

CEDARS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ANGOLA

# CISA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 RECAP

ISSUE NO.3

## TOP NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

As the year gracefully comes to a close, December invites us to reflect on the multitude of accomplishments and shared experiences at CISA. From captivating classroom moments to engaging events, our students have been the heartbeat of our vibrant community. Flip through these pages to relish moments of fun, learning, and shared experiences, as we bid farewell to 2023 with pride and anticipation for what lies ahead.

- EMPOWERING CHANGE: CISA'S SDG HEROES
- SDG HEROES SHARING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
- CISA STUDENTS VOTE FOR THEIR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
- GRADE 7 PROJECT: WATER FILTRATION
- INTERVIEWS WITH OUR DIRECTOR AND SNE SUPERVISOR
- BROADCASTS RECAP

## DID YOU KNOW ?



Students register their presence in school each morning using their **CISA Bracelets**, it is crucial not to forget them at home for accurate digital attendance record!



## DIRECTOR'S WORD

WHY Cedars International School of Angola (CISA) ?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Selecting the right school for your children is a decision of paramount importance—one that profoundly influences their academic journey, personal development, and future success. At Cedars International School of Angola (CISA), we understand the weight of this decision and are committed to providing you with the necessary information to make an informed choice. We have noticed from past experiences that some parents may not have all the information about the school, leading to misunderstandings and creating comprehension obstacles. Therefore, we encourage you to delve into the specifics of CISA's educational framework, philosophy, and values, ensuring a clear understanding of what makes our school unique and why it might be the perfect fit for your family... OR NOT.

(Continued next page...)



## Continuation of Director's word...

Here are key considerations and insights into what makes you understand any school and what makes CISA stand out:

- 1** Never Compare Between Schools: Each school has its unique identity and strengths. At CISA, we encourage parents to focus on understanding our distinct qualities rather than engaging in comparisons. We believe in the uniqueness of our educational approach and its ability to meet the diverse needs of our students.
- 2** Never Compare Between Curriculums: Rather than comparing curriculums, delve into the specifics of CISA's educational framework. Our curriculum is designed to be dynamic, holistic, and aligned with international standards, fostering a love for learning and encouraging critical thinking skills.
- 3** International School: CISA prides itself on being a truly international school, bringing together a rich tapestry of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. Our global perspective is woven into every aspect of our educational philosophy, creating a multicultural environment that prepares students for success in an interconnected world.
- 4** Learn About Our Curriculum, Philosophy, Mission, Vision, and Framework: Our curriculum is a carefully crafted blend of global best practices, tailored to nurture well-rounded individuals. Our philosophy centers around fostering a love for learning, while our mission, vision, and framework guide us in creating an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- 5** Diversity and Multi-Nationalities: CISA celebrates diversity, recognizing its importance in shaping a comprehensive learning experience. With students from various nationalities, we promote an inclusive atmosphere that enriches perspectives and prepares students for a globalized future.
- 6** Educational Technology: Embracing the digital era, CISA integrates cutting-edge educational technology into our classrooms. We believe in preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century, ensuring they are adept at utilizing technology as a tool for learning and innovation.
- 7** Learner Profile: Our learner profile goes beyond academic achievements. It encompasses qualities such as critical thinking, communication skills, and global awareness, molding students into responsible and well-rounded individuals.
- 8** Agencies, Clubs, and Board Members: CISA collaborates with reputable educational agencies, offers diverse extracurricular clubs, and is governed by a dedicated board committed to the school's long-term success. These aspects contribute to the richness of the overall educational experience. After conducting a thorough research analysis, we invite you to reflect on whether CISA aligns with your values, aspirations, and expectations as parents or guardians.
- 9** Then comes the magical success word for the best partnership : "TRUST" Our commitment to our philosophy and principles remains unwavering, we refuse and resist any kind of direct or indirect actions trying to change what we believe in, with ensuring that the CISA experience remains consistent, resilient, and tailored to meet the evolving needs of our students. Choosing Cedars International School of Angola is not just choosing a school; it's choosing an educational home that fosters growth, embraces diversity, and prepares students for a future without limits.

