People often ask, "What is it like to work in an International School?"
The lovely conversation between our ISB librarian, Michelle Holder, and her Grade 4 visitor (inquiring about the *The Odyssey*) gives a wonderful answer.

To read about this conversation and to learn more about our 3 ISB librarians, please read “Behind the ISB Windows” on pages 14 and 15.

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**Letter of the Month**

*John Larner, Head of School*

An excerpt from John Larner’s new ISB blog

**The time of year …**

As we have just finished the Thanksgiving holiday here in the U.S. and we enter the busy holiday season (for many faiths and cultures) of December and January, it is good to remember how universal such events are at this time of the year. For many different reasons, this time of year sees many manifestations of the human desire to rejoice, to celebrate, to gather together with friends and families, and in many cultures to mark these gatherings with gift giving and feasting. Today, we often talk so much about our differences, and news reports -- whether for local or world news -- often emphasize these differences, especially when the news is bad or horrific. So it is good to be reminded that no matter where we come from and where we might hope to be in some future time that we share these fundamentally human and humane feelings of hope, charity, and a desire for peace throughout the world.

These are the feelings that we aim to inculcate at the International School of Boston and that will help us fulfill the goal of “Shaping Global Citizens,” citizens who will be empathetic and responsible in their responses to others, aware and imaginative in their solutions to the problems they will encounter, caring and compassionate to all who are less fortunate than they are.

This next month will go quickly, so let me wish all a most happy holiday season now.

To read more blog entries from our headmaster, please click here or visit www.isbos.org (“About Us” Link)

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**Parents & Action**

*SIB Gala 09*

Friday, May 1

7:00 p.m.

(Historic Arlington Town Hall)
GALA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ISB Gala 09
Friday, May 1
7:00 p.m.
► Are you ready to “take the lead” with a team of very supportive ISB GALA 09 volunteers?

After ISB’s successful Casablanca 08 Gala, we are planning another GALA for our ISB community. It’s a new tradition of philanthropy at ISB, (but it’s not something new for other independent, international, French-American schools.) In order for ISB GALA 09 to be a success, we need dedicated and internationally-minded parent volunteers to join our committees. At this time, we are also recruiting 2 Non-French Co-Chairs to join our 2 French Co-Chairs: Frederique Heissat (Eliot 2 and Lilou K) and Claude Berthoux (Jean 4, Gabriel 1 & Lucy!)

Please read the following Committee descriptions and see which one may fit your schedule and personality!

Solicitations Committee
If you are resourceful, creative, and like to strategize unique ways of gathering sponsors and asking for donations, then this is the committee to join! Our focus will be recruiting sponsorships within our ISB families (think vacation home owners, restaurant owners, wine & food enthusiasts, musicians, spa owners, athletic event ticket holders, tourism contacts, business owners… etc.)

We thought it would also be fun to encourage the ISB faculty and staff to donate some of their fabulous talents and a bit of their time. For example, who wouldn’t want to bid on a private lunch for their kids at Leigh Doherty’s house (lower division director) or bid on a special excursion to the city with a French or English teacher, or maybe bid on a private bday party package on the new playground via Vicci. Again, the solicitation possibilities our endless and so creative!

Online/Auction Pay Software Committee
If you love your blackberry or if you are a “techie,” then we need you here! ISB has modern online auction software which allows us to have a very modern GALA. From online registration to gift catalogs to check-in and check-out; AuctionPay software does it all (with your guidance!) A team of previous Casablanca volunteers easily learned this software and one volunteer admitted “if I can learn to do online auctions, anyone can!”

You can check out AuctionPay at www.auctionpay.com or visit the French-American School in Portland Oregon, they use AuctionPay and The French American School in San Francisco also has their Gala online now. It’s the only way to host a GALA in the 21st Century!

