

2011/2012 School Year

Dear ICS Elementary School Parents:

As the new ICS Librarian it has been a pleasure meeting your children and many of you these past weeks and I hope to meet many more parents in the weeks to come.

Library Program Goals

I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an overview of our library program and some of our specific goals. The mission of our library program reflects the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) mission which is, in brief, "... to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information." To this end library staff and I work collaboratively with other faculty towards empowering our students to be:

- critical thinkers,
- enthusiastic readers,
- skillful researchers,
- and ethical users of information (*Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs*)

Recent Changes

In support of these goals, and particularly that of developing enthusiastic, life-long readers one recent change in our library has been the inter-shelving of leveled books with the rest of the collection. This move reflects our belief that our collection is "not simply an extension of classroom book collections or classroom teaching methods, but rather a place where children can explore interests safely and without restrictions. (AASL) In short, we aim to stimulate and satisfy students' natural curiosity and imagination and provide guided access to a range of "just right" books. We want them to have fun while reading!

This move also allows us to follow a standard classification and shelving arrangement so that students can learn and understand how many libraries arrange their materials, find what they are looking for and apply this knowledge to other library situations.

For more information regarding leveled books and the school library please see:

- American Association of School Librarians. ["Position Statement on Labeling Books with Reading Levels"](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/positionstatements/labeling.cfm)
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General Information

It is so important for parents to share and model reading in support of your child's reading experiences. Family use of our library is encouraged, and parents can receive their own library account, so please come in and "check us out" to borrow reading materials for your child and yourself.

Library hours:

Monday-Friday	7:30am – 5:00pm (Elementary section closes at 4:30pm)
Saturday	9:00am-12noon

I welcome discussion and feedback in order to create a dynamic library program and to support your child's reading and information needs. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas. I look forward to seeing the students - and you - in the ICS Addis Library.

Happy reading!

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