

**International Spanish
Language Academy**
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changes or billing questions)
info@misamigospreschool.com
Emergencies or running late:
(952) 905-0111

Noticias de ISLA

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FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Queridas familias,

I still feel as though it's just the new year, and already we are into the second month of 2011! With this new year will come a number of positive changes for ISLA. I would like to update you on these future changes.

There are numerous quotes from Winston Churchill that we've read with a chuckle over the years, but one relevant quote I will share here. "There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction" We will certainly be moving in the right direction in the next six months, and for this reason, changes ahead will be very good!

As you know, for the past year ISLA has been searching for a new authorizer, as Hopkins School District would like to terminate its sponsorship agreement with ISLA early. Currently our contract with Hopkins extends through June, 2012.

If you've followed this story in the media, you know that there have been some issues with the legislation and the timeline given to schools. Almost a year following the new criteria, the first six organizations were finally approved as authorizers. This made it impossible for schools to seek new authorizers for much of last year. Fortunately for us at ISLA, we had established relationships with some members of organizations seeking authorizer approval from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), and we took the first steps with these organizations early in the game.

As it stands today, ISLA has completed application to two authorizers who are both certified by the state and they are now in the process of completing the application as our authorizer to MDE before the current deadline of June 30. We at ISLA always plan for "worst case scenario" to ensure our success. This is why we have applied to not one, but two certified authorizers. Both of these organizations are very interested in ISLA, and we are encouraged that the process will be very successful.

It appears that the June 30, 2011 date may not be a hard date. The week of January 24th we received word from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools who released the following:

Legislation Introduced for One-Year Extension for Current Sponsors to Become Approved Authorizers

Earlier this week, the bill to provide a 1 year extension for current sponsors to become approved authorizers was introduced in the Senate ([S.F. 55](#)).

The bill is authored by Senator David Hann (R), with four co-authors including Senator Terri Bonoff (DFL), Senator Gen Olson (R) - Education Committee Chair - and Senator Roger Chamberlain (R) and Senator Ted Daley (R), both freshman Senators. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee next Wednesday, January 26th.

The companion House bill ([H.F. 134](#)) was introduced late Thursday afternoon. The chief author is Rep. Kelby Woodard (R), a freshman from Belle Plaine. Co-authors include Rep. Linda Slocum (DFL), who was the chief author of the 2009 charter school legislation in the House.

At this time everything is pointing in the direction of having a new authorizer before the end of the year, but if this legislation goes through, we will have this *extra* security in the authorizer process.

As was reported last month by the facility committee, we are still moving forward with a new facility for 2011-12. The closing date is scheduled for the end of this month. Once we have all paperwork in place, we will plan an all-school assembly to inform students of any and all changes for the coming school year.

Here's to moving in the "right direction"!

Karen Terhaar
ISLA Director



**NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE,
THE WORD
ITSELF SAYS
'I'M
POSSIBLE'.**
AUDREY HEPBURN

In anticipation of a successful closing on a future home for ISLA, Bouma Construction (Grand Rapids, MI) is pre-qualifying potential vendors to work on the construction project. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Pete Hill at phill@boumaconstruct

McDonald's Night

Please plan on attending the ILSA PTO fundraiser at the McDonald's located at 4637 Shady Oak Road on Tuesday, February 22nd from 4-7 pm. 15% of ISLA sales over \$250 will be donated to ISLA. Come enjoy not having to cook and being able to connect with other ISLA families. Let them know that you are from ISLA or print a flyer from the ISLA website.

Student Led Conferences

Your upcoming conference with your child is meant to be an informative and rewarding experience. As you probably know, your role in this conference is that of active listener. As your child reports to you on his/her progress, feel free to record any questions or comments you have.

The conference will be structured so that two conferences occur simultaneously. You will first meet with your child and discuss the portfolio of work for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes the teacher will join the conference to review fall goals, discuss and answer questions. All parties must do their best to adhere to the schedule, as there is no lag time between one group finishing and the next one beginning. If you feel the need to continue the conference beyond 30 minutes, you can schedule a time to meet with the teacher at a later date.

