

Secondary Spotlight

Friday 12th March, 2010

Secondary School
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From The Principal

International Schools' Assessment

Back in October, the Secondary School administered the International Schools' Assessment (ISA) to all students in Grades 7 and 9. The ISA is developed and scored by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER). It is aligned with internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks developed by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Programme of International Student Achievement (PISA). The ISA addresses a broad cultural base and measures student performance in the areas of mathematical literacy, reading literacy and writing (expository and narrative).



As an addendum, please find a report consisting of a summary of the school results that IST received from the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER). The report also contains a brief analysis of the results and states how the secondary school will use the results to inform and improve programming and instruction.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The Secondary School Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled on **Monday and Tuesday, March 29-30 from 7:15-3:00**. These conferences provide parents and teachers with an opportunity to dialogue and work in partnership in order to support student progress and performance.

Parents will have an opportunity to schedule a 5-minute conference with each teacher. All IST students will receive a letter about Parent Conferences on Friday, March 19th with their Term Three Reports. The letter contains instructions on how to make appointments online to see teachers on March 29-30. It also contains the room list for where to find teachers during the Parent Teacher Conferences.

Please keep this letter with you as it contains specific login details: student ID number and the correct birth date format to use for logging into the appointment system.

The online appointment system will be open on Friday, March 19 and close on Friday, March 26th.

Parents are advised to review their child's Term Three Report and, if possible, schedule a

Mark your calendar:

(See online version of school calendars: http://www.istafrica.com/general_information/calendars.htm)

March 13:	International Night 7:00 PM Alumni TableTop Sale 11:00 AM-4:00PM
March 15:	Pi Day
March 16-18	Scholastic Book Fair @ Library 7:15AM-3:00PM
March 19:	End of Term 3/Grades 6-11 Term 3 Reports issued
March 19:	Secondary School Swim Gala END OF TERM 3: reports issued for Grades 6-11
March 24:	Board Open Forum @ 7 pm, SS Rm B4
March 25:	Library Lecture Series 7:00 PM
March 29-30	Parent-Teacher Conferences @ 7:15 AM – 3:00 PM
April 5-8	SAT Exam Preparation Session @ IST
May 1	SAT Exam
May 8	TOEFL Exam

conference with teachers who have requested a conference – this is shown with an ‘R’ in the Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) column on the report. Additional information, which includes some preparation tips and a protocol that teachers will use to facilitate conferences, will be presented in next week’s Spotlight.

Please note that students will not have school on **Monday and Tuesday, March 29-30**.

IST Dress Code

The aim of the Secondary School dress code/school uniform is to create an appropriate learning environment conducive to teaching and learning. The IST dress code also considers the cultural and religious sensitivities of members of our school community.

Students in Grades 6-10 are expected to wear a school uniform school on a daily basis. Students are expected to be in school uniform from the time they enter school in the morning until the end of the school day. The school uniform is a white or light blue polo-shirt with a collar and an IST logo on the left breast pocket. School uniforms can be purchased at the Secondary School Admissions Office.

The school uniform should be neat and clean and not contain any pictures or writing, apart from the IST logo. If a student chooses to wear a t-shirt or vest underneath the school uniform, it must be plain white, and no logo or pattern should be visible. In cold or wet weather, students may wear a plain white or plain blue sweater or jacket over their uniform shirts.

Free Dress Day

On occasion (approximately once per month), various student groups will organize a free dress day for secondary school students. This means that students in Grades 6-10 are not required to wear their school uniform on that day. Regardless of the theme of the free dress day, students are expected to comply with the guidelines below.

In addition, students in Grades 11-12 are not required to wear a school uniform but are expected to comply with the guidelines below as well.

Unacceptable

- Flip flops or athletic sandals (without backings)
- Tops that expose bare mid-riffs.
- Tops or sundresses that are low cut or immodest in appearance
- Tank tops (both male and female students)
- Tube tops
- Spaghetti strap tops
- T-shirts that display logos of substances banned from campus, such as alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.
- T-shirts that have suggestive or offensive slogans
- Exposure of underwear through inadequate clothing length or wearing style (low riding pants)
- Hats and baseball caps inside the classroom
- Tight clothing- shirts, shorts, pants, etc.

