



25 August 2023

Extended Version of the Director Wave

Dear CIS Community,

Something to Ponder

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud” - Maya Angelou

The first week of each school year is a gift of renewal – it is an annual revitalization filled with anticipation. From early childhood students cautious to leave parents for the first time ... to high school students who are eager to leave their parents to reunite with friends ... to staff excited about the new year...to parents experiencing a swirl of pride, excitement, and trepidation - the anticipation of the first day / week / month of school is one of the many joys of serving in education.

Communication

Collectively, we are fortunate to be part of the CIS community. Our principles of kindness, sustainability, good intent and partnership aid our students’ and community’s growth. Partnerships are crucial in creating the best learning environment possible. A key component of a good partnership is effective communication. It is important that the information that we have about your children is kept current and updated. This helps the school share your child’s progress, as well as fostering a greater sense of community. The CIS Weekly Current (our weekly newsletter that goes out on Fridays during the school year) is an excellent source of information. The electronic age helps communication (or possibly creates communication clutter) yet face to face time still remains paramount. I hope to see you at school for the following events.

Save the Dates

- Welcome Back BBQ and School Information Market - Saturday 2 September @ 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- Thank you to our parents who participated in the Early Childhood Back-to-School Night on Wednesday
- Elementary School Back-to-School Night - Tuesday 29 August @ 5:30 pm
- Middle School Back-to-School Night - Thursday 31 August @ 5:30 pm
- High School Back-to-School Night - Thursday 7 September @ 5:30 pm
- New Parent Director Coffee - Friday, September 18 @ 8:15 am

- CIS Community Learning Series - Look for details in future CIS Weekly Currents
- Conferences
 - Thursday 2 November - 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 - Friday 3 November - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm - NB: No classes for students on this day

Reiteration of Welcome Letters from our Principals

- [Early Childhood Letter from Ms. Katherine Huamani](#)
- [Elementary School Letter from Dr. Martin Thomas](#)
- [Middle School Letter from Mr. Lee Hodin](#)
- [High School Letter from Ms. Claire McQuillan](#)

Safety and Security

Safety is vital for schools. Each child needs to feel safe physically, socially/emotionally, and intellectually to be as successful as possible. The world seems to increase in complexity each year – the notion that we might not remember what we were taught, but we remember how someone made us feel continues to be true.

- **Drills** - The first two weeks of school entails a lot of work related to habits and routines. One such routine is knowing what to do in an emergency. All CIS faculty and staff engage in emergency procedure training and review. During the first two weeks of school, we will conduct our first fire drill. Thereafter we have a rotation of earthquake, tsunami, lockdown, and fire drills.
- **Roads and Parking Lot** - Please know the Camana Bay South turning circle is open. The initial weeks of school also involve families setting and adjusting their routines of student pick-up and drop-off. Inevitably this means greater traffic in the parking lot and roads near CIS at the start of the school year. The turning circle between the hospital and landfill is currently closed. It is anticipated to open later in August and there is a possibility it will be closed when school resumes. Please drive with care, watch for people and be patient with fellow drivers. The speed limit within and around our campus is 15 mph 24 km/h. Our security team and others will be visible in the parking area to assist with the safe flow of cars and people, yet ultimately, we count on you to drive with care and courtesy.
- **Hurricane Season** - Please note that CIS follows recommendations and announcements made by the Governor, the National Hazard Management Council, and the Ministry of Education if schools are to be closed due to tropical storm warnings and potential developments into hurricane conditions.

Health - Learning - Rest, Nutrition and Exercise

Edward Stanley noted that those who think they have no time for exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness. Also related to health, it is highly recommended that students bring a filled water bottle to school. To support broader community health, if your child has a fever or is ill, please have them stay at home until they are feeling better. If you have health questions, please feel free to contact Nurse Ann Thomas at ann.thomas@cis.ky or Nurse Gema Martinez at gema.martinez@cis.ky.

It is unequivocal that proper rest, appropriate nutrition, and regular exercise help us learn and contribute positively to physical and social/emotional health. The above can be easier said than done. Nonetheless, please do all you can to ensure your child is well rested, eats well and engages in movement.

Gently Used Uniform Sale

During the Welcome Back BBQ on Saturday, 2 September there is a gently used uniform sale. Complementing this, you are welcome to come to the school anytime between 9:00 am and 11:00 am or between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm any student school day starting Monday, 28 August. Gently used uniforms not only help with sustainability, but they can also help with increasing your closet space. Periodically, the school will send out reminders regarding used uniform sales.

Learning

CIS continues to grow and evolve to continually improve to enhance learning across different time periods, within different buildings and across changing environmental and economic settings. The reverse is true too, in that the CIS community has also adjusted to changes in education and the reality of being a diverse school that is mission driven. We must continue to anticipate what our students today will need for tomorrow's world. The challenge of course being that the future is the hardest thing to predict.

We also need to make good use of what we know about how students learn; processes and approaches that are often different from those used in the recent past. Some might argue that even more important than learning, is the ability or comfort with "unlearning" and being comfortable with ambiguity. This requires our school (and education in general) to better leverage the learning implications of current brain research, new knowledge in the field of child development, and balancing what may be important to adults with what may be the passions of children. The world's knowledge now doubles so rapidly that it is not uncommon for things learned in the first year of university to be obsolete by the time a student enters their final year. With the above in mind, schools have become more complex, elements of parenting have changed, and the nature of young people's lives certainly continues to change. Indeed, change has become the default. We do know that our community principles of kindness, partnership, sustainability and good intent, as well as our definition of learning focused on concepts, competency and character are elements that transcend time and help our students to manage change and be strong global citizens.

The First Full Week of School for Students

Education and kindness are crucial for our world. The palpable anticipation of each new school year is like an annual renewal - a time of opportunity - perhaps even a mild reprieve from the world's complexities. Whether the anticipation is in the form of excitement, trepidation or both, the words of wisdom below continue to ring true for children and adults alike, "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." - Maya Angelou

Thank you for being part of the CIS Community. On behalf of the CIS team, warm wishes to all for the 2023-2024 school year.

In partnership,

Jim Urquhart
Director
Cayman International School