This conference is a time for open and honest discussion with your child about his/her progress in school. Children are involved in the conference in an effort to continue optimal communication among child/parent/teacher. If you have a concern that you would prefer to address with the teacher in private, please let him/her know and you can make arrangements to communicate with one another at another time.

This should be a positive and informative conference for all!

Student-led conferences will be held Monday, February 7th, Tuesday, February 8th and Thursday, February 10th from 4-8 pm. If you have not signed up for your child's conference, please sign up at one of the following links:

Sra. Shrestha: <http://www.doodle.com/x7mgcyu7txpbatb6>

Sra. Patino: <http://www.doodle.com/t8df4q7255eqqkh7>

Srta. Bera: <http://www.doodle.com/etmpkhgr72y8y9a9>

Srta. De La Cruz: <http://www.doodle.com/gcdd4untw9b6ba7h>

Srta. Helgerson: <http://www.doodle.com/ge2yuzbxbp4rd6k85>

Sr. Franco: <http://www.doodle.com/ws2wbwzsq9nhtnzs>

Srta. Adams: <http://www.doodle.com/hpmndnz8g6uwdpr9>

Sra. Boeser: <http://www.doodle.com/m8ypa6f852vpr2f3>

Srta. Lea (5th Grade): <http://www.doodle.com/5uc9tmbzhhp4actd>

Srta. Lea - 6th Grade Math Students: <http://www.doodle.com/4xb4yzzf6yh25nggh>

Late Start

Our next late start day is Tuesday, February 22nd. School will start 2 hours late (11 am). AM buses will also run 2 hours late. PM kindergarten will attend at their normal time. If you need child care, please contact Mis Amigos at (952) 935-5588 or info@misamigospreschool.com.



President's Day

In honor of President's Day there will be no school on Monday, February 21st. If you need child care for this day, please contact Carolina at Mis Amigos at either (952) 935-5588 or info@misamigospreschool.com.



ISLA Seeks Candidates for Board of Directors

The International Spanish Language Academy (ISLA), a K-6 Spanish Immersion and International Baccalaureate PYP Candidate charter school, seeks candidates for it's Board of Directors. We are looking for interested community members, teachers, and parents to fill several upcoming vacancies for 3 year terms, beginning June 30, 2011.

As a charter school, ISLA's Board of Directors operates as it's own school district. The Board is responsible for overseeing the general operations of the school, implementing policies and procedures, as well as long term financial planning. There are a number of different committees that Board members can choose to serve on.

This year, ISLA is particularly seeking Board candidates with experience in finance or accounting, human resources, public relations and marketing, as well as fundraising and development. Questions can be directed to Jill Prohofsky at jprohofsky@islacad.org.

If you are interested in applying, please submit a Statement of Interest and Background Check authorization form to the Nominations Committee by February 21, 2011. These forms are located on the home page of the school's website (www.islacad.org). Candidate selection will be posted on the school's website on April 1, 2011 and the election for office will

In anticipation of a successful closing on a future home for ISLA, Bouma Construction (Grand Rapids, MI) is pre-qualifying potential venders to work on the construction project. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Pete Hill at phill@boumaconstruction.com. Pete will lead the pre-qualification process and should be able to answer any questions you may have regarding this project.

Calendar of Events

New Parent Info Meeting	Feb. 3, 7 pm
Student-led Conferences	Feb. 7, 4-8 pm
Student-led Conferences	Feb. 8, 4-8 pm
ISLA Board Meeting	Feb. 8, 6:30 pm
Student-led Conferences	Feb. 10, 4-8 pm
Sibling Enrollment Deadline	Feb. 14, 4 pm
Kindergarten Lottery	Feb. 15, 10 am
McDonald's Night	Feb. 15, 4-7 pm
Roller Garden Fun Night	Feb. 18, 4:30-8 pm
President's Day, no school	Feb. 21
Late Start (2 hours late)	Feb. 22
PM kinder attends at normal time.	
State of the School Address	Feb. 22, 7 pm
Davanni's Night, Golden Valley	Mar. 3, 4-8 pm



State of the School Event Tuesday, February 22nd 7-9 pm

At this event there will be brief presentations from ISLA school administration, the ISLA School Board, and the ISLA PTO. The forum will open up to ask questions, town hall style, followed by the opportunity to meet one-on-one with ISLA School Board Directors, administration staff, and PTO officers to ask any other questions you have and find out more info about what everyone does.

