



### Message from the Director

Greetings! Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone is staying warm during these bitter days of January, although it has felt like spring these last few days.

Parents/Guardians—I appreciate your support in advance as we work on resetting school wide expectations of behavior, uniforms, school wide cleanliness. School level staff spent this past week working with students in grades K-12 to make sure everyone was clear on the expectations going forward, especially as it relates to uniform, school wide discipline and school wide cleanliness. Again, I appreciate your support as we partner with all of you to make sure IAF returns to a high standard school.

Re-enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins on Monday, January 22, 2018 and continues until Friday, February 9, 2018. This re-enrollment process is for current students only. We will be sending an auto-dialer and your response will be greatly appreciated. It is VERY IMPORTANT that we get this information from you regarding your intentions for attending IAF next year. For more information please see the section below in this Bi Weekly Update from Mrs. Yorks.

Best,  
Traci S. Cormier  
Director

### Academic Staffing Update

Beginning with Term II, our Academic Leadership Team has changed. Below you will find an updated list of those whom you should contact with concerns about your student(s) academic progress at IAF.

- **Ms. Melissa Vincent**  
Director of Academics & AQC Gr. 9-12  
[mvincent@sabis.net](mailto:mvincent@sabis.net) 810-600-5234
- **Mr. Justin Hauser**  
AQC Gr. 4-8  
[jhauser@sabis.net](mailto:jhauser@sabis.net) 810-600-5209
- **Ms. Nikole Southworth**  
Academic Support Coordinator Gr. K-3  
[nsouthworth@sabis.net](mailto:nsouthworth@sabis.net) 810-600-5240
- **Ms. Shavonta Crawford**  
Special Education & Special Services  
[scrawford@sabis.net](mailto:scrawford@sabis.net) 810-600-5239

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Leslie Clark to the IAF family. Ms. Clark will be teaching Grade 6 English and Social Studies, as well as Grade 8 English. She will also serve as the Grade 8 Homeroom Teacher. We are

confident that Ms. Clark will do a wonderful job in her new role and we are excited to have her on board. Additionally, we have added to our MTSS team and three of these staff members who are new, are former IAF graduates. Additional new staff members will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Unfortunately two of our teachers - Mr. McCants (Grade 5) and Mr. Parson (Grade 3) made the decision over the holiday break to leave us in pursuit of other opportunities. At this time, while the administration team is working hard to find the best teachers to fill these two vacancies, we have a highly qualified substitute in grade 3 and Ms. Rawling (one of IAF's current PE teachers) is stepping in to assist grade 5. We appreciate your patience during this transition of teachers and doing our best to make sure that this is short term. We look forward to providing you a staffing update in the next Parent Newsletter.

### Flint Promise Scholarship

#### **Town Hall Meeting - Join Us!**

**Saturday, January 27th @ 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: Mott Community College Event Center**

We invite you to join the Flint Promise partners – Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, Mott Community College, University of Michigan-Flint and the City of Flint – for a panel discussion and Q&A about the Flint Promise Scholarship. This town hall-style meeting is designed for students, parents, counselors and partners who would like to better understand how the scholarship will work and who should apply. This could be a great opportunity for our students of IAF. Please, don't miss it!

### Message from the Office Manager

#### **Project Return: Do you want your student to attend IAF next year and be guaranteed a seat?**

Re-enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins on **Monday, January 22, 2018** and continues until Friday, **February 9, 2018**. This is for current students only. If you intend to re-enroll your student for the 2018-19 school year, you must answer YES to our auto-dialer survey that will be sent to you beginning on Monday, January 22. You will receive this survey call EVERY DAY until you respond with either a "1" for YES (your student is returning) or a "2" for NO (your student will not be returning). If we do not receive a response your student will be given a Project Return Form that will



have to be completed and turned in to either office by the end of the re-enrollment stage which is Friday, **February 9, 2018**. We are anticipating even more students next year, and after the re-enrollment stage, we will be granting enrollment on a first-come-first-served basis. Therefore, if your student is attending IAF now, we can guarantee him/her a seat for the upcoming school year only if you answer the survey, call or complete the 2018-2019 Project Return Form. If you do not respond and your student loses his/her spot, you will be in the same position as all new applicants and have to reapply to attend IAF in the 2018-2019 school year.

### Sports Schedule

#### **Boys' Varsity/Junior Varsity Basketball**

1/15- IAF @ Mayville HS – 6:00  
1/18- IAF @ Deckerville HS – 6:00  
1/23- vs. Kingston HS – 6:00  
1/26- IAF @ Peck HS – 6:00  
1/30- vs. Owendale-Gagetown – 6:00

### School Closings & Inclement Weather

During the winter months, conditions may make it necessary to close school. We try not to close school unless weather and/or road conditions are such that the possible hazards to student safety outweigh the educational value of school.

If school must be closed, it will be communicated immediately via an auto and placed on our Facebook® page. Please be sure to update contact info with the school regularly so not to miss important information. Additionally, closures are announced with the following TV Stations: Channel 5, Channel 25, and Channel 12 before 6:30 AM. If IAF is not listed as one of the schools closed, you should always assume that IAF is open at the regularly scheduled time.

