

ISL PTA NEWSLETTER



March 2008

The Quiz night and the Carnival were the two main events of last month.

The carnival was a huge success. Almost all primary students, parents and teachers showed up. There was plenty of food brought by the parents and the children seem to have enjoyed themselves. Above all some parents volunteered to help clean afterwards which is always of great help! Thanks.

The students who organized the quiz night managed to raise more than £300 for the Charity they were supporting... They did an amazing job putting this event together, making it fun and interesting. Let's just hope that more parents will show up next time...

Anyway, the conclusion will be the same for all: congratulations to the organizers of both events, you all did a really great job!

What's next? March will be relatively quiet in terms of PTA activities. The school has taken the lead: parent-teacher meetings, student-led conferences, international show, drama plays, Science Fair, Transition Seminar... Plenty of things to keep you busy this month!

The PTA will be back in April with its' major event: the **Spring Fair** on **Saturday 19th April**. You will have plenty of information about it in the next newsletter. But one thing is sure, we will need your help...

As usual, feel free to give us some feedback or to volunteer at the e-mail address: vanessatds1@hotmail.com.

That's all for now, enjoy this newsletter, have a great holiday and come back full of energy for the last term of the year!

PTA News & Activities

Transition Seminar

The second Transition Seminar will be held on **Tuesday 11th March from 9:00 am until 12:00 am.**

For your records, this Transition Seminar is given annually, in 3 sessions (the first one took place in November and the last one will be held on 10th June), to parents in order to increase their awareness and understanding of transition issues.

Various aspects of Transition can be discussed from various points of views:

- Your personal experience of change and what it means to you and your family;
- Difficulties and obstacles preventing from smooth and painless adaptation and adjustment to new conditions;
- Ways of dealing with difficulties, what works best;
- The role of the school.

This session's main subject will be "Language and Culture".

Clubs

Gardening club

The next meetings will take place on Mondays from 14:00 to 15:30

The idea is to begin with some gardening to decorate the main front wall of the school. What will follow will depend on the projects we decide on.

If you are interested in participating in this Gardening and Art & Craft club, let us know (vanessatds1@hotmail.com or 078 7640 1648).

Book club

The book club will meet at 10pm on Friday 14th March at Andrea's house: 11 Fitzjames Avenue. 391 Bus comes from Chiswick High Road. Or District line tube to West Kensington or Barons Court, short walk. The book will be '**The Road**' by Cormac McCarthy.

Interested? Contact Karen Lee-Campbell at karen@lee-campbell.co.uk

Cooking club

Our Programme for this month is :

Friday 7th March: Anne Marie from Holland

Friday 14th March: Ozgen from Turkey

As usual, we will meet between 14:00 and 15:30 in the kitchen !

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).

School dates 2008-2009

Autumn Term 2008

Wednesday 3rd September School year begins 8.30.

27th – 31st October Half term – no classes

Friday 12th December Last day of term

Spring Term 2009

Monday 5th January Term begins 8.30

Friday 25th January Staff INSET – no classes

9th – 13th February Half term – no classes

Friday 3rd April Last day of term

Summer Term 2009

Monday 20th April Term begins 8.30

Monday 4th May Public holiday – no classes

Monday 25th May Public holiday – no classes

Wednesday 1st July Last day of term.

A Message from Deputy Head – Guidance

Cars, Children and the Playground

May I kindly request that parents who are - for example - picking up children from after school clubs, supervise their younger children very closely. There have been one or two occasions when I have seen very young children playing very close to cars which were about to or were actually moving. Children should be kept on the School Office side of the plastic bollards unless they are being accompanied to a car by an adult.

Cyclists and Protective Headgear

A number of teachers and parents have asked me about people using bicycles without protective headgear. There is no law in England regarding the wearing of such headgear but the general advice is that a suitably produced and well fitted bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of head injury in accidents.

Contagious disease

Parents are reminded that if your son/daughter has a contagious illness, such as chicken pox (varicella), they must notify the school as soon as possible. Please ensure that your child remains at home until the end of the infectious period and that a doctor's note has been given to the class teacher/form tutor.

End of Term

Please note that Thursday March 20th is the last day of term and is a normal school day.