Sincerely,  
IMAD TAHA  
Head of Cedars International School of Angola (CISA)



# EMPOWERING CHANGE: CISA SDG HEROES

In the true spirit of giving and community service, the compassionate students of MYP CISA came together to form the 'CISA SDGs Heroes,' a dynamic group driven by a shared commitment to enact positive change within their community. Their mission revolves around actively addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2, which focus on eradicating poverty and eliminating hunger.

The CISA SDGs Heroes embarked on a journey to create awareness among their peers, emphasizing the importance of collective action to tackle societal challenges. Their primary initiative involved rallying their fellow students to join forces in preparing and donating essential provisions and supplies for the "Obra de Caridade da Criança Santa Isabel" Orphanage.





## SHARING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Our SDG heroes visited the "Obra de Caridade da Criança Santa Isabel" orphanage in Viana, creating a festive atmosphere filled with joy and compassion. The students, fueled by the generous contributions from our caring parents, were able to bring smiles to the faces of the children by providing toys, clothes, supplies, and food to supports children from economically disadvantaged families who struggle to access nutritious meals on a daily basis. This heartwarming event showcased the incredible impact we can make when our community comes together. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to all the parents who generously supported this initiative, making a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Your kindness and generosity embody the true essence of the holiday season.

Thank you for being an integral part of the CISA family and for contributing to the success of this meaningful endeavor. Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season filled with warmth and happiness.





# STUDENTS COUNCIL ELECTION



This December, our students actively casted their votes to select a peer representative for their class. The event aimed to familiarize our young leaders with the importance of their voices in shaping their classroom dynamics. This initiative not only fosters a sense of community within our school but also nurtures essential skills such as leadership and decision-making in our future citizens.

**Congratulation to all the elected student counsel representatives:**

**G1 A: Bassam Akil**

**G1 B: Zion Cunha**



**G2 A: Hussein Mokhader**

**G2 B: Marina Gabriel**

**G3 A: Aline Akil**

**G3 B: Jad Yassin**

**G4 A: Marcelle Ramos**

**G4 B: Tchinokaya João**

**G5 A: Adanna Pompilio**

**G5 B: Laure Bahssoun**

**G6 A: Bernardo Klein**

**G6 B: Daniel Yassin**



**G7: Keven Fernandes**

**G8: Fadi Nesr**



**G9: Fatima Al Yahfoufi**

**G10: Jaasiela Sebastião**

**G11: Ana Carolina Pinto**

**G12: Edwin Victorino**



# THE REASON WHY WE NEED A COUNCIL OF STUDENTS AT CISA

**Perhaps you may ask yourself: 'Why do we need a council of students? Is it really necessary? We do have an administration that can handle of any issue!'**

The main objective of having a student council in CISA is to provide students with a platform to actively participate in decision-making processes, giving their opinions, and contribute to the betterment of the school community. Additionally, it serves as a bridge between students and school administration, promoting students engagement, and create a sense of responsibility and ownership within the school environment.

## Why is this Council necessary?

The student council is fundamental for several reasons. We just listed a few of them below:

- Empowers student's voice.
- Encourages leadership development.
- Builds a sense of community
- Enhances communication
- Promotes responsibility, accountability, and maturity.

In a sense, a student council plays a crucial role in nurturing well-rounded individuals by providing practical experiences in leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement.

