



# International School Yangon Newsletter

May 7 (Friday), 2010

*Our Mission for the school year of 2009-2010 is the International School of Yangon is a community that is committed to excellence. We inspire students with a challenging, international education, based on an American curriculum, in a nurturing learning environment that promotes responsibility and respect. We aim to develop socially engaged, self-motivated, creative, compassionate individuals who will be a force for positive change in their communities and the world.*

## From the Desk of the Director

Dear ISY Community,

We hear it all the time. “The International School of Yangon is the best school in Myanmar.” Wow! Think about that statement. ISY is the best school in a country of 50-60 million people. What a statement to make! But I think that most educated people would agree. ISY is the best school in Myanmar. What an honor to have that reputation, but also what an awesome responsibility to not only maintain the quality of our program, but also to keep improving it. I believe this year that faculty, staff, students and parents are all living up to this weighty responsibility. What a tremendous year we have had this year and I feel so fortunate to have been a part of it!



I think it is important to take the time, at least once in awhile, to congratulate ourselves and recognize that we have achieved quite a bit, not only in test results and in college entrance successes, but also that we have pulled together to create a positive and stimulating school where the students can all be successful and grow into conscientious and caring adults.

So congratulations to the ISY community. As we pull into the last stretch of the school year I just want to say thank you to everyone for contributing to a year of successes and look forward to even greater forward progress next school year.

Sincerely,

*Tim Travers*  
Director

## Middle School / High School

Dear parents and community members,

**Kudos to Glenn Carr for the perfect Band performance** at the Inya Lake Hotel Wednesday night. The room was packed with our MS & HS music supporters, teachers and parents and they were treated to a really nice concert. I enjoy listening to our students play. I hear them as they practice in their classes but when they play in a hall in front of an appreciative audience, it is really special. Thanks to all of our community members who shared the wonderful sounds with us.



**AP Exams** are occurring this week and next week in the High School. Your HS student has a full schedule of exams. If they have an *afternoon* exam they do not have to come to school the morning of the exam. For a *morning* exam they will not be able to leave school after their test as was done in the past. If they have a morning exam they will be expected to return to class after the test

**MS Dance tonight the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.** Originally listed as the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, the Middle school dance will take place tonight, the seventh. Please make sure your child understands they must stay till the conclusion of the event and that they also are not allowed to leave campus through the gate and must be picked up by their driver or parent from the ‘steps’.

**A fine thank you to our Athletic Director Mr. Tom Just** who once again has led our coaches and teams to many fine achievements this past year. I will pass on his list of accomplishments:

“Did you know that the ISY High School sports teams have once again made a clean sweep of the Yangon Athletic Conference events this school year!

High School City Championships for ISY for the 2009/10 school year are:

Boys and Girls Volleyball

Boys and Girls Soccer

Boys and Girls Basketball

Boys and Girls Softball

Boys and Girls Badminton

Congratulations to all coaches and athletes for continuing to have ISY be a dominant force in the Yangon Athletic Conference.” Congratulations Team ISY and great job Mr. Just. We are glad you are on our team!

As always, please visit us at [www.internationalschoolyangon.org](http://www.internationalschoolyangon.org)

*Jim Gerhard*  
MS/HS Principal

## Meet with Mr. M&M!

Congratulations to the ISY Bands for a fabulous concert Wednesday! As a former band director myself, I will say that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band sounded as good as any group I have ever heard after just one year of experience. They are no longer "beginners".

Thank you parents for your continued support of our excellent ISY band program. It is an important part of our children's education. Music and the arts have a unique ability to communicate the ideas and emotions of the human spirit. The arts have a special beauty and power to connect us to our traditions and our heritage. Music is one of the most direct ways that we share our culture with others.

It is important that students have a musical background as they mature. In 1997, The College Board reported that students with four years of study in the arts outscored students with no arts instruction by a combined total of 101 points on the verbal and mathematics portions of the SAT test. Colleges want students who will not only do well for themselves, but who will also contribute to the culture of their community.

