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ISB Celebrates Its New Home *by Jennifer Wilkin*

What does it take to raise a school full of eager children? It takes a village of parents, educators, friends, donors, architects, carpenters, electricians ... and the support of the consulates of Spain and France.

On a drizzly Friday, October 1, 2010, the International School of Brooklyn inaugurated its new home. Approximately fifty people were on hand to celebrate the momentous occasion – all friends and supporters of ISB who helped the school get to this crucial point in its development.

The school, opened in 2005 in the basement of a Park Slope church, first moved to a commercial space in Prospect Heights before moving to its present location in a former Catholic school.

The 1854 building, with soaring ceilings, large sunny windows, original slate chalkboards and beautiful hardwood floors, had been on Head of School Rebecca Skinner's wish list for years. "I used to drive by that building," she said, "and think how perfect it would be for ISB." When it became available, she could hardly believe her luck.

"This is the third location in our history," Ms. Skinner said at the dedication ceremony. "From the moment that we moved into our last location three years ago, we began preparing for the next site – this one. Over the past two years, our very active search committees reviewed multiple sites, architectural plans, construction proposals, color schemes and spent untold hours putting touches on the building – up until the minute students arrived (and beyond!)."

Preparatory work on the new building included repainting the whole building, fixing ceilings, ripping up the carpet and refinishing the wood floors, replacing floors that weren't salvageable, putting windows in some classroom doors, replacing sinks

and toilets, completely renovating the front offices and more.

Distinguished guests on hand to fête the new building included the Education Advisor to the Education Office of the Spanish Consulate, Dr. Pilar Fernández González, and Consul General of France Philippe Lalliot.

Dr. González remarked that celebrating "the beautiful new spot" is celebrating "the confirmation and consolidation of a wonderful idea that we have shared and befriended from its very first steps."

She added, "For the Ministry of Education of Spain that I represent today, it is an honor to support and help the brave and loving community of ISB in the most important commitment that a community may assume: educating their youngsters."

"The Ministry of Education of Spain supports ISB," she said, "because we know that in this school the students are receiving a holistic education, broad and deep, where intercultural understanding, the richness of differences, self-knowledge and knowledge of the others are keys to the educational project."

Mr. Lalliot, who earlier this year had hosted a reception in honor of ISB at the French Consulate, spoke of the school's mission: "As the father of three young children, I am as preoccupied by the subject of education as any parent. In today's world and even more so in tomorrow's world, I know how essential it is to speak several languages.

"When I say 'speaking several languages,' I'm not referring only to linguistic competences but also to what a school such as the International School of Brooklyn provides: discovering other cultures, learning and appreciating the differences with one's neighbor, knowing how to adapt oneself to a multicultural environment."

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Congratulations to ISB on receiving Primary Years Program authorization from the International Baccalaureate!

What's Your Favorite Thing about ISB's New Building? *by Nicola Fabens*



"I liked getting to cut the ribbon at the ceremony and having my classroom on the top floor."
—Lindsay (Spanish, 3rd)



"I love the light, the tall ceilings, how it feels inside, the train—all of it."
—Muriel, mother to Lucien (French, 1st Grade) and Theo (French, PreK)



"I like that all my friends are here!"
—Ariane (French, PreK), with dad Vladimir



"I like getting a built-in workout on my way up to the third floor."
—Alison, English teacher



"One thing I *don't* like is all the stairs."
—Annika (Spanish, 1st) and Margot (Spanish, PreK)



"The restaurants we go to with our mom."
—Rex (Spanish, 1st) and Agnes (Spanish, PreK)



"I like that my dad fixed it!"
—Julian (French, 1st), with dad Nicholas

Two Different Funds, Two Different Purposes: The Difference between the Annual and Capital Funds *by Natalie Stella Judelson*

Sometimes it may seem like the request to donate to fundraising causes never ends. A bake sale, an auction, a letter in the mail – and sometimes it can be confusing to the community as to what funds go to where. We hear about the annual fund and then about the capital campaign. School administrators and boards of directors are often asked the question, "Why am I being asked to contribute to two different funds? Don't they all go to the same place?" The answer is that there are two major types of fundraising campaigns at schools – annual funds and capital campaigns.

