

# Secondary Spotlight

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Secondary School**  
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## From the Vice Principal



**Elizabeth Andrews**

Welcome back and Welcome to Dar. I hope your families are settling back into the school routine. The transition to our new schedule has gone smoothly and we will seek feedback from students at the end of week four – once we have completed the 10 day cycle twice.

## Mark your calendar : Next Monday is: Day 1

(See online version of school calendars:

[http://www.istafrica.com/general\\_information/calendars.htm](http://www.istafrica.com/general_information/calendars.htm))

August 15	Secondary School TOEFL Exam
August 20	IST Board Meeting 5:00 PM
August 20-22	Grade 11 IB Induction
August 24	Kiswahili Mock Orals begin
August 24	Afterschool Activities begin
August 25	Grade 11 Community Service Fair
August 26	Grade 10 Beach Day
August 27	Grade 9 Beach Day
August 27	Secondary School Open House 7 PM
August 28	MYP Community and Service Fair
August 30	Harvard Uni at IST for Sunday 4 PM presentation
August 31	Community Service begins
September 8	Thomson Rivers Uni of Canada at IST
September 9	Last day to register for October SAT
September 17	University of British Columbia (UBC) of Canada at IST
September 17	UK University Fair 7:30 PM in SS Library
October 3	SAT at IST
October 10	TOEFL exam at IST

We have had a busy but successful first two weeks of school. Grade six students had an active morning on Monday last week exploring the school and now seem to be finding their way around together. Our Grade 11s are participating in their IB Diploma induction programme this week. This is a chance to work on Theory of Knowledge – a new course for all the students – as well as learning about their roles in Creativity, Action and Service. In addition, Mr Rustad, our College Counselor, works with them to introduce the college preparation programme – applications, career decisions and directions. Our Grade 10 students are rushing around campus meeting with their Personal Project supervisors to refine their projects. Grade 12 students have just handed in the first draft of their extended essays and are taking a breather while their supervisors review them.

Alongside all this curriculum activity the counselors are meeting with the new students to assist with the transition to life in Dar, a new school and new friends.

The secondary school administration is also undergoing a transition. We have a new principal, Mr Tom Pado, and we are fortunate to now have two Vice Principals: myself, Elizabeth Andrews, and Andrew Buckman. As the school grows above 500, adding an additional Vice Principal allows us to continue to work closely with students, teachers and parents. Each of us will work primarily with the Team Leaders and Counselors at certain grades to provide support when needed.

Mr Buckman: Grades 6 and 7

Ms Andrews: Grades 8, 9 and 10

Mr Pado: Grades 11 and 12

As we finish the second week it is also time to get some of the administrivia of starting school sorted out:

**Lockers**

Please encourage your child to sign up for a locker. Ms Manchester will allocate the Grade 6 lockers in the space behind Grade 6 classrooms. Students in grades 7-12 should go to the Main Office to register for a locker. We have ordered additional, larger lockers this year and already we are seeing many students sign up. Using a locker saves your back and your hip pocket – you can leave heavy items in there and it is a secure place to leave your belongings while at activities or sports.

Please also remember to ask coaches and PE staff for the lockboxes in the PE office to leave small valuables during PE classes or after school sports activities. Don't forget the bag cages to leave your bag while participating in an after school activity.

**Annual Data Check**

On Wednesday and Thursday this week we sent home a paper copy of the family contact information and medical information that we have for all students in the secondary school. Please check and update as necessary. This is also the opportunity to indicate if you want your details included in a school directory and to receive our weekly newsletter via email, rather than paper copy. Please return these forms by Tuesday 24 August.

I hope to see you on campus over the coming weeks.

*Elizabeth Andrews*  
*Secondary School Vice Principal*

## From the Board of Directors

Dear Parents, Teachers and Staff,

We take this opportunity to introduce this year's Board to you. As IST parents and volunteers, we devote our time and skills in order to make IST the best school for our children's education. During our Annual General Meeting last May we welcomed five new members, bringing our total number to 11 for this year. You can find our bio-data and photos at [www.istafrica.com/general\\_information/board.htm](http://www.istafrica.com/general_information/board.htm).