Music is important in the development of our younger students too. One widely cited study (Neurological Research, Feb. 1997) showed that very young students who had music instruction performed 34% higher on tests measuring temporal-spatial ability than did students without instruction. The findings indicate that playing music enhances the same higher brain functions required for mathematics, science, and engineering.

Finally, the study of the arts helps students integrate learning across disciplines and subjects. When students make music, they learn how to work cooperatively. They come to understand the link between individual effort, group accomplishment, and quality result. These skills and attitudes, not incidentally, are vital for success in the 21st century workplace.

I'm very proud of the hard work and great accomplishment our 5<sup>th</sup> graders made this year. We are all proud of you. Keep it up. You played beautifully!

*Mr. Martin-Muth*, Elementary Principal



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade "Moving - On" Ceremony

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade "Moving - On" ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in the MPR of ISY. The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30. This annual event is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their immediate families only. With the conclusion of the ceremony, a potluck dinner will be enjoyed by all. Please remember to bring your cameras to this very special event.

## Elementary Spring Music Program ( Pre-K to Grade 4 )

**Pre-K and KG Spring Concert**

**The Year in Review**

**Pre-K**  
" Circle time in our Classroom "

**Kindergarten**  
"Just Clowning Around"

Date: Friday, May 14th  
Time: 8:30 am to 9:30 am  
Place: MPR

**ISY**  
presents

**ASSIGNMENT: EARTH**  
*What Kids Can Do To Save The Planet*

**BY GRADES 1 AND 2**  
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2010  
AT 8:30 AM TO 9:30 AM  
IN MPR

**ISY**  
presents

**Oceans of Fun**

**BY GRADES 3 & 4**  
On Friday, May 21st, 2010  
At 8:30 am to 9:30 am  
In MPR

## Dear parents,

To celebrate the end of the year 2009-2010 your children will have a "French Assembly" on Thursday, May 13, 2010, 8:30 to 9:30 am, in M.P.R.

Program : Songs, sketche and dance.  
The French school is also coming....

I would like you to provide the following things/items for this special event :

Kg & Grade 1 : drinks : apple juices, Pineapple juices and Orange juices (one bottle per student) No soft drinks (no coca-cola etc.);  
G2 & G3 : Cakes, pancakes and snacks (one per student);  
G4 & G5 : plastic forks and spoons + plates.

I will provide : French pancakes, chocolate cake, coconut flan, Lemon tart + orange juice and apple juice + French coffee.

Thank you very much for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Nathalie Peres

## News from the ISY Library

**End of the Year News from the Library:** Please note the following important dates in the ISY Library-

- Week of May 10- Last week of check-out for students
- Week of May 17- All books must be returned to the library
- Week of May 24- Students who have returned all of their books may check out books for the summer holidays. ES students will need a signed parent permission form (forms will be sent home soon)
- May 27 & 28- Parents are welcome to come and check-out books, VHS videos and select DVDs for their children for the summer break. Please note that the library will close at 11:00am on Friday May 28 (school is dismissed at 10:00am)



Hope to see you in the library!

Mrs. Rinker, Daw Tin Tin and Naw Saywah

## Greetings from the ISY athletic department



I am very proud to announce that the International School of Yangon is once again able to claim the title of over all champion in the Yangon Athletic Conference (YAC). ISY sports teams made another clean sweep this school year by being the champions in the following sports over our local rival international schools (ISM, YIS, ILBC) **Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Badminton, Softball** . Congratulations to our athletes and coaches for continued dominance in high school athletics. The bar is set high for our future teams but I am very confident that ISY can maintain our success.



The SEASAC schedule for next school year is set. Here are the locations and dates of all the sports events for SEASAC for the 2010-11 school year.

