- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 23rd August, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 2

CONTENTS

Featured Story
Whole School News
From the Head of School
From the Elementary Principal
Elementary Learning Focus
From the Secondary Principal
Secondary Learning Focus
From the PTA

Introducing - Meet Team ISB!

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 24th August - SAT at ISB

Wednesday 28th August - Parent Workshop & PTA Meeting

Monday 2nd September - Season 1 ASAs Begin

2nd - 5th September - MAP Testing

8th - 9th September - EAISAC HS Leadership Conference @NIS

Thursday 12th September - Whole School Chuseok Assembly

Friday 13th September - PD Day (No Students on Campus)

16th - 18th September - Chuseok Holiday

19th - 20th September - DP Retreat

Featured Story

Parent Workshops for 2024-2025



Wednesday, 28th August 2024

CIS Accreditation & IB Authorisation - Learn how these frameworks drive school development and improvement.

Wednesday, 25th September 2024

Evidencing Learning - Learn more about the strategies used to assess and track student progress at ISB.

Wednesday, 23rd October 2024

The IB Continuum - Understand the PYP, MYP, DP core elements, Approaches to Teaching and Learning, and the Learner Profile.

Wednesday, 27th November 2024

Learning and Teaching at ISB - Understand our educational philosophy and how it translates into everyday practice in classrooms.

Wednesday, 22nd January 2025

Harnessing AI at ISB - See how AI is transforming learning and teaching to support our digitally literate learners.

Wednesday, 26th February 2025

Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Child Protection - Learn how we provide a safe, supportive environment for your child.

Wednesday, 19th March 2025

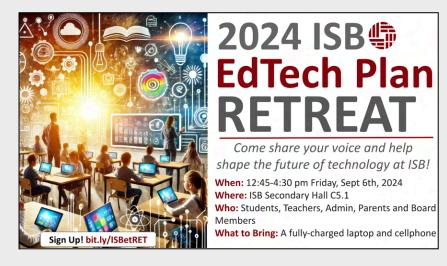
Google Suite for Families - Get practical tips to enhance your child's learning experience with Google tools.

Parent workshops throughout the year are an important part of ISB's commitment to supporting your family. These sessions help you understand more about the education we provide at ISB. By addressing a range of topics, from learning strategies to student wellbeing, these workshops are designed to help you stay engaged in your child's education and support our goal of developing knowledgeable, open-minded global citizens. Our first parent workshop takes place next Wednesday at 8.45 am. A PTA Coffee Morning will follow the workshop.

Calling all ISB Parents!

We would like to extend an invitation for our community to join us for the 2024 ISB EdTech Plan Retreat on **September 6th** from 12:30pm-4:30pm in the **Secondary Hall**.

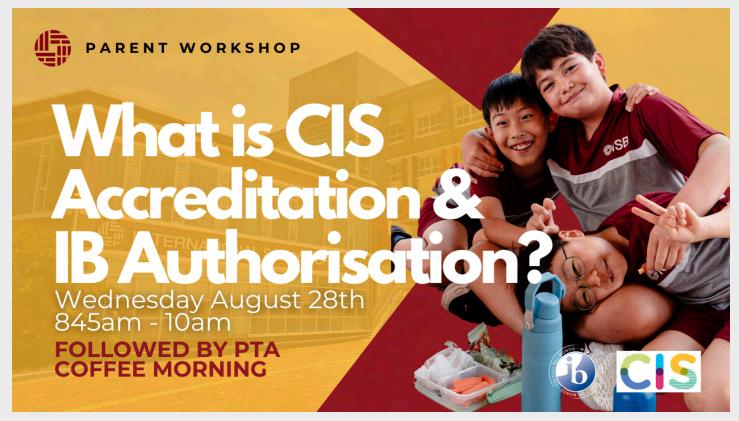
This will be a hands-on and engaging community discussion where we chart the course forward in terms of devices, spaces, infrastructure, learning, funding, and security over the next four years at our



school. Students and teachers have stepped up; now we need some parent volunteers! Here's what you can expect at the retreat:

- *⇒ Learn about the current state of EdTech at ISB*
- *⇒* Share your ideas & vision for the future of EdTech at ISB
- *⇒* Collaborate with other community members to develop a plan for the next four years
- *⇒ Enjoy a delicious lunch*

This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of education at ISB. Don't miss out! <u>Please click to sign up</u> for this event. Registration will close on Wednesday 28th August and invitations will be sent out thereafter. We look forward to seeing you there!



