed a new on-line appointment system at the Secondary School for these conferences and whilst there were inevitably some teething problems the conferences went very smoothly. We will be asking all parents (and teachers!) next week for comments and suggestions about the new Parent Conferences to see what we can do to make the Conferences even more effective for teachers and parents. I have heard already from a number of parents that commented positively about the new appointment system and I look forward to more comments and suggestions next week.

ESP for our Grade 6, 7 and 8 students is nearly upon us and I would like to encourage parents who have not yet paid to please do so. This trip is a compulsory one as it is related to the curriculum for each Grade level. Invoices were sent out individually a number of weeks ago and the deadline for payment is November 2nd. If you can please make payment at the Finance office at the ES campus that would be most appreciated. The amounts are as follows:

Grade 6 - \$375

Grade 7 - \$275

Grade 8 - \$250

For this current school year we have been working on 'creating a culture of respect' within our school community. This extends to the way students and teachers interact with each other, with the environment and with the extended IST community. Students and teachers have been involved in discussions, workshops and participated in presentations and assemblies highlighting the importance of treating themselves and each other with respect. To help us be effective in this program we need your support at home as well. Please keep this in mind when talking with your children about their behaviour; and the way they interact with their friends and family. Please insist that they use the three most important words in the Dictionary – Excuse me, Please and Thank you!

Regards,

Justin Alexander, Principal

From the Vice Principal

As this is the first edition for this term we have many articles so I'll keep my comments short! Firstly a big thank you to all parents for your patience and cooperation as we introduced the new online appointment system for the Parent Teacher Conferences. I would be grateful for any feedback that you might like to give on how we can improve the system for the next round of conferences in March and April. Your perceptions of appointment length, locations and using the online system would be appreciated. You are welcome to email me on eandrews@istafrica.com

Secondary School Photos

We are waiting for the photographer to complete his work on the Elementary orders, at which time he will begin work on our photos. He will deliver the order forms to the school next week. Please keep an eye out for the order form in your child's bag.

IAS trip

We have our first IAS trip out this weekend. Twelve grade 9 students are off to Lushoto to camp at Muller's Farmhouse and hike in the surrounding hills. This is an introductory trip at Bronze level. There will be a more challenging Silver trip later in the term and a Gold residential trip to Kindwitwi Village with a service focus.

Holiday on 19th November!!

Please don't forget that we have an IST holiday on 19 November. There will be no school for students or teachers. This is the half way point in the term and a chance for Gr10s and Gr12s in particular to draw breath in the midst of personal project work and university applications respectively. It also allows the grade 6-8 students and teachers to recover from the excitement of camping, hiking and snorkeling while on ESP.

Finally, I'd like to direct parents of Grade 10 students to Ms Gifford's article on the transition from Grade 10 into Grade 11 and the IB Diploma/Certificate programmes. While it seems months away, we do begin talking about the transition now in order to make the whole process smoother.

Elizabeth Andrews, Secondary School Vice Principal

From the DP Coordinator

Parents and Students Grade 10 – The IB Diploma Programme 2008-10

In the next few weeks the school will be beginning the orientation programme for students who will be beginning IB Diploma or Certificate courses in Grade 11 in 2008.

All students at IST must study a range of six subjects in Grades 11 and 12, one from each group in the IBDP Curriculum. For Diploma students three of these subjects must be taken at a Higher Level and three are taken at Standard Level. For Certificate students all six subjects can be taken at Standard Level.

At present we are not certain which subjects will be offered next year – this will depend on staffing and student interest. However in recent years the following subjects have been available;

Group 1 Language A1 (First language)

English A1, Independent Language A1

Group 2 Languages A2, B and ab Initio (Second language)

English A2, Independent Language A2, French B, Kiswahili B, Spanish B, Spanish Ab Initio and Kiswahili Ab Initio.

Group 3 Individuals and Societies

History, Economics, Geography, Psychology

Group 4 Experimental Sciences

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Design Technology

Group 5 Mathematics

Mathematics HL, Mathematics SL, Mathematical Studies SL.

Group 6 Arts and Electives

Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Music or a second subject from groups 2 – 4

We are hoping to make some additions to the above offerings in 2008.

Entry Requirements for IB Diploma and Certificate Programmes at IST

Internal Applicants

Entry into the IB Diploma programme is moderately selective. Students wishing to study the Diploma programme must have demonstrated an academic ability which would enable them to follow the rigorous course of subjects and ancillary programmes (CAS, Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge).

International School of Tanganyika

Students whom it is felt have not demonstrated this ability may be accepted into a Certificate programme, provided that a suitable programme can be offered.

