# ICS NEWSPAPER

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# The International Canadian Schools Family Welcomes The New Year



*As we enter 2026, the **International Canadian Schools** family reflects on a year of growth and innovation. In 2025, we expanded globally accredited programmes like the **Maple Leaf World School** and **Oxford International Curriculum**, enhanced our arts offerings through **Trinity College**, and opened new international opportunities for students.*

*Beyond academics, students enjoyed cultural trips, competitions, and community projects that enriched their learning and leadership skills. In 2026, we remain committed to academic excellence, character development, and global responsibility—preparing students to be compassionate, creative leaders in a diverse world.*

## A Brief Look: The Man Behind the Name 'America'

Long overshadowed by Columbus, explorer Amerigo Vespucci was the first to recognize that the lands across the Atlantic were not part of Asia, but an entirely "New World." His vivid letters describing the people, animals, and landscapes of South America captivated Europe and changed the course of history. In 1507, a mapmaker honored Vespucci's insight by naming the continent America. Discover the story of the man whose name shaped the map of the world — and revealed a continent.

*More about this on pages 3 & 4.*

## A Solar Storm in 2025: Is Humanity Ready?

A powerful solar storm could strike Earth in 2025 — and experts say we might not be ready. These massive bursts of energy from the Sun can disrupt GPS, satellites, power grids, and even the internet. The last major storm, in 1859, lit up skies near the equator and shut down telegraphs. With today's technology more connected than ever, a similar event could cause global chaos. Could the next big solar storm change life as we know it? Scientists are watching the skies — and so should we. And if it does hit, the first sign might be glowing auroras in the most unexpected places.

*More about this on page 5.*

## A Brief Look: History of New York City

Before the skyscrapers and subways, Manhattan was a forested island shaped by rivers, hills, and Native American trails. From the Lenape to Times Square's transformation, and from Broadway's hidden past to Lady Liberty's glow, New York's history is richer—and stranger—than most people realize. The city has reinvented itself again and again, carrying the stories of dreamers, rebels, and immigrants in every corner. Take a closer look, and you'll find that the real New York is built on layers of wild, wonderful history.

*More about this on page 6.*

# Welcoming the New Year: As the ICS Family, We Are Ready for 2026

## Our Corporate Journey from 2025 to 2026

Throughout 2025, as the International Canadian Schools (ICS) family, we have been proud to implement many innovations. From kindergarten to Grade 12 we offered students globally accredited programmes such as the **Maple Leaf World School Programme (MLWSP)** and the **Oxford International Curriculum (OIC)**. As outlined on our information page, the Maple Leaf World School Programme is globally accredited by Cognia and recognised for international equivalency by Ecctis; students who successfully complete this programme earn high school diploma. After completing pilot studies in the 2023 24 academic year, we integrated the Oxford International Curriculum across all grade levels, launching it in İzmir for the first time. This programme aims to help students master the language of science (English) and to continue their education as global citizens in different countries.

We have also taken significant steps in culture and the arts. Through our agreement with Trinity College we added music and drama programmes to our curriculum and became İzmir's only exam centre. Our collaboration with Hudson Global Franklin School has enabled us to develop programmes that allow students to choose courses in different disciplines and to transfer directly to universities around the world. In addition, our school serves as a **College Board AP exam centre**, allowing our students to participate in high school exchange programmes in Canada, the United States and Europe and gain international experience.

## Experiences We Shared Together

During 2025 we enriched our educational programmes with experiences beyond the classroom. On 21 December, the winter solstice, we organised the **"Longest Night Pyjama Day"** and our kindergarten and primary school students came to school in their pyjamas. They shared information about the Earth's movements and the night–day cycle, and the day ended with a cinema activity.

To help our students discover the world and enrich their cultural knowledge, we organised various trips. We embarked on a historical tour in Istanbul, visiting key sites around the Bosphorus and the historic peninsula. In İzmir we visited museums, the French Cultural Centre and science fairs, enabling students to experience history, art and science in the field. These activities enhanced their awareness of these subjects and allowed them to see classroom learning in action.

We also took part in national and international competitions, testing our academic and social skills. The awards our students won in various fields made us proud.

Our local partnerships continued to strengthen our community ties. Under the leadership of Menemen Chamber of Commerce Chair **İzzet Süsoy**, we signed a protocol that offers special discounts to chamber members and their immediate family.

## Our Corporate Vision and Mission

As **International Canadian Schools (ICS)** our vision is to **"raise children, who are our legacy to the future, as tomorrow's global innovators and leaders"** This vision underlines that academic success must be supported by global experience, positive social interaction, leadership skills, physical and emotional health and ethical behaviour.

