

The Weekly

News from the International School of Havana

From the Director

Michael Lees | Director



CoVid-19 Update

As you know, the ISH campuses are closed until at least March 30 and we are actively putting in place our distance learning plans. Online learning will commence tomorrow, March 18. We will be re-evaluating the date that we are able to reopen each week and will keep you informed. We appreciate your continued support and understanding. Should you have further questions or concerns, I encourage you to please contact the school directly. If you have not joined the ISH Community WhatsApp group, please do so as soon as you can as important information is shared there daily.

Admissions Office

Ms. Aldyth will commence medical leave this week for the following month. Ms. Mayte has been in training in anticipation of this absence and we appreciate your understanding during this transition, especially during the re-enrollment process which closes on March 23. Ms. Mayte can be reached at the same email address, office@ish.co.cu.

NEASC Accreditation Survey

We still need many more parents to complete the survey required for our continued accreditation. The electronic link for the survey is <https://surveys.neasc.org/s3/ACE-Learning-Survey-Parents-International-School-of-Havana>. This can only be accessed via a satellite or VPN. If this option is not available to you, for your convenience, laptops have been set up at the receptions at Calle 18 and 22 with the surveys loaded. We also have a hard copy of the survey which is available at either reception or by request by contacting Ms. Mayte at office@ish.co.cu. The survey closes March 23 after which the data will be analyzed, shared with the community, and then used as the basis for the school's Internal Reflection. Thank you so much for your support!

PTSA Constitution

The PTSA Executive Committee has made some updates to its constitution to reflect current practice. All parents, teachers and students are part of the PTSA and have a right to vote on this revision. Should you not agree with the attached constitution and wish to make suggested revisions, please contact ptsa@ish.co.cu and copy director@ish.co.cu no later than Friday, March 20. Unless a majority of the Association disagrees by that date, this Constitution will be considered adopted.

From the Secondary School

Anna Brunskill | Principal, Secondary School



The buildings may be closed, but school remains open and learning continues! You will by now have received several communications about online learning in Secondary. The most important thing for Secondary students to note is that they **MUST** have created an account on our new Moodle platform and be able to access it from home to complete the work being assigned by teachers. The computer hardware and software requirements were sent home via email last Saturday, March 14 so do please check that your child has all they need to continue their learning at home. If you are concerned that you cannot guarantee regular access to a computer or daily internet access for around half an hour (minimum), please contact us as soon as possible in order for us to help find a solution.

We are entering our second week of mock examinations for students in Grades 10 and 12 and whilst they may be taking place at home, our advice remains the same: a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast and a quiet, comfortable place to study. As exams are being done at home now, we are relying on both students and parents to stick to our protocol and observe exam conditions. This is especially important when it comes to communication - no mobile phones should be in the exam space, and we are asking students not to communicate with their friends about exam specifics until at least an hour after the scheduled time slot has passed. Ms Osmerly, Ms Crystal and I feel confident that we can trust our community to support us in this as mocks finish this week.

Events Calendar

Monday, March 9 to
Friday, March 20

Grade 10 and Grade 12 mock
examinations

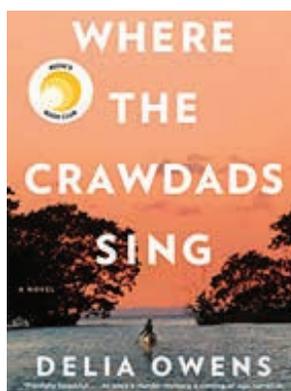
Due to the ongoing response to COVID-19 all school events are cancelled or postponed until further notice.

News from the LLC

BookISH

Last week, BookISH had our first official meeting! We got together on Wednesday evening for snacks, sweets and discussion about *The Pact* by Jodi Picoult (along with our other favourite books).

We have selected *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens for our next book. Please see Ms. Jasmine for help getting the eBook and to be added to the WhatsApp group. We will be meeting the last week of March to discuss the book. Date and time will be decided closer to the end of the month.



etc.), the structure of their speech (introduction, factual paragraphs, conclusion) and the information they included (relevance to the topic, key dates, etc.). Based on these scores, there were two finalists selected from each class. These finalists competed for first and second place in front of primary school, parents and judges.

Our winners were Alicia (G 5) and Rogelio (G 3)! Congratulations to them and all of the other contestants.

