

Friday, April 8th, 2011

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Easter holidays, I would like to share with you the two new exciting projects we are embarking on.

Following the phenomenal success of our Early Years programme for children aged 2-5 in which we have set the standard in the Northern suburbs, we have acquired our third building for Melina's Kindergarten which is destined for our Kindergarten classes for 5-year-olds. It is a beautiful old Kifissia villa of 450 square metres in a garden of 2,5 stremata (just over half an acre) at the corner of Kifissias Avenue and Spartis 6. The co-coordinator will be Mrs. Louise Kalokerinou, a very experienced and well-qualified Greek-Canadian teacher who has been at our school for over twenty-five years and who has taught at all levels of our Early Years and Primary School classes. After the Easter holidays we will organize an event at the new building for all interested parents who would like to visit our new acquisition.

The second very important project is our starting an exploration of sustainability and joining an international network of Eco Schools. We have begun, and would like to solicit any ideas and interest from our entire community, including of course you, the parents.

Environmentalism is no longer a fringe subject. On the contrary, the ecological crisis and its socio-political implications are increasingly understood to be the issues of the 21st century. As we better understand this dynamic and complex reality of climate change, resource depletion and pollution, the challenges and opportunities in responding to this crisis are weaving themselves through our daily lives. ISA is in the position to help its students develop a strong foundation in holistically understanding these issues. Our students are the change-makers of tomorrow and this holistic understanding is becoming increasingly sought after in the market place.

This commitment by ISA, to provide its students with the tools they will need in responding to the challenges of creating a sustainable world, has evolved out of the school's philosophy to cultivate critical and compassionate thinking and to engender a sense of stewardship and responsibility through participating in a shared humanity. Our cultural context is shifting, and it is the school's responsibility to ensure that its philosophy remains context-relevant in its application.

Encouraging our students to explore the socio-ecological issues of the 21st century and giving them the opportunity to express themselves on these issues will not only create lifelong and invaluable experiences for our students, but will also reveal an opportunity for the rest of us to re-investigate our relationship with the earth and one another. This exploration, the integration of various points of view, and mobilizing ISA's students and its greater community of parents and friends, are at the crux of this opportunity and a holistic, sustainability-oriented education.

An accurate response to the challenges of a changing climate and resource depletion is paramount for the future of our young generation. Implicit in this response, and central to ISA's long-term goal, is preparing our students to manage the complex set of issues that they will inherit.

We have begun with creating a green team in the middle school which will be extended to the rest of the school come September.

If you are interested in finding out more information or would like to participate in the action, you can contact the school's administrative office or call Ms Beatrice Yannacopoulou, who is facilitating the coordination of this initiative, on 6947304497.

I wish you all a joyful Easter holiday.