All students wishing to enter Grade 11 will be required to have fulfilled their obligations to the school's Community Service programme in Grades 9 and 10.

In order to enter the IB DP programme (Grades 11 and 12) students must meet acceptable levels of attainment in the IB MYP programme in Grades 9 and 10. The following entry requirements are based on students' grades in Terms 2 and 3 (i.e. up to March 2007) of the 10th Grade.

There will be a grade for each of the eight subject disciplines in the MYP programme and one for the personal project. The maximum grade for each subject will be 7, giving a total maximum Grade of 63.

Entry to IB Diploma Programme

The minimum requirement for automatic entry to the **Diploma Programme** is an **average of 35** points on the **December and March Report** cards.

In addition, students will have to achieve a minimum grade of 5 in any subject that they wish to study at Higher Level. (Some departments may have additional requirements for entry to Higher Level courses).

Students who gain just below either threshold **may** be given a probationary place on Diploma which will be reviewed in October (end of Term 1) of Grade 11.

Students who do not gain entry to the Diploma programme by August of Grade 11 but who make substantial effort and progress in Term 1 of Grade 11, **may** be given a probationary place on Diploma at the beginning of Term 2. This would be reviewed in December of Grade 11 (end of Term 2)

Final acceptance on to a Diploma programme will be made at the discretion of the Principal and IB Diploma Coordinator.

Entry to the IB Certificate Programme

Students may take individual IB courses for Certificate in Grades 11 and 12. Students in this situation will be advised by the IB Diploma Coordinator individually. The minimum requirement for automatic entry to the **Certificate Programme** is an **average of 28** points on the **December and March Report** cards.

Timeline for IB Diploma/Certificate Orientation 2008

Nov 15th

Ms Gifford will speak to Parents at Principal's Coffee Morning regarding entrance to the IBDP

Ms Gifford will speak with G10 students during periods 6 and 7. For this a brief description of each subject will be given students will be asked for their initial choices. **These are not binding** and

may be used to help us establish staffing needs for next year.

Jan 23rd

Formal presentations of IBDP at IST for Parents (evening) and students (during the day).

Week beginning Jan 28th

Teachers/Departments will speak with G10 students about what their subject entails at DP level. This will be arranged by departments in regular class time

Feb

Each student will be interviewed by Ms Gifford, Mr Alexander, Mr Rustad, Ms Andrews or Mr Hobbins concerning possible IBDP choices and future educational plans

Early March

Students submit option choices to Mr Hobbins

Early Term 4

Meeting of all G10 teachers to review T2 and T3 grades and student choices

May

Letters of offer sent out to parents and students

Please feel free to contact me on wgifford@istafrica.com if you have any questions.

Wendy Gifford, IBDP Coordinator

From the English Department

READING and a SPECIAL OFFER!

The English Department teachers would like to encourage all students to take some time to enjoy reading for pleasure – a treat that is sometimes missed out on due to heavy workloads, deadlines and after school activities. However, reading is a fundamental skill and developing reading skills helps to improve writing and comprehension of all types of text, but, most importantly, it should also be fun. As a small incentive that we hope will encourage students to choose books they will enjoy reading, we have been in negotiation with the bookshop **A Novel Idea** and are happy to announce that they have agreed to **offer all IST students a 5% discount** at their shops. All students need to do is present their **IST ID card** at any of the *A Novel Idea* stores and the discount will be given. Happy holidays, happy reading! Come to the Main Office if you need an updated ID Card.

Spanish day

Due to the ISSEA tournament, Spanish day has been moved to Thursday November 8th. Look out for a variety of events taking place at break time in the courtyard and for fun activities in your Spanish class on that day...

The Modern Languages Department.

Grade Seven ESP fast approaching...

Students are busily organizing in their cooking groups the culinary delights they will prepare for the evening they spend in Pugu Hills. As the comfort and safety level vastly increases when students are well-outfitted for camping and hiking, below is the kit list of recommended items for students:

<p>Toiletries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 Toothbrush •6 Toothpaste •7 Soap •8 Shampoo •9 Deodorant •10 Mosquito repellent •11 Sanitary products (if needed) 	<p>Clothes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12 Shoes durable for hiking •13 Shoes for camp •14 Socks for hiking •15 Long trousers for hiking •16 1-2 changes of clothes •17 Pajamas •18 Rain jacket
<p>Personal belongings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •19 Torch •20 Sleeping bag or blankets •21 Sleeping pad (optional) •22 Medication needed •23 Fully equipped pencil case (pencils, sharpeners, ruler, eraser, colored pencils) •24 Books and playing cards for quiet time •25 Camera (optional) 	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •26 ALL items needed for cooking as determined by your group •27 Individual plate, bowl, cup, cutlery •28 A packed lunch to eat before hiking •29 Sunscreen •30 Sun hat •31 Sunglasses (optional) •32 Swimming costume and towel or kanga. Plastic bag to bring suit home •33 Small day pack for hikes •34 Full Bottle of water that can be refilled and carried easily (at least 1 liter) •35 A few snacks (no gum please)