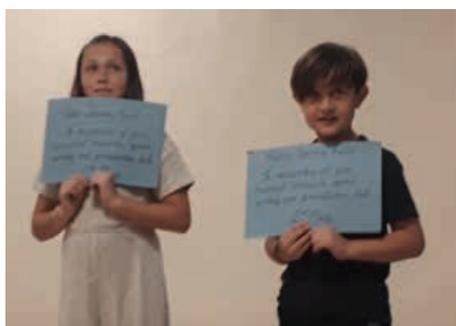
Grade 3 Finalists: Rogelio, Alexis, Matteo and Hugo

Grade 4 finalists: Lucas and Renata

Grade 5 finalists: Alicia, Timothee, Mireya and Maya

A huge thank you also goes out to our judges: Ms. Suzanne, Ms. Marg and Ms. Georgie.

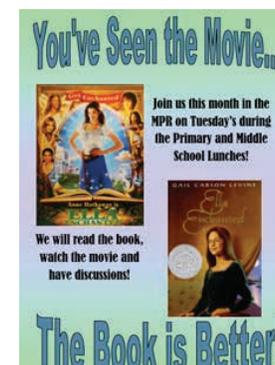
The LLC Speech Competition



Since October, Grades 3, 4 and 5 worked on researching, writing and presenting speeches based on their IPC units. The students had an in-class competition prior to the February break in which their peers evaluated them based on their speech mannerisms (eye contact, body language, voice modulation,

You've Seen the Movie, the Book is Better!

In honour of International Women's Day this month, our book selection for the *You've Seen the Movie, the Book is Better* event is *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine.



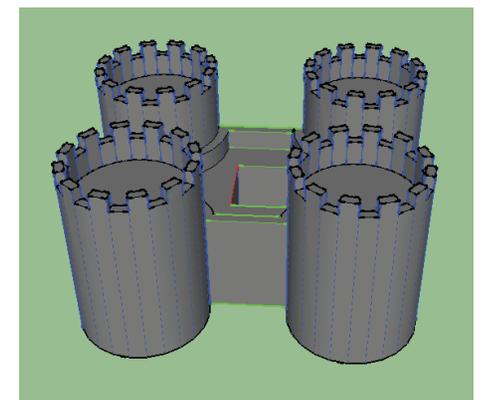
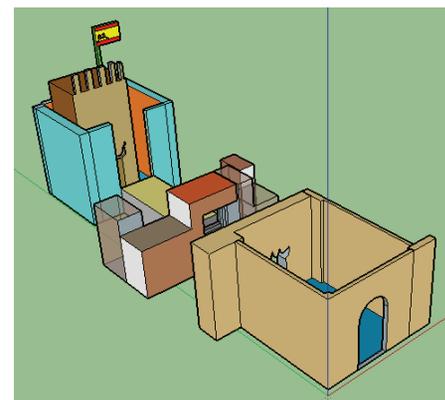
MAKERSPACE IN ACTION: Technology integration in both Lower and Middle School

The use of modern technology in class has continued to grow over the past few weeks and the multidisciplinary approach has made it possible for students to connect diverse areas of learning while enhancing their digital literacy and coding skills.

In Lower School, the Grade 4 students applied what they learned in their IPC unit on Rivers and Settlement into their ICT lessons, as they made 3D designs of some dwellings for a civilization using SketchUp. Students from Kindergarten have paid numerous visits to our Makerspace in order to learn about Dash. Each child now knows how to look after Dash and to use basic controls to make the robot move forward, backward, sideways and in circles, using the GO app on our tablets.

In Middle School, the students from Grade 6 are receiving a crash course on robotics using LEGO EV3 Robots and Dash during their ICT lessons, with the support of our Makerspace teachers. The aim is to familiarize all student with basic coding in order to pave the way for the integration of robotics into their Math lessons during the third term of our school.

For all our groups, student motivation has reached levels that allow collaborative problem-solving and creativity to flourish spontaneously. It is evident that cross-curricular contexts provide students with rich opportunities to develop 21st. century skills while shaping their maker's mindset.



Co-curricular

Last Saturday, we celebrated our annual AFSC Tennis Tournament in which we had over 70 students participating. Competition was very tough in various categories, especially in the younger students.

Students showed a great level of skills and sportsmanship all throughout the event. On behalf of the PE and Co-curricular Activities departments we would like to congratulate them for their effort and commitment. We would also like to thank all the parents who spent the day with us for their support.

Included in this Weekly are the results.

