

- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -

The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th September, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 4

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IMPORTANT DATES

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Featured Story

EAISAC Student Leadership Conference

ISB students are attending the very first EAISAC Leadership Conference, and we're proud to have nine outstanding Secondary School students as our representatives for this exciting event.

Taking place at Nagoya International School in the heart of Japan, this conference will be an unforgettable experience for our students. They will have the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals from Fukuoka International School, the International School of Ulaanbaatar, and various other international schools across Japan, fostering connections that transcend borders and cultures.

The primary focus of this conference is leadership development. Students engage in a series of workshops, discussions, and activities designed to enhance crucial skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making. These skills are essential, not only for academic success, but also for personal growth and preparing our students for the challenges of the future.





We are confident that ISB students will represent our school with pride and bring back valuable insights and experiences that will benefit our entire school community. This event exemplifies our commitment to inspiring global citizens who will become leaders in an increasingly interconnected world.



Whole School News

MAP Testing is Complete!

Well done to our students in grades 3–10 who successfully completed their MAP testing this week. The purpose of the MAP tests is to inform teaching using valid, reliable, real-time, norm-referenced data. With MAP data, we are able to measure the growth of every student over time. The results help us to ensure our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to thrive academically. You can access MAP test results by accessing the 'Portfolio' section in your child's Managebac account.





Between Monday, September 18th and Thursday, September 21st, Pret-a-Portrait will visit the school to take fun, professional photographs of our students. The photographers will take both group and individual portraits of each student. The schedule for individual photos for each grade level is provided below; Please ensure that students wear suitable clothing for their school portraits.

On the day your child has their picture taken, they will bring home a card that tells you how you can view them. Pre-register your details when you receive this card, and Pret-a-Portrait will email you when your pictures are ready. Orders can be placed via their <u>website</u>. They also have a Korea-based customer service representative on hand to assist with any enquiries that you may have.

Physical orders, such as prints and framed items, will be shipped out within 10 working days and delivered to the school for you to collect. If you choose to order digital files, these will be emailed to you within days, which you can share, upload, or print at your leisure. You can view the full range of products in advance via the Pret-a-Portrait <u>website</u>. Please see the schedule for individual photos for each student grade below. The individual photos will be used for this year's yearbook.

September 18:

EY2, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 6B & 6R, Grade 8B & 8R

September 20:

Grade 9B & 9R, Grade 11

If you have questions about your pictures or about how to order, please contact: cs.korea@pret-a-portrait.net

Community Run this Saturday

Our first run will be this Saturday 9th September at 7.30am! We will meet at the beachside of Pale de Cz, Haeundae, for introductions, a briefing, and a warm up. We will then run a 4k out and back run (anti-clockwise around Dongbaek Island). Your time will be recorded so that you can track your progress and set goals for yourself. If you use Strava, you can also join the <u>ISBusan Run Club</u> and post your run. Go Bears!



From The Cross Country Coaches - Mr. Aaron, Ms.Zoe, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Meghann & Ms. Emma

September 19: EY1, KG, Grade 3, Grade 7B & 7R, Grade 12

September 21: Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 10B & 10R

University Visits at ISB

An ISB education emphasises academic excellence and holistic development, with the goal of preparing our students to contribute creatively and responsibly to a sustainable future. In secondary school, our dedicated college counsellor expertly guides students through the global college application journey, regularly arranging essential events and liaising with university professionals. Our DP students excel in global exams, consistently achieving higher than the IB world average and going on to



pursue studies at top-tier universities. So next week, to further inspire growth beyond their ISB careers, we will welcome a cohort of international university representatives to our campus to inform our students about the boundless opportunities that await them post-ISB.



Calling all ISB Parents!

In a world that is evolving faster than ever, it is crucial to root our children in the guiding principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). ISB's guiding statements emphasise our commitment to fostering these principles in every student, paving the way for them to thrive in diverse environments. By attending this Parent Workshop, you'll gain insights into nurturing emotional intelligence and empathy in your children, laying the foundation for developing stronger relationship bonds through understanding and respect. You'll also learn what we do to ensure that ISB is a safe, friendly, and welcoming space for everyone, and together we'll review ISB's DEI Policy. Following the workshop, there will be a PTA coffee morning where you can get to know some of our PTA members. This month we'll discuss the upcoming **International Day** and how you can get involved as a volunteer. See you then!