After the first months of work together, we look forward to a productive year based on the quality of collaboration, the balance of competencies provided by individual Board members and our broad representation of IST's community.

The Board is responsible for IST's overall governance, policy and finances. Our primary focus is long term and strategic, while operational and administrative issues are the responsibility of the school management.

Apart from our "routine" tasks, our main focus for the 2009/10 school year is on:

- the continuation of the school's overall strategic planning and monitoring process;
- the oversight of the ongoing and planned redevelopment and construction projects on both campuses as well as for teacher housing;
- supporting the management in the improvement of administrative structures and communications;
- the resolution of the land dispute with the Nordic pre-school and after school.

These days we are particularly busy in ensuring that appropriate actions are taken to safeguard the health of our community against H1N1. Thank you for supporting us by carefully reading all information and guidance sent to you via letter, email, newsletter and posted on the IST website!

We are looking forward to a successful school year 2009/10 and thank you for your confidence and support!

## H1N1 Update

The H1N1 Response Team met yesterday to review the current situation at the Elementary and Secondary School campuses and to re-examine the guidelines that IST currently has in place. The team, which consists of medical doctors from the IST Clinic, a public health professional, the IST Board President, and members of the IST administration decided to put the following guidelines in place in an effort to keep the Secondary School open, while safeguarding the health and well being of the IST and local communities.

1. Anyone with a fever should not enter the IST campus and should seek medical attention immediately.
2. Generally students or anyone with a fever should not return to IST unless a medical doctor states that it is safe to return.
3. In cases where an IST family has someone diagnosed with H1N1 flu, we ask that no one from the family visit the IST campus until a medical doctor has confirmed that it is safe for family members to do so.
4. The Secondary School Open House scheduled on Thursday, August 27th is postponed until further notice.
5. The Secondary School will not sponsor any overnight trips until further notice.
6. Secondary School Afterschool activities will take place as scheduled. (The Elementary Afterschool Activities have been suspended until further notice.)
7. Secondary School Community Service Clubs will take place as scheduled. However, at this point, clubs will not invite guests from local organizations onto campus or visit local organizations.

If anyone in your family has a confirmed case of swine flu, please inform either the ES Office or SS Office immediately.

Thank you for your help in safeguarding the health of the IST community.

### Francophone families of IST: French Classes

Francophone parents want to organise French classes for children whose mother tongue is French. In order to establish a list of the francophone students, there will be a meeting on **Monday August 24th, at 3pm, at the secondary campus, in room B4.**

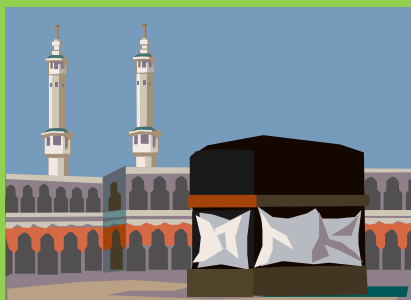
We thank IST and Tom Pado for supporting the international community in keeping their mother tongue by providing a space for these classes.

If you have any questions or comments, please make contact.

*Marine de Labriolle*

[mdelabriolle@istafrica.com](mailto:mdelabriolle@istafrica.com) or [mdelabriolle@yahoo.com](mailto:mdelabriolle@yahoo.com)

## Ramadhan



The Holy Month of Ramadhan begins end of this week – August 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup>. A significant portion of the IST student, staff and parent community will be fasting during the daylight hours for the whole month of Ramadhan.

In previous years, the school has sought the guidance from religious leaders in the Dar es Salaam Islamic community who have indicated that student participation in physical education and music should not be affected by Ramadhan observances.

