



# PARENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

¡Hola a todos! I can't believe that it's almost December already! We will soon be getting our second Teaching Assistant for the school, Mariana, who will be coming from Argentina. There may be a Meet and Greet for families to come meet Mariana in early December, so watch for that information. As we are working through the year and trying to overcome certain obstacles, we are rearranging schedules around the school to create the best possible learning situation for each class. Our schedule in third grade has been very inconsistent, due to available prep and TA times. However, in talking with Señora Terhaar, we have worked out a better schedule not only for my class, but for others as well. This hopefully will help create a more stable routine in our classroom. Along these same lines, in order to create more routine and stability, I have decided to alter the homework situation slightly, including the spelling. **In the Thursday envelope, you will find the new homework schedule laid out. Please keep this in a safe place, for reference at home.**

Also on the note of homework...some concerns have been raised about students relying heavily on online translators for their homework. While this may be a quick reference for some, it seems to be a main resource for others. The other teachers of ISLA and I would caution against using online translators, for a number of reasons. First, online translators often have incorrect translations. Second, relying heavily on online translators teaches students to simply have someone or something else do the work for them, rather than really trying to learn the language themselves. If students are working on an assignment and are unsure of how to write something in Spanish, please encourage them to use a dictionary for the important words, and do their best to fill in the rest. It is okay if there is some English (mainly for the students who are newer to ISLA), as they will eventually learn to fill in those gaps throughout the year. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Thanksgiving is coming up soon, and will leave us a short week next week. Therefore, next week, students will not receive any NEW spelling, but will still have their Spanish test on Tuesday. On **Monday**, students will also have their second math test. I will send home their workbooks for them to practice with. We have completed most sections of it to this point, however they can use it to review any difficult concepts. Please return the workbook to school on Monday.

Also, keep looking through the Scholastic Order Forms and think about any books that you might like to order just in time for winter break. Send orders back with a check made out to **Scholastic Books, along with the order form, by Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

ISLA Toy Drive is still in progress, until **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Send any toys to school with your child for our collection box. Refer to last week's flyer for guidelines or information on this toy drive.

## Upcoming Events:

**TONIGHT:** Día de los Muertos Family Night in the ISLA Gym from 6:00-8:00pm.

**November 26-28: NO SCHOOL**

Have a great Thanksgiving Break!

Cori Adams

[cadams@islacad.org](mailto:cadams@islacad.org)

952-746-6020