

CEDARS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ANGOLA







# CISA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 RECAP

ISSUE NO.1

## TOP NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the first edition of the **CISA Newsletter**! Explore this month's events, achievements, and insights from our dynamic educational community. This issue is brimming with stories that capture the essence of our school's spirit and commitment to excellence. We invite you to journey with us through the pages, celebrating the milestones and successes that make CISA shine.

-  EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR VISIT TO CISA
-  BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FOR YOUNG STUDENTS
-  IB VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND AI
-  FOOD FESTIVAL RECAP
-  EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
-  BROADCASTS RECAP

### DID YOU KNOW ?



You can charge money directly into your child's **CISA bracelet**, simply by sending an email to our administration at [shop@cisaedu.com](mailto:shop@cisaedu.com). One swift transaction for our students to indulge in **CISA Snack Shop** and our **MILANK Catering**!



### DIRECTOR'S WORD

**Dear CISA Community,**

Greetings to all our esteemed parents, students, faculty, and staff!

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to each of you in the inaugural edition of the CISA newsletter. As we embark on this exciting journey, communication plays a vital role in keeping our community connected and informed.

This newsletter will serve as a conduit for sharing accomplishments, highlighting events, and showcasing the vibrant tapestry of life at CISA. It is a platform for celebrating the achievements of our students, acknowledging the dedication of our faculty, and keeping parents abreast of the exciting happenings within our school. Together, let us create an educational environment where curiosity is nurtured, talents are cultivated, and every individual is empowered to reach their full potential. Thank you for being a part of the CISA community.

Warm regards,  
Imad TAHA  
Head of School



## EU AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO CISA

On the 17th of October, the Ambassador of the European Union, Mrs. Rosario Bento Pais, graced us with her presence, and this significant occasion allowed us to engage in enlightening discussions about our school's mission; a testament to our unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of education in Angola. At the heart of our mission is the innovative integration of technology to propel education into the future. We proudly stand at the intersection of groundbreaking technological approaches and the world-renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, which is central to our commitment in providing a globally oriented education.

During our discussions, we shared the remarkable journey of our school, highlighting the unique challenges we've faced and the significant progress we've made. Being situated in a country with its own set of challenges, we have defied the odds to establish an institution dedicated

to pioneering education. Our path has been marked by tenacity, determination, and a commitment to making education accessible and transformational, even in the face of economic hurdles, infrastructure limitations, and navigating the complexities of bureaucracy. These challenges have not deterred us; instead, they have strengthened our resolve.

### OUR GOALS COMBINED

The Ambassador's visit was far more than a mere formality; it was an opportunity for us to openly discuss the obstacles we've encountered and the progress we've made. As she departed, her heartwarming note served as a reminder of the progress we've achieved and the hope we represent in a place where educational opportunities are needed more than ever.

*"Education is the passport to the future, tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."*

*- European Union*





# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In a recent classroom session, Mrs. Ana Pinto engaged in a heartfelt and empowering conversation with a group of young teenage girls about cancer awareness, with a specific focus on breast cancer. Mrs. Pinto skillfully set the stage by creating a safe and welcoming environment. The students felt comfortable sharing their thoughts and concerns, knowing that their voices were heard and respected. This laid the foundation for an open and honest dialogue on a topic that is often considered sensitive.

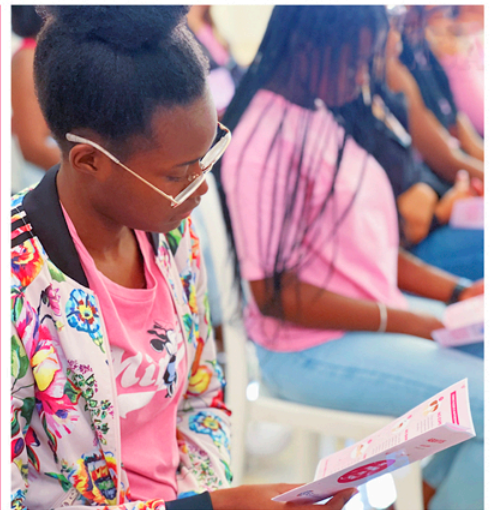


*“These discussions can help break down stigmas surrounding breast-related issues. Which can lead to a more open and informed society”*

**SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE**

Here is a brief list of common breast cancer symptoms:

- Skin Changes
- Lump in the Breast
- Breast Pain or Discomfort
- Change in Breast Size or Shape
- Swelling in the Armpit or Collarbone Area



## Empowering young women at CISA

The students gained a deeper understanding of the prevalence of breast cancer and the paramount importance of early detection. They learned about risk factors, the significance of self-examinations, and the role of regular clinical check-ups. The session was not just a lecture; it was an interactive exchange of knowledge.