From the Head of School

40th Anniversary Celebration

On **Wednesday 27th September**, ISB will formally celebrate its 40th birthday! We have a very special event planned including a performance from the ISB orchestra, a traditional Korean drumming performance, a performance from a visiting rock band, a dance presentation from our elementary students, a cake cutting ceremony and some speeches from invited guests. It promises to be a fabulous afternoon. The programme starts at 1.30 pm on the field. Parents are invited. Please make plans to join us!



Simon McCloskey



We are delighted to announce that we have now signed an agreement to become a registered centre for the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. This is a significant milestone for our school and reflects our commitment to providing enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a globally recognized program that encourages young people to

challenge themselves, develop new skills, and give back to their communities. By becoming a registered centre, we are now able to offer our students the chance to participate in this life-enriching initiative. Benefits for students include:

Personal Growth and Development: The Award is designed to help young people develop essential life skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, and problem-solving. It provides a structured framework for self-improvement and personal growth.

Enhanced Resumes and University Applications: Completing the Award demonstrates a commitment to personal development, community engagement, and extracurricular activities. This can significantly strengthen university and job applications, setting our students apart from their peers.

Physical Fitness and Well-being: The program encourages students to take part in physical activities, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. This can have long-lasting benefits for their physical and mental well-being.

Outdoor Adventure and Exploration: Participants have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors through activities such as hiking, camping, and expeditions. This fosters a sense of adventure, resilience, and a connection to the natural world.

Community Engagement and Volunteering: The Award places a strong emphasis on giving back to the community through volunteering. This instils a sense of civic responsibility and a deeper understanding of social issues.

International Recognition: The Award is respected and recognized worldwide. Achieving this award can open doors to a wide range of opportunities, both nationally and internationally.

Building Lasting Friendships: Students will have the chance to work together in teams, face challenges, and overcome obstacles. These shared experiences often lead to the formation of strong, lasting friendships.

Preparation for the CAS Programme in the IB Diploma: Furthermore, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award aligns seamlessly with the requirements of the CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) programme in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The experiences gained through the Duke of Edinburgh Award provide students with a solid foundation in all three areas of CAS:

- Creativity: Students engage in creative activities that foster innovation, problem-solving, and artistic expression. This can include planning and executing group projects or demonstrating creativity in individual endeavours.
- Activity: The physical challenges and activities in the Duke of Edinburgh Award contribute directly to meeting the activity requirements of the CAS programme. Students will have the opportunity to enhance their physical well-being and fitness levels.
- Service: Volunteering and community engagement are fundamental components of both the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the CAS programme. Students will develop a deep sense of social responsibility and an understanding of their role in creating positive change.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students and are confident that participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award will have a positive and lasting impact on their lives.

Our first outdoor hiking and camping experience takes place on Saturday 17th September, with a group of Secondary Students heading to the mountains near Jirisan National Park. Students that are aged 14 or above can use this trip to count towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh medal.

For more information about the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, please visit <u>www.intaward.org</u> or contact our Secondary Librarian Dr. Jeff Errington (jerrington@isbusan.org).

School Improvement Projects

Campus improvement projects this month have included the installation of 6 x 86 inch screens to improve the audio visual learning experience in classrooms and a facelift for the pitch-side seating area on the field in preparation for our 40th birthday celebrations. The installation of our new outdoor performance area is also almost complete, groundwork and installation of lighting and outdoor electric sockets on the stage should be completed next week. We look forward to our first outdoor performance!



From the Elementary Principal

This week we dived into season one of the ISB After School Activities programme. This season we have a wonderful range of activities available for PYP students, including Football, cross-country running, Taekwondo, Gymnastics, Ballet, Piano, Paper crafts, Fabric painting, Korean book club, Library club, Spanish, Cooking, Zumba, and many more. Which activities did you choose?

