

ISA BREEZE

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARUBA/2014-2015/ISSUE 5

Publications Class

by Kunal Nathani •••

Publications is a class where we learn to write in a journalistic style, creating published products such as newsletters, yearbooks, and the website. The Publications staff for 2014-15 includes Melissa Salamo, Guillermo Landa, Antoanet Moussalli, Dylan Guest, Raymond Maduro, Maura Baroud, Pedro Santema, Kunal Nathani, Chris Gil-Martins, and Jonah Juliao. The publications teacher this year is Mr. Lewis Gunn.

The Publication's staff has thought about a number of themes for this year's yearbook such as: Internationalism, ISA's Heritage, and Film and Media. We will be surveying student body to assist in the theme decision. The yearbook will be created using the same software we used last year, Balfour StudioWorks.

The Breeze asked Mr. Gunn what he envisioned for the future of our yearbook. "Each year we try to improve on the published product that tells the story of ISA." He also said that he imagines eventually offering an electronic yearbook, possibly in addition to a traditional yearbook, if that's what the students desire. Electronic yearbooks allow students to share many forms of digital media that capture events and occasions of the year. I also asked him what he likes about teaching yearbook, and he said he enjoys being able to help students become better journalists and assisting with the process of documenting their journey throughout the year.

ISS Administrator Visits ISA

by Kunal Nathani

This week Mr. Dave Randal visited the school. Mr. Randal works with International School Services. ISS's mission is to advance the quality of education for children in international schools by providing innovative services and solutions for learning communities and corporations throughout the world. This is accomplished by working with all groups that are involved in the education process.

ISS has been the owner of ISA since 2006.

Mr. Randal is ISA's representative from ISS. He visits the school twice a year to check how the school is doing and offers his support when necessary. In order to acquire more information regarding ISA, The Breeze had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Randal during his productive visit. When asked how ISA has progressed throughout the years, he stated that many more buildings have been added along with a new soccer field, three beach tennis courts, new technology like the Mac-Minis. He also mentioned that student enrollment has increased, new programs like the toddler program have been



introduced, and the air conditioners changed out to improve efficiency. When asked about his vision for ISA over the next 5 years, he stated he would like to offer more programs to high schoolers, attract more students to improve finances and programs, and see students gain admission to higher quality universities. Mr. Randall is most interested in continuous improvement at ISA. "The current programs are exceptional, despite the challenges. The facilities are quite good and there is a solid academic program even with only 200 students." Mr. Randall concluded by saying that ISA is fortunate to have amazing teachers and staff.

SIT Day!

by Guillermo Landa

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I sat down recently with Ms. Putnam to discuss why there was no school on Wednesday the 16th. "Teachers come together to talk about how to educate students who learn at different speeds," she said. The plan for the day is to have the teachers use the results of recent testing to gauge the learning speed of each student and identify the areas they need extra help. Ms. Putnam said it is important for all teachers to know the individual academic level of their students. With this knowledge, teachers will know what to expect from each student and have a better idea of the best use of class time.

The purpose of any professional development day is to help the school staff become better at what they do. For the teachers, it is important to have time to reflect on data and plan for classroom activities. The SIT days give teachers

the time to be able to review all the student data they have collected and determine the best way to teach the students based on their individual needs. Last month, teachers gave students all the beginning of the year tests that show them how their students are doing. On Wednesday, they looked at all the results, compared the results for each

student on different tests, and determined the levels of each student. One of the tests is for English Language Learners - the WIDA. WIDA tests four areas of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Another test is Write Source which shows writing ability and fluency. MAP test results were also analyzed during the SIT day.



SIT Day

Upcoming Events

Sept 16-19 ISS Visit - Mr. Dave Randall

October 6, Monday- Start of Fall Break

October 10, Friday- End of Fall break

ISA's New Dance Teacher

by Melissa Salamo



Maria Alejandra, the new dance teacher at ISA, was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela and moved to Aruba when she was 12 years old. She started dancing when she was 12 and when she turned 14 she had already started teaching and dancing for fun. Ms. Alejandra began learning how to dance ballet in Club di Movimiento, and Occidental Grand Aruba. At these academies, she learned from invited teachers. She is currently teaching her “sweet 7th graders” different rhythms to which they can dance to. She believes that she has a great group and she really sees potential in each and every one of them. According to her, each student has an idea to contribute in class and she really has fun with all the different personalities. Ms. Alejandra believes that this group will surprise many. She specializes in modern, ballet, afro, tango, folklore, latino,

samba, zumba, belly dance, trapezio, strings, aero, and more. She loves to dance all styles but she thinks that she does her best in modern. She loves musicals because of the acting that is involved in it. “I actually never imagined giving lessons at schools and I feel great that the school has given me the opportunity to teach students a bit more of what the artistic world is about and how we can express ourselves through dance.” She hopes to remain at ISA for a very long time because of the mission that has been created for the students. She says that it does not matter if we dance for fun or as professionals, dance will always help us be good and embody greatness.

