



Bear Essentials

DECEMBER 18, 2009

season's greetings

May the magic of the holidays fill your home with warmth and good cheer.



Dear Families of CIC,

As the holiday season approaches, I was reminded of the following saying: "The best thing that you can spend on your children is time." My wish is that during this holiday season all of you are able to spend time with your children (and indeed all your loved ones!), for the joy of the holidays is not really about presents received but rather about time spent connecting with one another. These days are festive but often hectic. Let us take the time to pause and reflect. Let us remember that spending time together is the best gift we can give one another. To live fully in the presence (not the "presents") of our children and our loved ones makes the memory of the time a thing of magic. Season's greetings to all!

Carmen Sweeting
Superintendent

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Wow! First semester over! That went quick! The second quarter was full of activities, and the students have earned themselves a relaxing December break.

The students of Grades 6-11 finished the semester with course work exams and the seniors sat IB mock exams in the new room in the basement of the library as part of their preparation for the real exams in May, 2010.

The start of the second quarter saw CIC host the 20th annual South American Model UN, and once again our students organized and ran everything to a very high standard. Special mention goes out to Joanna Nelson, Angel Pena, Luifer Schachner, and Yarid Reyes for their leadership.

Following quickly after that, we had Astronomy week organized by High School STUCO representative Luifer Schachner and Mr. Jeremy Sueltenfuss. STUCO also ran an HIV Awareness Day, and students came to school out of uniform to raise money for a local HIV awareness organization.

Under the direction of Ms Onalis Velasquez and Carlos Hernandez, AYA was also active. On top of

collecting for the Xmas Toy Drive and encouraging students to fill up boxes of food for the workers, an AYA group made a trip to an orphanage where it entertained fifty children with music games and a special visit from Santa Claus!

Furthermore, the Fine Arts Department headed Ibsen Rosales, Kathy Chebly, and Glen Tomassi, took us to new heights with the talent and creativity displayed during the Festival of the Lights.

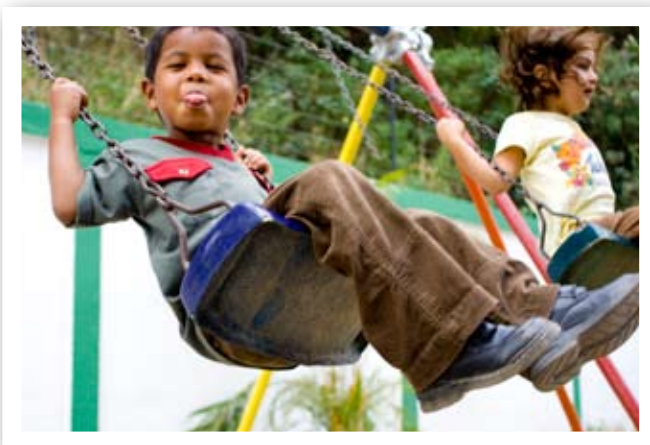
All this in nine weeks with forty-eight HS students--no wonder they have earned themselves a break!

Report cards will be completed and sent out on January 18 when we will also hold a Parent Conference from 3.30pm-5.45pm.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous holiday season. If you are traveling then travel safely, and I look forward to seeing everyone in January rested and refreshed.



*Chris Walker
High School Principal
and IB Coordinator*



Kids play at the Casa Hogar Bambi orphanage

ELEMENTARY CORNER

Greetings families from the Elementary School! We have been quite busy here over the past several weeks and we wanted to share some highlights with you. Enjoy!

- ★ MOUSE Spirit Days- Twins Day, Cowboy Day, and Holiday Colors
- ★ MOUSE fundraisers- Chupi-Chupi, Ice Cream, and Pizza Sales
- ★ Our Annual Festival of Lights
- ★ MAP testing season one is complete
- ★ Our new Lexile system in the library
- ★ Kg-Grade 5 report cards and conferences
- ★ PreN-N-PreK semester one report cards and parent conferences
- ★ Scholastic Book Fair
- ★ PreN-N-PreK Semester Report Cards
- ★ ASA activities are finishing up, thanks to all supporters!
- ★ The Holiday Bazaar
- ★ New canteen menu items, mmmmm... Thanks William and Carmen
- ★ Pennies for Peace campaign
- ★ Over 10 different ASA choices this semester
- ★ Many, many, many Happy Birthdays
- ★ Raz-Kids Reading at home program
- ★ Teacher "Spotlight" reading books in the Library
- ★ Thanksgiving celebrations

These are just a few of the highlights from the past few months. Have a look below at what has been happening in each grade!

Here is what some of our students said when asked, "What has been your favorite part of the school year so far?"

