“Don’t you remember that old story about the crane?”

Principal Ditmann reads, “It’s supposed to live for a thousand years. If a sick person folds one thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her well again.”

On any given day over the next few months you’ll see Dr. Ditmann in classrooms reading to children from the book *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. All ICS students are reading the story and learning to fold the colorful origami creatures. Their efforts will culminate with the Spring Gala and Auction when all the cranes they fold will be displayed as a tangible reminder of their wish for a world free of war and suffering. Their visible Prayer for Peace.

continued inside
Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atom bomb was dropped one mile from her home in Hiroshima. Over the next nine years Sadako grew to be a lively child, full of energy and laughter. She loved to run and was thrilled when she was chosen for the track team. But gradually Sadako began to feel ill and dizzy whenever she ran. Finally, at twelve years old, she collapsed after a race and was diagnosed with “atom bomb sickness” (leukemia).

Sadako’s best friend visited her in the hospital and brought a large gold square of paper. She folded Sadako a beautiful golden crane and reminded her of the legend that a crane lives for one thousand years and if a sick person folds 1,000 cranes they will be granted their wish to get well. Sadako folded cranes every night using whatever scraps of paper where available, get well wrappings, medicine labels, bits of used notepad… She folded 644 cranes before she died.

Upon her death, Sadako’s family and friends folded the remaining 354 cranes so she could be buried with 1,000. Children from all over Japan raised money and built a statue of Sadako in Hiroshima Peace Park. Every year, on Peace Day, children hang garlands of paper cranes under the statue. Their wish is engraved at its base: This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.

Following the gala, 1,000 cranes folded by ICS students will be donated to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta – Egleston for display in the hospital lobby.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE Exhibiting Excellence in the Arts – At ICS the arts are used as a multi-disciplinary teaching tool every day. Third and fourth graders use music to expand their vocabulary by learning a new song. Second graders learn how to describe physical attributes and appreciate the likenesses and differences between people while completing an art project, and fifth and sixth graders explore the 1950’s by performing an original musical.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH Board of Directors – Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, ICS has been working with a consulting firm to assist with the development of the school’s Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the project, six new Board members from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise joined the organization. ICS is fortunate to have these professionals experienced in everything from accounting and fund management to construction, education, marketing and non-profit management. The breadth and depth of their combined experience will make a profound impact on the sustainability of the school.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Embracing Differences – ICS students in kindergarten through fourth grade joined students from other Atlanta area schools to create multi-media self portraits for an exhibit at Oglethorpe University Art Museum “Students Draw the Line Against Prejudices.” In fourth grader Kyi’s portrait she tells a story. “My mom was pregnant with me when we lived in a refugee camp in Burma,” Kyi says.“I look different than my friends. Our parents speak different languages at home.”

FACILITIES Media Center Make-Overs! – Both the Media Centers at the Avondale and Stone Mountain campuses received make-overs thanks to donations and volunteer efforts from Delta Kappa Gamma, the Youth Group from Congregation Dor Tamid, Starbucks, Hands on Atlanta and our own MLK Service Day student and staff volunteers. The Centers were cleaned and painted, hundreds of books were donated, sorted and shelved, and original artwork themed around literacy and international diversity was created and hung.
oncampus

DISCOVER WHO WE ARE  On Sunday, March 20 over 300 original works of art will be displayed in the first ever public art exhibition featuring the talented students of ICS. The work featured includes textile pieces and multi-media self-portraits. Art teacher Amy Bitcover describes the philosophy of the work behind the show as “Students gaining an independent life-long love of making art. Then art isn’t about making a picture that looks like a real life image – it’s a way of thinking about and understanding the world around you.” Join us at Little Tree Gallery in Avondale Estates from 2pm – 5pm on the 20th to Discover Who We Are.

JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL WINNERS  In January a group of ICS students joined their peers from schools nationwide for the Junior Theater Festival. Each school performed an excerpt from a musical and were critiqued by a panel of Broadway professionals. ICS students blew the judges away! In addition to numerous individual awards, the entire ICS squad received the Spirit Award, given to the school that most embodies the spirit of the Festival. Congratulations to all our ICS “super-stars”.

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400 Students
40 Countries
25 Languages

400 Students
25 Languages

40 countries
25 languages
PIERRE, who came to ICS three years ago from Togo. Pierre loves Social Studies and learning about the history of people from all over the world. He is currently studying the Zapatistas of Mexico, who (he tells us) were revolutionary in their dealings with the farmers as well as the city dwellers. When not discussing Mexican political history, Pierre especially enjoys playing soccer with his friends.

USA, the oldest of four Burmese siblings who all attend ICS. When Usa first came to ICS he faced the challenge of trying to learn English and keep up with all of his studies at the same time, but he had a great deal of help from his Teaching Assistant and rapidly caught on. Today Usa loves his studies and even enjoys homework!

YUKERIA, a Japanese/American student who has attended ICS since kindergarten. Her favorite things about ICS? She loves it all. She smiles broadly when speaking about her interest in meeting people from different cultures. Her favorite day is UN Day because she gets to see her friends in authentic dress from all over the world.

ICS Poets

Ala – 5th Grader from Sudan
Sudan is where I’m from.
Sudan is where I’m from.
Sudanese is who I am.
You might say it is poor or trashy
Sudan is beautiful, with never-seen places and a wonderland full of secrets.
The Nile makes the two sides the same, north and south.
It has different faces.
Sudan is not poor.
It belongs to me.

Maggie – 3rd Grader from the USA
Out in the Snow.
Out in the snow my hands were numb and nose redden.
My feet were cold and ears wiggled.
I had a pole to help me not slip.
But of course I did.
Crashing to the ground.
I did not make a sound.
For I got up.
Then I fell again.
Angry, I tried again.
And for all I fell again.

Janier – 5th Grader from Kurdistan
Wind is...
Wind is strong.
Wind is God.
Wind is a breeze to make you fly.
Wind is good.
Wind is cold.
Wind is the best.

Photography: Barnett Cohen
The ICS U12 girls soccer team had just finished playing their game and were watching the McLendon school U10 boys play. Suddenly one of the ICS players, Kniasia, realized that many of the boys didn’t have soccer cleats on.

And then “in one of those wonderful moments soccer just seems to throw up,” (their coach’s words) Kniasia and two friends, Ala and Asmia, took the duffle bag the coach keeps full of old, donated soccer cleats to the McLendon sidelines and started riffling around through it, measuring feet sizes, seeing what the boys might be able to use. Seven McLendon students went home with “new” soccer cleats that day.

ICS – Doing the Just Thing!

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