

**International Spanish  
Language Academy**

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# Noticias de ISLA

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

JANUARY 6, 2011

Dear families,

As 2010 came to a close, I took the opportunity to reflect on what was accomplished at ISLA the past year. It was a lot!

Every year we conduct a family survey, as well as a staff survey, which gives us a chance to view the school through another lens. ISLA makes adjustments and changes every year based on parent feedback. We also analyze our day-to-day operations as a staff and make changes we see necessary.

A focus the past year has been to further create community at ISLA, as we continue to grow each year. Now most staff members have had training in *Responsive Classroom*, a training that provides educators with multiple strategies for creating community, setting consistent behavior expectations, and nurturing through a positive environment. We have seen great results from this training! Teachers are using common language, and common procedures. Students respond well and expectations are clear. While we occupy more space here at the Faith facility, the environment is calmer.

Another focus is on curriculum and instruction. We strive for continuous improvement, and over the past year we worked as a staff on curriculum mapping and development. Teachers received training in Every Day Math and FOSS Science kits. You may notice now that the IBPYP is front and center in newsletters and other classroom communication. Karen Speich has worked diligently with teachers to tweak and enhance the units of inquiry. Currently teachers are completing Spanish language curriculum and assessment to correspond with our scope and sequence. It is especially exciting for me, as I see us doing things that never happened in my former experience in immersion. Our Magnet Schools Grant is making this possible!

As 2011 is upon us, at ISLA we will continue to stay focused on who we are and what our mission drives us to do: we will work hard on Spanish language to provide the best immersion experience in Minnesota, we will stay focused on high academic achievement to make this a stellar offering for families, and we will continue to promote an international education that will prepare our students for the global society they will live and participate in going forward. We all look forward to a prosperous new year!

Sincerely,

Karen Terhaar  
Director





## Calendar of Events

January 6	Homemade Pizza Co. "dough"raiser, 3-8 pm
January 11	ISLA Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
January 13	New Parent Info Meeting, 7 pm
January 13	Homemade Pizza Co. "dough"raiser, 3-8 pm
January 14	Playground task force meeting, 9:30 am
January 17	Martin Luther King Day, No School
January 18	Late Start, 2 hours late - No PM kinder
January 18	McDonald's Night, 4-7 pm
January 18	4-H Meeting, 7 pm
January 20	Homemade Pizza Co. "dough"raiser, 3-8 pm
January 25	ISLA-PTO meeting, 7 pm
January 27	Homemade Pizza Co. "dough"raiser, 3-8 pm
January 28**	PTO Family Night, 6-8 pm**note date change
February 3	New Parent Info Meeting, 7 pm
February 15	Kindergarten Lottery, 10 am
February 22	State of the School Address, 7 pm



## 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 its 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 its 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](mailto: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](http://www.islacad.org)). Candidate selection will be posted on the school's website on April 1, 2011 and the election for office will occur May 20, 2011.

## EXTRA SOCKS

Please have an extra pair of socks in your student's backpack in case they get their feet wet playing in the snow.



## HOMEMADE PIZZA Co

On Thursdays from 3-8 pm during the month of January, the ISLA PTO will be holding a "dough" raiser at Homemade Pizza Co. located at 11313 Hwy. 7 (Hopkins Crossroads & Hwy 7). HomeMade Pizza Co. offers "we make it, you bake it" pizza as well as salads and sweets. The following are the

January ISLA "dough" raiser dates:

- January 6th
- January 13th
- January 20th
- January 27th

Phone: (952) 933-1100  
Go to <https://www.homemadepizza.com/>

mmm...

locations/minnesota.html to pre-order online. Look for a flyer to present in your Thursday folder or go to the following site: <http://www.isla-pto.org/pizza.html> to print one.



# School Closing

The directive to close schools comes from the office of the superintendent of Hopkins Schools. All local stations announce school closings for early dismissals due to developments included in the announcement possibility of school being closed. The major local TV stations. You can also sign up for e-mail notification regarding closings at the following site: <http://wcco.com/schoolclosings>. **Please avoid calling the school during this extremely busy time.**



Hopkins Schools in the morning before school opens and announce opening severe weather. ISLA will not be named individually. We are about Hopkins School District #270. If there is a question as to the closed, please tune your radio to WCCO or other local news station run a continuous print-out across the bottom to keep you informed on school closings.

