





December 2021 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 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 the pantry. Many families through Tucson will benefit from your kindness.

My appreciation to Melissa Miller and Usborne books for bringing us a wonderful Book Fair. My gratitude to those who supported this endeavor, \$1500 of books were sold to ISP families! Happy reading!

A warm thanks to our families who have taken time to share their family traditions or parts of their cultural 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

being regularly added to our Covid19 binders found outside the preschool office. All health/safety updates to our policies are included in our Covid19 Action Plan, our newsletter, and posted to our web. If any issues arise over the break, please do not hesitant to contact me via email at cathy@internationalschoolforpeace.com. The preschool office will be closed Dec. 23-24 and December 31. Limited hours on Dec. 20-22 and Dec. 27-30. Please call ahead to make an appointment.

International School for Peace will be closed December 20 - 31 for Winter Break.

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year will begin in February 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 hope for the

New Year!
Please stay well,

Dather

Cathy

There are far better things ahead than any we leave



Mission Statement

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

Wish List:

- Hungry folks to buy cookie dough!
- Storage Bins
- Copy Paper

Planning to Travel over Winter Break?

Please reference our Covid 19 Health and Safety Action Plan for important information on returning to school! ISP is so grateful for our families and friends! We want to give a big thanks to:

- •Manal Kareem for going to Costco for us.
- •Ashley Femrite for bringing in yummy treats, homemade cake pops, banana bread muffins and homemade gluten free rum cake for the staff!!!
- •Fadi Iskandar & Tamara Khachatryan for picking up supplies from Pima County for the preschool.
- •Pima County Health Department for donating sanitizer and PPE to the preschool.
- •St. Francis for allowing the preschool to use their tables for our book fair.
- Laura Aldag for her monetary donation to the preschool.
- Paola Sagar for bringing in treats for the staff.



- •ISP parent Manal Kareem & ISP Alumni and current board member Entekob Alsaraji for alerting us of the needs of our incoming refugee families.
- •Cathy DeMers for donating wipes, gloves and for bringing in treats and pumpkin pie.
- Keller family for donating pumpkins, gourds and bringing in treats for the staff.
- Ellen Duperret for taking school photos.
- Natalie Granados for donating stickers and sticks.
- Marielle & Kingston Ceniceros for doing our recycling every Wednesday.
- •Perkins family for donating puzzles and brown bags.
- Suzi Malisewski for donating art supplies and holiday décor.

- Laura Katterhenry for bringing breakfast for the staff!
- Nick Thomas for working in our bathrooms, painting, repairing walls, and doing landscaping!
- •Fleury Ndayizeye for stabilizing mud kitchen tables.
- •Shelby family for donating toys and clothes.



Welcome to
International School for Peace!

Ms. Damaris's Class
Waverly E

Please add new students to your ISP Directory

There will be No School 12/20 - 12/31



School will resume for students on January 3rd!

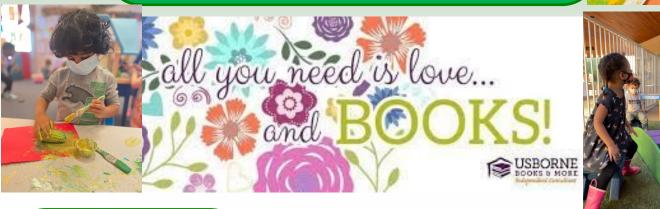
THANKYOU!



Thank you...

To **everyone** who purchased books at our Book Fair!
It was our biggest book fair ever!!!!







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



THANKYOU!

Covid Refund Policy:

In the event of a school closure due to a Covid-19 outbreak, a credit of 50% of your remaining month's tuition will be applied to the following month's tuition.



Cultural Holidays:

World AID\$ Day: December 1

Bodhi Day: December 8

Chanukah: 11/28 - 12/6

Winter Solstice:

December 21

Christmas: December 25

Kwanzaa: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1



The Refugee Task Force, initiated by the Arizona Muslim Alliance (AMA), is emergently working to support the large number of displaced Afghans joining our community. As the families arrive, many are being placed in hotels for a couple of months, if not longer, without means of being able to cook for themselves. The Tucson community has committed to sponsoring the weekend meals. They are looking for volunteers to either sponsor or cook zabiha/halal meals for Afghan families. Go to the link below to see how you can help!

https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/ showSignUp/4090845aaad22a5fc1 -tucson



WWW.ELLENDUPERRETPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Thank you

Ellen Duperret Photography!!!

