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Special Issue

# Student Council Elections 2015

## President

Nicol Ghisleri

Charles Wilson

## Vice President

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Antonis Ntrongoulis

Lena Okpych

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Basile Graz

## Secretary

Chetan Khanna

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Maximilian Holy

Merel Kernkamp

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## Middle School Communications

Adam Zbikowski

## Middle School Events

Monica Goutis (\*)

Reyna Guven (\*)

Micol Hodari (\*)

(\*) No article received at the time of  
going to print.

INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  OF  
L A U S A N N E

# President

## Charles Wilson

**H**ave you ever been out skiing in the middle of a storm? Lost, confused, scared, and worried. It happened to me last December. December 29th to be exact. In the middle of the cold windy storm I was lost. I took off my skis and decided to give up, no one was coming to help. Or so I thought....

There he stood, 2 skis, 2 poles, One Letter "Z". I no longer felt the cold of the storm, maybe it was the latter stages of hypothermia or maybe it was just the Z-man's warm glow that gave me the strength. Never the less, he looked down on me and spoke thus, "Charles, I need your help". I was now frozen, not from the cold, but from shock. How could I, a Meer mortal, help the Z-man?

"Charles, next year our beloved ISL will expand, our family will grow and we will be graduating". "But how do you need my help Z-man?" I replied. "Well Charles," He continued, "we need a leader, someone to help welcome the new students, to grow yet keep the ISL community as close as it has been in our own time". "But WHY me!?" I exclaimed. "It's simples," He said "I wont

be there all of the time to keep an eye on our school, so I need you to take care of it for me, for all of our friends, for wolfie... I need you to become the next president of ISL"

His god-like glow reflected off the snow and for a second I thought I was seeing the light on the other side. The Z-man wanted me as the President. At this point I had to question whether all this was real, whether I was still alive and breathing, I needed to know why he wanted me as president.

But as anyone who has had a spiritual encounter with the Z-man knows, he can see your thoughts, read your eyes like a book. Before I opened my mouth to ask why he wanted me he said,

"Charles Wilson, you have the experience; this is proven from your term as junior president and vice president. You have the dedication, only so few have been at ISL so long; you have been in 3 ISL buildings, and soon a fourth. And finally Charles Wilson, you have the passion, much like my friend Martin Jr.. You have a dream, A dream that the isl spirit will never die, and will only grow stronger with the expansion, I need that dream to turn into a reality, and I

believe Charles, that you are the only one who can fulfill my legacy". And on that Cold December 29th, I was re-born; I had seen the Z-man and he and given me a purpose. With the power Z-man had trusted in me, I could now see the storm clearing up ahead, and it would be left to me to make the first ski tracks of the new season.

To lead all others out of the storm, and into the new era.

Charles Wilson for president.



## Nicol Ghisleri

**D**ear Friends,  
My name is Nicol Ghisleri, I am 17 years old and I am running for Student Council President.

I have been in ISL for two years, and although this may not seem long, I already feel a great sense of attachment and gratitude towards this school. For this reason, I would like to be elected in order to return the favour to the school, and make it an even better place, so that it continues to help and support students throughout their education.

Here are the reasons why you should vote for me!

My idea is to create an efficient team. I am a great fan of football, and therefore I strongly believe in teamwork and the idea that you cannot succeed without the fullest dedication of every member in a team. A difference cannot be made alone! I will be organised and committed to my team, and I intend to

motivate and engage each member to be sure to achieve the best results. Together, we will put in a great amount of effort to make sure next year is a lot of fun, in order to create a balance within the academic challenges of school.

I believe the responsibility of a President should be able to: work in a group, work under pressure, be a good leader, be friendly, be open-minded and a good student inside as well as outside of class. I truly believe I can offer all that. Together with a great attitude, a big heart, motivation and determination, a good leader should also have a sense of purpose, justice and respect, which are all qualities I will demonstrate if you elect me as your President.

With the expansion of the school, many more students will be joining our bigger team, which means that more opinions and thoughts will have to be shared. There may initially be some organisation issues with the big change which is why we need someone that you can fully trust, capable of listening and dealing with the students' voices. I can-

not promise you no more school work, shorter school days or more recess time, but trust me when I say that if you talk to me, I'll do my best to improve your ISL journey.