**\*\*A form was sent home in November for families to complete regarding where your child should go in the event of an early school closing. Please make sure that ISLA has this form on file for your child. Contact the office if you need another form.\*\***

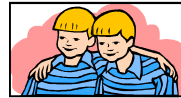
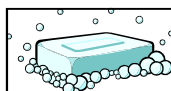
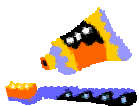
## McDonald's Night



Please plan on attending the ILSA PTO fundraiser at the McDonald's located at 4637 Shady Oak Road on Tuesday, January 18th 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. Look for a flyer to present with you order to come home the week of January 13th .

## Hygiene Drive

Shannon Lundin and Anna Nagel (2 of ISLA's 5th grade students) will be holding a hygiene drive for their Girl Scout Troop (#10722) from now until March 15th. They are collecting these items for both adults and children who are in need. You can donate any unopened and unused hygienic product. There will be a donation box outside of the ISLA office for you or your child to donate items. Shannon and Anna would like to thank you in advance for your generous donation!



## Sibling Enrollment

*Make sure that your child receives the sibling enrollment priority they are entitled to at ISLA. Submit a student application to the ISLA office for the sibling of a currently enrolled student by the sibling enrollment deadline of February 14, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Any student applications for a sibling received after the deadline, will follow regular enrollment processes.*

## Authorizer Update

We are submitting applications to two different potential authorizers this month. We have met with individuals from *Novation Education Opportunities* and *Innovative Quality Schools*. Both are single-purpose authorizers, and both look promising. We will update the ISLA community as that process continues.

## Money Wars for H2O For Life

“Money Wars is a project that ISLA did to help raise money for ERM Caserio El Jocotillo, a school in El Salvador, so they can have clean water. You put pennies in your own jar to raise your total and silver coins and dollar bills in other classes’ jars to lower their total. The class with the highest total at the end of the week was Senor Franco’s 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. At the end of the week, we donated \$1,327.39 to ERM Caserio El Jocotillo. This will help them build a water pump or latrines.”

Written by Olivia Anderson, Laila Elbakkal and William Valley

## Save the Date

Next month our restaurant night will be Monday, February 21st (Presidents Day) at Pizza Luce, 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!



## Parent Education

### Why Do Kids Act That Way?

*Denise Konen*

*For parents or staff working with 4-12 year olds.*

Is it difficult at times, to make sense of your child’s bad behavior? Are you tired of fighting and yelling? Children have reasons for behaving the way they do. Learn how to identify what is causing negative behavior, and leave with effective strategies to increase positive behavior. Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept. by Jan. 20.  
1 session—limit 30 \$10/adult, \$15 household  
Tu., Jan. 25 6:30-8:00 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 209

### Selling Sexiness to Children

*William J Doherty, Ph.D.*

There is increasing pressure on young children, especially girls, but now boys as well, to look and act sexy. It’s promoted by marketers, accepted by many parents who want their kids to fit in, and be-moaned by other parents who struggle to resist this trend. Let’s talk about what we can do to take back childhood. *William J. Doherty, Ph.D., Marriage and Family therapist, Professor and Director of the Citizen Professional Center at the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota.* Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept. by Feb. 23.  
1 session \$10/adult, \$15/household  
Mon., Feb 28 7:00-8:30 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 233

Resources to help you  
be the parent  
you know you can be

## Parenting Series - with expert Paul Buckley

### Perfect Storm Series

#### Part 1: Perfect Storm: Homework, Video Gaming, Facebook & Adolescence

*For parents of students grades 4-12*  
Learn about media’s effect on a child’s learning, motivation, and intentions. Discuss what is healthy and how to set limits. *Paul Buckley is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.* Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept. by 3/2.

1 session - limit 30 \$10  
Mon., Mar. 7 6:30-8:00 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 209

#### Perfect Storm Part 2:

*For parents of students grades 4-12*  
Discuss strategies to help parents based upon the specific nature of their concerns regarding media and children. Not necessary to have attended Part I. Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept by Mar. 9.