Please do not allow your child to bring: Cell phones, electronic games or iPods/MP3's

It is important to remember that students in Pugu will be assigned to cooking groups and be responsible for cooking their own dinner meal while camping. If for any reason your child is unable to attend the Pugu portion of the trip, the materials he/she is responsible for dinner must be brought to school on the day of departure. Otherwise, a group may go hungry!

A final letter and notice about ESP including itineraries for both portions of the trip and a kit list for Bagamoyo will go home with students on Friday November 2nd.

We are looking forward to a fabulous trip!
 Pam Werner, G7 Team Leader

MYP BITS 'N' PIECES

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER...

A number of grade 10 students will be experiencing some stress as the final deadlines for their project rush at them.

Please note that the weekend of 2 November is a Personal Project weekend. Other homework should not have been assigned for Monday. During the weekend, students will be putting the final touches to their products ready for submission on the 5th of November. Products are to be submitted to me in my office at the following times: 06h30 – 07h00 and 13h10 – 13h30.

After this weekend, students' focus will be on completing a draft of their Written Structure for initial assessment and feedback. As their supervisors will be giving them feedback based on the assessment criteria, it's important that the draft should be as close to a final version as possible for relevant and useful feedback. Parents pay particular attention to this feedback as well as it gives you an indication of your child's possible grade unless major improvements are required.

It is important for students to arrange to meet with their supervisors after receiving the feedback and before starting the December holiday so that they know exactly what they need to do to finalise the project.

GRADE 11 STUDENTS

Just when you think the Personal Project is over, the Extended Essay rears its head. For those of you who have started thinking about topics for the Extended Essay, but would like to approach it with clear knowledge of how you can use your experience of the Personal Project, then feel free to make an appointment with me to discuss weaknesses and strengths of your project before starting your Extended Essay later this academic year.

Melodee Peters, MYP Co-ordinator

News from the IST Art Studio

The young artists of IST are truly letting their colors shine through on a variety of projects.

The grade six artists are learning the basics of one-point perspective drawing. They are also studying the work of environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy in preparation for the upcoming journey to Zanzibar. While on the spice-island the grade sixers will take part in a variety of art activities. The grade seven students are in the construction phase their relief sculptures inspired by the Tanzanian Duka. Each student is creating a space that will eventually be filled with personal icons. Eighth graders are focusing on *the principles of design* and will incorporate their knowledge into an original set of artist trading cards. The students in grade nine, in collaboration with grade six, wrapped up the most amazing stylized African animals. Each unique collage will help liven up the children's ward of Muhimbili hospital. The grade nines have moved on to oil paintings inspired by African Art, Picasso, and cubism. The tenth grade students are now wrapping up the final compositions inspired by the work Frida Kahlo. IB-1 students are creating charcoal self-portraits in the style of photo realist painter Chuck Close. In addition, IB-1 students are painting portraits of members of their community. The IB-2 students are completely absorbed in a variety of media and art techniques as they near the halfway point in the year. The IB spring exhibition will take place in mid April.

We are very excited about the work the students are creating and are looking forward to a great term 2.

Nora Graham and Greg Giles, Art Teachers

Community and Service: Dar Animal Haven

Dar Animal Haven has been running their '**Spay and Save**' Project. This programme is based on trying to control the cat population in Dar es Salaam. It involves:

- humanely trapping cats in specially designed cages
- sterilizing and vaccinating the cats against rabies
- then releasing them back into the wild

This prevents the spread of disease amongst cats and drastically reduces the number of unwanted kittens being born. This programme generally improves the quality of life of the cats and reduces the risks of rabies transmission to other cats and humans.

The sign that the cats have already been sterilized is a notch off the top of their left ear. This is done while they

are sedated and helps DAH to know which of the trapped cats to release and which cats to take to the veterinarian.

Last month, DAH was operating the 'Spay and Save' programme at the Yacht Club. Nine cats were caught (6 male and 3 female). Currently the IST DAH Support Group is helping with the programme at IST. So far we have caught four cats (all female). We still have a couple more to catch so the trapping will continue...

The money we raised from the Free Dress Day during World Animal Week is being used for this work at IST. Any donations towards this project would be greatly appreciated.

Lizanne Mouton 11M (Dar Animal Haven president)

(This is the final article from one of our regular contributors to Spotlight. Lizanne has moved back to South Africa.)

