



ISSUE #10

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THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that ISU will reopen, for grades 6 to 12, on Monday, November 23. We will start school at the regular time. Students must be in their homeroom no later than 0820. The opportunity to reopen was announced last evening following the signing of a ministerial decree.

Unfortunately, the decree by the Minister of Education does not address the return of our primary students. We know this is an inconvenience to you and is keeping your children from the rich learning environment of their classrooms. We will continue to allow primary students to meet with teachers at a maximum of four students, per teacher, per hour. Parents, or a guardian, must accompany the children. Children must leave campus upon the completion of their agreed upon educational tutoring time. Each teacher is maintaining their own schedule. I would like to impress upon you the importance of having time for your children to meet with their teacher. This meeting can be in person, online, or via email contact. Our teachers have been providing homework which will be included into the regular school work.

ISU staff will continue to monitor the temperature's of people entering our school. If an adult has a temperature they will be turned away. If a student comes to school with a temperature, or flu like symptoms, we will call the parents to come and take the child home. It is of great importance that we continue our vigilance in the areas of health and wellness. We rely heavily upon you as parents to access your child's health on a daily basis prior to sending them to school.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve your children in their academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Greg Rayl, Director

- Mongolian Independence Day Thursday November 26. The school will be closed on this day.
- Community Event: The Grade 5 students will be selling cakes and cookies at the Star Apartments Xmas Bazaar this Saturday afternoon 21st November from 1pm to raise money for their community project.
- Due to the suspension of classes the Talent Search and Primary Winter Concert have been postponed.

FRONT PAGE— THE MEDEE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE EACH WEEK AT: WWW.ISUMONGOLIA.EDU.MN

SECONDARY NEWS

Please be sure to congratulate all of our student athletes who went to Ningbo, China to represent our school during the division 5 ACAMIS volleyball tournament. Both the boys and girls teams played their hardest, which earned the boys the 1st place trophy and the girls the 4th place.

Each of our teams were larger and stronger than last year, which is a positive indicator that our program is growing – thank you to Mr. Ricketts for his efforts program wide, and to Ms. Lohman for starting in this year with a smile and positive attitude to help our teams succeed. It was a great experience for all of the students, though we know the trip home was not ideal. Snow makes for an uncomfortable traveling companion. Thanks also to Ms. McDermott, who helped in chaperoning.

Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary

MUN

On the 25th of November, ISU is hosting its annual ISU Model United Nations Conference. MUN is a chance for students to learn about the world and to experience firsthand how the United Nations really works. Students are advised to prepare for this conference by researching their countries and respective topics. Students from grades 6-10 will be given time during their ATL classes to research, as well as having Mr. Chilton available for all questions.

Parents, please encourage your child(ren) to prepare for the conference. Please make sure that your child (ren) comes to school on this day in proper attire, which means formal dress. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact the MUN coordinator, Melanie Wilson (m.wilson@isumongolia.edu.mn), or the Secretary General, Enkhzaya Adiya (eggi_adiya@yahoo.com).

PRIMARY NEWS

Dear Primary Parents.

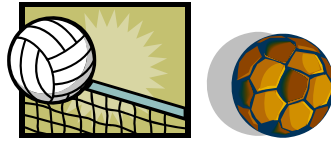
Thank you for all your support at home during these challenging few weeks. At this stage the Primary School classes will remain suspended so we need to continue with our home learning program combined with small tutoring groups at school. Please continue to arrange hour time slots with the class teachers – you are welcome to arrange a time for every day of the week if possible. ESL students will be able to spend some time with Miss Munch. If you would like your child to have a session with the Art/PE/ Music/Library specialists before or after the class teacher's appointment please also arrange this through the class teacher. Spaces in small group specialist sessions are limited so I suggest booking just one or two hours per week. If you are unable to keep an appointment please notify the class teacher or reception so the time slot can be allocated to another child.