Our first parent workshop of the year will be led by Head of School, Simon McCloskey, and will provide an introduction to school improvement using the CIS accreditation framework and the IB Standards and Practices. All parents are invited, and we look forward to meeting you all there.

Whole School News

A Mini University Fair will be held on September 3 from 12:30 to 1:25 PM for students in grades 9-12 (not open to the public). This event offers students a unique opportunity to explore various universities, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into their future educational options. If you have any questions please contact ehibon@isbusan.org.



After School Activities - Season 1

Season 1 ASA sign-up is open. To sign into SchoolsBuddy, please <u>click on this link</u> and follow the <u>ASA Parent Demo video</u> to complete the sign-up process. Please note that you need to make a payment once you have been invoiced.

ASA Season 1 sign-up will close at midnight on Sunday 25th of August.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with mhowarth@isbusan.org.

Season 1 of our After School Activities (ASA) program will begin on Monday, 2nd September, and continue through Friday, 15th November. This season offers a wide range of activities designed to engage and inspire our students, from sports and arts to various clubs and enrichment opportunities.



For a comprehensive overview of all the activities available this season, as well as important information about SchoolsBuddy, please visit the <u>ISB Athletics and ASA website</u>. You can click the link or scan the QR code opposite, and find out all you need to know about ASAs at our school.

We encourage all students and parents to explore the options and find the perfect fit for their interests and schedules.

From the Head of School

The 2024-25 academic year will be dedicated to reflection, review, and planning. During this period, we will complete comprehensive self-study reports for submission to the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate (IB). This work is in preparation for a synchronised five-year school evaluation visit scheduled for October 2025. This year, we will also collaboratively develop a new strategic plan to align with the next cycle of accreditation (2025-2029). We invite participation from students, parents, staff, faculty, and board members. Please note that Friday, 13th September, will be a non-student day. On this day, the CIS Self-Study Steering Committees will meet for the first

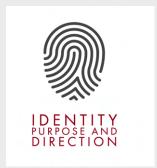
time to use the CIS Evaluation Framework to assess our school.



Simon McCloskey

The first CIS Self-Study Committee Meeting will take place from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, followed by lunch in the cafeteria. Strategic planning activities will occur from 1:30 pm to 3:45 pm. If you would like to contribute as a parent representative, please register your attendance using the form emailed to you this week. We look forward to hearing your ideas for the future of our school.

As we begin the process of developing a new strategic plan to guide the school over the next few years, it is worth taking a moment to pause and reflect on all that our community has achieved. The **successful implementation of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan** has led to significant milestones across six key strategic areas over the past four years. Below is a summary of our achievements since 2020.



The school collaboratively developed clear guiding statements that reflect the beliefs and philosophy of the school community. These statements provide a foundation for renewed purpose and direction across all school programmes and communications. They drive decision-making in all areas of the school and have been integrated into school practices and marketing efforts, ensuring consistency and alignment with the school's mission, vision, values, and beliefs.



ISB ensured stable and effective governance through a comprehensive review and update of Board policies and procedures. A new annual board evaluation tool facilitated regular feedback and continuous improvement. Mechanisms for stakeholder input were established to enhance transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making. Additionally, ISB restructured its finances to ensure fiscal responsibility and stability, now maintaining operational reserves equivalent to over three months of operational costs. A comprehensive Financial Procedures Handbook was developed to promote sound fiscal management and long-term sustainability.



ISB fostered a collaborative culture of innovation and improvement by developing a high-quality learning and teaching agreement, which enabled focused feedback and pedagogical enhancements. Significant achievements include the introduction of Drama as a subject in secondary school and the creation of a black box drama studio to support the development of this subject area. The modernization of learning spaces—including the Secondary Science Laboratories, Secondary Learning Lab, the PYP Learning Support Suite, Grade 4 and 5 Classrooms, and the Secondary Student Lounge Area—enhances the school's

ability to deliver its mission by providing inspiring environments that foster an innovative culture, support digital literacy, and promote high-quality learning and teaching.