However, we do recognize that it is extremely difficult for some fasting students to participate in the swimming programme. As we have done in the past, we will excuse fasting students from swimming during Ramadhan if they bring a letter from their parents addressed to their respective Principal.

If you have individual concerns involving your child/ren during this time, please discuss them with the appropriate Principal.

*David J. Shawver, Ph.D.*  
*Director*

## College Counselor Corner

### Harvard Is Coming!!

One of the highlights for our IST students and parents is having a chance to meet with university representatives from all over the world that travel to visit with us here at IST. On Sunday afternoon, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, all IST students and parents are invited to visit with the Director of International Admissions from Harvard University, Ms Robin Worth. You are cordially invited to come along to listen to a presentation by her in the MPH on how the university admission process works at a competitive US university, followed by a time to speak with her. Hope to see you there!!

### Upcoming University Visitors:

August 30—Harvard University at IST for Sunday 4pm presentation  
 September 8—Thompson Rivers University of Canada at IST  
 September 17—University of British Columbia (UBC) of Canada at IST  
 September 17—UK University Fair at 7:30pm in SS Library  
 October 11—Yale and Penn University at IST for Sunday 4pm presentation  
 November 1—14 US and Canadian Universities will be at IST for 7pm University Fair  
 November 14—US Christian Universities at HOPAC for Saturday University Fair

### Upcoming SAT dates

Acceptance into many Universities is often dependent on taking external examinations called the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT Subject Tests. These exams are oftentimes taken more than once in order for students to reach their maximum score potential. Many IB2 students have already taken the SAT Reasoning exam once, but both the SAT reasoning Test and Subject Tests are now being offered again on Saturday, October 3 and November 5; students can choose to sit for either one on these dates. Registering for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> test should be completed on-line with a credit card at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) by **September 9**. Please see Mr Rustad or Mrs Sherali with any questions.

### IB2 Meeting Times

The next few months will be a very busy time for many of our IB2 students. Besides all of the usual time demands of the IB course work there is now the added work and stress of applying to universities. And as their College Counselor, this also becomes a busy time for me as well. I would like to encourage all IB2 parents/guardians who want to visit with me to please make their appointments as soon as possible with Mrs. Sherali in the College Counsellor office (ext 114). Please Note: The majority of the UK University applications will be completed by October 30, along with many Early Applications to the US, with the completion of all other US and Canadian University applications by the end of November. THESE DATES ARE NOT VERY FAR AWAY!!

*Daryl Rustad*  
*College Counselor*  
[drustad@istafrica.com](mailto:drustad@istafrica.com)

## Weekly Writing Workshop: Grades 6-IB2

Students in grades 6-IB2 are invited to attend the Writing Workshop for extra help with essays. Students can drop by whenever they need help throughout the entire school year. Additionally, if IB2 students would like help with university application essays, they are encouraged to come by with a group of friends so that we can arrange small student groups to rotate through the workshop throughout Terms 1 and 2. The Writing Workshop will take place every Wednesday from 3.00-4.00 in B17. Doors open on Wednesday, August 26!

*Rebeka Admaitis*

### Activities

The term 1 activities schedule along with some brief descriptions of each one to help students and parents choose are on the website. Creative and Action activities start next week on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August. Students do not have to sign up for these activities they just need to turn up on time to the first session. Grade 11 students will sign up for Community Service activities on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August and grades 6-10 will sign up on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Spaces in each activity are limited so students should attend the fair with 3 possible choices to avoid disappointment. Community Service Activities begin on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

*Steve Turner*

## Grade 10 Beach Day

The Grade 10 Class Beach trip to Bongoyo Island is scheduled for **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009**. The purpose of this trip is to give Grade 10 students and homeroom teachers time and space to get to know each other better. This day offers them a chance to form bonds and develop more of a homeroom identity that we hope will last until the end of the year.

