

29 September 2017

Dear LIS Parent/Guardian,

The new strategic statements have provided the school with an excellent framework to shape the start of the new school year. The school has already conducted a series of discussions with staff and parents to engage with the new mission, vision, and values. We had an open conversation with more than 95 parents about the importance of values as a frame of reference to make sense of the actions and decisions of ourselves and others. As the discussion evolved, It became clear that we need to talk more about values at home and school with staff, students and parents. By framing 'values and character based' conversations with your children, you may actually create opportunities for richer and more meaningful conversations. Try starting a conversation by asking your children one of the following questions:

- How were you courageous today?
- How did you show compassion?
- What did you do that was kind today?
- What was something you found challenging today and why?

In the months of September and October, the school will dedicate time to define a set of objectives that support our strategic goals. These objectives will be measurable and used as tools to report our progress and development in meeting the following strategic goals.

- **PROGRAMME BALANCE:** To develop a balanced programme and provide learning opportunities that connect us in authentic ways to our immediate and global communities.
- **FACILITIES:** Through a commitment to sustainable facilities, develop a safe and secure environment which promotes learning and a greater sense of community.
- **COMMUNITY:** To develop an inclusive community connected and supported through common values.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING @ LIS:

Our school mission states that we are a diverse community of learners, committed to fostering compassionate and socially responsible individuals who thrive in the world. In support of this mission, each year the school allocates five days for professional learning. The core purpose of our professional learning days is to invest in the growth and development of all staff members (teaching, programme support, business, administration and operations) through strategic goals and individual or collective initiatives. On Tuesday 19 September, our professional learning programme included a wide array of workshops that focused on child protection, strategic planning, curriculum



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articulation, the new language policy, writing, professional goal planning and the use of Google tools. The workshops were facilitated by members of our staff and serve as an excellent foundation to deepen our knowledge, gather perspectives and develop shared understandings.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR PARENTS: EXPLORING WHAT MATTERS

Our happiness is not set in stone. Although our genes influence about 50% of the variation in our personal happiness, our circumstances (like income and environment) affect only about 10%. As much as 40% is accounted for by our daily activities and the conscious choices we make. So, the good news is that our actions really can make a difference, and you can learn how to be happier. Source: www.actionforhappiness.org

We would like to invite you to participate in a course that will help you to identify actions that you can take to increase your own happiness, improve your relationships and help to build a more caring community. Exploring What Matters is an 8-week course developed by Action for Happiness and delivered by Nicola Warwick, Secondary Counsellor. Unfortunately, at this time the course is only available in English, so please be aware of this if you are thinking about joining. **Please see the attached information for further details.**

MEET THE 2017/2018 LIS PTA:

Great schools are built on great partnerships with the community. My sincere thanks to the PTA Executive Board and PTA members who have helped to shape and plan vital community links and events. I would encourage all parents to check the PTA calendar and discover what is going on this year. Key leadership roles are filling up, but we still need people to volunteer. Please approach our wonderful PTA team and offer your support – big or small, it all adds up.



From left: Susan Swiger (Secretary), Kelsey Sebesta-Whitmire (Treasurer), Riane Stanley (Parliamentarian), Ilse Parker (Communications), Keryth Hauch (Vice President), Marlo Larkin (President)

SAFETY AND SECURITY MATTERS: If your child/children travel home in a private car, please make sure your driver is punctual. Recently, we have noted a number of students waiting for their drivers, long after school dismissal time. To avoid further confusion with pick up times, it would be helpful if you can remind your driver about your child's After School Activities schedule.

Unfortunately, the school website was recently hacked and hijacked, causing viewers to be redirected to objectionable content. We had planned to redesign the web site toward the end of the school year, but this

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unfortunate event has accelerated the timeline. The IT department will be working closely with Enrollment and the Director's Office to develop the technical, functional, and aesthetic specifications for the new site.

FAREWELL: We say farewell to Mike Mitchell and Sandra Solano Mitchell as they return home to Oregon to for a personal family matter. Mike was employed as the Business & Operations Principal and was often one of the first faces students would meet at the school carpark. Sandra worked in the Secondary School teaching Spanish. We wish them well and thank both for their contributions to our school community.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Dia da Independência 2017
On Saturday 11 November, Angola will recognize 42 years of Independence. To acknowledge this significant event, LIS will host an assembly on Friday 10 November from 8:15-9:15am. All members of the school community are invited.

International Day - Saturday 07 October starting at 10:00am



International Day is just around the corner. This is one of the biggest community events on the school calendar. The key purpose of this event is to celebrate the diverse cultures that make up our school community. In case you are interested, our diverse community includes almost sixty nationalities, as listed below.

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|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Algeria | ■ Angola | ■ Angola, United States | ■ Argentina | ■ Australia |
| ■ Austria | ■ Azerbaijan | ■ Belgium | ■ Brazil | ■ Cameroon |
| ■ Canada | ■ China | ■ Colombia | ■ Congo | ■ Ecuador |
| ■ Egypt | ■ Finland | ■ France | ■ Germany | ■ Honduras |
| ■ Hungary | ■ India | ■ Indonesia | ■ Ireland | ■ Israel |
| ■ Italy | ■ Kazakhstan | ■ Korea | ■ Lebanon | ■ Libya |
| ■ Madagascar | ■ Malaysia | ■ Mexico | ■ Montenegro | ■ Namibia |
| ■ Netherlands | ■ Nigeria | ■ Norway | ■ Pakistan | ■ Papua New Guinea |
| ■ Peru | ■ Philippines | ■ Portugal | ■ Portugal*, Angola | ■ Portugal, South Africa |
| ■ Russia | ■ Rwanda | ■ Singapore | ■ Slovakia | ■ South Africa |
| ■ South Africa*, Angola | ■ Spain | ■ Sweden | ■ Thailand | ■ Tunisia |
| ■ United Kingdom | ■ United States | ■ Venezuela | ■ Vietnam | ■ Zambia |

- The PTA are seeking volunteers to help throughout the day. Please see the recent email from the school and find out how you can participate. Thank you in advance for your support.

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- This year there will be no parking on campus. Vehicles may access the school for drop off only. LIS families are encouraged to park on the road around the perimeter of the school.
- Please make sure to bring your LIS ID tags for entering the school. All non-LIS members will be expected to present ID. A photo will be captured as a record.

I encourage all LIS families to come along, join the United Nations parade, indulge in the yummy food stalls and enjoy musical performances and entertainment from all corners of the globe.

Sincerely,

Dylan Hughes
Director