Annual fund contributions go directly into the school's operating budget in order to bridge the gap between income and expenses. As with most independent schools, tuition only covers a portion of ISB's costs; in our case 90%. The remaining 10% is comprised of other earned income (5%) and fundraising (5%). ISB, like most schools, must run an annual fund campaign every year to bridge this gap and to ensure the continued quality and strength of our program.

Our fundraising goal for the annual fund this year is \$150,000, which is primarily comprised

of fundraising initiatives such as the annual fund appeal letter and spring benefit. Monies raised for the annual fund go directly to items in the budget such as library books, computers, and engaging specialists in music, science, art and physical education. Annual fund donations have also enabled ISB to maintain its strong commitment to a diverse student body, including

"What fund do I contribute to and when?" The answer... is to both! Think of it this way: Annual gifts are what we live by. Capital gifts are what we grow by.

socio-economic diversity. ISB has demonstrated that commitment by providing tuition assistance to 23% of our students this year.

Capital campaign contributions go towards major capital initiatives above and beyond the school's operating budget. In ISB's case the "Teach Local, Reach Global" campaign is targeting the costs associated with ISB's move into our beautiful and much needed new space on Court Street. Most of you have just received a letter asking you to consider contributing to the "Teach

Local, Reach Global" campaign if you haven't already done so. ISB has raised \$300,000 of our \$500,000 goal, and we are diligently working on raising the remaining \$200,000. The remaining funds raised will cover final renovation costs such as new secure doors, play yard renovations, and purchase of new furniture and installation of new telecom and data systems, to name a few.

So the question remains "What fund do I contribute to and when?" The answer... is to both! Think of it this way: Annual gifts are what we live by. Capital gifts are what we grow by. Most importantly, 100% participation is vital to ISB continuing to flourish as a community. Donations of all amounts from \$25 to \$250,000 are welcome.

Hopefully this has helped clarify the fundraising needs of all schools, including ISB. When you receive the request to donate, be it a cookie for a bake sale, an item for the auction or a direct contribution, please answer with a loud and clear yes, *oui* or *sí*! If you would like to speak more about your participation, please contact Natalie Judelson in the Development Office.

An Administrative Team Grows at ISB by Catherine Colton

As ISB opens its doors to 160 students, the administrative team has also evolved with new recruits and new roles for some familiar faces. Here's the scoop on some of the new additions and new roles at school. Stay tuned for Part II in the next newsletter with news on other staff members.

Delphine Michaud, Lower School Director

Many families know Delphine Michaud - ISB's elegant and eloquent admissions head. Delphine began her career at ISB in 2007 as admissions consultant and later Admissions Director. This year she transitions to the new role of Lower School Director.

As Lower School Director, Delphine oversees faculty professional development, curriculum development, and manages day-to-day parent questions. When asked how she feels about her change in roles, Delphine excitedly replied, "The role of Lower School Director is directly linked to my interest, the life of the classroom. Admissions is on the periphery of this; as Lower School Director, I will be at the heart of my passion."

Delphine's bio clearly supports her commitment to education. As a New York City native, she received her Master's in Education from Bank Street College. She taught elementary school for 12 years at NYC independent schools. For three years she was Assistant Director of the Lower School at Trevor Day School, an independent school located in the Upper East Side. You can read more about Delphine and her goals and visions as Lower School Director, in an in-depth interview in this issue.

Muriel Stallworth, PYP Coordinator and French Language Coordinator

Involved with ISB since its inception – first as a founding board member then as Education Director for the past three years – Muriel Stallworth has played a central role in curriculum and faculty professional development. In addition, she has managed the accreditation process from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and the French and Spanish Ministries of Education.

This year, she has dusted off her teaching hat and returned to the classroom as the French 4th Grade teacher. She still maintains a role in administration as French Language Coordinator and Primary Years Program (PYP) Coordinator, continuing some of the work she started as Education Director. Her hard work has already paid off as ISB received IB accreditation this fall and French accreditation for preschool (Cycle 1) this past spring.