- ★ Pre-Nursery: PARRRRRRRRRRRRK
- ★ Nursery: Park, PE, and Ms. Carolina
- ★ Pre-K: Using the Play Dough!
- ★ K: We like PE, Park, and Computers the best.
- ★ 1st Grade: Learning, Math, Unit of Inquiry, and Computers!
- ★ 2nd Grade: Raz-Kids, Learning, Art Class, the whole school!
- ★ 3rd Grade: Celebrations: Halloween and Thanksgiving!
- ★ 4th Grade: Double digit multiplication, electricity and circuits, and division
- ★ 5th Grade: We figured out how big our lungs are with an experiment.

On behalf of all our ES faculty and staff, I would like to wish all CIC families a safe and happy holiday season. School resumes for all our students on January 11th. See you next year!



*Mr. L.
Elementary and
Middle-School Principal*

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & SPORTS

Middle School sports are off and running (or bumping) at CIC. Nov. 19, 20, and 21 saw our boys' and girls' teams host ECA, CICV, CIPLC, and EBV for a three day tournament. After the initial round robin games, the boys were ranked fifth and the girls second. Saturday brought the playoff games, and our teams had one more chance to prove themselves. The boys' team fought hard but came up a bit short to finish fifth overall. The girls were able to rally and win the championship game in two straight sets for first place! Congratulations to all of the participants for a wonderful tournament full of good times and good play.

We are now looking forward to the girls' soccer and boys' basketball seasons. Practices will be tough and split up by the holidays, but I am confident that our students will be ready to compete and represent CIC at the VANAS tournament in Valencia during the first weekend of February.

*Kenneth Davis,
Athletic Director*



PENNIES FOR PEACE

During November and December, second and sixth grade students participated in a service-learning project called Pennies for Peace.

Students read Three Cups of Tea and Listen to the Wind and were inspired by Greg Mortenson, a climber from the United States who got lost in the mountains of Pakistan and who then promised to build schools for the people in the community who nursed him back to health. Dr. Greg, as he is known, and his organization (the Central Asia Institute) have built fifty-seven more schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Some girls in these countries are getting their first taste of formal education.

Our students were inspired to raise money so that more schools could be built. The second and sixth graders worked together to present information about Pennies for Peace at assemblies in both the elementary school and secondary school. They also collaborated on different projects including making a “culture quilt.” A culture quilt is a quilt that explores various aspects of our individual cultures as well as ways in which we can work together to improve the world.

In the end, the students of CIC raised 1158.95 BsF for Pennies for Peace. They gained greater awareness of other parts of the world, and they now know that they can make the positive impact on the life of a child thousands of miles away.

Here are some thoughts from students who participated in the project:

I think that participating in Pennies for Peace was really important for me as a person because I have learned that I need to love everything that I have and if I lose it I know I will still have my education. It is really good for CIC to do this because we can be a model for other schools and children. And people will want to put their children in school here when they see what we value.

I enjoyed doing Pennies for Peace because I wanted to help kids and help them to learn.

I think that Pennies for Peace is important because we have people from different places and we all came together to help others. Even though we are not a big school, if everyone comes together and tries, we can make a big difference.

Pennies for Peace has taught me that there are people that need us and we should help them. Pennies for Peace is a way of helping them and giving them money to have an education, which is one of the most important things in life.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

South American Model United Nations 2009

Virtually all of our high school students (and several Middle School students as well!) participated in the four-day MUN conference hosted by CIC. It should be noted that SAMUN is planned, organized, and run by CIC students, and a wonderfully successful conference it was, according to delegates and directors from our visiting schools. Congratulations to the executive officer team, delegates, Admin, Press and IT staff and to many others of the CIC family who contributed to the success of the conference this year.

Please read SAMUNDO, the official newspaper of the event. CIC students are definitely on the way to careers in journalism! Go to the CIC home page, click on MUN activities, then click on SAMUNDO.

Here's to one hundred and thirteen years of CIC continuity and cheers to SAMUN on its twentieth anniversary!

The Hague Model United Nations 2010

CIC's student team for THIMUN is undergoing intense preparation and training for the upcoming THIMUN conference in the Hague, Netherlands this January, 2010. CIC is one of the longest-standing partner schools of the Hague conference. In fact, one of the architects and a founding figure of the existing twenty year-old SAMUN program is Mr. Irving Stein. Mr. Stein is one of the leaders in the worldwide creation of student MUN programs and an influential leader in the THIMUN program.

Our team this year forms the delegation for the UNHCHR, the UN's High Commission for Human Rights. This is the UN organization charged with oversight, coordination, and special human rights initiatives/activities as prescribed by the UN Charter and pursuant to international treaty agreements.

Tom Sweeting
MUN Director