Roller Garden Fun Night

The next Roller Garden fundraiser will be held on Friday, February 18th from 4:30-8:00 pm. Skate rental will be included in the \$5.00 admission fee. (\$3.00 more for inline rental.) There is a coupon on the PTO website to turn in at the door. ISLA will receive \$1.00 for each coupon turned in.

The Roller Garden is located at 5622 West Lake Street in St. Louis Park.



Pizza Luce Fundraiser

This month our restaurant night will be Monday, February 21st (Presidents Day) at Pizza Luce in Hopkins. Come check out this new restaurant and raise funds for our PTO. Dine anytime between 11am and 9pm and 25% of your check will go directly towards our new playground!



Leamos en español/Spanish Read to Me

[Rockford Road Library](#)

Mondays, Jan. 10–Feb. 28, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Preschool-grade 4. Para niños del preescolar al 4to. grado. Se leen cuentos en español para los niños. Algunas veces nos divertimos con un juego tradicional o vemos una película corta en español. ¡Ven por un cuento o dos o tres!

Stories read to children in Spanish. Sometimes a traditional game might be included or a short movie in Spanish. Stop by for a story or two or three!

Danielle Daniels: African American Storyteller

[Southdale Library](#)

Saturday, Feb. 12, 1–2 p.m.

Hear spell-binding folktales, stories containing wit and wisdom, and songs down through the generations. Daniel's stories, combined with a unique blend of music, will captivate and transport you on an exciting journey filled with adventure, suspense, and drama. American Indian

Storytelling: The Ojibwa People

[Franklin Library](#)

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2–3 p.m.

Kindergarten and up. Share stories and activities traditional to the Ojibwa people at this family event.

American Indian Storytelling: The Dakota People

[Franklin Library](#)

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2–3 p.m.

Kindergarten and up. Share stories and activities traditional to the Dakota people at this family event.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party

[St. Louis Park Library](#)

Tuesday, March 1, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Preschool-grade 3. Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with stories, games and more Seuss-a-licious fun.

Live @ the Library: Coyote Stories

[Plymouth Library](#)

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m.

K-grade 5. Enjoy trickster tales of Coyote, that lovable, but often fool-hardy, character. Coyote stories of the Assiniboine of the Great Plains, the Aztecs of Mexico and the Okanagun and Salishan of the Great Basin, will bring laughter, nurture our spirit and remind us to celebrate life

Guthrie Theater: Acting Games for Beginners

[Hopkins Library](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2

Registration required, begins Mar 2. Register online or call 952.847.5500.

Grades 3-5. Learn how actors rev up their creative juices, tune up their spontaneity and stay in the moment. No experience necessary;

Absences

When your child is absent or attending a morning appointment, please call the school office at (952) 746-6020 and give the following information:

- Name of student
- Grade
- Name of teacher
- Reason for absence ****important****

If your child will be absent for any reason other than illness, parents/guardians should contact the school office and your child's teacher before the absence.

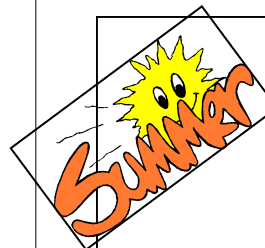
Students arriving late, must be accompanied to the office to get a tardy admit slip to get in to class.

On occasion, you may need to take your child out of classes for a short period of time or before the end of the school day. Please come to the office and ask the ISLA staff to send for your student. Please do not go to your child's classroom to pick them up.

Parents, we need your help.

Please remember school starts at 9 am. Students who are not signed for Compañeros are not allowed in the building before 8:45 am. There is no supervision available for students. If your child attends Compañeros please make sure you walk your student into the school to sign him/her into Compañeros. Safety is our number one priority. We want to make sure that all students are accounted for and in the right place.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Summer Camp

Information about Summer Camp will be out in our next week's Thursday folder. We are looking forward to a fun summer of Spanish camp. Many of our ISLA teachers will be leading the activities. We expect to have four weeks of camp.