



PARENT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 15, 2009

¡Hola a todos! We are still working on transitioning to SPANISH ONLY in the classroom. Students are all making more of an effort and showing excellent progress. Keep encouraging your child to practice speaking, reading and writing in Spanish at home.

We are beginning to explore new technologies in the classroom, including a great online program called "VoiceThread," where students can listen to voice recordings of stories, or make their own recordings in the classroom. I would encourage all students and families to test out this site and use their own reading group books (A-Z) to read along with Juan Carlos, who has taken the time to voice record each of next week's stories. This is much like using a Book on Tape, but is right there on the computer! **Please look on the other side of this newsletter for instructions on how to access VoiceThread from home.**

We are soon to start our first IB Unit of Inquiry, on water, which will be an exciting journey for us all. If you have any interesting books or artifacts connected to water, please feel free to send them in to school with your child to share with the class!

It's time for a new round of Scholastic Book Orders. I've taken the time to look through the catalogs and make some suggestions for families, listed below. Orders will be due **Thursday, February 5th**. Remember to make orders online if possible - these are safe and secure orders and will go directly to Scholastic. If you are uncomfortable placing orders online, send the order form and a check made out to *Scholastic Books*, to school.

Online ordering: www.scholastic.com/parentordering; Username: SrtaAdams; Password: thirdgrade

Here are some Scholastic book suggestions:

From Club Leo: #51, 2, 12, 15, 7, 36, 18, 28

From Lucky: #74, 80, 93, 38, 22, 4, 82, 79, 41, 86

From Inauguration Edition (there are some great follow-ups to our study on elections, and the upcoming "Black History Month," among others!): 46, 82, 69, 64, 54, 49, 39, 7, 32, 76, 31

Reminders:

IB Informational Night and Parent Info Night will take place on tonight, January 15th. If you are interested in learning more about the IB program and how we are implementing it at ISLA, please come to this meeting at 6:15pm. Following this meeting, there is a Parent Info Meeting, for all prospective parents for next year, at 7:00pm. NOTE: These meetings are for adults only, and there will be no childcare provided, so please make prior arrangements for your child or children.

If you would like to enroll the sibling of an ISLA student for Kindergarten next year, please send in an enrollment form. Forms sent in by February 13th, will lead to automatic enrollment. After the 13th, enrollment is NOT automatic. Call Emily in the office with questions.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 15: IB Info Night - 6:15pm; Parent Info Night - 7:00pm

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday, January 20: McDonald's Night 4-7pm