
WEEKLY NEWS

The International School of Bergen

18

Learning for Life

18th January 2007

From the Director's desk.....

THE BIG SURPRISE

Today, our ISB students and staff will be treated to a BIG surprise in connection with the completion of our First Report to our accreditation agencies. Just over a year ago, we hosted a visit from our accrediting agencies. During the visit they met with students, parents, staff and Board members and examined every aspect of ISB life. The team who visited concluded that ISB was 'a well established institution with a proven record of success, a strong reputation in its community, and a staff and administration of which it can be proud.' They were also 'impressed by the strong sense of commitment and high morale within the school'. Of course, they did not find everything perfect, especially in regard to the facilities, and in their report, the team made recommendations about what issues they felt needed to be addressed. It is these recommendations to which we have now responded. The staff, working with members of our school community, has put together a report which was sent to our accrediting agencies on Monday. It is

this achievement we will be celebrating today. So, when your child comes home today, ask about the BIG surprise!

RE-ENROLMENT SURVEY

Last week our school office sent home a re-enrolment survey to all our private tuition parents. Company families will receive a survey in due course. Our experience is that more than 90% of our families re-enrol. Please also indicate on the form if you have further children you wish to enrol so that the paperwork can be completed well in advance of next school year.

APPLICATIONS FOR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

If you, or anyone you know, wishes to apply for enrolment in our Preschool or Kindergarten programmes, it is essential that an application is made to the Bergen City central admissions database (Barnehageservice) in addition to ISB. If there are more applicants than places, we are required to use the date of application as a criterion for admission. So, it is important that applications are made as soon as possible. Applications can be made online at

www.bergen.kommune.no.

Look for 'Barnehagesøknad' on the right hand menu. We also have an English version of this form in our school office.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAMME

We are pleased to be able to announce that we will be able to start up a hot lunch programme in February. Further details are provided along with this newsletter. Many thanks to Sally Chan for her generosity of spirit and enthusiasm in offering this service.

WHERE IS THE DIRECTOR?

As I announced some months ago, I have been extremely privileged to be awarded a Klingenstein Visiting Fellowship at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. So, for the next two weeks, I will not be fulfilling my usual role. More than ably filling my place, however, will be Ms Holm and Ms Watson. So, if there are any issues which you need to have dealt with during my absence, please contact one of the Deputy Directors through the school office.

NEWSLETTER

Next week's newsletter, Weekly News 19, is a curriculum newsletter. The

theme for Upper School is Community and Service, while Lower School will focus on being Inquirers and Open-minded. Due to the bulk of this newsletter, it will be distributed in paper version only. Please also note that Weekly News 20 will also be distributed in paper copy only due to my absence.

THE GRIEG STORY CONCERT

Our students in Grades 3 - 5 have been invited to take part in a special performance in the Grieg Hall on Saturday, January 20th at 16:00. The performance of the story of the composer Edvard Grieg is with the Norwegian actress Minken Fossheim and her puppet Rosenstjert, and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. Our students will be singing and dancing, Mona Fagerli and Kirsten Lindhardt are preparing them for their performance. Even though this performance is in Norwegian, music is, as we all appreciate, a universal language and so the performance can be enjoyed by everyone. Tickets are available at <http://www.filharmonien.no/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25: Curriculum newsletter

February 2: Staff In-service Day. No school for students

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?

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.

ENGLISH THEATRE

We have been sent information about two English language theatre performances which are being organised through BIT Teatergarasjen. The first is free and will take place on February 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23 and 26. It is called 'The American Dream'. This one is very special as it takes place in an apartment for 6 people at a time over dinner. Send an SMS to 922 52 238. The second will be performed on March 10th and 11th by the Lone Twin Theatre from England. They will perform 'Alice Bell - a Musical and Adventure'. Tickets from info@bit-teatergarasjen.no or Tel. 55 23 22 35. More information on the community notice board.

SPORTS FACILITIES OPEN

Many local sports halls and facilities are open at weekends and arrange

activities for children. More information at: www.bergen.kommune.no/idrett.

FINALLY,.....

Today, at ISB, we are taking the time to celebrate a very special achievement in the life of our school. In any institution which is committed to continual improvement, as we are at ISB, it is key to this process to take every opportunity to celebrate the milestones on the road to success. We have every reason to celebrate today. Of the recommendations made by our accrediting agencies we have either completed or have made significant progress in 95% of them. This is an outstanding achievement within such a short space of time. In addition, we have made plans to develop in the remaining areas. Yes, we still face significant challenges, particularly in regard to space, but, as the Board of Trustees has previously announced, our continuing negotiations with the administration and political leadership in Bergen Kommune have succeeded in the promise of more space here at Slettebakken. Most significantly, all our achievements have been possible due to the culture of collaboration and cooperation which exists at every level of our school.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

ISB is pleased to announce a regular hot lunch program beginning in February. Hot lunch will be delivered to participating students every Friday, starting **9th February** and continuing through March, April and May. Parents select lunches from a fixed menu and pay for lunches **in advance** on a monthly basis.

Sally Chan, of Mandarin Restaurant and mother of Hannah and Wah Sek, has offered to prepare a hot lunch for ISB students once a week. Lunches will be pre-packed and ready for delivery to each grade. Parents can select meals and make payment on the dates listed below between **9 and 10am at the restaurant**, with the exception of upper school orders and payment, which can be brought by an upper school representative during morning break at 10.30am on payment dates. Sally will keep track of what each participating student has ordered and of payments.

We realize that this plan for ordering and payment during an assigned time may cause difficulties for parents and children attending supervision or whose children come to school by bus or taxi. For the time being, we ask that parents resolve any such problems themselves by, for example, asking other parents to order and pay on their behalf.

FEBRUARY MENU			<i>payment date - Monday 5th Feb</i>
9 th February	Fried chicken with sweet and sour sauce and steamed rice	Mini spring rolls with sweet and sour sauce and steamed rice <i>(suitable for vegetarians)</i>	35,- kr
16 th February	Pasta with bolognese sauce	Pasta with tomato sauce <i>(suitable for vegetarians)</i>	35,- kr
23 rd February	Vegetable fried rice with mini spring rolls <i>(suitable for vegetarians)</i>		30,- kr

Menus for March, April and May will be listed in the Weekly News nearer the time.

N.B. The prices are based on a young child's portion. If older children or teachers anticipate being very hungry, they may wish to order 2 portions.

<u>Lunch Dates</u>	<u>Payment Date</u>
9 th , 16 th and 23 rd February	Monday 5 th February
9 th , 16 th , 23 rd and 30 th March	Monday 5 th March
20 th and 27 th April	Monday 16 th April
4 th , 11 th and 25 th May	Monday 30 th April

Payment must be made between 9am and 10am (with the exception of upper school students) at **Mandarin Restaurant** which is located on the 2nd floor of the Sletten Senter across from ISB.