The teachers have prepared the maximum amount of work that they expect students are able to complete, however we acknowledge this will be difficult for some families so please use your discretion in this matter. We don't want to cause undue stress and appreciate everything you are doing. From what I am seeing the older students (and many younger ones) are doing an excellent job in taking responsibility for their learning. I recommend that the Mongolian students take advantage of the televised Mongolian lessons during the day. We will notify you as soon as we know Primary classes are able to resume. In the meantime teachers will be keeping in touch with you. Please email the class teacher or myself primaryhead@isumongolia.edu.mn if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Jan Wiggins, Head of Primary

Athletics



ACAMIS Volleyball Tournament

On the morning of Thursday October 28th, the bleary-eyed players and teachers of the ISU volleyball teams gathered in the reception area in preparation for the forthcoming ACAMIS event. It was 3.30 AM and the next time the ISU teams returned to this location, a host of exciting stories and tales of adventure would have played out their course.

Adorned in their shimmering white tracksuits, the players and coaches had a smooth journey to Ningbo, via Beijing. An hour at the tournament hotel allowed a brief respite from the rigors of international travel as the players had time to prepare themselves for the first games later that afternoon. The girls had a tough start against a BISS team that usually plays in Division 4 events. Their event had been cancelled and they were taking the place of a Division 5 school that had previously dropped out. There was no shame in the two sets to zero defeat for our girls, particularly as BISS were to go on and win the girls' section.

The boys' team started off against the host school, AIAN, and easily dispatched their opponents in the first set. However, the combination of a tiring day of travel and home court advantage for the opposition produced a less convincing performance in the second set but it was a victory nonetheless. Both teams could now look forward to the pizza/pool party and a good night's sleep.

The girls' team had the honor of starting the second day's proceedings with a game against another strong team, BCIS. Another 2-0 defeat was inflicted with a similar score-line to follow against HIS, who were the eventual runner-up. In between these games, the ISU girls had recorded their first victory with a 2-0 defeat of QISS and were starting to play a better standard of volleyball. The girls played their final group game on the last day of the tournament against AIAN who had now amassed a considerable amount of support from their classmates and teachers of the school. Undeterred, our girls convincingly won the first set but were unable to secure that advantage in the second. A tense third set ensued with both teams knowing that the victors would progress to the next round of games. Enkhee held her nerve and her final serves secured the win that put ISU up against HIS in the play-off for a place in the final.

Meanwhile, the boys were quietly establishing themselves as favorites to reach the next round with comfortable wins over QISS and HIS, as well as a harder than it should have been victory against BISS. This set up a "winner takes all" final group match against BCIS for first place in the group stage. With both teams assured of a place in the next round, ISU took the opportunity to make sure all squad had the opportunity to have plenty of court time. This experience would prove to be vital later in the competition for some of the team. BCIS scraped through a close encounter with a 2-1 victory to which meant the semi-finals in the boys' section would be ISU v QISS and BCIS v HIS.

The schools represented in the girls' semi-finals were ISU, HIS, BCIS and BISS. Unfortunately, ISU girls were unable to build on the momentum they had gathered in the previous games and lost 2-0 to a well-organized HIS team. In the play-off for the third and fourth position, ISU, despite a number of well-orchestrated plays, were unable to find the consistency of previous victories and succumbed to BCIS to finish a commendable fourth overall.

In the boys' semi-finals ISU had easily disposed of QISS but BCIS had a tougher 2-1 win against HIS to set up an ISU v BCIS final. Against a rather subdued opponent, ISU controlled the first set to win 25-14. The second started in a less convincing manner for ISU as the team was unable to utilize its' dominant attack of Vasek and Jiri with Derryn and Misheel setting them up. At the start of the set, ISU began to fall behind in the scoring but by the time the mid-point of the set had been reached, and Kristian had been introduced into the team, ISU was on level terms.

