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The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 30th August, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 3

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IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 2nd September - Season 1 ASAs Begin
2nd - 5th September - MAP Testing
8th - 9th September - EAISAC HS Leadership Conference @NIS
Friday 13th September - PD Day (No Students on Campus)
16th - 18th September - Chuseok Holiday
19th - 20th September - DP Retreat
Friday 20th September - G6 - G10 Team Building Trips
20th - 21st September - PYP Sports Camp

Featured Story



We're excited to kick off our [After School Activities \(ASA\)](#) programme next week! Students have already made their selections, and there's something for everyone. For sports enthusiasts, offerings include volleyball, football, frisbee, surfing, and more. Arts activities include drama, orchestra, or art clubs. We also have a variety of STEM, coding, and academic clubs. Other highlights include the Student Council, Eco Warriors, Media Team, and many more. We look forward to an engaging and fun-filled season of activities!

ISB Community Runs Are Back!

Our cross country team will be training on Saturday mornings and we would like to invite all members of the ISB community to join us for some training runs. We have many Saturday morning runs planned, meeting at Pale de Cz at 7:30am. These timed runs are to promote fitness and a love of running. All abilities are welcome. Elementary students are always welcome to join us, but must have a parent running with them at all times.



If you would like to join the ISB Community Runs mailing list please complete this short form: [ISB Community Runs Mailing List](#)

Save the dates:

- 14th September
- 28th September
- 12th October
- 19th October
- 26th October (subject to change)

You are also invited to join our ISB online running community on Strava. Strava is an app you can use to track your running on your phone or smart watch, or you can enter your run online when you're finished. If you'd like to join, set up a free Strava account and join the [ISBusan Run Club](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ms. Hibon & Mr. Aaron, ISB Bears Cross Country Coaches

University Fair

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.

Bus Schedule Changes



As the season 1 ASAs get underway, changes to the ISB Bus schedule will be effective from 2nd September to 15th November. Please note that the bus timetable has been adjusted to accommodate students attending ASA classes. The afternoon bus operation schedule is as follows:

- **Monday:** All buses depart at 15:40. The same bus number is used for both morning and afternoon routes.
- **Tuesday to Friday:** Buses that operate within short distances in Busan will run twice a day at 15:40 and 16:40.
- **Geoje and Jinhae Buses:** These buses will depart at 16:40 only, except on Monday.

For sports team training ending after 16:30, students will need to arrange their transportation home or take the 16:40 bus after confirmation with our Bus Coordinator.

Evidencing Learning: Tracking and Assessing Student Progress at ISB

How do we know our students are learning effectively? This session will dive into the strategies and tools we use at ISB to assess, record, and track student learning. Learn about our evidence-based approach to measuring student progress and how this data informs teaching and supports student success. This session will be led by IB Coordinators Jennifer Fenton, Solene Matsushita, and Nico Gysbers, followed by the PTA coffee morning, and everyone is invited to join us.

