



PSI Inquirer

2nd September 2011



The PSI Learning Vision

We strive to develop successful global citizens committed to taking positive action on behalf of their school, their community and their world.

Our vision is to create a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment. Students will fulfill their potential through inquiry, reflection and learning applied to the real world.

Important dates for your diary:

3rd September: PTA Back to School Picnic, Newcomers' Information Fair
12:00 p.m. in the school garden. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the fun!

6th September: PTA Newcomers' Coffee Morning 10:00 a.m. at Michelle Robson's

7th September: Kg - Gr 5 Back to School meeting 3:00 p.m.

12th-16th September: Secondary Fall Trips

'a place where we belong'

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From the Director

What makes a great school? It's an important question that educators and parents need to ask as they try to seek the best education for their children. Like many international schools, PSI is always trying to improve on its record of student achievement. I would like to explain this point in this announcement of university placements for last year's graduating class.

We are extremely proud of the students from the Class of 2011 who graduated in June and who are now starting out in their university courses which are listed below.

Hida Caliskan	McGill University, Canada	Psychology
Misha Borushevskyy	Lancaster University, UK	Business Studies
Bahar Eslami	City University, UK	Law
Jens Raitanen	University of Westminster, UK	Journalism
Andrew Iwashko	University of Colorado, USA	Film
Karolina Terchieva	City University, UK	Law
Jeremy Duffour	Université Dauphine, France	Business Management
Agnes Oberauer	Royal Holloway, University of London, UK	Drama and Philosophy
Chloe Thimonier	McGill University, Canada	Biological, Biomedical, and Life Sciences
Roxane Caudron	Maastricht University, Netherlands	Liberal Arts
Dima Glynyany	Bentley University, USA	Economics and Finance
Volodya Klymets	American University of Sharjah, UAE	Business Management

We're proud of their success, but I would also suggest that great schools should look beyond the fact of achieving a high IB Diploma pass rate or gaining university entrance for all. These are often the indicators of quality that international schools set for themselves. Of course, that is very worthy and, yes, we are clearly doing this, but **the most important principle is whether or not we are delivering on our vision for learning.**

As you can read in our school Vision Statement, we strive to develop successful global citizens and ensure that we fulfil their potential. Again, very worthy! But to know if we are doing this we have to measure our performance and this is where we are now beginning to set some key standards in place.

Firstly, we want all students to achieve their best predicted result in any external IB examination as this is a helpful measure of students working at their highest level. This also helps us meet our connected goal of making sure that students are admitted into their *first choice university*. This is important evidence to know if we are achieving our vision, having clearly defined what is 'great' for our students.

For last year's graduates, 11 out of 12 students achieved success in gaining entry to their first choice university course. It's wonderful news that PSI students are getting into the colleges and universities that they want to get into. It means that they are making the best possible start in their next step goals as young adults. Once again, we wish to congratulate our graduating students and their parents on this fine achievement.

For those students currently in the IB Diploma programme we shall help them make the best programme choices, encourage high expectations from all, track individual progress, and provide academic and college guidance from staff so that they can attend their preferred universities. We have set the audacious target of 100% achievement in this area so that we give our best for every individual student.

Great schools will always make a significant impact on students' lives and this is an enduring goal that we are clearly on the road to achieving at PSI.

Sincerely,

Steven Calland-Scoble
Director

Report on the Board of Governor's Meeting
Tuesday 14th June 2011

Executive meeting commenced at 18:30 to discuss the Director's annual appraisal.

New board members and staff members joined the meeting at 19:15. Departing members were invited to remain to participate in the building committee discussion.

Board members - voting:

Miles Martin (MM)
Martin Raiser (MR)
Kati Csaba (KC)
Christelle Caudron (CC)
Katia Iwashko (KI)
Svetlana Voloshyna (SV)
Rob Needham (RN)
Dean Robson (DR)
Andy Tate (AT)
Kristian Jensen (KJ)
Lina Nemchenko (LN)

Apologies:

Ian Borden (IB)
Natalie Jaresko (NJ)
Amal Barmoro (AB)
Yuri Spektorov (YS)
Andrey Lukyanenko (AL)

Ex-officio Members – nonvoting

Steve Calland-Scoble (SS)
Maria Kachmar (MK)

Building issues (SS)

The building committee shared information on the 4 architects tenders received for the school's new campus building plans, of which 2 were selected for further consideration.

