



International School Yangon

Newsletter

August 28 (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 Director

Dear ISY Community,

We had an excellent turn out at the ISY Back to School Open House this week. Thank you all for attending and supporting your students. We want our parents to feel welcome to participate in all of the many events that our scheduled this year so, that you are an integral component of your child's education.

Thank you also to the WHO (World Health Organization) and to Dr. Emily for their informational session on the seasonal flu. I think that this session helped to inform our community about how to prevent the flu and what to do if you get it.

As you know we received word late Friday, from the Ministry of Health, that our school would be closed for 5 days beginning Monday, August 31st. We will have school on Monday, September 7th. I have changed this letter that is posted on our web site, to reflect this new development. For updated information go to our website at www.internationalschoolyangon.org to find the latest information on the school closing. To log on type in a username of **community** and a password **community**. Go to the Directors Update to find out if there is any additional news regarding the school closing.

As educators, we are not in the medical profession and so we need to rely on the advice of the WHO (the World Health Organization), the American Embassy professionals, Dr. Emily, and other health organizations. The information and advice they are giving us is that every year the flu goes around to a significant portion of the population world wide. Some estimates are around 5% to 20% of the population come down with the flu and even more some years. According to our sources, the H1N1 was predicted to be a worse flu than normal; however it is proving to be not as bad as even some flu's of recent years. In fact our attendance at school is in the normal range with very few students staying home for the typical reasons. According to the department of health, we have 5 reported cases of the H1N1 flu. Like with every flu season, these medical organizations are giving the following advice; wash hands regularly, don't send your kids to school when they have the flu, drink plenty of fluids, get plenty of sleep, etc. At school we are doing the following in accordance with the advice we have received from the medical community:

- Beginning Monday, September 7th, we will be taking temperatures all students, faculty, and visitors entering ISY at the front entrance. Any student with a higher than normal temperature will be examined further by Dr. Emily and sent home.
- Teachers are asking students to wash hands regularly and use the antibacterial lotion. We are asking that each student have a bottle of this lotion and use it frequently. You may buy this product for 550 kkyat at City Mart or at our school store in the administration building for the same price.
- Teachers are monitoring their classes and sending anyone who shows signs of illness to Dr. Emily for a check-up. Dr. Emily is very liberally sending students home who appear ill.
- We are asking parents to NOT send their kids to school with signs of illness.
- Students returning from illness, and new students to the school, need to have a medical check up with Dr. Emily before we will admit them back to school.
- Cleaning staff wipe the surfaces that students and teachers touch with anti bacterial cleansers on a regular basis.

We again ask parents to help us with these efforts by reinforcing healthy hygiene with your children. If you would like more information please go to <http://www.flu.gov/seasonalflu/index.html>

Thank you for your help.

Tim Travers, Interim Director



Middle School & High School

Dear parents and community members,

Thank you for the wonderful turn out last night at Open House. It was great to experience the new Black Box Theater on campus and have an opportunity to meet so many of our wonderful and supportive parents. Now I know why we have such smart students! I hope you all had an opportunity to see the value added features of our educational programs by experiencing your child's schedule, meeting his or her teachers and seeing the many opportunities for success and learning that our students enjoy every day. Remember that teachers are always available to talk with you about your child's progress and my door is also open for concerns, questions or just to learn more about our programs or processes here at school.



Open House might give you an 'opening' to speak with your child about their goals for this year. Setting goals is not just about focusing on being successful. Our students realize it means much more. As they set goals, we also expect that they have unlimited areas of potential and thus, how they take risks, make good decisions, and work hard many times foretells the distance they will go in maximizing that potential. We will send the same message at school and together we will make a difference in the lives of ISY Students.

Progress reports normally come out at the middle of the quarter. If a student has some deficiencies in grades or assignments, you will hear about it! Make sure your children know that they need to stay organized and communicate clearly with their teachers to avoid getting a progress report. They should also realize that they need to work hard or ask for help if they are unsure of how they are doing. Please let them know!

Continue to do a great job of keeping in touch with us. More and more information will be coming out on our webpage. Visit us at www.internationalschoolyangon.org

Have a great week and we will see you each morning!

Jim Gerhard, MS/HS Principal

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 3:00 PTA Meeting	3	4 5:00 - MSSC Sports night	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL	8 5:00 Board Meeting	9	10	11	12

Meet with Mr. M&M!

Children in the elementary years are developing the necessary skills to become confident and engaged students. I know all parents want their



children to love learning. At ISY we have some shared beliefs that drive our teaching. I'd like to share with you what we call the "ESLR's" or Expected School-wide Learning Results. Every day we all teach our students to:

*Become Global Citizens who . . .
are environmentally aware and active
contribute to the welfare of the world community
respect the dignity and worth of others
manifest the virtues of honesty and integrity*

*Be Successful Communicators who . . .
demonstrate the skills of effective collaboration
use technology as a tool to convey ideas
write, speak, read and listen with purpose
are multi-lingual*

*Demonstrate Complex Thinking and Creativity by . . .
gathering analyzing and processing information from
various sources
being effective and creative problem-solvers
being effective decision-makers*

*Become Lifelong Learners who . . .
take responsibility for their own learning
value all types of learning; academic, social, athletic,
aesthetic and emotional
have the confidence to take on new challenges*

Of course we always strive to teach reading, math, science and social studies at a high academic level. Our students also require physical education, art, music, computer instruction, and foreign languages to develop into well rounded, healthy and effective adults. At ISY we use the "ESLR's" to provide all of the subject areas with a common purpose. These are important goals that unite the whole school community.