Party Committee-
If you like food, music, and decorating, we need you here! We need FUN people to think about music, dance, food, décor, final touches, and more. Think www.fineliving.com. Think Nigella Lawson meets Edith Piaf, Think Martha Stewart meets the Gypsy Kings, think Flamenco, maybe Salsa, French food, Ethnic food… Poker, anyone? Just some ideas!

Continued on page 3
**Communications and Volunteer Recruitment Committee**

If you think you would like to promote an event to an international crowd of 250+ we need you here! It’s up to this committee to satisfy everyone with their strategic communication skills. This committee also needs people who can talk to other parents and enlist their support. Think website, bulletin boards, email, phones, maybe even Facebook. And what about postal mail and face to face? This is the place to be for all the “I am in Marketing and Communications” people.

If you would like to volunteer please contact, Frédérique Heissat, fheissat@hotmail.com

If you have any questions about fundraising please contact Vicci Recckio vrecckio@isbos.org in the ISB Development Office.

**Thank you,**
Your Gala Co-Chairs,
Frederique Heissat and Claude Berthoux

Click here to view photos from the [ISB Casablanca 08 Gala](http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0IasmTFs3ZMXNw&emid=sharview&linkid=link4). Or visit http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0IasmTFs3ZMXNw&emid=sharview&linkid=link4

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The lucky winners of the Italian trip raffled off at the ISB Casablanca 08 Gala!
Congratulations To…. 

►ISB Students Not Only Speak Other Languages, They Sing in Them, Too!
Our very talented Grade 6 student and his Yiddish Choral Group were recently featured in the Boston Globe

“BROOKLINE - They meet every Saturday on the third floor of the Goldman Family Residence Center, 80 singers in all, to rehearse the rich four-to-six-part harmonies of Eastern Europe. Together they make up the largest Yiddish chorus in the world…..

Daniel, an 11-year-old sixth-grader at the International School of Boston, learned about the chorus at Sunday school. "Yiddish is the language of my grandparents and singing Yiddish songs is the way I express myself as a Jew," he said. "It's the language of the lullaby that my parents used to sing me to sleep with."

To read the full article in the Boston Globe, please visit http://www.boston.com/ae/music/articles/2008/12/02/singing_in_yiddish_for_a_better_world/

Congratulations, Daniel!

►Our ISB ESL Teacher Earns Her PhD.
Congratulations to Courtney Clayton

ISB is very pleased to announce that Courtney Clayton, our Department Chair for Languages and Literacy as well as one of our ESL teachers, has recently received her PhD from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

Courtney’s PhD is in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on language and literacy.

Please join us in congratulating Courtney on this wonderful accomplishment.

Congratulations, Courtney!
All School: Lessons and Lectures

Thursday Afternoon Music Lessons Offered at ISB
And not just the clarinet,
but the flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone violin, viola and even the cello!

Alexis, who taught music in the Lower School grades as well as the successful ISB Orchestra last year, has returned from her time in Turkey. In hopes of creating more of an instrumental program at ISB, she will be teaching instrumental music lessons at ISB on Thursday afternoons.

Lessons will be offered on clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola & cello. Beginners welcome! Please sign up with Gloria Calderon, coordinator of afterschool activities, at gcalerdon@isbos.org, or contact Alexis Kruza at alexismeredith@gmail.com for further info.

Guest Lecturer Michael Thompson Visits ISB January 14
Back by Popular Demand

Listen to Mr. Thompson speak about "The Pressured Child" with a focus on international environments.

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, renowned child and family psychologist, Dr. Michael Thompson will make a presentation at ISB on "The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Find Success in School and Life". He will discuss how these topics relate to an international school environment and will answer questions from the audience. This special event will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. In addition, Dr. Thompson's books will be for sale with a 40% discount. For more information, see below and Michael Thompson's website (http://www.michaelthompson-phd.com). All members of the ISB community are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

ABSTRACT: "The Pressured Child" is, in fact, a presentation for "pressured parents" who have forgotten what school is actually like. It is a talk for parents who are gripped by worries and misapprehensions about their children's life in school. In the presentation, Dr. Thompson describes the psychological journey that children experience during their thirteen years in school. He reminds parents that children are almost never judging themselves by grades: they are always monitoring their own development and constantly searching for three things: connection, recognition and a sense of power.

