

# Eisenhower Informer

A newsletter for the Eisenhower International School family.

Vol. XIII Number 4 ► January 2005

~ dolphin calendar ~

## January

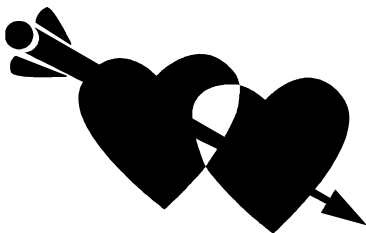
- Jan. 28** Second Quarter Ends
- Jan. 31** Third Quarter Begins
- Jan. 31 – Feb. 4** Order Balloon-A-Grams  
(8:00-8:30 am or 3:00-3:30 pm)

## February

- 1** Skate Night (6:00 – 7:30 pm)
- 4** Fiestivale Theme Basket Participation Forms Due
- 9** Report Cards Issued
- 9** Daisy Troop #337 Meeting (3:15 pm)
- 14** Valentine's Day – Balloon-A-Grams Delivered
- 15** EIS Mardi Gras Celebration
- 17** EIS PTA Unit Meeting - 6:30 Dinner;  
7:00 Meeting (Childcare Available)
- 18** Fiestivale Theme Baskets Due (8:15 – 8:45 am)
- 18** Informer Deadline (3:00 pm)
- 21** President's Day – No School
- 21** Chamber Music Tulsa Concert  
(10:00 – 11:00 am)
- 25** 2005-2006 EIS Kindergarten Applications due
- 25** 2005-2006 Middle School Transfer  
Applications due

## March

- 5** Fiestivale!



## ~ A Message from the Principal ~

Dear Parents:

The staff at EIS would like to thank the PTA Board and its members for the new “Classroom Rugs”. The teachers are using them for instructional purposes and the classrooms look so much cleaner! The rugs were long overdue in being replaced! Thank you for your support!

We are still having concerns with regards to the safety of the students on the playground after school. We are asking that the students follow the same rules and procedures after school as they do during the regular school day. I have asked the “Safety Patrol” to take down a student’s name if they see the student choosing not to follow the rules. All names will be turned in to me and I will handle. Please encourage your children to adhere to the rules. Safety is our number one concern!

Great news at EIS! The Chamber Music Tulsa, a non-profit organization located in Harwelden is offering a rare opportunity to all of our students. All students and parents are invited to an intimate, enchanting performance to enjoy one of the worlds’ finest chamber music groups – THE PARIS PIANO TRIO! The free concert will be on Monday, February 21, 2005 at 10:00-11:00 A.M. at the All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 South Peoria. Don’t miss out on this rare opportunity for our students. Mark your calendars now!

We are currently taking applications for the Kinder 2005-2006 school year. All applications are due by Feb. 25th. If you would like information or know someone who is interested in applying; please have them call the school office, 746-9100 for tour and application information.

Sincerely,

Stacy Strow  
Eisenhower Principal  
Tulsa Public Schools, District of Choice

### *Meeting Notice...*

The next

## **Daisy Girl Scout Troop #337**

Meeting will be held in Room #18  
Wed., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m.

Daisy is open to all Kinder girls. For enrollment information or questions contact leaders Dyanna Mortadha ([mardidog1@cox.net](mailto:mardidog1@cox.net)) or Allison Geary ([gearyaa@aol.com](mailto:gearyaa@aol.com)).

A friendly reminder to Daisy parents: Please turn in your enrollment paperwork and fees on or before the February meeting!

### Notice

## PTA Board Nominations

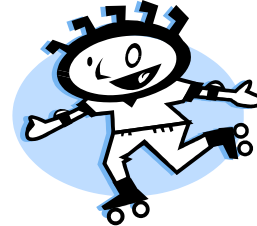
If you are bubbling over to serve as one of PTA's elected positions (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate or Site Counsel Rep.) or other volunteer positions, please contact Rhonda Allen at 663-2771 before next month's unit meeting.

