



# PSI Weekly



Issue #20 13/02/2015

A Place Where We Belong

An IB World School since 2000



## Important Dates

**Tue, 17 Feb @08:30 –**

**09:30:** Facilities & Building Project Committee Meeting

**Tue, 17 Feb @8:45 – 9:45:** Primary Open House

**Tue, 17 Feb @2pm -3.30pm**  
- Action Plan Interest & Review Meetings 2 (C301)

**Tue, 17 Feb:** Primary Basketball Tournament for grade 4-5 and **Wed, Feb 18 for grade 2-3.**

**Wed, 18 Feb @08:35–09:15:** Grade 5 parent meeting on the PYP Exhibition (Cafeteria)

**Wed, 18 Feb @2:00 pm -** 20th Anniversary Planning Meeting

**Thu, 19 Feb – Sun, Feb 22:** HS ISTA Theatre Festival - Munich

**Fri, 20 Feb @ 09:15 – 09:45**  
- Primary Assembly (Gr. K-2, Cafeteria)

**Mon, 23 Feb - 27 Fri -** February Holiday

## Director's Message

Dear Students, Parents and Community Members,

### Veracross & 'Live' Family Contact Directory

We are pleased to have so many families accessing curriculum information and classroom news on Veracross.

Family contact data (family names, phone numbers, email contacts and home address) is available to all Veracross parent users. The information is 'live', which means that as families join and leave PSI, Veracross automatically updates all data. In the coming months, we will move away from email versions of the Family Contract Directory as parents will use Veracross.

Currently your family data is deactivated. If you would like to 'activate' your family data, to be shared and part of the online Contact Directory, this can be activated on the 'My Family' tab in the 'Family Information' section, that was used above.

We hope that you will activate your family data to the PSI community this month.

### Veracross Security Information

By setting up a PSI Veracross account, you are also agreeing that any information in the system (i.e., the Family Contact Directory etc.) will not be used or shared in any manner, outside of your own personal use. This agreement is important to all families in the PSI community. The purpose of this data is purely to connect PSI families for your own social events, etc.

Note - It is also critical that parents do not share their login information with their children or any other adult.

Primary School families that have not logged-in to Veracross at this point can do so at any time by emailing the PSI IT Team for your password etc. [it@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:it@psi.kiev.ua)



**John Burns, Director**





### The Process (vs. Product) of Your Child's Education at PSI

On **Tuesday, 17th February at 8:45 - 9:45 am, the Primary School** will hold its next Open House. The theme for this day is The Process (vs. Product) of Education. The theme was chosen because we often talk about where your child is on the learning path of education. We often talk about the learning that happens in school

that cannot be duplicated with homework or make up work. We often encourage you not to compare your child to others. We don't have traditional grades that you might see in a school from your home country. This Open House will be an opportunity for you to understand a little more about what we mean by this.

During your observations, teachers will specifically choose activities that highlight the process of learning. During this time you might see the following classroom activities:

- Students asking questions of each other
- The class brainstorming
- Students drafting
- Students using manipulatives to understand math concepts
- Students exploring media/technology
- The class engaging in a discussion
- The class talking out a problem to solve
- The class engaged in a thinking routine
- Students engaged in research
- Students practicing a specific skill with the teacher helping individuals
- You might see the following structures:
- Students helping each other
- A lot of purposeful movement and activity
- Expert groups working together
- Students planning

**Please meet in the cafeteria at 8:30** where I will explain how the hour will work. I will then be available after the Open House to answer questions.

In the classroom, teachers might ask you to participate. If not, please observe quietly. Some teachers might do the following to aide in your

understanding of the processes that are happening in their room at the time of your observation.

- There might be a little write up for the parents, so that way parents can understand what they are looking for/at and to explain the trans-disciplinary nature of the lesson.
- Students might tell you the connection between the activity and the summative assessment in the future (which means explaining what this is leading towards).
- Teachers might make an anchor chart to see/show the connection between the lesson and the big picture of the unit.
- Teachers might prompt parents what to ask the students.
- The teachers might show you the continuum of learning the students are participating in, so you can see where students are and their next steps of learning.

**By Tatiana Lopukhin, Primary Principal**

### From the Secondary Principal

Dear Parents:



First, my thanks to all of you who were able to join us for Thursday's Honours Assembly. It's always great to see parents here helping us celebrate student success.

Next week, a team of teachers, parents, students and administrators will meet for the quarterly 'check in' on our school's strategic plan. We'll talk about what we've accomplished so far this year and decide on the next important steps we need to take.

