

# TOPICS



## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR ICS!



Dear Colleagues, Parents, Students and Friends,

It has been another fantastic year at International College Spain. We have lived through a transformation of our school site yet we will come out of this experience strengthened and renewed. The sight of the actual physical buildings growing up before our eyes has energised students, parents and staff alike. We are all immensely excited about our new Gymnasium and Secondary extension which will form part of our school by the beginning of the next academic year.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful vacation period and thank you all for your contributions and support of our school. I am sure you will all join with me in expressing our gratitude to all those colleagues who have served the ICS community and in wishing everyone leaving our school the very best of luck wherever their futures take them and whatever they will be doing.

To all our returning students, parents and colleagues, we look forward to seeing you all again when the Autumn term begins again in September.

Kind regards

Jeremy Singer, Principal



We look forward to inaugurating our new Gymnasium and Secondary School building in the new academic year.



## READY FOR THEIR NEXT STEP IN LIFE...

**Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2016. Our University & Careers Counsellor, Mr Angus Stroud told us a little about their next steps in further education.**

"I have been working through the offers Grade 12 students have accepted, and was struck by how varied their course choices were, especially amongst those who had applied to the UK. They have accepted offers in 26 areas of study, with two impressive acceptances for Cambridge University, an encouraging trend!

For the US (and US system), we have 5 with Undeclared Majors, 3 for Engineering, 1 for Business and 1 for International Politics. For Spain, we have around 10, all with Business related courses. Elsewhere in the world, we have Creative Media & Business (Canada) and Psychology (Netherlands). We also have students still awaiting news on Business (Malaysia) and Aerospace Engineering (Netherlands). At the end of the summer, I will publish a full list of who has been placed where we still have a number of students who are holding a number of offers in different countries!"

Congratulations Graduates!

Angus Stroud, International University Counsellor

## GOODBYE ENGAGE, HELLO iSAMS

We would like to inform the community that the portal Engage is being phased out and replaced by iSAMS a new information system which was designed for teachers and parents, and specifically developed with educational needs in mind.

Some of the world's most successful and prestigious schools already rely on this system to support them in providing world-class education. The programme is easy to use and has a much more advanced system of communication between parents and teachers.

iSAMS is accessed through a web-browser, allowing access from any location or device. We will also be launching an iSAMS app for smart phones and tablets in the coming months.

At the beginning of term you will be sent a username and password and a training session for parents will be held during the first few weeks of the new academic term in September.

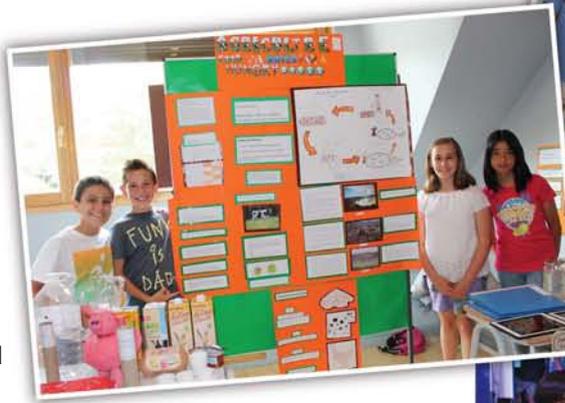


# SHARING THE PLANET WITH GRADE 5

The recent Grade 5 Exhibition was a huge success and a real credit to the students and teachers. Ms Denise Holmes, PYP Coordinator told us,

"The PYP exhibition provides the culminating experience of the learner's engagement with the PYP. It unites the teachers, learners and parents of the class in an activity that captures the essence of the PYP: transdisciplinary inquiry conducted in a spirit of personal and shared responsibility. It marks a rite of passage, both symbolic and actual, from PYP to MYP. Most importantly it is a celebration; an event which synthesizes all that is best in the PYP and shares it with the whole school community."

This year's exhibition, 'Our Planet Its Future' represented a significant event in the life of the school, the Grade 5 students excelled in their presentations and displays and encouraged the younger students who visited the exhibition, to look forward to their final year in the programme."



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH ACHIEVERS

This term, 21 students participating in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, returned to Gredos to do their Qualifying Adventurous Journey.

Building on the orienteering, team building and camp craft skills that they had acquired during the practice trip back in October, these students admirably conquered an extremely demanding trek of 37km over 2 days. Carrying all their food and camping equipment for the entire trip, they hiked in groups of 7, without adult supervision through the Gredos landscape, meeting their supervisors at pre-agreed checkpoints.

Throughout the weekend we saw evidence of excellent listening and learning, a real awareness of the environment and the need to constantly clean up after ourselves, great respect for the use of other people's equipment and the importance of returning everything in its original state, and, heart-warming consistent support for one another. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and felt deservedly proud of their achievements. Gold level is next!



