

ISL PTA NEWSLETTER



December 2007 - January 2008

Here we are, this will at the same time be the last Newsletter of 2007 and also the first one of 2008! But it sounds inappropriate for the PTA Team to already wish you a very happy new year, so in order to do it properly and in due time, we will wait until



**Monday 7th January at 8:45
for the first coffee morning of 2008 !**

As half of the school year is almost over we feel that it is now time for questioning not only ourselves but all the parents.

Are you generally satisfied with the work of the PTA? Did you enjoy the welcome BBQ? The coffee mornings? Do you think that the meetings organized by your Class or Language Representatives are useful? Do the outings interest you? Do you feel well represented? ...

We could write an endless list of questions that we are asking ourselves all the time. We do our best and, as the Chair, I really want to thank all the PTA members for their day to day involvement. They make a tremendous team.

But at this point we need a real feedback from all the parents. You surely have suggestions or comments. So, please, take 5 minutes of your time to let us know. Send us an e-mail at vanessatds1@hotmail.com ! We can only be your representatives if you tell us what you think. We can only make things better if you tell us what you feel should be ameliorated.

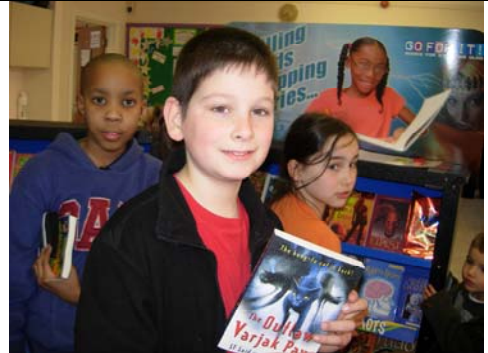
We are looking forward to reading you! Have a nice winter break and we will see you right after for our now traditional coffee morning.

The PTA Team

PTA News & Activities

Library Events 2007

Our first Book Fair of this academic year take place on Thursday 6th December for one week until Thursday 13th December. The Book Fair is always a popular event amongst pupils, teachers and parents, with the opportunity to browse and purchase books.



On Friday 7th December we are please to welcome Mr Sean Taylor the author of the books; 'When a monster is Born' (3-6 years old), 'Purple class and Skelington' (7-10 years old) and 'Purple class and Flying Spider' (7-10 years old). Sean Taylor will spend the day reading to pupils, story telling and, conducting a creative writing session with the students. Books will be available to purchase for Mr Taylor to sign on the day.

Farideh Urrestarazu
Librarian.

Secondary Disco

The secondary Disco for Year 7 to Year 9 will take place in the school hall on Tuesday 11th December from 7:00 to 10:00. **TO BE CHECKED WITH MR DAVIES**

Clubs

Book club

Our book for next month will be '**Year of Wonders**' by **Geraldine Brooks**. We will meet at Anne Marie's house on **Friday December 14th**, 10:00am. Address, 4 Tring Avenue, London W5 3QA.

The following get together will be at Leigh's house on **Friday Jan 11th**, 10:00am at 33 Queens Road, Richmond TW106JX.

The book chosen is **'Mr Pip' by Lloyd Jones**.

For further information you are always welcome to contact Karen Lee-Campbell at karen@lee-campbell.co.uk

Cooking club

If you feel like showing other parents one of your favorite recipe or if you just want to discover recipes from around the world, the school kitchen is the place to be on Friday's from 14:00 to 15:30.

This month we will have:

30th November: Cinzia Marchesani from Italy

7th December: Sachiko Dahoui Masako from Japan

14th December: No cooking class

11th January: Edina Ferencz from Hungary

18th January: to be confirmed

25th January: to be confirmed

If you are interested, if you feel like cooking or if you just want some more information, please contact Kamala Aliyeva (020 8878 5058) or nar_ley@yahoo.co.uk).

Feel like going out?

Backstage Tour of the BBC

Thursday 17th January at 10:00

During the tour of the most famous television center in the world we will go into the studios, visit BBC News, play in an interactive studio and be shown around by well-informed, entertaining guide. The Tour will last between one and a half and two hours.