Let's make the next school year "funner", shall we? Vote Nicol for President.



# Vice President

## Lena Okpych

**H**aaaaay ISL and fellow wolves. My name is Lena Okpych. I'm a Year 12 student and I will be running for the position of Vice President in our Student Government (yes I say Student Government and not Student Council :P). Although this is only my second year at ISL, over the past few months I have gotten involved with quite a few extra curricular activities within in the ISL community, including MUN, History Bee and Bowl, Volleyball, and (the best one of all) being part of the elite Student Government Force.

Although many people see being at ISL for only two years as a disadvantage

to being an executive officer, I highly disagree. Although I have not seen everything going on at ISL for the past couple of years, I see it as a great opportunity to bring new ideas to ISL from my old schools! Not only would I bring some of my own ideas to ISL, but also, as your Vice President, I would listen to all of your ideas due to the fact that I am an extremely open minded, approachable, and flexible person. I also am not afraid to voice any concerns (even those that are not mine) and will make sure that all of your issues and concerns are brought up in our weekly meetings. Just remember, I may not be Joe Biden or Barack Obama but I am your best BIDen for Vice President and plan to BaRACK this school!

#LENAOKPYCHVP2K152K16



## Antonis Ntrougoulis

**H**i my name is Antonis Ntrougoulis, and I am 17 years old. Here are the reasons why you would want me as your Student council vice president:

Number 1 reason, aka most important: I ALWAYS have a smile on my face, and to be honest, who can resist to the charming smirk when asking for something? It's like asking your mum for one more cookie, if you just smile, suddenly everything changes (been there, done that) ;).

Also, I am good with younger people, meaning I am approachable and easy to talk to so I know that you, new year 7s will be already frightened into entering the middle school grounds, and that by having someone like me on the

student council team, I will make your transition even easier. You can find me and ask anything at any time. I will always be available to hear your voices and thoughts, and of course, to help as best as i can. I have grown up with a younger sister, currently in year 9, so I know what sorts of things a person her age or younger might feel, and might be scared of. Also, I so will have a better insight to the younger years' troubles and complaints.

I am a very available person, and always full of joy, yet somehow (I still ask myself everyday) I still manage to transmit my happiness to other people, hence the fact that I have been working with EVAM for 5 years. I am caring, which is also why I care about your voices being heard and allowing you to have a chance to express your thoughts and complaints, so that the team can

actually improve your situation.

I will promise my full commitment towards the student council team and if I get elected, I will promise improvement, entertainment and a fun year.

VOTE ANTONIS FOR VICE ;)



# Treasurer

## Basile Graz

**M**y very dear, respected and most worthy fellow students; As you know, I'm the Ski Team's Wolfie and, occasionally, a Year 12 student, but that's not important, is it? Anyway, I'm running for Treasurer and I need YOUR SUPPORT to guarantee the brightest future for student-initiated events. You know what you have to do now... VOTE





# Secretary

## Chetan Khanna

Imagine how a Student Council would be which has a Secretary that is good at using convenient one liners e.g. "That's her job, not mine", "Oops...I forgot", "I didn't realise this was urgent".

You would agree that a good Secretary is a must to run a Student Council efficiently, which in turn would ensure that your voice is heard and valued in the Student Council. A good secretary is one who is organised, planned and reliable. I am those things and I also have previous experience in the student council.

To illustrate my point, I've been the class representative at ISL in Year 8 and 9, and both years feedback from my homerooms has told me I'm reliable and organised. To ensure that my homeroom knows what is happening and is kept informed I normally gave news through PowerPoints. During Wacky Week, I ensured that everything was organised and chaos was prevented by using Google Docs. Everybody got to choose the games they wanted to be in, and our roles in the secret theme performances were decided in advance. This led to a significantly smoother Wacky Week with lot of fun. In Years 8 and 9, I also created a Google Calendar which had all our homework on it so that we could save time at the end of lessons writing in our homework diaries. It also allowed for better planning.

One of my main strengths is organisation, which is essential in a secretary.