From there, ISU started to creep ahead with much credit to the reliable serving of Beom Su. By the time match point was reached, ISU had a six point advantage and Beom Su duly obliged by getting his serve into play. After a brief rally, the ball was set up at the net for Bilegt to slam home the winner: ISU Boys' Volleyball team – ACAMIS Division 5 Champions 2009.

In the relaxed atmosphere of the tournament hotel, all the teams enjoyed the competition-ending banquet and presentations. There was time for another brief visit to the nearby mall before the exhausted ISU teams made their way to their rooms for a final night's rest before the next day's departure which, thankfully, was not as early as the outbound exodus.

Arriving at Ningbo Airport in good time, the party was greeted with the news that flights from Beijing were delayed due adverse weather, namely snow. The delay here meant that the MIAT connection from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar would be missed, even if the correct terminal for MIAT had been notified in advance! There was little choice but to find the most comfortable 'base camp' in the airport and wait until the check-in desks opened as no-one at the airport knew where the MIAT office was located. For future reference, Beijing Capital Airport would be advised to invest in some kind of heating, in preparation for the next cold spell to hit that area.

When the check-in desks opened the next day, Ms. McDermott did a great job to persuade the MIAT personnel to book a very weary party on to the next flight to Ulaanbaatar. The rest of the day passed without further delay and the returning heroes arrived back at ISU on Tuesday afternoon at about 3.40 PM. Although, the adage on the sweat-shirt bought by Misheel in Ningbo ("We came, we scored, we conquered.") helped to sum up this venture, there were many other aspects that contributed to the overall success of the events over those days. The behavior of the students was outstanding and their attitudes were magnificent both on and off the court of play. Hopefully, they will take many memories away with them which they will be able to look back on with fondness in the future. The dazzling, untainted image of the snow-white track-suits that was eventually thawed by the grimy friction of travel, an airport without heating and, of course, Mac-Donald's were just some of the memories of this trip. Who would expect Buka to be the one to "knock your lights out" and who could forget the lucky, matching boxers or Bilegt's championship winning strike? The success of this excursion could not have been possible without the hard work and support of the accompanying teachers. Ms. Lohman had spent many hours preparing her team for the tournament and she worked tirelessly in providing the teams with responsible and conscientious supervision whilst in transit and in China. Ms. McDermott was a proactive and diligent chaperone and an invaluable member of the group who helped to supervise the students and contribute to the overall management. They are to be heartily congratulated for their contributions.

Inter-house Events

Whilst ISU is closed during the H1N1 precautions, the inter-house sports schedule will be suspended until the school re-opens. The first tournament on the new agenda will be a volleyball tournament for boys from Grades 8-12. Those teams who do not have enough boys in their houses can use girls to make up the numbers.

The latest standings are below:

Overall by Level					
	Primary		Secondary Gr 6-8		Secondary Gr 9-12
Blue	197	Blue	67	Blue	47
Green	228	Green	54	Green	41
Red	230	Red	66	Red	39
Yellow	205	Yellow	56	Yellow	41
Overall by Color					
Blue	311				
Green	323				
Red	335				
Yellow	302				



Boys – Vasek (Captain), Derryn, Jiri, Beom Su, Misheel, Mergee, Kristian, Kyu, Joona, Bilegt.



Girls – Mila (Captain), Buka, Zina, Nalini, Enkhee, Elise, Reeza, Namuun, Udval,

Saturday Morning Schedule

For the remainder of the second quarter and for the third quarter as well, there will be sports activities in the gym at the following times on Saturdays:

10.00 am – 12.00 pm: Girls' football

12.00 – 2.00 pm: Inter-house tournaments

2.00 – 4.00 pm: Boys basketball practice

Please note that when the SAT's are being held at ISU, the girls' football practices and the inter-house tournaments will be postponed. The dates for SAT's at ISU are:

Saturday December 5th

Saturday January 23rd

David Ricketts, Athletics Director