Have a look at our students getting involved in these fantastic ASAs and being risk-takers while learning something new.





Elementary Learning Focus

Grade 1 Inquires into Transportation Systems

Scientists in grade 1 began their inquiry into how transportation systems are created to meet the needs of the community. They observed how their cars travelled on the grass and rocks in comparison to the bricks. Every student agreed that the cars travel better on the flat surface. One student shared that this is like the road we drive on in our car. Students then discussed the need for roads with their learning partners.





House Activities

This week we enjoyed the first PYP House Activities session for the new school year. Mr. Byrne put together fun and exciting activities for us to enjoy. Kindergarten and Grade 1 enjoyed some Just Dance and Team Pirate Tag. Grades 2 and 3 played Cops and Robbers in the elementary playground, and Grades 4 and 5 played Football on the field. Students had a lot of fun and earned House Points for their friendly, competitive spirit, kindness towards others, and active participation.



Robotics and Coding Contest

This week we celebrated the achievements of Jun Hong in Grade 4, with Mr. Smith presenting him with a special certificate for Coding at a recent Robotics event. Well done, Jun Hong! (*pictured right*)

Grade 4 Inquire into How we Organize Ourselves

Grade 4 students have begun exploring the interconnected world of governance and societal decision-making. They have delved into the diverse cuisines that reflect the resources available in different countries, traced back the resources needed for their chosen foods, and even created their own fictional countries with unique governments.





As Grade 4 continues to explore the "How We Organize Ourselves" unit, they are not just learning about governance but are also developing essential skills in critical thinking, research, and collaboration. We look forward to seeing their continued growth as they explore the complex web of systems and organizations that shape our world!



The Return of Forest School

This week saw the start of Forest School for Early Years 2, Kindergarten, and Grade 1. You may well ask, <u>"What</u> is Forest School?"

"Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration, and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting."



We learned all about the area and talked about where we can go and what we can do while at Forest School, then we got busy playing in nature. We are excited to see all the seasons at Forest School and have already noticed things such as the pine cones and pine needles being brown when they fall from the trees.



Grade 5: How We Express Ourselves

Grade 5 is off to a fun and creative start to our year with our How We Express Ourselves unit. Students expressed themselves by creating silhouette collages. Each item they chose to add to their collage is something that is important to their lives or something that inspires them. We then translanguaged our central idea and lines of inquiry by translating key words, giving definitions, and finding synonyms.

Recently, we have been evaluating and adding information to

our communication and media matrix. This matrix wall compares the level of effectiveness of communication and different types of media and their impact on people around the world. Students have noticed that there is a pattern and are starting to understand the relationship between quality communication and the impact it can have.

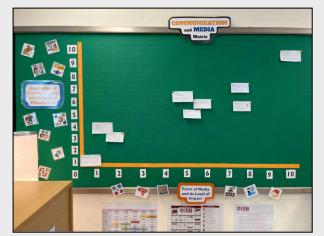


Grade 3 Apply a Growth Mindset

This week Grade 3 put their new learning about growth mindset into action. They tried the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Test for the first time. They enthusiastically took on the challenge to try something new and to make mistakes in order to find out how they could grow their brains further. Even when asked to stop and take a break, they said, "No, Ms. Marie, we want to keep going!" After the test, I asked them what they thought



about their experience. Some said they got some hard questions, some said they got some easy questions, and Han Min said, "I liked that it was hard and challenging because my brain got exercise."



Elementary Student Council

On Tuesday, the Elementary student council met for the first time. They ate lunch together, then introduced themselves and shared why they wanted to be on the student council. Here are some of their reasons:

- A friend did it last year and they said it was fun
- To help others and create fundraisers
- Because my parents were on student council and they said it was really good
- To get more playground equipment
- To learn what it's all about

Students then shared some ideas they had, and we took notes on a big piece of paper.

Their task before the next meeting is to ask their classes for their ideas and then bring them to the next meeting.



Grade 2 Inquiries

As part of our year-long inquiry into Healthy Choices and our current investigation into measurement, the Grade 2 students had a special visitor. Ms Joola from the Secondary School came to share the news that she is starting a 75 Day Healthy Choices Challenge. The children learned about Ms. Joola's new healthy habits, and everyone was inspired to start their own 75 Day Challenge.



