

Secondary Spotlight

Thursday 13 September

Secondary School
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www.istafrica.com

Dates to watch...

Sept 13	UK University Fair, 7pm, Library
Sept 14	Holiday- no school for students or teachers
Sept 17-18	Teacher inservice training- no school for students
Sept 20-22	Grade 11 Visual Arts trip to Bagamoyo
Sept 21-22	24HR drama, performance at 7pm on 22 nd
Sept 24	Faculty meeting – no after school activities
Sept 25	University of Miami, Florida admissions representative at IST Swim Gala, 3.30 – 5.30pm
Sept 29	Aerobathon
Oct 1- Oct 5	Secondary School Photographs
Oct 6	SAT exam at IST Optional PSAT prep session
Oct 11	PSAT exams at IST, Grades 10+11
Oct 13	TOEFL exams at IST

From the Director

As of August 30, IST had an enrollment of 915 students. 493 students were enrolled in the secondary school. 442 students were in the elementary school. This is the highest enrollment IST has experienced since the 2003-04 school year. IST currently has classes on both campuses where there are waiting lists. When IST last had over 900 students, there was an additional campus for our early childhood students. That campus was sold when there was a decline in enrollment. Now our two remaining campuses are very full.

The growth of our enrollment brings IST more revenue which it is now investing in additional instructional resources. For example, more books and magazines are being ordered for our libraries. Since these materials will take some months to arrive, the benefit to IST will not be immediately apparent. But our students later this year should benefit from this ordering. **IST is a school not only with a proud past. It is also a growing school with a bright future.**

IST community members are invited to get better acquainted with IST's website. Faculty biographies have been added so that parents, students and the IST community can get better acquainted with our instructional staff. (If you go to the home page of the IST website - www.istafrica.com - and click on biographies, you will see the range of IST staff represented.) Many of the biographies are accompanied by recent photographs. The IST Board of Directors is in the process of posting its biographies and pictures. Other personnel of IST will be added to the website over the coming weeks and months. The website should be available increasingly as a guide to who people are, where you need to go when you have school business to accomplish, and what key school information is.

Other parts of the website are being updated and improved as well. The 2007-08 school profile sheet has been updated. IB diploma results from 2007 have been posted. Thank you, webmaster Bob Megarry, for getting these enhancements onto the school website. More will be added as the year goes forward.

Dr Shawver, Director

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for showing an interest in your child's education. It very much appreciated by your children when you show an active interest in what is happening in their lives and obviously school is a very critical and important part of your child's day.

As we are now are finishing our fourth week of school, most of the regular activities and classes are underway. Your children are now starting to receive assignments, hand in work, practice with their sporting teams, participate in their community service activity and be ready to make the most of the opportunities that IST provides to them.

In order to provide these fantastic learning opportunities, we rely heavily on our excellent teachers who go above and beyond their normal 'teaching duties' in order to make your children's experience at IST a positive and fruitful one. To best support the teacher's efforts and expertise in teaching your children we also need your help. The development of young children into critically thinking and enquiring, responsible young adults is not any easy task and we need your support to be successful in this regard.

One of the areas that we have identified as requiring additional focus for this year for our school is the important notion of RESPECT and how that affects and impacts our learning and the way in which we behave and interact with others, ourselves and the environment. Over the course of this year you will see this issue addressed in various ways within our community. Our counseling staff is currently focusing on respect within their Health and Social Education classes and there will be some upcoming evening sessions for parents as well. Our teachers have participated in a number of group sessions raising the profile and importance of respect and have begun how we as a school can actively create a culture of respect. Over the course of the year you will see more practical ways in which to support the Secondary School's push on creating a culture of respect at IST.

Notices:

Students on campus after hours.

We have noticed a greater number of students that are around the Secondary School campus after regular school hours who are not actively participating in activities or meeting with teachers. After 1.30pm we do not provide any formal supervision for students unless they are in an activity or in the library or Computer Lab and for safety reasons we ask that students please leave the campus unless they are

1. Participating in an after school activity.
2. Studying quietly in the Library.
3. Working quietly in the Computer labs (when they are supervised).
4. Meeting with their teachers or working in a classroom supervised by a teacher.
5. Watching/supporting one of our school sports teams when they are playing another team.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Principal's Coffee meetings

The next Principal's coffee meeting for the year will be held on **Thursday October 11th at 7.30am** in the Library Conference Room. Special Guests for this month will include Ms. Claudia Kennedy who will be talking about the Creative Arts Program at IST. I look forward to meeting you there.