This is essential in a secretary because the role requires clear communication of information to all members of the Student Council, and creating minutes of meeting etcetera. I've always planned out my work on a grid, allowing me to maximise free time and my quality of work. Often, I plan my day using a calendar. I almost always use technology to my advantage, and will continue to use it like this throughout my tenure as secretary.

I am hard-working and will not skimp on my duties as secretary. Can I be trusted? I think many members of my class and teachers would say so - I'm

generally seen as principled, honest, and reliable to them. I always try to do my best and I really like to implement new ideas that improve the efficiency of the student council and school at ISL. I also like to think through and analyse situations and scenarios, which will help me ensure that I can be as efficient as possible.

In short, given my leadership experience through being a representative along with my organisation, planning, and critical thinking skills, you would have a Secretary who would get the best out of the Student Council.



# Sports Officer

## Stephanie Braunius

Winning is believing...

On April fools of 2015, I will be running for sports officer. This is not a joke. Some of you may remember me from when I was student council Junior President in the school year of 2012 - 2013. For those who don't know me, I am Stephanie Braunius. To be honest, sports is my life and my passion. The fact that I will be running for sports officer just tops it off, like the cherry on the cake. I would love to be able to com-

bine both my great passion for sports, and my love for ISL. Just to name a couple, I have represented ISL in football, gymnastics, uni hockey, snowboarding, athletics, cross country, and the ski team. I have also gotten a lot of experience from previous years, where I have worked in the student council with quite a lot of the other candidates. I think, with all the experience from not only in student council but also in the sports inside and outside ISL, I would be very suitable as your next year's sports officer. Winning is believing, so believe in me!



# Sports Officer

## Elle Van der Cam

I, Elle Van der Cam, am running for the most appreciated and important role in stucco: Sports Officer. Sure, President, Treasurer and all those positions seem pretty weighted...but nah, its sports we're talking about. Almost 80% of our wonderful population is at least in one team, if not more. So this role truly affects the majority of you out there.

The main thing you should probably know about me is that I, not to sound super corny, have an immense passion for sports, being involved in multiple teams back ever since I can remember. While living in Malaysia, I have been involved, at least for some period of my life, in the athletics team, ultimate Frisbee team, swimming team, basket-



ball team, intense rock-climbing (don't judge me, I loved it), touch rugby team, and even the baseball team. While in Switzerland (for the past 5 years), I've focused myself in snowboarding, football and badminton along with tennis camps, still wishing I had time to join the basketball team and other teams. Being the captain of the ISL Senior Girls Football team, I already have primary preparation needed in order to be your next sports officer, your next captain.

If you do know me, you would know that I am not afraid to make a complete and utter fool out of myself, so I wouldn't mind having to do stupid things by the sideline to cheer our teams on, as I often already do involuntarily.

If you don't particularly know me, you might have seen me on the football pitch where I spent all of my middle school recesses, or even while playing for the football girls' team ever since I've arrived at ISL. In the past 5 years, I have ended up in two football teams (outside and inside of school), playing five times a week during IB, which isn't the best idea for my overall sanity, but oh well.

But the reason I'm saying all this is to show my complete passion and dedication for sports; I would love to be part of not only the physical aspect of it, but the managing part as well to ensure its beauty shines on.

Vote for Elle,

Your next sports officer, your next captain.

## Dario Baert

I am Dario Baert, and this year I am running for Sports officer. I am currently in Year 12, and I hope to spend my last year of school being part of the student council. I am very passionate about sports, and I would love to help out by introducing my ideas within this sector in ISL. In general, I am not really great at sports, for example, I am currently part of two after school activities which are skiing and football. In football, I am something called a benchwarmer, or even the water boy



if I am lucky, and in skiing I have never won any title or placed myself in the top 50 percent. Of course I like to improve, but this all doesn't matter to me; to me it is just about being involved, playing the sport I love and to be part of the atmosphere of the team. Therefore I want to become sport officer, simply to be involved, because even though I am not good enough to play the sport at ISL level, I can still be involved to try and help out the school with what I love. Which is sports. If I become sports officer I hope to introduce new sports if requested and to update the High school of all the recent results or upcoming event. With the expansion coming I know there will be more work to do and I am ready to represent the school accordingly, I fit perfectly in the bracket and all I need is your vote to get there. So don't forget to vote for Dario Baert on Wednesday!

