



THE PHOENIX



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PREPARATORY ACADEMY



Developing Students' Academic and Social Development, their Linguistic Capacity, Cultural Appreciation, and International and Global Awareness

Community Service

By: Kassandra Casanova

Society greatly benefits from community service. Community service is voluntary work to help people in a particular area of need. All Florida Public High Schools require students to complete a total of seventy-five community service hours by the end of their senior year. Many colleges pay close attention to the amount of community service hours that a student has completed during their high school years when considering prospective students.

There are many types of community service opportunities for all. If you enjoy working with children, then projects such as, Big Brother, Big Sister or the YMCA will greatly benefit from your services. Volunteers in these organizations are able to spend their time interacting with the youth and serving as their role models. Volunteers may coach sports teams, motivate and support the youth, and/or act as an advocates for these programs. Another worthy organization that accepts student volunteers is Miami Children's Hospital which offers its volunteers opportunities to work directly with sick children. Volunteers read books to the children or simply play and interact with them to make their stay at the hospital more enjoyable.

If reaching out to the elderly is an area of interest to you, then, Miami Shores Nursing and Rehab Center allows volunteers to help and work directly with the elderly patients by visiting with them and/or running necessary errands for the center. Another organization which would benefit from volunteers is Camillus House. Camillus House aids the homeless in our community. Moreover, let us not forget that you may also find volunteer opportunities at your local churches. Many churches offer volunteers the opportunity to help collect food, clothing, and/or work directly with families in need. Some may even have committees that work to keep the churches painted and well kept.

Volunteer opportunities are endless. At ISPA, we have various service oriented clubs such as Journalism, Student Council, and The Eco Club which allow students to serve our school in various leadership capacities. Please refer to the end of the newsletter for additional links on community service opportunities. Do your part to aid our local community. If you have any pictures of yourself working with any local organizations, please send them to magnuscassanova03@gmail.com.

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ISPA'S Student Government Update

The Student Council of 2012-2013 has been busy establishing the club's bylaws and regulations which will affect future student government bodies at ISPA.

All student government members, from the President to the Representatives, have combined their humble expertise and cordial experiences to propose the New Student Council

Constitution which will serve as ISPA's Rosetta Stone. The Student Council has decided to meet a minimum of twice a month in order to tend to ISPA's utmost growth by procuring an expectation of four different community service related projects this academic school year. The ISPA Student Government is working ceaselessly to promote and facilitate an atmosphere where its citizens are conscientious of our communities needs and are service oriented.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Spanish Author Visits ISPA

By: Heidi Gonzalez

Maria Mendez Ponte, a writer from La Coruña Spain, visited ISPA on October 30, 2012, to share some of her popular books and timeless stories. Famous for her children's works and teen literature, she inspired and delighted several students from the Spanish program with her humorous anecdotes. Mendez read an excerpt from her award winning novel, "Nunca Seré Tu Héroe," (I Will Never Be Your Hero). She sent ripples of laughter through the freshman and sophomores classes as she detailed the hardships of pimples, schoolwork, and dating. Overall, the students enjoyed the presentation, following up with questions that Maria cheerfully answered.

Italian Infusion

By: Saccid Tovar

On November 8, 2012, sixteen female Italian students came to ISPA and revolutionized our "International School" and gave it a whole new meaning. They barged into ISPA willing to experience an American life in only 10 days! On the plane, they brought with them a piece of Italy. On November 8th, I walked into my typical Italian class except on that particular day, it was no longer typical. To my surprise, all the seats were filled (for the first time EVER!) We quickly introduced ourselves jumping from desk to desk proudly and loudly. Coming from Istituto Tecnico Luca Pacioli, a very medieval looking school, they were impressed with the extravagance of our school... little did we know that we would also fall in love with the enriching blast of culture they had to offer to us. For the following days, they're afternoons were filled with numerous activities - from shopping at Dadeland Mall, to educational trips such as, the Book Fair in Downtown Miami, to dining at the Italian Consulate's house, to even joining us at our Annual ISPA Olympics. In only 10 days, they left an everlasting imprint in our life, hearts, and school. "Non vogliamo andare. Grazie di tutto," (We don't want to go. Thank you for everything,) signed all the Italian students and teachers on a piece of paper which was left in Mr. Bava's Italian class.

ISPA Votes

By: Heidi Gonzalez

ISPA took part in the Miami Dade County Mock Election to vote for the Presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, as well as the Senatorial candidates, Bill Nelson and Connie Mack. Meanwhile, History teachers- Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Steg- monitored the elections while students submitted their ballots on the computer. The winners of the student mock elections in both the school and the rest of the county matched those of the real election with Democrats Barack Obama and Bill Nelson taking the victory.



SPIRIT WEEK

Sports Day

By: Saccid Tovar

This past October 22, 2012, ISPA students came together splashing with their favorite jerseys and cultural scarves. All over the halls you would see students that came representing their country, as well as their own soccer and cheerleading teams, even other foreign country's shirts! Students exposed their love for the Miami Heat, The Miami Marlins, the Miami Swimming and even the home made ISPA Olympic Day shirts from last year. This brought amusement to the school by bringing School Spirit along with their attire. Sports Day is not just another ordinary day; it is a day where all students can come dressed with their favorite sports team or logo or represent their culture by wearing their native country's team shirts. One Sports Day in ISPA counts for a hundred proud students.

Olympic Day- Sophomores and Juniors

By: Heidi Gonzalez

In retrospect, Friday November 9th, 2012, proved to be the perfect day. Sophomores and Juniors made their way to the Dante Fascell Park to enjoy the ISPA Olympics. The re-scheduled event was described as an outstanding one, with perfect weather, accentuated with refreshing winds and clear skies. Although students did not compete in any events, they were free to roam the park and enjoy the available sports. While some played soccer, football, volleyball, and basketball, others simply laid back and socialized with friends all the while taking memorable pictures.





Above: ISPA students gathered on a Saturday morning this November, for a school sponsored car wash to benefit The Phoenix Fitness Club's effort to promote a healthier school environment. Mr. Ruiz is the club sponsor.

Links to Additional Community Service Opportunities

*"Big Brother, Big Sister"- www.bbbsgmv.org

*Miami Children's Hospital- Contact Aida Panceira @ 305-662-8225

*Miami Shores Nursing and Rehab Center- Located on 9380 NW 7th Ave. (33150) Miami, FL or call 305-759-8711

* ASPCA- www.asPCA.org

*Miami-Dade Coastal Cleanup- www.miamidadecoastalcleanup.org