The students also learned that we can measure many different things, such as: length, capacity and time. Ms Joola will return to Grade 2 in 75 days and everyone will share their experiences. All members of the ISB community are invited to join with Grade 2 and take part in their own personal Healthy Choices Challenge!

From the Secondary Principal

The highlight of the week was certainly the start of the first After School Activity (ASA) season. It was great to see so many of our students participating in the various offerings. I encourage all students to engage with the ASA programme because it is a great way to make friends and improve and/or learn new skills. Plus, it's fun!



Gilles Buck

This week was also MAP testing week. In secondary school, we administered the maths, reading, and language use tests. The results of these examinations are available to you via <u>ManageBac</u> (in the 'Portfolio' area of the platform). As a school, we use this data in a number of ways to support your children.

We track growth data from the beginning of the year to the end of the school year, and from year to year, as part of our evaluation of ourselves in developing Math and English skills. For individual students, we use the data for support, because the tests provide us with data on relative strengths and areas for growth for each student. This information can also be useful for appropriate placement in classes.

I'm excited to open up sign-ups for the Week Without Walls trips for High School that will be occurring in April. Middle School trips sign-ups for Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be available soon. Please complete the survey if your child is in Grade 9, 10 or 11. Please complete the survey if your child will definitely be attending, may be attending, or will not be attending. Having this information in a timely fashion is important for the organization of the trips as well as for organizing a programme for the students who will remain in Busan. Based on our preliminary surveys, we anticipate that 90% of students will be able to participate. If you have questions, or are interested in sending your child but have reservations or specific needs to support your child, please reach out so your questions can be answered or possibilities can be discussed. The simplest first step is to email me at <u>gbuck@isbusan.org</u>.

Week Without Walls sign-ups for High School

- Sign-up for Grade 9 Week Without Walls Trip
- Sign-up for Grade 10 Week Without Walls Trip
- Sign-up for Grade 11 Week Without Walls Trip

Secondary Learning Focus

From the English Language and Literature Department The first week was a whirlwind of getting to know new classes, and hearing about all the exciting things that students did during the summer break. Grade 6 shared a little about themselves on Padlet. <u>6B Padlet</u> and <u>6R Padlet</u>

Grade 6 will be learning about myths from all over the world. Mythology is like a treasure trove of stories that have been passed down through generations, carrying with them the wisdom, beliefs, and imaginations of people from times long past. In this intriguing unit, we



will embark on an exploration of myths—those tales that are both enchanting and thought-provoking. From mighty gods and heroes to fantastic creatures and mysterious lands, myths offer us a gateway to understanding cultures, history, and the boundless realm of human creativity.

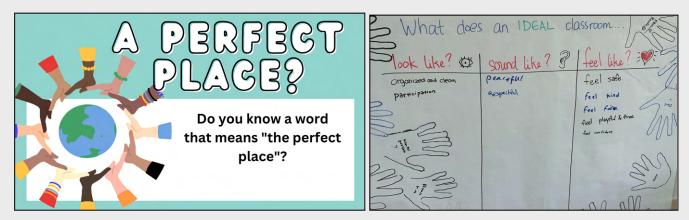
Throughout this unit, we will venture into various mythologies from different parts of the world, uncovering stories that have shaped civilizations and ignited the flames of imagination. We will learn how myths were created to explain natural phenomena, convey moral lessons, and provide glimpses into the human condition.



The unit will culminate in students writing their very own myth, incorporating all the elements typically found in myths as well as focusing on improving their vocabulary, sentence structure, and plot development skills. Grade 6 is hard at work already!