ISB prioritised creating a safe and inclusive environment where all learners are engaged, challenged, and supported. The implementation of Universal Design for Learning strategies improved access and participation for all students, particularly those with special educational needs. DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies and procedures were developed to foster an inclusive community. Comprehensive reviews and updates of safeguarding and child protection policies, along with the introduction of comprehensive annual child protection training for all ISB employees, reinforced the school's commitment to student safety and well-being. Additionally, a well-being curriculum was introduced, covering social and emotional learning, mindfulness, child protection, and sexuality education, complemented by a monthly well-being survey to monitor and support students' mental and emotional health.



ISB ensured that all staff had clearly defined roles and responsibilities, supported by a meaningful evaluation and feedback process to promote professional growth. A collaboratively developed staff appraisal and evaluation system was explicitly aligned with the learning and teaching agreement and professional development provision. This alignment ensured that feedback and evaluations directly supported staff development and the school's mission. The creation of redesigned and refurbished staff lounges further contributed to a positive working environment, fostering collegial relationships and collaboration among teachers.



ISB has made significant strides in developing a financially, operationally, and environmentally sustainable campus. The school achieved Green Flag Eco-School status in November 2023, reflecting its commitment to environmental stewardship. Key infrastructure projects include the installation of a new astroturf football pitch and the creation of a new outdoor performance area, enhancing the school's sports facilities and providing a versatile space for events. An additional perimeter fence was constructed on the riverside of the building to enhance student safety.

Additional sustainability initiatives include the installation of rooftop solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, EV charging points, and colour-coded recycling bins across the campus. The construction of a PE equipment storage facility and the installation of outdoor fitness equipment have improved resources for physical activity. Significant investments were made to enhance technology and operational efficiency. Key upgrades include unifying the technology ecosystem with Apple devices, simplifying casting and audio with Apple TV and Bluetooth speakers, and replacing projectors with large televisions. The Wi-Fi network was upgraded with new access points, cabling, and switches. Student learning was supported by updating devices, implementing a Google skills tracking programme, and maintaining Common Sense Education certification. Data security was strengthened with two-factor authentication, a phishing campaign, and new domain insight tools. These investments support our goal of fostering digitally literate learners.

The successful implementation of ISB's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan marks a significant milestone in the school's development. These achievements have enhanced educational experiences, strengthened governance, supported staff development, and ensured a safe and inclusive environment. The financial, operational, and environmental sustainability initiatives, coupled with state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology advancements, position ISB as a leading international school in the region. The foundations laid by this strategic plan will continue to guide ISB in its pursuit of excellence in the years to come.

From the Elementary Principal

We've just wrapped up the second week of the school year, and it's been a joy to see our students dive into learning with such enthusiasm. I've observed students fully engaged in a wide range of activities, from immersive book studies and mathematical investigations to the creative process of team-game creation and freestyle painting. It's clear that our classrooms are buzzing with curiosity and hands-on exploration.

Our students have also been exploring language, with some practising Korean conversations, and expanding their English literacy skills through online reading platforms as well as word and sentence study.



Kevin Smith

This week, we also had the pleasure of welcoming many of you to the school for our Welcome Conferences. It was a valuable opportunity for parents and homeroom teachers to connect and discuss your child's progress and goals for the year ahead. Thank you for your continued support in making this a fantastic start to what promises to be a wonderful year of learning.

Elementary Learning Focus

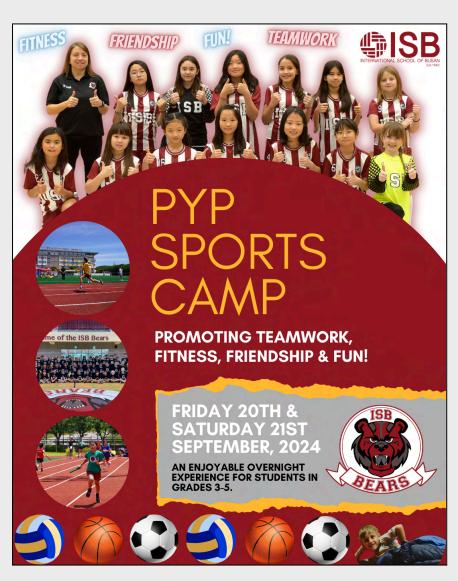
PYP Sports Camp Sign Up Open

We are pleased to announce that the 4th annual PYP Sports Camp sign-up is open. This overnight fun experience is available for all students in Grades 3, 4 and 5.

