

September 8, 2022

Dear friends, welcome to Istanbul and to IICS!

On behalf of the whole PTA team I would like to wish your family a very happy, prosperous and successful time here in Istanbul! We also wish that during their time at IICS your children will acquire many new learning skills, achieve all the desired levels of academic success and meet many good friends along the way!

Our team is very happy to welcome you! There are many social activities organized or supported by the PTA for all parents to join. This will help you to take an active role in your child's school life, meet other parents and faculty members, and get to know our school and the city better.

Every Friday look out for the FRIDAY FLASH email and read it carefully. It will list ALL school events for the upcoming weeks in a very compact way. For PTA events listed in it, there will always be an email contact or a link where you can obtain more information. Dates of all the upcoming recurring events like PTA Tours, Cooking Classes and Coffee Mornings are published in the Friday Flash.

We are now also very happy to have COMMUNITY PORTAL where you can find all necessary information about Academic Updates, Extracurricular Activities, IICS Board, PTA, Upcoming and Past Events updates. The link with the sign up instructions has already been shared by the admissions office via email. (If you need help, please contact Deniz Polat: dpolat@iics.k12.tr)

Always check your Room Parents emails. They'll have all updates relevant to your particular grade's events. In addition, at the beginning of the school year, every class will have their WhatsApp groups and you'll be invited to join your respective Homeroom group by your Room Parent.

Before we start telling you about our activities please note that we have the

PTA WELCOME COMMITTEE AND LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

as a very important part of the PTA. We want every member of IICS to feel as part of the family and we want you to feel connected and included, and it's all our unique community is all about. Please don't hesitate to email our Welcome Coordinator at ptawelcome@iics.k12.tr with any questions and connect with the Language Ambassadors for each country.

PTA LED FOOD COMMITTEE

We are very happy to be closely collaborating with the Leadership Team and our caterer company Sardunya in constant attempts for making IICS lunch menus and snacks more versatile, providing better and healthier food options made with organic and natural, top quality ingredients; making sure that salt and sugar contents are reduced and special dietary requirements like nut-, gluten- and lactose-free ones are taken care of with daily tasty range of dishes; as well as enhancing vegan and vegetarian varieties' choice. Last but not least - our school's canteen is completely nut-free!

For any questions or suggestions please email ptapr@iics.k12.tr

You may use same address to contact our PARENTS RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE for any inquiries or sharing your feedback.

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Here's a couple of activities you may join or contribute to organizing.

FUN RUN

An all school event, a great community builder, the Fun Run usually is organized in September, and is followed by a nice barbecue lunch. It's a perfect way to meet new friends and join other IICS families in many fun activities and of course the run.

PTA TOURS AND COOKING CLASSES

Join us in exploring this beautiful city on its popular and off-beaten tracks. Learn new skills or enjoy your new culinary learnings during our cooking classes very often generously provided by the IICS parents. Details and the Sign Up links you'll be able to find in the Friday Flash and on the Community Portal's Upcoming Events Section.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Meet other parents and listen to guest speakers on topics related to our children, their education, or your life in Istanbul. Coffee Mornings are held periodically throughout the year at a variety of locations.

Read the weekly Friday Flash and Community Portal to learn about upcoming Coffee Morning's time and venue.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The biggest school wide event. It is the day when we celebrate many cultures represented in our community. Please save the date: 26th of November. Come along to enjoy and contribute to the international cuisine, the action, entertainment and much more. The money raised on the day supports PTA initiatives and PTA supported charities.

Please contact the PTA President at ptapresident@iics.k12.tr or your Language Ambassador if you'd like to take part in the ongoing preparations and represent your country!

PTA AND BOARD COCKTAIL

The cocktail is a big social and glamorous event where parents, teachers, and IICS staff joyfully celebrate the outgoing school year. An event not to be missed!

PTA BOOSTER CLUB

Supporting our teams throughout the year!

The PTA Booster Club is an enthusiastic group of parent volunteers who support our students at home tournaments and IICS activities. The money we raise is used to enhance the extra-curricular life on both IICS campuses. Our students are involved in prioritizing and deciding where the donated funds will go. We encourage new members to join us - whether or not your child participates in activities or sports. The first sport event will be hosted on November 3-6. It is a fun experience and a great way to meet other IICS families! Join Boosters at ptabooster@iics.k12.tr

BOOK SWAP

Is a great opportunity to help build our children's love of reading. Your child can bring gently used books in any language to school and exchange them for others.

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

On this day we serve a selection of international specialties to our teachers as a way of showing support and appreciation to them. Towards the end of the school year families will be asked to contribute a savory or sweet dish.

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Besides organizing our parents related events, as the PTA we are also helping our students with the following:

PTA STUDENT GRANTS

Part of the PTA's fundraising is dedicated to the Student Grants Program with which we financially support worthy extracurricular, student-driven initiatives. All students can apply in a well structured process in which the PTA committee decides on recipient candidates according to pre-set criteria. The winners are announced at an open Assembly.

PTA AND CAS FOUNDATION

This Foundation has been established to build a lasting bridge between IICS students and communities in need of assistance. The PTA & CAS Foundation supports local charities working with underprivileged children. The PTA coordinates with students the selection of organizations to support, provides funding and management assistance.

ALUMNI

The IICS Development & Marketing Department has launched the first Alumni Office. The goal is to establish connections and build relationships with former IICS students and graduates. If you have children who previously attended IICS or you know families who used to be part of our community, please encourage them to visit the new IICS Alumni Network website. They can also register to become members of the IICS Alumni Network via this link <https://iicsalumni.net/> or by directly contacting the Alumni Office at alumni@iics.k12.tr.

We hope you'll be joining us in many activities! And we always are looking forward to having new members in the PTA team. You will always be able to find more information and sign up links through PTA section of the school's website. Or simply send an email to ptapresident@iics.k12.tr.

To sign up for helping the Boosters please use the ptabooster@iics.k12.tr.

With warmest regards,

Nina Ozsoy
**PTA President and
The whole PTA Team**