



ISSUE #23

12 March 2010

THE MEDEE

The Weekly Newsletter of the International School of Ulaanbaatar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

As you know, the Spring is busy with our many activities and functions. Listed below are dates of upcoming events. Also, there is notice of the College Night.

March 16, at 6:00 PM, there will be a College Awareness night. Translation is to be provided in both Mongolian and Korean.

It is time for our 11th graders to begin their efforts to identify the universities they will apply to next year and prepare the information they will use in their application. To make sure that students, families and ISU are working together, we have planned a College Night for ALL 11th grade students and their families, to be held on March 16, at 6:00 pm. Jim Larrison, our College Counselor will explain the university application process for UK and US institutions, and how our International Baccalaureate program supports all students, including our Korean and other non-UK/US students. This is an important meeting for the future of your children. I am looking forward to speaking with each and every one of you at this special ISU event, on March 16th.

March 17, there will be IB/DP Awareness night for grade 10. We are seeking translation services for this evening as well.

This meeting will address the rigor and effort needed to be successful in the Diploma Programme. Please come and ask your questions and learn about this exciting program. Attending will give you a solid idea on how you may help your children be successful in the IB/DP programme.

March 18, 6:00 PM refreshments/7:00 PM. The primary play begins. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be presented at ISU.

Please come for an evening of enjoyment while watching the Primary Spring Play, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". This presentation has been an all primary effort to sew costumes, learn lines and songs, and coordinate the many children. I look forward to sharing this fun evening with you all.

March 22, 6:30 PM, PYP/student-led conference information night. Student-led conferences are shown to assist students in verbalizing and explaining their school work. Their audience is the student's parents or guardians. The meeting, the evening of March 22, will explain the process and it's importance to your students education. The actual conferences will be held March 31.

March 29 is the start of Book Week. Please ask your child to read to you during this week. I will be reading in a few of the classrooms here at ISU.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the many events coming forward at ISU.

My best.

Greg Rayl, Director

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

Calendar dates:

- March 16 PTG MEETING 3pm in the Library.
- March 16 DP College Awareness evening, 6pm.
- March 17 IBDP Information evening for all Grade 10 students and parents, 6:30pm.
- March 18 Primary Production 7pm.
- March 22 PYP/Primary Student Led Conference information evening. 6:30pm in the Library.
- March 29 Dress up as your favorite book character/ Book Week assembly at 8:30am

ASA's. Boys Football, Badminton, Karate, Movie Club, and Table Tennis **will not run** on Thursday 18th March due to the Primary Production.

Spring Play, Yearbook, Orphanage, Korean Essay and Photography **will go ahead as normal** on 18th March.

Book Week:

Information packs for the Read-A-Thon have gone home with the students in grades K – 12. Please support and encourage your child with their reading. Monday March 29th will be "Dress as your Favorite Book Character" day so start talking with your child about their favorite book character and what they could wear! We will also have a short assembly for the Canadian children's author Margriet Ruurs at 8.30am on Monday 29th March. Parents are welcome to attend.

Creative Arts Evening May 21.

There will be a "Creative Arts Evening" in May to showcase the many talents of our students. As part of the program there will be a performance (not a competition) and we welcome a variety of choral, instrumental and dance performances. Students can sign up as an individual, in pairs or groups, and need to be able to perform independently without the support of a parent or teacher. There will be an audition to select the final items to be performed based on the student's level of skills and showmanship. Further information and a signup sheet for those students interested will be available from Ms Leong at the end of next week.

SECONDARY NEWS

This was a fast week, as we started back on Tuesday. The kids were in learning mode, and the teachers were all a bit cheerier for the 3 day weekend, with the weather starting to think about getting warm.

It is, however, still winter and we all need to be sure that our children are dressed warmly in the morning when they leave for school. It has been -25C lately each morning, and some students are coming without any hats, gloves/mittens, or even real winter coats. I can't stress enough the importance of caution in this climate. Should anything happen while they are driving, then most of our students would be VERY cold before any help could arrive.

Dave Chilton is working diligently with our students to prepare them for their Student Led Conferences on the 31st of March. Please mark the date in your calendar, so that you can come to school and hear directly from your son or daughter what it is that they are learning.

There will also be a College Counseling evening on the 16th of March, the IB DP Info Night for parents of 10th grade students on the 17th, and lastly, the primary performance is on Thursday the 18th – with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We hope to see many of you here next week!

All the best,

Betsy Hanselmann, Head of Secondary

STUDENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT - Twin Day

On Friday, 19 March, the ISU Student Council is organizing a twin day for both Primary and Secondary students. Twin Day is when two students come to school dressed exactly alike. So grab a friend, choose matching clothes and have fun!

Grade 10 IB Diploma Information Evening

This Wednesday (17th March) we will be holding the IB diploma information evening at 6:30 in the school library. Grade 10 students have already been given some introduction to the program, so this is mainly to give parents a chance to learn about the IB program, speak to the teachers concerned and help in their son or daughter's choice of subjects.

The most important outcome of this evening is that the students will make their preliminary choice of subjects and level of study for next year. It is essential that grade 10 students choose their diploma subjects carefully, because it can have a big effect on university applications and career choices. We would therefore like all grade 10 parents to be present so they can help their children make an informed decision.

Tom Jenner, Diploma Coordinator

PRIMARY NEWS

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The show is almost ready and the Primary students are very excited in anticipation of Thursday's performance. There will be no ASA's for Primary students on the day of our production!

Students need to be back at school and in their classrooms by 6:30 pm. (Please make sure your children have had an early meal or decent snack before 6:30.)

The PTG will be selling food and refreshments from 6:00pm. If students arrive earlier than 6:30 they must be under the direct supervision of their parents!

Parents and guests need to be seated by 6:50 ready for the show to begin at 7pm.

This year we request the audience to remain seated at all times through the performance as parent photographers in the aisles are distracting for the students and block the view of others.

A professionally recorded DVD, as well as still photographs, will be available for purchase after the event.

A separate order form for DVD's and photographs will come home with students.

If you have any questions or concerns please direct them to the class teacher.

Student Led Conferences Wednesday 31st March.

There is further information and a detailed explanation for Primary parents on the school website – with a link from the home page. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your class teacher and we can send a hard copy home with your child.

There will be no regular classes on this day and each student will be allocated an hour and a half to demonstrate discuss their work and progress with their parents.

The time scheduled for you and your child will be sent home on Monday 15th March.

Grade 3 Astronomy Evening: Written by Mackenzie Wilson and Iris Estrada.

On Friday, February 26 the Grade 3 went to Astronomy Night at 7:00 p.m. at school outside by the tree house. Astronomy Night is when you go outside and look through telescopes and look at the moon and stars. When you look at the moon with a telescope you can see the craters very well. We did it because our unit is about space and we wanted to learn more about the moon and what it looks like. We also showed our space report slideshows to our parents.

CAFETERIA:

It has come to our attention that some Primary students are charging food and/or drinks to their card at the end of the day. The cards are kept in the classroom and Primary students should only be purchasing food at lunch time. I have also noticed many students are not choosing a balanced meal from the menu (eg just mashed potato with a desert and drink). It is difficult to supervise the meals of every student every day , so please discuss these issues with your child.

The menu is available on the school website to discuss with your child – there is always a range of main course, soup, salad, sandwiches, desert and fresh fruit.

Jan Wiggins, Head of Primary