## **FRENCH LANGUAGE BOOK FAIR**

You've asked for it...now we HOPE we have it! We are in the process of contracting with a Scholastic representative to bring a specialized French language book fair to Eisenhower. If all goes well, it will be available for parents and students to enjoy during Mardi Gras festivities. Parents of French students, please look for more information in your Home and Back packets on February 4.



## *Eisenhower Skate Night*



Are the cold winter days keeping your kids cooped up and giving everyone cabin fever? Then come on out to Eisenhower Skate Night to get a little exercise, have some fun, and support your school.

**Eisenhower Skate Night is always the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Skateland at 11<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan. The next Skate Night is Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

This is a great opportunity for kids to unwind and have some much needed "down time," while allowing parents to relax and chat or read a book--if you're brave enough, you can even go skating, too! There are also arcade games, air hockey, a full snack bar and plenty of seating.

Because the rink is reserved solely for Eisenhower skaters and parents can walk alongside to lend a steadying hand, even inexperienced skaters can have a good time while learning to skate in a supportive environment. So don't let lack of skill keep you home!

Admission is \$3, which includes skates (inline skates are \$3 extra). In addition to the open skating, there are races, drawings for prizes, and a variety of fun games like Limbo that get everyone involved. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the EIS PTA to support school programs.

Please make sure you sign in any skaters to help us keep track of how many participants we have and to determine which class wins the coveted Golden Skate award for having the most skaters.

If you have any questions, contact Skate Night Chair, Anna America, at 834-6605, or [annaamerica@yahoo.com](mailto:annaamerica@yahoo.com).

## EISENHOWER MINI-MUSEUM SEEKS DONATIONS

Wondering what to do with your plaster replica of the Eiffel Tower? Needing a home for the model of a double decker bus you bought in London 14 years ago? How about the lovely (and now dusty) doll you simply "had to have" when you visited Mexico during your Middle School years? Eisenhower can help you out!

For years, the east wall of the cafeteria was decorated with artifacts from around the world that were borrowed from Eisenhower's Culture Box collection. Those items have now been returned to the Culture Boxes so that they will be readily available when teachers from around the district check them out. Which leaves us with an empty wall.

We would like to make a permanent display that reflects our Eisenhower mission of global education. Any donations that children might find interesting and that are not too fragile or valuable would be very much appreciated. This will be an ongoing collection, so please be thinking of us as you clean out your closets or go traveling. You can take items either to the office or to the library. They will be very much appreciated.



Saturday, March 5, 2005  
The Atrium at CityPlex

Festivale is a little over a month away! As announced in the PTA meeting last week, our theme is "Ike Around the World". We want to celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the EIS community. Make plans to attend this fun event and

discover the many countries represented by Eisenhower families. Your support is greatly needed as we try to raise the remainder of monies needed to complete the computer lab.

Here are some areas in which you can help make Festivale a success:

- **Create a themed basket.** Fliers and forms are available on the rack outside of the office. Please return forms by Feb. 4 and deliver the basket to the Global Learning Center (library) on Feb. 18 between 8:15 and 8:45 am.
- **Donate other non-basket items.** Use the same form as above.
- **Host a party!** Team up with a friend or two and plan a fun party! The possibilities are endless - a Super Bowl party, a Cinco de Mayo party, a pool party, a School's Out party, a girl's tea party, a kid's crafting party, an Italian Dinner party, a Mystery Dinner party, etc. . . . Again, you may use the same form or call Samantha Heinen or Keren Wright.
- **Whip up a yummy dessert!** The Dessert Auction table always creates a stir! What a "sweet" way to support your school. To participate, contact Sandra Elbon at 665-1838 or use the form as mentioned above.
- **Decorate a dining table for the event.** In keeping with our theme, we are asking families to volunteer to decorate one dining table with treasures from your country of origin or a country that you have a special interest in. We'll be able to take a trip around the world, all in one night! To participate, contact Jennifer Cook at 712-9696.
- **Create a "Hot Plate by a Cool Artist".** Visit Purple Glaze and design a plate to donate to the silent auction. More information to follow. Thanks to Dana Burton for coordinating this!
- **Invite your family and friends to join you!**

Look for your invitation soon. See you there!