ISL Calendar – Key March dates

Wednesday 5 th	Primary Parent Teacher Meetings
Thursday 6 th	Year 12 Parent Teacher Meetings
Thursday 6 th – Saturday 8 th	ISSA Boys Varsity Basketball tournament
Tuesday 11 th	Transition Seminar 09.00-12.00
Thursday 13 th	Years 7-10 Student Led Conference
Thursday 20 th	End of Term 2

A Message from the Admissions Office

We are still receiving very large levels of applications for the 2008 - 2009 academic year and have waiting lists for many classes. To help our planning, I would be grateful if you could let me know if your children will still be at ISL next year.

The deadline for re-enrolment is not until 27th April 2008 but it would help me enormously if you could let me know your plans prior to this date.

Many thanks for your help.

Yoel Gordon -
ygordon@islondon.com

Library News

EBSCO online trial

I am pleased to announce that for the next 3 months we have been giving access to EBSCO Publishing data information online, on a trial basis.

EBSCO is an online database, providing safe, filtered information for students, both primary and secondary, and teachers. This database can be used to find useful information for numerous purposes, such as research, coursework or extra curricular activities.

To Login to the Free Trial:

Go to: <http://search.ebscohost.com>

User Id: Isl

Password: London

This is an exciting opportunity and any feedback would be greatly appreciated to help us on our decision as to whether we will acquire EBSCO on a more permanent basis.

Sainsbury's Active kids

The time of year has arrived again when we are collecting Sainsbury's Active kids vouchers. Vouchers can be deposited at 2 collection points

located in the Library and main office. Vouchers can be obtained from purchases at any Sainsbury's store, petrol station or Sainsbury online.

The Library always welcomes new visitors. Opening hours are as follows:

Monday	8.15 – 16.30
Tuesday	8.15 – 17.00
Wednesday	8.15 – 16.30
Thursday	8.15 – 16.30
Friday	8.15 – 16.00

Farideh Urrestarazu
Librarian

Some dates to remember in March

Monday 10th March: Commonwealth Day, UK & other Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth Day is an annual event (on the second Monday of March) during which all the member countries of the Commonwealth celebrate their links with one another. People use the day to promote understanding about global issues, international co-operation and the work of the modern Commonwealth. Each year there is a different theme. There is a special service in Westminster Abbey. For full details see: www.commonwealthday.com.

Monday 17th March: St Patrick's Day, Ireland

Saint Patrick was born in north England or southern Scotland at the time when the country was occupied by the Romans. He was captured and made into a slave, and was taken to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd. He escaped on a boat, but later came back to Ireland and worked to convert the Irish people to become Christians (previously the main religion was paganism). Saint Patrick died on 17th March 461 AD, and has become the "patron saint" of Ireland.

Thursday 20th March: Spring Equinox

Day and night are each 12 hours, this is known as the spring or vernal equinox.

Thursday 20th March: (Maunday Thursday), Friday 21st March (Good Friday), Sunday 23rd March (Easter Sunday), Monday 24th March (Easter Monday): Easter

The Easter weekend is the time for Christian traditions which remember the time that Jesus Christ was killed on a cross. Maunday Thursday is

when Christians remember the Last Supper, when Jesus met with his followers before he was betrayed by Judas and was captured by the Romans. Good Friday is the day when Christians remember the death of Jesus Christ, who was crucified (killed on a cross) by the Romans. Christian churches hold special services. Special Easter Sunday services in Christian churches celebrate the belief that Jesus Christ came back to life on the third day after he was killed (known as the "resurrection").

In the UK, people eat "hot cross buns": currant buns with a symbol on the top which represent the cross on which Jesus was killed (these are cut in two, toasted, and butter is spread on each half).

Friday 21st March - Novruz

Novruz is the traditional Iranian new year holiday celebrated in Azerbaijan, Northern Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Albania, Pakistan, the countries of Central Asia such as Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

Many customs and rites were formed during the centuries just for this holiday. For example, before the holiday people celebrate 4 Tuesdays: Tuesday of Water, Tuesday of Fire, Tuesday of Land and Tuesday of Wind. Water is the symbol of cleanness and purity. Young people set bon fires and jump over it. Therefore, people who did it get rid of illness, sadness and sorrow and leave them in the passing year. Warm winds blowing in our country let us know about the coming of spring. Our sacred land gives birth to the new flowers and plants and people look after them with a big love. The wonderful sense of these flowers spread all around us.

Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th March: British Summer Time (BST) starts

If you are in the UK, change all clocks forward 1 hour (for the next 6 months the time in the UK is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time: GMT+1). You lose one hour's sleep. The time change is actually during the night: at 1am on Sunday morning the time is changed to 2am. If you are calling abroad note that the time difference may have changed (for example: Japan/Korea change from 9 hours ahead of the UK to 8 hours ahead). When you change your clocks, you can check the exact time from the speaking clock by phoning 123.

Tips for March

Friday 7th - Sunday 16th March: National Science and Engineering Week

Various special events take place across the UK to celebrate science, engineering and technology and its importance to our lives. See: <http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/Events/NSEW/index.html>

Saturday 8th March: TNT Magazine Travel Show

Fair providing information to people who want to organise travel in the UK, Europe or around the world. You can visit the stalls of tour and travel companies (some offer competitions/special discounts), and you can attend seminars on a variety of travel-related topics. The event is free and is open between 9:30am-6:00pm at the New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street (nearest Tubes: Holborn or Covent Garden). Info: <http://www.tntmagazine.com/travelshow>.

Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th March: Rugby, Six Nations Championship

Saturday: 13:15 Ireland vs Wales;
15:15 Scotland vs England;
Sunday: 15:00 France vs Italy

Thursday 13th - Sunday 16th March: La Dolce Vita

La Dolce Vita is a true celebration of Italian lifestyle! Indulge in the finest Italian Food & Drink, discover Italy's diverse regions, gain a unique insight into Italian property & travel and be inspired by beautiful Italian fashion and design. The show takes place at Olympia, Hammersmith Road. Entrance: £13. More info? www.ladolcevitaevent.co.uk

Saturday 15th March: Head of the River Race

A boat race on the river Thames in London for "eights", which each have eight people who row and one person (the "cox") who directs the boat. There are several hundred boats competing, setting off at 10-second intervals (the strongest teams row first), and the times to finish the course are recorded. It is expected to start at 9:45am and end at about 11am; the fastest boats can complete the 4.25 mile (7 km) course in about 20 minutes. The race starts at Chiswick Bridge and ends at Putney Bridge. You can watch it from any accessible point along the river. Poor weather or strong tides may stop the race, so check before on <http://www.horr.co.uk>.

Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th March: A Taste of Ireland in Covent Garden. Specialty Irish food market in London's Covent Garden from 11am-6pm, as part of the St Patrick's Day celebrations. More info? http://www.bordbia.ie/food_island

Saturday 15th March: Six Nations Championship

13:00 Italy vs Scotland;

15:00 England vs Ireland;

17:00 Wales vs France

Sunday 16th March: St Patrick's Day Festival

A celebration of Irish culture in London, usually on the Sunday nearest to St Patrick's Day (17 March). There is a parade and festival of music and cultural performances. See: <http://www.london.gov.uk/stpatricksday>.

Saturday 29th March: Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race

An annual university boat race on the Thames between Oxford University (the "Dark Blues") and Cambridge University (the "Light Blues"). The teams toss a coin to choose which side of the river they start (the north side is "Middlesex", and the south side is "Surrey": these are the names of the counties on each river bank. The race starts at Putney Bridge (near Putney Bridge underground station, on the Wimbledon branch of the District line), and ends just north of Chiswick Bridge (near the railway station Mortlake). The starting time changes each year, depending on the tide. This year, it is 5:15 pm. Thousands of people line the river to see the two boats pass (after this people often rush to the nearby pubs to watch the rest of the race, which lasts about 20 minutes).

The first contest took place in 1829, after a student at Cambridge challenged his friend at Oxford. Before the main event is a similar race between the second teams, which are known as "Isis" (Oxford) and "Goldie" (Cambridge). Other useful vocabulary: cox or coxswain (the person who steers the boat), stroke (the rower nearest the cox), bow (the rower furthest from the cox), a clash of oars (when the oars of the two boats hit each other), to catch a crab (when one of the oars gets stuck in the water and cannot complete its stroke). For more details about the event, see: <http://www.theboatrace.org>.

Sunday 23rd March: Kew Gardens annual Egg hunt

It starts at 10:00 am and finishes at 2 pm. Children collect tokens and then receive a chocolate egg from the Easter Bunny. From Fri 21st to Mon 24th, there will be special art and craft sessions and the giant bunnies will be around...