



December 2022 Newsletter

Greetings ISP Families,

I would like to thank those families who helped make our November service project such a success. This year our preschool students collected nonperishable food items for the St. Francis Food Pantry! This event was a perfect way to help children better understand our November theme of “giving.” On November 22nd, several students and I loaded up the cart with your many donations, wheeled them to the church office, and helped to restock their pantry. Many families throughout Tucson will benefit from your kindness.

A warm thanks to our families who have taken time to share their family traditions or parts of their culture with our classes. Children enjoy these experiences and learn so much about the different cultures of the International School for Peace community. It’s not too late, so please contact your teacher to arrange an outdoor sharing time.

I appreciate you staying informed with our school procedures and health/safety policies! Current articles and information are regularly added to our Covid-19 binders found outside the preschool office. Our most current Covid-19 Action Plan can be found in this newsletter, our COVID binder, and posted to our web. ISP follows the current CDC and PCHD recommendations pertaining to domestic and international travel.

ISP will be closed for Winter Break December 19-December 30. School resumes Monday, January 2.

I am requesting that all students and staff please COVID test prior to returning to school after Winter Break. With much-anticipated travel and gatherings, I hope this step will help to minimize the spread of illnesses. If needed, please feel free to stop by the office to pick up a test.

The preschool office will be closed Dec. 19-23, 26, and 30, with limited office hours Dec. 27-29. I will be checking my emails daily, so if issues arise over the break, please do not hesitate to contact me at cathy@internationalschoolforpeace.com

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year will begin on February 8 followed by Summer Care registration in early April. More information will be posted to our website in January.

I hope your winter holidays are filled with good health, happiness, and lots of fun!

Cathy

There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” –C.S. Lewis

Mission Statement

International School for Peace promotes peace within the individual, the community, and the world by immersing children in languages and multicultural experiences through play-based, anti-bias curriculum that celebrates diversity.



Planning to Travel over Winter Break?

ISP follows the current CDC and PCHD recommendations pertaining to domestic and international travel.

ISP is so grateful for our families and friends! We want to give a big thanks to:



- Meredith Keller for sanding and painting the table in the grassy playground!
- Jay and Paola Sagar for bringing in bagels for the staff!
- Manal Kareem for Costco shopping!
- The Keller family for donating games!
- Michael and Simba for dismantling the bookcase!
- Annika Nielsen for volunteering around the school!
- Annika Nielsen, Julian Travaglia, Julia Koss, and Zoe Goodwin for helping clear out our POD!
- Laura Aldag for her awesome bookkeeping!
- Meredith Keller for bringing in cookies and treats for the staff!
- Ashley Femrite for helping out in After-care!
- Nick Thomas for landscaping ISP!
- Children's Orthopedic Specialists for sponsoring our December ISP Board meeting!
- Gerry DeMers for removing two book-cases!
- Bryan Moran for recycling our old printers and picking up COVID tests!
- Maya Curry for volunteering and donating a game!
- Moawya for doing some touch-up painting and fixing a cupboard door!
- Paula Ghebar for Costco shopping!
- The Canto family for doing our weekly recycling!
- Fleury for doing some touch-up painting!
- Leah Candelaria for helping out in the library!
- Laura Aldag for her monetary donation!
- St. Francis administrator Melissa Mitchell for her unending support of our preschool!
- Ana Maria Noyes for supporting our art program!

Special Days Ahead:

World AIDS Day: December 1

Bodhi Day: December 8

Chanukah: December 18-26

Winter Solstice:

December 21

Yalda Night: December 21

Christmas: December 25

Boxing Day: December 26

Kwanzaa: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

There will be
No School
12/19-12/30



School will resume for students on January 2nd!

THANK YOU!



Thank you...

To everyone who donated non-perishables to the St. Francis Food Pantry —what a meaningful way to contribute to our community.

THANK YOU!

Do you love your preschool?

Please consider ...



**Writing a Google
Review for us,**



**liking us on
Facebook,**



and rating us on Great Schools!

Attention!!



ISP IS A

**PEANUT, TREE NUT,
SESAME SEED,
MUSTARD SEED, AND
COCONUT OIL FREE
ZONE**



Anya Ziehler!

We wish you luck in your
future endeavors!

iAdiós!

ISP Recommends:


**Children's Orthopedic
Specialists**

Kent Vincent, M.D.

P: 520.296.KIDS (5437) • F: 520.296.9683
1605 East River Rd., Suite 101 • Tucson, AZ 85718



Irene's Ice
Cream

[Website](#)

ELLEN DUPERRET
photography

THOMAS & SONS

Property Care & Maintenance

Precare

Dear Parents:

December is here and what an exciting month to have to look forward to!

Remember we continue with hand washing procedures at arrival. Face masks are optional. Please keep your child home if they are showing symptoms of an illness. We want to take every step possible to keep our kiddos healthy.