1 session - limit 30 \$10  
Mon., Mar. 14 6:30-8:00 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 209

**\*\*Register for both Perfect Storm Parenting classes and get \$5 off! Call 952-988-4070 for information.**

### Cool Cucumber Series

**Part I: Anger in the Family**  
*Parents with children in grades K-9*  
Learn how and why loving families can express unhealthy anger habits. Get the tools to replace anger habits with specific “cool cucumber” parenting skills.

*Paul Buckley is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.* Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept. by Jan. 26.

1 session - limit 30 \$10  
Mon., Jan. 31 6:30-8:00 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 209

#### Part II: Four Methods to Reduce Anger

*Parents with children in grades K-9*  
When kids get frustrated or angry, parents can escalate their emotions quickly too. Learn how to replace anger habits with four specific “cool cucumber” parenting skills. Not necessary to have attended Part 1. Register at Hopkins Community Ed. Dept. by Feb. 2.

1 session - limit 30 \$10  
Mon., Feb. 7 6:30-8:00 pm  
Eisenhower Community Center, 209

**\*\*Register for both Cool Cucumber Parenting classes and get \$5 off! Call 952-988-4070 for information.**





# A Word from the Board...

Dear ISLA Families:

As we were off to the beginning of 2011, the Board is focused on important decisions and planning for the next school year beginning in the fall of 2011. Most importantly, the Board is working on securing permanent facility space.

We informed you in November that ISLA was engaged in discussions with an investor, Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC), a non-profit organization whose mission is to help charter schools nationally by purchasing, renovating, renting, and selling buildings to charter schools. Since that last update, the Facility Committee and Board have worked relentlessly over the last two months to close a deal related to a permanent home for ISLA. That deal presented a feasible option for a new facility to serve as ISLA's home. As disclosed previously, that property is located within HSD boundaries and is located at 5959 Shady Oak Road. Although ISLA and CSDC had hoped to close on that deal in late December, some lending issues unrelated to ISLA prevented that from happening. Nevertheless, ISLA and CSDC are continuing to negotiate, and CSDC is working on resolving its lending issues. We remain hopeful that a deal can be arrived at and closed soon. Please keep your fingers crossed! We will keep you apprised of this progress.

Given these issues and exciting developments, we expect that the Board will spend a great deal of its time solidifying our facility situation for next year and beyond. We appreciate your continued support and responsive efforts to our requests during this process. We will continue to keep you updated. As always, please feel free to contact the Board or attend a Board meeting if you have input on these important issues.

## The ISLA Board of Directors

### **ISLA Voting Board Members:**

<b>Vanessa Bera</b>	<a href="mailto:vbera@islacad.org">vbera@islacad.org</a>
<b>Richard Barnett</b>	<a href="mailto:rbarnet@islacad.org">rbarnet@islacad.org</a>
<b>Brianna Boesser</b>	<a href="mailto:bboesser@islacad.org">bboesser@islacad.org</a>
<b>Ron Clarke (Secretary)</b>	<a href="mailto:rclarke@islacad.org">rclarke@islacad.org</a>
<b>Mark Mathison</b>	<a href="mailto:mmathison@islacad.org">mmathison@islacad.org</a>
<b>Sonia Miller-Van Oort (Chair)</b>	<a href="mailto:smiller@islacad.org">smiller@islacad.org</a>
<b>Eric Peterson (Chair- Elect)</b>	<a href="mailto:epeterson@islacad.org">epeterson@islacad.org</a>
<b>Jill Prohofsky</b>	<a href="mailto:jprohofsky@islacad.org">jprohofsky@islacad.org</a>
<b>Joe Rinaldi, III</b>	<a href="mailto:jrinaldi@islacad.org">jrinaldi@islacad.org</a>
<b>Steve Semler</b>	<a href="mailto:ssemler@islacad.org">ssemler@islacad.org</a>
<b>Kate Shablott</b>	<a href="mailto:kshablott@islacad.org">kshablott@islacad.org</a>
<b>Michael Valley (Treasurer)</b>	<a href="mailto:mvalley@islacad.org">mvalley@islacad.org</a>