Don't forget to vote!!!

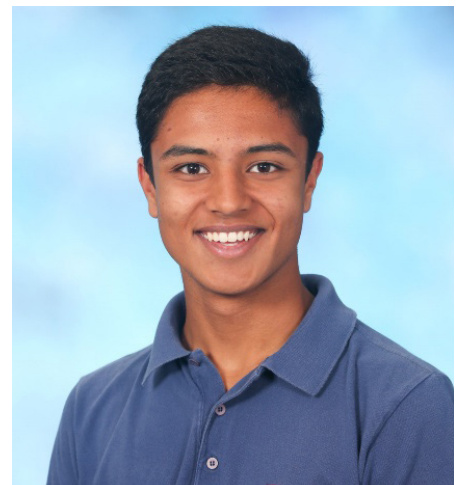
## Jai Sinh

Hello Classmates, teachers and Students,

My name is Jai Sinh and I am running for the position of sports officer in the ISL student council. As a student, I have been at ISL almost my entire life. Starting from reception classes at the age of three, I developed a strong fondness of this school and its activities. On top of that I have tried almost everything ISL has had to offer. At the age of 7, I started playing cricket for the Swiss under 11's team and I have been a part of the Swiss team at every age level since. For the past two years, I have also received awards for Best junior player in the under 17's category. I have, until recently, been a part of the school swimming team. Until year 8, I was a part of the ski team and am currently still part of the schools Unihockey players. I have done many other sports such as football, horse riding, basketball and more to come, and that sparked my passion for sports in general.

Sports have appealed to me from a young age, not because I was physically able, but more because I felt the need to try every physical activity I could.

As a sports officer, those involved in sports such as gymnastics, feel that they aren't being represented equally, will be noticed if you vote for me. It helps that I'm always around and easily approachable I guess, but if you vote for me as your sports officer, I will make sure to take you in with a smile and make sure that your concerns are addressed. Remember, we're a team, and we're the ISL Wolves. So GO ISL WOLVES! And VOTE FOR JAI SINH AS SPORTS OFFICER!





# Communications Officer

## Fernando Lopez Oggier

*"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." - George Bernard Shaw*

I'm sure that everyone knows and is aware of the importance of communication. Essentially, it is the key to a developed and well-structured society; it is fundamental to life. As a somewhat intelligent life form, we humans are able to communicate quite well, and quite a lot. In fact, some might argue that we communicate too much, and that our value as a race is brought down by careless and unnecessary communication. But, I like to be positive and encourage this act of exchanging information, especially when it comes to our student body.

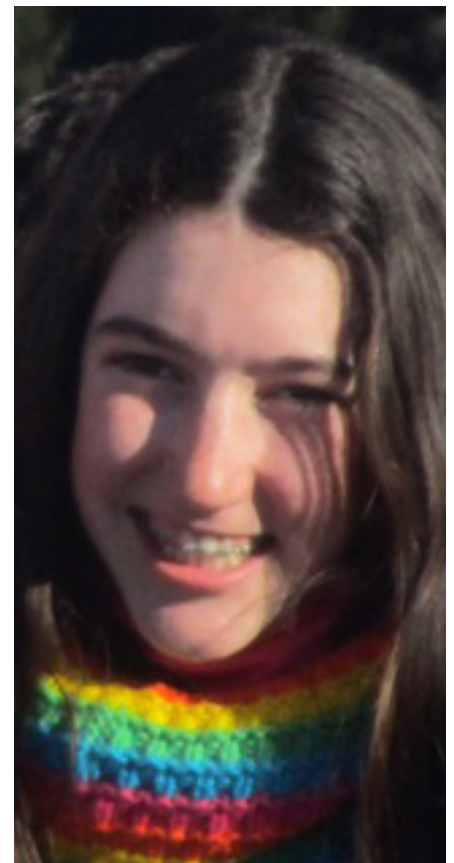
ISL is very much one of these well-structured and developed societies that depend on communication; this is what brings me to run for Communications Officer. Many people might claim that I'm not running for an "important position", like president or treasurer. However, I understand the importance of this position. In fact, the success of the student council very heavily depends

on the communications officer. To put it bluntly, how are people supposed to participate in events they don't know about? But this position is more than just facebook posts and posters. To me, communication flows both ways; it's not only about giving information to the student body, it's also about receiving information from the student body. It's being able to take it in and improve the council. I want to be the person that students can come to if they have ideas or improvements for the events organized.