Notice required if Parents out of town.

If both parents are traveling and not in Dar es Salaam can you please inform your child's Team Leader (see below) and the front office of this fact and also let us know who the acting guardian is

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during your absence. This person needs to be a responsible adult who is able to act on your behalf if you are away.

Team Leaders

Grade 6 Alison Cunningham	acunningham@istafrica.com
Grade 7 Pam Werner	pwerner@istafrica.com
Grade 8 David Giles	dgiles@istafrica.com
Grade 9 Rachel Cannon	rcannon@istafrica.com
Grade 10 Eamonn Hobbins	ehobbins@istafrica.com
Grade 11& 12 Wendy Gifford	wgifford@istafrica.com

You can also contact Juliana Karubi in the office via phone 22 2601126 or email jkarubi@istafrica.com

Regards

Justin Alexander, Principal

From the Vice Principal

As the term rolls along classes are busy with short excursions, such as the Grade 10 Humanities fieldwork at Coco Beach on beach and coastal formations, or overnight trips such as the Grade 11 Visual Arts class who are off to Bagamoyo in a week as part of their course.

The next two weeks are also busy in terms of staff professional development. We have teachers attending two MYP workshops in Mumbai and Bangkok and our first Professional Development Days on Monday and Tuesday. There is a combination of sessions that allow us to work in different groups and focus on different aspects of our roles at school. Over the two days we will be working on developing the culture of respect and the implementation of the IB Learner Profile in our school, curriculum development in relation to the Learner Profile and assessment .

Secondary School Photos

This school year we will have the photographer in school in the week of October 1 – 5. the photographer will take class and individual photos, team photos during school time and family groups after school. I will send home a letter with the schedule and ordering costs in the coming weeks.

Reports

The first report will be sent home on Thursday October 11. As we have only been at school for eight weeks, subjects which only occur a week will not give an Achievement grade for this report. Students will receive an Effort grade for all subjects. For grades 6-11 there will not be any comments on this report. There will be comments for Grade 12 students.

Parent Teacher Conference

Once parents and children have had time to discuss the report there will be Parent Teacher Conferences on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 October. To address concerns from both parents and teachers about long queues and the need to plan your day, we will trial interview by appointments only. Parents will have an opportunity to make appointments from receiving the report until the first week back after the October break. The appointment schedule will be sent home on Monday 29 October.

Appointment systems only succeed when we all respect the times and make appointments. I will be in touch with more information as we get closer to the time, however, I just wanted to give you advance notice that we will trial an appointment system for these Parent Teacher conferences.

Elizabeth Andrews, Secondary School Vice Principal

Parent Group

The secondary school Parent Group has a new email address: istparents@hotmail.com. Please contact them if you have any questions or wish to be involved. The next meeting is on 3 October at 4pm. Lorrie Clark Hannan will be chairing the group.

Community and Service: Dar Animal Haven

The Corona Society's Sewing Group raised money for Dar Animal Haven by making a quilt. The quilt consisted of different domestic animals. It was raffled a few weeks ago and managed to bring in **600,000 TSH**. The winner of the quilt was Mazlina Lee. All this money has been given to Dar Animal Haven and some of it will be used for:

- the Spay and Save Program which will be starting up at the Yacht Club this week
- to pay the veterinarian bills for vaccinations and neutering of rescued animals

As well, some of the money will go towards the animal treatment camps that DAH, WSPA and Roots & Shoots are organizing as part of World Animal Week (WAW) which begins October 4th. At these camps free vaccinations and sterilization of animals such as chickens, cats and dogs will be offered. Future camps will also be organized in rural areas of Dar es Salaam. (For more information about WAW, please visit their website: www.worldanimalweek.org)

Dar Animal Haven would like to thank all of the women who took the time to make the quilt and sold the tickets, as well as everyone who bought the tickets thus supporting Dar Animal Haven.

Lizanne Mouton 11M (Dar Animal Haven President)

Parents of Grades 7 & 8 Students:

It is not too late to get on the email list for a twice a month update on activities in G7 and G8. This will keep you informed of upcoming tests and major assignments as well as supplies and other pertinent information. Parents and teachers are finding it a helpful tool to keep informed of their students' work. If you would like to receive TWIGA 8 or This Week and Next...

please contact Pam Werner for grade 7 and Susan Piper for grade 8.

