

The Weekly

News from the International School of Havana

From the Director

Michael Lees | Director



Learning Conversations

At ISH, we believe that quality conversations about learning are essential to improving our students' experiences. In order to foster those conversations, we are dedicating the full day on Wednesday, February 7 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm to allow parents and students to reflect upon the progress of learning through the first Reporting Period and to look ahead at the learning landscape for the remainder of the year. Parents will be making individual appointments with their child's homeroom teacher in advance and make appointments with the specialist teachers on February 7. Please feel free to contact us directly should you have any questions.

Work Experience

My first official and regular job started when I was 11 years old delivering the Toronto Star newspaper to households on my street. I wasn't the best paperboy in the world but I did learn valuable lessons about customer service and the importance of hard work. Since then, I have had an almost uninterrupted stream of jobs over the past 42 years ranging from restaurant owner and caterer to flight instructor and school Director. I had lots of great opportunities as a teenager to earn some extra spending money and to learn about being a reliable employee. Unfortunately, at international schools students often have very few opportunities for any meaningful employment. We are very excited to be starting the first Work Experience in the history of the school this week with over 50 students placed all over the city and beyond. This initiative for Grades 9 and 11 is ambitious in scope and we want to thank our incredibly

supportive community for providing the venues of learning for our students. We know that the students will take advantage of these opportunities and come away with some valuable learning and appreciation for 'life on the job.'

Stakeholder Climate Surveys

You should have already received an important email with a link to a survey that solicits your feedback on multiple areas of the school. This is critically important information as we strive to improve our services and our practice. Similar surveys will be given to all students in grades 4 and up as well as all teachers and staff. We are confident and thankful you will take the time to provide us with this important feedback because your voice matters and we want to hear it.

Tennis Tournament

It was wonderful to see the great turnout at the Tennis Tournament last weekend. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to those medal winners who will be announced at a later date. Remember that on Saturday, February 3 we will be hosting the Triathlon which is another AFSC event. If you have questions about either event, please contact Luis Tittle at ltittle@ish.co.cu.

Extra Curricular Activities

The second extracurricular activities session commences on January 29. Please ensure you have completed the registration process well before that date.

ISH parent
Opinion Survey



Events Calendar

January 15-26

Mock Exams Grade 10 and 12

January 26

PTA coffee event for new families 8:45 am

February 2

Reports Cards go Home

January 22-26

ISH Work Experience for Grades 9 and 11

January 29

Start of Extra Curricular 2nd Session

February 7

Learning Conversations

January 31

Grade 8 Drama Monologues 6:00 pm

February 9

School Closes for Mid Term Break at normal time

From the Secondary School

Anna Brunskill | Principal, Secondary School



Mock exams continue for Grades 10 and 12 in school this year and teachers will release those exam results that are ready once the last exam is completed on Friday afternoon. Exam season is a stressful one, so I hope your child gets a good rest this weekend ready to start back with classes next week. For Grade 12 in particular this is the countdown to their IB exams, so every minute in class counts.

Work Experience at ISH

Microsoft founder Bill Gates once said, “If you think your teacher is tough, get a boss!” It’s a quote I frequently repeat to our students and it is particularly relevant this week, as our Grade 9 and 11 students head out on Work Experience. They will be entering the world of work for the first time (most

of them) and experiencing what it is like to work in a formal work environment, as part of a team and working for a boss. Once again, a HUGE thank you goes to all our parents and to the wider community for facilitating this experience for our students. Read more about this experience next week!

Grade 8 Drama Monologues

Grade 8 have been working hard on their individual monologues and will be presenting these publicly on Wednesday, January 31, from 6:00 pm at ISH. We would like to invite their families and friends to this event and hope to see you there!

From the Lower School

Georgina Schofield | Principal, Lower School



Thanks to everyone involved in the Tennis Tournament on Saturday. After having to postpone the previous event, it was great to see our students competing and demonstrating their skills on the court. A huge thanks goes to the PE staff for their organisation of the event and also to the other staff involved for giving up their weekend time for a student event. The Spanish department will be leading our assembly this week to celebrate the life of Jose Marti on Wednesday at 8:15 am.

Parents new to ISH are invited to a welcome Coffee Morning on Friday, January 26 at 8:45 am. This is a great chance to meet the PTA and some other parents.

Learning Conversations will take place on February 7. More information about how to make appointments with teachers will follow soon. Please note that this is a whole day event and students are not in classes for this day. Students from Kinder up should attend the Conversations.

From the Extracurricular Department

We would like to let you know that the First Session of the Extracurricular Activity Program will finish on Friday, January 26, 2018, not on February 2nd as it was mistakenly announced in the previous weekly. The Second Session will start on Monday, January 29, 2018.

We apologize for the inconveniences this mistake has caused you and we look forward to having an excellent Second Session of the Extracurricular Activities.

Technology at ISH

The Technology and Innovations Committee, including teachers from all sections of the school and IT staff, are working on a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme for students in grades 9 to 12, starting in the 2018-2019 school year.

BYOD entails students bringing a laptop or other electronic device to school as an additional tool for learning. More information will follow about this, as well as a Family Learning Opportunity (FLO) for parents of Grades 8-11 students. If anyone has experience with schools that have this type of programme, please share your knowledge with the committee by writing to: mariefperron@ish.co.cu.

PTA News

The new PTA team 2018 started with its first Executive Committee meeting last Wednesday, February 17. All team members brought a wonderful spirit of enthusiasm towards their new tasks of connecting, communicating and contributing to the ISH community.

The first event is already planned for this week: All parents of the new families joining the ISH community this January are warmly invited to our WELCOME COFFEE MORNING this Friday, January 26 at 8:45 am in the Ranchon on the ISH main campus.

The coffee morning is a leisurely sit-together in order to get to know each other. We hope to see you there and will be happy to assist with all questions you might have regarding the school and Havana in general.

Find out each member and the positions of the new PTA team in next week's Weekly. Watch this space!

