

August 9, 2007

Dear ISA Families,

As Mr. Wickerham wrote to you, I was recently named as the new Principal of ISA. I am incredibly excited, honored and humbled to serve and lead such a distinguished school of educators, students, and their families.

In my nine years at ISA as a teacher and administrator, I have benefited tremendously from the leadership and mentoring of two ISA Principals, Kristopher Wickerham and Shari Albright. Their vision and dedication have shaped our unique, relationship-driven school and community, and their focus on international education has allowed ISA to emerge as a leading school in the arenas of high school reform, small schools, and global education. Under their leadership, I have strived to serve ISA's mission and principles, and it is our ongoing work and our mission that will guide me in my new role. I look forward to building on ISA's strong history and contributing to its future growth.

Since you last heard from us, I have a few updates to share regarding upcoming ISA events:

- **Hot Diggity Doo Dah**, our event welcoming students and families back to school, is **Saturday, August 25** from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This is a time to meet faculty and staff, tour the school, receive class schedules, and take care of other back-to-school logistics. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.
- The **2007-2008 ISA Opening Ceremony** will take place on August 27 at 9:45 a.m. in the Lee Campus Auditorium. As always, parents are welcome to attend as we open the new school year.

We are also welcoming new members to the ISA community:

- **Shantayan "Kinu" Panda** will be joining the senior team as the Pre-Calculus, Calculus AB, and Calculus BC teacher. After graduating from Health Careers High School, Kinu earned an economics degree from Yale University. Kinu also holds the record for the most languages spoken by any ISA faculty member: English, Spanish, Russian, French and Hindi.

- We are also welcoming the following Trinity Master of Arts in Teaching interns to our faculty this year: **McKinley White**, will be working with **Leslie Ramirez** in Mathematics, **Jennifer Falcon** will be working with **Berta Galan** in Spanish, **Katie Fitch** will be working with **Mitzi Moore** in Chemistry, and **Susanna Pierce** will be working with **Melissa Morales** in Spanish and **Steve Magadance** in Economics.
- We are currently interviewing teachers for the internship position and will begin to interview candidates soon for the Assistant Principal's position which opened when I was named Principal. We will share any news regarding new staff members on the ISA webpage: <http://www.neisd.net/isa/index.html>

I will be with the ISA faculty in Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama from August 13-17 as we participate in the junior level Civil Rights travel experience. I will return to campus on Monday, August 20. Should you need my assistance, I can be reached at 442-0404 X 354 or at [ebiese@neisd.net](mailto:ebiese@neisd.net) or in person anytime after the faculty retreat.

I look forward to seeing you all as we begin the new school year!

Sincerely,

Kathy Bieser