Following the discussion, departing Board members left the meeting: RN, MM, CC.

Election of new board committee members:

KC was nominated by MR and voted in as Board Chair.
MR agreed to continue as Vice-Chair.
AT agreed to serve as Board Secretary.
AL will be asked to continue serving as Treasurer.

Minutes of previous meeting and AGM were approved.

It was approved to bring in a specialist school governance consultant, Adele Hodgson from ECIS, for training to the Board retreat in September.

Director's report (SS): Strong enrolment for next year and SS requested approval to increase the class size in grade 4 only from 20 to 22 for the next year. All approved. The admissions breakfast proved to be a successful marketing event, and SS is working with a parent with commercial experience on some future marketing strategies.

Volunteers from the Board are required to take part in the CIS accreditation self-study committees. KC volunteered for the governance and leadership committee, and KI will sit on the faculty and support staff committee. Decision required to move one of the May holiday days in 2012 from Wednesday 2nd May to Monday 30 April – all agreed and approved. SS also requested approval to hire 2 new staff for the next school year - Spanish IB and EAL. All approved considering the circumstances to cover maternity leave and online support. KI indicated that in the longer term, the area of language provision should be considered for development.

Finance & Legal Report (SS): Budget remains on target. Tuition fee collection is at 98%. Invoicing and payment tracking has improved. Any remaining bad debts will be written off. KC enquired about the bus transport price for the next school year. Information will be sent to all parents the next day – 15th June. SS confirmed there will be 2 new bus companies for the next school year, and the current company will be released following a fair tender process. Three scholarship applications have been received which be assessed and recommended by the Business Manager to the Treasurer for approval. For the first time, there will be a full audit, deadline 31/10/11. An audit report will be provided for the Board. New Education License is ongoing. MR suggested giving the supporting embassies an update.

Policy Report (KC): Request to approve the four policies in the board binder – all approved.

Dates for board meetings will be confirmed at first meeting on 29th August by SS & KC. Board retreat will be 24th September.

23rd August: new family orientation day – KC will attend.

Meeting closed at 21:30.

From the Primary School

On Wednesday, the 7th of September, the Primary School will be hosting their Back to School Night. A letter went home yesterday outlining the schedule. If you did not receive it, please email Miss Tatz (TatzL@psi.kiev.ua). In this forum I want to talk about family-school partnerships. There is much talk about the benefits of families and schools working together, but what does this really mean?

The article “Family Involvement or Engagement?” by Larry Ferlazzo* defines the difference between **involvement** and **engagement**:

“To create the kinds of school-family partnerships that raise student achievement, improve local communities, and increase public support, we need to understand the difference between family *involvement* and family *engagement*. One of the dictionary definitions of *involve* is "to enfold or envelope", whereas one of the meanings of *engage* is "to come together and interlock". Thus, involvement implies *doing to*; in contrast, engagement implies *doing with*”.

It seems to me that PSI wishes for engagement. Families and schools have separate yet equally valuable information about the child as a learner. By blending the two perspectives, we see the child as a whole. The more we know the better your child will learn.

Engagement also means “A school striving for parent engagement, on the other hand, tends to lead with its ears — listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about”. The conversations we have, the surveys we send, as well as the letters we write and read all work to build the kind of listening that allows us to grow as a school as well.

To work together, we all need to be informed, that is why this week’s Back To School event is so important. If you know the curricular expectations your child will have this year, you will better be able to support the learning at home as well as let the teacher know (during conferences, meetings or email) areas of strength, interest or concern.

On the personal side, I strive to be an active, good listener and strong communicator. This goal is without a doubt a work in progress, but PSI is all about reflecting and growing! We look forward to engaging with you this year!

