



Luanda International School

LIS News: November/December 2018

Dear LIS Families,

Coming to Angola, I never expected to meet the man responsible for writing the country's national anthem and for sketching, what would later become, the inspiration behind the national flag. But it happened, as fate would have it, LIS was honored with the presence of Mr Manuel Rui at the school's celebration assembly to acknowledge Angola's 43rd year of Independence. As the keynote speaker, Mr Rui shared the story behind the nation's anthem and flag, recalling a group of inspired individuals looking to a future filled with hope, peace and unity. Such a poignant moment for our school community to pause, reflect and consider where the country has come from, its hopes for the future and our role as an international school community here in Angola. We wish to thank the many families who joined us on Friday 09 November to enjoy a variety of performances and celebrate Dia da Independência de Angola. In addition, special thanks must go to our key committee leaders, Ms Andreia, Mr Romao and Mr Ali for coordinating this large-scale event and engaging the wider school community in the spirit of a nation.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY: THE STORY OF A SONG, A FLAG AND A NATION:**



The month of December has arrived and perhaps many LIS families will be making plans for the festive season and holiday period. I am happy to announce that the LIS Board of Directors has approved the 2019/2020 academic

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calendar. You can access and download a copy of the calendar from the school website. The calendar includes changes to the Angolan national holidays, which became effective on 09 August 2018. You will note an extra national holiday has been added to the country's official calendar to be celebrated annually on the 23rd of March -- Liberation Day of Southern Africa.

Sadly, December is typically a time of year when we bid farewell to some LIS families. If you are departing Angola, we thank you for your support of the school and wish you well with your next adventure. On Friday, 14 December 2018, all students will be **dismissed from classes at 11:00 am** to go home. Please ensure you and/or your driver are on time to collect your child/children. On behalf of the LIS team, I wish all families a safe and peaceful holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back to LIS on Monday, 07 January 2019.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION:**



On Tuesday 06 November, our amazing PTA hosted an Appreciation Lunch. The appreciation lunch is a great tradition, celebrated worldwide, as a way to honor and recognize the meaningful and lasting contributions educators make in the lives of your children. This year was extra special as the guests included all LIS teachers and programme staff. Special thanks to the families who provided food, the organising committee and volunteers who created such a warm, welcoming and appreciative ambience.

**LIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: GOVERNANCE AS LEADERSHIP**

Each year, the LIS Board of Directors commit precious personal time to undertake professional development in support of the school. This is a significant commitment as the role of a board member is a voluntary position that is multifaceted and demands additional time on top of a full time job. The purpose of this year's retreat, held on the 16th & 17th November, included two main elements. First, to frame a process for completing an action plan in support of the strategic plan, goals and objectives. Second, to complete an in-depth session about the Board's fiduciary, strategic and generative responsibilities and roles for effective governance and leadership.



**HEALTH & SAFETY: SMARTCARD ACCESS:**

The school has completed its 2nd review of the newly implemented smartcard for controlling access to the campus. In general, we are grateful to the community for your growing support and cooperation. We were



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expecting a few issues, with the main concerns extending to long traffic queues. Here are a few simple things you can do to assist a smooth entrance to the school.

1. Always have your smart card/s ready to present before you approach the school.
2. Don't wait to present your card. Be proactive.
3. If your helper/driver does not have a card, please arrange this ASAP to avoid delays at the gate.
4. Drivers should refrain from using mobile phones when entering the school.

The school is also checking that its protocols are implemented in a timely and respectful manner. We welcome your feedback to improve our practises..

#### **SIGNAGE AROUND THE SCHOOL:**

The school is currently in the process of designing new signage to display around the school. The purpose of this exercise is to help staff, students, parents and visitors to navigate their way around the school to find locations and events as and when they occur. The new signage will incorporate iconic cultural symbols and natural animals and landmarks around Angola.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS:**

Friday	14 December	Last Day of School - 11:00am dismissal for students and staff
	17 Dec 2017 - 04 January 2019	December Holiday period
	19 Dec 2018 - 02 January 2019	School Business/Operations closed
Thursday	03 January 2019	School Business/Operations resume
Monday	07 January 2019	School resumes for all students
Thursday	10 January 2019	Year 10-13 Drama evening
Tuesday	15 January 2019	New parent welcome
Wednesday	23 January 2019	PTA Meeting

Once again, on behalf of the LIS team, thank you for making LIS your school of choice. For further information about the school and our programmes, please make sure to visit our school website ([www.lisluanda.com](http://www.lisluanda.com)).

Sincerely,

Dylan Hughes  
Director