September 3, 2018

Dear ISS Students and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Think Global Act Local (TGAL) PBSL at ISS! In this PBSL, students will focus their time and energy on addressing problems related to poverty and orphaned children populations. Students will take action on this global issue by supporting a local orphanage, the Casa Niños Felices, in Sosúa.

There is a long and rich history between our group and the orphanage that spans more than five years. In years past, TGAL’s annual events have included the Halloween Fun Fair, a Christmas toy drive, a Christmas party, Valentine's Day cookie decoration, various play dates both at ISS and the orphanage, swimming at Playa Alicia, and a clothing drive. The primary goal of group activities is for our students to build relationships with the children living at the orphanage. We want these connections to be authentic so that the children will know that they have people who care about and support them outside of the orphanage. In addition, TGAL assists in fund raising for specific needs of the orphanage and provides leadership opportunities for ISS students.

All students are expected to be in attendance from 2:30-3:00 pm on Thursdays and Fridays to learn more about the population of children we serve as well plan and execute events that help the group accomplish its mission. In the case of an absence from PBSL, parents should notify the ISS main office and send an email to Mr. Rude. Students may not miss PBSL to meet with other teachers or complete duties required of other clubs or classes. Saturday visits as well as other events (Christmas Party, elementary movie nights, beach clean-ups, etc.) will take place outside of school time. The time spent at these events will count for the community service hours mandated by the Dominican Ministry of Education. Based on attendance and completion of assignments, each student will be awarded a pass/fail grade on their report cards.

I could not be more excited to be involved with TGAL! We have an incredible opportunity as a group to make a positive difference in the lives of the children living at the Casa Niños Felices. Please see the TGAL Class Syllabus for more specific information about class policies and grading criteria. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Together we can make this a truly outstanding year for everyone involved!

Sincerely,

Ben Rude

Social Studies Teacher/TGAL Advisor

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