



"You cannot meet the challenges you face until you face the challenges you meet."

August 2014

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be working with you and your child this year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning students and families and take a moment to introduce myself.

My name is Sean Bizley and this is the start of my fourth year as a teacher of English for Academic Purposes (EAP) at International School Manila. I was awarded my Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) from the University of Warwick in the UK, and I subsequently completed a Master of Arts in Languages in Education at the University of London. At present, I have over twenty-five years of teaching experience in the area of language acquisition in grade levels 5-12.

ESL at ISM

Learning both content and language is a formidable challenge for all language learners. At ISM, we believe in an inclusive model of language learning and teaching, in which language experts work collaboratively with content experts to ensure that all students develop both the language and skills they need to be successful in class. This in-class support combined with the specialized instruction in EAP classes endeavors to ensure that the ESL program at ISM is designed to enable your child face this challenge and help them succeed.

What parents can do at home to help?

- **Provide your child with access to a range of reading materials in English.** Reading is the key to language learning. The best way to improve reading ability is to read and it is important that your child reads *"just right"* books that are at his/her reading level. I hope that you will work with me to help your child develop an appreciation and love of reading that will lead them to become lifelong readers.
- **Provide your child with appropriate dictionaries.** One of the most important tools for language learners is their dictionary. Students should have a first language (L1)/English dictionary to be used for translation and an English/English dictionary. Do not worry if you do not have these at home, a computer with Internet access is also helpful. I highly recommend the following website for English definitions: www.ldoce.com. Electronic dictionaries are helpful for translations; however, they should never be used for writing English definitions.
- **Give support, not pressure.** Support and praise your child. Your child is going through a big adjustment academically, socially, and culturally. When learners are pressured, they will not perform well in a second language. You want your child to feel comfortable using English, so please be supportive of your child's use of English and remember that mistakes are part of the road to English proficiency.
- **Encourage your child to take advantage of his/her language opportunities at school.** There are students from many different countries at ISM and we recognize that English is the language of inclusion at school.

- **Be patient.** It is important for you as a parent to remember that individuals learn a language at their own rate of progress; however, research has shown that it takes between 5-7 years for most English language learners to catch up to their native speaking peers in their ability to use English for academic purposes.
- **Discuss with your child topics he/she is learning at school.** Show an interest in what your child is doing at school.
- **Talk about homework.** Homework is an important part of our program to review and reinforce the skills we are working on in school. You can help your child by asking questions about homework. Simply asking, “*Is your homework done?*” is not enough. You want to ask questions that help reinforce your child’s understanding.
- **Establish good routines at home.**
- **Use your home language.** Your child needs to continue to develop his/her first language. Discuss world events and language rich topics in your home language. Through your enthusiasm for language learning, your child will understand its importance.
- **Sign your child up for activities such as team sports or drama activities.** Students benefit from participating in after-school activities where they interact with their peers in English. Studies have shown that students learn English rapidly when they are doing physical activity while speaking English.
- **Communicate with me.** Please use your child’s MS planner or contact me by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

I love teaching English language learners (ELLs). I am constantly in awe of their courage, determination and commitment to learn. Participation, motivation, a positive attitude and a willingness to take risks are the keys to language learning. I hope that you will work with me to ensure that your child has a successful year. As your child’s first teacher, I would greatly appreciate your time to complete the attached questionnaire. Any information you feel is pertinent to your child’s learning is invaluable to me as an educator to better support your child’s needs in the classroom.

If you have any questions about the ESL program at ISM, homework, resources, or how to help your child at home, please contact me at school or e-mail me at bizleys@ismanila.org. You may also consult our blog at <http://mshs-esl.ism-online.org>. I look forward to meeting you personally at the Open House on Wednesday, August 27 (5-7.30 pm).

Sincerely,

Sean Bizley
 EAP/Grade 5 Advisory Teacher
bizleys@ismanila.org





English for Academic Purposes (EAP) SY2014-15

*"To have another language is to possess a second soul."
-Charlemagne*

Course Overview

The EAP class is designed to provide your child with the individualized support he/she needs to be successful in his/her mainstream academic classes. As your child's EAP teacher, I work collaboratively with the mainstream teachers in English, Science, and Social Studies to ensure that your child develops both academic skills and language skills. The focus on academic language and a range of text types enables language learners to develop the skills, strategies, and language they need to participate and function successfully in the academic context of Grade 5. This course will help your child develop effective learning strategies to interact, communicate and function in social and academic contexts.

