

## From the Director

Michael Lees | Director



### Making a Difference

I have been impressed by the compassion that many of our students have showed in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Knowing that there are still people suffering, students have banded together to come up with creative ideas to make a difference in the lives of those who have been impacted. One such idea is the food, clothing and goods drive. These will be forwarded to agencies that will help deliver our donations to the people who need it the most. Any and all contributions are appreciated.

### Busing

We are reviewing our busing service as there have been some families who have expressed interest in the school expanding our routes. If your children are currently not taking the bus but you would like to have this service, please contact reception at the school to leave your contact details. Once we assess the level of need, we will do our best to make a plan that will work for you.

### Emergency Phone Trees

Based on some excellent feedback from the community after Hurricane Irma, we are going to be overhauling our emergency phone trees to make them much simpler. In the event of an emergency, you will receive an SMS message from one of the homeroom teachers with a note in English and Spanish. This

will ensure that everyone gets the same message and reduces the need to track down people who may not be accessible.

### Professional Learning

One of our school goals this year is to introduce guided inquiry as a foundational pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. This is a powerful, student-centred approach that taps into the natural curiosity of students. As this methodology is new for many teachers, we are beginning our own professional learning experience on Monday, October 30 and Tuesday, October 31. On these two days, there will be no classes and the school will be closed. Classes will resume on Wednesday, November 1. As our entire faculty will be in training, we are seeking an indoor venue for the workshop. Please contact Michael Lees ([director@ish.co.cu](mailto:director@ish.co.cu)) if you are able to assist us with our venue challenge.

## Events Calendar

---

Tuesday, October 3

Learning Conversations 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Wednesday, October 4

PTA Room Parent Information 8:30

PTA Executive 4:15 pm

Friday, October 6

International Teacher's Day

Saturday, October 7

SCHOOL CLOSED (Mid Term Break)

October 30 and October 31

Staff Professional Learning- School Closed

## From the Secondary School

---

Anna Brunskill | Principal, Secondary School



As we get really stuck into term, our new Student Council Leadership Team are having their first event this week: a Bake Sale for both Secondary and Primary students this Wednesday lunchtime, so if there is a flurry of baking at home early this week you know why!

### Student Workshops

This week on Thursday and Friday we are fortunate to have Dr Oscar Ávila Åkerberg join us for two days of workshops with our students. Oscar is a teacher of Physics and Science, an educator with a PhD in Physics and Neuroscience and a facilitator of professional development in Systems Thinking

## From the Lower School

---

Georgina Schofield | Principal, Lower School



Learning Conversations focusing on goal setting for the year, will take place on October 3, from 12.15pm until 5.00pm, for all ISH students. Primary students will bring home a note for parents to request appointments today, Monday. Please return the note as soon as possible as appointments fill up quickly. Please also make sure you record the names and classes of any siblings to help avoid double bookings.

An information session for Room Parents will take place on Wednesday October 4, led by the PTA and myself. We hope to see the Room Parents there to share some information about the role as well as hints & tips for the coming year.

School closes for the October break on Friday, October 6, at the usual time and re-opens on Monday October 16, also at the usual time.

31 staff members will spend their weekend at school on Saturday and Sunday, engaging in Level 2 of the Systems & Sustainability training with Compass Education. This is a great example teachers engaging in Professional Learning that can greatly impact the school overall.

and Sustainability, who has previously worked with ISH staff in the Compass Education Level 1 training. He will be working with groups of Secondary students of all ages this Thursday and Friday, covering topics such as creativity and innovation, motivation, non-violent conflict resolution and leadership skills. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to work on valuable soft skills, get to know themselves and each other better, and make the most of Oscar's expertise. We're very excited for them!

### Learning Conversations

Our first Learning Conversations between teachers, parents

and students take place next week on Tuesday, October 3rd from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. An information letter was sent home with your child last Friday and as of Monday morning this week your child should be making appointments with their teachers. We are looking forward to seeing many parents and students engaged in productive discussion with the faculty about their personal goals for the year and all the learning they have and will be doing. Secondary School students will be dismissed from school at 12.40 p.m. and should be collected to go home if they are not attending conferences before 1.30 p.m. Please do make sure they return to school for their conferences, as they are central to the conversation.

## Reminder – school PE kit

Our beautiful new PE uniform is proving a huge success. All students should now be wearing the PE uniform to their PE lessons so if your child has not yet got a t-shirt and shorts, please can you ensure that you have acquired them before the half-term break. They can be purchased every day in school.

## University Counselling

A reminder to students applying to universities in the United States who need to present SAT scores that the exam dates are October 7 & December 2.

Interested students need to register online via College Board website.

By November 1st, Grade 12 students should have already completed a preliminary list of up to 10 universities they have thoroughly researched and are interested in applying.

For more information contact Ms. Osmery, the University Counselor, at [osmery@ish.co.cu](mailto:osmery@ish.co.cu).

# From Sports and Activities Department

We are very happy to share with you the latest news about our sports events program this year.

Last Friday, September 15, we had our first AFSC (Association of Foreign Schools in Cuba) meeting with the head of sports of the French, Spanish and Russian schools. We discussed the events we are going to run this year and who will organize each individual event. We also discussed other important aspects such as:

- sponsors for the different leagues and events;
- fair play and sportsmanship;
- communication;
- technical and safety conditions of the facilities to be used;
- support staff; and
- participation Rules.