Michael G. Thompson is a psychologist, school consultant, and author or co-author of eight books, including the New York Times bestsellers, "Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys," "Speaking of Boys: Answers to the Most-Asked Questions about Raising Sons" and "Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Lives of Children." Michael Thompson will also be available to sign his books.
From Our “Office of First Impressions” at Cambridge:

Important “Front Desk” Information

If your New Year Resolution includes riding more public transportation… then the Front Desk has your ticket.

Although it’s hard to believe, the school year is nearly half over! This means that those students who are “riding for a song” – just $20 a month – and who have paid for their MBTA passes for the first half of the year, must now pay for the second half of the year, if they wish to “continue singing!” (That’s unlimited riding weekdays -- until 8 pm -- on all MBTA buses and subways, and also on commuter trains to Zones 1 and 2.) The second half is of course $100 for the five-month period from February through June; payment is due when the student picks up the January pass.

This opportunity is offered to all students, including those who may not have had the MBTA pass before. We prefer that students sign up for the full five months, but the pass is also available on a month-by-month basis.

Please see Martha or Stephanie at the Front Desk with any questions and payments -- merci!!!

Looking for Contacts in Universities Around ISB

Calling all local University Professeurs

Each year, ISB teachers visit other teachers at or outside ISB in order to see how they teach.

This year, at least 6 teachers in the upper grades would like to see someone teaching at the university level: more precisely, they are looking for someone teaching a French course, a sociology or economy course, a biotechnology or genetic course, a theater course, a philosophy or Latin course, and someone coaching a team.

If you teach one of these subjects, and if you would not mind someone coming and observing you teach, or if you know someone that would fit this description, please contact Dominique Lecomte, dlecomte@isbos.org, the partner-teacher coordinator for the middle and upper levels.

Thank you,
Dominique Lecomte
Annual Fund 101. ISB Annual Fund Questions Answered
One At A Time

“I’m Paying Tuition, So Why Am I Asked To Make a Contribution To The ISB Annual Fund?”

The answer:

Because private, independent schools in the United States are not subsidized by the government. People often arrive at ISB and assume our school receives US government support and we do not.

In order to provide our exceptional program (and not just in one language, but two,) we depend on our ISB Annual Fund contributions. Instead of drastically increasing tuition, ISB (like other private independent schools in the USA,) has an Annual Fund campaign every year to support its operating expenses and enrich its program. Keep in mind ISB’s tuition is one-third less than other private schools in the area.

For more information about making an ISB Annual Fund contribution, please contact Vicci Recckio in the ISB Development Office. vreccckio@isbos.org.

(Your ISB Annual Fund donation is also 100% tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.)

THANK YOU
to all the very generous 2008-2009 ISB Annual Fund donors so far:

The Stone Family • The Beaudron Family • The Bloemker Family • The Powell Family • The Riddore Family •
• The Condie Family • The Rice Family • The Somasekhar Family
Anonymous (1)
►Still Looking For The Mabel’s Labels Yearbook Fundraiser?

Ask Florence Hamilton, she’ll tell you where to look.

The holiday season is soon here and Mabel’s Labels are a great gift for friends with children. There are a variety of styles and they can be customized with the child’s name and an icon. It is simple to order, just place your order at www.isb.mabel.ca and they will be delivered to your door. A portion of the purchase price will go towards the Yearbook. We try to keep our yearbook prices low by doing several fundraisers throughout the year. This fundraiser will run for another month.

Florence Hamilton
Yearbook Coordinator

►HOORAY! Under the leadership of the Lower School Student Council, Each Lower School Class Will Be Collecting BOX TOPS.