 PARENT WORKSHOP

Evidencing Learning

Wednesday 25th September
845am - 10am

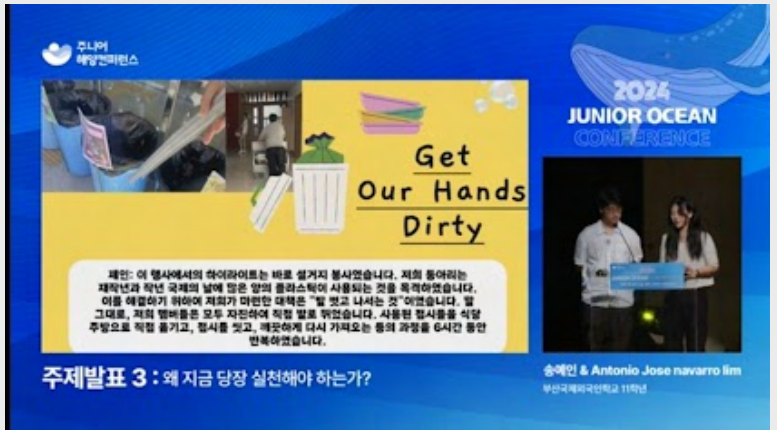
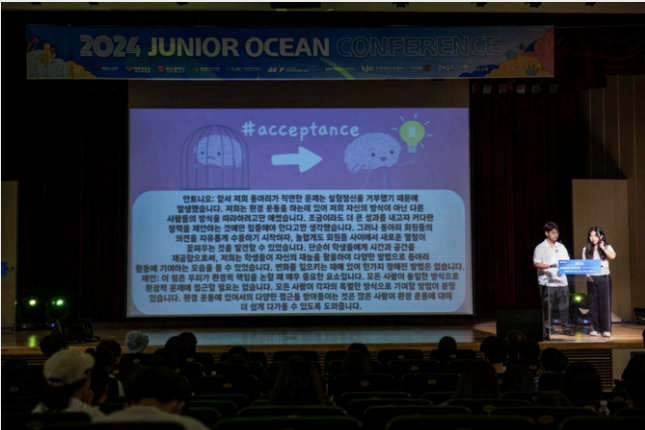
**FOLLOWED BY PTA
COFFEE MORNING**



Welcome back to a brand new year! We at the Secondary Eco Club are refreshed and ready to keep our community green and growing as always! But before we take our first steps forward, we would like to share an experience from the summer.



Just a few weeks ago, our President, Antonio, and Vice President, Jane, were invited to speak at Korea's Junior Ocean Conference, sharing their knowledge in the field of environmental activism with similar-minded students from across the country. We are very proud and excited to be able to share our ISB Eco Club initiatives with the Busan community. As always, we're keeping busy!



Looking to the future, we have plenty of exciting new initiatives we plan to introduce! If you have any suggestions or questions, we would be more than happy to talk to you. Starting this year, ISB's Eco Club has a dedicated email address [ecoclub@isbusan.org] to which you can contact us with. Please don't be shy, we love collaborating with others! That's all from us now! Watch this space and remember, "Go Bears, Go Green!"

ISB Partner Community Event

The ECCK Busan Chapter is pleased to invite you to the ECCK Busan Information Session on Women Leadership, scheduled for Wednesday, 11th September, 2024, at the Wyndham Grand Busan.

Following the success of the Women Leadership event held in Seoul in April, we are excited to bring this valuable opportunity to Busan.

We are pleased to announce that Ms. María Castillo Fernández, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, and Ms. Isabel Puig Palerm, CEO of IKEA Korea LTD, will join us to engage with the audience in Busan.

[Click the link for more information and booking.](#)

INFORMATION SESSION ON WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN BUSAN

SPEAKERS

- María Castillo Fernández**
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea
- Isabel Puig Palerm**
CEO of IKEA Korea LTD

11 September 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mare (3F), Wyndham Grand Busan

Parent Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent parent workshop on CIS Accreditation and IB Authorisation this week. I had the opportunity to lead the session, where we discussed how the CIS/WASC Accreditation framework and the IB Authorisation process contribute to continuous school improvement. These frameworks are essential in maintaining ISB's commitment to providing a rigorous, globally recognised, and high-quality education for our students. I appreciated seeing so many parents engaged in supporting our school's ongoing improvement efforts.



Simon McCloskey



Request for Parent Representatives for School Self-Study and Strategic Planning

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. We will also begin developing the next ISB Strategic Plan. 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 this form](#). We look forward to hearing your ideas for the future of our school.

From the Elementary Principal

At our recent parent workshop, we discussed the importance of CIS Accreditation and IB Authorization—key processes that help our school continuously improve and meet high international standards. CIS Accreditation involves a thorough review of every aspect of our school, from how it's run to the outcomes our students achieve.

Meanwhile, the IB Authorization process, particularly for the Primary Years Programme (PYP), strengthens our dedication to providing a top-quality, inquiry-based education that equips our students to become global citizens.