From the Wildlife Club: Help Us Help Them

Worrying facts on **overfishing** from the Wildlife Club:

- One of the biggest fish trades in East Asia is the shark fin. Often they are killed by cutting of their fins and then throwing them back into the sea. The sharks drop to the bottom and drown/die-*Anne*
- Not only is poisoning fish (and killing everything else too) bad, but have you ever thought what the poison could be doing to you? For all you know, it could be killing you just like it killed the fish! -*Sheel*
- The fish called the orange roughy can live to 150 years old. They get fished out before they can reproduce.
- "Orange roughy's are really easy to get from the sea bed because huge nets go on the bottom of the sea and catch everything on the bottom of the sea." *Marith Hvassing 6 C*
- "Sponge cells can destroy cancer cells and some sponges are very rare because huge nets go on the bottom of the sea and catch everything." *Eerika Nokkala 6 C*
- "Cyanide poison is used to collect tropical aquamarine fish. After they catch and the fishes the corals die too." *Christina Samaras 6A*
- A third of all fish caught in many fishing nets are thrown back dead and unwanted. *Emma Oliver*
- Did you know that even though Bongoyo and Mbudja are reserves, fishing is still allowed? In an island in New Zealand they banned fishing around it and after 20 years there were loads of fish that weren't even shy! Why don't we try that?! *Sophia Samaras*
- Dynamiting reefs is a method of fishing in coastal Tanzania. Fish die but whole reefs are destroyed in the process. Do you know where your fish come from? Check that you are buying from a sustainable source! *F Reid*
- Protect migration routes for the Blue Fin Tuna. *Rebecca Fawcett*
- Prawn industries are the worst kind of fishing industries. 15 pounds of fish are discarded for every 1 pound of prawn. *Maggie Cunningham-B*
- Most of the fish that are caught in Asia are too young and have not had enough time to reproduce. *Lara Southern*
- 30,000 tons of fish are sold in Hong Kong in just one year. *Gemma Bonfiglioli*

COLLEGE COUNSELLOR CORNER

Grade 12 University Application Deadlines

This is a very busy and stressful time for our Grade 12 students. Besides all of the usual time demands of the IB course work there has now been added the extra work of applying to universities for many of them. I want to encourage any Grade 12 students and parents/guardians who have questions to please make an appointment with me soon as possible to discuss future educational opportunities. Here are the deadlines that students need to meet in order to maximize their admission acceptances:

November 1—Most US University Early Admission applications were due and submitted.

November 2—All UK applications are to be completed and submitted online through UCAS.

November 30—All US Regular Decision and Canadian University applications are due.

December 15—US University early admission notifications to many of our students.

Getting Ready for the SATs

This year our IST grades 10 and Grade 11 students recently sat for “mock” SAT exams called the PSATs. Results and the exam papers will soon be returned to the students in order to help them better prepare for future PSAT and/or SAT exams. As most of our Grade 12 students have now completed taking the “real” SAT exams it is time now for those Grade 11 students who need to sit for this exam for university admission to begin this same process. Most students will need to sit for this exam a multiple of times in order to achieve their very best results so it is best for students to begin the process by registering now for the upcoming testing date of January 26, with the following test date in May being available through a later registration date. All SAT exams can be registered for online at the website of www.collegeboard.com through the use of a credit card—please checkout this website for a great deal of helpful SAT and U.S. university information as well.

North American University Visitors Coming to IST

This year we are excited to be hosting 16 North American Universities in the MPH at 7pm on Thursday, the 8th of November. Each year this is one of the most attended and informative university events at IST. This is a great opportunity for IST students and parents to speak directly with the admission representatives who actually determine the acceptances of our IST students. It is very exciting to be able to welcome these US and Canadian universities and hear from these schools where more than 20 of our IST graduates are now attending:

From the US:

Ivy League Universities Brown and Columbia, Drake University, Eugene Lang College, Franklin & Marshall College, Manhattanville College, University of Richmond, Lynn University, St. John’s University, Vassar College, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Foothill and DeAnza Colleges of California.

From Canada:

York University, Trent University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.

Mr. Rustad, College Counselor (drustad@istafrica.com)

ISSEA Soccer and Volleyball – Johannesburg

Four teams of IST athletes are representing the school at ISSEA in Johannesburg this weekend. They were sent off with a rousing assembly featuring a display of spiking and goal shooting prowess along with athlete profiles. The tournament began on Thursday and will finish with the finals on Saturday evening. You can keep up to date with the scores by visiting the Johannesburg ISSEA page through our website:

<http://tw.aisj-jhb.com/issea>

Stephen Maine, CAS/Activities Corrdinator