Our mission is to educate all students **in an environment of respect and tolerance where cultural diversity is maintained**, enabling them to reach their potential and preparing them to become internationally aware, productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate individuals. We recognise that each student is unique and aim to raise multicultural new generations equipped with the skills that the changing world demands.

## Our Corporate Goals for 2026

As we enter the new year we gather our goals under the following headings:

1. **Academic Excellence:** To continue enhancing students' scientific and language skills in line with the global standards offered by the Maple Leaf and Oxford programmes, and to increase our international success through AP exams and exchange programmes.

2. **Character and Leadership Development:** To design projects that strengthen students' character by instilling values of ethics, responsibility and compassion; to expand our culture arts programmes through the Trinity College partnership and to run workshops that develop leadership skills.

3. **Social and Global Responsibility:** To maintain collaborations with our local partners, encourage students to actively take part in community service projects and plan activities that increase their global awareness.

As **International Canadian Schools (ICS)** we welcome 2026 as a year where **knowledge and character are unified, cultural diversity is viewed as a richness and every student's potential is supported**. Building on the achievements of the past year and combining them with new goals, we will continue to elevate our students to the highest levels globally and to educate them as individuals who will shape the world of tomorrow. We wish health, happiness and success in the new year to all our students, teachers, parents and partners.

## Today's Weather Forecast for İzmir

*Monday, 13 October 2025*

Today in **İzmir**, the weather will be mild and mostly cloudy, with temperatures ranging between **20°C and 22°C** through the afternoon. While the day started sunny, cloud cover will increase by midday, softening the autumn light across the city. A light breeze may make it feel cooler, so a jacket could come in handy if you're out and about.

By evening, skies will gradually clear, and temperatures will dip to around **16°C**, offering a crisp but comfortable night. No rain is expected, making it a pleasant day for a walk along the coast or enjoying time outdoors. It's a classic October day in İzmir—cool, calm, and perfect for slowing down.

## Amerigo Vespucci: The Man Who Named Continents

*by **Yonca Turuşlar (11A)***

Amerigo Vespucci was born on March 9th, 1454, in Florence, Italy. He came from a wealthy and educated family. As a young man, he worked with merchants who traded goods across the world, which helped him learn about navigation, geography, and mapmaking.

Later, Vespucci moved to Spain, where he helped prepare ships for voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. Inspired by the discoveries of Christopher Columbus, he decided to join several expeditions himself between 1497 and 1504. During these voyages, Vespucci explored the coast of South America. At that time, most Europeans believed that the newly discovered lands were part of Asia. However, Vespucci carefully studied the stars, the shape of the land, and the size of the territories he visited. He realized that the landmass was far too large to be part of Asia and concluded that it was actually a completely new continent that Europeans had never known before.

Vespucci wrote letters describing his journeys, the people he met, and the new plants and animals he saw. These letters spread quickly across Europe and became very popular. Many people began to believe his idea that these lands were a "New World," separate from Asia.

In 1507, a German mapmaker named Martin Waldseemüller created a new world map. Since Amerigo Vespucci was the first person to clearly explain that the discovered lands were part of a new continent, Waldseemüller decided to name the continent "America," using the Latin form of Vespucci's first name, Americus.

## Continued: The Man Who Named Continents

Amerigo Vespucci died in 1512, but he is remembered as the explorer who helped the world understand that the Americas were not part of Asia, but a completely new continent. His discoveries and writings changed how people viewed the world and its geography.



When Amerigo Vespucci discovered America, he wrote a letter and sent it to Pier Soderini. The letter said the following:

*To Pier Soderini, Gonfalonier of Florence,*

*Magnificent Lord,*
*I write to tell you of lands so marvelous and strange that they are unlike anything known to Europe. In the year 1497, I set sail from Cadiz with a fleet sent by King Ferdinand of Castile. Our journey took us across the vast Atlantic Ocean, and after weeks of battling the waves, we came upon lands entirely new, with coastlines stretching farther than the eye could see, enormous forests, and rivers flowing like silver ribbons through the wilderness.*

*The people we encountered were unlike any we had ever seen. They were of medium height, strong, and incredibly swift both on land and in water. They swam for miles, often venturing far from shore, and yet returned safely as if guided by nature itself. They wore no clothing, save for adornments on their heads and bodies, and lived without kings or rulers, yet they maintained order among themselves. They were generous, sharing food and gifts freely, and carried weapons made of wood, stone, and bones, including bows, arrows, spears, and clubs. In some regions, even the women were skilled in using bows and arrows. Their villages were vast, sometimes housing hundreds of people, built of wood and palm leaves, and often raised above the water on strong piles.*