**Soccer** (GIS) - Nov 5-7, **Volleyball** (UWC) - Nov 5-7

**Basketball** – (TTS) – Jan 28-30, **Touch** (KLASS) - Jan 28-30

**Tennis** (MKIS) - Jan 28-30, **Swimming** (NIST) – Mar 4-6

**Badminton** (BPS) – Mar 25-27, **Softball** (UWC) Girls, (ISY) Boys - Mar 25-27

**Gymnastic** (BPS) – Mar 18 – 19, **Golf** (NIST) – Nov 26-27

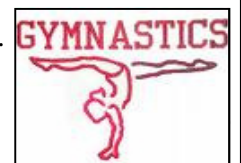
For more information about SEASAC please go to [www.seasac.org](http://www.seasac.org)



As you can see there are a couple of sports listed that our ISY students do not normally participate in. I am setting a goal of some how getting ISY involved in swimming, gymnastics, tennis and girls touch rugby. If you are interested in any of these activities please contact me.



Speaking of SEASAC, our ISY teams are continuing to improve each year in the SEASAC tournaments. This year I am very proud to point out that ISY participated in badminton and showed great promise. Many thanks to Madam Sheercousse and Mr. Nguyen for their dedication this year bringing SEASAC badminton back at ISY.



Our boys and girls softball teams competed in Bangkok with the girls taking fourth place and the boys claiming second place. I would like to add that the ISY boys team participated in the most exciting 11 inning game in the history of SEASAC to make it to the finals.



Thank you, to all of you that took the time to come and support your child and the ISY sports program during the school year. Your presence is appreciated!

One final HUGE thanks to all of the coaches, both MS and HS for the countless hours and dedication that you have committed to this past school year. Our ISY athletic program would not be as successful without all of you!



Go Chinthaes!

**YEARBOOK PRE-SALE  
BEST YEARBOOK SO FAR  
GUARANTEED  
\$30  
BUY IT BEFORE MAY 21**

***Student Receipt***

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher or Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Office Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Business Office Receipt***

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher or Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Office Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Announcement for Families leaving ISY**

All leaving students can collect their school documents (Report cards & transcripts) **on or after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.** All leaving student must complete the *School Withdrawal Form* and return it to the registrar before obtaining the documents. The form is available at the Guidance Office (B-Bldg. upstairs).

Leaving students will get a maximum three (3) copies free of charge for standard documents (School leaving certificate, and report cards/ transcripts, school profiles). Special documents or extra copies at the cost of \$5 per sheet can be requested a week in advance. No exception will be made.

Thank you and please contact the MS/HS office for all requests and special arrangements at 512793.

**May 2010**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	AP Exam					6:00-7:30 PM Grease Performance Black Box Theatre
	Day 3 ACDB	Day 4 EGHF	Day 5 ADBC	Day 6 EHFG French assembly 8.30am MPR	Day 1 ABCD Choir Showcase in MPR 6pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Day 2 EFGH	Day 3 ACDB Annual General Meeting	Day 4 EGHF	Day 5 ADBC	Day 6 EHFG	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Day 1 ABCD	Day 2 EFGH HS Prom	Day 3 ACDB Grade 8: Moving On Ceremony MPR 6.30	Day 4 EGHF MSSC Talent Show HS Graduation Sedona @ 5pm	Day 5 ADBC Last day of school	

**Dear ISY Association Members,**

On Tuesday 18 May 2010 the International School Yangon Board of Management will hold its Annual General Meeting at 18:00 hrs. in the Multi-purpose room on campus. The agenda for the meeting is attached and includes elections to fill positions on the ISY Board for next year, an annual report by the school Director and a financial report by the Board Treasurer.

Association members will be electing individuals to fill several seats on the ISY Board of Management. Three at-large seats, two US Embassy seats and one Diplomatic seat are up for election this year. Brief biographical information on each of the individuals for these positions are attached.

The ISY Board cordially invites all parents to attend the Annual General Meeting on 18 May 2010.