Our precare lesson plan and schedule is located on the window of our precare classroom.

A reminder that our winter break is 12/19/2022 to 1/2/2023.

Thank you!!

Ms. Siria and Ms. Lulu



Aftercare



Young 2's Partial Spanish Immersion

Ms. Ana, Ms. Tiffany

Hola familias

We would like to welcome one of my favorite months of the year, December. During this month we will be celebrating various traditions and holidays. We would like to invite family members to share your traditions from your country with our classroom. This would be a brief presentation during our outdoor time. This could include pictures, teaching us a new song, sharing an art experience, or reading a book that would teach us about your culture or a family tradition. I am hoping that families could visit the morning on the following dates:

Friday 12/2, Monday 12/5, Tuesday 12/6, Friday 12/9, Monday 12/12, Tuesday 12/13, and Friday 12/16 between 10:00 to 10:45.

Spanish Vocabulary

Senses-sentidos

Taste-gusto

Smell-olfato

Touch- tacto

Hear-escuchar

Sight-vista

Holidays-Dias feriados

December-Diciembre

Please see me so we can set up a time and address any questions that you might have about your activity.

We will also be learning about the 5 senses (smell, taste, touch, sight, and hearing) and doing some activities to incorporate and explore the senses. We will be listening to and identifying typical outdoor sounds (planes, cars, horns, ambulance sirens, fire trucks, etc.) For taste, we will compare different flavors like sweet, sour, and salty. For the sense of touch, they will be able to explore textures (soft, rough, smooth) and temperatures (cold, warm)

December art activities will include:

Mixing spices with paint

Decorate a pine tree

Decorate pinecones

Manipulate cold and warm playdough

Special Thanks:

To all the families that donated to the food drive

The Shiver and Ghebar families for the educational toys donations

Song of the month:

"Yo tenia una luz"

With love,

Ms. Ana



Older 2's Partial Spanish Immersion

Dear Parents:

I hope you had a wonderful time with your family this Thanksgiving. December is going to be a fun filled month with lots of new experiences! One important activity will be for families to visit and share an aspect of their culture which may include, but is not limited to, a special song or book, traditional dress, or healthy food (please adhere to our allergy list), game or art activity. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of an activity, please see me to discuss it. There is a signup sheet outside the classroom for you too select a convenient day and time.

We will be exploring our five senses through books, art, and other activities which will involve smell, taste, touch, sight, and hearing.

The second week of December we will celebrate holidays such as Kwanzaa, Valda night, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We will create a reno (reindeer), Menorah and a handprint Kinara with different materials, and also read books about these important holidays.

We will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

December 19th to December 30th

We will reopen on Monday January 2nd

Thank you for your donations for the food drive, which were greatly appreciated.

Gracias!

Ms. Siria



Vocabulary:

Trees/Arbol

Winter/Invierno

Cookies/Galletas

Reindeer/Reno

Christmas/Navidad

Snow flakes/copos de nieve

Hat/Gorro

Mittens/Guantes

Star/Estrella

Reminders!

- We play outdoors a lot! Please be sure your child has a light sweater or jacket for the cooler, late afternoon temperatures.
- Please remember to pack and label enough food for an afternoon snack. Pack a utensil, if needed. We will help your child to wash and refill their water bottles, if needed.
- Please remember to check your child's cubby outside their classroom each day.

December songs:

Jingle Bells

Polar Bear

Feliz Navidad

Five Little Latkes

3's Full Spanish Immersion

¡Hola familias!

Thank you for supporting our ISP Food Drive and all of your donations!

We will continue to learn numbers (1-15), colors, and shapes (circulo-circle, corazon-heart, estrella-star, and triangulo-triangle) during the month of December.

December themes will include our 5 senses and sharing our family holidays and traditions. I will be sending home a permission slip for a tasting experience. Please consider signing up to share a song, art experience, story, food, or an activity that reflects your culture or a family tradition. Our sign up sheet is outside the classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions or need some guidance to determine if an activity is developmentally appropriate.

Winter Break: December 19 - December 30. We return to class on January 2, 2023

Best wishes for a happy holiday season! ¡Felices Fiestas!

With love,

Ms. Damaris



Kind Reminders:

The temperature is getting colder, so please remove the warm weather clothing in your child's cubby and replace it with colder weather clothing.

Please label morning and aftercare snacks, lunch and water bottles.

Pack utensils, if needed.



December Spanish Vocabulary

- Sentidos - Senses
- Gusto - Taste
- Ayudar a otros - Helping others
- Navidad - Christmas
- Pinata - Pinata

3's Partial Spanish Immersion

Hello Dear Families! Queridos Padres De Familia!

Thank you for your donations of food items for the St. Francis Food Pantry. It was a very successful food drive!