For this year the AFSC sports events will be the following sports:

- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Triathlon
- Athletics
- Swimming

## French lessons

We are very happy to announce that a new Extra curricular Activity will be open and we would like to invite you, to enroll your child. The new activity is French lessons. Ms. Milene Acosta will be in charge of the activity. This activity will be for Lower School students, from grade 1 to grade 5. If you are interested in your child learning French, please, contact Mr. Roberto Fernandez the Extracurricular Activities Coordinator. Spaces are limited and placement will be on the first come first serve basis.

# Irma relief effort

## The Service Learning and Sustainability Team

Dear ISH Community

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, there are many humanitarian needs and as a community, want to put our Mission into action by Making a Difference wherever possible. There are the immediate needs of members of our school's community to consider: students, staff and their families. There are also many needs across our local communities and more widely in Cuba. We are offering the school as a centre for collecting resources that can then be distributed where they are most needed. The drive for this initiative has come from the students, teachers and families who want to make a difference as soon as possible.

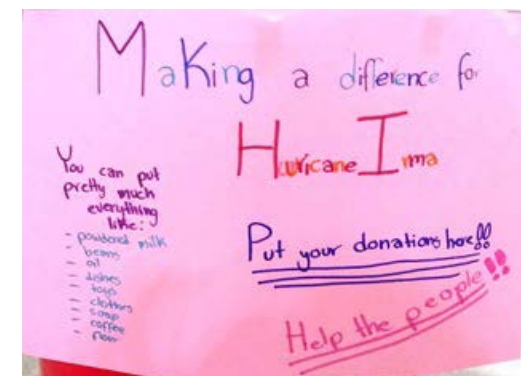
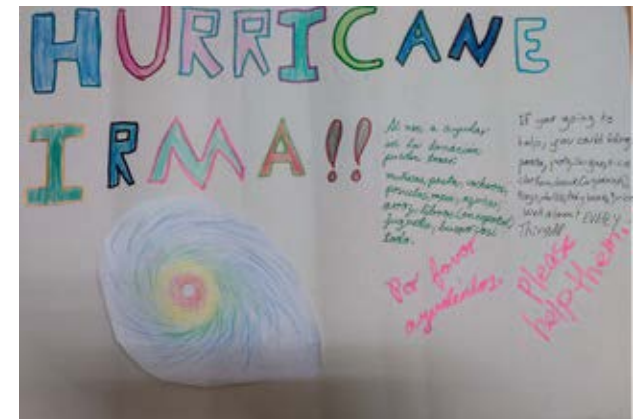
For the next two weeks, we will collect and receive items that can be distributed to those who need help. The items we are looking to collect are:

Non perishable food	Sanitary & cleaning items	General goods
Powdered milk	Soap	Candles
Beans	Personal hygiene items	Matches
Crackers	Sanitary pads	Empty water bottles (5 litre)
Canned foods	Hypochlorite	Clothes
Dried pasta	Baby wipes	Utensils
Rice	Cleaning products	Cooking equipment
Sugar	Cleaning cloths	Plates, cups
Coffee	Washing detergent	
Flour		
Oil		

The items may be brought to school and left in the homerooms and a team of students and teachers will collect and move them to a central location. Members of our community will then distribute them as and where they can.

We are still looking for storage facilities a garage or spare bedroom, so if you are able to offer this space please contact Ms Karen (karen@ish.co.cu).

Thank you for your help and support. It is greatly appreciated.



## PTA NEWS

---

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Executive Committee at ISH is made up of 2 elected teachers and 6 elected parents. At present in office are:

Jessica Macor – Chair

Jana Pickles – Vice Chair/Primary Room Parent Coordinator

Jenny Loven – Secretary

Carolina Berardone – Treasurer

Emma Irbinger – Secondary Coordinator

Maria Rita Castiglione – Early Years Coordinator

Ms Steph – Primary Teacher Representative

Ms Daniela – Secondary Teacher Representative

In late August we organised our first event of the academic year: a Welcome Coffee for all new families at ISH. The following week the PTA Executive Committee organised a “shopping trip around Havana”, which was equally popular with new parents!

This academic year the PTA Executive Committee are planning many great events for the ISH Community including an International Food Fair (November), Garage Sale (February) and a Family Fun Day (May). If you

have any ideas for other events for the community please contact us at [pta@ish.co.cu](mailto:pta@ish.co.cu) or leave a message for us at reception at the EYLC or Main Campus.

We are now into our second year of our literacy project: “One World, Many Stories” where the PTA Executive Committee will spend \$1500 a year for 5 years on books for the school library. The last order of books should be arriving soon and now we have started to compile a list for this academic year. If you have any ideas of book titles that will make a difference to our School Library, please let us know.

Thank you to all the volunteer Primary Room Parents and Support Room Parents for this academic year. Your support and commitment is greatly appreciated. A Room Parent Workshop will take place on Wednesday 4 October at 8.30am at Calle 18. Please confirm your presence with Jana Pickles [pta@ish.co.cu](mailto:pta@ish.co.cu)

The PTA Executive Committee will be celebrating International Teachers Day on Friday 6 October with a breakfast for all teachers to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. More details to follow but we would like parents and students to help with the breakfast by coming along with cup-cakes/brownies/muffins/sandwiches/croissants to share with their teachers on their special day!