



ISSUE #13

11 December 2009

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Greetings,

It has been a good week at ISU. We have all of our students back in classes. We are only experiencing a 1.9% absentee rate. This is wonderful this time of year! Holidays and travel plans begin to interfere in the daily activities of school. We appreciate you planning your schedules to minimize the impact on student learning. When you come into ISU you will see we are continuing to take the temperature of everyone who enters. This is just one small part of what we are doing to insure the health and safety of our school community.

Remember, we have a MUN day, Wednesday, December 16. This annual event is always a great deal of fun. Next week is the last week prior to our Winter Holiday break. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

My best,

**Greg Rayl, Director**

### SECONDARY NEWS

This week has brought more students, more work, more learning, and happier parents and kids! Our student learning curve has swung back upward, thanks to the consistency in the classroom. The teachers and students are working their hardest to get through their units, move forward in their courses, and an additional piece is the preparation for Model United Nations – MUN.

Each year, ISU organizes an MUN day for our secondary students. This is a great chance for them to learn about the workings of the real United Nations, and to fine tune their research skills, as well as to delve into the workings of the country that is “theirs” for the day. It is a lot of work, a lot of fun, and a great success each year. The students all learn a great deal, including proper protocol procedures and dress code for the professional UN members. Please encourage your students as much as you can at home this week in preparation for next Wednesday. The better prepared they are, the more fun and successful the day will be.

A reminder as to the end of the semester: our 1<sup>st</sup> semester, which is the same thing as the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, ends on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. Our school year has 180 teaching days, and the 29<sup>th</sup> of January is 91 days – half way through the year.

The 3 week winter break fits around Christmas and New Year’s for the Roman calendar. We appreciate your realization that the exams for the high school students will begin on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, grades 9 – 11. IB Mock exams will begin on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. They will all be completed together on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

Have a great weekend.

**Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary**

# THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

**FRONT PAGE**— THE MEDEE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE EACH WEEK AT: [WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN](http://WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN)

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## PRIMARY NEWS

The students have returned to school full of enthusiasm and have worked really hard this week. It was good to see many Primary students participating in the Whacky Hair Day organized by the student Council. Yesterday a number of students performed the dances they created and practiced during the weeks of home schooling and small group sessions with Ms Sarantungaa.

The performances were most entertaining and the students are to be congratulated on their creativity, risk taking and self-motivation.

Reminders: There will be two more weeks of ASA's for this quarter (next week and one week after the Winter break). The official end of Semester 1 is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January and reports will be sent home on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Make sure students always have warm coats, boots, hats, scarves and gloves at school as we all go out to play most days. (Inside supervision is organized when the temperature/windchill is extreme)!

**Jan Wiggins, Head of Primary**

### **Volunteers needed for interviews**

Dear parents,

Grade 4 will embark on a new inquiry under the central idea "**Throughout history people have been on the move for different reasons**". The Grade 4s will be looking into the reasons why people migrate and the experiences of the migration process. In addition to our school resources we would like to interview people about their experiences. Maybe you have uncles, grandparents or friends that have migrated for conflict, political, economic or any other reasons.

We are looking for migrants who are willing to answer some of our questions in a face to face interview or an interview by email or Skype. We would greatly appreciate your input in bringing our inquiry to life.

If you would like to help or have any further questions please email Mrs. Shelly D'Souza or Miss Faber.

Email:

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### **FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL**

The ISU Student Council would like to support the International Women's Association in Mongolia by collecting items for putting together emergency care packets. These will be distributed around Ulaanbaatar. We kindly ask students to collect their free hotel toiletries, such as toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap etc during Winter Break. These will then be collected after break and forwarded to IWAM.