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The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 21st February, 2025

Volume 6, Issue 21

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IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 26th February - ISB Parent Workshop
Thursday 27th February - ES Volleyball Finals at AIS
Friday 28th February - End of Season 2 ASAs
Saturday March 1st - SKAIS HS Varsity Basketball at BFS/ISB
Monday March 3rd - PTSC's (Independence Movement Day)
3rd - 7th March - PYP Art Exhibition
Wednesday 5th March - Yearbook Photos Mop-Up Day
7th - 14th March - Grade 12 Mock Exams
Monday March 17th - Season 3 ASAs Begin

ISB Living Library: I am the Story

Our "I Am the Story" Living Library event during Home and Family Languages Week was a remarkable experience. Staff and community members shared personal stories with students in the library, offering a deeper connection and understanding of the diverse backgrounds within our school community. This event allowed students to see the storytellers as individuals with unique perspectives, enhancing our sense of community and belonging. Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their rich experiences, truly demonstrating the power of storytelling in bringing us closer together, and a special thanks to Secondary School Librarian Ms Catherine Buchanan for bringing it all together.





Parent Workshop: Wellbeing, Safeguarding, and Child Protection

The well-being and safety of our students are our top priorities. Learn about ISB's comprehensive Wellbeing Programme and our robust safeguarding and child protection measures at the upcoming Parent Workshop. This session will provide insights into how we create a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for all our students. This workshop is followed by a PTA coffee morning networking event. [Register here!](#)

ISB Community Basketball

Join us for ISB Community Basketball this Saturday, February 22nd from 10:15 am to 11:45 am. All levels of players are welcome to play. We will play mixed-gender games with a focus on fun competition. It's a great opportunity to have some fun and get some exercise in! If you would like to attend, [you must fill in the Community Basketball Form](#) so that we have an accurate record of who will be on campus. We look forward to seeing you there!



ISB Nature Corner

Welcome to the new segment of our school newsletter - **ISB Nature Corner** - prepared and delivered by Mr Ashraf Dean and his daughter River. Each week we will highlight the abundant flora and fauna found on and around our school campus, to remind us how lucky we are to be surrounded by the beauty of nature, and how important it is to take care of our environment. Let's see what we have this week!



Ashraf Dean

- **Scientific Name:** *Anas zonorhyncha* (informal name: *Cute Lil' Ducky*)
- **Where to Find It:** Common in freshwater lakes, rivers, and wetlands across East Asia, including Korea, Japan, China and parts of Russia. It may also be spotted in other regions during migration. This pair was seen in the stream beside ISB.
- **Why It's Important:** This duck helps keep wetland ecosystems healthy by feeding on aquatic plants and insects, controlling insect populations, and spreading plant seeds.
- **Fun Fact:** The distinctive black stripe running through its eye helps reduce glare from sunlight, much like built-in sunglasses! This adaptation is useful for spotting food in bright, reflective water.

By Ashraf & River Dean



Board Updates

Over the past few months, the Board's Governance Committee has been engaged in a comprehensive review of the Board Policy Manual to ensure it aligns with Korean law, CIS accreditation standards, and IB standards and practices while also reflecting current practice at ISB. This process involved carefully examining existing policies, updating language for clarity, and removing or rewriting sections where necessary to improve relevance and compliance. The final draft was reviewed by the Governance Committee on 6th February before being presented to the Board for approval. At last night's Board meeting, the [updated Board Policy Manual](#) was formally approved and is now in effect.



Simon McCloskey

At the Board meeting the first draft of the Strategic Plan was also reviewed and discussed. We have made several changes and additions based on feedback from the community survey and discussions at the meeting. Here is the updated version of the [2025-2029 Strategic Plan](#) which will be formally reviewed and approved at the next Board Meeting on Thursday 20th March.