Fall Break and College Planning

by Antoanet Mousalli

It's college planning time! Many seniors and juniors are looking at their careers of interest, where they want to study, and what colleges they might want to apply to and eventually attend. A great portion of seniors are currently narrowing down the list of colleges and universities they will be applying to very soon, and some of them are even planning to visit them this upcoming month.



Fall break (this year it will be during the week of October 6th) is a great time to visit colleges and universities as students are given an entire week to travel and schedule any appointments which they might need. I spoke with Mr. Lee to get some tips on how the ideal college/university visit should go. He put great emphasis on the importance of preparing questions beforehand so that we, as prospective students, do not encounter as many surprises that

others might. Mr. Lee said that it is extremely important to ask anything regarding laundry, room mating, and details about the admissions process for that school. Hopefully, all students will keep these tips in mind when planning their trip because they are relevant points to bring up during a visit. Good luck to all the seniors and may your fall break be productive!

Beach Tennis by Chris Gil-Martins

As of late, beach tennis has been growing in popularity on Aruba very rapidly. This has created an increase in players, spectators, tournaments, etc. Beach tennis has been played on Aruba since around the years 2000-2003. It was brought from Holland by Mr. Sjoerd de Vries. He also founded the Aruba Beach Tennis Foundation, which was later named Beach Tennis Aruba (BTA). The BTA organizes leagues in which players play every week and get ranked based on their points. Tournaments are hosted every month at Eagle beach. There is a major tournament coming up in November. The major tournament in November is a G1 tournament, the highest ranking possible; the tournament is the equivalent of Wimbledon for regular tennis. In 2012 and 2013, the international beach tennis event in Aruba was ranked as the number one beach tennis event in the world. The tournaments can be in a singles, mixed doubles, or men's and women's doubles format.



In order to acquire some more information, we interviewed Ms. Dircx and Mr. Douglas. Ms. Dircx has been playing beach tennis since she came to Aruba in August 2012. This means she's been playing for two years. She plays mainly at Tropicana and at Moomba.

Her favorite part about beach tennis is all the fun that one can have while playing. She also enjoys the fact that it is very nice to be out there on the court, feet in the sand, playing with friends. Ms. Dircx has participated in some of the tournaments hosted by the BTA. Both her and Ms. Martin, a former math teacher at ISA, were named the 'Queens of the Beach' in 2013. Sadly, she did lose at an international tournament but was ranked on the world list after participating in her first ITF tournament. Finally, Ms. Dircx thinks that it's great that beach tennis is growing in popularity and that "it is a sport everyone can practice, old and young, sportive or less sportive... Everyone can join!"



Mr. Douglas started playing beach tennis in 2008, when the players still used tennis rackets instead of today's paddles. The courts then were located temporarily at Divi Beach and the Golf Resort. Mr. Douglas enjoys beach tennis for the fitness component and also for the camaraderie and the social aspect of the sport. He has met many people on the island whom he would have never met otherwise. He also believes that the sport "is easier on the 'old body' than the regular sport of tennis." Mr. Douglas has participated in many tournaments over the past few years. He won the first yearly ranking tournament for mixed doubles in 2009 with an American

partner. At the Aruba International tournament, he teamed up with a Dutch partner in 2011 to win the Masters Division of doubles, and was runner-up with an Aruban partner the next year. He has also participated in a number of tournaments in the US - in 2012, he made it to the finals in men's doubles at the US National Championships along with his partner from Reunion, but sadly lost to the 28th and 29th ranked players in the world. On Aruba Mr. Douglas represents the "elder generation" as he is currently the oldest competitive player on the island. Mr. Douglas has seen the sport grow from its infancy and at times has difficult times comprehending how it grew so much from a few players to hundreds of players and many programs and tournaments. "Although beach tennis may never surpass the popularity of water sports, soccer, and baseball/softball, it is a growing sport and is here to stay. It has definitely put Aruba on the worldwide stage for beach tennis."



Quote of the week:

Nothing is impossible,
the word itself says 'I'm
possible!' - Audrey
Hepburn

Editors of the week:

Dylan Guest
&
Jonah Juliao

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