*The land itself was a treasure trove of wonders. I saw giant birds that could not fly, iguanas with long claws and crests on their backs, and countless colorful birds that seemed painted by the hand of God. The people cultivated roots and fruits such as iuca, cazabi, and ignami, which they ground into flour and baked into bread. Fish from the rivers and the sea were a staple of their diet. Though there were no sheep, oxen, or horses, the land provided abundantly for them, and they lived in harmony with nature.*

*Their customs were fascinating and sometimes strange. They slept in large nets suspended in the air, washed themselves frequently, and ate without tables, using earthen dishes or hollowed gourds. They had no written laws or punishments, yet disputes were rare, and people lived in peace. When someone was sick, they treated him with herbs, bathing, or bloodletting from the thighs and calves. Their burial practices varied: some left the sick to die alone in nets with food and water, while others honored the dead with dances, songs, and offerings.*

*During our travels, we met many communities. Some were shy and fled at our approach, while others welcomed us with songs, dances, and gifts. We sometimes engaged in battle, but mostly we formed friendships, sharing goods and learning from one another. Their curiosity about us was great, and they often asked where we came from, believing we had come from the heavens.*

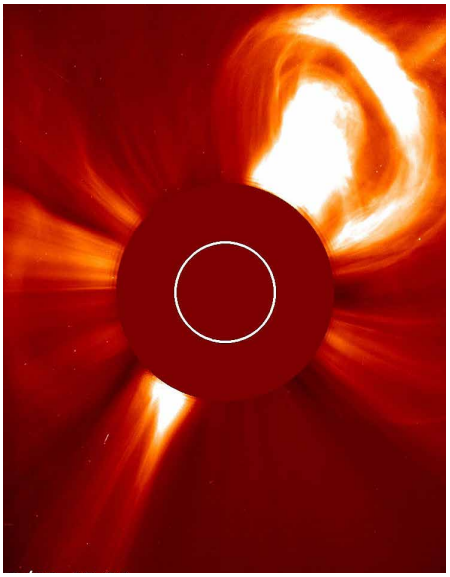
*I am certain that these lands are a "New World," separate from Asia, filled with people, animals, fruits, and plants unknown to Europeans. The richness of this world, the kindness and bravery of its people, and the marvels of its forests, rivers, and creatures are beyond what I could have imagined. I write to your Magnificence so that you may know the truth of these discoveries and share in the wonder of this extraordinary world.*

