



## Secondary School Heads-Up - 12/19/25

Dear Secondary School Community,

This short week has been full of festivities and fun as we celebrated the holiday season with secret snowmen, silly sweaters, a visit from alumni, a soccer showdown and way too much sugar. With that said, here's what's been happening at Waterview.



### Alumni Day

DIS was thrilled to welcome alumni back to our Waterview Campus this week for Alumni Day. After receiving their Alumni Day commemorative t-shirts, the day began with a house huddle, followed by our high school students joining alumni for a panel discussion where graduates shared their

personal journeys and post-graduation experiences. Alumni and our senior class then enjoyed a catered lunch together, providing a great opportunity for connection and conversation. Throughout the rest of the day, alumni reconnected with teachers and visited classrooms across campus.

The celebration concluded with the much-anticipated Tigres Showdown soccer match where alumni and DIS staff faced off against the reigning State Champion varsity soccer team in an exciting and spirited finale. Thank you to all the DIS staff and faculty for their help in supporting this all-day event, and especially to Ms. Susan Zic for running the show. We would also like to thank Ms. Maggie Chan and Ms. Karine Afopa with their help in planning.

### **Scripp's National Spelling Bee - DIS Championship**

Congratulations to our DIS Spelling Bee Champion, 8th grader, Vivienne Diodato. Our runner up is 8th grader, Madeleine Leonard. Students went through 18 grueling rounds of spelling difficult words before we came down to our final two spellers. Thank you to all the teachers, students and parents who attended via Google Meet to support these outstanding spellers. And a special thank you to Ms. Freeman for making it all happen.

### **DECA Hot Chocolate Sale**

The DECA Club organized a charity drive-thru sale of hot chocolate, coffee and cookies during carpool on Monday. Led by DECA Club President, Dia Duwaji, and carried out with the commitment of 9th and 10th grade students, this project was a great success. Thanks to excellent organization and effective communication with flyers distributed at carpool, the event exceeded its fundraising goal. A huge thank you to our students and their supervisors, Mr. Thomas Avril and Ms. Sandra Payot.

### **Junior/Senior Holiday Gift Exchange**

On Monday morning, the Junior-Senior Pal gift exchange spread smiles and strengthened the bonds between our 11th and 12th graders. Students shared thoughtful gifts and made it a memorable start to the last school week of 2025, celebrating friendship, gratitude and togetherness. Thank you to Ms. Bejleri for facilitating this event and for taking such great care of our students.

### **Gingerbread - A German Tradition**

On Monday, the German Honor Society hosted a cookie-decorating contest for middle school students. This fun lunchtime activity was very well received and brought lots of creativity and excitement to the cafeteria. Both the students and Honor Society members enjoyed spending time together. Choosing a winner was no easy task—each gingerbread cookie was truly unique! 🍪  
Thanks to Ms. Hatt for her hand in this creative and fun event.

### **5th Grade Holiday Party**

Our CM2/5th graders celebrated the season with a festive class party this week. Students enjoyed special treats and got creative with holiday crafts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this celebration special for our students.

### **Registration Is Open for Adult Language Classes**

Registration is open for the DIS Language Institute's adult foreign language classes starting in January. Multiple levels of Spanish and French classes are open, so [sign up here](#) while spots are still available!

### **Coming Up: Course Selection Meeting for Rising 11th Graders Wednesday, January 14, 6:00pm**

If you are a current 10th grade family, please mark your calendars for this important information session for both the French Program (room 408) and the International Program (room 406) course selections. The French Program students will need to choose their "specialité" and the International Program students will need to choose their IB courses from the different groups. Teachers will be there to share their course content with you and then you will be advised to meet with the college counselors as you finalize your decisions. It is an exciting time, and we look forward to giving you all the information you need to make the right choices for 11th grade.

### **Coming Up: Deep Dive FB and IB Program Meetings Wednesday, January 21, 6:00pm**

We received feedback that it would be better to have these Deep Dive Program Meetings consecutively on the same evening, so we will run both meetings twice, from 6pm-7pm and 7pm-8pm, so that parents may attend one or both of these information meetings about our French and International Programs. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested in learning more about our two world-renowned academic offerings here at DIS. A separate communication will go out with a form to RSVP. We hope you'll join us.

### **Coming Up: First Semester Class Councils Monday, January 26 - Thursday, February 5**

Class Council Meetings will be held at the end of the first semester. All of the meetings will be held at 3:40pm in the Testing Center. If you are a grade-level parent, please remember to gather feedback from your grades as we value your input. The times are as follows:

#### **Blue Week**

11FB and 12FB - Monday, January 26

11IB and 12IB - Tuesday, January 27

9IB and 10IB - Wednesday, January 28

9FB - Thursday, January 29

10FB - Friday, January 30

## Red Week

8FB - Monday, February 2

7FB - Tuesday, February 3

6FB - Wednesday, February 4

6/7/8 MYP - Thursday, February 5

Our staff and faculty will be back on campus for our second In-Service Day on Monday, January 5. We look forward to seeing our students back on campus on Tuesday, January 6. We wish you all a peaceful and joyful holiday season, and all the very best for 2026! May the vacation bring you some much needed rest as well as some quality time with the people who mean the most to you.

See you in 2026,

Patty

## On the Horizon

- **Friday, December 19, 2025 - Sunday, January 4, 2026** - Holiday Break - **NO SCHOOL**
- **Monday, January 5, 2026** - In-Service Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6:00pm** - Rising 11th Grade Course Selection Meetings (Both Programs)
- **Thursday, January 15 - Friday, January 16, 2026** - Mock Brevet Exam for 9th Grade FP Students
- **Monday, January 19, 2026** - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 6:00pm** - Deep Dive into the French and International Programs at DIS
- **Friday, January 23, 2026** - End of the First Semester
- **Monday, January 26 - Thursday, February 5, 2026** - First Semester Class Councils
- **Monday, January 26 - Tuesday, February 3, 2026** - IB Mock Exams for IB Seniors
- **Thursday, January 29, 2026, 5:30pm** - PTO AGM and State of the School Address (Waterview Campus)
- **Sunday, February 1, 2026, 4:00pm** - 24th Annual DIS Music Concert
- **Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 6:00pm** - Conversation with the Head of Secondary
- **Thursday, February 26, 2026, 6:00pm** - DELF Ceremony at Waterview
- **Thursday, March 19, 2026** - DIS Photo Retakes (Waterview Campus)

[View the Official School Calendar](#)

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