
WEEKLY NEWS

The International School of Bergen

1

Learning for Life

30th August 2007

From the Director's desk.....

Welcome once again to a new school year at ISB. Our staff returned full of enthusiasm for the year ahead and spent the week before the arrival of the students planning and preparing. I am most fortunate, as school Director, to have such a great team of education professionals to work with.

During the planning week our staff also took part in some in-service training in, among other things, Understanding by Design and fire safety. Two of our staff spent some of their summer vacations gaining new knowledge and skills. Susan Lonnberg, our school counsellor, attended a special workshop for counsellors working in international schools where one of the main topics was students and families in transition. Special congratulations to Ms Watson on the completion this summer of her Certificate in International School Leadership, awarded by the Principals' Training Institute. Sound evidence that our school motto, Learning for Life, does not just apply to the students at ISB.

Talking about the students, they are already getting into their routines and

have produced some super work, which is on display in the classrooms and hallways. The display in the main entrance, thanks to Mrs McWilliams for this, shows the key features of our curriculum programmes, the PYP and MYP.

We will keep you informed of ISB and other events via our *Weekly News*, which is distributed every Thursday. We also post the newsletter on our school web site www.isb.qs.hl.no. Hopefully, we will be able to distribute next week's *News* by e-mail to all those who have asked for this service on the **questionnaire** sheet sent home on the first day of school. **Please return these as soon as possible.** Thank you.

I am looking forward to getting to know all the new families and to working with the entire ISB community to ensure another successful and exciting year.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Our first opportunity for parents to learn more about the plans we have for the forthcoming school year will take place on Thursday, September 6th. The programme for Lower School (preschool through Grade 5)

will start at 17:00 in the Baptist Church, just across the street from ISB. Mrs Leppard, our PYP Coordinator, will update parents on our progress made so far and on some of the areas we will be working on this year. After her presentation and the opportunity for parents to ask questions, the programme will continue in the individual classrooms with the class teachers.

The programme for Upper School (Grades 6 through 10) will start at 18:00, also in the Baptist Church. Miss Boniface, the MYP Coordinator, will give a presentation about the MYP and then the programme will continue with input from the class and subject teachers.

This is an important evening for all parents to familiarise themselves with the academic programmes and the classroom routines, so this is an event that all parents should make every effort to attend.

All students in Upper School should now have received information about the Parent Information on Thursday 6th September. Please make sure that you return the sign off sheet to school by Friday (tomorrow).

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

It is always a pleasure to celebrate members of our school community on special events in their lives. We send our very best wishes to Geraldine Nagarajah on the safe arrival of her baby son in mid-July. Our warmest wishes also to Ann-Marie Inkster, Kindergarten teacher, who celebrated her marriage to Neil Flaws in mid-August.

WELCOME BACK BARBECUE
The PTO Committee will be sponsoring a **WELCOME BACK BARBECUE** on Friday, September 7th from 15:00 until 16:30. All parents and students are invited and encouraged to come along and meet one another, the staff, and members of the PTO and Board of Trustees. **The PTO needs volunteers to help set up from 13:30, to help clear up after the event and others to bake cakes and donate them. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7th DUE TO THE BARBECUE.**

CHARITY FUN RUN - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
Information has been sent home regarding our annual Charity Fun Run in aid of ISB's SOS Children's Village in Murmansk, Russia. We still need some parent volunteers and, of course, all the students would appreciate some encouragement from supporters around the course.

LOST PROPERTY/LABELLING OF CLOTHING
Actually, we are hoping to

avoid collecting as much lost property as we did last school year. We would ask that **ALL** student clothing is labelled with the child's or family's name.

PACKED LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Please note that packed lunches should not contain chocolate, sweets or candies. Nor should the students have fizzy drinks (brus). In some classes, we have children with severe allergies to some foods, particularly nuts, and parents will have been informed in these instances of the precautions being taken here. Please help us to educate your child(ren) about the importance of eating nutritious, well-balanced meals.

GRADES 6 AND 7 TAKE A TRIP TO THE PAST

Grade 6 and 7 had a fabulous trip to Bryggen Museum and Haakonshallen to find out about Bergen and Norway in Medieval Times. This trip was coordinated by Ms Boniface and is part of the "Medieval Mysteries" unit that Grades 6 and 7 will be studying over the next few weeks in all their subjects. We looked at excavation and archaeology work that unearthed very interesting facts and questions about Bergen in the 12th and 13th Century. The students asked very pertinent questions and behaved very well. We hope to do more school excursions like this and use our local environment as a classroom.

BIRTHDAY BOARD

It has been the custom at ISB to celebrate birthdays by placing children's photographs on the bulletin board in the entrance hall. Towards the end of each month, a note will be sent home to students celebrating their birthdays in the next month, asking for a photograph. The photographs will then be displayed on the Birthday Board in the main entrance. Photographs should be given to the class teacher who will pass them on to Mr Sugden who is in charge of keeping the Birthday Board up to date.

PARKING AT ISB

Parents are reminded that the area outside the school gates is a **no parking zone**. It is important that the view of the crosswalk for other drivers is not blocked by parked cars. Parents should **NOT** park in the staff car park. This car park is already under capacity as it serves two schools. We recommend that parents park in the Sletten shopping car park and deliver/collect their children from there.

CLASS LISTS

As soon as we have received all the Student Data sheets, we will be able to update our class data lists. We will then ensure that each class receives a list of contact details for all members of the class.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

If you wish to advertise items for sale or wanted, or if you

know of a house to rent, why not post the information on our Community Notice board in the main entrance hall? We already have some theatre events advertised if you were wondering what to do on one of those wet Saturdays. Also posted here is an advertisement from a Norwegian /American family looking for a daycare provider for their young son.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6: 17:00/18:00
Parent Information Evening

September 7: Charity Fun Run

September 7: 15:00 - 16:30

Welcome Back BBQ

September 10: No school.
Teacher Planning Day

WHAT'S ON IN BERGEN

We try to inform ISB families about local events through our weekly newsletter or on the Parent Notice Boards in the lower corridor. If you would like to submit any items for this, please hand them in to the school office no later than Wednesday afternoon.

FINALLY,.....

I have been here three weeks now and I should like to thank all the parents that I have met so far for their good wishes

and support. I have found the pupils to be very helpful, polite, friendly and above all informative.

My family and myself are looking forward to living in Bergen and getting to know everybody much better. One small complaint however, is the weather; from no rain for years to the development of webbed feet and a permanent broley attachment in three weeks. I'm sure I'll get used to it. I hope to see you all at the Welcome Back Barbecue.

Ken Sugden