Pam Werner Student Services Grade 7, pwerner@istafrica.com Susan Piper Student Services Grade 8 spiper@istafrica.com

Grade 6 Beach Day Memories

"Grade 6 went to the Yacht Club for beach day and had a blast! The activities we did were sand art, beach relays, drama and soccer. Sand art was really neat, we had to make a 'sand masterpiece' and have three different kinds of invertebrates on it - one group even found a crab claw! Free time was the best because we got to play around in the water - we had a splash! - Alia Brandt, 6A

"I had a lot of fun during the beach day. The first activity we did was beach soccer. I enjoyed that a lot because I have done soccer for a very long time. I also had fun with the acting and skits because it helped me learn more about being kind and patient. We ended the day having fun swimming in the ocean." - Walter Wakhui, 6C

"I was so busy racing around searching for things for my sandcastle, I almost didn't hear the whistle blow telling us to go to the next activity. After all that, we had some free time to eat lunch and swim in the ocean. It was an exhausting day, but it was also fantastic." - Chloe Grant, 6B

Technology Update

Over the July break a great deal of work was carried out relocating and refurbishing the IT facilities at the secondary campus. Having previously had three IT labs spread across the campus we have now been able to consolidate our Labs together in a central area next to the Library. In addition to carrying out an extensive renovation which included the installation of purpose built desks, new chairs, lighting and blinds, we have also incorporated wireless remote access to the school network and internet for all labs as well as mounting interactive Smart boards in three out of the four rooms. All labs have new ceiling mounted LCD projectors,

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colour and laser printing facilities whilst the specialist IT rooms also include A3 printers, scanners and other peripherals.

Probably the most significant change and the one that has produced the biggest wow factor has been the purchase of 50 HP PC's and 25 iMacs for the new labs. The purchase of the iMacs has been a new and exciting direction for the development of IT at IST and we have gone down this path for a number of reasons including:

- The iMacs use Intel processors allowing us to run both Windows and Mac OS simultaneously making the machines more versatile, giving the students the benefit of utilising both Mac and Windows software. It basically gives us two computers in one.
- We aim to give our students the opportunity to become familiar with industry standard software and hardware and explore the various technologies available in a global context.
- We have been able to secure a suitable arrangement through a local dealer with whom we have established a long standing relationship which will facilitate after sales service, maintenance and product support.
- Apple has gained a reputation of strongly supporting education and the potential exists to become a Mac sponsored school which would aid the school financially and pedagogically. <http://www.internationaldigitalschool.com>
- On a simpler logistical level, the iMac has a smaller footprint in the classroom; no PC's are currently locally available which compare in size. This improves the student work area and allows for more efficient use of space.

A new addition to our IT set up has been the inclusion of a multimedia presentation room. This is an open facility shared by all faculty and is set up with a Smart board, LCD projector and sound system which can be utilised for audio visual presentations. This room is located next to the library and is a shared resource for open learning at IST.

On another note, week one of school saw IST students for the first time sitting in an IB Diploma Design Technology class. We had an excellent response to our proposal to introduce DT at Diploma level and this years Grade 11s have 16 students enrolled in this Group 4 subject. The course is designed for students interested in the study of design and technology in a global society on both a practical and theoretical level. Students develop competence in investigating and analysing various design concepts and apply their knowledge and skills through practical problem solving projects. The course is recommended to students with an interest in architecture, interior and environmental design; industrial or product design; graphics and engineering. This is a preexisting course updated this year by the IB for first examinations in 2009.

Noor Parkar, Head of Technology

AEROBATHON 2007

On Saturday September 29th from 9am-11am the secondary school hosts the 2007 'Aerobathon' to support our senior Soccer and Volleyball teams as they prepare for a major tournament in Johannesburg in November. The 'Aerobathon' is 2 hours of non-stop music and dance with acts from local gyms and within the school. There will be food, entertainment and a great raffle draw.

Tickets are available in homeroom, from the secondary school office or on the day. Please come along and support our teams in their preparations for Jo'burg!

ISSEA 2007 – Change of Venue

The senior Soccer and Volleyball teams are training hard for the upcoming championships in November. This year the venue was scheduled to be in Harare. Due to logistical problems in hosting a large tournament in Zimbabwe at this time, the venue has moved to Johannesburg, South Africa. The teams are training weekly and playing competitive fixtures at IST Secondary School every Wednesday from 3.30pm. Please come along and show them your support.

Stephen Maine, CAS and Activities Coordinator

PE Uniforms

These have been ordered and part of the shipment will be here shortly. I will keep the students informed via the daily bulletin and the spotlight as to when we can expect to be able to sell them. In the mean time can students continue wearing their houseshirts or other appropriate sports clothing. The shirts and shorts will cost TZ10000 each.