*Your humble and faithful servant,*
*Amerigo Vespucci*

# A Solar Storm in 2025: Is Humanity Ready?

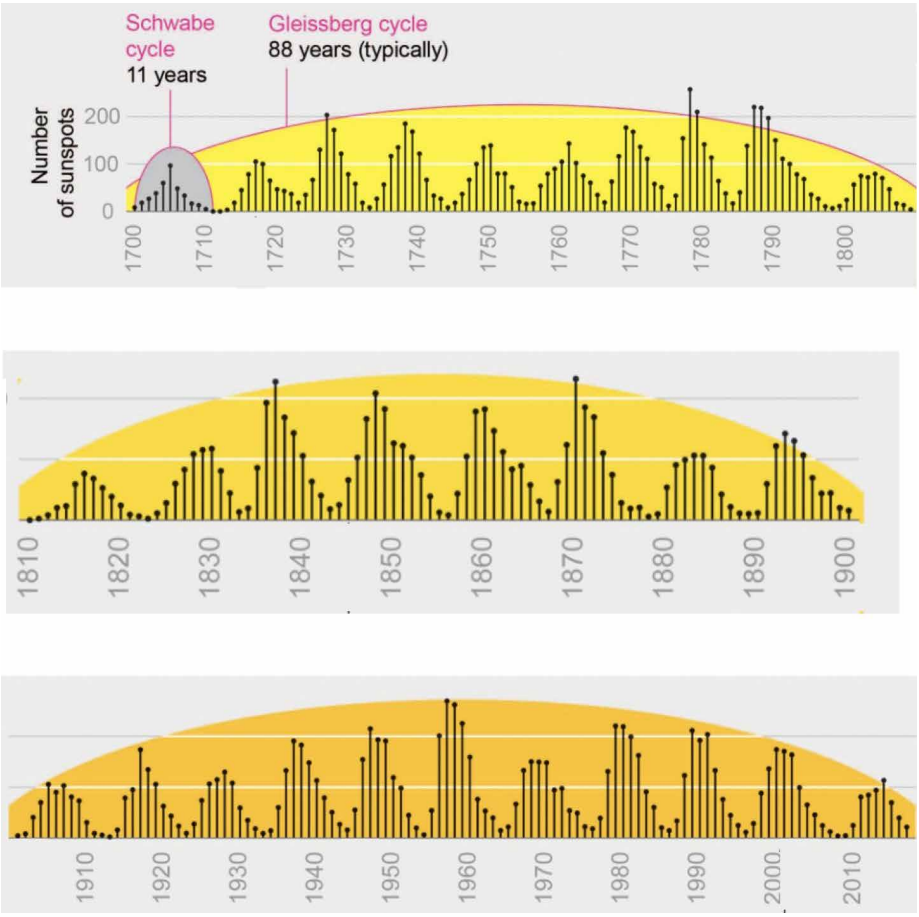
*by* ***Zeynep Ece Demir (9A)***

What exactly is a solar storm? Simply put, it is a huge explosion on the Sun's surface, which releases bursts of plasma and magnetic energy into space. These bursts are called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and they carry charged particles that travel millions of kilometers toward Earth.



A key part of solar storms is something called **magnetic reconnection** a process where the Sun's magnetic field lines suddenly rearrange and release a tremendous amount of energy. This energy can ionize gases in space and cause a chain reaction that impacts Earth's magnetic field. Another important effect is **ionization**, where atoms gain or lose electrons, altering the behavior of the atmosphere and communication systems.

Solar storms follow cycles. Data from 1700 to today show that solar activity increases and decreases roughly every decade, with bigger peaks every 88 years. It's as if the Sun acts like a coil of energy,




gradually winding up before releasing power. The biggest recorded storm, the **Carrington Event of 1859**, shocked the world. Telegraph systems in Europe and America failed or caught fire, and auroras appeared even near the equator.

Today, our technology is much more advanced, and yet a similar event could be dangerous. Large solar storms could disrupt GPS, satellites, and power grids. NetBlocks calculates that if Turkey lost internet for a week, it could cost over **1 billion dollars**. If such a storm hit globally, it could affect the entire electrical system and erase much of what humanity relies on.

Observations show that 2025 may be the year of a big solar storm. Will we survive it? Perhaps it won't happen. But some experts warn: the history of solar activity shows it's possible. Humanity has never experienced a global simultaneous outage of all electricity and internet. If it happens, it could change life as we know it. We won't know until it comes.

Scientists say the Sun might be more active in 2025. That sounds scary, but also fascinating what if we saw bright auroras over Istanbul?

# A Brief Look: History of New York City

*by **Alexandra Gounaris (9A)***

Everyone thinks of **New York City** as skyscrapers, pizza, and subways—but the city's past is way wilder than you'd expect. Before the skyline gleamed with glass towers, Manhattan was a swampy island of hills, streams, and forests. The Lenape people once fished its waters and walked trails that would later become some of the busiest streets on Earth.



**Times Square**, for instance, wasn't always about bright lights, Broadway shows, and New Year's Eve celebrations. Back in the 1800s, it was a dusty crossroads filled with horses, carts, and open-air markets. The area was first called Longacre Square, named after London's carriage district. It only became "Times Square" in 1904 when The New York Times built its headquarters there. Over time, theaters, flashing electric signs, and movie palaces transformed it into the neon-lit spectacle the world knows today—a symbol of nonstop motion and entertainment.



Then there's the **Statue of Liberty**, the copper giant standing tall in the harbor. She's more than just a selfie spot. Gifted by France in 1886 to celebrate friendship and freedom, she welcomed millions of immigrants arriving by ship to nearby **Ellis Island**. For many newcomers, her torch was the first light of America they ever saw. Her real name—Liberty Enlightening the World—captures the dream she represented. Fun fact: she wasn't always green; her copper skin slowly oxidized over time to the iconic seafoam color we see today.



Even the **streets of New York** tell stories. **Broadway**, the city's most famous avenue, started as a Native American trail called the Wickquasgeck Path. It later became the backbone of Manhattan, stretching from the southern tip all the way up through Harlem and beyond. Beneath the pavement, the **subway system** holds its own mysteries: hidden tunnels, abandoned stations like the stunning City Hall stop with arched ceilings and chandeliers, and miles of track that snake through the city's underbelly.