I thought you might also be interested to know what our teachers and support staff have been working on this school year. In addition to the daily planning, instruction and after school programmes that are at the core of our jobs here, our staff has been working on the following:

- Providing additional support to EAL students in our Diploma Programme through a weekly writing tutorial
- Creating and refining all units in the MYP to meet the new changes in the programme implemented by the IB in August

- Using MAP and ACER data as well as analysis of our own School-Wide Write to create grade level rubrics for writing that can be used in all subject areas
- Reviewing the language and processes in our Teacher Development Process to further improve our evaluation system
- Developing Veracross websites and opening up those portals to parents and students
- Reviewing and refining the Extended Essay process to provide students with additional support
- Creating a new Student Ambassador Programme to support new students coming into PSI throughout the year; the programme will be launched in August
- Creating a framework for **Student Led Conferences in Grades 6-8**, which will be launched in the spring

There's much more, of course, but I hope that you'll agree that the work we're doing is helping us continue to offer a 'five-star' programme to our students and community.

Patricia Puia

## Board of Governors Positions

**The PSI Board of Directors has several positions vacant** due to members relocating and leaving the school. Short term positions with the Board are offered to interested PSI parent from March through to our AGM in May. Interested parents should pass their CV and a short cover letter stating your interest in the Board and skills appropriate to the position to ([johnb@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:johnb@psi.kiev.ua)) by **Monday, 16th February 2015**.

The Board will conduct a simple appointment process with the positions beginning in March.

**For more information, please also contact the PSI Board Chairperson, Andreas Bork, or any of our Board members.**

## March is Literacy Month at PSI

Activities include Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) each day, PSI Young Authors Award contest for poetry and prose, 2nd annual PSI book award, Reading in Mother Tongue, Literacy Afternoon in the Library and a visit from [John Farrell](#), singer/songwriter author and founder of [Bridges of Peace](#) and Hope and much, much more.

Please look here for more detailed information in the coming weeks as well as the weekly communications on Veracross.

## 20th Anniversary Planning Meeting

Did you know that **PSI will be celebrating the school's 20th Anniversary in the 2015 / 2016 School Year?** Several key dates and exciting events have already been set.

**Anniversary Week Activities** - Week 1 School Year  
**Anniversary Ball & Dance** - Saturday 5th December 2015

**Anniversary Spring Fair** - Saturday 21st May 2016  
 To end this month, our Anniversary Committee will meet for the first time.

We are looking for additional members for this committee. Please **feel free to join us at this first meeting on Wednesday, 18th February at 2:00 pm** at the school. For more information or to register your interest please contact [mashav@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:mashav@psi.kiev.ua)



## Action Plan Interest & Review Meetings 2

Next week we will hold our mid year Action Plan Interest & Review Team Meeting 2. New parents to this process are very welcome. Please email John ([johnb@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:johnb@psi.kiev.ua)) to join our next meeting

**Meeting Agenda** - Please also see the [LINK](#) for additional information and a list of all current participants.

- We would like to update you on our Action Plan progress.
- Reflect on this work, seek feedback and add additions steps if required.
- As a team, continue planning on Action Plan projects for the next six months.
- Look at how we will measure project success to end the school year.

**The meeting will be held from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm on Tuesday, 17th February. We will meet in the Secondary School room S301 (third floor).**

## News and Updates

### Holiday Arrangements

#### Dear PSI Families,

We wish all families a very happy holiday period. PSI breaks for holidays to end next week. Our last day of school is **Friday, February 20th**. We look forward to seeing all the students back at school on **Monday, March 2nd**.

Please note that on **Friday, 20th February**, there will be no ASAs as well as no SSS on Saturday, 21st.

This is in accordance with our PSI ASA and SSS cancellation policy. To learn more about it please follow [ASA](#) and [SSS](#) links.

**Best Regards, ASA team**

Dear PSI Community,

As we start to plan our orders for the 2015/16 school year we would welcome your suggestions for titles and resources that you think would enhance our library collections.

Library  
News



Please include as much information as possible and check the Destiny Library Catalogue to ensure that our library doesn't already hold a copy.

Please also remember that these resources will eventually be library materials available to everyone. They will be paid for with the library budget but there is no guarantee that we will be able to purchase all of them due to their availability and our budget. They will be available from the winter of next year.

[Primary School Library Suggestions](#)

[Secondary School Library Suggestions](#)

We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

### Book Amnesty

Dear Students and Parents,

We have noticed that there are a lot of books missing from the library that are not properly checked out. This causes a lot of frustration for other users when those books are featured as available on the Destiny library catalogue but are not on the library shelves. For this reason we are offering a book amnesty.

If you have any books in your lockers or at home that are overdue or belong to the library but are not attributed to you please bring them back to the library. The books can be recognised as belonging to PSI by a PSI stamp, barcode and/or spine label. All books can be put in the return box at the circulation desk without penalty. Please help us to provide the best possible service we can by following the rules of library use and checking books out properly.

