

FRIDAY FLASH

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8 March, 2007 **MISSION STATEMENT** **School Year 2006 • 2007**

The International School of Kuala Lumpur, a private, parent-governed, United States-accredited school, offers its students a superior education to prepare them to be responsible world citizens who think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn enthusiastically throughout life.

WORTH NOTING

LET'S PARTY International Fest 2007

Mark your calendars! This year's International Fest kicks off on Friday, 16 March with “A Taste of Malaysia” on both campuses and Melawati's Flag Parade. Saturday will feature food and cultural booths from countries in our community, band performances, vendors, balloons from The Balloon Man, a school-wide Flag Parade and the fantastic Cultural Show. Look for details in the program coming home today.

The Doors to Diplomacy Contest

“Which disease kills the most people each year? HIV/AIDS? Malaria? Tuberculosis? You'll be surprised.

The Doors to Diplomacy Contest is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, and it encourages teenagers to create a website that teaches others about international issues. Michael G. (Gr. 9), and Patrick G. (Gr. 7) are entering this competition, focusing on the major diseases of the developing world - and how one of the most deadly of all receives scant attention.

Visit the website at <http://www.thequietworld.com/ahhealthyworld/>. You can also register at the forum, at <http://www.thequietworld.com/ahhealthyworld/forum/>.

Thanks you again,
Michael George

FCD EDUCATORS TO VISIT ISKL AGAIN THIS YEAR

Those of you who have been members of the ISKL community for several years know that a visit by substance abuse prevention experts from the organization called FCD (Freedom from Chemical Dependency), is an important part of our MS/HS calendar. This year FCD personnel will visit us from March 20-28. During the course of their visits they will speak to students in both small and large group settings. Sessions with faculty and with parents are also being arranged.

If you are the parent of a teen or pre-teen student, I have little doubt that you have spent some anxious moments reflecting on the impact of potential drug/alcohol use by your son or daughter. The stories that we have all read, or even the stories that we know due to our own personal experience, suggest that it is very difficult to be too complacent about one's children never having difficulties with substance abuse. The possibilities are real and the impact of abuse disturbing, to say the least. It is also true that we live in a large urban setting where our older students do have access to alcohol and drugs.

It is out of these concerns and understandings, and the school's overall commitment to health and wellness, that ISKL makes a strong effort to educate students about the use and abuse of drugs/alcohol. An important part of our program is to offer our students interaction with experts in the field of substance abuse, and thus our contractual arrangement with FCD. FCD is a non-profit organization that has been in operation since 1976. It has an outstanding reputation and many schools in North America and around the world rely on it for high quality and up-to-date information. To date they have taught over a million students.

All Middle School and High School parents will soon be receiving a letter that offers further information about FCD. I believe certain points are require recentering, however, and would therefore like to paraphrase some comments you will be seeing again.

- FCD educators are highly trained health professionals who have achieved long-term recovery from alcohol and/or other drug addictions. This fact gets the attention of the students and offers the students specific models of people who have found success and happiness in drug-free living.
- FCD educators understand the need to foster a partnership with parents. They hope their sessions with students will generate quality conversations between parents and their children on topics that are often difficult to discuss.
- The six-part mission of FCD is impressive. It is to: 1) provide educational communities with the guidance and training necessary to implement comprehensive, effective approaches to substance abuse prevention; 2) educate students, parents, teachers and school administrators on the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and drugs; 3) promote awareness of drug addiction, including alcoholism, as a progressive, chronic, and often fatal disease; 4) teach students and adults how to recognize the early warning signs of substance abuse and to intervene appropriately; 5) empower young people to make healthy, responsible choices regarding alcohol and other drug use, and 6) encourage and support the non-use of alcohol and other illegal or illicit drugs during the growing years.

I trust you agree with the importance we place on substance abuse prevention and will take advantage of these experts' impending visit. I am hopeful their presence on campus will generate insightful and helpful conversations within your respective families. Please consider attending the FCD High School Parent Meeting that will take place in Ampang's MPR 1 from 9:35 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. on Friday, March 23 or the FCD Middle School Parent Meeting on Monday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 271.

Paul Chmelik
Head of School