

From the Director

Michael Lees | Director



Final Day of School

We will have a start time of 9:00 am for the final day of school on Friday, June 23. The End-of-year Assembly will commence at 10:00 am after which parents will be free to bring their children home. The school closes at 12:00 noon on that day.

Summer Camp

The first week of Summer Camp starts on Monday, June 26. The deadline for registration is this Friday, June 23. In order for the school to effectively plan adequate supervision and logistical support, this year we will require pre-registration for each of the weeks of Summer Camp. That means students will not be able to show up unannounced at the start of the week. We appreciate your understanding as we set systems in place to ensure students are safe during the Camp. Registration forms are available upon request from the main office (office@ish.co.cu) or through Mr. Roberto in the Extra-Curricular office.

Firm Assurances

The International School of Havana serves the educational needs of the diplomatic and expatriate families here in Havana. We take that obligation very seriously. Regardless of any messages that may have been sent in the past, we want to assure ALL families that we are committed to meeting your expectations and to ensure that all students enrolled at ISH remain an important part of our family for as long as you are here in Havana. Our new Calle 22 High School Campus that is scheduled for completion next Fall will relieve any enrolment capacity issues that we may experience. I further want to assure families that we still have considerable capacity in our Early Years and Main Campuses. In other words, you are ALL

welcome. There is currently no grade experiencing maximum capacity and even if this should be the case in the coming months, we will make every effort to accommodate all new applicants. I can not emphasize more how each and every family of ISH is a valued part of our community and we will ensure your children's educational needs are being met. I welcome your input and questions from all!

Association of Foreign Schools in Cuba

Last week, I met for the third time with the Heads of School from the French, Russian and Spanish Schools here in Havana. Our goal, which is now taking shape, is to create the Association of Foreign Schools in Cuba (AFSC). Our purpose is to create a partnership that lifts the bar for collaboration in the arts, a sports league and other shared activities. We feel that working together is only going to benefit our students in the future.

Making a Difference Campaign

Last Thursday, our school hosted our new friends from the Iglesia Milagrosa project which supports adults with Down's Syndrome. Through the fund raising efforts of the Service Learning (SL) Team, we were able to donate CUC 1000 to the project. Perhaps more importantly was the quality of interaction between our students in Grades 8 and 11 and our guests who were thrilled to take part in the many activities the SL Team had organized. Thank you to all who took part in the event as well as to Mr. and Mrs. Conesa who introduced us to this wonderful project. That is what leaving a legacy is all about.

Tennis Tournament

It was wonderful to see the great support for the ISH Tennis Tournament on Saturday until it got rained out. We have some incredibly talented athletes! Many thanks goes out again to our PE team who organized the event. Great job!

An Absolute Privilege

When I look back at my first year as the Director of the International School of Havana, I continue to feel privileged to serve in this role. I want to thank the many committed parents, students, teachers and staff who have provided me with the much appreciated feedback that holds me accountable for the role I have. ISH is destined for greatness and that is a process - one that will continue unrelentingly in the future because I have full faith that we are positioning ourselves as a school of excellence in the region. Thank you all for a wonderful year of learning. I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back during the first day of school on Monday, August 21.

From the Lower School

Georgina Schofield | Principal, Lower School



It's the last week of the school year! May always seems to race by and we arrive at the last week of school before we know it.

On Wednesday, we will bid farewell to the students and teachers leaving ISH, including Ms Emma, who has been part of our community since 1998 and taught nearly every Lower School student at ISH.

School will begin at 9:00 am on Friday morning and Learning Reports will be available from 11:30 am. Students should be collected by 12:00 noon. This week, Parents will receive a list of school supplies for students in Primary school for the next academic year. Please take a look at it with plenty of time to find those items before school starts next year. In particular, we are really encouraging families to provide students with re-usable cutlery so that we can reduce our use of plastic even further.

Events Calendar

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21

- End of Year Trips

Friday, June 23

- 12:00 noon. School closed summer break

This year has been a very busy one, with many new initiatives and projects. Many thanks to the teachers for their hard work and dedication to the students and the community, thanks to the parents for supporting the school and the learning of their children and a huge thank you to our wonderful support staff who work tirelessly to help keep our school a safe, clean place to be, and who support learning in many ways unseen to others. Thank you also to the students for their love of learning, big smiles and enthusiasm for learning.

If you are leaving ISH, we wish you all the very best and hope your new adventures are enjoyable and successful and that you carry some happy memories of ISH with you. If you are returning next academic year, we wish you a fun, relaxing vacation and look forward to seeing you in August!

From the Secondary School

Anna Brunskill | Principal, Secondary School



We made it! As we enter the final week of school, students and staff have accomplished many things in the last month:

- Exams for Grades 9 and 11
- End of year exams, unit tests and projects for Grade 8
- The music concert
- Final projects and assignments for Grades 6 to 7.

Staff and students are now off on the end of year trips and we look forward to hearing all about their learning experiences when they return.

