

BORDEAUX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN D'INFORMATION - N° 11 - JUNE 2010
3rd Term 2009 – 2010

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

You have already received information (e mails and/or communication books) concerning the many events taking place at the end of this year. You can also find these on our web site.

ACCREDITATION/RECOGNITION/PARITY/TRANSITION

BIS made the choice of offering both an original and ambitious teaching programme designed to respond to the needs and expectations of its community. In fact, BIS is one of the rare schools in France to propose a bi-lingual programme with an international dimension whilst still respecting the fundamental aspects of the official French and English syllabuses.

With the aim of further improving our teaching practices and also to obtain legitimate recognition for our very specific pedagogy, we chose to be inspected and controlled by two official, representative organizations:

1. BIS is under the official contract of the **Education Nationale** since 1999. Our present intentions are to increase these links. The inspection carried out in November 2009 gave rise to a report full of praise for our teaching practices for the whole of the Early Learning/Primary section of the school. The previous visit (2008) of an inspector and his three education counselors had also reached the same conclusions praising the originality and exemplary practice carried out in the school whilst still conforming to the requirements and competencies stipulated by the official learning “cycles” of the Education Nationale. These reports from the Inspectorate have enabled us to obtain a second post (from September 2010) as well as to propose our candidature for an associative contract (this is currently under review). This new stage will take into account and respect BIS’ philosophy and school project.
2. Our move to be **re-accredited by CIS (Council of International Schools)**: our member status since 1994 has enabled us to benefit from a wealth of information including in-service training exchanges on the best school teaching practices in international schools all over the world. Our accredited membership status (given in 2000 and renewable every 10 years with intermediary inspections in 2006 and 2008) has further increased our professional links and places us amongst schools of excellence. CIS accreditation is accepted throughout the world, including the USA through the recognition programme of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). The accreditation standards to be met in 2010 have increased significantly compared to those in 2000.

The conjunction of these two procedures increases the transparency of the school, attracts new pupils (from a very international background for next year), and facilitates the passage and integration of our pupils into their next school, whichever that may be. It is also a powerful catalyst in the evaluation and elaboration of both internal and external plans for improvement. One of the greatest benefits of this year has been the writing and co-ordination of a detailed syllabus for all classes from 3-18 years old. It has also accelerated our acquisition of supplementary materials and in particular those involving the new technologies such as additional computers, interactive whiteboards and the BIS platform of work. All this preparation has constituted an immense surplus of work for the whole staff who, with the exception of three days school closure, prepared all their dossiers during the evenings, weekends and holidays.

We hope to receive the result of both organizations before the end of school year.

END OF YEAR

We are very sad to see students and colleagues leaving at the end of this school year. We wish them very sincerely a wonderful time in their new school, university and new life.

We hope that they will keep in touch.

SCHOOL YEAR

Primary/Early Learning : staff - Deborah Ferguson will replace Judith Huguenin in Primary; there are a number of new students from all over the world and only one or two places left in each group of Early Learning/Primary (apart from Blue group).

Secondary/Middle School : staff - Lucinda Fawcett will be back in September for Geography and Business Studies. Students – many French ‘internationals’ now registering in both Middle School groups, attracted by its reinforced bilingual scheme (more details in the Secondary letter to come soon).

SECRETARIAT

The secretariat will remain open until 23rd July ; and will reopen on 23rd August.

Christine Cussac

Director

08.06.10