We look forward to our beautiful pictures, which should be delivered next week!

Thank you for your patience.



Cookie Dough FLASH Sale!

ISP has 50 boxes of cookie dough to sell.



Discounted to **\$15** a box!

Offer ends December 31!!



Request cookies in the office!





UPDATE

PCHD rescheduled dental screening will be on January 20, 2022. If you would like your child to participate and have filled out your form, bring it to the office and we will save it for the rescheduled date. New forms will be sent out January 3rd to be returned by January 13th. If you already submitted your form, no need to fill out a new one.

Do you love your preschool?



Please consider ...

writing
a Google Review
for us,



liking us on Facebook.



and rating us on Great Schools!













ISP Recommends:









Kent Vincent, M.D.

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











Precare with Ms. Siria

Precare supports our parents who need an early drop off starting at 7:30am. This program is held Monday through Friday in Room 22.

Upon arrival, we will continue to check all students' temperatures and they will wash their hands as indicated in our COVID-19 Health and Safety precautions.

Precare offers the great opportunity to make new friends, eat breakfast and have fun in a room full of different experiences. At 8:55am, your child's teacher will pick up their students and walk them to their classroom. Students may enroll in the program or drop in when available. Please contact the office for more information.

When enrollment reaches 9 students, Ms. Ana joins us to play.

A reminder of our Winter Break is 12/20 - 12/31/2021. School resumes Monday 1/3/2022

Ms. Siria

Aftercare

with Ms. Ashley, Ms. Natalie & Ms. Tiffany

Hello Parents & Families,

I am absolutely thrilled to have joined the aftercare team! November has been such a wonderful month filled with fun activities, learning, and play. Thank you for trusting, accepting, and welcoming me into this role! It has been fun seeing the children interact with other friends of different ages and meeting a few new friends of my own.

We have been learning through indoor and outdoor play, enjoying interactive story times, and are always eager for snack time. With writing and art tables, building and house play, reading and dramatic play inside and bicycling, running, climbing, digging, building, and performing talent shows outside, our time together goes by so fast!

I can't believe December is already here! We have discussed what it means to give and the various ways we can give to others. Last month, I set up an "Acts of Kindness" chart as a starting point for the children to begin thinking of ways to show care and compassion towards their friends as well as themselves. As they recognize their acts of kindness or those of their friends, they may color in a heart on the chart. I plan to have this up for the rest of the year to inspire kindness on a daily.

The holiday season continues! We will continue learning and sharing holidays and traditions. In addition, we will also explore trees and our 5 senses. I very much enjoy providing the chil-

dren with activities to express their creative and artistic side,

♥ Ms. Ashley, Ms. Tiffany, & Ms. Natalie ♥

A Special Thank You To...

- Ms. Tiffany and Ms. Natalie for the warm welcome into
- All ISP Teachers and staff for trusting me during this transition.
- Ms. Paola and her room parents, families, and children for their sweet goodbye bundle!











3's Partial Immersion with Ms. Siria

Dear Families.

It's unbelievable that 2021 is ending already! Wow, time flies!

During this month, we will be exploring trees. We will be learning about parts of the trees, different types of trees, how trees help us, and how and what trees need to grow.

We welcome our families to schedule a time to share your culture or a tradition that your family enjoys each year. This could be a book, song, or a family tradition. Please contact

We will be exploring the holidays of Christmas, Kwanza, Hannukah, and New Year traditions through art and sensory experiences, literature, and songs.

Other themes will include 'our senses" and how we can help one another.

As always, we will continue to learn our shapes, colors, and numbers in both Spanish and English.

Our class is during a fantastic job wearing their mask both during inside and outside playtime. Children remove their masks during mealtime and naps and have learned to store their mask in their individual containers. Thank you for continuing to work on potty training at home. Children are really improving in this area.

Thank you to those who supported our Book Fair and Meredith Keller for purchasing books for our classroom.

Happy 3rd Birthday to Naima on 12/8 and Estella on 12/11.

Happy holidays!

Ms. Siria

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

























2's Partial Spanish Immersion with Ms. Natalie & Ms. Tiffany

Happy Holidays! Felices Fiestas!

Thank you for your contributions in helping us gather food items for our St. Francis Food Drive!