Last Week of School

A reminder of our schedule for this week:

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 End of Year trips
Thursday, June 22 School as normal

Please could you help your child to find their locker key and any missing books, as any keys or books not returned will need to be paid for before a student's report card can be released.

Friday, June 23: 9:00 am start; 12:00 noon close.

I'd like to thank all those who have made my first year at ISH such an enjoyable, challenging and interesting one: the staff, for their support; the families who have welcomed me so generously; and most importantly the students, who are hilarious, engaging, generous and a lot of fun to work with. Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you back and raring to go on Monday, August 21!

From One Generation to Another

EY3 Teachers

EY3 students visited the Casa de Abuelos on 39A between 44 and 46. They introduced themselves with their name and where they come from. They sang several songs and the abuelos even joined in for "Barquito de papel"! Then, the children engaged with them in drawings or reading storybooks. Of course, they handed in the beautiful quilts they had been creating for months!

Teachers were surprised at how eager students were to visit with the elderly. They were not hesitant nor shy. They behaved well, were polite and understanding. Well done students!



Iglesia La Milagrosa

Over the past few weeks, students, teachers and parents have been helping to raise awareness about adults with Down Syndrome and other learning difficulties here in Cuba. We have held a variety of fund raising activities such as the Penny Jar competition; and the Straw Draw. The money collected through these activities, plus many generous donations, have together allowed the ISH community to raise CUC 1,000 which we have donated to the 'Iglesia La Milagrosa' project centre.

Following our first student visit to the 'Iglesia La Milagrosa', some of our students wrote the following:



“We all got a buddy from the learning centre with whom we mostly interacted during the morning. At first, we asked them questions to get to know each other better starting off with names and ages. We also got to know things such as their favourite colours, subjects, foods and what kind of music they like, as well as what they would like to be and their hobbies. Later on, we did fun activities such as drawing and playing dominos. Since their learning centre is part of a church, we went there and they performed amazing songs for us and even managed to get us up to dance with them!”

“We all loved going there and agree that it was a life-changing experience.



Spending the day with them we realised that they are all special and a lot of fun to be with since we have lots of things in common. It was an amazing opportunity and we are really looking forward to Thursday, June 15, when they will come to visit our school.”

The threat of rain, high humidity and a broken down bus could not stop the wonderful time that was shared at ISH when the adults from the Iglesia La Milagrosa came to visit us last Thursday, June 15 . We started the afternoon with songs from the Extra Curricular choir, then the young adults from the project put on their performance of traditional Cuban dances. We followed this spectacular with afternoon tea at the “ISH Café”. The Grade 8 students took charge of the Café, and they and their parents provided the desserts and savouries to accompany the rest of the food. The students helped their buddies to get their food from the buffet, whilst others served and made sure everyone had a drink and anything they needed. Whilst they ate we had musical moments provided by Charlotte and Andrea from Grade 11. After the



Café, the Grade 11 students took charge of the fun activities with: the photo booth, manicures, dominos, face painting, basketball and football.

Our students were wonderful to watch, as they took control of the activities and strived to provide the best experience for our guests and friends as was humanly possible. The afternoon finally came to an end when we were able to present the Director of the group, Señora Lucia, with CUC 1000.

After the events we asked the students for feedback and this is what they said:

“It takes a lot of courage and time to raise a child that is born with Down Syndrome but it is worth it. From the moment you introduce yourself to them, they are caring and affectionate. Never in my life had I received so many hugs and kisses.” (A Grade 8 student)

“There is good CAS and bad CAS and this was definitely good CAS, I understand what this means and I’ve never done anything like this before.” (A Grade 11 student)

The ISH community came together and Made a Difference in all of our lives. Thank you to parents, students and teachers for all your support.

We are already looking forward to the next gathering of friends.

FINAL REMINDER:

Enrolment for the 1st week of summer camp closes THIS FRIDAY.

See accounting if you wish your child to attend summer camp before enrolment closes on the Friday of the proceeding week.

Have a great summer.

PTA NEWS

Concert Ticket Sales

The PTA is pleased to announce that they raised CUC 412 for the music department from the sales of the concert tickets. This money will be used to purchase an electric piano.

Teachers are Also Students

Technology Committee

In the past few weeks, ISH teachers have been engaging in optional professional learning (PL). The Technology Committee created and the school’s IT staff implemented short PL sessions for teachers to become more knowledgeable about technology and improve or acquire tech skills. The 20-minute sessions given so far are: ISH’s Intranet Service addresses, Connecting to the network and Wifi, Printing and Scanning. We will continue to offer these sessions in the new school year, starting with Technology Basics for ISH, a focus on 3Sys, Cloudish and more.

From Library

Summer Holidays are nearly here. As you may know, all the library books borrowed by primary and secondary students must be returned. Please ask your child if he/she has books still to return. In case of loss or damage, please inform the Librarian as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made with the school cashier. Please be aware that that Learning Reports will be held until return of books or payment is made.