We make every effort to not send students home early. However, on rare occasions when mechanical failures occur in the building or when inclement weather develops after school is in session, it could become necessary to dismiss school early. It is important that all parents/guardians thoroughly discuss with their student(s) the possibility of an early dismissal in regards to where he/she should go if parents/guardians are not home.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Monday, Jan. 22-**

- National School Choice Week
- **Project Return Begins**-Please answer our auto-dialer survey to save your student(s) spot for next school year.
- **IAF Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm**

#### **Thursday, Jan. 25**

- K-12 \$2.00 Dress Down Day

#### **Friday, Jan. 26**

- Senior Field Trip to U of M & MCC

#### **Tuesday, Feb. 6**

- Parent Connection Mtg. @ 5:30 pm

### Uniform Reminder

In order to ensure that the highest standards of education and discipline are maintained at International Academy of Flint, we would like to remind you that, as of **Tuesday, January 16**, the school uniform policy will be strictly enforced.

At IAF, we strongly believe that our school uniform is an effective means to focus our students' attention on their education and encourages them to be motivated by what they learn and not by what they wear. Therefore, we greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that your child comes to school appropriately dressed.

Students found in violation of the school dress code will be requested to report to the Student Management office. Parents will then receive a call asking them to bring appropriate school uniform items to school. Students will have to change into school uniform before they are allowed to rejoin their class.

Visit our website ([www.iaf.sabis.net](http://www.iaf.sabis.net)) for a complete listing of the required IAF uniform. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.



### School Wide Discipline/Behavior Reset

As we start Term II at IAF, we will focus on a reset of our school wide discipline, Student Management system and the behavior of our students. In an effort to respond to classroom disruptions, IAF uses the Responsible Thinking Process. This process gives students a series of opportunities to **stop, think, and change their behavior**, in an effort to replace inappropriate behaviors with appropriate ones.

If a student exhibits classroom misbehavior, the teacher will make every attempt to curb the behavior and refocus the student on the task at hand. Every attempt will be made in the classroom prior to the involvement of the Student Management team. Involvement of the Student Management team requires removal of the class for a short time and a phone call home to discuss the situation with the student's parent/guardian. This means missed class time, which is the last resort to curb negative behavior.

Moving forward at IAF we will focus on Phoenix POWER as we work on implementing our Positive Behavior Support Program:

- Pride "I do the right thing!"
- Ownership "I am responsible for myself!"
- We Take Action "I am part of the solution!"
- Empathy "I consider other's feelings first!"
- Respect "I am kind to others!"

### Mindfulness Awareness at IAF

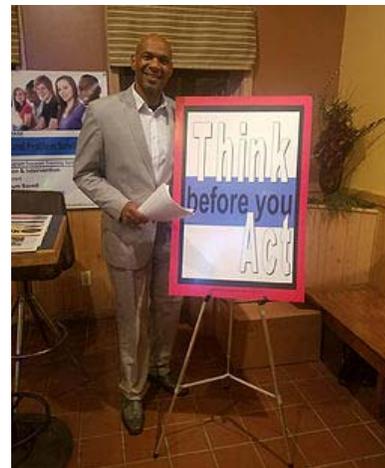
IAF students and staff in grades K-2 are participating in an 8-week mindfulness awareness program. **Mindfulness** means, "maintaining a moment-by-moment **awareness** of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and surrounding environment." Research supports that mindfulness practices decreases stress and anxiety, increases attention, improves interpersonal relationships, strengthens compassion and confers a host of other benefits.

For these reasons above, we are excited to have Ms. Patrice Berlinski, who is trained in mindfulness awareness, join our team for the next two months as she works with our staff and students in these practices. In the short time that we have had her join us, we have noticed some students practicing moments of awareness, to collect their thoughts, take deep breaths and calm their stresses, anger or worries. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cormier at IAF.

### Think Before You Act

As we work on school wide discipline and resetting the expectations with our students, we are pleased to inform our families in grades 3-8 of an 8-week program that IAF is hosting called, "Think Before You Act". Mr. Lakurt Harris created this program and has utilized this throughout Flint in various capacities. We are pleased to partner with him as we work to teach students how important it is to think through each and every action.

Mr. Lakurt Harris and the "THINK BEFORE YOU ACT" (TBYA) positive behavior training program started this past Tuesday, January 9. This program affords IAF students, grades 3-8, to an honest view of the choices they have made, identifies their past failures, and helps them to develop a positive plan of action to reach their goals for the future. We will be focusing in the coming weeks on students who have higher behavior infractions and need additional support to turn their behavior around in order to be a stronger, well rounded student at IAF. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cormier at IAF.



*Lakurt Harris is a former European basketball player, a certified motivational speaker, positive behavior coach and consultant, author of the Real Talk Life Lessons quote book for youth, and the Creator of the Think Before You Act Positive Behavior Support program.*