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The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st September, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 3

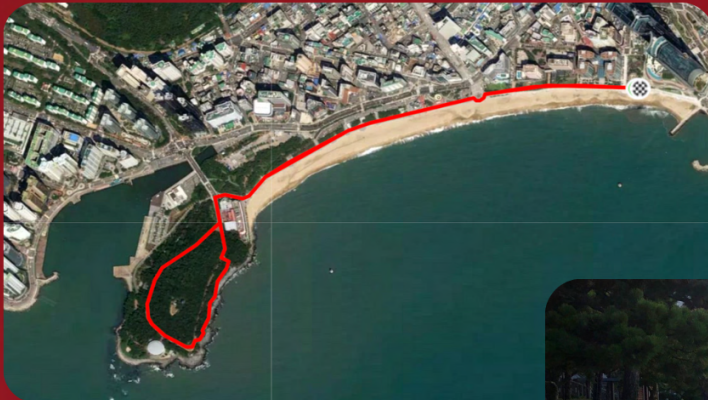
CONTENTS

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 4th - Thursday 7th September - MAP Testing Week
Monday 4th September - Season One ASA's begin
7th-10th September - EAISAC Student Leadership Conference
Friday 8th September - ISB Community Luge Event
Saturday 9th September - ISB Community Run (Haeundae)
Thursday 14th September - ISB Board Meeting
Friday 15th - Saturday 16th September - PYP Sports Camp
Saturday 16th September - DoE International Award Hike
Monday 18th - Thursday 21st September - Photo Week

Featured Story



ISB Community Runs are back!

Saturday 9th September
at 7.30 am



The first ISB community run of the season will begin on Saturday 9th September. We will meet at 7:30 am at the beach side of Pale de Cz. Please sign up to our [mailing list](#) for important information and reminders. Marshalls, pacers, and runners are welcome! Elementary students are welcome to join us but need an adult running with them at all times. We encourage all athletes to join us to improve fitness levels in preparation for the upcoming SKAC and EAISAC sports seasons! Go Bears! 🐻 (From The ISB Cross Country Team).

They're Back! Season 1 ASAs

We're so excited to get started on this semester's ASA program, and this year again we have an amazing variety of learning opportunities available to students; from gymnastics to surfing, football to Korean book club, piano to Zumba, and many, many more. By now, you will have received notification via the SchoolsBuddy System about which ASA your child has been enrolled in. For ASAs that require payment, please keep an eye out for an email with the specific payment details. Please also note that the bus timetable will be adjusted to accommodate students who will stay for an ASA class, and students with ASA's off campus will be contacted individually to make appropriate pick-up arrangements. Afternoon bus operation schedule:

- Monday: Once a day at 15:40 - The same bus number is used for both the morning and afternoon.
- Tuesday to Friday: Twice a day at 15:40 and 16:40
- Jinhae and Geoje buses: The buses will leave school at 16:40 only, except on Monday.
- For activities that finish after 16:30: The students need to arrange their own transportation home or take the 16:40 bus after confirmation with our [Bus Coordinator](#)



Developing Digitally Literate Learners at ISB

On Wednesday, ISB hosted its monthly parent workshop. The topic was an important one; supporting our learners in becoming digitally literate. This is a key part of our vision for learning at our school and an important point of cooperation between the school and the home.

We covered four main areas in the workshop; discussing and defining what we mean when we say 'digital literacy', learning how to better use the school's learning management systems, helping students find balance between online and offline life, and ways to improve focus. Important topics for all learners! If you would like to take a look at some of the resources from the event, please [check out this presentation](#). I look forward to connecting with you all once again at another event in the near future!

- Dale Plotzki (*pictured*)



Thanks to the PTA for the TACO lunch



On Wednesday, following the Parent Workshop hosted by Mr Plotzki, the PTA set up a fantastic TACO bar in each of the teachers lounges, to celebrate returning to school for the 2023/24 school year, and to keep their bellies and hearts full. It was a huge hit, with many of our teachers coming back for seconds, and even thirds (we won't name names)! Thank you to our amazing PTA for your kindness and support, we wouldn't be where we are without you!