Acceptable

- Clean and neat clothing that does not contravene with the guidelines above.
- Sleeveless shirts where the straps are at least 3 finger widths wide.
- Trousers or capris.
- Collared shirt
- Neat T-shirt in good repair without provocative or potentially offensive displays or logos.

- Skirts and shorts provided that they are mid-thigh or lower.
- Jeans provided they are clean and in good repair (neither torn, frayed or having holes)
- Shoes, sneakers or dress sandals with backings (no flip-flops or athletic sandals without backings)

Please take some time to review these guidelines with your son/daughter and to monitor dress before s/he leaves for school. Students who do not comply with the dress code will be asked to make “fashion adjustments” and, if they are unable to do so, they will be sent home.

Tom Pado

REMINDERS:

Board Open Forum. A summary of the budget and an overview of efforts to further enhance academic excellence at IST are planned for the next Board Open Forum on Wednesday, 24 March at 7pm at the Secondary School, Room B4. The primary focus is for the Board to hear about parents' questions and concerns while looking forward to the Annual General Meeting coming up on the 20th of May, 2010.

The Dar Animal Haven Community and Service Group is holding a book drive from March 15th - 30th. If you would like to clear out some of your books, magazines and dvds, and help out a good cause at the same time, there will be boxes at the main gate, the main office and downstairs in the library. For more information please contact DAH at daranimalhaven.info@gmail.com

IB Diploma Summer Schools

Every summer in June and July, a number of universities and educational organizations organize a series of summer schools for students studying the IB Diploma programme. These summer schools can be an excellent way of reinforcing content and skills that have already been covered, receiving advise on internal assessment and the Extended Essay and previewing subject matter that will be covered in Grade 12.

Summer schools are held in the UK and also in the US. Details of some of the popular summer schools are below.

Stanford University (July 11th - July 30th 2010) <http://www.ibsummerschool.com>

Offering pre-college courses for students completing grade 10 and who are about to start their IB diploma and a selection of courses for students who have already completed one year of their IB program.

Oxford Study Courses (OSC) <http://www.osc-ib.com>

This organisation runs summer course in the US and the UK, with a focus on pre-IB students and those at the end of Grade 11 (IB1)

Pre-IB

[Oxford 4th - 23rd July](#)

[Oxford 25th July - 13th August](#)

[Boston 3rd - 23rd July](#)

Mid IB (Grade 11)

[Cambridge 27th June - 6th August](#)

[Boston 4th - 23rd July](#)

Stephen Maine

IB Diploma Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

International Nite is an annual school event organized by IB students. This year the event will take place on the 13th of March. The event will feature dances, songs and performances from across our globe. The acts will comprise of students, parents and local artists. The aim of this event is to promote our rich diversity and multi-culturalism and to bring the community of IST together.

This year there will also be stalls selling a variety of international cuisine, demonstrating further the many flavours of Tanzania. It doesn't end there. We will be hosting a BIG prize raffle.

Tickets for the International Night event will be sold at the main office in March and there will be limited tickets on the night of the event. Raffle tickets will be sold on the evening of the 13th. In the true spirit of our school and our commitment to community service, all the money raised will be donated to various community and service groups here at IST.

Karibuni Wote

IST's Model United Nations (MUN) Activity and The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) conference

Dear parents and guardians,

as IST's MUN teacher advisers, we are happy to share with you our experience of working with a group of enthusiastic and committed students on a variety of current world issues each year.

Model United Nations (MUN) is an essential tool in disseminating information about the work of United Nations. By simulating the organs of the UN and hereby playing the roles of delegates, officers, ambassadors, the participants of an MUN conference get in-depth knowledge on how the UN organs are organized. The main object of this school activity and conference is to seek, through discussion, negotiation and lobbying sessions, solutions to the various problems that affect the international community. Among other these include: extreme poverty and hunger, education, employment, health, gender issues, environment etc. The oldest and the biggest MUN conference in the world is The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN). It takes place at the end of January each year and attracts around 4000 students and teachers from around the world. As a school, IST can be proud to have been attending THIMUN conference for more than 15 years. The MUN students who get to be selected for THIMUN delegation have an amazing opportunity to approach world problems in a more meaningful and realistic way at the conference.

