

**LIS News: September 2018**

We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community.

- Paul Bloom

Dear LIS Parent/Guardian,

As School Director, I often find myself wishing I was a student at Luanda International School as there are so many great opportunities and experiences to appreciate. In this edition of LIS News, I reflect on the month of September, with a few highlights that speak boldly to our school mission statement and values.

We believe that a commitment to continuous improvement for all members of the LIS community is paramount and that learning thrives when positive, respectful relationships exist in an inclusive environment. In support of these values, the school recently hosted

Mr. Matt Glover, an author and educational expert in children's writing. During his visit to LIS, Mr. Glover worked with LIS students, teachers, parents and school leaders to help us better understand how to respect the key phases of growth, potential and complexity that young writers exhibit. My sincere thanks to the 70+ parents that joined us for coffee and discussion.

As an educator, I believe there is a writer in everyone. Perhaps my biggest takeaway from the time with Matt Glover is the notion of honoring the approximation and growth of young writers. Hence, as parents and educators, we must ask ourselves how do we help our children to find their identities as writers and nurture their authentic voices. But what exactly does honoring approximation mean and look like?



Essentially, I think honoring the approximation of our young writers is all about 'how' and 'where' we best focus our attention as adults to nurture children's passion, growth and authenticity as writers. Matt Glover states that we must not focus our attention so much on the spelling and convention issues as teaching and correcting writing lead to different outcomes. Correcting writing essentially points out what children don't know and fails to honor their proximity as young developing writers -- it is not helpful for nurturing. In fact, it is counterproductive and may



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even stifle and turn children off writing. Instead, we should focus our energies on teaching and modelling writing by chunking the learning into small manageable parts...bit by bit by bit by bit.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Health & Safety Committee:

At Luanda International School, we believe that the health and safety of the school community is our number one priority. To support this priority, we operate a Health & Safety Committee whose main objective is to work together to identify, minimize and solve health and safety problems. The group will discuss any change that may substantially affect the health and safety of the school community. The school is seeking to include a parent on the committee to ensure we gather a diverse range of perspectives. Please contact the PTA President ([pta@lisluanda.com](mailto:pta@lisluanda.com)) if you would like to be considered.

### New LIS identification Smartcards:

Back in August 2018, LIS announced the implementation of a new smart card system to confirm the identity of every member of our community prior to entering the school campus. Many families have followed up and provided details, including photographs, for family members, drivers and nannies -- we have already created 595 smart card IDs. Please stop by Reception in the Administration Building to collect your smart cards. All returning families must exchange their old ID for the new smartcard.

Starting **Monday 22 October**, entry to the LIS campus will be restricted to smart card holders only. Please avoid any delays by completing the data requirements and/or collecting your new smart card/s asap.

### Temporary Guardianship form:

When single parents, both parents, or legal guardians travel out of Luanda while their child(ren) is/are attending LIS, a temporary guardian must be appointed for the duration of their absence and a completed Temporary Guardianship Form must be submitted to the applicable Principal's office.

The designated temporary guardian must reside in Luanda (he or she cannot be a relative in another country) and is expected to assume full responsibility, including medical responsibility, for the child. A nanny, housekeeper or driver is not an acceptable temporary guardian.

The [LIS Temporary Guardianship Form](#) is available in both English and Portuguese, and can be found on the LIS website ([www.lisluanda.com](http://www.lisluanda.com)) under the Quick Links tab. Paper copies of the LIS Temporary Guardianship Form (in both English and Portuguese) are also available in both Primary and Secondary Offices.

The form must contain: complete and clearly written information, signatures of both the parent(s) and temporary guardian, and a passport copy in cases where a non-LIS parent is the designated temporary guardian.



### International Day - Saturday 06 October, 2018

We invite all members of the LIS community to join us on Saturday 06 October to celebrate International Day. The official International Day tee shirts for the event can be purchased from the PTA store. We expect a large number of LIS families to join us for the day. For security purposes, all visitors to the school i.e. friends and family, not enrolled or associated with the school, will need to produce identification. Our security team will take an electronic copy as a record of attendance. We ask all LIS families to be good hosts and ensure visitors can find key amenities including the adult/child allocated washrooms.



Please note, in previous years we have seen a lot of single use plastic waste. As a school, we aim to demonstrate respect for ourselves and others, our environment, and our cultural contexts to guide our thoughts, actions and relationships. We encourage all countries operating a booth to consider practical ways to use less plastic.

### BUILDING COMMUNITY:

The Jogathon is a student-led annual charity event. Traditionally, its main purpose has been to raise funds to support children from [Casa das Crianças](#) (CDC), improve living conditions, and help fund resources. This year, the Jogathon team will be also donating shoes to [FOLSCO](#). Congratulations to all our community participants. The Jogathon has become a successful whole-community event thanks to the involvement of teachers, parents and students.



**Year 4-6 Sports Day:** Congratulations to our amazing PE/Aquatics Department members, teachers, support staff and leaders for coordinating a very successful morning of sports for students in Years 4-6. The field was covered in a sea of children dressed in green, red, yellow and blue -- house spirit was alive and well. Students participated in a variety of run, jump and throw events demonstrating skills learned in PE classes. It was great to see a large group of parents come along and encourage the students.

### International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and, specifically, the



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absence of war and violence. Here at LIS, we have families from 60+ nationalities. With such diversity, it is important we recognize we are bound by universal values of peace, respect and community building. What can you do each day to build peace? Perhaps we can take our lead from Mother Teresa - "Peace begins with a smile".



Once again, on behalf of the LIS team, 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](http://www.lisluanda.com)).

Sincerely,

Dylan Hughes  
Director