Introducing Jerry Quick – New Non-Parent Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Jerry Quick to the ISB Board following his unanimous appointment by Board Members at last night's meeting. With over 25 years of executive leadership in financial and operational management, he brings extensive expertise in corporate governance, strategic planning, and financial oversight. Jerry previously served as President, CEO, & Chairperson of Ulsan Aluminum, successfully leading a major joint venture between Novelis Inc. (USA) and Kobe Steel (Japan). He has also held senior leadership roles in multinational organizations across North America, Europe, and Asia. Now, through JMQ Advisory, he provides strategic guidance to foreign corporations in Korea. We look forward to his insights and leadership as we continue to strengthen ISB's future. Please join us in welcoming Jerry to our community. To find out more about the roles and responsibilities of the ISB Board please visit [the ISB Website](#).

The ISB Board of Governors February 2025

				
Paul Edwards MBE Board Chair	Emma Grann Board Treasurer	Nolan Barkhouse Board Secretary	Jerry Quick Non-Parent Member	Mikyung Shin Non-Parent Member
				
Jeff Liebsch Non-Parent Member	Timothy Paolini Parent Member	Andrea Nikcevic Parent Member	Yong Cha Parent Member	

Campus Improvement: New Climbing Wall Installation

We are delighted to announce that a new climbing wall will be installed in the Elementary Playground over Spring Break. The wall will be 12 metres long and 2 metres high, enhancing both play opportunities and safety. In addition to providing a fun and engaging activity, the climbing wall will help improve balance, coordination, and overall fitness. It will also serve as a natural divider between the play area and the bus pickup zone, ensuring better foot traffic flow and increased safety for students. We look forward to seeing our students enjoy this new addition when they return after the break.



Campus Improvement: Early Years Playground

We are excited to share that our major campus improvement project this year will be the redevelopment of the Early Years playground. The current playground has remained unchanged for many years, and this upgrade will create a safer, more engaging, and developmentally enriching space for our youngest learners.

Designed with input from students and teachers, the new playground will feature upgraded flooring for improved safety, expanded play areas with interactive elements that promote movement and creativity, and better sightlines for supervision. It will also integrate seamlessly with classrooms through energy-efficient sliding doors, shaded outdoor learning spaces, and flexible areas that support both play and learning. We hope to begin construction in March 2025, pending formal approval from Busan Metropolitan City after our meeting at City Hall on Thursday morning. Once approved, work will continue through June, with the new playground ready for students at the start of the next school year.



Welcome to Busan!

Next week, we welcome Donovan Hall to ISB. He will be joining us as the Whole School Technology & Learning Innovation Coordinator from August 2025. He will be on campus all week to learn more about ISB's technology infrastructure and learning environments. This transition visit is designed to ensure he has all the information needed for a smooth start in his new role. Donovan is currently the Director of Educational Technology at a large IB World School in Saudi Arabia, he brings with him a wealth of experience in educational technology and innovation.

From the Elementary Principal

Student-led conferences (SLC) will take place on Monday, March 3. These conferences empower students to take responsibility for their learning and be active promoters of their own achievement, efforts and attitudes in school. The SLC gives students an opportunity to show ownership of the learning process by taking the lead as parents listen and ask questions. The student-led conference is one form of reporting used in our school. For more information about the SLC, please read [this document](#). We will be sending out a link to sign up for your child's SLC on Friday.



Kevin Smith

3월 3일 금요일, 학생 주도 컨퍼런스(SLC)가 진행될 예정입니다. 컨퍼런스에서는 학생들이 자신의 학습에 대한 책임을 갖고 학습 성취, 노력 및 태도를 적극적으로 소개할 수 있도록 합니다. SLC는 학생들이 주도하여 부모님이 듣고 질문하는 동안 학습 과정에 대하여 소개하고 보여주는 기회를 제공합니다. 학생 주도 컨퍼런스는 본교에서 사용되는 학습 보고 방식 중 하나입니다. 학생의 SLC에 대한 자세한 정보는 이 문서를 참조해주시기 바랍니다. 다음 주에는 자녀의 SLC에 참여 신청 링크를 발송해드릴 예정입니다.

Elementary Learning Focus

Home & Family Languages Week

During Home and Family Languages Week, ISB students connected through language! Students proudly read aloud in their home languages (including Spanish, Chinese, Swedish, Japanese, Norwegian, German, and Korean) and participated in fun activities, finding classmates who speak different languages and learning simple phrases from them. We believe it's important to encourage students to speak their home languages and connect with the 23 languages represented at ISB.