**Best regards, Pam and Polina**

### Here is the Next Week in Sports:

#### Monday 16th

HSG and HSB Basketball Practice @ PSI 4-5.30pm

#### Tuesday 17th

Grade 4/5 Basketball Tournament @ PSI 12-4pm  
MSB 3rd Place Play-Off @ PSI 4.15  
MSG 3rd Place Play-Off @ PSI 5.15

#### Wednesday 18th

HSG and HSB Basketball Practice @ PSI 4-5.30  
Grade 2/3 Basketball Tournament @ PSI 1-3.30

#### Thursday 19th

MSG Basketball Practice @ Olimpiiskiy 3-5.30  
MSB Basketball Practice @ PSI 4-5.30

#### Friday 20th

HSG and HSB Basketball Practice @ PSI 4-5.30pm

### PSI in Brief

**Parent Russian Lessons** - We offer Russian language lessons to parents free of charge. Classes will be held **from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. Please confirm your participation with our ASA Coordinator, Natasha ([natashag@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:natashag@psi.kiev.ua)).

- **Beginners** - Tuesday & Thursday afternoon.

- **Intermediate** - Wednesday & Friday afternoon (people with some experience).

**Gate Security Cards** - To issue security cards for your family, we

kindly ask you to fill out this [Parental Security Form](#).

Please send your photographs to this email address: [securityphoto@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:securityphoto@psi.kiev.ua). For additional information please contact the PSI Security Office: [security@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:security@psi.kiev.ua).

## PTA News

Thank you to all who joined this week's PTA Meeting. This coming week the Primary Basketball Tournament will be held on **Tuesday for Grade 4-5 and Wednesday for Grade 2-3**. Please join us in cheering for our teams. We also need volunteers to help us cut and serve fruit for our players. Please contact Kelly at [bork.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:bork.kelly@gmail.com)

Country help needed for Spring Fling Party!

The Spring Fling Party will be held on **Saturday, 25 April**. Besides an evening of drinks, food and dancing, it will also be a fundraising evening for our arts department and the PSI scholarship. There will be a silent auction with great things to bid on, including the famous PSI country baskets, baskets filled with yummy things from your country. The country representatives will receive a letter next week explaining the idea and asking for a basket from your county. Please help us to raise a lot of money for these good causes!

### Upcoming PTA events:

- February 17:** Primary Basketball Tournament
- March 3:** PTA Steering Committee Meeting: 9 am Home Cafe. Join us for a warm drink and get an idea of what the PTA does and how events come together.
- March 10:** PTA meeting, followed by coffee with Ms. Tatz, primary principal
- April 2:** Easter Bake Sale
- April 25:** Spring Fling Cocktail party

## General Announcement- Internet Safety

We want to give you a general reminder about Internet safety. One important way to protect yourself is not to 'friend' anyone whom you don't know. Because people can create identities for themselves on line, the person you're 'friending' may not be what s/he seems to be. In the most recent case, recruiters for ISIS have attempted to use Facebook and other social media to spread their message and recruit. Dangerous adults, businesses that want to tap into your friend list, and others can be easily avoided by keeping your friend list to your actual friends. Protect yourself on line, please!

## A New Video Featuring Heth Fontes, MYP Humanities.

Dear Students, Parents and Community Members:



We are excited to share [our latest video](#) Heath Fontes, MYP Humanities Teacher. For more information about PSI news and events, please check our Upcoming Events section on the PSI website ([www.psi.kiev.ua](http://www.psi.kiev.ua)).

## PSI Reminders

**2015 / 2016 School Calendar**  
- We are pleased to release **the new Academic School Year Calendar 2015 / 2016**. [LINK](#)

**PSI Glossary** - A whole school glossary of educational terms used in the school and in documents. [Glossary LINK](#)

**School / Home Communication**  
Whom to contact about your questions, feedback and issues at PSI [LINK](#)

**Community Emergency Communication Policy** - Please follow the [LINK](#) to this important information.

**PSI Facebook** - We use Facebook every day at PSI. Please visit our site to '[Like Us](#)' and join in.

**Feedback** - PSI welcomes feedback, questions and concerns. Please email [communication@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:communication@psi.kiev.ua) at any time.

## Menu for next week

Please click [HERE](#)

## PSI Social Media Links



## PSI Contacts

PSI Reception: Maria [secretary@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:secretary@psi.kiev.ua)

PSI Cashier: Anna [cashier@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:cashier@psi.kiev.ua)

After School Activities: Natasha & Melissa [asa@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:asa@psi.kiev.ua)

School Buses: Lilia [lilia@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:lilia@psi.kiev.ua)

Security Cards: Rostislav [securityphoto@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:securityphoto@psi.kiev.ua)

PE Uniform Orders: Oksana [oksanam@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:oksanam@psi.kiev.ua)

## House Points Totals

**Khoriv -954**

**Kyi -829**

**Lybid -726**

**Schek : 811**