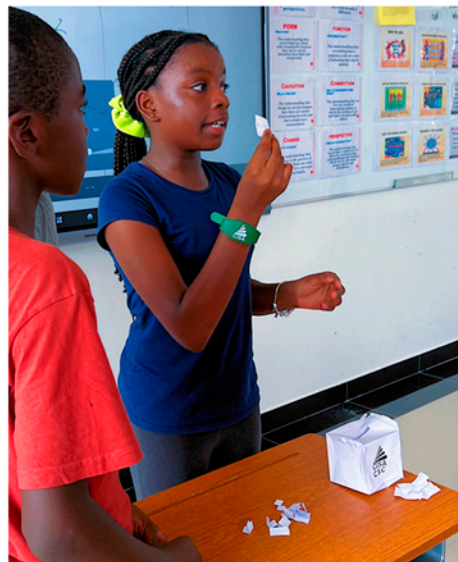
Being a member of the students council is a privilege which is accompanied with responsibility. And every representative should keep in mind that load of responsibility.

**One may ask:** What can we expect from the Student Council? A Council of students plays an important role in every institution. And the same goes with the **CISA Student Council (CSC)**. For example, from a student council, one can expect:

**Representation:** Representation of the student body's views, needs, and concerns to the school administration.

**Leadership:** Development of strong leadership skills among council members through planning, organizing, and executing school events and initiatives.

**Communication:** Open and effective communication channels between students, administration, and the broader school community.



## Initiatives and Activities:

Implementation of various activities, programs, and projects that contribute positively to the school environment and student experience.

**Problem-Solving:** Addressing issues or challenges within the school community by initiating discussions and finding solutions collaboratively.

**Inclusivity and Unity:** Promotion of a sense of unity, inclusion, and diversity within the student body by organizing events that celebrate differences and foster a welcoming atmosphere.

**Accountability:** Taking responsibility for decisions made, actions taken, and commitments to fulfill duties as representatives of the student body.



## HOW WILL THIS COUNCIL OPERATE:

A student council typically operates through the following general framework:

**Committees and Responsibilities:** Council members often form committees to manage specific tasks or events, delegating responsibilities among themselves to ensure effective planning and execution.

### Interaction with School Administration:

The council communicates and collaborates with school administrators, teachers, and staff to convey student concerns, propose initiatives, and seek support or approval for their planned activities.

**Event Planning:** One of the primary roles of the student council involves organizing events, fund-raisers, community service activities, cultural celebrations, and other programs that benefit the school community.

commitments to fulfill duties as representatives of the student body.

### Communication with Students:

Maintaining open communication with the student body is crucial. The council uses various means such as announcements, social media, newsletters, or assemblies to inform students about upcoming events, decisions, and opportunities for involvement.

**Evaluation and Reflection:** Periodically, the council evaluates its activities, gathers feedback from peers, and reflects on their performance to improve future initiatives and better serve the student body.

Overall, the student council operates as a representative body that engages in democratic decision-making, fosters leadership among its members, and works collaboratively to enhance the school experience for all students.



## GRADE 7 PROJECT: WATER FILTRATION

Innovation and teamwork took center stage in a fascinating water filter project undertaken by our students. Each group embarked on a mission to purify murky water using different filtration methods. With a hands-on approach, students experimented with various materials, showcasing their problem-solving skills. The classroom buzzed with excitement as the groups tested their creations, witnessing the transformation of turbid water into clear liquid. This practical and insightful project not only provided a glimpse into water purification processes but also fostered a deeper understanding of environmental responsibility among our budding scientists.



## **AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. WAFAA AAMMAR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS DEPARTMENT**

*Have you ever wondered how to evaluate a kindergarten child? What methods are used to assess them? What are the differences between assessing a 3-year-old and an MYP student?*



**Mrs. Wafaa Aammar, the special needs student supervisor, is here to answer these questions:**

### **How do you plan to create a positive and inclusive learning environment for Kindergarten learners?**

In CISA, creating a positive and inclusive learning environment is our second priority after learner safety. It is a shared and collaborative responsibility between the teaching staff, Non-teaching staff and the entire learning community. We strive at creating a stimulating environment that encourages curiosity, exploration, and play-based learning. We achieve this by incorporating a variety teaching and learning engagements such as hands-on experiences,

promoting inquiry-based learning, and allowing students to choose their own topics of interest thus fostering an intrinsic love for learning. Our educational approach is geared towards fostering holistic growth and development of our young learners.