Grade 5 Swimming Unit

Our Grade 5 students have successfully completed their swimming unit in PE this term. Throughout the program, they have developed essential water safety knowledge and refined their swimming skills. With a strong emphasis on streamlined body positioning and stroke technique, all students have demonstrated significant progress in the pool. They have benefited from weekly swimming sessions in Gijang, guided by our five qualified swimming coaches from ISB. Congratulations to Grade 5 for their enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work!



How We Organize Ourselves: Early Years 2

As we begin our new unit, "How We Organize Ourselves," our little explorers embarked on an exciting journey to discover the many people who help our school community run smoothly. We met teachers, librarians, and staff members, each playing an important role in our school. Our visit to the secondary library introduced us to Ms. Catherine, who shared a special story and showed us books with only words and no pictures. Along the way, we passed through the cafeteria, where people were hard at work preparing lunch, and peeked into classrooms filled with busy students. A surprise stop at the school counselor's office gave us time to explore her cozy space and play with her toys.



Ms. Hilary, our art teacher, and Ms. Heidi took us to meet the secondary art and music teachers. In the secondary art classroom, we met Mr. Young and watched older students bring their creative ideas to life. We even got to touch some of the materials they were using! In the music room, we met Ms. Olga, listened to students playing instruments, and had an exciting chance to try the violin ourselves!

This was just the beginning of our exploration! As we continue our journey, we look forward to meeting more of the people who help make our school a wonderful place to learn and grow. Through these visits, our little explorers are gaining a deeper understanding of how different members of our school community work together to support our learning and daily experiences. We can't wait to see where our next adventure takes us!

Grade 1 visit the Science Museum

Grade 1 students visited the Science Museum and Shadow Art Exhibition by Vincent Bal this week. The experience was incredibly enriching and directly supported our current units of inquiry on light, shadow, and performance. Students had the opportunity to explore the science behind light and shadow through interactive exhibits and then connect those concepts to the artistic expression of shadow art. They were also able to create their own art pieces, which fostered their creativity and deepened their understanding of the interplay between light and shadow. Overall, the trip was a fantastic success and provided a valuable hands-on learning experience for our Grade 1 students.



Grade 4 Visit to Kori Nuclear Power Plant

On Wednesday, our Grade 4 students visited the Kori Nuclear Power Plant to learn more about how electricity is generated. They took part in a presentation, explored an exhibition, and enjoyed some hands-on activities that helped bring their learning to life.

It was a great opportunity for students to see how nuclear power works and to ask questions about energy production. The trip was both fun and educational, making for a memorable experience!



ISB Elementary Volleyball Pride!

The ISB Elementary School Volleyball teams recently showcased their skills and spirit at the SKAIS Volleyball Divisional held at AIS, delivering an outstanding performance that beautifully represented our school. Demonstrating incredible teamwork and communication skills, all teams played with heart and determination. Their collaboration and strategic play were commendable, as they communicated effectively and supported each other throughout the games.



The excitement was palpable, with cheers echoing in the gym as our teams skillfully navigated through challenging plays. It was a proud moment for ISB, highlighting our young athletes' dedication and commitment to staying the course.

This was the very first volleyball competition for our elementary school teams, and all things considered, they made themselves - and our school - very proud! Congratulations ES Volleyball teams for a job well done —you truly embodied the spirit of ISB! GO BEARS!!



From the Secondary Principal

Another wonderful week in the Secondary School! Our Living Library event, "I Am the Story," was a resounding success! It was heartwarming to see teachers, students, and parents come together to share their personal stories with our Middle School students. These connections and shared experiences are invaluable in building a strong and supportive community.

It was also great to see so many parents at the recent Grade 11 Parent Coffee with the College Counselor. The information shared about navigating the university application process is incredibly beneficial for our students and families.



Gilles Buck

This week, we also had the SKAIS MS Volleyball Tournament, with our boys' teams competing at BFS and our girls' teams at DIS. I'm incredibly proud of our participation, with both boys and girls sending three teams each! It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm and commitment to our athletics program.

