

# INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



*Learning with Values*

March 2016

## *ICS... Path to Continuous Improvement*



*Pijama Day, March 16th*

### Vision

To be an international school of excellence that fosters a culture based on Christian values, promotes learning in the areas of science, technology, languages, and the arts, and facilitates students' intellectual, social and physical development.

### Mission

International Christian School is a K-12 international school that offers an integral education based on academic excellence and values.

## Strategic Planning at ICS

The parent focus groups conducted in February 2015 resulted in valuable information that became the point of departure of the continuous improvement process at ICS. The 2015-2016 Strategic Plan included four areas of interest to the parents. Two of these areas are presented in this issue of the ICS newsletter:

## Educating with values

ICS values program, a component of ICS vision is organized as follows:

### Values committee



Fellowship Time is a daily space in which students learn about the value of the month, illustrated by Christian Principals, which they apply to their daily lives. Homeroom teachers are responsible for the implementation of weekly lesson plans prepared by Mr. Johnny Sequeira, who monitors the progress of this program. Teachers are provided with exemplars and modeling throughout the year. ICS Counselors, Ms. Raquel Mora and Ms. Priscilla Díaz, assist Mr. Sequeira in the preparation of the training sessions.



Mr. Sequeira can be reached at: [jsequeira@icscostarica.org](mailto:jsequeira@icscostarica.org)



Green Project focuses on creating a school culture that values, loves and respects nature. Its educational project, Bandera Azul, is currently in the planning stage, under the leadership of Mrs. Lorena Montero. Bandera Azul requires collaborative work among students, and it also involves the ICS families. Mrs. Montero will be communicating the first steps towards aiming at this national award in April's newsletter.

You can contact Mrs. Montero at: [lmontero@icscostarica.org](mailto:lmontero@icscostarica.org)



Induction and Mentoring Program, the latest initiative of the values program, aims at mentoring new students and teachers towards a smooth transition into ICS. Although still in the planning stage, this program will be implemented starting in August 2016, under the leadership of Mrs. Zully Sancho, International Program Coordinator, accompanied by Mrs. Oriana Pereyra, High School Principal. Zully has successfully supported the Fellowship Program this year.



Mrs. Sancho can be contacted at: [zsancho@icscostarica.org](mailto:zsancho@icscostarica.org)

Mr. Elimelec Juantá, Operations Sub-director, is the Coordinator of Values Program. He can be contacted at: [ejuanta@icscostarica.org](mailto:ejuanta@icscostarica.org)





## Curriculum:

ICS curriculum development occurs on a continuous basis through the year. The approach to curriculum design adopted requires the entire faculty's collaboration and participation, guided by the curriculum coordinator, Mrs. Guadalupe Picado, and the subject-area coaches. Time is set apart, on a weekly basis, for work meetings and reflection.

You can contact Mrs. Picado at [gpicado@icscostarica.org](mailto:gpicado@icscostarica.org).

ICS curriculum process includes the integration of technology in the daily teaching-learning process. ICS aims at turning technology into a tool students use to gather information, conduct research, and work collaboratively with their peers, as they construct their learning. Within such scenario, the teacher becomes the facilitator.

The process of technology integration started in August 2016, under the leadership of Ms. Ana Lucía Antillón, ICS Educational Technology and Innovation Coordinator. ICS is currently developing its BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Policy, which will be available to parents in early May. It is important to review the policy before purchasing electronic device for your children. Ms. Antillón can be reached at [anantillon@icscostarica.org](mailto:anantillon@icscostarica.org)

In April's Newsletter, we will present the other two areas of accomplishment of the first strategic plan, as well as the initiatives that are part of the path to continuous process for the following two years, which will allow us fulfill international accreditation standards.

## AdvancED International Accreditation



Mrs. María Ojeda, AdvancED Regional Director for Latin America, conducted the Readiness Visit during March 28-29. The purpose of this visit was to validate the school's readiness to get Candidate Status. She praised ICS for the achievement of the academic goals in a relatively short time. Mrs. Ojeda will submit her report to AdvancED Council for approval of ICS as a candidate school. While we wait, we will begin preparing the next step: the self-assessment process.

We anticipate the school will be fully accredited by spring semester of 2017-2018

More information to come in the next issue of ICS Newsletter: Path to Continuous Improvement. Stay with us!