Everyone at ISL is creative, knowledgeable, and can have a great input on everything the council does. That's why I believe the student council relies so heavily on a communications officer, yet it also relies heavily on you, the student body. After all, there wouldn't be a student council without a student body; this is what I want to put an emphasis on, if I were to be elected. The success of an event comes down to the people participating in it. The council needs to know the students and their preferences. This can be achieved through communication. This is the one thing I know I can promise, communication from and to the student body.

## Hadley Trahan

Hi, everyone! My name is Hadley Trahan. I'm a year nine student who would love to be your communications officer next year! I've been at ISL for eight years, and I absolutely love it! I love the teachers, students, and everything about ISL! I would love to have a role in Student Council that would allow me to have as much contact with you guys as possible! What better way to do this than being your communications officer? I would definitely value your needs and wishes as your communications officer! Also, speaking from two years of experience where I have loved forming a strong and cohesive team with fun people from different year groups! I have learned a lot about being a team player, and I would love to further my learning in this area by being your communications officer next year! Don't just talk about it, vote for Hadley!



# Middle School President

## Merel Kernkamp

I am Merel Kernkamp and I am running for middle school president. Being at ISL for 5 years now I have seen quite a lot and I can also use my experiences from when I lived in Japan and Malaysia. Living abroad has made me a more international person and it has made me enjoy experiencing all kinds of cultures. I love working with others and I am told I have good leadership skills. I am creative and I have a lot of fun ideas. I am organized and I am a good note-taker which would help in executive meetings. My friends say that 'Merel is not just a sporty girl, she is a leader and has a lot of potential'. When the school expands middle school will get almost 50% more students. It takes a strong leader to help the students to feel at home and I think I could do this. Not only will I share your ideas, but I will use them and come up with new and unique ones. I

am experienced in student council and I have had a lot of success especially in primary coming up with ideas such as 'Primary's got Talent'. Seeing what all the other student council members have done to improve our school inspires me to help middle school grow to an even better place. I have grown close to ISL, and because I am confident, I guarantee that if I get elected to be middle school president I will bring forward your ideas and try to make them a reality. Your voice is loud and I hear it. I am involved in a heap of things such as sports, coaching little kids and enhancing their performances, and I have done a lot of community and service activities. I am also part of the CC club so that I can have an even better experience with the ISL community. If you vote for me, I promise that I won't let you down and that I will put everything before anything to make sure your ideas become something real and something to remember for the rest of your life. So remember, Vote for Merel!



## Maximilian Holy

Who am I?

My name is Maximilian Holy and I'm a Year 7 student who will soon turn thirteen. I'm from the Czech Republic and I've lived in Switzerland for over 8 years. I joined ISL last September, together with my sister who attends Year 5.

Why do I want to run for office?

I enjoy bringing new ideas into reality and making others happy. Our school is really great and I want to help and support the school to make it even better.

I'm not new to this kind of job: at my old school in the Czech Republic I held a role in the student council as representative for Year 5, together with one of my schoolmates. Also, at ISL, I have been leading the Secret Theme in my homeroom class, Year 7FT.

What do I plan to do for you?

I'm not going to strive for any revolution but rather for evolution.

Safety of children is most important of

all. Our school is really committed to safety, excellence, and doing a great job. I would focus on strengthening safety of the pedestrian road crossings that we as students use to access the ISL campus.

Education is at a very high level at ISL. The curriculum is interesting and our teachers are great. I believe that more field trips would help us connect learnings from the school with the real world and help us look at the stuff we learn from a different perspective. Therefore, I will strive for more frequent day trips.