Looking ahead to next week, our Grade 6 students will be heading to Haeundae beach to explore the issue of microplastics through both a Science and Mathematics lens. This field trip is an excellent opportunity for our students to engage in hands-on learning and connect their classroom studies to real-world issues. Friday of next week also marks the end of ASA Season 2. Congratulations to all of our participating students for their hard work and dedication, and a big thank you to all the faculty members who sponsored and supported these activities.

It's clear that there's a great deal of positive energy and engagement across the secondary school, and I'm continually impressed by the dedication of our students and staff. Have a wonderful week! Read on for details regarding signing up for the Parent Teacher Student Conference, a recap of the Grade 11 college counseling event, and for a look at the recently completed MYP personal project! Congratulations Grade 10, supervisors and coordinators!

Secondary News

Upcoming Event - Parent Teacher Student Conferences

On Monday, March 3rd, we will be hosting the Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences. This is an important opportunity for your child, you as a parent and your child's teachers to discuss learning and growth. We welcome you to attend a conference with each of your child's teachers either in person or **via Google Meet**. For virtual conferences, if you do not have a Google account, you must access the Google Meet link via a laptop (phone will not work). You have an opportunity to sign up for 10-minute conferences with your child's teacher. Please note that your child's attendance at the conference is **mandatory** unless your child is away on a school-sponsored trip. The conferences are intended to be student-led and it is most important for the child to engage with the feedback for growth and improvement. **The booking window is from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM**



[Use this link or scan the QR code](#) to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

Booking opens on Friday, February 21st at 8:00 AM and closes Friday, February 28th at 12:00 PM.

Grade 11 Parent Coffee with the College Counselor - Recap

It was wonderful to see many parents at the recent Grade 11 Parent Coffee with the College Counselor! This helpful workshop focused on navigating the university application process. Key topics covered included essential application information for various regions and countries, important deadlines and timelines, the ISB application process, financial considerations, and valuable resources available to both parents and students. The session also included a Q&A period to address specific parent questions. For those who were unable to attend, the presentation and resources presented during the workshop have been shared with all Grade 11 parents for their reference.



Grade 11 Parent Coffee With the College Counselor

Join me to discuss key university application information for ISB grade 11 students. We will go over important dates, the application timeline, financial implications of applications, among other topics. There will be time for Q&A. Kindly, Ms. Hibon

Tuesday February 18th

8:45 to 10 AM
ISB Learning Lab (C3.9)



Spotlight on the Personal Project

The Personal Project Exhibition is a celebration of student creativity, passion, and perseverance. This year, we were inspired by an incredible range of projects that showcased our students' diverse talents and interests. Yuika honoured her cultural roots by creating a beautifully crafted Korean Heritage Cookbook, while Jerry applied his design skills to develop a 3D model of our school. Aeon explored the power of artistic expression through street art, and Anton demonstrated technical expertise and creativity by coding a game. Each of these projects reflects the unique passions and dedication of our students.

Beyond these remarkable projects, many students took their learning a step further and created a lasting impact on our school community. Today, we would like to highlight students whose projects extend beyond the exhibition, either by serving the community or continuing their work in meaningful ways. Gwenyth built a cheerleading team and performed at our school when we hosted the high school basketball EAISAC competition this term. Maria is sharing her passion for volleyball by helping to coach the middle school team. Jiwon is fostering a love for mathematics through a newly founded math club and a website with supplementary materials and interactive activities. Yuju brought her cookbook to life by baking treats with Grade 4 students. Meanwhile, Dave is bringing music to campus through songwriting and performing with his band.

These students exemplify how the Personal Project can be a springboard for real-world action. Now, let's hear what they have to say about their projects and experiences.

Gwenyth

What inspired you to come up with the idea for your project?

For as long as I can remember, dance has always been a passion of mine. I've always believed that to be a dancer, you don't have to be "perfect"-it's about having spirit. And when you combine that spirit with the passion for dance, I believe you've got what it takes to be a cheerleader. When I looked at our school and the opportunities it offers, especially with competitions like EAISAC, I saw so much potential in creating a cheer team.

How have you impacted the school community with your project?

With ISB hosting such important competitions, I wanted to build a team that embodies spirit, enthusiasm, and pride, while representing our school as cheerleaders. I'm proud to say that our cheerleading team has already made a significant impact on our school community. It has given many students the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and discover new talents.

