



The Crane

The newsletter of Hiroshima International School

25th June 2010

Dates to note

Please make a note of these forthcoming events.

Friday 25th June – Semester Reports issued

Friday 25th June – last day of school year (**Early buses!**)

Tuesday 24th August – START OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

Hats & Caps

If you have visited the School Office recently, you may have seen examples of blue floppy hats and baseball caps bearing our HIS logo on display.

They were just single examples of each but I am delighted to report that we now have boxes full of them and they are already on sale.

The baseball caps (in two sizes) are available to anyone but the floppy hats are intended for our students in the Primary School. In fact, we are going to make these hats a requirement for all PYP students. In the warmer months we have a “no hat – no play” rule and the intention is that these floppy hats will meet that need.

So, if you have a child who will be in a Grade from EC to Grade 5 next year, please stop by the Office and get a hat.

HIS T-Shirts

And on a related subject...

I would be interested to hear parents’ opinions on an idea that has recently been proposed.

Some schools have school uniforms. Some don’t. We don’t. I have worked in five schools. Two required the students to wear uniform and three did not. My own opinion is that it makes not the slightest difference to student behaviour and learning. Others, I know, hold different opinions.

We do, however, require students to own and wear a blue HIS T-shirt (a) for P.E. and (b) when they are out on a fieldtrip. A T-shirt for PE is wholly appropriate and there are obvious benefits to having all students quickly and easily identifiable when they are out of school.

Many students choose to wear HIS T-shirts in class and that is absolutely fine.



The proposal now is that all students – or at least all students up to and including Grade 5 – should be required to wear their HIS T-shirts every day. They will be required to wear them travelling to and from school Monday to Friday. The belief is that students wearing HIS T-shirts and being seen in Hiroshima will help to advertise and promote the school.

If this idea is adopted, we will need to order more T-shirts and parents will need to buy more than they currently have.

It also means that we will effectively have introduced a school uniform of sorts.

No decision has yet been taken – and when it is, it will be taken by the school administration and not a show of hands – but I promised that I would invite parental feedback on the idea.

If you have strong feelings about this matter – either for or against – I would be very interested in hearing from you. Send me an e-mail or drop a note into the School Office. Thank you.

Promoting the School

The above idea was raised in the context of how we can better promote HIS.

We have a bijou little school here! I really believe that. So, I know, do most parents and most students. I have never worked in a school that was as friendly or as warm. Children are happy and successful. Teachers enjoy their work and are proud of the students they teach. In four years as Principal here, I can barely remember ever having to deal with the kind of discipline and behavioural issues that are routine in many schools. Visitors to the school immediately comment on the lovely atmosphere and they invariably tell me what a delightful school it is.

And it is! But there are times it feels like Hiroshima's best-kept secret.

So, what more can we do to spread the word?

When we all return in a little over eight weeks we must answer this question once and for all. Everyone who has an interest or a stake in our school can help to suggest the way forward. We are a community and this must be a community effort.

I want to start by hearing from current parents what they think our greatest strengths are. What is it about HIS that makes us their school of choice? What is the message we need to get out to a wider audience? How best can we celebrate and broadcast what it is that makes the school so good?

Thank you to everyone – PTA, teachers, Board members, friends of the school – who have already contributed to this debate. This must be – and it will be – a priority for the coming months.

Vacation

By the time you read these words the 2009-2010 school year will be over. It has been a busy and successful one and that is due to the commitment, hard work, inspiration and enthusiasm shown by students, teachers, staff, parents and everyone associated with the school. Thank you all.

It really is a school that is easy to be proud of.

But now we are all looking forward to our well-earned vacation.



May I wish departing students and staff every success and happiness in the future. And may I wish everyone who is returning in August a very enjoyable, safe and relaxing vacation.

I am going to Europe for a few weeks but will be back in school by the middle of July. The School Office will be open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Thank you and au revoir!

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie
Principal



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