



# Noticias de ISLA

**International Spanish  
Language Academy**

**Volume 3, Issue 11  
May 27, 2010**

Dear ISLA families,

Here at ISLA, we have been working diligently to become an IB World School. Much of our Staff Development has been dedicated to this, we have had John Barell visit to teach us inquiry methods, and have collaborated as a staff for the past three years. Our plan has been to submit Application B in June, with a visit from the IB Organization (IBO) next year. Recently we have been advised to hold off on this application.

As you know, our current fifth and sixth grades have been combined due to small numbers in each grade. The current fourth grade is a rather small class, and next year a combined fifth -sixth would be 28 students. The Board voted in March to combine these classes for half the day. Given this combined scenario, IBO would like us to wait to submit Application B until 2011. International Baccalaureate is very strict about the students spending the day with one classroom teacher at this level.

While this is a change to our original plan, it does give us time to polish much of what we are doing, and be even better prepared for an IB visit in 2011. As far as the day to day operations of the classrooms and school, this changes nothing. The only practical change is that the title of "World School" is delayed one year.

## ISLA Directory

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Emergencies or running late—(952)  
905-0111



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISER AT OUR St. Louis Park FUDDRUCKERS

6445 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park

International Spanish Language Academy

**Date: June 4<sup>th</sup>**

**TOTAL BILL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Cashier will fill in amount)**

**FUDDRUCKERS WILL DONATE BACK 20% OF ALL SALES  
BROUGHT IN BY OUR ORGANIZATION!**

**This is an all day event. Present this flyer to the cashier when placing your order, so that your organization may receive credit for your purchase. Flyers may not be passed out on Fuddrucker's premises during your fundraiser. Thank you for your cooperation!**

## Calendar of Events

May 28th	4th Grade Field Trip, Mill City Musuem, James J. Hill House
May 28th	5th/6th Grade Field Trip, Science Museum
May 31st	Memorial Day, No School
June 3rd	Field Day
June 4th	6th Grade Graduation, 10 am
June 4th	Last Day of School
June 4th	Fuddrucker's Fundraiser, all day
June 5th	Roller Garden End of Year Party, 4:30 pm
June 8th	ISLA Board meeting, 6:30 pm
June 17-19th	ISLA PTO Rummage Sale, Hopkins Pavilion



## Fall Staffing

There will be some changes in staffing for the 2010-11 school year. Let me introduce a few new hires:



Paola Patino-Johnson, a native of Colombia will be teaching half day kindergarten. Sra. Patino-Johnson has experience teaching Head Start, Spanish, and immersion. Most recently she substitute taught at a Spanish immersion school in St. Cloud.

Pam Shrestha will be teaching full-day kindergarten, and Amanda Lea will teach fifth grade, with a combined fifth/sixth grade for half the day. This combined scenario is for next year only, as we have a small number of sixth graders.

Angie Tix and Brenna Backstrand will work with sixth graders during the half day that they are a stand-alone class. Ms. Tix, a licensed math teacher, will teach math, and Ms. Backstrand will teach an integrated language arts curriculum. Both these women will be teaching in areas of specialty for them. We feel fortunate to be able to offer this to our sixth graders next year.

Oscar Franco will teach second grade, working as a team mate with Emily Helgerson. The rest of the teachers will remain at their current grade levels or specialty.

This summer will bring a number of training opportunities for teachers, with three attending IB training, a few more participating in an IB math roundtable, and four teachers receiving training in Responsive Classroom. Teachers are excited to bring all they learn to the larger group in August!



Roller Gardens  
5622 W. Lake St.  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
(952) 929-5518

## Roller Garden

*There will be an end-of-school and TA farewell party at the Roller Gardens on Saturday, June 5th at 4:30 pm.*

*This will be a private party, with just ISLA staff, students, family, and friends. Plan on skating to English and Spanish music and playing games!*



## ISLA Summer Band 2010

Summer Band - Wednesday, August 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30-12:00. Brush up on your band skills before school starts in August! All band students that have played their instruments 1-2 years are eligible to attend.