We welcome December which is traditionally a month of celebrations. I am inviting all families to schedule a time to visit our class to share a holiday tradition or something specific to your culture. This can be a song that you sing, a book you read, or an activity that your family enjoys doing together. If you have questions about what to do or how to present your activity, please see me. There is a sign up for this outdoor activity on the shelf outside our classroom. Children really look forward to their family participating in this event.

We will also be exploring and learning about the 5 senses – sight, touch, hear, smell and taste. Our themes will be emphasized through stories, games, art, songs, and group activities.

We will continue learning and identifying numbers 1 to 10 in English and Spanish. I will introduce the Star-Estrella shape in our activities. We will learn two new songs - “Rodolfo El Reno” in English and Spanish, and “En el Invierno.”

Also, mornings are chilly so please send a jacket or sweater to school. We will be practicing putting on our outerwear on our own. Children feel more independent when they master this important skill.

Kind reminders for you:

Please replace warm weather clothes from your child's cubby with cooler weather clothing such as long pants and shirts. Extra socks and underwear are also useful.

Please be sure to label snacks, lunch, water bottles, outerwear, and hats!

Thank you for all your support and wishes for a happy holiday season!

Until next time,

Ms. Zulma



3's/4's Partial Spanish Immersion

Hello Dear Families Queridos Padres y Familia

Thank you to all the families who supported our November Food Drive and donated to the Saint Francis Food Bank. Students were enthusiastic about giving and helping others that are not as fortunate. I really believe that they understood the concept.

I really love this season full of holidays and celebrations and look forward to sharing these moments with the children in our classroom. Our themes for December are our 5 senses and cultural holidays and traditions.

This month we will learn about some winter holidays celebrated during this time of year such as Kwanza, Yalda night, Hanukkah, Diwali, las Posadas, and Christmas to name a few.

In Spanish, children will learn new words: Navidad, Pinata, Arbol and Invierno.
We will learn two new Spanish songs: "Feliz Navidad" and "Mi Burrito Sabanero"
We will explore the Mexican tradition of posadas and the piñata activity.

We will start working in our Art Notebook to help learn letter recognition and corresponding sounds. For each letter we learn a word with the initial sound. For those students that are interested, we are learning to recognize our name in print and spell our first names aloud. Many friends will be learning to write their first name and move on to their last name.

We will have a sensory bin with many different textures and smells. Also, in our science table, we will be using both magnifying glass and microscope to see up close different bugs that we find outside. We will also be identifying familiar sounds we hear each day.

During circle time we will read books, sing songs, finger play, dance to music, and learn the importance of good dental hygiene during this season of a lot of food and sweet treats. We will be able to recognize what food is healthy for our teeth and our body, and also identify unhealthy food for all of us.

I welcome our families to share their culture and holiday traditions with us!!! This can be as simple as a special book you read, traditional clothing to wear, or special foods you eat. Please schedule a time, I already let you know by email, that I put a chart above our cubbies, so you can sign up. Our children look forward to learning about other cultures and holidays! And they are really excited to see you here at school getting to know their peers and teacher.

Thank you to Noemi's mom Christina for sharing their tradition of Hannukah and Christmas.

Once again, thank you to all our wonderful families for supporting our positive and creative learning environment.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season!

Love, Ms. Lydia



4's/5's Full Spanish Immersion

Dear Parents and Families,

It's hard to believe we are already entering the month of December and a brand new year is around the corner! We've done so much during this time, and my class keeps amazing me every day with their progress and growth.

During this month, our class will continue to learn all about Holidays and Traditions. My invitation to all families to visit our class and share about the traditions you practice within your family and community to celebrate this season is still open. We will explore holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa through our senses. For instance:

We see: Different colors, decorations

We feel: Cooler weather, warmer clothes, trees

We taste: Yummy and traditional food, warm drinks, candy canes

We hear: Music, songs, instruments

We smell: Food, essences, spices, pine trees, woodburning (fireplace), chocolate caliente

I will present a variety of hands-on activities, such as painting with spices, dissolving peppermint candy in water, making holiday decorations using recycled materials, items from nature, books, songs and of course dancing!

On Friday, December 16th, we will celebrate the end of this unit with a PJ's Day! We will also drink Chocolate Caliente and we'll play games, read books, dance, and listen to holiday music.

I will review and reinforce the skills we've been working on, but like I said before, this time can be intense for our young ones and my intention is to provide a safe and fun environment for them in order to thrive and enjoy this exciting time of the year.

I'd like to thank Mariel (Mina's mom) for visiting our class on Mina's Birthday. Mariel read the book "Scribble Stones" and she had an art project for us!

Last, but not least I'd like to let you know how much I value your help, support and generosity.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday. I can't wait to welcome a brand new year with my friends and their families!