The Student Council’s Goal is $500.

BOXTOPS for Education is a program that helps schools earn extra money through awarding cash in relation to the number of BOX TOPS collected by a school community.

Please clip and submit your BOX TOPS to your class teacher. The class that collects the most BOXTOPS by March 15, 2009 will WIN a prize of a special indoor movie during a lunch time (The Student Council voted and decided this would be motivating!) Our goal is to collect $500.00 for our school. Please help us reach our goal through your participation. Questions? Contact Mineh Petrossian.

BOXTOPS are everywhere….Here are some of the products that have them on their packaging.

Betty Crocker®Almond Joy®, Cascadian Farm®, Old El Paso® ,Tortillas Pillsbury® Yoplait®, Chex Mix®, Nature Valley®, HUGGIES®, COTTONELLE®, Bath Tissue,KLEENEX®, Hefty®

For a complete list of box top participants, please visit www.isbos.org.
### ISB Students Give Back

**Lower School and Middle School Raise Money FOR U.N.I.C.E.F.**

Thank you to all the lower school students who participated in the UNICEF Trick-or-Treat. They raised $1212.81! Congratulations!

Grades 6, 7, and 8 raised $362.27 for the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Halloween night. Congratulations!

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### THE ISB BOOK FAIR GROSS SALES FOR 2008 was

**$4,133.21 !!!**

Michelle Holder, Leigh Doherty and Veronique Valdettaro are happy to announce that another ISB record has been reached.

This means that ISB library will receive a voucher of a value of about $1,500 for fiction and nonfiction titles. Thank you to all participants and a special “thank you” to our volunteers.

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Irene Ghazaleh</td>
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<td>Bethann Dahan</td>
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### Community Book shelf is open and seeking new titles.

**Free books to borrow! Contribute to the collection!**

The community bookshelf is open and seeking new titles. The bookshelf is located in the lower school lobby. It provides a place for people to exchange books and is totally free. People can drop off books that others might want and pickup books that they might like to read. The bookshelf accepts French and English books for children and adults; please do not donate English preschool books.

The Library Team
Maternelle: Community Service

Maternelle Reminders:
The first quarter will end soon and we wish all of you a very Happy Holiday!
Remember the Winter Show on December 15 and 17 and the Breakfast on December 19.

Maternelle Community Service:
The first meeting of Maternelle Community Service took place Saturday, November 29, 2008. We worked under a beautiful blue sky in the garden. Please contact Paul Romeo, Maternelle Director to find out how to participate! promeo@isbo.org
Grade 2 and Many Parents Enjoy a Book, Bear and Breakfast Event

The 2nd Graders enjoyed their annual “Books, Bears and Breakfast” event. Grade 2 parents were invited to share a little breakfast with their child and some quiet reading time together. There were 2 guest readers: Courtney Clayton (ESL teacher) and Sophie Camard (FSL and ESL teacher).
Lower School

Lower School Reminders:

Wednesday, December 16
Crazy Hair Day! The Lower School Student Council invites all Lower School students and teachers to come to school with a crazy hair-do.

Wednesday, December 17
Lower School Report Cards for Term 1 will be mailed home on this day.

Friday, December 19
Reminder: The Lost and Found will be donated to charity this day.

Soon It Will Be Testing Time. Sound familiar?

ERBs for Grades 3 to 8

This year ERB testing will begin on January 22 for Grades 6, 7, and 8 and on January 26 for Grades 3, 4, and 5. Testing for all grades will finish by January 30, 2009.

Each year the school administers the ERB tests to students in Grades 3 to 8 whose English language proficiency is such that the test will accurately reflect their ability and achievement. Those students who have not yet reached this level of proficiency will not take the test.

The ERB tests require no advance preparation. These tests will be administered during the first periods each day, so it is essential that all students arrive on time for school. Students cannot take the test after it has begun.