"As the 4th Grade class begins a 50-50 French to English ratio, I will spend half my time with my students and the other half split equally between the two coordinator roles," she said. Though it may sound like a very full plate, the coordinator roles have similar objectives – professional development and communications with teachers and parents on all things PYP and French language acquisition.

As PYP Coordinator, Muriel works closely with teachers to implement methodologies and tools of the PYP, the IB curriculum framework for Nursery-5th Grade. She provides professional development to ensure that PYP teaching and assessment tools are being implemented in the classrooms and also helps the teachers explore approaches to the various units of inquiry. As the facilitator of teachers on PYP, Muriel hosts workshops for all ISB educators on PYP-specific topics and oversees IB-organized teacher training workshops outside the school. Muriel will host a PYP workshop for parents prior to the annual International Feast Day on November 19.

Natalie Judelson, Director of Development

Natalie Judelson, ISB's new Director of Development, is a former attorney and seasoned fundraising consultant who has worked with numerous New York independent schools on events and campaigns. She will be working closely with Rebecca Skinner to enhance ISB's development plans, fundraising and sponsorship outreach, while overseeing the publication of this newsletter.

A mother of three, she is an active member of her children's school community where she has served as a member of the Board of Directors for four years. Natalie is happy to continue working in a school setting, this time focused on ISB. "ISB is a great community with parents who want to be very involved," she said. "I like the caliber of the program with seamlessness between French and Spanish programs."

"My goal this year is to get to know the families at ISB and vice versa, and to build a development plan for the future. I look forward to working together with parents and understanding the needs of the school." Part of her plan is to continue to spread the word to the parent body about the various elements of the school's fundraising outreach such as an annual fund and sponsorships. Her other short-term goals include streamlining spring benefit fundraising to ease auction solicitation and communications, and maximize ISB's fundraising goals. Natalie will also be working with the grant and sponsorship committee. You can visit Natalie in the 1st floor office near the school entrance.

Alan Sze, Bookkeeper

Alan Sze is ISB's bookkeeper, the contact person for questions and concerns regarding billing and payments. He was a former bookkeeper for the Center for Family and Youth, a non-profit social work agency that provides social services to families in upstate New York. Alan relates strongly to ISB's multilingual environment, having been raised in Hong Kong where he grew up speaking both Cantonese and English. "What also attracted me to ISB is that it's a non-profit organization focused on a good cause – education," he shared.

"When ISB families contact me with any queries, I want them to receive a prompt response," Alan confidently said. Quick and proactive he is indeed. Within the first month of the school year, Alan introduced an e-billing initiative to reduce paper waste and also save on postage. Fifty percent of the families at ISB opted to receive their bills electronically and Alan hopes that number grows to 100 percent.

Though immersed in numbers, Alan enjoys languages too. He studied Spanish in high school and French in college at SUNY Albany. Although he is out of practice in both languages, Alan looks forward to polishing his vocabulary over time at ISB.

You can stop by the west wing of the 2nd floor with any financial questions or to just say *bonjour* or *hola*.

Interview with Delphine Michaud *by Caline Mouawad and Patrick O'Sullivan*

With the start of the new school year, ISB not only welcomed a new home in Carroll Gardens but also welcomed a new role for Delphine Michaud as the Lower School Director. We had an opportunity to discuss with Delphine her role and her expectations for the school year.

Q: How would you describe your new role as Lower School Director and what is the philosophy that guides you in this role?

A: In my role I oversee the ISB faculty and curriculum and handle matters related to our students and parents. I visit classrooms as frequently as possible to get to know our teachers and students. I see such visits as an opportunity to develop a strong understanding of our curriculum and its implementation, our students and their learning styles, and our teachers and their teaching styles. Without having a strong sense of the core of our organization—our classrooms—I would have difficulty doing my job well.

As an organization we embrace the idea that continual learning and growing in all respects is what ultimately will have a positive impact on our students. As Lower School Director, I want to focus on building a culture where professional learning is viewed as equally important as student learning.