We will meet at Slipway at 7:00 a.m. downstairs at the Big H near the ice cream shop and will return to the Slipway at about 1:30 p.m. (though it is possible we may be a little delayed depending on how choppy the sea is!). **Please arrange to have your son/daughter picked up from The Slipway at this time.** Please note that there will be no supervision of students at Slipway after 2:00.

The students will need to bring: **Swimwear (if they wish to swim), Sunscreen, A hat, Water, Lunch, Pocket Money for Drinks/Snacks**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the trip. We are looking forward to a great day out!

*Rebeka Adamitis*  
Grade 10 Team Leader  
[radamitis@istafrica.com](mailto:radamitis@istafrica.com)



## IST's Got Talent!

In May of this year 34 IST secondary students put their musical talents to the test in Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams. They performed on piano, flute, clarinet and guitar. Students not only performed carefully prepared pieces on their chosen instruments, they also showed their skills in sight reading, aural and technical exercises. Several students took exams in more than one instrument.

<b>Nikki Shah</b>	piano Grade 5, flute Grade 3
<b>Ashna Tanna</b>	piano Grade 5, flute Grade 4
<b>Ankit Bhatt</b>	piano Grade 5, flute Grade 5

Students work hard for a year to prepare for the exams, and after coping with the commitment and composure needed to be successful, exams in academic subjects should present no difficulty for these hard-working students.

Neena Patel	piano Grade 2
Dhriti Dawda	piano Grade 2
Dhruv Pujara	piano Grade 1
Shruti Pujara	piano Grade 3
Anushka Shah	piano Grade 3
Govind Sreekumar	piano Grade 3
Anna-Mart Opperman	piano Grade 4
May Sabet	piano Grade 3
Kathryn Creighton	piano Grade 2
Sarah Creighton	piano Grade 2
Kathryn Jensen	piano Grade 3
Chloe Grant	piano Grade 3
Jamie Fuller	piano Grade 3
Caroline Hoekman	piano Grade 4
Shivani Suchak	piano Grade 4
Michelle Musindo	piano Grade 1
Shivali Dawda	piano Grade 4
Miti Davda	piano Grade 4
Shalin Doshi	piano Grade 3
Ashwen Parthiban	flute Grade 2
Anne Dorst	flute Grade 3
Channon Perry	flute Grade 1
Emily Brunton	flute Grade 3
Oumou Mcara	flute Grade 1
Roshni Suchak	flute Grade 5
Arjun Agpal	guitar Grade 2
Sheel Doshi	guitar Grade 6
Rosita Smeenk	violin Grade 2
Saravi Ratwatte	violin Grade 3
Oscar Stone	violin Grade 2

*Olga van Doorn*

*Music Teacher*

## “The Apple Has Landed”



With the academic year officially underway, the prospect of a broadband connection to the rest of the world, projectors being set up for each classroom and a streaming media server with over 3000 educational titles, last year's IT plans are fast becoming a reality.

Add to this the deployment of new MacBooks along with the fact that students are no longer constrained to the paradigms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and you can see IST's commitment to

current educational practice. The goal for this year is to provide more IT access to students and teachers that will enhance the learning already taking place in our classrooms. One way to do this is by bringing the technology into classrooms using laptops (though we didn't anticipate being able to use laptops to bring classrooms outside).

But why MacBooks? Are we just following the current trendiness in IT by purchasing the latest popular gadget? The answer is no. After weighing the costs and benefits of various laptop brands, the school settled on the Apple brand for several reasons, the most important being their commitment to providing "individualised learning experiences for students allowing them to explore their interests and [help them] become who they want to be." In addition to being able to provide a more individualised learning experience, the iWorks and iLife suite of programs are geared toward stimulating student creativity and enthusiasm for learning as well as being easy to learn.

Gone are the days of spending 1 or more classes learning the software before being able to use it. Now, teachers and students can get on a MacBook and be creating podcasts, movies and more in minutes. The Apple has landed indeed at IST, and from its seeds is already beginning to bear fruit.



*Joseph C. A. Barder*  
Technology Coordinator