The ISB Learning Community

We have two community events coming up that provide great opportunities for ISB families to meet-up and connect outside of school. On Friday 8th September at 4.30 pm, ISB families will be meeting up to have some fun on [the Luge adjacent to school](#) (thanks to our PTA team for organising this). On Saturday 9th September at 7.30 am, our Cross Country Team has organised a Community Run. All members of the ISB community are welcome to join!



Simon McCloskey

Southern Korean Activities Conference

ISB is proud to be a member of the Southern Korean Activities Conference (SKAC). The conference is a welcoming and inclusive student-centred organisation that emphasises participation for all students. Starting in September, ISB students from both the Elementary School and Secondary School will participate in events throughout the year with international schools from the Southern Korea region. Our comprehensive after school activities (ASA) programme is designed to prepare students for the events which take place throughout the year. This year ISB will be chairing the conference. Mark Howarth, our Athletics and Activities Director will be meeting with representatives from all SKAC schools this Saturday, and on Friday 13th October, ISB will host the annual SKAC Head of School meeting. Please note that all fixtures and SKAC events can now be found on the [ISB community calendar](#).

Season One

- Elementary School** - Futsal Divisional at ISB (Saturday 23rd September 2023)
- All Divisions** - Cross Country Meet at GIFS (Friday 6th October, 2023)
- High School** - Volleyball Championship at ISB & BFS (Saturday 14th October)
- Elementary School** - Futsal Finals at HIS (Tuesday 24th October, 2023)
- Middle School** - Futsal Championship at HIS (Tuesday 14th November, 2023)
- All Divisions** - Cross Country Championship at DIS (Wednesday 22nd November, 2023)
- Middle School & High School** - STEM at DIS (Saturday 1st December, 2023)
- Middle School & High School** - MUN at KFS (Saturday 9th December, 2023)

Season Two

- Elementary School** - Volleyball Divisional at AIS (Friday 26th January, 2024)
- Elementary School** - Volleyball Finals at AIS (Wednesday 14th February, 2024)
- Middle School** - Volleyball Championship at DIS and BFS (Monday 26th February, 2024)
- High School** - Basketball Championship at GIFS (Wednesday 28th February, 2024)
- Middle School & High School** - Fine Arts Festival at GPA (Wednesday 24th April)

Season Three

- Elementary School** - Basketball Divisionals at DIS (Saturday 4th May, 2024)
- Middle School** - Basketball Championship at HIS (Wednesday 22nd May, 2024)
- High School** - Football Championship at ISB (Saturday 25th May, 2024)
- Elementary School** - Basketball Finals at BFS and ISB (Saturday 1st June, 2024)

Useful Information

Please remember that you can always refer to our [Parent Handbook](#) (available on the website) if you need information about our school. If you find that there is information you need that is not in the handbook, please let us know. We review and update the information every year to ensure that you have access to accurate and useful information about life at ISB.

Have you seen the new ISB campus tour video yet? [It is available to view here.](#)

Next week, students from Grades 3-5 will be taking NWEA MAP Growth tests in Reading and Mathematics. The purpose of the MAP tests is to inform teaching using valid, reliable, and real-time data.



Kevin Smith



With MAP data, we are able to measure the growth of every student over time. Here is a [short video](#) to explain the purpose and format of the tests.

Elementary Learning Focus

Growth Mindset Assembly

In our assembly this week, we explored ideas around a growth mindset. Student volunteers from Grade 5 read a virtual picture book, "[Y is for Yet](#)" to the students from K-5 in the ES Hall. We then went to different rooms in small, vertically arranged groups to discuss one of the ideas presented in the book. Each group had a large letter from the alphabet and discussed the guiding question from the story. They then shared their ideas about this by writing or drawing pictures on the letter. Look out for the letters on display in the stairwells soon!