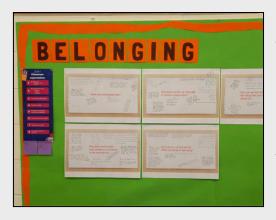


We are excited to introduce our upcoming unit for **Grade 7** students: "Imagining the Future in the Dystopian Genre." In this unit, students will embark on a thought-provoking journey into the realm of dystopian literature. Dystopian fiction has long been a mirror reflecting society's fears and hopes for the future. Through this unit, students will explore how creativity becomes a powerful tool to express concerns about the challenges our world faces today. They will engage in critical discussions, analytical writing, and imaginative storytelling. Throughout the unit, students will think critically, empathise with complex characters, and develop their own vision of a possible future. By examining various dystopian works, they will gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and hone their language and literature skills.





Grade 8's first unit is called Breaking Barriers, and students will explore how humans must adapt and evolve if they hope to thrive in our fast-paced, ever-changing world. Through the study of Daniel Keyes' original short story Flowers For Algernon and the book The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon, students will explore the human experience through very different protagonists. They will look at how both characters adapt and break through the barriers that hold them back, and in doing so, reach a level of self-discovery through their journeys.



In **Grade 9**'s first unit titled *Belonging*, students will delve into the theme of belonging as portrayed in Sandra Cisneros' novel, "The House on Mango Street." Through close reading, analysis, discussions, and creative projects, students will examine the complexities of belonging in the context of cultural identity, social dynamics, and personal aspirations. Students will work on improving their creative writing skills by writing vignettes—short slice-of-life, poetic pieces that focus on a moment in time—rather than stories containing a plot.

Grade 10 starts with a unit called "Unlocking Stories". We start with the metaphor that reading a story is much like solving a puzzle. Stories have hidden pieces that become visible when we consider the viewpoints of characters and the situations they are in. By examining how various parts of a story fit together with the setting, we will have a deeper understanding and find meaningful relationships between different elements within the story. This understanding encourages us to see how stories are constructed not just by words but also by the perspectives and environments that shape them.



The second part of the unit highlights the key concept of connections. We compare and contrast the traditional art of storytelling with non-traditional storytelling mediums such as advertisements and videos. By engaging with diverse forms of storytelling, students will enhance their understanding of how different

mediums convey meaning and evoke emotions.

Grade 11 began the year by creating class norms to help them work together productively and caringly to engage with the emotionally and intellectually challenging material of the course. In the first unit "Identity and Inequality", students will learn how to view advertisements



through critical lenses to look at the positive and negative ways that ads may try to manipulate an audience. They will then begin their critical reading of Trevor Noah's memoir, Born a Crime, investigating the ways in which texts can help us explore aspects of ourselves and others.

Grade 12 students were welcomed back with a review of their first year of the DP course and by reestablishing classroom expectations for the year ahead. After working through a close reading of Billy Collins' poem "Aristotle", they began working on visual language texts, including studying the street art of Banksy as well as the award-winning film Parasite, directed by Bong Joon Ho. This is intended to help them be more critically



aware of the choices artists make while also looking at how visual media can be used to critique social issues.

Word Nerd

Everyone is invited to learn new words by keeping an eye on the Word Nerd display. Three new words will appear each week; hopefully many will be new to our students (and maybe even teachers!), and the aim is to incorporate new words into our daily conversations.

College Counseling Program: September Update

Grade 12: It has been a busy three weeks for our Grade 12 students! They are in the midst of their university application process: finalising their university lists, completing their applications, college essays, and other important documents. Students are meeting individually with the college counselor to discuss their applications. They have been asked to complete a very important component of their applications by mid-September: the letter of recommendation requests for their teachers and the counselor. The College Counselor's priority this Fall is to spend one-on-one time with grade 12 students to support them with their applications and questions. We are prioritising grade 12 students until they have successfully navigated this first challenging stage of the process. We appreciate your partnership and understanding.

Grade 11: Grade 11 students will be meeting with the College Counselor the week of September 11 to start the University Planning process, including career and university exploration.

Grade 10: Grade 10 students will be meeting with the College Counselor the week of September 11 to discuss their plan for grades 10 through 12 and start the career and university exploration process.

Grade 9: Students met with the College Counselor to work on their High School Plan. They learned why grade 9 is important, reviewed important recommendations for a successful school year, and learned about the High School career and university planning timeline. They also went over the importance of leading a balanced life that includes healthy lifestyle habits and good strategies for succeeding academically in High School.