Sincerely,  
Amy Sebes, Board Secretary

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL YANGON  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 18, 2010                      6.00 p.m.**

**Agenda**

- |     |   |                                   |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1.0 | Welcome   | Jim Taylor, Chairperson           |
| 2.0 | Introduction of ISY Board of Management             | Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Vice Chair     |
| 3.0 | Election of ISY Board of Management                 | Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Election Chair |
| 3.1 | Introduction of Election Committee                  |                                   |
| 3.2 | Introduction of Candidates and Candidate Statements |                                   |
| 3.3 | Voting  |                                   |
| 4.0 | Chairperson's Report                                | Jim Taylor, Chairperson           |
| 5.0 | Treasurer's Report                                  | Srinivas Prasad, Treasurer        |
| 6.1 | 2009-2010 Financial Report                          |                                   |
| 6.2 | 2010-2011 Budget                                    |                                   |
| 6.0 | Director's Report                                   | Tim Travers                       |
| 7.0 | Comments & Questions                                | Association Members               |
| 8.0 | Announcement of Elections Results                   | Dr. Aung Tun Thet                 |
| 9.0 | Adjournment   | Jim Taylor                        |

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**FOR**

**ISY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT CANDIDATES**

**(2010-2011)**

# International Diplomatic Candidates

*(One candidate for one position )*

## S. Srinivas Prasad

Nationality: Indian  
Employment: Counsellor of Commerce (Indian Embassy)  
Arrival in Myanmar: July, 2007  
Expected Departure: January, 2011  
Education: B.Com.(Hons) North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India.  
Previous Postings: Bangkok, Thailand  
Family: Mrs. Poornima Prasad, Padmini Prasad (Grade 4), Ranjana Prasad (Grade 8)

### Previous Board Experience or Relevant Experience:

Board Secretary (ISY)	2008-2009
Board Treasurer (ISY)	2009-2010

### Personal Statement:

I have two children at ISY, my elder daughter in the Middle School and my younger one in the Elementary. This is their third year at ISY. It is a delight to see the pleasure they derive from the school and its activities. They have experienced growth and have enjoyed the whole process. I and my wife Poornima are extremely happy to see this and are very grateful to ISY for providing my daughters with such a wonderful educational environment.

Being a Board member enables me to give back some of my own experience and time to ISY in a meaningful way. I consider this an honour. As a Board member for the last two years, I have been a part of ISY's tumultuous journey over the last two years. It has been a splendid experience and has brought home to Board members like me many exciting ways of taking the school to an even better standard. It would be a privilege to serve an additional term on the Board to participate in this process.

# At-large Candidates

*(Three candidates for three positions)*

## Jim Taylor

Nationality: US  
Employment: Country Director, International Development Enterprises (IDE)  
Arrival in Myanmar: January 2004  
Expected Departure:  
Education: MPA, Harvard University, USA  
MBA, University of Southern California, USA  
Previous Postings: Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Jakarta, Indonesia; India (Short term); Bangladesh; Singapore.  
Family: Debbie Aung Din Taylor (spouse), Judson Taylor (grade 11)

### Previous Board Experience:

I have served on the Boards of several not-for-profit organizations. Was active in the school community in Jakarta International School and have been involved in youth sports (i.e coaching) in Los Angeles, California.

### Personal Statement:

I was elected to an at-large seat on the Board in August 2008 and have served as the Board Chair for the past 12 months. I also serve on the ISY Faculty and Finance Committees. I currently have one child attending ISY, in the 11th grade and my daughter attended high school at ISY in 2004 and 2005.

I am seeking to serve a second one year term on the ISY Board. We have several important issues facing us during the coming year - first and foremost the election of a new Director begin in the 2011-12 school year. It has been my privilege to serve with a group dedicated group of parents on the ISY Board.

## **Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet**

Nationality: Myanmar  
Employment: Consultant (UNICEF Yangon); Visiting Professor (University of Twente, Netherlands)  
Arrival in Myanmar: December 22, 2007  
Expected Departure: NA  
Previous Postings: New York, USA; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Bangkok, Thailand; Turin, Italy  
Education: Ph.D. (Manchester)  
Family: Daw Swe Swe Thein, Thet-Htar Thet (Gr. 9)

### Previous Board Experience or Related Experience:

Served at the United Nations for over 15 years at duty stations in New York , Dhaka, Bangkok and Turin.  
Visiting Professor at University of Turin, Italy and University of Twente, Netherlands.

