

ISU NEWS

27 OCTOBER 2017

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to thank all parents and students who were able to attend the Parent Teachers Conferences (PTCs) on Friday 20 October. For many families, this is your first opportunity to sit down one-on-one with your child's teacher to talk about school progress. Dialogue and shared purpose are the essential ingredients for a successful school, or any community for that matter. Having students attend is an important aspect in that dialogue. Their attendance at conferences will help your child become more invested in their learning. It will also help your child to see their teacher and parents engaged in a partnership with regard to their learning. I hope parents and students saw parent-teacher conferences as an opportunity to refine your child's individual learning plan and to make sure the roles of teacher, student and parents are clear, specific and designed to bring out the best in your child.

However, last Friday was not just about Parent Teacher Conferences, we also had our inaugural Indian Cultural Evening. Thank you to all who attended. This was a wonderful evening of cultural celebration and community. A special thank you to our Indian families who shared aspects of their diverse culture and enriched our community further with this celebration.

Winter time is also creeping up on us this weekend, when we move our clocks back one hour. It seems no time ago I was welcoming everyone to a new school year at ISU; now the shortening hours of light do remind me that it is about time to write about safety and our collective need to take the steps to keep everyone—students and adults—safe throughout each season. Now that the darker days are coming upon us, I'd like to remind all parents to see that their children are dressed wisely. Reflectors, reflective vests, and a variety of other products are available to allow your child to be seen.

Remember--not just the small children, but teenagers and parents as well—make sure you augment your winter wardrobes with plenty of reflectors. Adults need to be seen on these dark days as well!

Here are some interesting reflector facts:

- Reflectors make you visible on 400 m distance if the meeting vehicle has its head lights on, 140 m distance if dimmed lights on, 25-30 m if you do not wear reflective gear.
- A car driver with 50 km/h speed has only two seconds to spot a walker without a reflector but 10 seconds if the walker wears a reflector.

I would also like to make special note of the importance of being safely attired while on a bicycle. Both the rider and the bicycle need to possess the correct gear. Not only should the cyclist wear reflective clothing and a helmet, but I'd also like to make a plea that bicyclists leave their ear phones "unplugged" while on their bicycles. The latest tunes or books on tape may be compelling, but they can also distract the cyclist from hearing essential sounds of traffic that can keep them aware and safe.

Have an enjoyable and relaxing October break, and be seen and be safe over the coming months!

Liam Browne
Director

Lower School News

St. Martin's Day

The leaves have turned red, yellow, orange and brown, the air crisper and cooler and days have become shorter and nights longer. This play of natural wonders announces the onset of Winter and with it an array of traditional celebrations and fun-filled holidays.

Now approaching us in November, is a highly cherished German religious celebration, St. Martin's Day. A holiday which celebrates modesty, humiliation and the grace of charity. Attributes exemplified and encouraged by Saint Martin in his many various walks of life.

Teachers of EYP 1 through Grade 2 are working with the children, building lanterns and practicing songs for our annual St. Martin lantern procession. Please see the songs which we will sing at the event and shared on Seesaw. Our non-native speakers also did a great job in practicing and don't need to worry about singing all the lines by heart. Maybe you feel like singing with your children during the break while going for a lovely autumn walk.

The procession will be held on November 09th at 17:00. Parents, friends and families are invited to meet at the ISU playground shortly before 17:00. From there, our lantern procession will lead us on a sing-along walk around the parks edging the Donau and back to the school playground. After returning to school, you are welcome to stay and enjoy pastry geese, fruit punch and mulled wine provided by the PTG. **We would like to kindly ask you to bring your own cup with you to avoid any garbage.**

Please bring a battery-operated lantern stick from last year or a new lantern stick (available e.g. at Müller, Dollar Stores or any arts and crafts shops) to the school by November 8th.

We look forward to a bright and cheerful evening with you!

