

May/June 2012



The IUS Newsletter



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Incirlik Unit School



Incirlik High School Participates in SAIMUN 2012 —M. R.

As most of you know, Incirlik Unit School is one of the smallest schools in the Department of Defense Education System. The school is made up entirely of students whose parents have affiliation with the United States Military Services. Attending a high school with about 85 students presents many obstacles, but what Incirlik lacks in size, they make up for in determination. Students participate in a large variety of sports and clubs that they might not have the opportunity to pursue, if attending a larger school. Living in Turkey has its challenges, but it offers great experiences that will have a profound impact on the lives of the students for years to come. Sometimes the move to Incirlik is a tough one for teenagers to make, but at Incirlik Unit School, the teachers, students, and staff are all able to support each other in making the transfer to Turkey an enjoyable one. Incirlik Unit School is focused on creating an environment where students can learn in the present, prepare for the future, and reach for the stars.

May 28: Memorial Day, No school.

May 29: K-2 Field Day.

May 30: 3-5 Field Day.

June 08: HS Graduation, 1800-1930, HS courtyard.

June 14: Half-day. End of 4th quarter/2nd semester. Instruction ends.

June 15: Teacher work-day. No school.

August 27: Begin First Quarter and First Semester.

Sept. 03: Labor Day. Federal Holiday.

A famous saying states, “teachers can open the door, but students have to make the decision to step through.” Opening the door was just what Incirlik’s MUN advisor, Mr. N. B., did for the fourteen students who sat in his Model United Nations class this past semester. At first, some



students were, perhaps, wary of taking the huge leap into preparing for an international conference that would involve speech writing, public speaking, and strenuous criticism. However, after a short time, the 2012 Model United Nations participants dove straight into the preparation process. Their hard work would last the entire 3rd quarter, but their rewards would be endless.

B. P. negotiating.....

The students walked casually into class on what seemed to be just another Tuesday. The simple halls of the Incirlik High School building were covered in marble with the Turkish sun reflecting from its glossy surface. It was business as usual for every other student, but to the students participating in SAIMUN 2012, this Tuesday was special. They sat down in their desks, but instead of pulling out a pen and paper like they would have done in any other class, they simply turned their gaze towards the white board, dead center in the front of the room. On it was written one word, in all capital letters...YAWEH.

Everyone shuffled in his or her seat before it finally dawned on them almost simultaneously; the long awaited answer was here...the countries had been assigned for SAIMUN 2012.

This year, Incirlik would be representing Israel.

M. K. B. representing Israel





Preparations, preparation, preparation.....

Preparations made, flights booked, suitcases packed: the Israeli delegates were headed to Dublin, Ireland for one of the greatest learning experiences of their lives. As soon as they stepped off the plane they were no longer DoDDS students, but delegates to Israel at one of the largest international Model United Nations in the world.

N. W. & K. I. enjoying traveling

The General Assembly

615 delegates, 108 delegations, 44 countries, 26 chairs, 7 committees, and 1 security council. Israel took a total of six delegates to SAIMUN 2012. This year was a most impressive year for Incirlik's MUN. Israel entered committee with a total of six resolutions, all of which made it to the committee floors to be debated. Out of these, three resolutions made it to General Assembly consideration; a first for Incirlik, and an astounding accomplishment for any SAIMUN delegation. Although none of Incirlik's resolutions made it to the GA floor, out of the some six hundred and fifteen resolutions that were debated in committees, Incirlik submitted three of the fourteen resolutions that were under consideration for General Assembly.



M. M. in deep negotiations.....



T. A., K. I., B. P. & K. C.

The Director of SAIMUN personally offered his praise for how well the Israeli delegates performed. It was also quite an achievement that one of the Israeli delegates was named to be a chair of the Political One Committee. There are only twenty-six chairs selected, and K. I. was chosen to be one of the first chairs ever selected from Incirlik. Although Israel was not named for any awards at the closing ceremonies, they represented Incirlik to the utmost of their abilities and left their mark at SAIMUN. SAIMUN 2012 participants are sure not to forget these brilliant young men and women anytime soon.



M. M. representing Israel

International Children's Day Festival in Incirlik, Turkey



4/24/2012 - S. D., Incirlik Unit School kindergarten through fifth grade music teacher, leads his students during a performance at a Children's Day festival April 22, 2012, at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The event was hosted by the Turkish air force 10th Tanker Base Command and was open to all Turkish and American members of Team Incirlik. The event offered an opportunity for camaraderie and building partnership between Turkish and American service members and civilians. Children's Day is a national holiday that honors Turkish children and the future of the country. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman J. Z. W./Released)

School's (almost) Out For Summer!