Do you have any plans to continue it in the future? What will you do?

Moving forward, I'm committed to keeping the team going throughout the year and expanding its reach in the years to come; increasing resources and creating even more opportunities for students. This journey is just beginning, and I can't wait to see where it takes the team!



Dave

What inspired you to come up with the idea for your project?

Music holds a special place in my heart. I've been intertwined with it (music) since I took my first steps. I wanted to take a deep dive into songwriting because I've always been fascinated by the process of making music. I wanted to experience what my favorite singers and songwriters had experienced while making their songs. Songwriting was also a goal of mine since a very young age and this project has helped me fulfill that.

How have you impacted the school community with your project?

By sharing one of my passions, I connected with certain people who resonated with the song and who experienced something similar, in this context, the loss of someone close. I also connected with people who want to make music or have already started the process.

Do you have any plans to continue it in the future? What will you do?

By learning how to utilize music-making software and audio-editing software, these skills will now remain in my head, making it easier for me to pursue a similar project in the future such as when I'll be in uni. Additionally, I have brought the song to my bandmates so we can collaborate to make something even better and hopefully perform it.



Yuju

What inspired you to come up with the idea for your project?

I've always had a passion for baking, and I've enjoyed it for as long as I can remember. At the same time, I love teaching and working with kids. So the idea of combining these two interests seemed like a great way to share something I love with others, especially young kids.

How have you impacted the school community with your project?

Through my project, I created a website to teach young children how to bake in a simple and fun way. I also had the opportunity to teach 4th graders in person, guiding them through the process of baking. It was an

unforgettable experience to see them excited about learning something new and watching them have fun



Do you have any plans to continue it in the future? What will you do?

Yes! I plan to continue sharing my passion for baking with others while teaching little kids how to bake. Also In the future, I'd like to expand the website to include more baking recipes and perhaps even bake with more young students. I want to make baking accessible to even more kids and give them the chance to explore their creativity in the kitchen.

Jiwon

What inspired you to come up with the idea for your project?

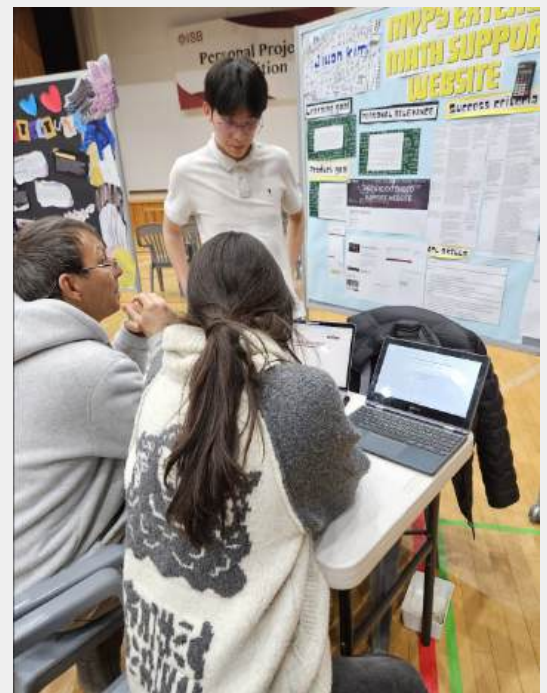
I was inspired to create both the math club and the website because of my passion for mathematics and my passion to help my peers. Some of my peers faced challenges in a fast-paced learning environment, and I wanted to create accessible resources that reinforce classroom learning. The website provides structured practice questions and explanations.

How have you impacted the school community with your project?

I aimed my website to serve as an additional learning tool, offering personalized practice and interactive resources to support independent study. By providing these platforms, I hope to make learning math more engaging and accessible for students at ISB.

Do you have any plans to continue it in the future? What will you do?

Yes, I plan to continue both initiatives. I want to expand the website by adding more interactive features, such as gamification elements and AI-generated practice problems tailored to students' needs. For the math club, I hope to do more fun activities involving solving and preparing for team competitions.



Maria

What inspired you to come up with the idea for your project?