Your PTG and St. Martin Teacher Team





Counselor's Corner

As adults we have a continual expectation that our children listen to us and accept what we say. And when that doesn't happen we feel frustrated and disconnected. The same is often true for children. When they don't feel listened to, they also feel frustrated and disconnected. One could even go so far as to say that they feel undervalued and a lack of respect when they are not listened to or taken seriously. Listening is one of the most important gifts we can give those around us.

However, listening can feel overwhelming, time consuming, and as if what they need to say isn't important in the grand scheme of things. We lead busy lives and as adults we are often consumed with thinking about all the things that need to get done around the house, at work, and for our child's academic success. But what if you understood that listening helps to support all those things running through our minds?

"However, research has it that listening to your kids makes it more likely that they listen to you (which most of us want). When a child feels listened(sic), he is more likely to listen, and having been understood, he will understand your point of view as well. It helps parents and children form stronger bonds and relationships, and builds their self-esteem (Being the Parent)."

So the question remains: How can we best develop and practice this important skill in ourselves and in our children? Most importantly we need to be the models of good listening skills for our children. Below are a few helpful hints in how to do that:

Practice active listening. Have your arms uncrossed and lean forward slightly towards your child as they speak. Try to maintain eye contact. Respond by paraphrasing and checking for understanding.

Be open and without judgement when you are listening to your child. It's okay to have a differing opinion or to disagree with their ideas but it's important to do that without making your child feel as though their thoughts and ideas aren't valued.

Take time. Make sure that when you are taking to time to listen and speak to your child that they understand it is their time. Put away phones, turn off electronics and fully engage in the conversation.

Creating an atmosphere of respected listening with our children not only teaches them how to listen to others but creates open communication. Ultimately we want our children to feel able to bring all their troubles and joys to us so that we can help them navigate towards success, whether that is with their academics or their social interactions.

Angela Collins
School Counsellor

Information taken from:

<https://www.beingtheparent.com/why-is-it-important-to-listen-to-your-child>

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Secondary Students,

You are cordially invited to attend 4 different university presentations over the next several weeks. ISU is fortunate enough to host Global Business College Munich, Keele University, Schiller International University and Hult International Business School. Please see details listed below and RSVP your attendance as required.

The presentations are open to parents and guardians who would like to attend with their students but please indicate this on the RSVP email so we can provide appropriate seating.

 <p>GLOBE BUSINESS COLLEGE MUNICH</p>	 <p>Keele UNIVERSITY</p>
<p>Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 Time: 2pm onwards Venue: Mr. Tomes' room (C104) Intended Audience: Limited to students from grades 10-12 who are interested in pursuing a business education. This presentation will include a sample business lecture from Dr. Susan Walsh, Dean of Globe College. College website: http://globe-college.com/ RSVP: please email a.collins@is-ulm.de if you plan to attend.</p>	<p>Date: Friday, December 1, 2017 Time: 2pm onwards Venue: Mr. Tomes' room (C104) Intended Audience: Students from grades 9-12 who are interested in learning about the higher education system in the UK, UCAS application process and Keele University. University Website: www.keele.ac.uk RSVP: please email a.collins@is-ulm.de if you plan to attend.</p>

 <p>HULT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL</p>	 <p>SCHILLER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY <i>One World. One University.</i></p>
<p>Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 Time: Lunch Venue: Mr. Tomes' room (C104) Intended Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who are interested in pursuing education in business or economics College website: www.hult.edu RSVP: please email a.collins@is-ulm.de if you plan to attend.</p>	<p>Date: Friday, December 8, 2017 Time: 2pm onwards Venue: Mr. Tomes' room (C104) Intended Audience: Students from grades 9-12 who are interested in learning about higher education in business, tourism, and/or international affairs. University Website: www.schiller.edu RSVP: please email a.collins@is-ulm.de if you plan to attend.</p>

Spooktacular Halloween Party

Thursday Night (October 19) was rockin' with great music, fun costumes and lots of laughter in the Atrium.

Thank you to all Middle and Upper School students that came out for a memorable time! A special thanks to Ms. Moore, the Student Council and all the volunteers who hosted this spooktacular evening for our students!

*Frieder Hermann
German Teacher*

