



International School Yangon Newsletter

December 18 (Friday), 2009.

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,

Today is the last day of the first semester and the last day we will be in session this calendar year. I want to wish everyone a well deserved and happy holiday season and hope that you make the time to spend with your families during this holiday break. My wife Ann and I are headed to our home in wintery Missouri in the USA and will meet up with our two college age sons who are currently in university on the East and West coasts of the USA. Our daughter Katie, who is working for the United Nations in Yangon, will also be joining us. We are excited about spending time together, making fires in the fireplace, making stews, and taking winter walks along the Missouri river near our home. This sounds romantic at least until we start missing the tropical warm breezes of Myanmar.



Thank you to the parents, students, faculty, staff, and the ISY Board for all of your hard work this past semester. When I look at all of the activities that have taken place, and all of the learning that has occurred, we have accomplished quite a bit. We should all be proud of our accomplishments.

As you may know this has been my first semester as Director of ISY and I want to say what a privilege and a pleasure it has been to work with your wonderful children and a very talented ISY faculty and staff. I am looking forward to returning to ISY in January and beginning a productive second semester.

See you next year.

Tim Travers
Interim Director

December Baskets a Success!

Thank you once again ISY parents and students. Your generosity and kindness allowed us to fill 40 large baskets with very usable household items ranging from cooking oil to toothbrushes. The baskets will be handed out to the ISY staff at the annual barbecue lunch on Friday, December, 18.

The ISY Student Council at all three levels of the school had a large part in making this year's December Basket drive run smoothly. They helped to gather the items and also add them to the large baskets on Wednesday after school.

Once again, on behalf of the entire ISY administration and faculty, we say thank you for helping us make the December Baskets 2009 a wonderful success.

Sincerely,

Scott and Sandy Embrey
ISY Teachers

Middle School / High School

Dear Parents and community members,

Congratulations go out to all of our HS students for making it through their final exams. There was a lot of activity on campus this week as students geared up for their finals and also completed all of their second quarter assignments. I was pleased with the way students stayed composed, relieved stress and spent their free time studying and working together. Each day we are reminded what a great group of students we have. In reviewing exam grades and semester marks I know that teachers also feel a great sense of personal accomplishment with how they have influenced learning in our students. As a community we are proud of both our teachers and students.



This past Sunday was a Yangon holiday music concert at Inya lake Hotel. Along with a cast of others city schools ISY had a great musical showing with both the HS band and HS Choir defining what great talents they are! Good work to all our hard playing and singing musicians and a big thanks to our Band and Choir director Mr. Glenn Carr.

We heard a big sigh of relief from the HS counselor this week as Senior applications to Universities were sent out. There is always a big rush at the close of the first semester to get updated grades and school applications in the mail for late-year deadlines. HS Counselor Janet Hallwood has been working with all of our seniors to make sure they complete the all the meticulous tasks by each University's required time. We are confident his distinct group of seniors will find letters of acceptance from their top choices in the early Spring. Big thanks to MS. Hallwood for all her dedication and effort to this year's group.

I just came back from watching the middle school Reindeer Races and it has really put me in the holiday mood! The MS kids had a lot of fun as they raced around the field and showed us that using team work and collaboration is the best way to work. The Middle School is always a place of fun learning and a positive part of reminding ourselves that it is by working together that we create the best solutions and the greatest accomplishments.

Have a happy and safe holiday break. We will see you all back at school on the 11th of January. For all messages please visit us at www.internationalschoolyangon.org

Jim Gerhard

Jim Gerhard
MS/HS Principal

Meet with Mr. M&M!

Holiday time is here!

The children are working steadily and they have accomplished a lot! Everyone deserves a break and I hope that families will spend lots of special time together over the next few weeks. Many parents have asked me, "What can I do with my children over the holidays so they continue to do well when school starts again?" My advice is, "Make sure they read everyday!"



Always have a book on hand, no matter where you are. Keep books on hand all the time. Check out books from our excellent school library! Books are a fabulous holiday present! Carry books with you when traveling.

Focus on their interests. Reading should be for pleasure. It doesn't matter if they're reading about Harry Potter or NASA!

But first...Kids make time for a lot of extras in their day. TV, computer games, and going online can eat up surprising amounts of time and don't necessarily help reading.

There's something special about owning a book. When birthdays or holidays come around, make sure there's always a good book wrapped up and waiting!

Thinking travel. If you travel over the holiday, encourage your children to read about the place you are visiting. History, ecology, science and culture are interesting and especially relevant subjects when you are traveling and visiting new places.

Most of all, I wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday break, with a good balance of physical activity and plenty of good books! Let's enjoy each other and keep the kids' minds active so we can come back fresh and ready to learn in January!

Second quarter report cards for all students k-12 will go home on January 15. Our first PTA meeting of 2010 will take place in the PTA room at ISY on Wednesday, January 13 at 3:00. I wish everyone a great winter holiday. See you soon!

Mr. Martin-Muth, Elementary Principal

December 2009 - January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
December Break						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
December Break						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
December Break						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Day 5 ADBC School resumes	Day 6 EHFG	Day 1 ABCD	Day 2 EFGH	Day 3 ACDB MS Sports night	8-12pm TOEFL

FIELD TRIP TO PYAY

December 16, 2009

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

The week of January 18th (second week after the December break) has been designated as the Field Study Week for sixth grade.

They will be traveling to Pyay, a beautiful town 180 miles north of Yangon, on the bank of Ayeyarwady River. It is a distinguished ancient city of Pyus, one of the earliest urban civilizations in Myanmar history. The town is also rich with unique cultural and natural sites, and has proved to be one of the best places for field study. Since the beginning of the school year, sixth graders have been learning the geography, culture and early history of Myanmar. They will be studying these on the field during the trip. This is the first long overnight field trip for the students in ISY.

During the field trip, students will be provided with the opportunity to visit areas of historical and religious significance to study Myanmar life and culture. They will be integrating other subject skills and study the nature and ecological facts in that area, practice their language arts and creative art skills out of the classroom. They will also be involved in a community service activity at a small village primary school.

The trip will be from **Tuesday, January 19th until Friday, January 22nd** .

There will be a variety of projects to work on during the trip, and students will be expected to turn in their completed work in written form shortly after the trip. Work completed during this field study constitutes a major part of the third quarter Myanmar Studies grade.

There will be an informational meeting with us and the parents to discuss the field study trip and answer any questions on January 13th Wednesday, in room F101 from 3 pm to 3:30 pm.

The purpose of this letter is to give you an early notice and overview of the field study. Much more information will follow at the meeting on December 13th including itineraries, permission forms and supply lists.

This type of trip is always an important activity to every student in the class, as it bonds the students together with mutual experiences and emotions. We look forward to making a week of shared memories, as well as having the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in the field. We will be sending out a note reminding you about the trip after the December break.

Sincerely,

U Win Tut Kyaw
Myanmar Studies