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude"
- A.A. Milne

Sending warm wishes of Love and Kindness your way,

Ms. Paola



An Important message from Pima County Health Department

On November 4, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory for Increased Respiratory Virus Activity, Especially Among Children, Early in the 2022-2023 Fall and Winter. There has been an increase in the spread of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, the virus that causes COVID-19, and others, especially in children. The spread of multiple infections at the same time could place stress on healthcare systems this fall and winter.

This early increase in disease highlights the importance of taking steps to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including through vaccination. It also highlights the importance of treatment measures, including antiviral treatment. Please encourage the staff, students, and families you work with to get vaccinated for the flu and COVID-19, stay home when they are sick, and seek medical care early to receive treatment.

- Vaccination is the best defense in the prevention of flu and COVID-19. People should also practice everyday preventive actions, such as covering coughs and sneezes, staying away from people who are sick, and frequent handwashing. People may also choose to wear a well-fitting mask as an added precaution.
- Schools and early care and education (ECE) programs should continue taking steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including recommending children and staff stay home when sick, provide opportunities to wash hands, and regularly clean surfaces.
- Parents can also help by continuing everyday preventive actions, like reminding children to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or upper shirt sleeve, keeping children home when sick, and frequently washing their hands to help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.
- Students should stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone (without the use of fever reducing medicine) and until they are well enough to participate in school activities. For COVID-19 isolation, stay home for at least 5 days and wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- People over 2-years of age can also consider wearing a well-fitting mask, which may help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.

We hope this information will allow you to stay safe and healthy this season!

COVID-19 Action Plan

Updated 12-1-2022

At International School for Peace, we understand that families are entrusting us with not only the education and socialization of their children, but also with their health, safety, and well-being. Our administration, teachers, staff, and families are doing our part to ensure the safety of everyone who enters our campus. Below is a list of what we are doing in the best interest of the community as a whole. ISP will continue make updates to our policies as deemed appropriate or mandated.

What Administration is Doing:	What Staff is Doing:	What Families are Doing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ Jani King, a professional cleaning service, who will clean our campus each evening M-F. When directed they may utilize a hospital grade method of disinfecting. In the event that a hospital grade method of disinfectant needs to be used, families will be notified. The same team will clean our classrooms each evening. • Follow current CDC/PCHD guidelines and recommendations in regard to a response when close contact or a confirmed case occurs, which will include reinstating mask wearing, testing, or quarantine. • Establish separate entry and exit points to the school and encourage directional traffic at high traffic times. • Apply ground markers to aid in distancing. • Set up hand sanitizer stations around the ISP campus for use by students, families, and staff. • Ensure only staff and essential persons have access to classrooms at this time. • Ensure sufficient supplies of disinfectant, tissues, masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves are available at all times. • Establish an emergency plan should a staff member or student display COVID-like symptoms during school hours. Plan may include release from school, isolation, mask wearing. • Ensure regular changing of air filters in all ISP buildings. • Contact the community when a confirmed case occurs. • Post signs to demonstrate the importance of proper handwashing and social distancing. • Share community resources to access assistance and education about vaccines. • Follow CDC and PCHD recommendations regarding domestic and international travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children who wear masks. • Keep separate all outer clothing, water bottles, and lunches. • Disclose to the Director should you have close contact, display symptoms yourself, or test positive. • Ensure children are 6 feet apart at meal times. Classroom windows will be open. Eating will take place outdoors when weather permits. • Design activities in the classroom environment that support physical distancing in respect to a play-based philosophy. • Invite families to participate in outdoor activities. • Promote, demonstrate, and reinforce healthy hygiene habits. • Model and reinforce effective handwashing with soap and water for each child upon entry to the classroom, before/after eating, after using the bathroom, and at other times throughout the school day. • Post lesson plans and class happenings in the windows for family viewing. • Clean and disinfect classroom toys frequently. • Present curriculum utilizing outdoor space as much as possible. • Unless essential, discourage nap bedding from home. • Vaccinate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclose to ISP director should your child test positive for COVID-19. A plan will be set into place for your child's return to school which will include isolation and wearing a well fitted mask for 10 days . • Disclose to the director should your child have close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. While at school, your child will wear a high-quality mask for 10 full days and get tested after day 5 of the most recent exposure. • Practice physical distancing outside classrooms and adhere to ground markers. • Limit your time on the campus during pick up and drop off. • Adhere to established entry and exit points. • Ensure that your child has two spare sets of clothing at school. • Provide the most current copy of your child's emergency information and immunization / exemption forms. If COVID vaccinated, provide updated record. • Monitor your child for the safe use of hand sanitizer. • Commit to staying abreast of school communication. • Keep sick children home and contact preschool office of absence. • Ensure having a backup childcare plan should your child be diagnosed with COVID-19. • Understand what personal items support a child's sense of security, ability to transition, or self-regulate and are considered essential. Speak with your teacher about having items at school. • Vaccinate.