

DATES FOR YOUR CALANDER

January 29th - February 1st:
Mrs. Ferloni visiting IS
Gothenburg

Tuesday January 31st:
School Doctor at ISC

Friday February 3rd:
Mrs. Ferloni at ISE Confer-
ence

Friday February 3rd:
Transition & G2 Fieldtrip

Monday February 6th:
G1 Fieldtrip

Tuesday February 7th 9:00:
Parent Class Rep Meeting

Wednesday February 8th:
American Women of Ticino
Private School Conference

Friday February 17th:
Portfolios and Reports sent
home

February 20th – 25th:
Ski Week Holidays

February 27th – 29th:
Parent Teacher Meetings

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INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
COMO



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NEWSLETTER N . 11

Open Day - Saturday January 21st

My warmest thanks go to the families and teachers who participated in our successful Open Day last Saturday. It was a moment to “live” our new campus in a slightly different way while showing our visitors ISC’s special qualities.

It was nice to see that the 25 families that we welcomed showed a genuine interest in our school and in international education. Thank you all for having contributed to the creation of a lovely family-based atmosphere.

“What is Assessment at ISC” Parent Workshop

It's time for assessments and evaluations as shortly the end of Term reports will be sent home. Ms. Monique, our PYP Coordinator, will lead a workshop for parents on the PYP approach to learning assessments. Learning about the strategies used by teachers, the importance of student self-assessment, and the use of the portfolio, will help you understand how your children are assessed in their learning and their cognitive and personal growth. In the PYP system knowledge acquired is not the only area assessed, so too are skills, the ability to understand and develop concepts, and the willingness to take action.

The “What is Assessment at ISC” Workshop is on Thursday, February 9th from 9:10 am to 10:10 am and will be held with a minimum of 5 participants. If you would like to take part please confirm your attendance by Friday, February 3rd by contacting Ms. Paola via telephone or email.

IB Assignment

The IB has assigned me the task of participating on the Visiting Team for an Evaluation Visit to the International School of Gothenburg-Sweden.

Taking on the role of an "IB Inspector" is a great responsibility, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to learn. Being able to visit other international schools and to assess their organization and implementation of the IB standards is an extraordinary occasion to compare and contrast with colleagues who share the same educational vision. With this in mind, I accepted the assignment that will keep me busy and away from school from January 29 to February 1. During that time Ms. Monique (PYP) and Ms. Turner (MYP) will be in touch with me and can act as your points of reference should there be the need.

Book Week

There is nothing more satisfying than seeing a child absorbed in reading a book! Books have a fundamental role in the PYP pedagogy; they can be a fount of learning, great food for thought, and means of socializing. A book can be a great playmate and a life-long learning instrument.

It has been wonderful to be a part of Book Week this year at ISC as our campus has been a lively place of discovery and expression, especially with Poetry. I have marveled at the joy and confidence that our students have shown in sharing their daily “Poem in Your Pocket”. The students who were chosen, or in certain cases volunteered to be a morning Loudspeaker Poem Reader, showed what the very best of risk-taking has to offer.

Other cherished moments of stories and poetry came from the Visiting Parent & Extended Family Readers program. These gave our community opportunities to share in the love of the written word through various languages and cultures. Thank you to all who participated so enthusiastically.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff, all of whom embraced this week’s initiatives and guided our students throughout. A particular mention goes to Ms. Monique and Ms. Jena for having coordinated our all-school events.



Various Items in and around ISC

As you may have observed, I like to monitor the procedures of the school in order to assess the progress made in certain areas of difficulty as well as to make note of where improvement is called for. It is with this in mind that I kindly ask you to pay attention to the following points:

- Some of our PYP students are coming to school without their school uniform. Adherence to the dress code which is shared by all sends an important educational message. Only in the case of urgent necessity will non-compliance be tolerated. I will personally contact the families whose children do not wear the uniform.
- For reasons of safety and insurance coverage, families are not allowed to remain in classes at the end of the school day (4:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 3:30 pm on Fridays). On several occasions I have observed families who stop for a snack or for other reasons beyond this time. Unless previously arranged with class teachers for some particular activity, you are invited to leave their classrooms and the school areas in general with your children. The playground will remain open until 4:45 pm Monday through Thursday (4:15 pm on Fridays).
- At the end of lunch shifts, between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm, the cafeteria staff works on the reorganization and cleaning of the space. As required by law and regulations, tables and floors are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Therefore, use of the area, the tables in particular, is not permitted. The cafeteria should remain closed after 3:30 pm. I realize that teachers and parents access the coffee machine which is housed and therefore, I kindly ask that you remain only in the immediate area surrounding the vending machine.

Networking with Other International Schools

ISC belongs to numerous organizations and networks of international schools. Surely the most notable are the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization), CIS (Council of International Schools) and ECIS (European Council of International Schools). Nationally, we are also part of ISE (International School of Europe) which is composed of the schools that are also included on our school brochures: the International Schools of Milan, Modena, Brescia, Siena, Bergamo, Bologna and Catania.

On Friday, February 3 I will attend a conference for the Heads of ISE schools to be held at the International School of Milan.

The aim of the conference is to forge closer bonds between the schools and explore how we can make the best use of our common ties and experiences. Some items on the agenda will be:

- Staff Training – especially for PYP
- Sharing Curriculum Experience through cross-site visits and training
- Staff Recruitment
- Negotiation of special purchasing deals from common suppliers
- Marketing and Advertising – common strategies
- Technology in Learning and School Management



Private School Conference by “The American Women of Ticino”

We have been invited to participate in an event organized by the American Women of Ticino, which will be held on Wednesday, February 8th in Porza, Switzerland.

The event gives several private schools in Ticino and in the nearby Como area, an opportunity to present themselves. Ms. Patterson and a few of our teachers will attend the event with me, and the presence of some of our parents would be highly appreciated. If you are interested and available, please notify Ms. Paola or me directly. The event will last from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm and we expect to leave ISC at about 6:00 pm. Having represented ISC at last year’s conference I can say that the experience was a very positive one as it proved to be a good opportunity for greater visibility and networking with other schools.

Ski Course

Following on the success and organization of the past, we are now ready to start this year's ski course. This initiative is in collaboration with the Italian Ski School Intelvi Lanzo and Mr. Claudio Saldarini, a qualified ski instructor and the father of three of our students. We expect there to be 4 lessons on the slopes of Lanzo and the ski course is available to children aged 5 to 14 and will be on Friday afternoons from 14.30 to 16.30.

Please find attached the program or contact the school office for more detailed information.



Winter Show DVD

Those of you who have reserved a copy of the DVD of the Winter Show, please contact the secretary to purchase your copy.

A special thanks to Mr. Roland Nash for organizing the initiative and for the filming.

Corrections

I would like to correct the following information which was communicated in my last newsletter:

- Mr. Orlando Noschese will not be organizing a ski week program during ISC's Ski Week Holidays in February.
- The Parent Class Rep meeting has been postponed to Tuesday, February 7 because of my absence from school previous week for the IB Evaluation Visit.

My best wishes for a restful weekend!

*Emanuela Ferloni
Principal
International School of Como*