Students will participate in different sporting activities, enjoy a pizza dinner, play night games on the field, and relax with a movie night & popcorn. We then have a sleepover in the gym using ISB's camp beds (students have the option of staying at home if they prefer).

We wake up to a delicious cafeteria breakfast and a morning of sporting activities. To encourage independence, fitness and friendship, sports camp is device free!

Please click here for the link: <u>Sports</u> <u>Camp Sign Up</u> **Sign up is open until the 31st August 2024.**



Welcome Conferences: Building Partnerships for Student Success

This week, we are excited to host our annual Welcome Conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to connect and work together to support your child's learning journey.

During the Welcome Conferences, parents were able to:

- Share information about their child's background and aspirations for the year.
- Discuss their child's language and educational background.
- Meet their child's teacher and learn about their teaching philosophy and expectations.

We believe that working together to create a positive and supportive learning environment for your child are essential for on-going success.

Library Class Book Borrowing

We're adding a fun twist to our library classes for grades 1-5! Each week, your child will get to borrow one book from a different collection. One week it might be picture books, the next it could be biographies, folktales, or another exciting genre. This is a wonderful way for students to explore new genres and discover new favourites. Encourage your child to embrace the variety and enjoy their reading journey!





Early Years One

The children in Early Years One have been busy exploring while also learning to say goodbye to mom and dad, which can be challenging for some, especially since this is their first school experience. The returning students, now in their second year in EY1, have been encouraged to help our new friends by showing them how we line up, wash hands, and get ready to listen to teachers.

The new children are still learning the class routine and becoming familiar with their friends and teachers. Let's have a fun and exciting school year together!



Kindergarten

Over the first couple of days in Kindergarten the students were engaged in playful inquiry, active exploration, collaborative learning, meaningful connections, and reflection.

We started to:

- Create a learning environment supporting IB PYP early years.
- Encourage playful inquiry, active exploration, collaborative learning, and meaningful connections.

This approach fosters an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment for all.









Grade 4

Grade 4 students are kicking off the year with audiobooks to boost both listening and reading skills. As they follow along with the text, they'll also join book clubs to discuss the stories with classmates. This approach is designed to make reading more engaging and improve comprehension through active participation.













Grade 3 Essential Agreement: Growing Together

This week in Grade 3, we had an amazing time creating our Essential Agreement. After reading the TreeHouse Treaty, we got creative with sticky notes, brainstorming what makes a great teacher, student (classmate), and parent. We discussed what they do, say, don't do, and who they are, then carefully selected the most important ideas from our sticky notes.

We brought these ideas to life by creating a flower display, symbolising our shared commitment to making our classroom a wonderful place to learn and grow. Just like signing a treaty, each of us signed the agreement to show that we're all in this together.



We're excited to see how our agreement helps us have an amazing year in Grade 3!



Early Years 2: How We Express Ourselves - 'Through play people express feelings and ideas'.

In Early Years 2, we're exploring how play helps us express our feelings and ideas. To connect with this theme, we provided loose parts materials designed to ignite imagination and creativity. Alongside this, we engaged the children in a discussion about what "ideas" mean to them. The responses varied: some children described an idea as a sudden realisation or a plan for play, while others saw it as simply knowing what to do or a result of the creative process.

As the children interact with these materials, we plan to revisit our discussion on "ideas" to see how their understanding may evolve. This process will allow us to gauge how their concept of ideas develops through hands-on exploration. It could also be an excellent opportunity for you to discuss the idea of



"ideas" with your child and explore their thoughts and any new insights they may have.

In addition to this, we encourage the children to provide positive feedback, ask questions, and make suggestions when observing their friends' work. This practice is integral to developing their communication and thinking skills. For instance, children might give compliments like, "I like the way you used different colours" or express appreciation with comments such as, "It looks great because..." When asking questions, they might inquire, "How did you make this?" or "What materials did you use?" For suggestions, they could propose, "Maybe you can add..." or "What if we added some...?"