—A.J. G.



What a wonderful and busy school year this has been in Incirlik's ES/MS media center! As the year comes to a close, we will be finishing up projects and getting ready for summer vacation and the Olympics! We recently celebrated Children's Book Week with free book prizes all week long and everyone got to take home one extra book!

The "Travel Across the USA" 3rd/4th grade group that comes to the library each week is making a commercial for their newest destination. They are researching and gathering as much information as possible to make an effective and interesting commercial that will advertise the location.

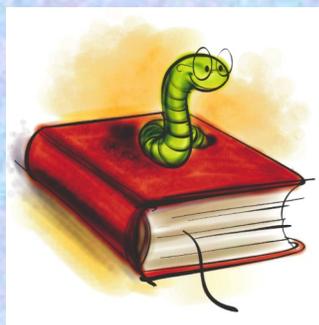


Meanwhile, the fifth grade classes are doing the opposite by spending some time deconstructing advertisements. They are breaking down the message and images to discern their origin and purpose. Students these days are much better at "seeing" an advertiser's intentions, that is for sure!



Now until school dismisses, students will be exploring the past and present Olympics. We will journey to the past to find out how the Olympics started, what they represent and the games of today. I will be thinking of all of you this summer during the opening ceremony and hope you have a wonderful, relaxing and safe summer!

Keep Calm and Read On



A Fond Farewell from the IUS SLO—V. R.

Incirlik Unit School Newsletter Readers present and past...The time has finally come for the Rs. to say “farewell.” After more than 16 years at Incirlik (counting my two years on active duty) we are about to break camp and move to Kadena AB where we also have fond memories. My tour of duty as your School Liaison Officer (and School Transportation Officer) have been rewarding and frustrating at the same time. I can honestly say “more rewarding” than frustrating for sure!

The work has been absolutely enjoyable because as I have described on many occasions, working this office is much like operating a small command post in a one deep position. School administrators over the years have treated me very well and given the supported needed to do what I do. My military supervisors have given me the support and space to do my job unhindered and most of my suggestions have been implemented and the relationship between the Wing and DoDDS have benefited from them. I’ll never forget getting a call from one of our Wing Commanders that ask if he could stop by my house on a Saturday morning because he needed to make a decision concerning the school and wanted my input. It has been that level of involvement that causes me to look back with much job satisfaction. As I now look forward to the next chapter in life, I am proud to have served this community in this capacity and only hope to have made life better for at least one student or for a frustrated parent that did not know where to turn.

My final words – 1) get involved in your child’s education (or a child if you don’t have one in school here, volunteers needed), 2) support your teachers and school administrators, and 3) if you have a problem with/at the school, go through the proper channels and don’t sit in the community and just complain. God’s best to all of you and if you land on Okinawa, give us a call.

IUS Presents Dinner Theater—H. M.



What's funny about a character dropping dead in the middle of a play? Not much unless it is a character played by IUS junior P. G. and she drops dead with her face in a plate of spaghetti! *Dinner at Eight, Dead by Nine* by Michael Druce (courtesy of Contemporary Drama Service) was performed at Incirlik Unit School on Wednesday evening, May 15th as part of the week-long celebration of Fine Arts Week.

Both the actors and the audience enjoyed this murder mystery comedy set in a dinner theater honoring the patron of the theater guild, Eleanor Van Heusen (played by P. G.) "The play was very entertaining. I laughed so loud at one part that everyone turned around and looked at me!" stated IUS art teacher R. E.

The play featured B. E. as MC Nick Quartermaine, A. W. as the less than sober Detective Bungler, D. G. and M.B. as Desmond and Hadley, D. W. as the high maintenance and temperamental chef Ramon, O. M. and R. G. as teenagers Darby and Tommy, A. J. as Dr. Rank, V. P. as Nora, P. G. as Eleanor Van Heusen, and E.W. as her assistant. K. C. and D. M. rounded out the cast as waiters.



“My students were very excited about this production,” stated Mrs. M., IUS drama teacher. “It is a fun play that features absurd situations and audience interaction. All the parts are relatively equal in size, so every student got to star in this one.”



The audience also enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner which was donated by members of the cast and some of the faculty, and the event raised funds for the drama department, which are used each year to pay for costumes, props, and other necessities for the production of plays. Drama

momms M. E. and B. W. helped with the set up and serving of the dinner as well as some of the cast members.



“There was no back stage for this play and the cast members roamed among the audience as hosts for the dinner. So in a way, the audience was actually part of the cast. When the guest of honor arrived, murder, mystery, and comedy began to unfold, with all of the characters as suspects with both motive and opportunity.”

