



PARENT'S LETTER DECEMBER 18TH 2008 ISSUE 13 DEAR FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE PARENTS:

IB Profile is balanced & the Attitude is cooperation

1. Happy New Year ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope you had a restful winter break and stepped into the New Year with a vision of hope, happiness and adventure.

2. La Reina de la Semana

The new royalty of the week has been awarded to Irrissa Semler. Irrissa brings many smiles and creative ideas to our classroom. Her love of animals has earned her the position of the “wildlife saver.” Whenever there is a bug in our room she takes it outside so it can live and so Sra. Boeser doesn't scream. ¡Felicidades Irrissa!

3. Pufdegust = Unbalanced

One of the joys of looping with this wonderful class is that over time we have started to create our own language. I am introducing you to one of our new words, pufdegust. I read *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle to teach the class about being balanced. There is a picture that clearly shows what it looks like to be unbalanced. Our imaginative class made up words to describe how they feel when they are unbalanced. We chose pufdegust as our common classroom word to communicate when we are feeling unbalanced.

4. The Power of Community

A family of ISLA's community had a fire over the winter break. ISLA has set up a bank fund to collect donations for the family. You can send a check written out to *ISLA Gives Back Fun* to school or go directly to the U.S. Bank in Hopkins with your donation. You can also donate clothes in the size girls 14/16 or XL and boys' pants 10 of Husky brand or size 12 for other brands and shoes size 3.

5. *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan

Our new read aloud is a beautiful picture book called *The Arrival* written by Shaun Tan. There are no words in this book, just detailed drawing that tell about the arrival of an immigrant to a new country. The illustrations infuse history and art to create a magical novel filled with emotion experienced by newcomers.

6. Aqua the Fish

I would like to say a special thank you to my class for getting us a new class fish. Turple our first class fish, passed away in December. My very caring students chose a beautiful blue beta fish that we named Aqua. Thank you Gretchen Semler for bringing him to school!

7. TA Ride Share

Please see the section below regarding TA information about providing rides to English classes and how to sign up via the PTO website.

8. Up Coming Events

Jan 12th is PTO meeting and Family Night. Jan. 13th is late start. Jan. 15th is IB informational meeting and Parent Information meeting. No childcare is provided this evening. Jan. 19th is no school. Jan. 20th is McDonald's Night.

Con cariño,

Sra. Boeser

To teach is to learn twice. ~Joseph Joubert, Pensées, 1842

TA Information

It is time for the winter sessions of classes to begin for both Juan Carlos and Mariana. Thank you for the rides you all provided for Juan Carlos in the fall session. He did well in the course and will advance to the next level of English class for this next term. He and Mariana will attend the same school at the same time even if they are in different classes, so transportation will be easier as they can ride together.

English Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul. There are 24 classes starting Tuesday, January 13 through Thursday, April 2. They also have TA classes at Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion one Friday a month from 9:15 to 11:15 am. The schedule can be viewed on

the ISLA-PTO website. This way Juan Carlos and Mariana know who their driver is every week in the event that their transportation coordinator does not get them this information right away... it may have been known to happen. (In my defense, my computer crashed, but no excuses!) You can sign up for rides easily on the website using the following directions:

Go to www.isla-pto.org

Click on TA info - Aunt/Uncle family signups in the left column

Fill in your family name, e-mail address and a date from the calendar where "6:30 pm English class" or "9:15 RSI Meeting" is listed.

You can also e-mail me at aheadovertime@yahoo.com or call me at 952-546-9321 with dates if you prefer.

International Institute ride dates

January 13
January 15
January 20 (McDonald's night)
January 22
January 27
January 29
February 3
February 5
February 10
February 12
February 17 (McDonald's night)
February 19
February 24
February 26
March 3
March 5
March 10
March 12
March 17 (McDonald's night)
March 19
March 24
March 26 (no school at ISLA)
March 31
April 2

Directions to International Institute of Minnesota

1694 Como Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108:

1-394 E/US-12 E to I-94 E

Take exit **8B** to merge onto **I-94 E/US-12 E**

Take the exit on the **left** onto **MN-280 N**

Take the **Energy Park Dr/Kasota Ave** exit

Turn **right** at **Energy Park Dr**

Turn **left** at **Raymond Ave**

Turn **right** at **Como Ave**

Thank you again for helping Juan Carlos and Mariana with transportation. It is a great way to get to know them a little better, and for them to get to know the student's families.

RSI (Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion ride dates

January 23
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1

Directions to RSI

100 N to 36th Ave N Exit

Take **right** at **36th Ave N**

Take **left** at **Regent Ave N**

Pass **37th Ave N** on the right side

Take immediate **left after 3707 Regent Ave N** (a blue house) into the driveway leading to the back of the school.

Go to Door #16. All doors lock at 9:00, so if you arrive after this, go around to the front entrance.