These activities help the children enhance their ability to express themselves while engaging thoughtfully with their peers, fostering creativity and collaboration in a supportive environment.

From the Secondary Principal

Our second week of school culminated with student speeches and the election of our middle school and high school student councils. Congratulations to all of the students who took the risk to put themselves forward, write and present a speech. Congratulations to the students who were elected and I look forward to seeing the work you will produce to the benefit of our school. For students who lost the election, I know there will be more opportunities for student leadership and we want you to take part!



Gilles Buck

Classes are well underway in all subject areas and across all grade levels. I have been enjoying dropping into classes and hearing discussions and serious engagement in our lessons. This energy bodes well for a successful year. At this early stage of the school year, it is a good time for us to introduce our curriculum. I have invited Ms. Solène Matsushita to introduce the MYP curriculum and programme below.

Secondary Learning Focus

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is a challenging framework that encourages students to make authentic and meaningful connections between their studies and the real world. The MYP curriculum consists of eight subject groups that provide a broad and balanced education for early adolescents aged 11 to 16. Research indicates that students who complete the MYP are well-prepared to undertake the IB Diploma Programme (DP).

Six global contexts for teaching and learning are used throughout the MYP. They provide a common language for teachers and students to inquire about different perspectives and topics, but they are also a lens through which learners explore topics. For example, if you explore 'Water systems' in Individuals and societies though the 'Fairness and Development' global context, you will explore water inequalities around the world. But if you explore the same topic through 'Personal and cultural expression' global context, you will explore the role of water in different religions and rituals. The global contexts encourage the students to consider different perspectives, to make connections between the different subject groups as well as their studies and the real world.

In addition to the subject groups and global contexts, the MYP also emphasises the development of Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills. These skills, such as communication, critical thinking, and collaboration, empower students to become self-regulated learners





who can thrive in a rapidly changing world. To learn more about the MYP, please view the slides from the parent information session during the ISB family day: MYP Parent Information Session.



After the monthly parent workshop, the PTA hosts the famous 'PTA Coffee Morning'. This open event invites everyone in our community to join us for coffee, snacks, and the chance to meet other parents. No registration is required - just drop in! We hope to see many of you there!

This year our PTA committee members have already met with Mr McCloskey to outline the year ahead. If you haven't already, meet your PTA Committee!

Chairperson: Emma Grann (Swedish)

Co-Chair: Eun Pak (Korean)

Events Coordinator: Claire Byczek (French) Treasurer: Tove Torbergsen (Norwegian) Secretary: Andrea Nikcevic (American)

Concessions Coordinator: Caitlin Fitchett (American)



Support for our PTA is essential; it allows parents and staff to show their dedication to making ISB a unique, energetic, family-oriented school that values and celebrates diversity and shares school spirit!

Our PTA also maintains a <u>Community Facebook Page</u>, if you would like to join this group, please feel free to click on the link and request to become a friend.

If you are interested and would like to get involved in organising events, coordinating volunteers, hosting and planning fundraisers, and are an enthusiastic and positive team player, or you would simply like some more information, please contact pta@isbusan.org.