Festivale Co-Chairs: Samantha Heinen (250-8822) and Keren Wright (293-9495)

# Immersion: It's a life style!

By Peggy Moss  
Special Projects Coordinator

*Through the study of other languages, students gain a knowledge and understanding of the cultures that use the language. In fact, students cannot truly master the language until they have also mastered the cultural context in which the language occurs.*

*~Standards for Foreign Language Learning (National Standards, 1999).*

There is so much involved in being an Eisenhower parent, student and teacher, that I would say it is more a “lifestyle” than an experience in public education. I am sure you all are aware of the time and effort it takes to participate in the many cultural activities we engage in at EIS. A few examples of our enrichment activities include, Hispanic Festival, Mardi Gra, Kid’s World, World Market Bazaar and Commemoration. As a parent, you will be asked to participate in the above-mentioned activities and you may even be asked to host a Mexican or French exchange student! This is on top of helping your child succeed academically and socially. If you’re a teacher, you will be asked to teach a foreign language while simultaneously teaching the state mandated content. In addition, teachers must attend professional development classes, related to both instruction and language acquisition in the immersion model. Furthermore, they often create or translate materials to use in the classroom, when target language materials are not available. This type of “double duty” is also required of our students. They are expected to master all the state benchmarks and standards as well as master a foreign language and have an acute understanding of the culture in which the language is spoken. This type of education requires an immense amount of support, both academically and emotionally. Many of our parents are actively seeking ways to extend their child’s language and cultural learning opportunities, outside of the classroom. In so much as we find ways to enhance the learning of the target language, we should be seeking opportunities for exposure and experiences in the target culture.

Eisenhower is more than a language school it is an international school. We place as much importance on cross-cultural learning as in language acquisition. Our teachers, just by way of being international themselves, give our children the gift of learning culture experientially. Just the fact that we have a position such as mine, shows the commitment we give to the international experience. At this time, according to the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign languages* statistics, we are the only school in the nation, which has two exchange programs at the elementary level. The cultural dexterity our students develop in this learning model, will give them the ability to look at differences, not with fear, but with confidence and optimism. In addition to what they learn at school, they could be seeking opportunities in the “target culture” outside of the classroom as well.

## ***EXTENDING INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM***

So, what are some ways we can help our children learn more about people who come from a different ethnicity or nationality? The answer maybe right under our noses. I have been pleasantly surprised by the recent increase in the number of our native speakers in both the Spanish and French programs. I can think of five families in my son’s French kinder class who speak French at home or have a French background. This type of class composition can enrich the classroom as well as set the bar for language learning a little higher. Other than the occasional complaint from my son that his friends “know

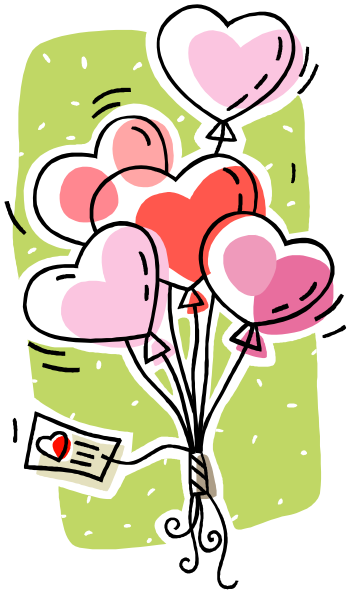
everything,” it is really a very beneficial dynamic. Some benefits of sharing an immersion classroom with native speakers include:

- Native speakers in the immersion classroom, gives the non-native speaker an opportunity to use the language socially. Our students are often exposed to the language in the academic context but have limited opportunities for socializing in the target language.
- Native speaking students and their families give others a unique insight into their culture during family activities and school related functions.
- Cross-cultural family friendships are a wonderful experience and can help develop the empathy needed to effectively communicate and relate with all kinds of people.
- Native speakers give other students the ability to hear the “correct” accent on a more frequent basis in and out of the classroom.
- Native speakers help others learn about their country of origin and open up possibilities for travel. They can help make the “connections” necessary for an enriching trip and for one that is not solely focused on “tourist” destinations.
- Parents and families who engage in cross cultural friendships help show children by example, that language learning and cultural appreciation are not just “school stuff”, but important family values.
- Parents can form groups to learn some of the language, at least enough to show their child that they are personally vested in language learning.

Another great way that we can connect with people of another culture is by hosting an exchange student. Soon I will be recruiting EIS families to host our Mexican exchange students and I hope you will consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity. I can’t think of another school that literally gives you the opportunity to “take home” the international experience. Some of the benefits of hosting a foreign student include:

- Students learn how cultures other than are own are not to be feared but appreciated.
- Students are given the opportunity to put their language to use.
- Students studying another language can be exposed to a third language and have an interest sparked. (We hosted a Mexican boy and my daughter is on the French side. She became very interested in learning more Spanish!)
- Younger siblings are exposed to another language, which can spark their interest.
- Families gain a greater sense of appreciation for their own culture while sharing their family traditions, city and state landmarks and food.
- Families are given the opportunity to travel and visit the families they have met through the hosting experience.

These are just a few benefits to making a connection outside your own culture. Working with the exchange and special programs has given me an inspiring look at how much our EIS families are willing to give of themselves. Given the hectic nature of modern life and all the pressures of meeting our own family’s needs, having an EIS student can sometimes be overwhelming. However, I sincerely believe that the benefits to leading an immersion lifestyle far outweigh the costs. The type of education we provide at Eisenhower will give our children the ability to be responsible global citizens in an ever-shrinking world. The opportunities afforded to the Eisenhower community are priceless, and should be managed accordingly. I encourage all of you to make the most of this enviable situation.



## **THIS VALENTINE'S DAY SEND A BALLOON-A-GRAM**

This Valentine's Day send your child or a friend a red, heart-shaped mylar balloon with your personal greeting attached.

Fill out an Order Form, attach \$2/balloon (if paying by check, payable to "EIS Class of 2005"), and turn it in at the table in the school foyer from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup> (8:00 - 8:30 or 3:00 - 3:30). All balloons will be delivered to the recipient's classroom the afternoon of Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

It's fun... It's inexpensive... It'll bring a smile... and It'll benefit the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class!

### **THE PARIS PIANO TRIO President's Day, Monday, February 21, 2005 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. All Souls Unitarian Church, 2592 S. Peoria**

The Chamber Music Tulsa, a non-profit music organization located in Harwelden is offering a rare opportunity to our students. All students and parents are invited to an intimate, enchanting performance to enjoy one of the world's finest chamber music groups – THE PARIS PIANO TRIO!

The students will enjoy spectacular piano performances by three great French musicians who have won acclaim throughout Europe and North America. Their recordings of works by Schubert, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Chausson are familiar to listeners worldwide.

Don't miss this rare opportunity for your child! Mark your calendars now!



**The question for this month is ...**

**“What is the Growing With Mathematics Program?”**

Growing with Mathematics is a program now being used by all Tulsa Public Schools at the primary level. Eisenhower purchased the program for grade 3-5. The kit organizes lessons and tools to make learning more of a hands-on experience for the kids. For example, in fourth grade the students work with things like a double-sided measuring tape, a clock, measuring pitcher, a stop watch, a spring scales and play money. The object is to enrich the grade-level curriculum and teachers like Madame Kim say it is working. “Growing with

Mathematics helped me teach fractions in a more effective way. When I taught fractions before this year, it was more difficult for the children to visualize the ‘concept’ of fractions.” Growing with Mathematics is helping kids in the classroom and in everyday life.