This school year, IST's delegation to THIMUN 2010 conference represented Solomon Islands and we had three students who are THIMUN seniors and have had Student Officers positions at this year's conference. It is our honor to present to you IST's THIMUN 2010 Student Officers and Delegates:



[top left: Anja Maro(MUN advisor), Salmaan Karim (delegate), David Orr (delegate), Brad Kremer (MUN advisor, middle left: Sandra Oluoch (delegate), Anne Orr (delegate) Luc Noordholland de Yong (Deputy Chair GA), Yael Horowitz (Assistant President EC), Akash Suchak (delegate), front left: Shreeta Lakhani (Advisory Panel), Leila Ghaddar (delegate), Naomi Bowers (Ms Ambassador), Sheel Doshi (delegate) and Nirma Amarakoon (delegate)]

MUN from a student's angle:

On the 21st of January 2010, at exactly 12.47am 12 students, Mr. Kremer and Ms Maro left for The Hague, Holland to attend the 52nd session of the Model United Nations. Emotions were mixed as we spent the next nine hours on the plane, wondering what to expect, however the dominating emotion was excitement. The next eight days were spent waking up before the sun rose, rushing through breakfast, putting on 5 layers of winter clothes and running to catch the already jam-packed trams. The moment we, the delegation of the Solomon Islands, stepped into The World Forum Center, our H.Q for the week, the voices of the 4000 teenagers representing over 150 countries welcomed us in from the freezing cold weather. Sure, it was an intimidating experience entering a room full of complete strangers, but after a day of lobbying our resolutions and ideas on our topics, strangers became allies, which soon became good friends.

The next few days that followed were meaningful to us in many different ways. Most importantly, we were able to debate on global issues affecting the world today. What better opportunity to be involved in making a difference to the global community? Another prominent memory was speaking out during the debates. Although it doesn't sound like much, speaking in a microphone in front of at least 200 people is no easy feat. But once you have done it, you just can't help wanting to speak again and again! So we learnt about the world, we learnt about ourselves, but we also learnt about others. Socializing and creating contacts was yet another major part of our trip. It is one thing to meet new people and exchange the brief life-stories we all have, but another to make a new friend that you can rely on. This trip was one of the most amazing experiences for all of us as we learnt and experienced so much in such a short time.

THIMUN left us all hungry for more debates, for more chances to make new friends, for another opportunity to have a say and making a difference. It was an experience where we learnt far beyond what is taught in school, or what we know, THIMUN opened our eyes to the possibilities. So, by the end of the week, we were forced to drag ourselves and our shopping-and-memory-filled bags to the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam to head back home. But if we had the choice, we would do it all over again!

-Sheel Doshi

"THIMUN is kinda like getting a free hug from someone you don't know; weird and confusing at first, but you fit in perfectly and never want to let go"- Sandra Oluoch

Hard work, anxiety, uncertainties, desire to change the world for the better, high aspirations, excitement, sense of power, sense of purpose, nervousness, laughs, exhaustion, tears, fun, briefing sessions, curfews, cold winds, frost and snow, lost wallets and forgotten passport, junk food and shopping: WELCOME TO NEXT YEAR'S HAGUE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS!

Anja Maro & Brad Kremer
IST MUN advisors

Activities News

Community service

Groups have been working hard this term. Dar Animal Haven have an Aerobathon this Friday; Eyesight for All have been holding eye camps for schools in the local area and offering them treatment.; St. Nicholas Nursery have been collecting stationary for the orphans to help them with supplies for attending school; Make a Difference are hosting a Fun Day at IST for students from Buguruni School for the Deaf. Congratulations to the students of all these activities for their efforts to help others in the local community.

ISSEA

The ISSEA basketball teams returned from Harare on Sunday. Harare International School was an excellent host and our young teams had a very positive and enjoyable time. Both teams unfortunately lost in the quarter finals stage; the girls to the International Community School from Addis Ababa and the boys narrowly to the International School of Uganda. The girls then beat ISU to finish fifth. The boys lost to ICS to finish 6th overall. The students behaved impeccably both on and off the court and were a credit to the school and their parents. The boys won the Sportsmanship Award for the Championships which reflects the spirit with which they played. Congratulations to Oluremi Onabanjo and Matoko Noudehou who were selected to represent IST in the All Tournament Teams for 2010. A big thank you to Bahati Mgunda and Joe Barder for all their work in preparing the teams for the competition this year.

