

LIS News Issue: August 2018

Your life does not get better by chance. It gets better by change.

- Jim Rohn

Dear LIS Parent/Guardian,

The 2018/2019 academic year is finally underway. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you for supporting your child's/children's start to the school year. We recognise that our community of families play a critical role in the success of each child's learning. In fact, many research studies show that a child's social, emotional and academic well-being is directly influenced by parental involvement in their education as children spend a significant amount of their lives at school. In my experience, the challenge for some adults is striking the right balance or level of involvement with their child/children. In addition, the quality of the conversations we present as adults to our children can heavily influence their willingness to engage or not. I am certainly guilty of asking the age old question with my own daughter - "How was your day?" Instead, some fidelity and common sense is required to ensure your child/children engage and match your own levels of enthusiasm. To get a sense of your child's life at school try asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response.

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today? Why was it hard and how did you cope?
- Did you laugh today? Why?
- If I called your teacher tonight, what would she/he tell me about you?
- What rules are different at school than at home? Do you think they're fair?
- What did you do to show kindness today? Did anyone show kindness to you?
- Was there any event today that required you to take a risk and show courage?
- Can you show me something you learned or did today?

As the year evolves we look forward to seeing all parents/guardians taking an active role in the learning partnership. We look forward to seeing you at your child's/children's 'Back to School evenings.

NEW LIS FAMILIES:

A series of orientation sessions were conducted for students in the ELC, Primary and Secondary. Making a successful transition to a new country and/or school is always going to present some new learning and changes to navigate. We encourage all new families to join the various coffee mornings, Parent Teacher Association meetings and general school wide events.



INTERNATIONAL DAY: SATURDAY 06 OCTOBER 2018

One of our strategic goals is to develop an inclusive community connected and supported through common values. We invite all members of the LIS community to join us on Saturday 06 October to celebrate International Day - a festive occasion full of international culture, food and dance. Mark your calendars for one of the biggest community events of the year! More details coming soon.



ACCESSING THE SCHOOL:

The safety of all members of the LIS school community is a top priority. I would like to thank everyone for your patience as we continue to implement new protocols for accessing the school. Already, we are starting to see improvements with the morning and afternoon traffic flow. Vehicles moving through the school should observe our 5 km/hour speed limit.

To assist the school with safety and security measures, please ensure to wear your official LIS identification lanyard when entering and moving around the school campus. All adult members of the LIS community, including visitors, drivers and helpers must wear the ID lanyard. Failure to produce an ID lanyard may result in limited or no access to the campus. If you have not created an ID lanyard, please approach our receptionists, Ms. Mariana and Ms. Florence, in the main administrative building.

MEDICAL CLINIC:

This year, we have centralised our medical officers in a single clinic and location. The medical officers are now located in room DR1, directly next to the cafeteria.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

During the week of August 06 - 10, the school completed a full week of orientation for new and returning staff. This year's programme included a number of safety sessions to ensure staff are well prepared for the year ahead. Our focus included workshops on sexual harassment, child protection, fire safety and emergency first response training.



VEGETARIAN TUESDAYS:

The school cafeteria serves a variety of meat and vegetarian options throughout the week. LIS will continue to serve **vegetarian food at recess and lunch every Tuesday**. As a school, 'Vegetarian Tuesday' is aligned to our core value of sustainable thinking and respect for our environment. By going meatless once a week, LIS pledges its commitment to help reduce our carbon footprint and save precious resources such as fossil fuels and fresh water.

LIS CLASS OF 2018:



The IB Diploma results are in and, once again, our students have performed very well. We applaud the Class of 2018 for all their hard work and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives. My sincere thanks to our Secondary teaching faculty and leadership team for their dedication and passion to create the leaders of tomorrow. The future just got brighter!

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS:

Improving the quality of school facilities is an expensive undertaking. However, a large body of research over the past century has consistently found that school facilities impact teaching and learning in profound ways. During the months of June and July, the school implemented a number of refurbishment strategies to ensure our school facilities are safe, secure and supportive of our learning programmes. We are pleased to report that all works were completed smoothly, with no disruptions to scheduled classes.

- Re-roofing
- Exterior and interior painting of ELC and Primary classrooms
- Repairs to the covered walkways, including better drainage
- New access ways for ELC parents
- New visitor parking facilities
- Storage warehouses for operations equipment
- Rebuilt the disposal area
- Created more green areas and planted trees and plants
- Upgraded security guard house facilities

We sincerely thank all LIS families as these projects are funded by facility fees.



Once again, on behalf of the LIS team, welcome to all families. Thank you for making LIS your school of choice. For further information about the school and our programmes, please make sure to visit our school website (www.lisluanda.com).

Sincerely,

Dylan Hughes
Director