



PARENT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 8, 2009

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope everyone's year is off to a great start. We are trying to start fresh in our classroom, re-establishing our "Essential Agreements," discussing how to resolve conflicts and discovering how to create more peace and community our classroom. In addition to this "New Year's Resolution," we are also beginning our SPANISH ONLY policy at ISLA. Students in all classes will now be required to speak only Spanish in the classroom and school. While many students seemed to be holding back earlier in the year, lacking confidence in their skills, I am already seeing them become **risk-takers** (one of our IB Profiles), and progressing in their speaking skills. Keep encouraging your child at home to practice more Spanish - they are much more capable than they probably let on!

As for other changes in our classroom, I was so grateful to receive such a wonderful holiday gift from the whole class, of a Wish List Fund. I have already been using this eagerly, to supply our classroom with more games and materials to further support students' learning. To give you an idea of where that money has gone, here are a few things I have purchased thus far: Adivina Quien (Guess Who - for practicing language skills), SMATH (a math operations game), Mar de Sílabas (to practice building Spanish words), Silly Starters (story prompts to get students writing - and have fun while doing so!), timers, posters, Spanish crossword puzzles, and so on. So thank you so much for helping to make these additions to our classroom!

We are soon to start our first IB Unit of Inquiry, on water, which will be an exciting journey for us all. We continue to focus on our IB Profiles and Attitudes. January's profile is Balanced (Equilibrados), and we are discussing how to keep ourselves balanced in our lives. Some examples have included the book A Bad Case of Stripes, and The Mixed-Up Chameleon. The attitude of the month is Cooperation (Cooperación), so we are working hard on resolving conflicts in the classroom and learning how to cooperate with others. Ask your child about these things, and encourage them to think about and practice them at home!

Reminders:

IB Informational Night and Parent Info Night will take place on Thursday, 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, 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:

Monday, January 12: PTO Meeting - 7pm; PTO Family Night - 7-9pm

Tuesday, January 13: Late Start Day - school begins 2 hours later; ISLA Board Meeting - 7pm

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

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

Cori Adams
cadams@islacad.org
952-746-6020