Cricket

IST's middle school cricket team headed out to the Dar Es Salaam University last Saturday to play their first game in the Tanzania Cricket Associations 13 and under league. The first game was against Mkwawa Cricket School. After being sent into bat IST came away with a respectable total of 107 from 20 overs. Top scorer was Ajay Mirani with 15 runs followed by Aiden Nielsen and Dhruv Dawda who both scored 12 runs. We then bowled out Mkwawa for 33 runs with Aiden Nielsen taking 5 wickets from his 4 overs. Rob Stewart chipped in with 2 wickets and Erandha Fernando and Govind Sreekumar both took a wicket. Thanks to all the boys who turned out on the day with the aim of becoming a better cricket player. We look forward to our next game against Ndugumbi school (Jarrod Dale - coach).

Dar Independent Sports Leagues.

DISL competitions are reaching the final stages over the next few weeks. The U13 football takes place at HOPAC on Tuesday 16th March, the U15 and U18 basketball finals are due to take place on Thursday 25th and Saturday 27th March respectively at IST.

Swimming

We hope to attend a swim meet at HOPAC on Wednesday 17th March. A reminder to all swimmers that we have been invited to attend a swim meet in Kampala on 21 and 22nd May. All those who would like to be selected for the trip should be attending swim squad sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays until the competition in May.

Steve Turner

FOOTBALL

The first round of the DISL football league ended with IST boys drawing 2-2 against Genesis.

All final games will be on Tuesday march 16th at HOPAC from 2:30pm.

BASKETBALL

U18 Boys: IST 13 VS Ndumbwi 16
Girls: IST 14 VS Zanaki 6
U15 Boys: IST 6 VS Emima 15
Girls: IST 24 VS Hopac 0

**Save the date!**

Save the date! Our evening Library Lecture series resumes on Thursday, March 25, with a lecture on dynamite fishing in Tanzania given by Jason Rubens of the World Wildlife Fund, TZ, and Lindsey West of Sea Sense. Student work on dynamite fishing will also be on display. It will take place in the Secondary Library, starting at 7 pm for coffee/tea and cake, 7:30 pm for the lecture. We hope to see you there!



A place in the Sun for everyone!

DAR ANIMAL HAVEN'S FITNESS FUNDRAISER AND BOOK SALE CHARITY EVENT

Date: Friday, March 19th, 2010

Time: Booksale - 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Aerobathon – 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Venue: IST – Secondary Campus (Booksale – Rm C9, Aerobathon – Rm B4 with A/C!)

Free Admission to the Book Sale! (Hundreds of second-hand novels, as well as, dvds & magazines - all at low prices)

As well, there will be displays on understanding your dog better, DAH's work, etc. (Donations of books and dvds welcome)



Admission to the Aerobathon:

Adults 20 000 TSH, Students 10 000 TSH

(Please email DAH if you would like an optional Sponsorship Form)

Wear Comfortable clothing and trainers. Bring a towel, water bottle (refills of water available) and mat if you have one.

This event is being organized by IST's DAH Support C&S Group. All proceeds will go towards DAH's educational programmes, as well as their sterilization and immunization projects in and around Dar. They vaccinate dogs and cats against Rabies and chickens against New Castle Disease. They also sterilize feral cats, stray dogs, and pets of owners who do not have access to veterinary services or who cannot afford them.

**For more information please contact DAH at daranimalhaven.info@gmail.com
Brenda St. George**

Celebrate March into Literacy Month with a visit to our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair!!

The Secondary School Library will be sponsoring this Book Fair on March 16, 17 and 18, from 7:15 am to 3 pm and parents are WELCOME to have a look at what's on offer! The books are geared towards middle school readers but there will be something for older and younger readers as well, and will be reasonably priced starting at \$3. Please make some time to stop by the Secondary School Library on those days.

THE FAMILY FUN GARAGE SALE!

You Absolutely **CAN NOT** Miss This One!

All proceeds go to **"The House of Blue Hope,"** a worthy charity that works around the clock to take children and single mothers off the streets.