I would also like to thank the following parents: Alicia (Regina) and Monika (Ishaan) for sharing about their holidays and traditions with the classroom. If you did not get the chance to share with us no worries, we will continue exploring **Holidays & Traditions** through December. Please approach me about coming in to visit us.

We will also be exploring **Trees**, our **5 Senses** and what it means **to help** others and ourselves. Our themes will be emphasized through stories, games, art, and role playing.

A few of the holidays we will be exploring are Kwanza, Christmas, Channukah and Tu Bishvat - "the birthday of trees". If you take part in these holidays, please share with us how YOU celebrate.

To explore and stimulate our 5 senses we will be doing a series of test and games. These activities include a taste test in which the children will try foods that are sweet, salty, sour, soft, and crunchy. We will listen to lots of sounds including vehicles, farm animals, jungle animals and many more all while we try to identify them.

For our Tree unit we will discuss Tu Bishvat, read "The Giving Tree", create a painting showing the 4 seasons a tree goes through, discuss how trees grow and what grows on trees.

How does your child help themselves? They set their napkin and grab their lunch box all on their own. How does your child help others? They remind their peers to grab their water bottle or they grab it for them. One way we will emphasize the character trait of helping is by pointing out to them how they are helpful throughout their day. We will also do some role-playing scenarios during our Circle Time.

With the cold and flu season upon us, it is important that your child wear their mask now more than ever. Please help me in encouraging your little ones to keep their mask on.

It has been incredible watching the growth of your children over the last few months and they will accomplish so much more the next half of the school year. Support

their every milestone as small as it may be.

With love,

Ms. Natalie and Ms. Tiffany



Spanish Vocabulary

Tree - Arbol

Senses - Sentidos

Help - Ayudar

Salty - Salado

Sweet - Dulce

Soft - Suave









3's Full Spanish Immersion with Ms. Damaris

¡Hola familias!

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

We will continue to learn numbers (1-10), colors and shapes (corazon-heart, estrella-star, and triangulo-triangle) during the month of December.

December themes will include the exploration of trees, continuation of learning and sharing of holidays and traditions, our 5 senses, and the character trait of "helping others".

Activities for the month of December will include the life cycle of trees, on campus trees observation/exploration (Outdoors), activities to experience the different flavors, smells, sounds, feels/touch, and sights our 5 senses can identify, "Be Kind" art project, and continue learning about the different holidays and traditions around the world. We will also introduce the winter/invierno season, and learn the traditional spanish songs: "Feliz Navidad".

If you are interested in sharing your family traditions, please let me know to schedule you during our outdoors time. Please be mindful that you will have to undergo a health check and that only one family member can be present for the activity.

I will be sending a permission slip for our tasting activity to make sure our different flavors are allowed for your child. (Kind reminder: We are a Nut Free school).

Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

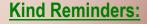


Winter Break:

December 20 - December 31 We return to classes on January 3, 2022

December Spanish Vocabulary

- Arbol Tree
- Sentidos Senses
 - Gusto Taste
- Ayudar a otros Helping others
 - Se Amable Be kind
 - Navidad Christmas
 - Pinata Pinata



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.















3's/4's Partial Spanish Immersion with Ms. Lydia

Hello Dear Families

Queridos Padres y Familia

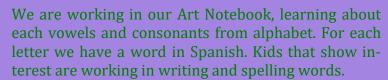
Thank you to those who supported our November Food Drive and donated to the St. Francis Food Bank.

We love this season full of holidays and look forward to sharing these moments with the children in our classroom. Our themes for December will be winter, trees, our 5 senses and cultural holidays and traditions. And the character trait of "helping others"



This month we will learn about some winter holidays Lilibet Sanders Thanks for all your celebrated during this time of year such as Kwanza, support and effort to make my Birth-Hanukkah and Christmas.

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 are working on saying and recognizing our first then last name in print. Then we move onto naming the letters in our name and learning our name! Many children are also motivated to recognize in print the names of their friends! Print powerful so many, many items are labels through out our classrooms.

We will have a sensory bin with fresh pine tree branches and jingle bells to explore the season with our senses.

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 sweet treats.

We 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 with us to discuss further and set a date. Our children look forward to learning about other cultures and holidays!

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

I would like to say thank you to my Room Parents Rhyana Whitely and Lilibet Sanders Thanks for all your support and effort to make my Birthday a very special day. Thanks to Rhyana mom for donating pumpkins to our classroom.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season!