If you have concerns or questions about the school curriculum or need to talk about any other issues, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Mr. Martin-Muth, Elementary Principal

Parent Volunteers Needed in the Library!



The ISY Library appreciates the support of parents to make our library the best it can be! Parent volunteers are needed to assist us with routine tasks such as adding reading levels to books, organizing book shelves, discarding magazines and repairing books. Parents are also needed to assist us with annual library events such as the annual Candlelight Read Aloud, Book Swap/Sales and the Author Visit (more details on these events to follow soon).

I would like to meet briefly with any interested parents on **Wednesday September 9 at 2:45** in the ES Library. Please contact Michelle Rinker at mrinker@isy.net.mm for more information. See you in the library!

Message form Business Office

This is a reminder for parents that the last date for paying tuition fee is September 11, 2009.

Late payments made after September 11, 2009 from the first day of the semester are subject to a penalty of US\$500 per calendar month.

If tuition fee is transferred to overseas banks, we would like to request the parents to send us the copy of the payment transaction.



Attention parents:

We will be sending the newsletter via email each week to your email account. If we don't have your email address or if you are NOT receiving the weekly newsletter, please send an email to swezin@isy.edu.mm and we will add your email to the list.

Each Friday, students are given a paper copy of the newsletter. Our environmental group SEEDS, is heading up the effort to conserve paper by reducing the number of paper copies we print each week. If you have access to the internet, we would prefer that you read the newsletter electronically. In this way, we are setting a good example for each other, and being kind to the environment. Beginning next Friday, the students of those parents who have requested NOT to have a paper copy will not receive one. This may take a few weeks to work the details on this system but we will do the best we can to honor your requests. If you do NOT want a paper copy of the newsletter, please send an email to Swe Zin by email and add your name to the growing list of conservationists. Those parents who already filled out a form saying they do NOT want a paper copy, do not need to send an email. Thank you for your help.

Kimiko, President of the Seeds Environmental Group.

This environmental effort is endorsed by the ISY administration.

IT Corner

ISY is proud to unveil another addition to our new web site. We have added the school newsletters to be read online or downloaded. The web address for the site is www.internationalschoolyangon.org. When the home page loads please click on the Community login at the top right part of the page. Once the new page loads, you will see a field for Username. Please enter **community**. You will also see a field for password. Please enter **community**. Now, when you select **Latest News**, you will be able to see all of the newsletters from ISY. Remember to log out (once again in the upper right part of the page) when you are finished.

On another note, ISY has an additional level of Internet filtering on campus than the normal filtering. ISY wants you to be secure in the knowledge that we are doing everything possible to ensure your student does not view inappropriate web sites. If you have any comments, please email me at mbar@isy.net.mm. Thanks.



Mike Baer, IT coordinator

From the Elementary Counselor

Welcome to a wonderful year in the ISY elementary. I am Tonya Gerhard, the elementary school counselor and student support teacher. I join ISY with my husband, Jim Gerhard, the MS/HS principal, and my daughter, Maeve, who is in kindergarten. We also have a son who will be attending university in the states. I have taught at various levels in the elementary school and I have also worked as a special education teacher. My new role as the elementary school counselor is an exciting endeavor. I have started to go into classes to begin our character education and life skills lessons. Some children have a natural ability to make friends, use manners, and resolve conflict in an appropriate way. But, as a school, we need to ensure students are learning these skills instead of hoping they learn them as they grow.

Now is the time to set a routine for daily homework. Here are some simple tips to make homework time a productive time:

Designate a quiet work area where homework can be done free of distractions.

Make sure all the supplies that may be needed are stored here so that your child can start to work without searching for a pencil or crayons or a calculator.

Work on one assignment at a time.

Each item should go into their bag as soon as it's completed. This helps your child feel a sense of accomplishment and ensures homework will return to school. It also gives them a physical separation between homework tasks.

If your child has trouble with attention span and constantly asks for breaks, say "Yes, you can go as soon as you finish..." instead of saying "No, you can't go until...is finished." It's hard to argue with a 'yes'. Be firm, gentle, and repetitive if necessary.

I welcome parents and students to contact me with concerns. My office is located in the elementary office. You can also reach me at 512793 extension 107.

We hope our elementary students will have an enjoyable year full of fond memories and experiences.

Here are some websites you can visit for more information on what children need to grow healthy and happy.

Developmental Growth Milestones:

www.kidsgrowth.com

Fun Stuff to do with your children:

<http://familyfun.go.com/>

Dealing with feelings

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/index.html>

General information about raising children:

www.raisingchildren.net

ISY Art Calendar

Dear PARENTS!

The School year Art calendar 2009 - 2010 is available! For 5000 Kyats

In the elementary Art room, EL105 (before 8:15 or after 2:45) or at the 'Bookstore' in building B, ask Mayar.

Thanks for your support!