Throughout the year, our school also organizes numerous events. All of us will have had great fun at the recent Valentine Disco or last year's Halloween party. I am going to support the event organizers and help them to personalize the events even more. For example, by selecting music based on your preferences and using more student ideas during the planning of these events.

Our cafeteria facilities are also great and the nutrition is healthy. However, I would work on extending the choice of the food with other regular national cuisine days. For example we could have a day that has Indian food one day, then Asian food another day,

then Eastern and European Cuisine days.

Why should you vote for me?

I am a good leader, trustworthy, and I care about other people and about the school. I also get along very well with other people.

I am highly motivated about becoming a good president and am really committed to facing all challenges that such job is going to bring.

Thank you very much for giving me your trust and your vote!





# Middle School Communications

Adam Zbikowski

**H**ello, my name is Adam Zbikowski. I'm in year 8BG, and this year I will be running for the communications officer role in the student council. Here is an explanation of what a communications officer does and why I would be good at it.

The communications officer is a very important role as it is the person that makes presentations and announcements about various student council events that are coming up. A communications officer does not really organize the events like wacky week or discos but they keep the students outside of student council up to date about what events will be happening when. In order to communicate well with the rest

of the school, a communications officer needs to be a confident speaker. They also need to have a loud and clear voice so everyone can hear and understand them. Another thing that a communications officer has to do is to make effective and interesting presentations. This is why the communications officer is a very important role in the student council.

This brief explanation now leads to why I would be a good communications officer. First off, I have all the good communication skills that I talked about previously and know how to make a good, and interesting presentation that will be appealing to my audience. Another reason why I would be a good communications officer is because I already have some experience with the

student council; this year I was one of the student council class representatives for my homeroom. This is a good thing because I already know how most of the events are being organized and I know how the student council works.

As you can see you should vote for me because I have experience; I am a good speaker; and I can make interesting presentations.



## Middle School President

Joseph Okpych

**W**hy vote for me?

My name is Joseph Okpych, or if many of you have seen my campaign poster, Joey O. I am 12 years old, and in the year 8 home-room, 8HH. I am from America, and have been living in Switzerland for 2 years. I am running for the president of middle school because I strongly believe that I can make a difference in the school. I will be a caring president, but I will not be afraid to speak my mind and be a risk-taker for the good of the ISL community. I will also be an open-minded communicator, and inform my peers in the middle school

what is happening in the ISL community. I have many good ideas and suggestions in order to make the school a better place for everyone.

Some ideas that I have are to increase the amount of events throughout the middle school and increase the amount of footballs, basketballs, games, etc. during recess. You will hear more about these ideas in my speech on Wednesday. I will also listen to all of the students' suggestions and report them back to student council if I am elected. If you elect me to be your president, I will make sure that YOUR voice is heard. I am a member of the M.U.N. (Model United Nations) club which inspired me to run for president.

So, I know the responsibilities and effort it takes in order to be a leader. I believe that I would be the perfect candidate for the middle school president. Vote for me if you want to have your ideas heard and to see a change in the school and community.



Rashid Baxter

**H**ey everyone of ISL! My name is Rashid Baxter, I am currently in year 8HH, and I am running for Middle School President. I have been in this school for many years and I am a familiar face to many people here at ISL. I'm thirteen years old and I am both English and Kazakh. I'm running for Middle School President because I know that I can make a difference for the Student Council. But why President? Because this is the position that I like the most as I can help and get involved in all areas for the Student Council.

You should consider voting for me because I won't be making any promises that I can't keep. Just the legit stuff, and

all of Middle School will be a part of it, by telling The Student Council what they want to happen from them. And I want to be a part of that. I'm not going to talk of what will happen from Student Council all the time, but more of listening to you guys in Middle School, because this is the STUDENT Council. And the "Student" word takes the biggest part. We are the students, and I can help bring good things from the Student Council of Middle School. I will take things seriously, but not without a joke or too. I will be committed if you vote for me on Election Day, I will do my very best to do well for Middle School, using what you want to bring that for you. I will do my very best to not disappoint, and I'm sure I won't,

because I've never disappointed anybody before. Not really. I do my best to get the job done. If you want to ask questions, my locker is number 70, at the first floor.