### Personal Statement:

I am submitting my name to stand for re-election for the second term as a Board Member of ISY in the at-large position. During my first term, I served as Vice-Chair of the Board. As all of you know, the entire ISY community went through very difficult and at times painful experiences as the result of some decisions that the Board had to take. Nevertheless, we overcame the trials and tribulations, and I believe the community is much stronger as the result. I felt very honored and privileged to serve with the outstanding members of the Board, and to serve on behalf of the entire ISY community.

ISY will surely grow from strength to strength. I hope I can be part of the journey by continuing to serve on the Board. The next few years will be very critical and exciting for the continued growth and development of the school. For me the best interests of the children at ISY are what really matters. I shall do whatever is necessary to ensure this. I believe I bring to the Board some unique capabilities. Having brought up our daughter abroad, I am very familiar with how international schools operate. As a life-long academic, I also bring the needed intellectual capital to the Board. Being a national of this country, I have the necessary insights which I believe are critical to support the Board in its work. I also feel that I have the necessary skills and experience to be an effective team member.

## **Khin Omar Win**

Nationality: Myanmar  
Employment: Managing Director, Balloons over Bagan  
Arrival in Myanmar: December 1997  
Expected Departure: July 2011  
Education: B.Sc. (Econ) Honors, Development Studies / Geography, University of Wales (Swansea) UK.  
Previous Postings: UK.  
Family: Brett Melzer (spouse), Zachary (grade 3), Oliver (grade 1)

Previous Board Experience: Current member of the Board

### Personal Statement:

As a Myanmar citizen who was educated entirely in the UK from primary to tertiary level, I believe that this provides a useful understanding of an international based education within Myanmar.

For the past twelve years, my husband and I have established two separate tourism businesses in Myanmar. I believe my managerial, human resource management of both expatriate and national staff, and general business experience acquired as a result of this will stand me in good stead in assisting the board with its management of the school.

# US Embassy Candidates

*(Two candidates for two positions)*

## Amy L. Sebes

Nationality: U.S.  
Employment: Teacher, The American Center  
Arrival in Myanmar: July 2009  
Expected Departure: July 2011  
Education: B.A. Psychology, Stanford University  
M.A.T. English Education, Tufts University  
Previous Postings: Berlin, Germany; Seoul, Korea; Washington, D.C.; Tirana, Albania  
Family: Tom Vajda (spouse), Bette Vajda (grade 3), Emmie Vajda (KG)  
Previous Board Experience: Current member of the Board

I have served as the Secretary of the School Board during this past school year. A teacher for almost twenty years, I have had the privilege of teaching students in five different countries, and I have taught, tutored, or substitute taught every grade level from Pre-Kindergarten to university. I am also the founder of AAGW, a nonprofit organization to assist victims of human trafficking in Albania, and I currently teach at the American Center.

I want to continue to serve on the Board because it is a great way to serve the school. As a teacher by profession, I bring a knowledge of curriculum development, teaching methodology, and educational research to the Board, and I feel it's important to have a teacher's perspective on the Board. For the last two years I have volunteered regularly in the ISY library, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten and feel that these experiences have given me a knowledge of day-to-day life at ISY. My two daughters have both had exceptional educational experiences here, and I feel grateful to be a member of the ISY community. Serving on the Board has been a productive and rewarding way for me to give back.

## John M. Whalen

Nationality: U.S.  
Employment: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, US Embassy  
Arrival in Myanmar: September 2007  
Expected Departure: August 2013  
Education: B.A. University of Colorado  
Previous Postings: Yangon Myanmar (1997-2003)  
Family: Tin Tin Htay (spouse), Lynn Than Yaw Zin (Grade 5), Michael Thiha (Grade 4), Jacqueline (Grade 1)  
Previous Board Experience: Current member of the Board

Personal Statement: I was appointed to the Board on September 2009 and have served on the Board since that time. I also serve on the Resources Committee. I have 3 children in the Elementary School and have been in Yangon for my first posting from 1997 to 2003 and return back here as my second posting since September 2007.