On Tuesday the 25th of September IST will be hosting a Dar Schools' swimming gala. Parents are welcome to support the school. We are starting at 3.30 and will be finished by 5.30.

If you need more details on the above or have any PE concerns please get in contact with me at rtate@istafrica.com

Rob Tate, Head of PE

Grade 11 Visual Arts Trip

Students will be visiting Bagamoyo Sept 20-22. This is a valuable art experience for these students as they will experience and create art in the heart of one of Tanzania's art centers. They will have the opportunity to do observational drawings of boat builders, fishermen, net makers and wood carvers. Students will also visit the Bagamoyo Art College and the Bagamoyo Museum. Students leave from school on Thursday after school and return Saturday afternoon.

Nora Graham

Good practices with Modern Languages written homework

Students of Modern Languages are given written homework on a regular basis in order to practice the new vocabulary and language structures learnt in class as well as to demonstrate the ability to use this knowledge in a wider given context:

1. Language manipulation tasks (usually grammatical exercises) are straight forward and require students to systematically apply what they have just studied.
2. Creative assignments are more complex by nature and require students to organize well thought out ideas, reusing vocabulary and grammar covered so far in a more 'authentic' situation.

It is important that students, parents and tutors understand that students are expected to produce written texts corresponding to their level of study. As such, they should think about how best they can use what they have studied so far. It is always best to think directly in the foreign language. Therefore, students should not write a text in English or their mother tongue and attempt to translate it in the target language. Naturally, the use of online translators for this purpose is completely unacceptable. While Internet translators can be useful to look up a word or expression students are not familiar with, it is usually very difficult for secondary school pupils to use them correctly and to know that the information they are getting is accurate (or not). Translating a passage using a translator does not serve any educational purpose and is a form of plagiarism. This is not tolerated and the consequences for this are listed in the student diary on page 35.

The Modern Languages department therefore strongly recommends the use of bilingual dictionaries as opposed to online translators. When our students are given a creative written assignment, they are also given guidelines in class. They need to listen to them carefully. If students find a task challenging or feel that they cannot express what they want to say with the help of a dictionary, they need to ask their teacher for tips.

Students who have a tutor can work with them in order to get pointers on an assignment but they must remember that the tutor cannot complete the homework for them. Written homework must be completed by students on their own so that the teachers can assess their comprehension of the material studied and give them accurate feedback.

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Modern Languages teachers also recommend that students study and review vocabulary and language structures every day for about 15 minutes. This should help them to further their knowledge, thus preparing them better for written assignments.

We trust that everybody will find these points useful. As a good communicator, do not hesitate to talk to your language teacher if in doubt. Happy foreign language studies!

Cécile Léonard, Head of Modern Languages

24HR Drama

It's that time of year again folks! The 24 Hour Drama event is upon us... Between Friday September 21st and Saturday 22nd a selected group of students have 24 hours to devise, prepare and perform a theatrical presentation before a public audience. The event has always proved a great success allowing students to experience every aspect of theatre and learn a great deal about themselves and teamwork skills. So, come along and support everyone involved at the Saturday night performance (19.00 in the Studio Theatre)

Jerry Flynn & Claudia Kennedy, Drama Teachers

News from the IST Art Studio

The students of the IST Art Department are beginning to let their skills shine through. Most grades have wrapped up their review of the elements of art and principles of design and are ready to embark on a flurry of creativity.

Grade six artists have begun their first project “*Textured Animals*.” They are incorporating what they learned about texture, value, and contour lines. The grade seven students are involved in the concept of relief sculpture and will create works inspired by the Tanzanian Duka, an icon of the culture here. Eighth grade is involved in an intense study of the element of art *value*. The students in grade nine are looking at the impact of African art on western cultures and are currently studying Picasso and Cubism. We will focus our energy first on the art of Mali and Ghana, of West Africa and its impact on the modern European art scene. The tenth graders are exploring the concept of personal identity. Students are working on the drawing skills necessary to create their own portraits inspired by the work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. IB Visual Arts level 1 students will visit Bagamoyo Sept 20-22. This is a valuable art experience for these students as they will experience and create art in the heart of one of Tanzania's art centers. They will have the opportunity to do observational drawings of boat builders, fishermen, net makers and wood carvers. Students will also visit the Bagamoyo Art College and the Bagamoyo Museum. Students leave from school on Thursday after school and return Saturday afternoon. The masters of grade twelve, also known as IB2, are setting their sights on the spring exhibitions. Each student in Grade 12 Visual Art is setting goals, identifying themes, and exploring media for their first pieces.