Staff and Faculty



Simon McCloskey



Elementary School Principal and EAL Teacher



Jennifer Fenton
PYP Coordinator and Learning
Support Teacher



Dale Plotzki
Whole School Technology and Learning
Innovation Coordinator



Amanda Illeperumaarachchi



Carol Lesser



Kathy Son Early Years Teacher



Carolyn Hill Early Years Teacher



Amanda McCloskey



Ben Ashley Elementary School Teacher



Jonas Mahler



Kate Rock
Elementary School Teacher



Tina Gahagan



Taariq Amaan Elementary School Teacher



Sarah Ashley Elementary School Teacher



Hilary Miles PYP Art Teacher



Heidi Dean PYP Music Teacher



Gearoid Byrne



Cindy Park
PYP Korean Teacher



Meng Lee PYP Korean Teacher



Yuni Gysbers PYP Teacher Librarian



Jeni Lee Elementary EAL and Learning Support Teacher



Jina Shin



Junha Park Teaching Assistant



Sunhee Jung Teaching Assistant



Karen Kim Teaching Assistan



Searyun Kang Teaching Assistant



Kyunga Byun



SeYeon Jang Elementary Office Secretary



MiKy Lee Secondary Korean Language & Literature Teacher



Gilles Buck Secondary Principal



Solène Matsushita MYP Coordinator



Nico Gysbers DP Coordinator



Pamela Love Secondary School Mathematics Teacher



Sophie Croteau condary School Mathematics Teacher



Olga van Doorn Secondary School Music Teacher



Mark Howarth
Athletics and Activities Director and
MYP PE Teacher



Mustak Nakhwa Secondary School Mathematics Teach



Pedro Aragão
Secondary School Mathematics Teacher



Carl Love econdary School Design Teacher



Rigard Kruger Secondary School Design Teacher



Thaba Niedzwiecki Secondary School Drama Teacher



Divya Jesudoss Secondary School Individuals & Societies Teacher



Ashraf Dean
Secondary School Individuals & Societies
Teacher



Julie Baxter
Secondary School Language & Literature
Teacher



Ya Yun Su Secondary School Language & Literature Teacher



Aaron Vigar Secondary School Language & Literature Teacher



Gary Kenny
Secondary School Language & Literature
Teacher



Jungsook Yoon Secondary School Language Acquisition Teacher



Joola Coke-Talbot MYP Individuals & Societies Teache



Christine Marzouk
MYP EAL Teacher



Scott Green econdary School Science Teacher



Nicola Vaughan econdary School Science Teacher



Gill Vaughan Secondary School Science Teacher



Fernando Alvarez econdary School Language Acquisition Teacher



Graham Young econdary School Visual Arts Teacher



Catherine Buchanan Secondary Teacher Librarian



Ellenore Hibon decondary School Counselor and College Counselor



Zoe Howarth MYP PE Teacher



JinHee Han Secondary School Secretary



HeeJung Hwang School Nurse



Laura McLuckie Head of Community Relations



GaYoung Jo Finance Secretary



HeuiSeon Cho Operations Manager



MiKyung Kang Finance Manager



SeungMi Hong dmissions and Marketing Manager



Helene Won Executive Assistant



Yina Yoon
Finance Secretary



Chae-hyun Kang Admissions & Marketing Secretary



HyunJeong Kim Receptionist



SeungYun Song IT Support Technician



Yumi Kim Data Systems Support Technician



Juliet Kim Learning Support Assistant



Rose Lee Learning Support Assistant



Anna Tsoy Learning Support Assistant



Shawnee Lee Learning Support Assistant



Olivia Jin Learning Support Assistant



Honey Kim Learning Support Assistant



Suki Kim



Erin Kang Learning Support Assistant



ChanGi Jin



YongSoo Jung Bus Driver



DongAm Lee Bus Driver



JeongBok Kim Bus Driver



JumYong Nam Bus Driver



JongHwan Choi Bus Driver



DoSung Kwon Bus Driver



YeongHwan Kim Bus Driver



YeongGil Ahn Bus Driver



JeongBin Lim Bus Driver



JeongGuk Kim Bus Driver



GyeongHwan Boo Bus Driver



DoWoon Mun Bus Driver



BongHui Ha Bus Monitor



OkRan Song Bus Monitor



HyeKyeong Park Bus Monitor



HyunSook Lee Bus Monitor



Staff and Faculty



Sumi Hur



KillHee Kim



ChanYong Choi Maintenance Staff



SungKyun Shin Security Staff



YuWol Lee Bus Monitor



Eun Soon Ko Bus Monitor



MyeongHui Ha Bus Monitor



JungSoon Kim Bus Monitor



MiAe Park Bus Monitor



JeongsSuk Kwon Bus Monitor



JongSuk Kim Bus Monitor



JeongSuk Yoon Bus Monitor



SeongHui Kim Bus Monitor



Sojin Park



SiYeun Jung



SunWha Wang



HongLim An Cafeteria Staff



YuJin Lee Cafeteria Staff



DongJin Ha



Sa Jin Jang Maintenance Staff



Chan Sung Kim Maintenance Staff



JeongJa Seo Cleaning Staff



JongHae Kim Cleaning Staff



Cleaning Staff



SunHee Ye



SukJa Park



SeungGi Lee



SungHoon Choi Security Staff



Min Seok Kim Security Staff