

Secondary Spotlight

Friday 12 October

Secondary School
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Dates to watch...

Oct 12-24	Online bookings for Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 13	TOEFL exams at IST
Oct 17	Official PSAT test
Oct 22	First day of Term 2
Oct 26	International Night, 7pm, MPH
Oct 30	Registration for Dec SAT
Oct 30-31	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 30 – Nov 4	ISSEA Volleyball and Soccer in Johannesburg
Nov 3 – 5	IAS Bronze hiking trip

From the Board

Marketing and Communications at IST

In 2006 IST commissioned an extensive marketing research project amongst its key stakeholders in order to understand the perspective of the school's "customers" and to set and prioritize our marketing efforts accordingly. Many of you participated in the research as resource persons and we thank you for giving your valuable time and sharing your experience with the researchers!

Marketing research results

A copy of the report is now available in the Library. The report findings are focusing on the following goals:

- Establish/reinforce IST as providing outstanding international education in the areas of:
 - Curriculum;
 - Teaching staff;
 - Facilities.
- Define/reinforce IST's image as:
 - A whole school providing high quality education from ECC to Grade 12;
 - Providing an education of premium price value (worth paying more for);
 - Nurturing confident, happy students aiming to become world citizens;
 - Promoting a safe, secure environment, a caring community, friends of Tanzania.
- Promote the diversity of cultures within IST community and IST's vision of internationalism.
- Maintain current enrolment figures.

The report recommends focusing marketing efforts on key interaction points with parents, teachers and students such as:

- Admissions;
- Billing;
- Elementary and Secondary School offices and their staff;
- The Board, Director and other members of Senior Management.

It also recommends recruiting a Marketing & Admissions Manager in order to develop detailed marketing plans and activities. The Board formally approved these recommendations in May, 2007. As the former Director and Principal of the Elementary campus were outgoing, it was decided to wait for the new management to be in place before starting implementation.

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Our new Director, Dr. David Shawver, together with the new Elementary Principal, Dr. Susan Peacock, and other senior management staff have brought a new and very promising dynamic to our school. They have done a great job taking over from the previous management and granting continuity, while at the same time focusing on areas requiring urgent action, such as the provision for updated educational materials, admission procedures, safety aspects with IST's existing buildings and the development of new science labs at the Secondary campus.

Marketing and Communication are Daily Business at IST

Marketing and communication activities are ongoing at IST. Well-established examples are the principals' coffees and various orientation meetings for parents and staff. IST's website is currently under review and overall updating has begun as you will have noticed. Handbooks, school publications and admission materials are being re-developed. A new school directory will be out soon. And the history of IST will be published in a book that we are already looking forward to holding in our hands! The author, Graham Mercer, is not only famous for his fabulous books about African wildlife and culture, but he also was an IST teacher for many years.

Our current enrolment figures are very promising. There is no immediate need for IST to intensify marketing efforts in order to recruit more students. But at the same time growth and the future development of IST in a changing national and global context pose great challenges. The Board and school management have therefore initiated a strategic planning process whose results will be ready for implementation by next March/April. The recommendations of the marketing research will be an important part of this process.

From the Marketing and Communications Committee of the Board

From the Principal

Hopefully as you read this edition of the Secondary Spotlight you will be preparing for the October break and some extra time with your children. It has been a busy and productive term for our students and teachers and a break will be appreciated both groups!

As you will have noticed we have been making an effort to make our website more functional and usable for our students and parents. We have just added a new link to our online activities calendar where you can check for upcoming dates and confirm times and dates of upcoming school activities. This calendar will be updated regularly so please do visit it from time to time to check on details. Additionally shortly after the October break we will be introducing online Assignment/test calendars for each grade level. You and your children will be able to click on this assignment calendar to see when major assignments/tests/projects are due.

I want to wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and I look forward to seeing you all back safe and sound on Monday October 22nd.

Regards,

Justin Alexander, Principal

From the Vice Principal

Parent Teacher Conference - Appointments

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter and email regarding online booking for Parent Teacher Conferences. Thank you also for letting us know of any glitches. We have updated the screen view to ensure the details are accurate and working correctly. Please bear with us as this is the school's first attempt at PTC by appointment and online! As we said in the letter yesterday, if you need to come to school to access your email you are welcome to do so in the library. The library staff can assist with your login.

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As those of you who may have used appointment systems before for Parent Teacher Conferences will know, it only works if parents and teachers abide by the appointments. Please do not assume a teacher who does not have a parent with them is available – it is likely they are waiting for the next appointment. Also, the advantage of appointments is that teachers can prepare for the students they are aware are coming, if you approach a teacher on the day, they may not have your child's details with them. Many teachers will speak to the parents of over fifty children – it is a challenge to recall all the specific details for this many students without preparation.