Assessment & Reporting

Student performance will be assessed and reported according to three categories:

- Knowledge and Understanding (or *What do you know?*)
- Transfer of Learning (or *How well do you apply what you know?*)
- Communication of Learning (or *How well do you communicate what you know?*)

In addition to these categories, we also report on key learning habits, which include *organization, engagement, and collaboration*. These learning habits are both self- and teacher-assessed at least three times each semester. The type of assessment, time dedicated to tasks, and its level of challenge determine the weighting of an assignment. Students demonstrate their *Knowledge and Understanding, Transfer of Learning, and Communication of Learning* through tests, quizzes, projects, writing, speaking, listening, and reading tasks.

Assessment Plan

Summative Assessment Tasks	Knowledge & Understanding	Transfer of Learning	Communication of Learning
Book project 1 (The Wind in the Willows - Listening/Writing)	✓	✓	✓
Book project 2 (Matilda - Reading/Writing/Speaking)	✓	✓	✓
Short story projects	✓	✓	✓
Number of Assessments per Category	3	3	3

Expectations

Learning a new language is like learning any other skill and requires patience and practice just like learning to play the piano or tennis. It is an exciting challenge to learn another language, but it demands commitment and hard work. It is expected that your child will actively and positively contribute in class and come prepared to learn. Reading is the key to language learning and it is critical that you encourage your child to read. It is strongly recommended that your child adopts an independent reading program and reads a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts on a regular basis. For your child to improve his/her language proficiency, it is very important that they take advantage of the opportunities presented at ISM.

Homework

Homework is intended as a review or as a preparation for upcoming lessons. The Middle School Policy on homework is followed and every effort is made to give students adequate time in class to complete work. There may be times when your child will be required to complete tasks at home, and it is important to remember that the ability to meet deadlines and manage time is a valuable skill. If your child needs additional time or is absent, please contact me. Your child is encouraged to attend tutorials on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for additional assistance.

Importance of Mother Tongue

The maintenance of your child's mother tongue and appreciation of your cultural heritage is important. Children are able to transfer their knowledge of language and language functions from their first language to other languages, so it is important to continue to use your own language at home, and to encourage your child to speak and write in his/her first language. Continue to read with your child in your own language. Through modeling your enjoyment of reading, your child will gain a positive attitude towards reading and books. Love of reading and literacy in the first language fosters learning, success, and literacy in the second language.

Useful Websites for Parents

- <http://www.eb.org/bilingualism/resources>
- www.multilingualchildren.org
- <http://www.omniglot.com/links/bilingual.htm>
- <http://www.incultureparent.com/2013/01/language-resources/>
- <http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/raising-bilingual-children.html>

On-Line Dictionaries and Translation

- www.ldoceonline.com
- <http://dictionary.babylon.com>

Useful Websites for Students

- www.teflgames.com
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>
- www.timeforkids.com
- <http://a4esl.org/>
- <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/archives.html#foreign>
- <http://www.eslcafe.com/students/>
- <http://www.vocabsushi.com/>

Communication

Developing strong links between students, teachers, and parents is critical to ensure productive learning. Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's progress at school. You will soon have access to PowerSchool and may check for regular grade updates. Please sign below and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at bizleys@ismania.org.

Sean Bizley

Student signature

Parent signature



Parent Questionnaire SY2014-15

Dear Parents,

As your child's first teacher, I would greatly appreciate your time to answer the following questions. This will help me to become more familiar with your child's family background, literacy skills and interests. It will also help me better understand your child so that I may be a better teacher for him/her. Thank you for your time.

Child's name: _____

Family members at home:

Relationship to child:

Other children who attend International School Manila?
(Name/grade) _____

Other children who attend other schools? _____

What languages are spoken at home? _____

What is your child's strongest language for reading and/or writing? Please explain.

How much time does your child spend reading on his own at home? What kind of materials does your child like to read?

Does your child participate in any after-school or out-of-school instruction such as music, art, or sports lessons, tutors, etc.)? Please indicate how often and for how long?

Why did you choose to send your child to ISM?

Why do you want your child to learn English?

How does your child feel about attending ISM and learning English?

Is there any other information you would like to share with me about your child?

If you would like me to communicate with you by e-mail, please indicate your preferred e-mail address?

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Sincerely,

Sean Bizley
Grade 5 EAP Teacher
bizleys@ismanila.org