

December 2016



Dear PYP Parents and Community,

As the end of 2016 draws near, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on the last few months we have enjoyed here in the Primary and highlight some of what we have to look forward to in 2017.

August started in a hurry with newly organized classrooms to enjoy and a four legged friend to welcome back to the school. The students were busy with the learning as soon as they arrived and before we knew it, we came together for a Family Day celebration. The weather was cooler than we had hoped, so we chose to stay inside to make new friends and connections. Parent, Teacher, Student Conferences arrived just a few days later, with a time for all to get together and check on how the first few weeks had progressed. The students in Grades 3 and 4 then left on camp and the October holidays arrived upon their return. After the well earned break, the decorations were going up for Halloween and the corridors filled with costumes. Turnips were soon ready for carving and shortly after, the Divali celebration was being prepared.

Many Units have been explored in class, Science experiments have been about for all to experience and the students have travelled both near and far to widen their knowledge and perspectives. Home learning celebrations have been regularly heard, with students increasingly realizing the freedom and empowerment of taking their own learning further and the joy of being able to reflect on this moment with peers. We have Danced for Kindness, worked to make Nude Food a daily habit, looked at the Global Sustainable Goals to guide our thinking and skills development and enjoyed an Upcycled Christmas market filled by our Shared Voices choir.

Portfolios have been in constant view and will arrive home *in January* for you to enjoy just before the first Reports come out for the year. As always, we have had a very busy few months, but the memories that we have had the opportunity to make, can truly last a lifetime.

Early mornings are still dark, but as the sun returns in the weeks to come, the time to get up becomes easier. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that students are always at school, on time when the learning begins at 9am. Late arrivals are disruptive for both the late student and all of the other students in class.

Thank you also to parents who have helped us to remind students of the rules for behavior when inside the building. These are the same rules that we observe throughout the school day and reinforcing them both before and after the lessons, helps students to respect their environment and increases safety and well being for all. Teachers who are currently writing school reports most especially appreciate the extra efforts to keep noise levels reasonable at the end of the day.

Looking ahead, new faces will arrive in some classes along with some returning students. Three more CCA sessions are planned and for the very next one, Parents are invited to attend a special CCA, designed to unpack what it is we do in a PYP school more explicitly. We have many special days to keep in view, more camps for Grades 5, 1 and 2, our annual Musical and most especially all our learning journeys to continue. The Mayflower may even arrive at its destination in the coming weeks, if it manages to get up the stairs that is!

A new format for a PYP Newsletter is on my 'to do' list still. I am hoping to have a sample out before the Ski break.

I would like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday with family and friends. Thank you for all of your support, kind words and efforts towards making ISZN the thriving international family community that it is. A particular thank you to PTA volunteers and all that they have facilitated for us. If you are leaving us soon, I wish you safe onwards travels and ask you to please stay in touch.

With appreciation,
Jane Hollands
Head of Primary