## CISA'S GLOBAL CULINARY FEAST

On October 28th, 2023, CISA transformed into a melting pot of flavors and cultures as we celebrated our annual Food Festival. This delightful event featured an extraordinary array of dishes, lovingly prepared by parents representing over 20 different nationalities, a heartwarming reminder of the rich cultural tapestry that makes up our CISA community. One of the highlights of the evening was the captivating performances by our talented students and Angolan dance band.

The festival offered games and activities, ensuring that the joy was not confined to taste buds alone.

CISA's Food Festival was not just about food; it was a celebration of unity, diversity, and the beauty that emerges when different cultures come together, a reminder that our school is a place where friendships are forged, traditions are celebrated, and memories are made.





## IB VIEW ON CHATGPT AND AI IN ASSESSMENT & EDUCATION

Latest developments in artificial intelligence (AI) software, such as ChatGPT, that can write sophisticated essay responses have generated a great deal of interest and discussion. IB will not ban the use of AI software. The simplest reason is that it is an ineffective way to deal with innovation. However, the use of AI tools should be in line with the IB's academic integrity policy. We expect all our schools to discuss the various types of academic misconduct with their students. IB believes that artificial intelligence (AI) technology will become part of our everyday lives—like spell checkers, translation software and calculators. We, therefore, need to adapt and transform our educational programs and practices assessment so that

students can use these new AI tools ethically and effectively.

IB is not going to ban the use of such software but will work with schools to help them support their students on how to use these tools ethically in line with our principles of academic integrity. Students must understand that IB does not consider work generated by AI tools as their own. Just like quoting material from another source, it's essential to acknowledge AI-generated content within the work by providing clear citations and proper references in the bibliography. Following this practice, it's important to remember that an essay heavily reliant on quotes may receive limited marks under the IB mark scheme.



## SAFER SCHOOL MEALS: YOUR CHILD'S ALLERGY CONCERNS

The safety and health of our students are our utmost priority and we are dedicated to providing a secure environment for all. If you haven't already, we urge you to complete the allergy form for your child promptly, which can be found on our website or at the school's administration. Your attention to this matter is essential in

enabling us to protect your child's well-being. Moreover, we'd like to remind that you have control over your child's snack choices from CISA's snack shop. By using the CISA Bracelet app, you can easily block any items that may pose allergy risks. Your active involvement is a crucial part of our collective commitment to keeping our students safe and healthy.

## MILANK CATERING: THE PEA STEW (BAZELLA)

Loaded with essential vitamins, minerals, fibers, and protein, MILANK Pea Stew offers our students a well-rounded and nutritious meal. Consisting of green peas, tender meat, rice and various vegetables enhanced by aromatic spices, our "Bazella" is a delightful culinary experience that combines rich taste with essential nutrients. The Pea Stew is offered twice a month on the CISA food schedule powered by 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





# FRAMES OF OCTOBER





EXTRA CURRICULUM ACTIVITY NOW AVAILABLE AT CISA  
UPON SUFFICIENT REQUEST

**TWICE** | **75,000 KZ**  
per week | per month

# Ballet dancing

FROM 3:00 PM TILL 5:00 PM

## ENCHANTING MOVES AWAIT: BALLET EXTRACURRICULAR AT CISA!

Give your child the gift of grace and self-expression by enrolling them in our school's Ballet Activity! Watch as they twirl, leap, and find their own rhythm in the enchanting world of ballet. Help them take their first step towards a lifelong love of the arts. Enroll your child in our Ballet Activity today, and let their dance journey begin!

## OCTOBER BROADCASTS

### Contact Us / Assistance Update

Considering the high traffic on our school's WhatsApp number, we are making improvements to enhance your experience.

CISA's WhatsApp will only be available for Broadcasts / General Information and won't be available for direct communication.

We encourage you to reach out via our call center +244 923 700 900 where you will be directly assisted or appointed with the suitable department for any assistance or support you may require.

### Reminder of Payments Deadlines

Trimester

- 1st Trimester - 30 of September
- 2nd Trimester - 31 of December
- 3rd Trimester - 31 of March

Please settle all pending fees promptly. Students with unpaid fees will have their CISA Bracelet deactivated and won't be able to attend school until fees are cleared.

For assistance contact our financial office by mail:

[billing@cisaedu.com](mailto:billing@cisaedu.com)

### Arrival and Late entry Policy

Arrival Time: All students must be at school by 8:00 AM. Late Entry: Starting from Monday 16th of October 2023, no student will be allowed to enter the school after 8:30 AM. Punctuality is crucial for effective learning and to minimize classroom disruptions. Please ensure your child arrives on time.

### Bracelets Reminder

As we use the CISA bracelet for taking attendance and many other important actions, parents must ensure that their children wear the CISA bracelet daily. Students without the bracelet will not be allowed to get in the school, unless they have a valid reason.