

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER

EDUCATING CHILDREN MATTERS



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“Imagine A Better World”

Quotes from actor Danny Glovers message at LMC on October 5, 2013

“Don’t settle for the illusion of change, when you’ve got the imagination to agitate for something better. I just want to see in your face the possibility that we can change. We can change, and become the architects of change.” Glover said.

Glover urged his audience to think about organizing “in the real sense” based on their own visions of what a better America looks like. “They don’t have to be the ideas somebody else promotes. They don’t have to be the ideas of the president – even though he’s black – may want you to promote. They have to be your ideas. What makes this function? Those are the centerpiece.”

Mr. Glover has gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with a particular emphasis on advocacy for economic justice, and access to health care and education programs in the United States and Africa. For these efforts, Glover received a 2006 DGA Honor. Internationally, Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program from 1998-2004, focusing on issues of poverty, disease, and economic development in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and currently serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

Each person must live their life as a model for others.

Rosa Parks

I think it's an honor to be a role model to one person or maybe more than that. If you are given a chance to be a role model, I think you should always take it because you can influence a person's life in a positive light, and that's what I want to do. That's what it's all about.

Tiger Woods

What are they all saying? “Be a role model”, get involved, bring your own ideas, be an “architect of change” influence your child’s life. All these great Americans saw the absolute need to become involved. All of them stepped forward and put their efforts into practice. No one can do more to make your child successful than you. Put yourself into action come to International Academy and get involved.

Introducing Ms. Moruss !!!

We are very excited to have a new smiling face grace our building, our interim principal Mrs. Moruss.

Mrs. Moruss, a lifelong resident of Benton Harbor, has a bachelors degree in Elementary Education and a Masters in Literacy. She previously taught both math and science at Hull Middle School. For the last three years she has been a teaching and learning facilitator at KDC. She is a welcome addition to our International Family.



Why Parent-Teacher Conferences



Children do better in school when parents are involved in their academic lives. Attending parent-teacher conferences is a way to be involved and help your child succeed. A parent-teacher conference is a great opportunity to start or continue conversations with your child's teacher, learn how to help your kids do their best in school, and let your child know that what goes on in school will be shared at home.

Parent-teacher conferences usually happen twice a year at progress reporting periods. They are brief meetings, only lasting about 20-30 minutes. If they conflict with your schedule, try to find a mutually convenient time or ask your child's teacher if you can schedule a phone conference instead.

If a problem or special need cannot be resolved by the teacher, other school staff who support your child's learning may attend the conference, too. In some cases, the student will also be asked to attend, but parents can ask for private time with the teacher as well.

Conferences focus on learning, although your child's behavioral and social development also might be discussed. You will probably hear feedback about your child's pro-

gress and areas of need. Other topics of discussion might include standardized test results, individualized education plans (IEP), and 504 education plans.

Some parents may have been tracking their child's schoolwork and progress all along, and already know what issues are most important to discuss with the teacher. Some may have been talking with teachers at IEP or 504 plan meetings. For those parents, the conference is an opportunity to update each other on how the student is progressing. Other parents may be talking with the teacher for the first time.

Whether it's your first conversation with the teacher or one of many, it can help if you go to the parent-teacher conference with a sense of how your child is doing and what you want to discuss. Even if you know all is well, attending parent-teacher conferences shows your kids that you want to stay involved in their academic life.

See Attached;
**Parent-Teacher Conference
TIP Sheet**

Being Available?

Being a parent is life changing, the challenges are forever changing, time has become a commodity even our children have precious little of. While most parents see teachers and the school system as part of their child's day that they don't need to worry about, it's actually where parents need to become more involved.

Volunteering needn't be every day or even every week. You can sign up and be added to volunteer lists and be available when the time works best for you. It can be as much or as little as you like. The key is being available.

When we take the time to visit our child's school during a regular day, we have the opportunity to see the many challenges and issues faced by teachers and students today. By observing, participating and asking where we can be most useful, our children can reap the rewards of an extra pair of hands from another caring adult.

Having the chance to see your child interact can give you a heads up to situations you were not aware of. Children often behave very differently in school than they do at home and it can be a very illuminating experience. Being in the classroom also shows your child that you value their education and keep it a high priority in your family's life.

School funding is often a struggle and administrators are constantly fighting for more value with limited resources. A parent volunteer, willing to spend a few hours a week, helping out is welcome support to an increasingly overwhelmed school system.

Most importantly though, you are leading by example and pitching in where you are needed. You are being present in your children's lives not only at home but away from home as well. Your time is all the investment in your children's future.

International Parents Pledge

"I am the most valuable asset to my child's education that International Academy has"

1/2 Days & Holidays

Things start to get pretty busy this time of year. Holidays, 1/2 days, no school days, special events, parties, all seem to come at once.

It is important to watch for the notices sent home. Ask your child if he/she has any notices for you. Check the bottom of their book bag. Most kids live in the moment and often forget they received a special notice for you at school.

To make it easier for parents we will send home all notices on Wednesdays.

Last, don't forget 1/2 day dismissal is:

Tier I 10:50 am
5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades

Tier II 11:50 am
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Grades



New Face in the Front Office

Mrs. Dyondrea Grant is the new face in the front office. As our new school secretary she is replacing Ms. Henry who has moved away.

Mrs. Grant graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 2007. Since then she has been a military wife and a mother of three while also completing her education. She graduated from Kaplan University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a focus on Juvenile Justice.

Mrs. Grant says

"I look forward to meeting and working with everyone."

We at International look forward to a great year with Mrs. Grant in the front office.

What's in a Name?

What's in a name? Would that which we call a rose by any other name smell as sweet"
William Shakespeare



Give me a name!

November School Calendar

November 1st

1/2 Day

November 7th

No School
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

November 11th

What's in a Name?
Entry Due

November 12th

10:00am
Special Event

November 14th

6:00pm
Special Event

November 18th

1/2 Day

November 27th

thru
December 1st

No School
Thanksgiving Break

December 2nd

School Resumes

Please be sure to include your suggested name, your name, your child's name and teacher.

Each class will vote on the names submitted to their class. A list of the winning name from each class will be printed in the December Newsletter.

Parents and students will vote on the December Newsletter list of names to choose a final name.

A prize will be awarded to the family whose name is chosen and they will be featured in our School Newsletter.

What's in a Name?

Our Families suggested Newsletter Name is:

(Please Print)

Childs Name: _____
(Please Print)

Childs Teacher: _____
(Please Print)

Parents Name: _____
(Please Print)

*I know how important it is to volunteer at my child's school.
I know that when parents volunteer their kids are more
successful in school. I know that my volunteering gives my
kids more opportunities to enjoy more things at school
and teaches them responsibility.*

PLEASE CALL ME & I WILL VOLUNTEER:

() _____ - _____

If you have more than one child and
you want to submit a name for each child copy this form.