

January 19, 2009

Contact: Heather Harper (504) 289-0499  
Einstein Principal Shawn Toranto (504) 324-7450  
ISL: Pam Stewart contact phone

## **TWO NEW ORLEANS CHARTERS MARK TET AND CHINESE NEW YEAR**

### **New Year's Celebration held at Einstein International School kicks off Mandarin classes**

#### **Einstein Charter to hold TET New Year Celebration**

Celebration will highlight the customs of TET including a Dancing Dragon and traditional dress, song, and dance

WHAT: Einstein Charter School TET Celebration

WHEN: Thursday, January 22  
There will be two celebrations at 8:30 am and 9:45 am

WHERE: Einstein Charter Elementary School, 5100 Cannes St.,  
New Orleans, LA 70129 (504) 324-7450

WHY: Einstein Elementary Charter School has a diverse population with 45% of its students being Vietnamese or Asian. Therefore, the school will celebrate its diversity by having a TET Celebration featuring a Dancing Dragon and traditional dress, song and dance. TET, which means the first morning of the first day of the new year, is the Vietnamese New Year. The celebration lasts for 7 days.

#### **International School of Louisiana (ISL) hosting international MIT fellows; scholars here to help fix up school's Cultural Heritage Center**

*Asian fellows will participate in Mandarin Chinese  
classes; ISL first public school in New Orleans  
offering requisite Mandarin language courses*

WHO: 22 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
(MIT) Sloan Fellows from all over the world are  
visiting ISL this week as part of the Sloan Fellowship  
Program for Innovation and Global Leadership.

WHAT: As well as working all week renovating  
the school's old caretaker cottage into a Cultural

Heritage Center, the fellows will participate in foreign language classes, particularly ISL's new requisite Mandarin Chinese classes.

WHEN: The Mandarin Chinese class will take place on Friday, January 23 from 1:15-2:10pm with the Asian Fellows in attendance. The Fellows will be working on the Caretaker's cottage throughout this week, please call for times.

WHY: ISL is the only school of its kind in the state, which embraces the culture of New Orleans through a language immersion program that values the ethnic diversity of this historically significant region. The partnership with MIT is a natural progression in its goal to create a culturally diverse program. Students need to be able to compete in the global workforce when they finish their education. In this vein, the International School of Louisiana (ISL) has begun offering requisite courses in Mandarin for all of its Middle School students. ISL has recruited experienced native speaker, Yang Ping is from Guangzhou, China, to teach its already bilingual (French and Spanish) students the Chinese language of Mandarin. Mandarin has been classified by the United States Government as a "critical foreign language". ISL is the first **public** school in the New Orleans metro area to offer Mandarin as a required course. The rising popularity of Mandarin Chinese can be attributed to China's economic boom and the U.S. economy's increasing trade with China.

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