Students are well on their way to a productive first term and we know we will see great energy and expression emanating from the art room.

Nora Graham and Greg Giles, Art Teachers

Make A Difference

Community service group Make A Difference (MAD) is currently working on a project to provide toys for malnourished children at Muhimbili Hospital. Students are making sock puppets and dolls for the children. If you have any unwanted socks (clean!), buttons, beads, remnants of fabrics, colourful yarns and threads, or any other sewing supplies cluttering up your closets, MAD would be very glad to have them. Please send them in with your child, or bring them to Jenni Young in the English Department office. Thanks very much.

Jenni Young, Advisor, Make A Difference

COLLEGE COUNSELLOR CORNER

Congratulations Adam Wiktor

Grade 12 student Adam Wiktor was recently selected as a Semi-finalist in the 53rd US National Merit Scholarship Program based on his academic performance on his PSAT exam results from October, 2006. Adam is one of a few hundred students who achieved an outstanding score from the nearly 1.5 million students sitting the exam. Adam is now eligible to compete for the Final level of competition based on his quality of essay writing, his leadership attributes, as well as his test score results on a recent SAT examination. Adam hopes to join past IST graduates, Stephane Moore and Brendan Owen in also becoming a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Stephane and Brendan used their scholarship money to attend Stanford and Princeton Universities, respectively. Finalists for this year will be announced in April, 2008 and are eligible to receive scholarships for their University studies. Good luck, Adam!!

Getting Ready--Grade 10 and 11 Students

Just like it did for Stephane, Brendan and Adam, the PSAT exam only comes once a year for students in Grades 10 and 11. This year our IST students will sit for this "mock" SAT exam on October 11 here at IST. Maybe one of them will do as well on this exam as these young men have done in the past, and also have a chance to receive a scholarship to the University of their choice!! Besides Mr Wagner and myself conducting prep sessions in HSE classes, there is also a PSAT preparation session being conducted for outside IST students on October 6. This session is also available as an optional opportunity for IST students as well, and if interested, IST students may also register for this 3 hour session in the counsellor office. Here are two examples of PSAT questions that they can look forward to:

- 1) (Math) Which of the following numbers is greater than 953.503 and less than 953.512? Answer choices are: 953.5, 953.05, 953.52, 953.51, 953.5121
- 2) (Verbal) Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct missing word: Built two floors below street level, the damp, dimly lit storage area resembled a _____. Answer word choices are: matrix, catacomb, forum, garret, sanctuary

Upcoming Events to Watch For:

- 1) University of Miami in Florida will be visiting IST on Tuesday, September 25. Parents can meet with the representative at 10am in the AV Theatre.
 - 2) 17 US and Canadian Universities will be visiting IST at 7pm on November 8th.
- Answers to PSAT questions above, just in case you did not know the answers: 953.51 and catacomb

AN INVITATION TO EXPLORE BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION

**University of Aston
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University College London
University of Glamorgan
University of Kent at Canterbury
University of Liverpool
London Metropolitan University
Middlesex University
University of Nottingham
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)**

Admission representatives will be conducting an information session and University Fair

Thursday, 13th September from 7:00 to 9:00pm in the Secondary School Library

All students and parents are welcome to attend
Mr. Rustad, College Counsellor, drustad@istafrica.com









**Counsellor Coffee Morning
Friday, September 28th
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Secondary Campus
AV Theatre**

Topic: Sidestepping the Power Struggle

When you understand your teen's behaviour, you are better equipped to redirect misbehaviour rather than reward it. By identifying what your teen really wants when she/he misbehaves, you can avoid being drawn into a power struggle. Instead, you will be able to help your teen choose the positive approach to reaching his/her goal.

If you would like some tips on how to redirect your teen's misbehaviour through effective communication, come along to the AV Theatre on the 28th.

Topics to be discussed include the following:

-  Teen Power Struggles
-  The Goals of Misbehaviour
-  Natural and Logical Consequences
-  Why Parents Shouldn't Use Scare Tactics
-  Teen Guidance Principles for Parents
-  Dissipating Power Struggles
-  Using 'Door Openers' and an Action Plan
-  The Five-Step Process for Problem-Prevention Talks

Please note: This is the session that was interrupted towards the end of the last school year due to power outages...

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at bstgeorge@istafrica.com

Brenda St. George, Counsellor