### **How do you assess learners in the Kindergarten?**

The IB framework for ages 3- 6 takes children play seriously and so do we. In the KG department, we assess our learners according to the skills that they are required to achieve at each level of learning. All our KG assessments are criterion-based, and learners are expected to show certain levels of achievement or progress such as “Very Good”, “Good”, “Progressing” and “Needs improvement”. Since we offer a holistic learning experience that integrates socio-emotional, physical, and cognitive development our assessments often focus on socio-emotional development, fine and gross motor skills, language



acquisition, and early academic skills. Given the play-based nature of Kindergarten, observations are often a key component of assessment. Teachers observe learners during various teaching and learning activities to gauge their progress and understanding. Our assessments are ongoing and their main purpose is to provide feedback that we use to guide our learning instruction. Our assessment practices involve and not limited to evaluating a child’s ability to interact with peers, manage emotions, and develop positive behaviors. To understand a child’s behavior, social interactions, and participation in various activities, we regularly observe students during playtime, group activities, and individual tasks. We note their interactions with peers, engagement levels, and problem-solving skills.

### **Do you apply quizzes, tests, or grades?**

In CISA’s kindergarten, the primary purpose of assessments goes beyond







traditional grading. Rather than assigning formal grades, our emphasis lies in using assessments to inform teaching and support student learning. We believe in providing descriptive feedback, offering a more comprehensive understanding of a child's progress.

Our assessments are designed to identify students' strengths and challenges, enabling us to pinpoint areas that may require early intervention. By adopting this approach, we ensure that assessments serve as valuable tools for guiding our teaching strategies and nurturing the ongoing development of each child.

#### **How do you handle a situation where a learner is struggling academically or socially?**

Addressing a struggling learner requires a collaborative approach. Firstly, I would assess the specific needs of the learner through observation and consultation with teachers and parents. Then, I would work with the teaching team to tailor interventions, provide additional support, and involve/refer to trusted specialists if necessary. Regular communication with parents is key to maintaining a united front and ensuring the child receives comprehensive support both at school and at home.

In addition to the previous strategies: CISA utilizes various communication platforms, such as newsletters, emails, cloud services, to keep the parents informed about classroom activities, upcoming events, and important announcements.

#### **How are you planning for the next trimester in the kindergarten?**

Planning for the next trimester in a Kindergarten program involves a strategic and thoughtful approach towards enhance the learning experience for both learners and teachers.

Looking ahead to the next trimester: We will reflect on our 1st trimester by conducting a thorough review of it. We will consider our achievements, challenges and areas of improvement. We will analyze assessment data to understand individual and collective student progress. Seek feedback from teachers, parents about their experiences during the current trimester. Collaborate with teachers to define clear learning objectives for the upcoming trimester while ensuring alignment with curriculum standards. In addition, we will ensure that the curriculum remains authentic, dynamic, relevant, and responsive to the developmental needs of Kindergarten learners.



### **MILANK CATERING: THE BOLOGNESE PASTA**

Savor the excellence of our Plate of the Month - the Bolognese Pasta! Bursting with flavors, this delectable dish features lean ground beef, fresh tomatoes, and aromatic garlic, creating a nutritious symphony that students will love. Packed with protein for growth and energy, it's the perfect, mouthwatering fuel for our young scholars.

**MILANK**  
CATERING

For more info about MILANK food schedule at CISA, please visit [www.cisaedu.com](http://www.cisaedu.com)

NEED CATERING SERVICES ?

**+244 927 346 033**





## IT'S CHRISTMAS!

The halls of CISA echoed with joy and laughter as students came together to celebrate a memorable Christmas party before heading off for the holiday vacation. The atmosphere was charged with excitement and anticipation as the students took center stage to perform and dance. With gratitude for the shared moments of celebration, CISA embraced the holiday spirit, knowing that the laughter and joy of the Christmas party would linger in the hearts of the community until the students returned for another semester of learning, growing, and creating unforgettable memories together.