To help you engage more with the PYP, I'm happy to share some essential resources. These documents, which you can access on ManageBac, include the PYP Programme of Inquiry, the Curriculum Guide, and key research findings, among others. These materials are designed to give you a deeper understanding of the PYP framework and how it influences your child's learning journey. Here is a brief screencast to guide you on how to access our curriculum overviews. [How to access ISB curriculum documents](#)



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

PYP Sports Camp Sign Up

We are delighted to have 65 students signed up for the PYP Sports Camp. This fun overnight 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! Sports camp costs 55,000 KRW per person.

Please click here for the link: [Sports Camp Sign Up](#) Sign up is open until the **31st August 2024**.



The poster features a group of students in red and white striped jerseys giving thumbs up. Text at the top includes 'FITNESS', 'FRIENDSHIP', 'FUN!', and 'TEAMWORK'. The ISB logo is in the top right. The main title 'PYP SPORTS CAMP' is in large yellow letters. Below it, the text reads 'PROMOTING TEAMWORK, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP & FUN!'. The dates 'FRIDAY 20TH & SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2024' are listed, along with 'AN ENJOYABLE OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5.' The ISB Bears logo is on the right. At the bottom, there are icons for a volleyball, basketball, soccer ball, and a child playing.

Summer Reading Bingo

Congratulations to all the students who completed the Summer Reading Bingo! Great job exploring new books and staying engaged with your reading over the break!



Grade 4 Conflict Resolution

This week, Grade 4 students took part in role plays to practise resolving conflicts. They worked in teams on scenarios like handling accusations, making fair choices, and dealing with tricky situations. The activity helped them learn about empathy, honesty, and communication. Ask your child about their role and what they learned from this experience.



Early Years 2: Counting and Creativity with Coloured Blocks

Each Wednesday during circle time, we focus on a specific maths concept, which the children then explore through play to enhance their learning experience. This week, we continued to explore the concept of counting using a video called Numberblocks. After watching, the children used their creativity to build unique structures with coloured blocks, counting how many blocks they used in the process. This hands-on activity not only reinforced their understanding of counting but also helped them grasp the concepts of cardinal and ordinal numbers, as they learned to identify and order the blocks based on their sequence and quantity.

This activity ties into our central idea:

'Through play, people express feelings and ideas.' By engaging in this creative play, each child contributed their own ideas or drew inspiration from others, resulting in a meaningful learning experience. The process of counting and arranging the blocks allowed the children to make connections between numerical values and their positions, fostering a deeper understanding of basic maths concepts in an engaging and playful manner. The concept of counting will continue to be revisited and expanded upon in future sessions, allowing the children to build on their understanding over time



STEAM Time in Grades 1 - 3

This week we had our first STEAM Time. The students were all so glad to come together and inquire into Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math! Working with tin foil, we used our artistic talents to represent what STEAM Time means to us. Everyone had opportunities to demonstrate their social, communication, and self-management skills. We also worked hard to create an Essential Agreement for our learning community. A big shout out to Ms Heidi for helping us to sing the STEAM theme song even more beautifully than last year. *With STEAM, with STEAM we're on the same team, Learning, thinking, making with STEAM.*



From the Secondary Principal

The school is back in full swing and everyone is eagerly awaiting the start of the first After-School-Activity (ASA) season. Students are getting used to the rhythm of school and as pressures mount over the semester, please support your children by providing balance and not adding extra academic demands on their time. Please ensure that they have a good working space at home, sleep in a device free environment for an adequate (eight hours) of time and have good nutritious meals. With your support, your children will be able to rise to the challenge of the 2024 - 2025 school year.



Gilles Buck

Upcoming Events:

- Professional Development Day (No School for students) - Friday, September 13th
- Chuseok Holiday - September 14th - September 18th
- Team building trips - Friday, September 20th
- Week without Walls Information Sessions for parents and students - Thursday September 26th

Week Without Walls Information Sessions:

We will be hosting information sessions to share detailed information about the week without walls trips that will happen towards the end of the school year. These trips are fantastic educational opportunities and the feedback from last year's trips were overwhelmingly positive. We will be sharing detailed information regarding the trips at this information session. We will first provide a general overview of the trips and then break up into sessions specific to each grade level. We highly encourage all Grade 9, 10, 11 students and parents to attend.