AFSC Tennis Tournament 2020

Results

Girls KII – G1

1. Lucy Walsh G-1
2. Afrika Martinez K2B
3. Amelia Tomas K2B

Boys KII – G1

1. Sandro Vazquez G-1
2. Diego Gil G-1
3. Santiago Salzmann G-1

Girls Singles G-2 – G-3

1. Isabela Caldentey G-3B
2. Daniela Gil Vazquez G-2
3. Luna Stultjens. G-3B

Boys Singles G-2 – G3

1. Alexis Macor G-3B

2. Matteo Gallina G-3B

3. Matteo Macor G-3A

Girls Singles G-4 – G-5

1. Asia Gallina G-5
2. Beatriz Fontes G-4
3. Alicia Lopez G-5

Boys Singles G-4 – G-5

1. Timur Kislali G-5
2. Ruben Cinotti (Spanish School)
3. Bruno Vazquez G-5

Girls Singles 6, 7 & 8

1. Samara Fawzi (Spanish School)
2. Isabella Pickles. G-7
3. Sacha Kislali G-6

Boys Singles 6, 7 & 8

On Friday, we celebrated a friendly basketball match with the Spanish School with our Secondary School team. The game was very even all throughout the first half but in the second half our players played better in defense and scored some three-pointers and the match finished with a huge difference in the final score with our team winning.

Our Lower School basketball team also played the Spanish School team last Monday and they won by 40-30. They played very well and we are very proud of the skill and teamwork they displayed. Thank you to all parents who supported the event.

1. Maximillian Pickles G-8
2. Juan Tomas Sus Marti G-7
3. Marcelo Legorreta G-7

Girls Singles 9, 10, 11 & 12

1. Sibel Kislali G-11
2. Isabella Pickles G-7
3. Edna Van Der Vlught G-11

Boys Singles 9, 10, 11 & 12

1. Sibel Kislali G-11
2. Julio Cesar Diez Arguelles (Spanish School)
3. Seungwon JUNG G-9

Doubles

Grade 2 & 3

1. Rogelio Garcia – Alexis Macor
2. Matteo Macor – Oliver Hundervard

3. Isabela Caldentey – Matteo Gallina

Grade 4 & 5

1. Timur Kislali – Bruno Vazquez
2. Xiuxing Feng – Yiheng Jiang
3. Asia Gallina – Alicia Lopez

Grades 6, 7 & 8

1. Maximillian Pickles – Juan Tomas Sus Marti
2. Zoe Soto – Samara Fawzi (Spanish School)
3. Giorgio Confetti – Luca Macor

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

1. Marc Rosello – Julian Marimon
2. Alon Van Der Vlught - Seungwon JUNG

PTSA News

The PTSA has made minor updates to its Constitution. We have attached the document to this edition of the Weekly and posted it on the ISH Community WhatsApp group. Amendments require a referendum of the PTSA community; unless there are dissenting comments or suggested revisions received by Friday, March 20, the new Constitution will take effect from that date.

Please contact ptsa@ish.co.cu if you have any comments and please copy director@ish.co.cu if you do write to us.

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAVANA
PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION**

**Article 1:
Association Name and Mission**

- 1.1 The Association shall be known as:
THE PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAVANA hereinafter referred to as: the **P.T.S.A.**
- 1.2 The Mission of the PTSA is: We connect. We communicate. We contribute.

**Article 2:
The Role, Mission and Objectives of the Parent Teacher Student Association**

- The P.T.S.A.:**
- 2.1 shall be considered an autonomous auxiliary body to the International School of Havana;
- 2.2 shall function in a manner consistent with the Mission, Vision, Philosophy and Objectives of the School.
- 2.3 is made up of a team of volunteer parents, teachers and students whose mission is to help create an inclusive, well-informed community where all families and staff members are welcome and encouraged to participate.
- 2.4 is able to assist the School by raising funds and carrying out activities inside and outside the school,
- 2.5 communicate general parent concerns to the school leadership.

**Article 3:
Membership of the Parent Teacher Student Association and the Executive Committee**

- 3.1 **P.T.S.A. Membership**
The parents of each student attending the International School of Havana, each student and every member of the teaching staff, including the Director, are automatically members of the P.T.S.A.

