



YEZARE SAMINT

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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October 2, 2008

Issue 08, School Year 2008-09

The ICS Library's Guest Reader Program

The ICS Library's Guest Reader Program continues this Saturday morning at 9:15 in the elementary library with stories read by ICS parent, Donette Hill Walto. Ms. Walto will be reading *Jungle Drums* by Graeme Base and *Naughty Little Monkeys* by Jim Aylesworth. Students in grades PK-2 and their parents will be able to participate in the interactive reading of these stories. Doors open at 9, so come early to get a good seat. And remember that the library is open until 12, so there is plenty of time for families to come and choose books to borrow together.

Musical concert for children Saturday, 18 October

On Saturday, 18 October, a special children's charity concert called KIDS CARNIVAL is taking place at TROPICAL GARDENS in Bole (starting at 4 pm). The event is for children aged 3 to 14 and will finish at 6 pm.

Professional entertainers from the UK including a popular children's singer and mime artist will perform at the concert.

All proceeds from ticket sales will go toward a fundraising campaign entitled "I'm running for a child" to help orphans and vulnerable children which is being staged in connection with the 2008 TOYOTA Great Ethiopian Run.

Ticket prices for the concert are 50 birr for children and 75 birr for adults and can be bought from Great Ethiopian Run office (4th floor, Alem Building 2, Bole; Tel 011-663-3646).

Barbara Parker
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The School Mobile Phone number is 0911-333-650. Please write this number on the cover of your school directory and use it as an alternate number to reach the school whenever there is no answer from our switchboard during regular school day hours.

Important Calendar Dates

Saturday, October 04	SAT Test
Monday, October 06	Meeting with Grade 5 Parents in the Library at 7 PM
Wednesday, October 08	G6-12 Assembly: Great Ethiopian Run at 2:45 PM Early Childhood Education Research from 3:30- 5:00 PM
Thursday, October 09	International Schools Assessment (ISA) for Grades 3-8 and 10 during the morning G11 / IB Retreat
Friday, October 10	International Schools Assessment (ISA) for Grades 3-8 and 10 during the morning MS Movie Night in Multi-Purpose Room at 7:00 PM
Monday, October 13	Ski Trip Meeting at Canape General Board Meeting at 7:00 PM in Library
Wednesday, October 15	PSAT G10-11 in Multi Purpose Room at 9:00 AM
Friday, October 17	PK-12 Early Dismissal at 12:00 PM G6-12 End of Q1 Early Childhood Education Picnic at 11:00 AM

October 20-24 (Mon-Fri) Fall Break (No School)

Motley Singers

Motley Singers is a community choir which has been in existence in Addis Ababa for over 45 years. It is open to anyone who enjoys singing. The group does two concerts a year. Performances are in early December and early May. Practices are held each Monday between 7:30 and 9:30 at the International Lutheran Church. If you are interested, please contact Allison Pagan at 0911-541-726 or email allison.pagan@binghamacademy.net.

Telephone Directory Update

The September update to the telephone directory is included with this issue of the Yezare. Please print it out to add to your directory. If you have any changes to your information, please email them to info@icsaddis.edu.et or submit to the reception desk. If you would like to receive an updated full electronic directory, send your request to info@icsaddis.edu.et and the full directory will be emailed to you.

Board Corner

Overview of the ICS Facilities Development History

In **2001**, the ICS Board of Governors had commissioned an architectural/planning firm, H2L2, to write a facilities development Master Plan for the ICS campus. One building from this plan (science labs/MS/HS classrooms) was constructed.

In **school year 2005/6** ICS conducted a school-wide self-study using the Middle States protocol for accreditation. One of the 12 standards within this protocol focused on school facilities. Over the course of several months a team of ICS parents, faculty, students, administrators and Board members surveyed the ICS community, studied school facility needs and made recommendations for facilities development. Priorities included construction of a theatre, swimming pool, gymnasium space and improved traffic/parking facilities.

In response to the accreditation self-study, in **2006** the Board asked H2L2 to update the Master Plan to accommodate three classes at each grade level in the future and include the priorities identified by the ICS community which included an indoor theatre complex and swimming pool. H2L2 visited in April to undertake the update and in **November 2007** the Board approved the new H2L2 Master Plan and confirmed the priorities noted above.