Price: £8.50 - must be paid by Wednesday 12th December
(only 22 places are available)

For all ticket information and reservations please contact

Vanessa Preudhomme – vanessatds1@hotmail.com - 07876 40 16 48

All cheques made payable to ISL (Cheques can be given to the school office or directly to Vanessa Preudhomme)

ISL Baby-sitters

The following list contains names and contact details of Year 12 /13 ISL students (aged 16+) who are available for baby-sitting

Fleur Gindre - French speaking
tel. 02077312833 / 07884245425

Tomoaki Kurata - Japanese Speaking
tel. 020 7589 0420

Camille Lacquemanne - French speaking
tel. 07964 347 166

Jean Lacquemanne (Y11) - French speaking
tel. 07964 348 516

Antonia Sammans – German speaking
tel. 020 7603 0695

Babette Van Dijk – Dutch speaking
tel : 020 8996 0396

Milou Kommers – Dutch speaking
tel. 020 8992 0661

Philip Kunick – German and French speaking
tel. 079 1477 7139

Antoine Minvielle – French speaking
tel. 078 5214 5691

Martin Minvielle – French speaking
tel. 078 7895 9769

Food week

Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th December is **Food Week** at ISL. During the week students will take part in special events for their work around the theme of "Food".

Parents are invited to an exhibition of their work, with performances, on Thursday 6/12 from 4.30 – 6.30, and the international show afterward.

ISL Calendar – Key dates

December

Tuesday 4 th – Wed. 5 th	PYP Authorization Visit
Thursday 6 th	International Evening Start of Book fair
Tuesday 11 th	Y7-Y9 Disco
Friday 14 th	End of term

January

Monday 7 th	Start of term PTA Coffee Morning
Thursday 24 th	Y13 Parent Teacher meetings
Friday 25 th	INSET Day – no classes

Some worldwide dates to remember in December and January

Saturday 1st December: World Aids Day

World Aids Day has been created to educate people about Aids. It seeks to remove the stigma and discrimination which can prevent effective HIV & Aids prevention and care worldwide. It also seeks to make people more aware of what they can do to reduce the risk of becoming infected. For more details about events on World Aids Day, see: <http://www.worldaidsday.org>

Thursday 6th December: Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree

In the Second World War Norway was occupied by the Nazis. The King of Norway escaped to Britain and set up an alternative government in London for 5 years until the war was over. The Norwegian resistance secretly sent a tree from Norway each year to make the King feel closer to his homeland. After the war, the Norwegian government decided to offer a large Norwegian tree to Britain each year, as a symbol of friendship and to thank the nation for helping the Norwegian people. This fir tree, which is about 26 metres (75 feet) high, is put up in Trafalgar Square. The tree is decorated in a traditional Norwegian style with 500 white lights: these lights will be lit from noon until midnight each day during the Christmas period (until 6th January). The lighting ceremony is usually performed in the early evening on the first Thursday in December.



Norwegian Christmas tree, Trafalgar Square

Saturday 22nd December: Shortest day of the year (Winter solstice)

If you are depressed by how soon it gets dark, this will slowly get better from now on... The shortest day has been important since early times: many standing stones and stone circle are aligned with the sun on either this day or the summer solstice (the longest day of the year).

Monday 24th December - Tuesday 25th December: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Christmas Day is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, so many people go to local church services. Most people spend the Christmas eve and day together with their families: they talk, exchange presents, eat and drink and, in UK, watch television: the **Queen's Christmas Message** is broadcast in the afternoon - it is a tradition for many British people to watch this.

Wednesday 26th December: Boxing Day (bank holiday)

The holiday may date from the Middle Ages (A.D. 400's--1500's), but the exact origin is unknown. It may have begun with the lords and ladies of England, who presented Christmas gifts in boxes to their servants on December 26. Or it may have begun with priests, who opened the church's alms (charity) boxes on the day after Christmas and distributed the contents to the poor. Boxing Day originated in England in the middle of the nineteenth century under Queen Victoria. Boxing Day is so called because it was the custom on that day for tradesmen to collect their Christmas boxes or gifts in return for good and reliable service throughout the year. The traditional celebration of Boxing Day included giving money and other gifts to charitable institutions, needy individuals, and people in service jobs.

Sunday 31st December: New Year's Eve

Many people stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve so that they can celebrate the start of the New Year. As midnight approaches, British people traditionally watch Big Ben (the bell in the Houses of Parliament),



Big Ben: the end of the year

and celebrate after it strikes for the 12th time: this is shown on television. It is traditional to make a New Year's Resolution (a promise to start doing something in the new year). You may be invited to someone's New Year Eve houseparty. Many pubs and clubs have special events. Tip: it might be difficult to get a taxi so think about pre-booking one if necessary.