Entrance Fee: **Tshs 1000/-**
+ a **FREE** raffle ticket
(children under 6 FREE)

Table Fee:
Tshs 25,000/-

*** Come eat, drink, and be merry while selling your antiques, collectables, furniture, linens, paintings, tools, toys, books, and anything else.**

- Stand to win some amazing prizes!
- Fun games and activities for children such as face painting, arts and crafts, bouncy castle, and more
- Live DJ throughout the day
- BBQ and drinks available to purchase all day

Saturday March 13th, 2010
IST Upper School Campus, Msasani
11am to 5pm

All proceeds go to charity.
To learn more about The House of Blue Hope,
log onto: www.houseofbluehope.org

TO BOOK A TABLE, CONTACT:
Milli Manek: **0786-935-040** [e]: milli.manek@gmail.com Keval Shah: **0784-800-888** [e]: keval@sumaria.biz

ADDENDUM:**The ISA at IST**

The International Schools Assessment is a standardized test that was given at IST Elementary (Gr3, 4, 5) and Secondary (Gr7, 9) in October 2009. The purpose of giving this test was to gain data about the level of learning for our students.

A standardized test is an assessment tool administered to a large group at a specific time which enables comparisons and patterns to be observed. They are externally designed and often framed in a national context, i.e. Australia, UK, USA, Canada, and patterns, observations could be made about groups within that country / state / region.

International schools use standardized testing as one tool to assist in ensuring their curriculum enables children to meet educational standards. IST Secondary has given the Stanford Assessment Test to students in Grades 6-10 for the past ten years with consistent results. In the past few years there have been developments in standardized testing specifically designed for the needs of **international** schools. In February 2009 the Secondary school piloted the ISA with Grade 7 in preparation for implementation this year to Grades 7+9.

The International Schools Assessment is produced by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) It has been aligned with internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks (OECD and PISA) and addresses a broad cultural base. The test is taken in either October or February each school year. IST chose to give the test in October in order to receive the scores in the middle of the school year -providing adequate time for reflection and school response. For our testing period, in October of 2009, 110 international schools, worldwide, administered the ISA, with over 27,000 students contributing data for comparison in the areas of Reading, Mathematical Literacy, and Writing (narrative and expository). The tables below show the results.

ISA Mean Scores Grade3 – Oct. 09

Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing- Narrative	Writing- Expository
IST	292	218	334	374
All other schools	309	236	349	386

ISA Mean Scores Grade 4 – Oct. 09

Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing- Narrative	Writing- Expository
IST	342	284	393	423
All other schools	376	307	400	422

ISA Mean Scores Grade 5 – Oct. 09

Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing- Narrative	Writing- Expository
IST	400	348	426	467
All other schools	425	357	444	460

ISA Mean Scores Grade 7 – Oct. 09

Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing- Narrative	Writing- Expository
IST	471	445	522	511

All other schools	490	456	511	515
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ISA Mean Scores Grade 9 – Oct. 09

Mean Scores	Math	Reading	Writing-Narrative	Writing-Expository
IST	530	546	566	566
All other schools	544	522	558	558

What Our ISA Scores Tell Us

In Grades 7, and 9 IST students scored slightly below the mean in the area of Mathematics.

In Grade 7 IST students scored slightly below the mean for Reading. There was no significant difference for Grade 7 Expository/Narrative Writing.

In Grade 9 IST students scored significantly above the mean for Reading and Expository Writing. There was no significant difference for Grade 9 Narrative Writing.

How We Use the Data

Individual student data is sent home to parents, and kept on file for comparison in future years. This information can provide us with a better understanding about the student as a learner. But it is important to remember that this year's scores serve as data to create a baseline for future comparisons. ISA recommends that significant data inferences can only be made after three consecutive years of testing results.

The data about grade levels and the school, as a whole, helps us in reviewing our curriculum, and how it is delivered. As a result of this year's score report the SS Head of Math has joined the ES Math Focus Group where teachers will closely examine the data, make comparisons with our curriculum and propose solutions to increase student learning. We are introducing a Math Skills Builder Programme in Gr6-8 and an after school Math Lab. We are also developing common strategies for teaching reading across the subject areas and grade levels.