Tatiana Lopukhin (Miss Tatz)
Primary Principal

*Educational Leadership (May 2011, Volume 68, Number 8, Pages 10-14)

Finally, a reminder to everyone of the new rule: after school, until all the busses leave campus, no children are allowed on the climbing structures. After 3:20 - ONLY if there's an adult supervision.

Also, PLEASE be considerate. If your child is NOT going home by school transport, let Lilya know so the busses don't wait while we try to find children who are no longer on campus.



From the Secondary School

Dear Parents:

First and foremost, thanks for attending Back to School Night on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many of you! If you missed the evening, I encourage you to contact your child's teachers individually to learn more about the upcoming Fall Trip and the year ahead.

School is now pretty much running as normal. It's almost as if we never left! However, one of the challenges we're currently facing is in the cafeteria, where long lines are really slowing down the process (it's important to remember that we have 200 students in the building – a PSI record! – and that all of them are getting lunch in a 40-minute time span). As a result, we're going to make some changes and we need your help!

On our end, we will divide up hot meals from cold foods (sandwiches and snacks). Students can pay cash for cold foods, but **beginning on Monday, September 19, students will not be allowed in the hot food line unless they have a pre-paid ticket.**

To make that process easier, we will have tickets on sale during both the morning and the afternoon break. I *strongly* encourage you to purchase sets of tickets, as this will make the process much smoother for your child and for the cafeteria workers.

In the meantime, please also help your child by providing him/her with correct change. Students with large bills (100, 200 and 500 UAH notes) are also finding that the process is slowed down for them and for the students behind them in line.

As always, I thank you for your help and support. Our goal is that students can get through the line quickly and enjoy their lunchtime without rushing. Your help will be much appreciated!

Finally, Fall Trips are almost upon us. Please make sure that you have checked with your child's trip leader or homeroom teacher for information about how to pack, what to bring, and what exciting learning opportunities await your child!

Regards,

Patricia Puia
Secondary Principal

CAS Planning: A New Approach

This year there are 50 students at the Diploma level (Grades 11 and 12).

They take different subjects and their plans for the future vary, but all of them, in accordance with IB and PSI requirements, are CAS students.

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS Programme) aims to develop a personality and bring up a well-rounded and responsible society member.

PSI has good traditions in delivering this programme.

This year a new approach was suggested for planning and evaluating CAS work.

Experienced and enthusiastic Diploma students had a CAS awareness meeting with Grade 10 students last year, explaining the essence of CAS and promoting their projects. This meeting resulted in forming combined groups that will continue activities this year.



On Tuesday, August 30, there was the first meeting where new and returning Diploma students joined the projects and met with teacher supervisors. Brainstorming, discussion, realistic and sometimes unrealistic ideas were discussed. It was a time when students and supervisors were thinking together, making a real team.



The projects are:

- Student Store (supervisors Miss Puia and Dr. I)
- Djerela Centre for kids with intellectual disabilities (supervisor Ms. Muniz)
- Pay It Forward (PIF) Club – Primary CAS club (supervisor Mrs. Philip and Miss Melanie Whitenack)
- Orphanage for visually impaired children (Ms. Toral, Ms. Yulia)
- Nursing House (supervisors Mrs. Serbin, Mr. Mulholland, and Miss Karen Whitenack)
- Dog Shelter (Mrs. Caudron)
- Kindergarten project (supervisors Mrs. Cairney, Mr. Ortwein and Mr. Cuthbert)



The next step is to fill in a proposal form, think about our own contribution and development, and act. We hope that they will act in Grades 11 and 12, and then hopefully, for their entire lives.

Dr. I,
CAS Coordinator



Dear friends and family at PSI,

14 teachers are excited to be traveling to Braga, Portugal as volunteers with Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program. The trip will take place during October break and we will be working side-by-side with people who need a decent place to live, helping to build simple, affordable houses.

Please visit our Habitat Web page, where you can learn more about the trip:

<http://www.habitat.org/cd/gv/participant/participant.aspx?pid=93524128>

Also, we are raising money to support the team's work, and we would be grateful if you would consider making an online donation. Pechersk School International is honored to be the very first teacher team to build in Braga, Portugal. The team is responsible for paying for their own flight and accommodation. We are hoping to have the community stand with us in raising the donation funding necessary to purchase building resources. This cost is 6000 Euro.

