



A CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR THE MODERN WORLD NOBLESSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Day & Boarding School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 18, 2013

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

It's never too early to start thinking about college! What do you need to think about if you are a student in grades 9-12th?

- Maintain a high **GPA**. Universities will receive your transcripts for grades 9-12th
- Take the **SAT** exam in grades 11 and 12. The SAT exam includes English and Math.
- Write an **essay**. Most universities will require you to write a "personal statement" about why you want to attend the university
- Take the **TOEFL** exam. This is an English exam which is required of foreign students applying to a university.
- Participate in **extracurricular activities**. Remember, thousands of students are applying to the same university as you. What make your application different? Community Service. Sports. Music, etc
- **Recommendation letters**. Most university applications must include recommendation letters from your teachers.

Grade 11 students ... begin making your "top 10" list of universities now!

STANDARDIZED EXAM

In the coming weeks, Noblesse will be administering the **International Schools' Assessment (ISA)** exam to students in grades 3 to 9. This same exam is used at over 100 international school world-wide and will allow us to compare our students with other international school students. The exam measure proficiency in Reading, Math, and Writing ... and emphasizes problem solving and critical thinking skills. The results of this exam will be used by Noblesse to improve our overall curriculum. (See back for more details)

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Noblesse will once again be offering a Summer School Program to offer students additional support in **English & Math**. We also expect to offer a Summer **Science** Program in either Biology or Chemistry, in preparation for the IB program, which begins in September at Noblesse. Both programs are tentatively scheduled for July 15 – August 9. Registration forms will be available in May.

THE SPORTS CORNER

Sports Results:

October 15	Noblesse and Brightwoods tie in MS-HS soccer (2-2)
November 14	Noblesse defeats Narciso School in Basketball (43-39)
November 21	Kuzma defeats Noblesse in Volleyball (3-2)
December 1	Volleyball: St Paul defeats Noblesse (2-1) Badminton: Noblesse defeats St. Paul (4-0) Table tennis: Noblesse defeats St. Paul (3-1)
December 5	Table tennis: Noblesse defeats Narciso School (2-0) Badminton: Noblesse defeats Narciso School (2-1)
December 6	Brightwoods defeats Noblesse in Elementary soccer
December 11	Noblesse and Brightwoods tie in MS-HS soccer (1-1)
February 14	Holy Family defeats Noblesse in basketball
February 18	Noblesse @ Brent-Subic (soccer)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11	Report Cards were distributed
February 18	Soccer match @ Brent-Subic 3.30pm
February 21	Pk – 5 th fieldtrip to Subic
February 22	6-12 th fieldtrip to Splash Island (Manila)
February 25	EDSA (No school)
March 6	Parent Meeting @ 8am
March 25-27	3 rd Term Exams
March 28	School closed – Spring Break begins
April 10	Classes resume
August 28	Tentative start date for 2013-14 school year

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

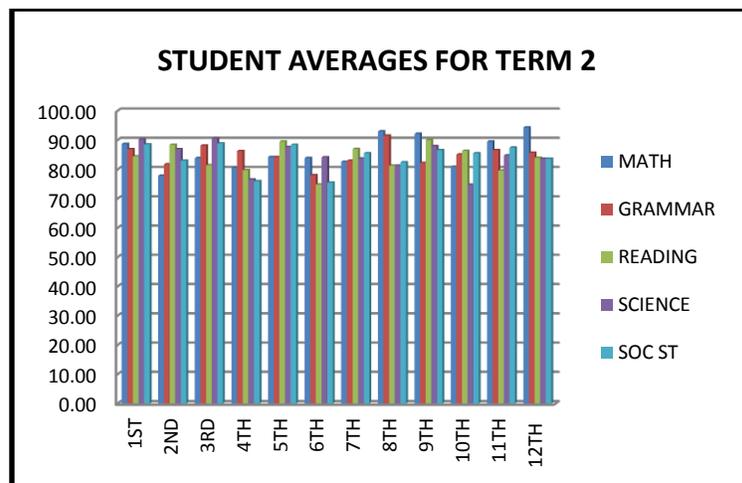
In May of 2012 the school submitted its application for accreditation to the *Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)*. In November of 2012, representatives of WASC visited Noblesse. This month (February 2013) we expect to receive a report from WASC which will outline the strengths of the school and areas for improvement. The school will then need to submit an Action Plan to WASC which outlines our plans for addressing those areas of improvement.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

Our new *NIS Parent Committee* is now organizing the **1st annual International Day** for Noblesse ... tentatively scheduled for April 26 (Friday). This event will include a Parade of Nations, stage presentations, food, and sports ... and is meant to emphasize the importance of maintaining an appreciation and respect for all cultures and traditions. Countries/regions that will be represented include: Korea, Philippines, China, North America (US & Canada), Europe (UK, France, and Germany), and Japan.

QUARTER 2 RESULTS

Thank you to the many parents who attended last week's **Parent-Teacher Conferences**. Please be reminded that our "school average" for all subject areas was 85% for Term/Quarter 2. The chart below indicates that most of our students are performing satisfactorily in the major subject areas.



THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT (ISA)

One of the most important questions for parents is always, *How is my child doing?* A related question is *Compared to what?* This is a particularly critical question for families away from home, where it is hard to know how systems, and standards, compare. The International Schools' Assessment (ISA) enables us to answer these questions.

WHAT IS ISA?

International Schools' Assessment (ISA) is an annual assessment program that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools. ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time at individual and school level.

WHO USES ISA?

A growing number of international schools now use ISA, including many of the acknowledged world leaders in international education.

HOW DO THE ASSESSMENTS WORK?

Students complete a reading literacy test, a mathematical literacy test and two writing tests, each of which takes between 45 minutes and one hour to administer. The tests include both multiple-choice and open-ended tasks.

WHICH CLASSES TAKE THE ISA IN NOBLESSE?

Beginning in February 2013, students in grades 3 through 9 will participate in the International Schools' Assessment (ISA), a program developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and designed specifically for international schools.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL I RECEIVE AS A PARENT?

Each parent of a child who took the ISA tests receives an individual report giving you a detailed record of your child's performance in relation to scales that describe increasingly advanced skills in mathematical literacy, reading literacy and writing.

HOW WILL ISM USE THESE RESULTS?

By analyzing student performance on different sections of the various tests, Noblesse is able to determine areas in which we may be teaching well and also areas that we need to strengthen in our curriculum.