



International School Yangon

Newsletter

April 2 (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 have a few events coming up that I would like to share with you. Next Monday on April 5th faculty, parents, and board members will be meeting in our monthly committee meetings beginning at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information about the committees please feel free to contact me. On April 6th we will hold the April School Board Meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. in our school library. Parents are welcome to attend. Coming up on April the 9th beginning at 2:15 will be our Thingyan celebration at school ending at 2:45 p.m. Students who do not want to get wet may watch the activities in the "dry zones" or wait on the steps in the circle drive until 2:45.



We have a few campus projects going on that I would like to update you on. As I shared with you in the last newsletter the school was able to rent the land (additional one acre) attached to the North end of the property next to the lower basketball court. Clearing of the brush on this land began several days ago and we are now starting to get a picture of the contour of the land and starting to think about different possibilities for the land. The ISY community can provide input on possible uses for the land in the future. We are also taking bids on the remodeling of the art gallery. This building, including the roof is in much need of repair and we are excited about some of the architect's ideas for the renovation of this space.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Tim Travers

Director

Meet with Mr. M&M!

It's time again for Water Festival!

School will be closed and children will be on Thingyan Break the week of April 12 with school resuming on Monday, April 19. For those new to this country, the celebration is called Thingyan in Myanmar, Songkran in Thailand, Chaul Chnam Thmey in Cambodia, and Pimai in Laos.

The Water Festival lasts for several days and leads up to the beginning of the Burmese New Year.



During this time people traditionally have fun by playing and splashing water on each other. While this can sometimes turn into quite a spectacle in the streets, we have a fun and safe Thingyan experience at ISY. On Friday, April 9, at 2:15 we'll celebrate our annual event at ISY on the field. The elementary kids find it to be quite entertaining (and refreshing also!) Some parents do send dry clothes or a towel with their child on that day so they don't have to pick them up dripping wet! Of course a child only has to participate as much or as little as they want to.

Thingyan celebrations have been known to get a bit wild in Yangon. However, I've been reminded many times that Thingyan is traditionally a festival of goodwill. It's a time when monks are offered the best food, a time when young people pay respect to elders, or bathe or shampoo the aged with loving kindness. When looked at in that light it seems like quite a beautiful thing ...and we get to have a little water fun on top of it.

I wish you a wonderful Thingyan vacation whether you are staying here or traveling. When we return we have only six more weeks of school. It seems hard to believe! Please be safe and enjoy the break.

Mr. Martin-Muth, Elementary Principal

ISY Annual General Meeting Announcement

The School's Annual General Meeting of the membership is set this year for Tuesday, May 18, 2010. This is a time for members of the ISY Association – all parents of children who attend ISY – to meet together to hear reports on the state of the school from the Director and the School Board. It is also the occasion when we elect trustees to serve on the ISY School Board for next year. There will be vacancies in the US Diplomatic seats, an International Diplomatic seat and at-large seats. Over the past 54 years, ISY Boards have held the school in trust assuring the school continues to grow, excel and meets the needs of our community.

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Middle School / High School

Dear ISY parents and community,

Reflections: As we think about the fast-paced fourth quarter and how “the beginning of the end” of the year is near, I am impressed with how academics continue to stay the focus of our student programs even though we maintain a furious pace of student events and activities. We have built up a healthy learning environment throughout the year and now certainly can feel an overwhelming and positive ethos of collaboration and growth from students on campus. This is the time of the year where teachers also begin to reflect on their successes and can feel a stronger attachment to the learning that has stemmed from their efforts to engage students. Together we are achieving great things at ISY and I will be the first one to thank our teachers for leading us here. Their commitments have stretched over long days and many classes and activities. I encourage you to continue provide support for our community as we all share, cherish and respect the great professionals we have as teachers on our campus.



Over the next few weeks I hope you have a chance to speak with your son or daughter about this past year and about the year ahead. You might ask them what goals they have achieved or what goals they next want to set for themselves. (One hint: Don't take “None” or “Nothing” for an answer). Having your child verbally state their accomplishments or their future goals cements an ideal of reflective action and a forward motion towards those new goals. This is a first step in not only working towards goals, but in surpassing and exceeding them.