Following that Board approval, five international architectural firms were invited to bid for the project design contract. In **early 2008**, two firms made in-person presentations to the Board and school administration. Plesner Architects from Israel (designers of the international school there) were awarded the contract. During two visits to Ethiopia, Plesner interviewed five short-listed local architectural firms and recommended two to ICS for consideration. Both were asked to submit formal proposals to serve as the local (national) architect and construction supervisor. Tessema Demisse and Family Architects submitted the most competitive proposal and was selected in July 2008. Also, CVs were sought to fill the post of ICS Project Manager/Owner's Representative. After evaluation by the Board Facilities Committee, former and returning ICS parent, ex-Board member and architect, Yael Cass, was appointed in a part-time role.

At the time of the Master Plan update in 2007 sequential construction of priority facilities was the preferred approach – in particular prioritizing mixed-use rather than single use or grade-specific facilities. In the **early spring of 2008**, the Board requested consideration of constructing multiple facilities simultaneously. Designs and costs of the required temporary classrooms and facilities required to operate school in a 'multiple-facilities-construction' environment were submitted to the Board in late May. The cost of temporary facilities was judged to be prohibitive (over \$750,000 US). Additional external factors were also considered - Ethiopian legislation on VAT, tax and NGOs (which might have a bearing on numbers of expatriate families living and working in Addis) are expected. Costs and availability of some building material also presented a problem. Consensus at the **June 2008** meeting of the Board was to return to sequential construction of new school facilities beginning with the gym and following with a sequence to be determined at a later date subject to further information on costs and funding options.

At the time of writing this overview, ICS is pursuing the Land Title Deed for the campus; schematic design of the gym facility has been approved and has been forwarded to the local architect for preliminary cost estimate and construction scheduling. The schematic design for the gym and a preliminary budget request was discussed at the Board Facilities/Finance Committee meeting of 1 September 2008.

Also on 1 September a preferred sequencing of further projects was agreed, subject to costs estimates for each project and their timing:

- 1A Gymnasium
- 1B Elementary / Early Childhood (2 x 'L' shaped buildings on plan)
- 1C Theatre, including traffic improvements
- 1D Elementary / Early Childhood (1 x '-' shaped building on plan)
- 1E Swimming pool
 - o Project 1A to be financed from "Reserve"
 - o Projects 1B and 1C to be financed together from loan.
 - o Depending upon timing, Project 1B could be financed from "Reserve"

Phase 2 projects retained from approved Master Plan include Library, MS/HS classrooms, computer labs.

The expected duration of Project 1A is 18 months. Ground breaking is expected in the Spring of this school year.

Facilities Committee

Secondary Corner

G11 and IB Retreat

The last two years for our high school students begin the focus on their next steps: selecting and entering college. At ICS we begin this process with all our grade 11 students with a retreat together. Next week we will take our students to Woliso and Wenchi Crater, where the students will have teambuilding activities, learn about beginning their college search, and many details about the IB Diploma program requirements. Currently, 27 of our 41 juniors are considering the full IB Diploma. However, all of our grade 11/12 students participate in the IB Program by taking at least a few IB classes. Many thanks to our IB Coordinator and Dean of Students, Joyce Halsey, for organizing this year's retreat, and to the teachers who will be taking care of our juniors.

SAT for Seniors

Many of our seniors will be taking or retaking the US college entrance test, the SAT, this Saturday. The test includes reading, math and writing components, and lasts for more than four hours. Parents, please remind your seniors to get a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast before they come to school for the test: no sugar! *We wish all our seniors taking the test good luck and good test writing!*

Community Service Plans

This year we are offering a new class in community leadership and service, and the students in our class have BIG plans for our student body. They have several projects that will soon begin involving many ICS students, of all grades. On Wednesday, October 8, they will be hosting a middle/high school assembly to interest students in the *Great Ethiopian Run*. If you would like to learn more about the GER and how you can participate, please join our assembly at 2:45 pm on Wednesday.

External Testing Begins Next Week

Students in grades 3–8 and 10 will be taking the International Schools Assessment next week, for two mornings. This test allows us to measure our students' academic progress against similar international schools, and at grade ten, with many national education systems that participate in the OECD's PISA test. The following week, on October 15, our grade 10/11 students will also take the PSAT, as a preparation for taking the US college entrance test, the SAT.

Q3 Ends Soon

All middle/high school students know that their first academic quarter will end on October 17, before the Autumn Break. October 17 will be a half-day, with dismissal for all students at noon. Parents are reminded that our Report Cards will be given out at the Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 30/31. Please check your "October Secondary Calendar" for more details...if you don't have that calendar, you can download it from our web site.