Louise Clement, DofE Coordinator

# UNITED FOR UNICEF

Have you drunk 8 glasses of water today? Do you get thirsty with the hot weather? Imagine living in a place where the average temperature all year is between 31°-41° C. That place is Niger, Africa. There, 8 million people lack access to clean water, and over 6,000 children die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. Grade 6 students felt strongly about helping this country in some way, and in particular they wanted to help children in a primary school.

After a presentation by UNICEF, students decided to plan, organize and hold a fundraising event where all proceeds would go towards the purchase of fresh water pumps in a primary school in Niger. We worked with UNICEF to find out more information about their project "Gotas para Níger" and participated. On June 3rd student held a Fun Fair with activities such as a cake contest, football challenges, jelly wars, face painting, guess the song and more. All their creativity, perseverance, collaboration and hard work was worth it. They raised enough money to install 2 fresh water pumps at a primary school in Niger! Way to go Grade 6, you are wonderful, global citizens! We are really proud of you.

By Dr Jennifer Barnett, MYP Coordinator



# GRADE 8 PERFORMANCES

The end of year performance by Grade 8 was excellent, the whole grade performed scenes and songs from the musicals; My Fair Lady, Sweeney Todd and Blood Brothers.



# GRADE 11 BERLIN TRIP

At the start of June, the Grade 11 Geographers travelled to Berlin to collect their internal assessment data. The students worked hard to collect accurate and reliable results using the S7 railway line as their data transect. At each station the students conducted research to better understand the changing urban environment between Potsdam and Ahrensfelde.

We also managed to fit in some of the Berlin sites, including the Brandenburg Tor, the Reichstag and the East Side Gallery. On our last day we travelled to the top of the Fernsehturm TV Tower to view the city from a different angle. From 368 metres up, we could still see the legacy of the Berlin wall clearly in the remaining architecture. In the afternoon, we visited the DDR museum to better understand what life was like in divided Berlin.

The students were an absolute credit to the school and made the trip a very enjoyable experience. They have now returned to the classroom and are busy completing their reports.

Ms Bethan Volkelt-Igoe  
Geography Teacher



# ICS SHARE COMMITTEE NEWS

Recent fund raising events like bake sales and other sales have been very successful in raising money for the victims and survivors of the recent earthquake in Ecuador.

The Share Committee, Primary Student Council and other parents have raised 2,300 Euros in total which were donated to the Red Cross for the Ecuador Earthquake Relief Fund and Misiones Medicas Ecuador through Bake Sales, the Spanish Tarde Quijotesca, and the Primary School Mother's Day sale.

ICS would like to thank Monica Otero, who is leaving this year, for all her outstanding dedication and enthusiasm in raising funds, feeding the homeless through Red Solidaria and many other projects that she has been so involved in.



# FRENCH SPELLING BEE

As an end of year activity, the French department held its 2nd annual spelling bee for Grades 6 to 10 Language Acquisition and Language & Literature students. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience which gave them the opportunity to mix revision with fun!

Patricia Gegourel, Head of Foreign Languages, Secondary School



Winners of the Grade 6 Spelling Bee



Winners of the Grade 10 Spelling Bee

# GOODBYE TO SOME AMAZING TEACHERS

We sadly say goodbye to the following members of staff, we wish them all the best for the future and hope that they will keep in touch with us.



Aniela Arroyo, Secondary ESL Teacher retires after 13 years at ICS.



Sara Oblisar, Secondary Art Teacher, is leaving to take care of her new born baby Dennis.



Gill de Heer, Primary Teaching Assistant who is taking early retirement to spend more time with her family in the UK.



Laura Rostron, Primary Class Teacher, covered for a teacher on maternity leave and is going to work at another school in Madrid.



Tom McLaughlin, Secondary English and Drama Teacher, is moving to live and work in South America.



Louise Winchester, Primary Class Teacher, also covered for a teacher on maternity leave and is going back to work in the UK.



Marie Pierre Manrique, Secondary French Teacher, has completed her contract at ICS and is still undecided as to where she will be next.



Michael Laird, Secondary Economics Teachers, has completed his contract with ICS and will continue teaching elsewhere.



Gary Cook, Learning Support Teacher, is moving to another English speaking school in Madrid as Coordinator of the Learning Support Department.

# AND HELLO TO SOME BOUNCING BABIES...

Congratulations to staff who have had babies this academic year, welcome to the world Maria, Dennis, Santiago and Marco



**Marco**  
(Amanda Sanz-Curry, Primary Teacher)



**Santiago**  
(Rocio Galian, Primary Spanish Teacher)



**Maria**  
(Patricia Suárez, Primary Spanish Teacher)



**Dennis**  
(Sara Oblisar, Secondary Art Teacher)



*Have a great summer everyone!  
Have fun, stay safe, wear sunscreen  
and if you're going to build a sandcastle,  
build it big!!!*



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