Next Term...

As we break for a rest and refresh over the coming week, remember that as always at IST we start each term with a bang. Next term is no exception. At the end of the first week is International Night at 7pm. Tickets are being sold now and attendance is by ticket only so don't forget to pop into the office and buy your tickets. We will also have students out on the first IAS trip and ISSEA athletes heading off to Johannesburg – all within the first two weeks back.

Thanks for your involvement and visit to campus over the first term and I look forward to seeing you after the break.

Elizabeth Andrews, Secondary School Vice Principal

From the Counselors

The Parent/Teacher Conference

Before you talk to your child's teachers, you may want to do some pre-conference homework. Advance preparation will help you gain the most out of the experience.

No evaluation is valid without the input of the person involved, so get your child's point of view about his/her grades and progress so far this year. Discuss how he views himself as a student. His views of himself might surprise you. His opinions about his own abilities and efforts have a big impact on his production and will affect the plan you and his teachers develop to increase his self-confidence. The more your child is involved in the conference process, the greater his stake in the outcome.

Some questions you may want to ask your child before the conferences:

- ✚ *What do you think about your study habits?* Ask for proof of his opinion. Stock up on observations, complete with time frames and associated facts whenever your child needs a non-judgmental reality check.
- ✚ *What are your hobbies and sports interests?* What percentage of his time is devoted to pursuing them as opposed to studying?
- ✚ *How do you cope with stress and problems?* Is he a procrastinating worrier or a laid-back partier? Get specific about what he can do to get back on track.
- ✚ *What is happening in the classroom that is interfering with your grades?* Talk about the classroom dynamic, his participation, teacher reactions and expectations, and his tardiness or absences, which can all negatively impact grades. What does the teacher say or do that he can't understand or cope with?
- ✚ *What about assignments?* Are there too many? Are they too complicated? Are too many based on a book he never understood in the first place?

Share with the teachers the information from your teen about possible impediments to learning. Set your agenda. Think about your plans and objectives for the conference and jot them down. Focus on what is appropriate for your child today. Does he need a math tutor? Or book titles for independent reading?

At the Conference:

Be Honest – about the habits, attitudes, and weak skill areas that you know are getting in the way.

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Talk about Clashes – If you believe there might be a mismatch between your child’s learning style and the teacher’s instructional methods or the two personalities, discuss it.

Ask the Right Questions – What does your child need to know? What, specifically, can you do to help him with the problem? Ask questions that will clarify your role and demonstrate your willingness to help. Listen and take notes.

Agree on a Plan for Helping your Child – This is the final critical step in any good parent-teacher conference. Establish action steps and a time frame to accomplish the goals you’ve set.

After the Conference:

Review the Meeting with your Child – Discuss the action plan and the roles that you, your child, and the teacher each have in that plan. Ask your child if there is anything in the action plan that was overlooked or misconstrued from his or her vantage point.

Put the Plan into Action and Follow it up – Together with your child, mark the goals on the family calendar or computer. Do this to ensure that he participates in his own ‘change equation’. Demonstrate that you valued the teacher’s suggestions by acting on them. Did you contact that math tutor? Are you helping your child review for Humanities quizzes by implementing the teacher’s idea to construct a visual timeline? Finally, follow up with the teacher by phone or e-mail, on the progress of recommendations made during the conference.

Brenda St. George, Counsellor

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.

MYP BITS ‘N’ PIECES

MYP RESULTS!

The IBO-validated MYP grade 10 results for the June 2007 session were released on the 2nd of September. To obtain an MYP certificate, students have to gain a minimum of 36 points out of 63, with at least 3 points achieved in the personal project. They also have to have been in the MYP for at least the final 2 years, completed subjects from all eight groups and to have satisfied the school’s community and service requirements.

Those students who completed only 1 year of the final 2 years will receive a Record of Achievement.

The students will receive their MYP documents after the assembly on Friday.

CONGRATULATIONS to students and parents.

A hearty THANK YOU to the teachers who have put in a great deal of effort in developing the MYP in their subject areas and the Department Heads who have ensured that their subject teachers are applying the MYP assessment criteria appropriately. Also much appreciation for the time and effort the Personal Project supervisors put in to guide our students.

PARENTS OF GRADE 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

As you would have read from the MYP Results piece, students should meet the Community and Service requirement of the programme to be eligible for the MYP certificate. Essentially, that means I look at students’ reports for grade 9 and 10, which in terms 2 and 4 will indicate whether or not the students are meeting the requirements. I, therefore, urge grade 9 and 10 students to take Community and Service seriously, and become fully involved in the activities. Some activities encourage/allow grade 10

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students to take on leadership responsibilities, which could be of benefit to them when they apply for leadership roles in IB1.