The format and content of the tests varies, depending on the grade level of the students. The sub-tests for Grade 3 include auditory comprehension, reading comprehension, and mathematics computation. Starting in Grade 4, the sub-tests are verbal ability, auditory comprehension, reading comprehension, writing mechanics, writing process, quantitative ability and math computation. At Grade 6, a vocabulary section and an essay are added.

Results of these tests will be used for analysis of individual and group performance in each area evaluated. Individual results, with an explanatory booklet, will be sent to parents in the spring.

Peggy Kirkpatrick
Academic Dean
Middle School Reminder:

Each Middle School advisory group is in the process of choosing a "responsibility project" to help the ISB community. Each group will identify some way in which they can contribute to our community and will carry out their project in the upcoming weeks.

Monday, December 15
Bake Sale.
The Middle School Student Council will run a holiday bake sale in the reception area. The bake sale will run during the second half of the lunch period, from 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and again after school from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16. 2:30 p.m.
The Middle School will hold a "holiday assembly." At the assembly, students will present the "responsibility projects" that their advisory groups have chosen. In addition, students will sing "We Belong" with music teacher, Amanda Hammond, and learn more about the importance of recycling and composting. After the assembly, students will have small holiday parties with their advisory groups or classes.

Friday, January 23. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
The next Middle School dance, "Winter Ball" will take place in the Cambridge cafeteria.

Wednesday, February 4. 7:30 p.m.
The Middle School music classes, chorus and orchestra will hold their Winter Concert.

A Big Day on The Hill.
Grade 7 Students Meet Honorable Judge Wolohojian

As a culminating activity to the seventh grade study on American Government, the seventh graders visited the Massachusetts State House and John Adams Courthouse on 18 November. During the tour of the State House, they visited the House of Representatives, saw Governor Patrick’s office (but, alas, did not see the Governor), and walked through the Senate chambers. Throughout the tour, students heard stories about Massachusetts history, as well as the history of the State House building itself.

Surprised by the grandeur of the building, one student pointed out that he didn’t realize the State House was a lot like a museum of art and history. Later in the day, the seventh graders made a short trip over to the newly refurbished John Adams courthouse. There, the mood was very different. In contrast to the somewhat hectic atmosphere of the State House, the mood of the Courthouse was silent and academic, which many students found more appealing. The highlight of the trip for many was to have the opportunity to actually sit in the seats of the Supreme Judicial Court Justices.

At the end of the tour, the students were able to speak with the Honorable Judge Wolohojian, of the Court of Appeals. Judge Wolohojian explained the differences between a trial, which involves a jury, and an appellate case, where arguments are made directly to the court. The true value of the field trip was not only the factual knowledge gained, but also the chance it provided students to experience the sights, sounds, and general mood of each building. These are the lessons that cannot be taught in a classroom or from a textbook. Such knowledge is best acquired when the students discover it for themselves. Great Job Seventh Grade!

Ms. Mitchell, 7th Grade Social Studies
$254,515.
The amount raised in the 2007-2008 ISB Annual Fund. Thank you to all our generous donors!

157
The number of ISB Annual Fund Donations we received from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

$4.00
The ISB Annual Fund gift amount that we received from our Grade 4 student, Colin. Thank you, Colin!

2
The number of Grandparents that contributed to the 2007-2008 ISB Annual Fund. A special “thank you” to Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Keane, the Grandparents of Sabrine in Grade 7.

$2.00 to $50,000 +
Annual Fund contributions come in various amounts and we gratefully accept whatever amount you contribute. The higher participation rate we have, the better chance we have for receiving grants and gifts from other sources.
Behind the Windows of ISB
Getting to know the ISB Faculty and Staff
Introducing… ISB’s Librarians!
Michelle Holder and Veronique Valdettaro (Cambridge)
and Laurenne Nordquist (Arlington).

(Below is the conversation that took place between between Michelle Holder (ISB librarian) and her 4th Grade visitor inquiring about the The Odyssey.)