New York has reinvented itself countless times—from Dutch colony to British stronghold, from industrial powerhouse to cultural capital. It's a city built by dreamers, workers, and rebels from every corner of the world. Every pizza slice, subway ride, and street corner carries echoes of those who came before.

So next time you stroll through Manhattan, whether you're grabbing a slice, hopping on a subway, or snapping a photo in Times Square, remember: **New York City isn't just a place—it's a living, breathing story**, full of weird, wild, and totally unforgettable history.



# The Founder of Modern Turkey

*by* ***Fatih Selçuk***

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is one of the most influential figures in Turkish history and a towering personality in the 20th century. As the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Atatürk's visionary leadership and reforms transformed a collapsing Ottoman Empire into a modern, secular, and nationalist state. His legacy continues to shape Turkey's political, social, and cultural identity to this day.

## Early Life and Military Career

Born in 1881 in Salonica (now Thessaloniki, Greece), Mustafa Kemal showed an early aptitude for leadership and education. His father, Ali Rıza Efendi, was a civil servant, and his mother, Zübeyde Hanım, played a significant role in his upbringing. He attended various military schools, eventually enrolling in the Ottoman Military Academy in Istanbul, where he graduated with distinction.

Mustafa Kemal's military career was marked by a series of critical assignments during turbulent times. He first gained national prominence during the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I. As a commander, he successfully defended the Dardanelles against Allied forces, earning widespread respect and admiration. This victory elevated him to a national hero and laid the groundwork for his future political role.

## The War of Independence and the Birth of the Republic

The defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I resulted in the Treaty of Sèvres, which aimed to dismantle the empire and divide its territories among the Allied powers. This treaty was seen as humiliating and unacceptable by many Turks. Mustafa Kemal emerged as the leader of the Turkish nationalist movement, rejecting foreign occupation and partition.

In 1919, he began organizing resistance in Anatolia, leading to the Turkish War of Independence. The movement united various factions under his leadership, fighting against occupying forces and the Ottoman government's puppet regime in Istanbul. His success in the war culminated in the establishment of the Grand National Assembly in Ankara in 1920.

Following military victories and diplomatic negotiations, the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 recognized the sovereignty of the new Turkish state. On October 29, 1923, Mustafa Kemal was proclaimed the first President of the Republic of Turkey, a nation born from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

## Reforms and Modernization

Atatürk's vision for Turkey was revolutionary. He sought to transform the country into a modern, secular, and industrialized nation-state. His reforms spanned all aspects of society, including politics, law, education, language, and culture. One of his earliest acts was to abolish the Sultanate in 1922 and the Caliphate in 1924, severing the deep ties between religion and state. He introduced a new civil code based on European models, replacing Islamic law and granting equal rights to women, including the right to vote and hold office—an extraordinary step in a predominantly Muslim society at the time.

Atatürk also focused on education, believing that progress depended on literacy and scientific knowledge. The Arabic script was replaced with a Latin-based Turkish alphabet in 1928, which dramatically increased literacy rates and connected Turkey more closely with the Western world.

Economically, he promoted industrialization, infrastructure development, and self-sufficiency. He founded state-owned enterprises, modernized agriculture, and encouraged the growth of cities.

Culturally, Atatürk sought to foster a sense of national identity rooted in Turkish history and language, while distancing the country from Ottoman and Islamic traditions that he saw as obstacles to progress.

## Continued: The Founder of Modern Turkey

### Legacy

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk passed away on November 10, 1938, but his legacy lives on strongly in Turkey and beyond. He is remembered as a visionary leader who dared to reshape an empire into a republic with modern ideals. His principles—known as Kemalism—continue to influence Turkish politics, emphasizing secularism, nationalism, and modernization.

Monuments, museums, and institutions bearing his name exist throughout Turkey, and his image adorns public spaces, currency, and official documents. Every year, Turks commemorate his life and achievements on November 10.

While Atatürk's reforms were revolutionary and widely celebrated, they were also controversial, facing resistance from conservative elements in society. Yet, the foundations he laid helped Turkey navigate the challenges of the 20th century and emerge as a unique bridge between East and West.

### Conclusion

Atatürk's story is not just about one man but about the birth of a nation that sought to redefine itself in the modern world. His determination, leadership, and reforms brought a new era to Turkey—one based on secularism, democracy, and progress. As the founder of modern Turkey, Atatürk remains a symbol of national pride and an enduring inspiration for future generations.



***Thank you for reading, and supporting the ICS Journalism Club.***

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