Early Years 2: Who We Are

We have started the first unit, "Who We Are," with the central idea "People develop relationships with others." To help the children connect with this central idea, we invited them to explore the different learning corners, which will help them build relationships with others. Through play and exploration, children learn about the world and themselves. They also learn how to share, take turns, resolve conflicts, and experience the joy of friendship. The children have been building relationships and bonding with their EY2 friends and teachers.



We have been discussing with the children how to play and take turns with others, and so far, we have reached two agreements:

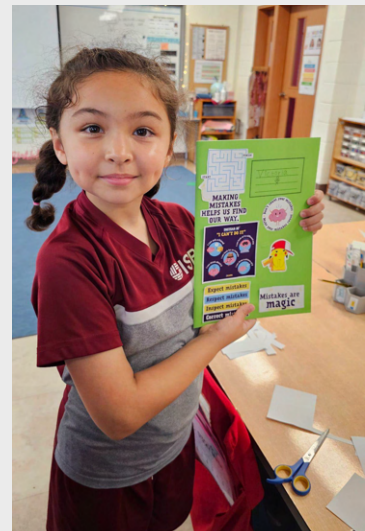
1. Ask before we take something away from others, such as "May I have a turn?", or "Can I try it?".
2. Inform friends when they can have a turn instead of just saying "NO", using phrases like "I can share with you when I finish" or "How about in 5 minutes?"

It would be helpful if you could also encourage your child to use these phrases at home. Thank you for supporting the children's learning.



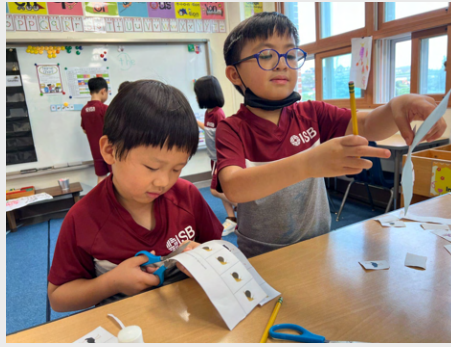
Grade 3 Investigates a Growth Mindset

This week, grade 3 looked at what "mind", "mindset" and "growth mindset" mean as part of our unit of inquiry about Who We Are. We learned that the brain is like a muscle, and so we exercised our brain by doing some Mathematics fact practice. We also learned that mistakes help us learn, so we did some pre-assessments to see which areas of addition and subtraction we are not strong in YET. At the end of the week, we decorated our Math books with positive growth mindset messages to remind us of what we learned the next time we struggle with challenging problems.



Growth Mindset in Grade 1

During growth mindset week, grade one learned to believe in ourselves. Our brains are a muscle and when we believe in ourselves our brains will grow and change. We learned that we can exercise our brains just like the muscles in our body. We practised this by making parades of animals adding up legs that made 20!



Grade 2 Mathematicians

This week, the Grade 2 students have been inquiring into measurement. The children tried to answer this question: 'What is measuring?'

Afterwards, everyone compared their answers and shared ideas. The students had lots of interesting suggestions about the different things they would like to measure!



PYP Sports Camp: Let's Get Ready!

The PYP Sports Camp is coming up next week! Here's some handy information about the schedule, what to bring and what NOT to bring! If you have any questions, please contact the elementary school office.

Packing List	
<p>Tournament Packing List:</p> <p>Sports kit (wear on Friday) Additional sports kit Casual shoes (for outdoor meals) Jumper/sweater for evening Water bottle (please label) Suncream</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Teddy bear Sleeping/night mask</p>	<p>Overnight Packing List:</p> <p>Underwear Pyjamas Sleeping bag and/or blanket Pillow Toiletries (for shower) Towel Toothbrush & toothpaste Mosquito repellent Torch/flashlight Reading book</p>
<p>*Prescribed medication (must be given to the school nurse)</p>	