Love, Ms. Lydia























4's Full Spanish Immersion with Ms. Paola

Dear Parents and Families,

We welcome Diciembre, a month of Traditions and Celebrations! We will celebrate and learn about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. We will read books about these holidays and explore the symbols and colors that represent each one of them. Children will compare and decide what's similar and different about the way people celebrate these special days. We will also share what holidays our families celebrate during this time of the year and the traditions we have. I will provide the children with a variety of multicultural books, musical instruments, visuals, games, and art supplies, so they can be motivated to explore and learn about this topic. At the writing table I will have a "Card Writing Center." I'll set out different kinds of papers and envelopes to inspire the kids to write cards to their families and friends. I extend an invitation to all my families to visit our class and share some of your family traditions with us! It can be a favorite book, pictures of your family getting together, a song, music, traditional clothes and accessories, art project, etc.

We will also use our senses to explore the holidays! We will make a chart and children will brainstorm what

they see, smell, touch/feel, taste and hear during this time of the year. We will also use some spices instead of watercolors to paint!

"Trees" is another theme our class will study this month. We will learn about the life cycle of trees and we will try to grow a pine tree out of a pinecone. Children will discuss why trees are so important for our environment and how we can take care of them.

For the last week of school, before our Winter Break, our class will start getting ready to welcome the New Year of 2022! Our class, as a team, will help clean our classroom and some of the toys. They will also empty their cubbies and clean them. We will discuss tasks and how we can be more efficient. If the weather is nice, each child will take a chair outside and be in charge of scrubbing and wiping it. Children will use only soap and water to clean. At the end of the process we'll discuss how we felt by working together and helping each other. And on Friday, December 17, we will celebrate our hard work with a Pajama Day and Chocolate Caliente! As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I will keep reinforcing and reviewing all the pre-math, pre-writing and prereading skills that we worked on over the last few months. And I'd just like to clarify that I'm not doing a formal teaching for reading and/or writing. That is not part of our curriculum and philosophy. Children are exposed daily with a

variety of hands-on-activities and materials that motivate and encourage them to explore and ask questions. I listen to what their interests are and I tailor my lesson plans to my students and their learning styles.

"We all have different gifts, so we all have different ways of saying to the world who we are" -Mr. Rogers

With all my heart, I wish you a very Happy Holiday Season and a peaceful and restful Winter Break.
I will see you all in 2022!

Sending Love and Kindness, Ms. Paola

Gracias!

- Monika (Aditya's mom) for doing an art project with us to celebrate Diwali.
- To all the families who participated & made contributions for the Food Drive.
- To my room parents & all the families for their constant support & kindness.
- Ms. Zulma for accepting to be by my side another year!
- Ms. Cathy & Ms. Meredith for their helping hands.
- To ISP teachers and staff that are always willing to help and share!
- To Eleanor's Grandma, Erick, Gus, Eddie, Lola, Amara and Gray for getting books at our Book Fair!



Covid-19 Health and Safety

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 to monitor the current pandemic situation and make updates to our policies as deemed appropriate or mandated.

What Administration is Doing:

- 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. Their same team will clean our campus each evening while wearing coveralls, gloves, and a mask while on our campus.
- Adhere to PCHD and ADHS recommendations
- Ensure that anyone entering the ISP campus will be masked and undergo a health check.
- Establish separate entry and exit points to the school to encourage directional traffic and decrease crowding.
- Administer daily verbal health checks and temperature checks using non-contact temporal thermometers before permitting students and staff onto campus. Persons with a fever of 100.4F or above, or who exhibit other signs of illness, will not be admitted to the facility.
- Support staggered drop off time while continue

to closely monitor to make changes, if needed.

- Apply ground markers to aid in distancing.
- Use sneeze guards. When performing health checks
- Request that all students and staff wear a mask while playing inside and outside
- Hand sanitizer stations are set up 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, working thermometers, clothes coverings, and gloves are available at all times.

What Staff is Doing:

- Check own temperatures and sanitize hands upon arrival.
- Disclose to ISP director any possible contact or exposure to COVID19.
- Adhere to recommendations from the PCHD and ADHS.
- Promote, demonstrate, and reinforce healthy hygiene habits among students.
- Keep personnel file updated to include vaccine records.
- 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 or as necessary.
- Wash own hands hourly.
- Hold conferences via Zoom.
- Wear gloves to help children with toileting and while changing diapers, as well as during meal times.
- Wear a mask while indoors and outdoors.
- Store a spare set of clothing on campus for personal use if needed.
- Educate, support, and encourage all children to wear a mask indoors and outdoors. This includes teaching children to put on and remove masks during eating and nap times.
- Keep separate all outer clothing, water bottles, and lunches.
- Design activities in the classroom environment that support physical distancing in respect to a playbased philosophy.