### **Ex Officio Members:**

<b>Theresa Aleckson (PTO Chair)</b>	<a href="mailto:theresamn@aol.com">theresamn@aol.com</a>
<b>Molly Quinn (Founder)</b>	<a href="mailto:mbquinn710@comcast.net">mbquinn710@comcast.net</a>
<b>Diane Schimelpfenig (Hopkins School District)</b>	<a href="mailto:diane_schimelpfenig@hopkins.k12.mn.us">diane_schimelpfenig@hopkins.k12.mn.us</a>
<b>Karen Terhaar (Exec. Director &amp; Founder)</b>	<a href="mailto:KTerhaar@islacad.org">KTerhaar@islacad.org</a>
<b>Kerry Krawczyk-LeMieux (Founder)</b>	<a href="mailto:klemieux@islacad.org">klemieux@islacad.org</a>

## ISLA PTO Board

Theresa Aleckson,  
Board Chair

Brenda Fromm,  
Co-Vice Chair

Corey Halls,  
Co-Vice Chair

Jennifer Chism,  
Co-Vice Chair

Melinda Boone,  
Treasurer

Amy Hesselgrave,  
Secretary

Leslee Tejada,  
Volunteer Coordinator

Liz Martin,  
TA Coordinator



# PTO Newsletter

## Announcements

Be sure to take a few minutes to fill out the Annual ISLA Parent Survey. The PTO collects your answers to help us better serve to our ISLA families, and we share your views and responses with the ISLA Administration so they can also work on being even better.

The survey link again is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/islapt0>

*A **Playground Task Force** has been formed to recommend playground equipment and a funding strategy for the new building. Please contact Brenda Fromm if you are interested in joining. ([brenfromm@yahoo.com](mailto:brenfromm@yahoo.com) or 763-245-9829). The first meeting will be held on Friday, January 14th at 9:30 am.*



## Language Ambassadors

When rides are needed, they send a message to a Google group, [isla ta rides@googlegroups.com](mailto:isla_ta_rides@googlegroups.com). You can join by sending an email to [isla ta rides+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:isla_ta_rides+subscribe@googlegroups.com) or [info@isla-pt0.org](mailto:info@isla-pt0.org) to request to be included.

## \*\*\*Direct Donation Campaign\*\*\*

So far, our direct donation campaign has collected contributions from 9 donors, totaling \$1090. Add this to the \$2380 we received from 28 families via the November 16th Give to the Max Day, donations from several ISLA families through their payroll United Way contributions, and other donations collected since this fiscal year began in July, we have a total of over \$5000 so far! Our budget sets a goal of raising \$10,000.00 through these direct donations, so we are a bit over halfway to the goal. Remember, this funding helps to insure we can bring 4 'language ambassadors' to ISLA again next year.

<http://givemn.razoo.com/story/International-Spanish-Language-Academy-Parent-Teacher-Organizatio>

You can still donate to ISLA PTO using the GiveMN.org link above, or send a check directly to the PTO by way of the school office. Just put your donation in an envelope marked ISLA PTO. We can issue a receipt if needed - just let us know. Be sure to inform us of any Matching Funds that your company may donate on your behalf. If you are not sure if your company does this, you can check with your human resources department.

## \*\*\*Calendar Change - Save the date!\*\*\*

Due to a space conflict, the PTO Family Night scheduled for January 21st has been changed to Friday, January 28th. Be sure to update your ISLA Calendar for January (Enero) 2011. More details on this great event will be shared soon!

A big **Thank You** to all the parents that helped coordinate classroom parties and those that organized or contributed to the holiday gifts for teachers, ISLA support staff, and the Language Ambassadors! The money collected for ISLA support staff was used to purchase gift cards for them, and the money collected for the Language Ambassadors went directly to them to use for whatever they may need.

## Upcoming PTO Events:

All Thursdays in January - ISLA PTO receives money from your purchases at Homemade Pizza Co. (HWY 7 and Hopkins Crossroads - between Lunds and Perkins) Flyers will be available for download from our website as soon as we have them - [www.isla-pt0.org](http://www.isla-pt0.org)

Tuesday, January 18th - McDonalds Night, also watch for information about 4H

Tuesday, January 25th - ISLA PTO meeting

Friday, January 28th - ISLA PTO Family Night