PERSONAL PROJECT (FOR PARENTS)

How's it going? Who's most stressed – you or your child?

If you're wondering what your child has done/has to do, here's a quick overview.

- Your child must have had **at least 3** meetings with the supervisor (you can check whether the RECORD OF MEETINGS has been signed by the supervisor) **by Friday** – see Assessment Criterion G.
- Your child should be committed to the project and focussed on the goal.
- Your child should be working according to the outline.
- Your child should have submitted **the Introduction** for the written structure to the supervisor and received feedback.
- Your child is constantly recording thoughts/learning in the Process Journal (see Assessment Criterion F).
- If your child's product is a creation, then they should have completed the Investigation and Plan phases of the Design Cycle.
- Mr Wagner and I have also run 2 Personal Project sessions with the grade 10 students. During these sessions we provide further guidance and answer specific questions the students have. The next session will be on **Monday, 5 November**. At that time, we will discuss the PROCESS and ANALYSIS with students.
- YOUR CHILD MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTENT OF THE GUIDE TO THE PERSONAL PROJECT

MYP CERTIFICATE REGISTRATION FOR JUNE 2008

The process works as follows:

By **October**, all the grade 10 students who have completed grade 9 will be registered for their MYP Certificates. **Thus, if you're planning to withdraw your child from IST before the December break, you must let me know so that I can cancel their registration.**

By **mid-March**, subject teachers will have selected samples of student work to submit for moderation. We select work from the range of strong, average and weak students. Usually 8 samples of student work from each subject area and the Personal Project are submitted to the IBO.

From **April till August**, the subject moderators use the samples to evaluate

- how we design assessment tasks
- how we apply the assessment criteria

In **June**, subject teachers submit the total marks for each grade 10 student to me and online for the IBO. I verify the marks they submit to the IBO. Based on moderation of each criterion in the subject areas, a moderation factor may be applied to all or some of the registered students' results in that subject area. This may result in a difference between the IST final Grade 10 report grade for that subject and the MYP Certificate grade.

In **September**, I receive the results and reports from the moderators for each subject area. Based on these reports, the heads of department and I review the programme.

In **October**, I receive the MYP Certificates and Records of Achievement, which are given to students at the end of term assembly.

I hope everyone has a relaxing October break.

Melodee Peters, MYP Co-ordinator

Dar Independent Sports Leagues (DISL)

The U15 and 18 football leagues are now fully under way and this week sees the completion of matches for week 4. Players and coaches continue to practice hard which has reaped rewards on match days for all teams. The U15 girls continue to improve week by week and the U18 boys battle well against strong opposition. The two U18 girls' teams and U15 boys still remain unbeaten, with the girls qualifying for the

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next stage of the competition in top position. Games continue after the break on Tuesdays from 3.15 at the Gymkhana Sports Club and Thursdays from 3.30 at IST.

Steve Turner, DISL Coordinator

News from the IST Art Studio

The students of the IST art department are an amazing group of young artists.

The grade six artists are working collaboratively with the grade nines to create artwork for the children's ward at the Muhimbili hospital. They are applying their knowledge of the elements of art to African animal themed collages with the hopes of improving the quality of life for the young patients. The grade seven students are moving on to the sculptural phase their relief sculptures inspired by the Tanzanian Duka, an icon of the culture here. Each student in grade seven will eventually add personal icons to their individual sculptures. Eighth graders have completed their studies of Chuck Close and the group art pieces are on display outside the secondary school office. The grade eights are continuing their application of *the elements of art* and *the principles of design*. Each student is creating a unique set of artist trading cards. The tenth graders have explored a variety of media in preparation for their personal identity project. Each student in grade ten is now moving on to the final composition, a work inspired by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. IB-1 students had a successful journey to Bagamoyo, resulting in a series of photographs, watercolor landscape paintings, and wood carvings. The amazing work of the IB1 students will be on display in the lower level of the library. The IB2 students are following personal themes and exploring a variety of media in preparation for the huge spring exhibition in April.

We are looking forward to a great start to the second term.

Nora Graham and Greg Giles, Art Teachers

PARENT WORKSHOP – TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE (change of schedule) Thursday, November 1, 7-9 P.M. in the Library

This workshop will be a discussion oriented. Counselor Tim Wagner will lead parents through a look at the grim reality of teen substance use. Then, we will explore how “Love and Logic” parenting style can help. Parents will have an opportunity to anonymously pose situations and challenges for the group to “solve”.

There is an **optional pre-workshop reading packet**. This can be picked-up by parents or their students in the new Counseling Center during the school day beginning October 24.