3.2 **P.T.S.A. Leadership, Executive Committee Membership and periods of office**

- 3.2.1 The P.T.S.A.'s affairs will be directed by an Executive Committee.
- 3.2.2 The Executive Committee shall appoint each year, from among its number:
- the P.T.S.A. Chair (who may not be a teacher neither a student member);
 - the P.T.S.A. Vice Chair;
 - the P.T.S.A. Secretary;
 - the P.T.S.A. Treasurer;
 - the other P.T.S.A. officers as needed.
- 3.2.3 The Executive Committee will consist of:
- one (1) voting student member selected by the Student Leadership Team;
 - two (2) voting teacher members elected by the teaching staff;
 - six (6) voting parent members, elected by the parent members of the P.T.S.A.;
 - the two Principals and Director who are automatically non-voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 3.2.4 The elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office:
- i. In the case of student members, for an initial period of one year from the first month of the academic year.
 - ii. In the case of teacher members, for an initial period of one year from the first day of the academic year.
 - iii. In the case of parent members for an initial period of one year from January 1 until December 31 of the same calendar year.
 - iv. Parent members may opt, if they so desire and without the need for re-election, to extend a period of office to a maximum of two years.
 - v. All elected members may be re-elected without the restriction of a maximum number of periods of office.
- 3.2.5 The election for the student member shall be held latest in the month of September during the elections of the Student Leadership Team members. The elections for teacher members shall be held in the month

Parent Teacher Student Association Constitution

Approved: March 2020

of August and elected teacher members will take office on the first day of the academic year. (See Article 3.2.4 i.)

The elections for parent members, if needed (See Article 3.2.4 ii), shall be held in the months of November or December and elected parent members will take office on January 1. (See Article 3.2.4 ii).

- 3.2.6 In the event of an Executive Committee member's resignation, the Executive Committee is authorized to seek and co-opt a replacement member, as it deems necessary, without the need for an election. Co-opted members shall serve only until the end of the period of office of the person they have replaced and may not extend membership of the Executive Committee unless they seek election in their own right and are duly elected by the voting members of the P.T.S.A.

3.3 The P.T.S.A. President's additional responsibilities

The P.T.S.A. President is a non-voting, consultative member of the Operations Committee

Article 4:

The Work of the Executive Committee of the Parent Teacher Student Association

4.1 The P.T.S.A. Executive Committee:

- 4.1.1 Will hold monthly meetings during the academic year.
- 4.1.2 Will conduct itself at all times in accordance with the laws of Cuba and the ISH Community Principles.
- 4.1.3 Requires the presence of a quorum in order to make decisions.
 - A quorum shall consist of 50% of the Executive Committee members plus one
- 4.1.4 Will take Minutes of its meetings.
- 4.1.5 Decisions require the consent of the Executive Committee members either by:
 - A simple majority of those present at a formally convened and quorate meeting.
 - or
 - All Executive Committee members if an alternate method of decision-making is used.
- 4.1.6 Decisions will be communicated to the entire P.T.S.A. membership or as the Executive Committee deems appropriate.
- 4.1.7 Decisions taken by a decision-making method other than at a formally convened and quorate meeting will only be communicated to the P.T.S.A. membership once the decision has been re-confirmed by the Executive Committee.

4.2 The P.T.S.A. President:

- 4.2.1 In consultation with the Executive Committee Secretary, is responsible for the creation of an agenda for each Executive Committee meeting.
 - Any member of the P.T.S.A. may submit items for inclusion on the agenda to the President.
- 4.2.2 Can call extraordinary meetings of the P.T.S.A. as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
 - The minutes of a meeting or extraordinary meeting shall be taken by the Secretary and approved at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Article 5:

The Finances of the P.T.S.A.

- 5.1 The P.T.S.A. financial year shall run in accordance with that of the School i.e. from August 1 of one year until July 31 of the following year.
- 5.2 When P.T.S.A. Chair and/or Treasurer changes, a statement of account detailing the current cash balance and details of cash movements from the end of the prior period and assets held need to be prepared and signed off by leaving and newly appointed members.
- 5.3 The P.T.S.A. Executive Committee is authorized to have its own bank account.
 - Bank account cheques will require two signatories and may be any two of the following Executive Committee officers: the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer.
- 5.4 The P.T.S.A. Annual Financial Report shall be published for the Executive Committee's October meeting by the Treasurer.

Article 6:

Amending the Constitution of the P.T.S.A.

The Constitution of the P.T.S.A. may be amended by a Referendum on a proposal circulated to all members of the P.T.S.A. and thereafter adopted by the Executive Committee.