The \$65.00 fee includes a band book. All students will need to bring their own instruments and music stands. Rehearsals will be held in the music room at Faith Presbyterian Church located at 12007 Excelsior Blvd in Minnetonka. Summer band will be taught by Mary Rehaume, band director at ISLA. Concert at 12:00 on Wednesday, August 25. Registration forms can be found at [www.islacad.org/newsandevents/band](http://www.islacad.org/newsandevents/band).

## Board Member Contact Information

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The PTO held their annual elections on Tuesday night, and elected officers to 5 of the 7 positions. This leaves 2 positions that are still open. It is critical that these openings are filled as soon as possible, so planning can take place over the summer for the start of the school year.

They are seeking individuals to fill the roles of Secretary, and Vice Chair for Community Events. The Secretary takes notes at PTO meetings, and posts information to the web, as well as sends out the monthly newsletter. The Vice Chair position oversees the committees that work on our family nights and our participation in community events. They also help the TA's coordinate the Extra Curricular program. Our out-going secretary said it was a great experience, as she learned how to post to the website, and use Constant Contact. The outgoing officers and the rest of the PTO are happy to help you get familiar with this - no experience required for either spot.

A special meeting will be held to elect officers to these posts as soon as candidates are identified. If you personally cannot make the commitment right now, check around with other parents. We need your help to fill these openings.

Please contact [theresamn@aol.com](mailto:theresamn@aol.com) or [info@isla-pto.org](mailto:info@isla-pto.org) with any questions or to nominate yourself or someone you think would make a good PTO officer.

## Family Evaluation Survey

Every year we send out a survey to ISLA families. We use this information to improve our school. Please go to the following website and complete a brief survey about ISLA: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDNDcVBFLW5GY2FRZE1veTAWUkVrdFE6MQ>

Plan on completing this evaluation within one week.

## Field Day date change!

Field Day (Dia Deportivo) has been changed to Thursday, June 3. Please have your child dress appropriately, wear sunscreen and bring a water bottle.

We are still looking for Field Day volunteers! Please email or call Juan Carlos Ruiz at [jruiz@islacad.org](mailto:jruiz@islacad.org) or 952-746-6020 if you are able to help any portion of that day.



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*Nurturing Leaders for  
Tomorrow's World*

## Project Earth, Power Grant Update

We have continued to work this spring on our Project Earth. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class prepared a presentation to bring out to the community. They presented to most of our ISLA students too. On May 11, we visited Richfield Dual Immersion in the morning and shared with all classes in the school. In the afternoon we went to Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion and had a chance to talk with the Kindergarten classes about waste reduction. Kids love seeing the worms and learning about composting. We received a lot of complements from both programs. Teachers were very impressed with the level of Spanish our students displayed. Senor Franco and Senor David did a wonderful job preparing the students.

We are sending out the survey on waste reduction. This is the same one you filled out online in the fall. Please make sure you fill out one as a family and turn it in to your child(ren)'s teacher. We need them back as soon as possible to complete our project.

We hope that the Project Earth has brought some awareness and new knowledge to our community. I would like to thank Brenda Fromm, Amanda Lea, David Herrero, Javier Diaz and Giovanna Cajigas, classroom teachers and school community for all the work during the year to make this project a success.

Have a wonderful summer and keep reducing, reusing and recycling!



### Summer Camp

Our Summer Camp is almost here. We are excited with the numbers of students that have sign up for camp. We will be running all six weeks. We still have space in some of them. Week one and four have the lowest enrollment, so if you are still thinking about it, make sure to fill out a registration.

### Recess Before Lunch

We started this week with the experiment of recess before lunch. We are committed to trying it these last two weeks of school and assessing the benefits of it. I have heard some comments from students – “I ate my whole lunch” and recess supervisors – “It is going well”. We believe this might be a good practice for our school but there are still details that need to be worked out.

### Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our second graders who cleaned the tables after lunch during the month of May. All second through sixth grade students should feel proud of their contribution to our ISLA community. A little work from each one of us makes a big difference in the end for our whole school.

Ximena Rayo