Q: What are your short-term and long-term goals for the Lower School?

A: This year is a transitional year for ISB due to the move into our new home and the addition of many new faculty members. With that in mind, it is important this year to make sure that we continue to strengthen our program alignment in all aspects of our curriculum. This entails ensuring that our processes are consistent from grade to grade and across

language tracks.

In addition, as we head toward the completion of our elementary school, adding our fifth grade next fall, we need to explore ways to expand our program to meet the needs of our youngest and oldest students. In the next few years, I would like to find ways for more internal “cross-pollination” across grades and language tracks. There is such rich learning happening in our classrooms, and I would like to find ways for students to share these experiences among peers on a more regular basis. One goal is to put in place a reading buddy program with older and younger students. I want to foster opportunities where our students learn from and inspire one another.

Q: What are the main principles underlying these goals?

A: The principles driving these goals are directly linked to our children and their learning in our classrooms. Continuous examination of our work and how this evolves over time is critical. Teaching is an incredibly complex job with multiple layers to it that requires ongoing dialog and examination to ensure that our students’ many needs are being met. Through continued professional development opportunities for our faculty and administration, we will be better positioned to provide a rich learning environment in the classroom for our students.

Q: What non-ISB resources are you considering using to help you achieve your objectives?

A: ISB is part of a large network of independent schools, New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), which offers a wealth of resources to us. Faculty and administration are able to attend workshops throughout the year, enabling them to have an ongoing dialog with our peer schools about

current trends in education and the independent school world. Other schools are also a great resource because they act as “labs” for observation. Visits to other schools play an instrumental role in helping us explore and examine our own school practices. These are opportunities on which we rely for professional development.

As our program grows, ISB teachers continue to explore the many opportunities for learning outside the classroom that New York City has to offer. For example, our 3rd and 4th Grade students will be working with music teacher Shelley Carver on a program through Carnegie Hall. In-class preparation will lead to an interactive afternoon with the Carnegie Hall orchestra and offer an opportunity for students to contribute by playing their recorders.

Q: How can ISB parents support you in your role and your goals?

A: Parents have an incredibly important voice at ISB, and their involvement and input are essential. Feedback on all aspects of our programming is welcomed and encouraged as this aids our administration in examining our program from a multitude of perspectives. As an administrator, it is important to be open to listening to and reflecting upon the input from parents.

Parents are also a great learning resource. Through their professional and personal lives parents can add a great deal to classroom learning, and we encourage them to contribute, especially when their professional and personal worlds connect our students to real-world experiences as they study their units of inquiry in their classrooms. At ISB, parents are part of the partnership in educating ISB students.

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Addressing the francophone dimension of ISB, Mr. Lalliot continued in French, “I’m convinced that developing French language programs, alongside other languages such as English and Spanish, is certainly one of the best investments for France in the globalized world we live in.” [translated]

He concluded by saying that ISB “can count on my support to help you develop your school and to help you in carrying through your educational project. I have no doubt as to the success of this beautiful undertaking.”

Nancy Woodruff, ISB parent and co-chair of the capital campaign management committee,

spoke about the importance of the “Teach Local, Reach Global” campaign. She said that even as students, teachers, and parents enjoy the beauty of their new surroundings and celebrate reaching \$300,000 of the \$500,000 goal, the campaign continues as there are many items the school needs to grow and expand into its new building.

“The next phase of renovation is designed to accommodate ISB’s continued growth of one grade per year,” Ms. Skinner said. In the first phase, there were minimal renovations to the lower level. During the next phase, this area will be renovated and the library and movement room will eventually be moved downstairs. This

will free up classroom space for the new grades on the upper three floors.

“ISB has a long-term lease for the building,” Ms. Skinner said, “and the plan is for it to be home to the elementary school for many years to come.”

Upcoming Events!

Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day, School Closed
 Nov. 17 PA Meeting
 Nov. 19 International Feast Day
 Nov. 24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
 Dec. 3-4 French/Spanish Book Fair
 Dec. 20-31 Winter Break

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