



North Jakarta International School Newsletter

27 February 2004

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From the Headmaster's Desk

We are fully aware of the Dengue Fever headlines that have dominated the newspapers for the past few weeks. North Jakarta International School has put in place a spraying program that we hope will deal with the mosquitoes associated with this illness. The spraying will be done early in the morning before the arrival of the students in order not to impact their health, or instructional time. We are making sure that any standing water on campus is either covered or drained as soon as possible. We will send any student with a high temperature and fever to the Clinic, and if sent home, we strongly recommend you take your child immediately to your doctor to rule out the possibility of Dengue Fever. Thanks again for helping us make NJIS a safe and healthy place for your children to learn.

Speaking of standing water, we appeal to parents to support us in having students swim as much as they can in order to maintain a desirable level of fitness and satisfy the requirements of our Physical Education program. We have a number of parents sending in notes for their children to be excused from swimming. In our campaign to keep the students in the Pool, the administration supports the Physical Education Department's efforts to make sure the excuse is warranted. Any student missing swimming for health reasons will also be expected to rest during recess, not participate in sporting events, physical afternoon activities, or Community Nights. We need students in the Pool if we are going to improve our Aquatics program, but understand if they are truly sick, they should not be in the water. Once again, our appeal to parents

is if a child asks for an excuse slip, please remind them that they will not be able to participate in other physical activities during the day. Swimming is a skill and a habit that can provide a significant level of fitness throughout one's life...thanks for helping us start that habit here at NJIS.

The *NJIS Yearbook* team has done a great job this year and, as stated in the *NJIS Student/Parent Handbook 2003/2004*, will sell the books to students and families. The order forms are included in this *Newsletter* and need to be returned by Friday, 12 March. Thank you for assisting us with ordering the correct number of books by returning your order form on or before 12 March. Don't miss out on getting a copy of this wonderful memory book; the *Yearbook* students and advisors have done a notable job of capturing the "Life of NJIS" through pictures and narratives.

In referring to another entry in the *NJIS Student/Parent Handbook 2003/2004*, the administration would like you to review the *Attendance* section found on Pages 22 -23 of this document. We are concerned with the frequency in which families take their children out of school during instructional time. It clearly states in the handbook that parents are encouraged to arrange personal appointments after the 2:30 P.M. dismissal whenever possible. We have appreciated the notes and the phone calls when an early departure is necessary, but if a student misses a significant amount of instructional time, the student runs the risk of not meeting the academic requirements of his/her grade level. We know the occasional departure from class is necessary, but your children are best served if they are in front of their teachers on a daily basis.

Once again, thanks for listening and helping us make NJIS the best it can be!

Mr. Forslund

Grades PK-1 Evening Ball

The Grade 1 students have been learning traditional ballroom dances in music, such as the cha-cha, waltz, mambo, east-coast swing, and tango. These students are excited to present them all to you at a formal evening ball to be held on 12 March.

This formal event will begin at 7:00 P.M. in the NJIS Theater. Students and guests should all attend in formal attire.

Young ladies should wear their prettiest party dress and matching shoes.

Young men should wear dark pants, dress shirt and bow tie/tie, and dress shoes. Parents and family members should also attend in formal evening attire.

Throughout the evening, Grades PK-K will provide entertainment. These students have been practicing their penguin and ribbon dances. The ball will officially open with the PK-K Rubber Band Orchestra at 7:00 P.M. We hope you will all be able to attend.

Leanne Pepple
Fine Arts Coordinator



100 Days

Last week, the Grade 1 students celebrated the "100 days" of school. We all had to wear a 100 things like beads, stickers, and buttons. Each child brought 100 goodies to eat, and we shared these with our fellow classmates. We then counted to a 100 in 2's, 5's, and 10's. We ate some of our goodies, but a 100 goodies are a lot to eat, so we took some home to share with our families.

Mrs. Dorning



Standardized Tests

In preparation for next year's standardized tests that will be administered to Grades 3, 5, 7, and 9 in October 2004, North Jakarta International School will participate in a trial that will cover Reading and Mathematical literacy tests for each student in these grade levels.

The International School Assessment (ISA) documents are being written and distributed by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) and involve a growing number of international schools. Once we receive the assessments from ACER, there will be a three-week testing window from 8 March to 26 March, during which time the ISA test will be administered to students. The school will notify parents of the exact testing dates. Teachers will be provided feedback forms, which will assist the testing agency with concerns or comments relating to the test, the students' engagement with the process, and any issues relating to the administration of the test. This will be valuable information for both parties to have in preparation for the formalized testing date set for October 2004.

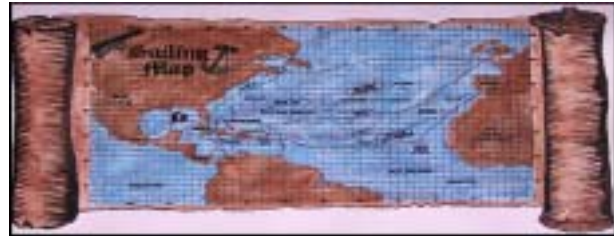
For your information, forty-five international schools and six Australian national schools participated in the 2002 trial testing. The international schools involved were from the following countries:

- Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and the West Indies.

A New World

Grade 4B has just set sail for the New World, in an adventure which parallels that of 16th century seamen. Three Spanish galleon ships have set sail under orders from their sovereign to voyage to the New World to pick up a treasure and deliver it safely back to Spain. However, they must watch out for the privateer, who has set sail from England on orders from its sovereign to disrupt the gold flow from the New World to Spain. As crewmen on square-rigged sailing vessels, they face the perils of uncharted waters, storms, deadly calms, scurvy, spoiled food, mutiny, and battle! The student seafarers have analyzed various routes and have made a decision, based on what they feel is the most advantageous route. Now, they will face events that will give them a realistic view of problems mariners faced on transoceanic voyages. Stay tuned for updates from this transoceanic adventure...

Ms. Baker



The purpose of the trial testing is to ensure that the final materials used in ISA 2004 are reliable measures of student proficiency. It is important for parents to note that the trial tests are not designed to provide comparable results, so sharing student scores during this trial period would be misleading if taken as an individual's or class set of results. The goal is for the schools and the participating students to gain from the experience in that they will have some practice in test taking. At the same time, NJIS will have some indication of the kind of material that will be used in the actual test in October 2004. So I repeat, as this is a trial test, ACER will not report student results back to the schools.

For more information on the ACER organization and its purpose, you can access a Powerpoint presentation introducing ISA from their Web site:

<http://www.acer.edu.au/tests/school/isa/intro.html>

Once you are in the site, you click on "Click here to see what's new..." and then select "ISA Powerpoint Presentation". Other information on the Web site that you may find interesting includes Sample Questions, Sample Reports, and more. If you have any questions about the school's involvement in this important trial testing experience, please call me at the school at 450-0683.

Mr. Forslund