Saturday 26th January: Australia Day

Australians celebrate their national day on the anniversary of Foundation Day (26 January 1788). Popular locations for celebrations in the UK are the Walkabout bars: <http://www.walkabout.eu.com>. To look for London pubs/bars with Australia Day themes, see: <http://www.citypublife.co.uk/Site/themenights.php>

Tips for December and January

Saturday 8th December: Great Christmas Pudding Race

Teams dressed in fancy clothes race around an obstacle course in Covent Garden. To make it more difficult, they have to carry a Christmas pudding on a tray. The winner receives the Pudding Trophy. The event raises money for Cancer Research UK. For details see: <http://www.xmaspuddingrace.org.uk>

Monday 10th December - Sunday 23rd December: Carol singing in the Square

Groups of carol singers will perform each evening (at various times between 5-9pm) next to the Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, raising money for charity. There will not be any singing on 11th December. To check the programme, see:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/trafalgarsquare/events/xmas.jsp>

Friday 14th December - Sunday 16th December: Frost Fair

During the 16th century the River Thames froze during several cold winters. A tradition started of having a festival on the ice when this happened. Although the river has not frozen for nearly 200 years, the tradition of holding a "frost fair" by the Thames has been revived recently.

There are stalls selling crafts and seasonal goods, ice sculptures, an ice slide, entertainers and some special events inside Shakespeare's Globe. The frost fair is on Bankside (near the Globe Theatre and Tate Modern; nearest Tube: London Bridge). For full details of the 2007 events, see: <http://www.visitsouthwark.com/bankside-frost-fair-2007>

Thursday 27th December: Start of the January sales

Many shops start their sales today, trying to clear the unsold stock which they bought before Christmas. Sales often last for several weeks until late January, but the best bargains are supposed to be found at the beginning so people sometimes queue outside top department stores before opening time.

Sunday 31st December: [New Year's Eve](#)

People often gather in the area around Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Parliament Square from about 10pm until the early hours of the morning. The fountains in Trafalgar Square will be turned off. The sound of the chimes of Big Ben will be heard through speakers along the Embankment (between Westminster and Jubilee Bridges) on the South Bank (on Belvedere Road) on Trafalgar Square and on Parliament Square. There will be a 10-minute firework display at the London Eye starting at midnight - the best place to watch this is from Victoria Embankment, between Westminster Bridge and Waterloo Bridge, but this area may be closed once it becomes crowded. The fireworks will also be shown live on large screens in Trafalgar Square, and on BBC1 television.



Firework display at the London Eye

Tuesday 1st January: [New Year's Day Parade](#)

There is a free street parade in London. There are more than 10,000 performers (including marching bands, cheerleaders, historic vehicles, clowns, jugglers and acrobats), and giant balloons. The parade starts at Parliament Square (near Westminster underground station, next to the Houses of Parliament) at 12 noon. It travels along Parliament Street, Whitehall, Cockspur Street, Lower Regent Street and half way along Piccadilly, finishing close to Green Park underground station. Collectors along the route will be raising money for charity. For more details, including a map of the route of the parade, see: <http://www.londonparade.co.uk>.

A special free overnight Tube service is provided, from 11:45pm until 4:30am. Note that Westminster, Embankment, Leicester Square and Embankment Tube stations will be closed for part of the evening/morning. Roads will be closed between about 7:30pm and 1:30am in the West End and around Waterloo. For full details of public transport services during the night see: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk>. For further information see: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/newyeareve>.

Sunday 13th January: Russian Winter Festival

Free event in Trafalgar Square (organised by the Russian British Cultural Association) celebrating Russian history and culture. There will be music, dancing, stalls selling Russian food and drink and crafts. For full details, see: <http://www.eventica.co.uk/events/rwf/2008>

I recommend

Two restaurants in Richmond:

Chez Lindsay, 11 Hill Rise, Richmond, 020 8948 7473,
<http://www.chez-lindsay.co.uk>

With its yellow-painted brick walls, pale-wood tables, convivial atmosphere and smiling staff, the place offers Breton (region of France) food and drink as the specialty, particularly seafood and galettes (crêpe-like pancakes made with buckwheat flour, served with savory or sweet fillings), but there are plenty of alternatives on the long menu, including lots of salads. As they are open everyday from noon, you could visit for just a snack or a full-blown meal.

Pizzeria Rustica, 32 The Quadrant, Richmond, 020 8332 6262

It is one of the last truly independent Italian Restaurants in Richmond. A great place to enjoy fabulous Italian cuisine, with friendly service and a warm atmosphere. As well as a large and imaginative range of pasta and pizza (the pizza base are prepared every day on the premise and the toppings are generous), the menu contains some specials regularly updated with seasonal produce. There is also a good selection of vegetarian dishes.

The website of an International News Channel:

www.france24.com, this website is of FRANCE 24 whose aim is to create, promote and develop an international television news channel, in French and other foreign languages. It proposes 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, in French and in English, very complete and up-to-date French and international news. They are also available in Arabic 4 hours a day.

Each month we will print some suggestions and recommendations from ISL parents. So if you have been to some restaurants, some shops, some exhibitions... that were really worth it, let us know!
(vanessatds1@hotmail.com)