What Families are Doing:

- Disclose to ISP director any possible contact with or exposure to COVID-19. Thereafter, ISP will formulate a plan for your child returning to school.
- Notify Director of your domestic and international travel plans. Follow current CDC travel guidelines.
- Strive to have same adult pick up and drop off your child every day.
- Practice physical outside classrooms and adhere to ground markers.
- Limit your time on the campus to pick up and drop off. Please arrive no later than 9:15 to drop off your child. If you anticipate arriving later than 9:15, please call the preschool office.
- Adhere to established entry and exit points.
- Leave your child's backpack outside the classroom.
- Ensure that your child has two spare sets of clothing (appropriate for the season) in their cubby at all times.
- All children are encouraged to wear a mask inside and outside. All students will have 2 masks and a labelled container at school.
- Support our commitment to having your child wear a mask while on campus.
- Provide the most current copy of your child's emergency information and immunization / exemption forms.
- Monitor your child for the safe use of hand sanitizer

Covid-19 Health and Safety, Continued...

What Administration is Doing:

- Follow PCHD and CDC recommendations for vaccinated individuals in regard to quarantining following an exposure
- Educate our community:
 - Post signs to demonstrate proper handwashing.
 - Post signs to remind our community members to social distance.
 - Share community resources for assistance during Covid-19.
 - Make available current parent resources for helping children understand this pandemic.
 - Provide information to educate the community on the Covid-19 vaccine.
- Continue to implement regular changing of air filters in all campus buildings.
- Establish an emergency plan should a staff member or student display Covid-like symptoms during school hours. Those determined to be ill will immediately be isolated from others.
- Contact PCHD to report cases of Covid-19.
 Director will notify the ISP community of the possibility of exposure to the virus while maintaining the confidentiality of the individual and their family.
- Reserve the right to make decisions at their own discretion for the health & safety of everyone which may include temporarily closing of the school, a classroom, or extended day program. Length of closure to be determined by ISP Advisory Board and recommendations of the CDC, federal and local governments, & the Arizona Department of Health, Division of Child Care Licensing. All refunds are at the discretion of the director.
- Upon written request and within the allot time frame, ISP will grant a credit of 50% of the tuition for missed time, to be credited to the following month's tuition. You will receive a one-time invoice for your tuition.

What Staff is Doing:

- Offer an adequate number of classroom materials and supplies which are changed out frequently.
- Post lesson plans and class happenings in the windows for family viewing.
- Ensure your class not mix during our full and half day programs to include outdoor play, with the exception of nap and extended day programs.
- Separate toys that have been placed in a child's mouth. Toys will be cleaned and disinfected before available for play.
- Ensure availability of face masks, tissues, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and family emergency contact information.
- Place nap mats will as much as space possible and students will be positioned head to toe. Children's bedding will be stored in individually labelled bins. Sheets will be laundered once a week or more often, if needed.
- Promote small groups by discontinuing in-class visits and volunteers to the classroom.
 Allow for visits outside.
- Present curriculum utilizing outdoor space as possible.

What Families are Doing:

- Ensure to have a backup childcare plan in place should ISP need to temporarily close the campus, a classroom, or extended day program.
- Please keep your child home if they are feeling ill, have a temperature, or are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 which may include but are not limited to:

Fever or chills Cough
Fatigue Headache
Sore throat Diarrhea
Shortness of breath/difficulty
breathing
Muscle or body aches
New loss of taste or smell
Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting

- Contact the preschool if your child is sick or if she/he is not coming to school for any reason.
- Commit to keeping your child home until they are fever free without the use of a fever reducer and/or symptom free for 24 hours. A doctor's note may be required.
- Refrain from bringing your child's personal bedding for nap time.
- Understand personal items that support a child's sense of security, ability to transition, self-regulate, or calm down are considered essential. Please speak with the director to establish a protocol for the use of these items.
- Use resources available to you on the preschool campus; we are here to support you in helping your child understand coronavirus.
- Please have your own pen on hand to use if needed.
- Commit to staying abreast of school communication.