## CHRISTMAS CLASS FEASTS!

In the midst of cheerful festivities at CISA, a charming Christmas feast took place in each classroom. Students brought in their own delightful homemade desserts and snacks, turning their shared space into a hub of sugary wonders. The class tables were adorned with an array of flavors and colors. Laughter and joy filled the air as students exchanged these homemade delights, creating a heartwarming atmosphere that echoed the true spirit of the holidays. It was a sweet and memorable celebration, emphasizing the joy of sharing. This delightful gathering further strengthened the sense of camaraderie within the CISA community, leaving everyone with a lingering sense of holiday cheer and togetherness."



## CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

CISA held its much-anticipated Christmas tree decoration competition. From **Grade 1 to Grade 5**, each class embraced the challenge to transform their assigned Christmas tree into a dazzling display of creativity and holiday cheer.

After meticulous judging, it was **Grade 2B** that emerged victorious, capturing the hearts of both students and faculty with their stunningly decorated Christmas tree. To reward the students of Grade 2B for their exceptional effort and festive flair, each young participant was presented with a delightful surprise—a 3D wooden model puzzle.



*Grade 1 A*

*Grade 1 B*

*Grade 2 A*

*Grade 2 B*

*Grade 3 A*



*Grade 3 B*

*Grade 4 A*

*Grade 4 B*

*Grade 5 A*

*Grade 5 B*





# FRAMES OF DECEMBER



## DECEMBER BROADCASTS

### **PYP Teacher/Parents Meeting**

Dear parents, this is a reminder that, according to the school calendar, parents of the following classes are invited for the teachers-parents meeting in your children's class this Saturday, December 2, 2023, between 10:00 and 13:00:

KG1 / KG2 / KG3A & B / G1A /  
G2A / G3A / G4A / G5A

Thank you.

### **MYP Teacher/Parents Meeting**

Dear parents, this is a reminder that, according to the school calendar, parents of the following classes are invited for the teachers-parents meeting in your children's class this coming Saturday, December 9, 2023, between 10:00 and 13:00:

G1B / G2B / G3B / G4B / G5B / G6 A and B  
/ G7 / G8 / G9 / 10 / G11 / G12

Thank you.

### **Red Dress Code**

Dear Parents,  
Quick reminder! Tomorrow's OPTIONAL dress code is RED. Encourage your child to participate and showcase their school spirit in this vibrant color. Let's make it a colorful and enjoyable day!

Best regards,

### **MYP & PYP Exams Period**

Dear Parents, we hope this message finds you well.

As we approach the upcoming school exams next week, we want to provide you with the schedule to ensure everyone is well-informed and prepared. Remember, these exams are not just about grades; they are a valuable part of the learning process. They provide insights into your child's academic progress and areas for potential growth.

For our PYP classes:

There are no traditional exams. Instead, assessment occurs through continuous evaluation which takes various forms, eliminating the need for traditional seasonal exams.

Students are assessed through ongoing methods, fostering a dynamic and comprehensive understanding of their progress without the stress of scheduled examinations.

Please note that Friday 15 of December is the last school day of the first trimester for the following classes:

KG1, KG2, KG3, G1, G2, G3, G4, G5

Wednesday 20 of December will be the last day of first trimester for classes G6, G7 & G8. Thursday 21 of December will be the last day of first trimester for all other classes.

Best regards,

### **Assessment Period**

Dear Parents, as we approach the assessment period, we would like to remind you of the upcoming assessments for your child in Grades 6 to 12, starting tomorrow, Monday 18/12/2023.

Please refer to the attached assessment table for detailed information on the schedule and subjects.

Students are required to arrive at school early, as they will leave early too as specified in the assessment table.

Thank you.

### **Transcripts uploaded to OneDrive**

Dear Parents, we're delighted to inform you that your child's transcript for this term has been successfully uploaded to the OneDrive cloud! You can access and review them at your convenience.

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

May it be filled with warmth, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

Greetings,