Thanks for helping us build houses and hope in Braga, Portugal!

The Habitat for Humanity Team

Andrea Armistead

Holly Johnson

Rodger Armistead

Rupal Joshi

Scott Depooter

Stephanie Kilminster

Tricia Friedman

Timothy Kilminster

Suzanne Goodall

Malina Patel

Gene Hodges

Lyla Philip

Christine Hunter

Bryan Reardon

UFL ILLUSTRATED

Greetings, Football Fans! The UFL is back for another season of dazzling catches, amazing tackles, outstanding plays and great sportsmanship. If you are interested in playing, look for the sign-up sheets outside S105.





PTA News

Week Ending 2 September 2011

Congratulations on completing your first full week of school!

We had a wonderful PTA Meeting on Tuesday, with lots of new faces and parents volunteering to be Room Parents and Steering Committee Members – thank you! We can only be successful with your continued support which is very much appreciated.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you at the Back to School Picnic at school tomorrow.

Important Dates for your Diary:

- **BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC & INFORMATION FAIR**
Saturday, 3 September 2011 at 1200 hours in PSI school garden
(If it rains this event will be postponed until a sunnier day)
This is an opportunity to welcome new families, get together with old friends and for the children to play together. **BRING your OWN PICNIC FOOD**, find out information about services in Kyiv and meet other families and friends. PTA will supply coffee and tea, but **NOT FOOD**.
- **NEWCOMERS' COFFEE (for new and existing parents)**
Tuesday, 6 September 2011 at 1000 hours at Michelle Robson's
Please come along and have some coffee, tea, cake – it is a great opportunity to make new friends and meet other new and existing parents.
10 Kropyvnytskogo Street, Apartment 24, 8th floor, 01004 Kyiv
(near Bessarabska Market, Planeta Fitness gym)
- **IWCK MEETING (International Women's Club of Kiev)**
Monday, 19 September at 1000 hours
Teacher's House, Volodymyrska 57

Please remember to check the PTA website each week:

www.psi.kiev.ua/community/pta/

Contact our PTA President, Amal Barmoro at:

ptapresident@psi.kiev.ua

Kiev Neighbours is a useful website for information about Kyiv. Used by local and expatriate families - <http://groups.google.com/group/kievneighbours>

PTA Steering Committee

“Active Parents Make the Difference”

PTA FUNDS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and our sponsors, for all your fantastic support throughout our fundraising events during our 2010~2011 school year.

The PTA is proud to announce that with your help we have been able to support:

Down Syndrome Centre

Dgerela Centre

Smart Board for Primary

Flight Simulator program and speakers for
Secondary

Student Council/C&S projects

Kiva.org

Refurbish School Cafeteria

Projects planned for 2011~2012 school year:

Habitat for Humanity
(Team of PSI teachers working in Portugal in
October
Half Term 2011)

To furnish new School ECO Building

MENU



Week 3

	5/09	6/09	7/09	8/09	9/09	
Starter Option 1	Fresh Vegetables (Sticks)	Fresh Vegetables (Sticks)	Fresh Vegetables (Sticks)	Fresh Vegetables (Sticks)	Fresh Vegetables (Sticks)	
Starter Option 2	Pumpkin Soup	Cauliflower Soup	Minestrone	Spinach Soup	Celeriac – Potato Soup	
MAIN COURSE	Meat dish & garnish Option 1	Roast Turkey & Rice with Gravy	Bolognese Sauce & Pasta	Frankfurters & Potato Mash	Chilli con Carne & Rice	Pizza & Chips
	Vegetarian Option 2	Potato Cakes	Spinach Quiches	Steamed Vegetables	Cheese Soufflé	Vegetarian Pizza & Chips
Dessert	Yoghurt or Fresh fruits	Yoghurt or Fresh fruits or Cake	Yoghurt or Fresh fruits	Yoghurt or Fresh fruits	Yoghurt or Fresh fruits or Cake	
	Juice	Juice	Juice	Juice	Juice	



Bread and drink water will be available daily

* Portions depend on the age group