Date: Thursday September 26th 2024

Time: 6 - 7 PM

Who: All Grade 9, 10 and 11 students and parents are invited to attend

Here's a quick reminder of Week Without Walls from our last ISB school year.



From the Diploma Coordinator

Welcome back!

It has been wonderful to be back on campus for the first couple of weeks of school. Seeing friends connecting and getting down to learning and growing is what school is all about. I have had an opportunity to visit many of the classes in the first few days and it has been great to see the DP students experiencing a variety of activities as they get to know their new teachers and connecting with friends again.



Homeroom and Physical Education

As a part of our commitment to wellbeing, We have incorporated time into the student's homeroom schedule to focus on balance, stress relief and physical health. The final two years of high school have lots of highs and lows and we want to make sure that our students know how to take care of themselves during those peaks and valleys. On Wednesday, we combined the grade 11s and grade 12s allowing them to choose to take part in some physical activities or use the time for a study block. Having both options allowed the students to reduce stress through either the physical activity or by catching up on work that needs to be completed.



What is the DP?

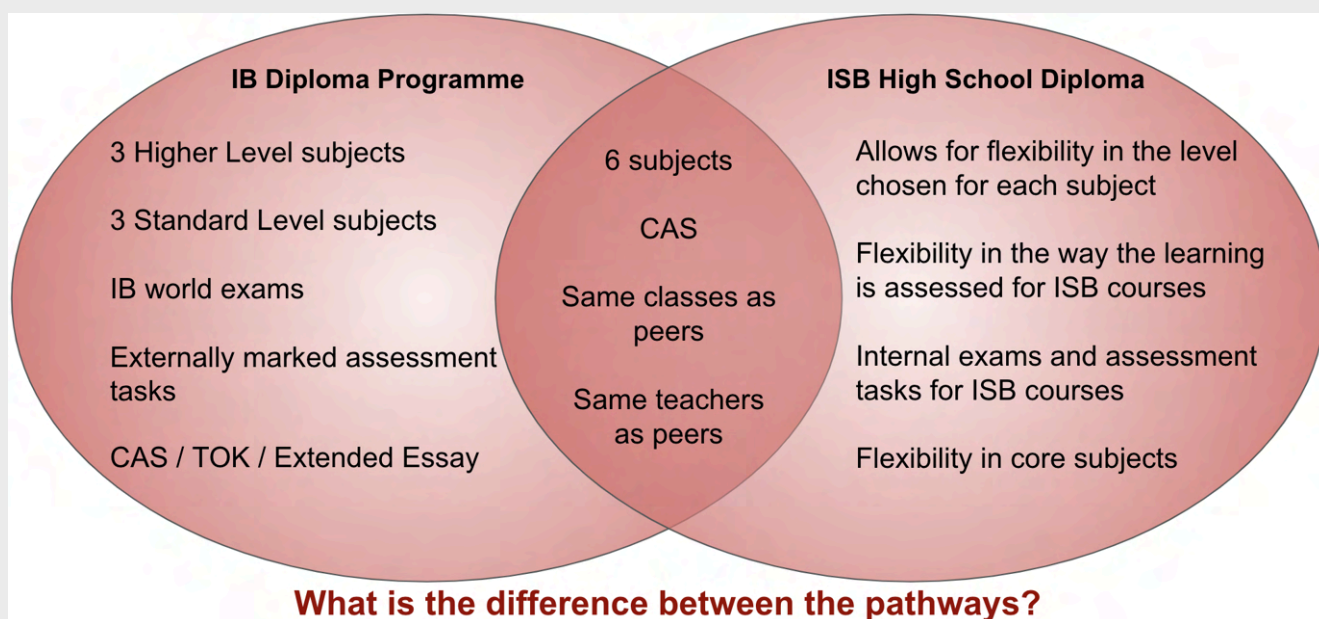
When we speak about the DP at ISB, we are referring to the program that students go through in their final two years of high school. We have 2 pathways for students:

1. The ISB Diploma + IB Diploma

Students have specific expectations set out by the IB for courses they must take. These courses are both internally and externally assessed. Successful students earn an ISB diploma as well as a diploma awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

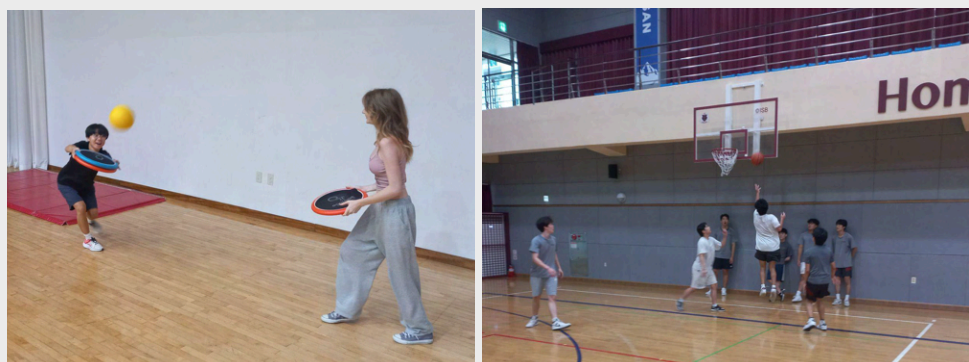
2. The ISB Diploma

This is a high school diploma which has requirements similar to an American high school diploma and results in a WASC accredited high school diploma. It is suited to those who do not require the IB Diploma for university entrance, for students who want more flexibility in their course selection.



You can find out more about these programs in our [DP Parent Information Presentation](#).

Our DP teaching team is very much looking forward to working with the new grade 11 students, pushing their limits and seeing what they can achieve. We are also excited to see the grade 12 students making their way through a challenging final year of high school and finishing strong!



Resources to help families navigate social media and device usage

Greetings! Helping ourselves and our family manage our screen time and cultivating a healthy relationship with our devices is important. It is entirely possible to guide our children and help them learn how to use their electronic devices in an enjoyable yet responsible way that does not compromise their well-being, safety and balance. The process involves a little work on our part. Informing ourselves about how social media and device use works, and establishing certain family agreements and rules.



Ellenore Hibon

Parental controls can keep your children's internet experiences safe, fun, and productive (see link below). There are numerous resources available to help us navigate this process. The ultimate goal is to protect and increase the wellbeing of our family and help our children develop important life skills. Below are some examples of the type of resources you can find on Common Sense Media that can be of great help to guide meaningful conversations and initiatives at home.

[What Are Some Basic Gaming and Social Media Rules for Elementary Schoolers?](#)

[4 Conversations to Have with Older Kids and Teens About Their Screen Time Habits](#)

[Parents' Ultimate Guide to Parental Controls](#) (Parental controls can keep your children's internet experiences safe, fun, and productive).

[How to Help Kids Balance Phones and Screens with Sleep](#): Tips for managing TV, tablets, phones, and tech so your kids can get a good night's sleep.

[Be a Role Model: 4 Ways to Balance Screen Time Around Children](#)

Common Sense has a [Parent Tips and FAQs section](#) with resources about a range of topics that include: screentime, cell phones, social media, online safety, guides to Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram, Fortnite, Minecraft and tips for parents of children of all ages (from 2 year olds to teenagers).

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions. It will be my pleasure to connect with you.

Warm regards,

Ellenore Hibon

Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor

The recent PTA coffee morning was a wonderful success, thanks to everyone who joined us. Your presence and commitment to supporting our school and community are truly appreciated. And we have a fantastic community event coming up! Mark your calendars and join us for a fun-filled Family Beach Day on September 8th at 2pm. We can't wait to see you all there! Check the flyer below for more details!



Our PTA maintains a [Community Facebook Page](#), 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 organizing 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.