The play is the culmination of the year for the drama department.



Pen Pals Across Turkey—L. R.

Bringing foreign language to life the “old fashioned way” was the way to go for two very talented Spanish students who live 5 hours apart in Turkey.

The invitation to correspond via e-mail came from Mr. P. G., foreign language teacher at George C. Marshall School in Ankara, Turkey. He was seeking a unique opportunity to expand his Spanish III student, Z. S.’s abilities and help him connect his skills with a real live experience. Mr. G. offered the invitation to one of Ms. L. R.’s Spanish II students at Incirlik Unit School. The offer was promptly snapped up by K. K who is always seeking ways to “bring her Spanish to life.”

After months and months of corresponding with each other, the two pen pals have honed their writing skills well above their Spanish levels. Each has thoroughly enjoyed exchanging views, asking each other questions, and expressing how it feels to move to other countries, their delight about places they have traveled to, their interests in sports, and the simple joys of being a teen.



Since each is a strong athlete, it came as a total surprise to one day meet at Incirlik’s high school, while each of their schools competed with each other. Thankfully, the friendship that had been created through their exchange helped bridge the competition gap and bring a smile to their faces, as they posed for this photo.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. G., K. and Z. for their insight and creativity that allowed them to experience taking a foreign language out of the book and into real life.



Incirlik Hosts a Civilization Trade Fair—N. B.

The Honors Nine World History and Literature classes of Mr. B. and Mr. C. participated in an open courtyard “Civilization Trade Fair” on April 24, 2012 at Incirlik Unit High School. This activity was a part of their Time Traveler annual project.



The students presented the key cultural elements from their host civilization to the other students, faculty, visitors and fellow classmates as representatives from other trade cultures.



The 17 civilizations that were represented range from East Asia to the Andes Mountains. They also displayed their trade goods, signed trade contracts, negotiated prices, and bartered with other students in this three-hour trade fair.



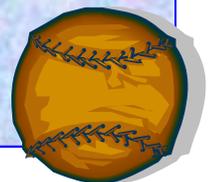
All the participating students were given outstanding praise and high marks for their effort and creativity in representing their host culture.

Softball 2012 Championships—S. and T. Smith

A year of rebuilding, coming into this year we were expecting 5 returners, only 1 actually returned. A team filled with 8 freshman, 2 juniors and 2 senior the coaching staff was not sure what to expect. A new year filled with developing a pitcher and catcher.

The week started out playing Ramstein's JV. We lost 17-14 and 11-6. The team was really excited about keeping both games close and it was good to see good pitching before the tournament. On Tuesday, we made the trip to Baumholder and played two games, winning both by run-rule. The tournament started on Thursday facing Bamberg and Rota. We beat Bamberg 18-2 to start the tournament off on a good note. Our next challenge faced the one of 2 returning pitchers in the tournament and lost 14-7. The next morning could be our deciding factor: would we play for 1st and 2nd or be in the 3rd and 4th place game. We played Alconbery well and were in the game but with the other returning pitcher in the tournament, it was tough to get anything started against her. We lost the game 11-8.

After beating Sigonella, the defending champions, we were to play the 3rd/4th place game on Saturday. We were excited at the chance to bring home a trophy, but as the cards would have it, we made some crucial errors that we had not made earlier in the day and lost to Baumholder 16-14. It was a tough game but we brought out of it the experience going into next year. We had two players receive all-tournament: K. N., 3 years in a row, and M, R. It was an awesome week and truly exciting trip.





Continuous School Improvement

DoDEA Mission: To provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

IUS Vision: To prepare students to become problem solvers and life long learners for an ever-changing world.

To Prepare Students - we are teaching, equipping, and providing multiple opportunities to be problem solvers and life long learners.

Problems Solvers - are independent decision makers who think critically and creatively.

Life Long Learners - have a passion for learning in and out of the classroom.

In an Ever Changing World - a society requiring its members to be more flexible and adaptable.

The following IUS Goals were met as of June 2011:

Goal 1: By June 2011, all students will increase performance targeted **Written Communication Skills** using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Language Arts subtest, PSAT Writing subtest and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are the organization of information for effective writing.

Goal 2: By June 2011, all students will increase performance on targeted **Critical Thinking Skills** using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Math subtests, PSAT Math subtest and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are the ability to extract and apply essential information in a variety of situations.

NCA Accreditation: Our accreditation took place May 4 - 6, 2010. We passed with five commendations, as well as being referred to as the “Model School for Continuous School Improvement” and a “Model School Turn Around.”

IUS 4 - EVER