For information about university visits, grade-level-specific college planning timelines, and other information and resources, please see the <u>September College Counseling Newsletter</u>.

Introducing

Each week we catch up with a member of our ISB faculty to find out what brought them to ISB, their passions outside of school, and who and what inspires them most. This week, we caught up with ISB teacher **Scott Green**.

Qualifications and certifications: H.BSc. Chemistry and Biochemistry, BEd. Secondary Education, MEd. (in progress)

What is your role at ISB? MYP science teacher, DP Chemistry and Physics teacher

Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from, and where else have you lived? I am from Toronto, Canada, and have lived in Vancouver, Canada, Auckland, New Zealand, and San Jose, Costa Rica.

What inspired you to become a teacher? Both of my parents are in education, so I've always been involved in the education world, and I was inspired by them to pursue teaching.

What is your educational philosophy? Fostering the development of practical skills, problem-solving abilities, and a deep understanding so students can confidently apply their knowledge to relevant real-world situations.

What made you choose ISB? When I started looking for jobs last year, South Korea was at the top of my list. I

looked at many schools in the country and chose ISB because it seemed like a school that had a really positive community of students and staff and because it seemed well-organized.

What is the best part of your job? My favourite part of the job is the day-to-day interactions with the school community; every day is different, and I love how dynamic it is.

What are your hobbies and interests? I really enjoy getting outside. I enjoy anything outdoors, from hiking and camping to more organized sports such as football, volleyball, and hockey. If it gets me moving, I'll try it.

What is your favourite quote? Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. -Einstein

Who is your most memorable teacher, and why? My high school biology teacher always made the classroom feel fun, exciting, and welcoming. He was very involved in school activities; he coached my high school football team and supervised our school camping trips, so he was a big part of my high school experience.





From the School Counselor

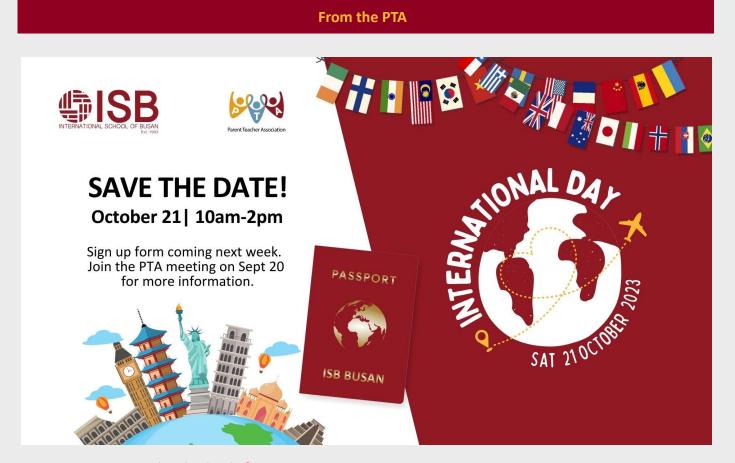
Dear ISB Families,

I hope that you are doing well. I was surprised to notice that we have completed the fourth full week of school already! It reminded me of how fast the pace can be for our students (and for parents and everyone involved!). Students' days and schedules are busy with attending school, participating in after school activities, and meeting other personal and family responsibilities. With busy schedules that are packed with academics and activities, it is important for us parents to create balance in our children's lives. Balance brings opportunities for our children to truly enjoy learning and life in general. Balance plays an important role in helping students flourish and thrive at the academic and personal levels.

I would like to share some resources with you that include strategies that have been

shared with students, <u>Strategies for A Successful School Year 2023</u> 2024, as well as podcasts that talk about the need to balance stimulation and calm. Here are two episodes from The Simplicity Parenting Podcast to help work toward that balance and simplify the challenging moments when they arise: <u>#55: After School Rituals and</u> <u>Calm</u> and <u>#133: Rushy-Rushy</u> Last but not least, there is the <u>September Happiness and Parenting Calendar</u> from The Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley, that you are welcome to browse through for ideas and resources for you and your loved ones. Warm Regards, Ellenore Hibon.





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