Sports Camp Schedule	
Sunset 6:35 pm, Sunrise 06:05 am	
<p>Friday 15th September 2023 *8:15 am drop off bags in gym</p> <p>3:30 pm - Meet, greet & games (ES basketball court) (4:30 pm ASA students join) 4:30 pm - Snack & welcome 5:00 pm - Sports tournament begins 7:00 pm - Pizza dinner outside 7:30 pm - Night games on field 8:00 pm - Shower and pyjamas (8:00 pm - Optional evening pick up) 8:15 pm - Movie begins 9:30 pm - Getting ready for bed 9:45 pm - Bedtime & lights out</p>	<p>Saturday 16th September 2023</p> <p>6:30 am - Wake up 7:00 am - Breakfast in cafeteria 8:00 am - Pack up & prepare for day (9:00 am - Optional morning drop off) 9:00 am - Sports tournament 11:00 am - PTA Snack 12:00 pm - Pick up ES car park</p>

Please don't bring:

- Electronics or screens (sports camp is device free)
- Unhealthy snacks or drinks
- Valuable items



From the Secondary Principal

Our classes are in full swing! Classes have now established the basics and have begun digging into their first units in earnest. You may begin to see an increase in homework expectations and upcoming assessments. Please support your children at home. This can be done by checking in with them, ensuring they have time to take breaks, do activities that they enjoy but also that they have dedicated time (in a quiet, appropriate space) to complete school work and prepare for assessments. Ensuring that your child gets access to enough sleep is also very important in supporting your child's well being and learning. What a great week!



Gilles Buck

We look forward to the start of Season 1 of our After School Activities (ASA). I look forward to enthusiastic participation. Our ASA programme is such a great way for students to further their skills and develop friendships and interests.

Secondary Learning Focus

Exciting Opportunity for Middle School students Interested in Theatre



Are you a middle school student who loves performing? Do you want to develop your theatre skills? Are you interested in learning alongside students from 9 other amazing schools from across Asia?

The International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) runs dynamic, fun-filled theatre festivals across the globe. Sign up today for the ISTA Middle School Drama Festival, taking place between December 1st to 3rd at Chadwick International School, Incheon. [Link to application form](#)

Schools participating in the Incheon festival:

- American Community School of Abu Dhabi
- American International School Dhaka
- American School of Bombay
- Chadwick International School
- Hong Kong International School
- International School of Beijing
- International School of Busan
- International School of Kuala Lumpur
- Singapore American School
- Taipei American School



From the DP Coordinator

It has been wonderful to be back on campus for the first couple of weeks of school. Seeing friends connect and get down to learning and growing is what school is all about. I have had the 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.

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:

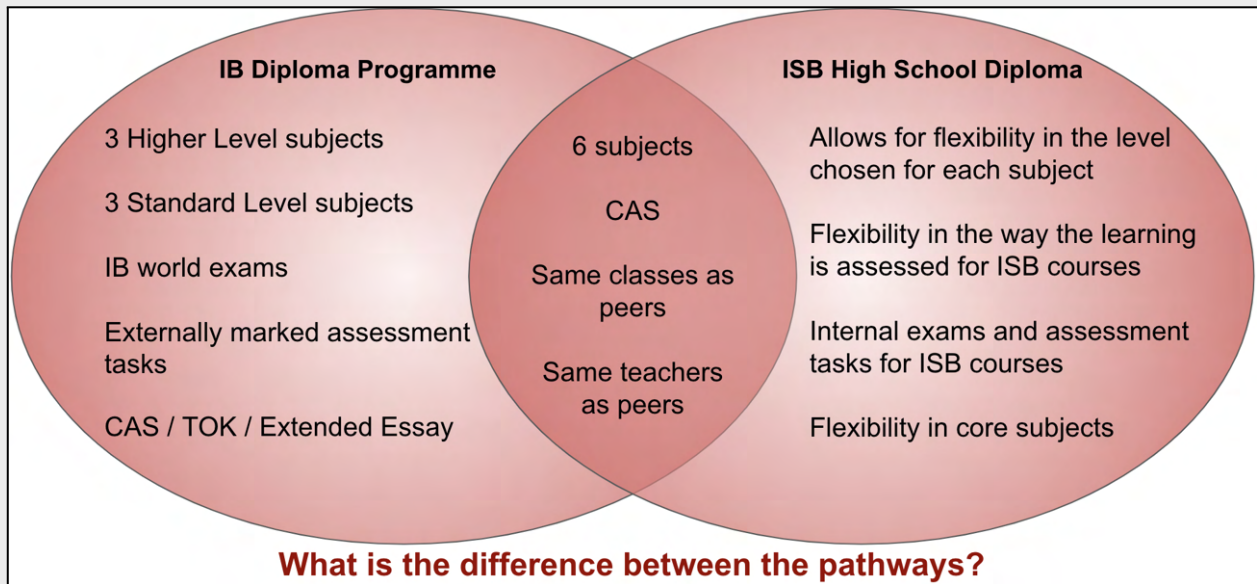
1. The ISB Diploma + IB Diploma

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 that 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, or for students who are not currently equipped to handle the rigour of the DP.



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!

Nico Gysbers
IB Diploma Coordinator

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 DP teacher **Divya Jesudoss**.

Qualifications and certifications: MA Economics, MPhil Economics, PGDip in Learning & Teaching

What is your role at ISB? Teacher - DP Psychology, Grade 10 I&S, HOD I&S, and Global Citizenship Coordinator



Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you

are from and where else have you lived? I'm Indian, and always will be Indian at heart. My teaching career has allowed me to live and work in India, Singapore, Tianjin, and New York before Busan.



What inspired you to become a teacher? An architect can say 'I designed that', a lawyer can say, 'I argued that', a doctor can say, 'I treated that', an entrepreneur, 'I started that', but as a teacher, I could have a part in all of that. A student-teacher relationship is unique in its combination of what is transactional and relational, giving all members of the learning community opportunities for growth. Being a teacher makes me want to be better, so my students can do better. The potential to invest in various dimensions of the future inspires me.

What is your educational philosophy? Learning cannot be contained between bookends or within walls. Learning must be personal and relevant. Education is about equipping individuals to make choices, ask difficult questions, and use learning purposefully and responsibly.

What made you choose ISB? The people who work here to orchestrate every meaningful learning experience. A school may have all the infrastructure one could dream of, but it is the quality of the teachers that make a difference. The people I have met here make ISB a great choice.

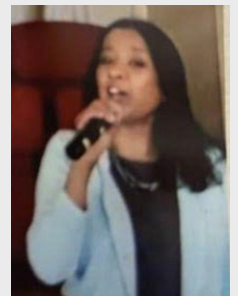
What is the best part of your job? Watching different patterns of thinking and doing unlock potential is definitely the best part of my job.

What are your hobbies and interests? I enjoy embroidery, singing gospel music, camping and a good espionage movie.

What is your favourite quote? As iron sharpens iron, so one friend sharpens another. (Proverbs)

Who is your most memorable teacher and why?

My eighth grade teacher, Mrs Reddy, taught my first lessons in Economics. She was knowledgeable, confident and talented. She made me love the subject, respect the profession, and encouraged me to pursue excellence.



Slide and Glide!

Join the ISB Luge Community event on Friday, September 8th! Staff and ISB families are welcome to attend! Please complete this [google form](#) if you would like to join in the fun.

Remember that Students and ISB staff need to wear an ISB shirt to receive the discount price.

Snack Donations for PYP Sports Camp

Grade 3, 4, and 5 parents:

If your children are participating in sports camp, we are looking for donations for a healthy snack.

There are over sixty students attending. You are welcome to drop the snacks off by Friday afternoon, the 15th, and/or help serve the snacks on Saturday morning (arrive at ISB by 10:30am). Send an email to pta@isbusan.org if you can help! Thank you!



GET READY TO GLIDE AND RIDE!

8 SEP 2023 | 4.30pm-7pm

A great opportunity to see friends, classmates and families at our very own local Luge!! Oh, and the ISB mascot should be there too!!

WEAR YOUR ISB SHIRT TO GET YOUR PACKAGE PRICE!!!!



**4 ride package 15% discount
& 50% off photo shots**

Height range 85-110 cm will ride with a guardian who is older than 19.

**Package price: 28,050 KRW
Child doubling: 12,000KRW**



Parent Teacher Association