Band Ensemble: Last night was the second MS/HS Band Ensemble in our newly renovated Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). As always I have been amazed at the skill of our students and astonished at the way they balance so many activities and with such panache. Mr. Carr has adjusted to our student's experiences and skills and is generating a high sense of ability and showmanship from our singers and band students. I loved seeing how the kids work together and practices in their various groups to put on a worthy show. Congratulations to all of our students for their success and to Mr. Carr for leading them there.

Missing items: Over this year there have unfortunately been a few incidents of theft here on campus. Mainly the incidents are being reported in the locker rooms and from bags taken from student lockers. We are too small of a community to not have even one theft affect us all. A breach in our feelings of safety and security while at school are detrimental to our core concern of learning. I am disappointed that a few members of our community have the ability to negatively affect our whole population. I know that as group students are interested in finding out more about positive solutions that will help to stem the loss of student possessions during the day. In most cases, students who have brought valuables to school, and not locked them up have had things stolen. We are providing various measures of additional support to assist our community in an effort to end the thefts. We will give notice that any student caught stealing will be immediately suspended and could even face expulsion.

There is a lot to come in the weeks ahead. With break just around the corner (April 10th to 18th) be aware that there is no newsletter next week and there will be many notices of upcoming activities for the end –of-the-year that will be listed in the middle of April.

Thanks for all your continued support. Please visit us at www.internationalschoolyangon.org

Sincerely,

Jim Gerhard
Jim Gerhard

Jim Gerhard
MS/HS Principal

PTA
ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER AND DANCE



Saturday, May 8th, 2010
7:00 pm, Grand Ballroom at Park Royal Hotel
US\$25 Inclusive of dinner, free flow of beer and soft drink

Tickets on sale in the ISY office!
Get them now!


PTA Dinner & Dance Update

Contributions for the upcoming May 8th event are just flowing in and we thank those parents for their generosity. But more are still needed and we hope parents would assist to make this event a great one! Please continue to send your contributions to Elementary Office.

Tickets are on sale at Elementary office too. Get your tickets quick or get some friends and share a table. There are only 30 tables available and it will go fast. Get your tickets early so that you can get good seats. There will be great entertainment and we know you will not be disappointed with the programme that we have organized for our ISY Community! Since this is the end of the year event for the school, PTA will also be buying our departing teachers their tickets for the dinner. Our humble gesture of saying, 'Thank you' for all their hard work in our school. So come to the D&D and help us show them how much we appreciate them. See everyone there!

PTA Committee

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LIBRARY NEWS

Books for the Break!

Parents are encouraged to stop by the library to check out additional books to keep your child reading during the Thingyan Holidays! The library also carries over 80 magazine subscriptions as well as a small but growing collection of adult fiction. Hope to see you in the library! Ms. Rinker, Daw Tin Tin and Naw Saywah



PTA News

PTA Elections Are Coming Up!

Interested in being part of a fun and active group at ISY? The PTA will hold its annual election on April 28th meeting 3.00 pm in PTA room. PTA is looking for enthusiastic group of people to help run for PTA.

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 Day 1 ABCD	6 Day 2 EFGH	7 Day 3 ACDB PTA meeting	8 Day 4 EGHF 6:00pm HS Band Fest @ Inya Lake Hotel	9 Day 5 ADBC	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
THINGYAN HOLIDAY						
18	19 Day 6 EHFG	20 Day 1 ABCD	21 Day 2 EFGH	22 Day 3 ACDB	23 Day 4 EGHF	24
25	26 Day 5 ADBC	27 Day 6 EHFG	28 Day 1 ABCD	29 Day 2 EFGH <i>Noises Off</i> - IB Theater students directed play 6:00 in Black Box Theatre	30 Day 3 ACDB <i>Noises Off</i> - IB Theater students directed play 6:00 in Black Box Theatre	1