I am passionate about volleyball—it's my favorite sport. I thought it would be really nice to help other people who also like the sport, whether they're practising or just learning. So I thought it would be a good idea to coach the middle school girls during their season.

How have you impacted the school community with your project?

With coaching volleyball I could see that the girls who were there starting playing had a good improvement compared to when they started and I honestly feel really proud of them, seeing their evolution is really good because they also when realizing that are getting better the girls feel more motivated to start and this is really good.

Do you have any plans to continue it in the future? What will you do?

I plan continue coaching next year when the volleyball season starts again, coaching the girl has being an amazing experience because when you start seeing their progress, doing the fundamentals better and start turning in a better player getting more experience during the little games that we do in practices it's so satisfying and you feel proud of those girls, for next year I plan continue coaching them but of course that now with more experience and knowing more how to speak in front of a lot of girls, that I confess that at the beginning I was really shy doing this.



Cultivating Kindness: The Power of Random Acts

One of our school's top priorities is to create a nurturing and supportive environment where everyone feels welcome and valued. "Safe, happy and learning" are three of our favorite words! We work hard to promote a culture of kindness, where students support one another, and where everyone can feel a sense of belonging. In February, please join us in highlighting the value of Random Acts of Kindness. Random Acts of Kindness, as the name suggests, are simple, spontaneous gestures of goodwill performed without expectation of reward.



Ellenore Hibon

These acts can be as simple as holding the door for someone, offering a compliment, helping a friend or family member with a difficult task, or even just sharing an encouraging smile. These small acts can have a ripple effect, brightening someone's day and perhaps inspiring them to do a kind act themselves!

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EST. 1983

From the SS Counseling Office

Self-Care Tip of the Week:
Random Acts of Kindness!

Kindness can boost feelings of confidence, happiness and optimism. Spread kindness and watch it grow!

**FEBRUARY 2025
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
CHALLENGE**

- GIVE AN UNEXPECTED COMPLIMENT.
- HOLD A DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE
- BE ESPECIALLY KIND TO SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY
- LEAVE A CHEERFUL NOTE TO SOMEONE
- HELP A YOUNGER STUDENT
- GIVE A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO SOMEONE
- HELP SOMEONE IN NEED

Practicing and receiving Random Acts of Kindness offers many benefits:

For the giver: Performing a kind act can boost our self-esteem, increase feelings of happiness and well-being, and even reduce stress! It can provide a sense of purpose and connection to others around us.

For the receiver: A kind act can brighten someone's day, offering support during a challenging time and promoting a sense of belonging. It can also inspire them to pay it forward and spread kindness themselves!

For the community: A community where kindness is common becomes a more positive and supportive place for everyone.

Thinking and talking about Random Acts of Kindness can be a great way to connect with your family! Perhaps you could discuss ways everyone can spread kindness at school, at home, and in the wider community. Simple acts like helping a friend or a younger sibling or giving a heartfelt thank you note to someone can make a big difference! For inspiration and ideas, please see [50 random acts of kindness you can do today](#).

Warm regards,

Ellenore Hibon, Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor



Eco Warriors: Planting for a Greener Tomorrow!

Exciting things are growing in our *Eco Warriors* after-school activity! Recently, we got our hands in the soil, planting **onions and potatoes**—a step toward sustainable food production right here at school. With patience and care, we're looking forward to seeing these crops thrive in the coming months.

But that's not all! We've also introduced a **vertical garden in the 4th science room**, where our plants are already sprouting to life. This innovative setup allows us to maximize space while closely monitoring their progress. Watching nature take its course indoors is a rewarding reminder of how small actions can lead to big changes.

These hands-on projects are more than just about growing food—they're about learning, sustainability, and creating a greener future. As our garden continues to flourish, we hope to inspire more students to join us in making our school a more eco-friendly space. Stay tuned for updates on our harvest, and as always, let's keep growing together!



From the PTA

Hello everyone!

Join us in showing appreciation for ISB teachers and staff with a Sandwich Bar! We need volunteers to donate food and assist with setup. [You can sign up via this link.](#)

Date: Wednesday, February 26th

Time: 10:00 AM

The PTA will also provide lunch for volunteers in the PTA room! Your support makes a difference—thank you!