The other day, I was working with a fourth grade class and a student asked me, "Do you have the book, The Odyssey?" Now, I have worked in other schools and libraries, and I must say that this is not a common fourth grade question. But, as I have come to realize over the past four months, our school is not a common school.

"Do you mean The Odyssey?" I asked the young student, looking up at me with her hopeful brown eyes. "The one with Odysseus?"

"Yes," she replied. "And in particular, I want to know more about Circe. It is for school," she added.

As I have only been here for four months, I am still getting familiar with library's collection. It takes some time, especially considering that the ISB library has over 13,000 books in French and English. I wasn't quite sure what our collection would have to offer my fourth grade inquirer, but I figured it wouldn't hurt to check. After looking together on the computer catalogue, we discovered a few books for primary school students about the Odyssey. Some even had cool illustrations (always a plus in primary school). My fourth grade researcher was excited, and so were a few of her classmates who eagerly came to see what else was lurking on the shelves of our mythology section.

I have worked as a librarian in two different International schools in Europe, and loved the diversity of knowledge the students brought to their classes. This is my first experience working in a bilingual International School, and while I am amazed at how well the children learn, communicate, and read in both English and French, I think I am even more impressed by just how much the children are learning here at ISB. The curriculum truly inspires students to want to learn more, and as the librarian, this certainly makes my job a lot more fun. Each day it is a pleasure to help children by providing them with the books and skills they need to further their learning experience.

During the Thanksgiving holiday, an elderly friend (who had just learned I had become a librarian) said to me, "I love reading because it allows me to travel to all of the places I will never be able to visit." It was a great reminder what a wonderful journey—dare I say Odyssey-- reading truly is.

Continued
Behind the Windows of ISB  (Continued)
Getting to know the ISB Faculty and Staff
Introducing… ISB’s Librarians!
Veronique Valdettaro (Cambridge) & Laurenne Nordquist (Arlington)

How long have you worked at ISB and what attracted you to at this school?

Laurenne:
I have been working at ISB for seven years now. What attracted me was definitely the bilingual curriculum and the respect for multicultural heritages. In this school you do not have to let go of who you are to be part of it.

Veronique:
"Madame la Directrice of the Ecole Bilingue" asked me to come and help out as a primary grade teacher for one academic year and that was 20 years ago.

What do you think makes our ISB library different from another school library?

Laurenne:
The books and other materials in two languages offer an incredible richness and strong support to learning. They offer an early childhood literacy background and a fascinating written link to cultures.

Veronique:
The ISB library is not only about books, it’s about people. Every time of the day brings a new challenge or a new emotion: a notion to explain, the etymology of a word to find, a class to “fit in,” a teacher to shelter, and especially students to cheer up, advise, teach, encourage, direct, guide, congratulate, and respect.

Who are some of your favorite authors (for the young and the old!)

Laurenne:
What do you like to read? I cannot resist anything by Agnes Rosenstiehl, the author of Mimi Cracca. She captured in her books the irresistible innocence and freshness of early childhood.

Veronique:
I do not have favorite authors. Moments in life allowed me to meet a variety of authors, classic or contemporary, French or not, and we traveled a little while together on a fictional or philosophical path. I recall, for instance, having spent days with Balzac, travelling with Colette, exchanging with Sartre, and admiring Yourcenar.

What do you do when you are not at ISB? Any special talents or interests?

Laurenne:
At home, I love to read to my children. We chose "L île au trésor" without pictures. Just the imagination! I also like to garden and one of those days, "when I will have time"...(When?) I would like to do some photography.

Veronique:
Well, I dance tango, I read, I play my viola, I cook for friends, I go to the gym, I design and sew my own clothes, not all of them (but I would like to), I tutor children and adults, I attend conferences at the Université Populaire, I build little stuff, I dream (a lot), I quilt, and sometimes I travel to another country.