



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25th August, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 2

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IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 26th August - SAT at ISB
28th August - 1st September - PYP Growth Mindset Week
Wednesday 30th August - Parent Workshop & PTA Coffee
Monday 4th - Thursday 7th September - MAP Testing Week
Monday 4th September - Season One ASA's begin
Saturday 9th September - ISB Community Run (Haeundae)
Thursday 14th September - ISB Board Meeting
Friday 15th - Saturday 16th September - PYP Sports Camp
Monday 18th - Thursday 21st September - Photo Week
Saturday 23rd September - SKAC ES Futsal Divisional at ISB

Featured Story

FRIENDSHIP FITNESS ISB TEAMWORK FUN!

PYP SPORTS CAMP
PROMOTING TEAMWORK, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP & FUN!

FRIDAY 15TH & SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2023
AN ENJOYABLE OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5.

ISB BEARS

The PYP Sports Camp is an optional overnight experience for all students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Students take part in fun sporting activities, play night games on the field, enjoy a popcorn movie night, and sleepover in the gym. On Saturday morning, students have a cooked breakfast and enjoy more sporting activities together.

This year the sports camp takes place from Friday, September 15th, to Saturday, September 16th. Please note that students have the option to sleep at home if they prefer.

The sign-up form for our annual PYP sports camp will close this weekend, so if you have not already filled out the form to attend, please do so by the evening of Sunday 27th August.

Last chance to sign up for the PYP Sports Camp!

[Link to sign Up Form](#)

From the Music Department

The Music Department (Ms. Amanda in the Elementary School and Ms. Olga in the Secondary School) is very excited to offer after-school support to ISB instrumentalists.

If you are a Grade 4–12 student and you play an orchestral instrument, such as woodwind, brass, or string, and you want to improve your individual and ensemble skills, this is a great opportunity for you to become a member of the ISB Orchestra. This ASA season, there are auditioned (Fridays) and non-auditioned (Tuesdays) orchestra classes offered to our students. The Friday ASA is for students who have completed the audition and been selected.

Friday orchestra rehearsals: Please contact Ms. Amanda or Ms. Olga before signing up for *auditioned* classes; *you must be chosen* in order to attend this course. Our ISB Orchestra ASA is offered throughout the year, and priority will be given to students who commit to regular rehearsals and stage performances.

Tuesday orchestra rehearsals: this is a non-audition course, but you must know how to play an *orchestral* instrument at an intermediate level. This course is *not for beginner level* instrumentalists. Piano and acoustic guitar are *not orchestral instruments* and are **not suitable** for this type of ensemble.

In secondary school, the creative arts classes are offered by trimesters. In order to support students' regular instrumental and ensemble practices, the Instrumental Practice Wednesday ASA is offered *exclusively* for Grade 7 students in Trimester 1, and for Grade 6 students in Trimester 2. No audition is required, but passion is appreciated!



The ABRSM instrumental programme is offered for students who would like to participate in ABRSM piano and music theory exams in June/July 2024; our two very dedicated and talented *piano* and *music theory* teachers, Ms. Ray and Ms. Kim, are offering individual and small

group lessons to ISB students after school. Ms. Ray's classroom location is on the fifth floor of B building, and Ms. Kim's is on the fifth floor of C building. Both teachers teach piano and music theory lessons up to ABRSM level 8 for students of any school age.

A very impressive fact; Last school year, thirty-four ISB students from across the school sat for ABRSM piano and theory exams and every single one of them passed!



Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning

Join our ISB Tech Wizard Dale Plotzki for the first of our Parent Workshops of the new school year. We will take a deep-dive into the school's Learning Management Systems and focus on how to use these tools to support your child in becoming a 'Digitally Literate Learner'. Find out more about the PTA coffee morning that follows the parent workshop in the PTA section at the end of the newsletter.



East Asia International Schools Activities Conference

We are delighted to announce that this year, ISB will join three other international schools as founding members of the East Asia International Schools Activities Conference (EAISAC). All four schools are accredited IB World Schools with a similar sized student population and similar philosophy. The core values of EAISAC are to provide:

- fair and balanced events and competitions.
- cultural experiences that encourage students to broaden their perspectives.
- opportunities for participants to develop friendships beyond their schools.
- an inclusive and equitable environment for all participants and schools.

The first in-person EAISAC Head of School meeting will be hosted at ISB on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October.

The 2023-24 EAISAC Calendar

Season 1

High School Volleyball at Fukuoka IS
Middle School Football at Nagoya IS
Student Leadership Conference at Nagoya IS

Season 2

High School Basketball at IS Ulaanbaatar
Middle School Volleyball at IS Busan

Season 3

High School Football & Cross Country at IS Busan
Middle School Basketball - Nagoya IS
MUN at Fukuoka IS



Southern Korean Activities Conference

Elementary, Middle and High School Teams will continue to compete in our local league with international schools from Daegu, Pohang, Kwangju, Jeonju, Geoje and Busan. Please note that all of our fixtures for the year can now be viewed on the [ISB Community Calendar](#). ISB will be hosting the annual SKAC Head of School meeting on Friday 13th October.

One of our School Goals this year is to “Comprehensively review all Health, Safety and Security policies and procedures, ensuring that they are aligned with best practice and statutory requirements”.

To support us with this objective we welcomed three members of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to ISB this week. Security specialists Peter McDonald and Chris Erbe from the Security Training, Assistance and Assessment Team (STAAT) travelled from Japan. They were joined by Special Agent Mike Rieger who is stationed in Busan.



Simon McCloskey



Members of the NCIS Team spent the morning in school interviewing operational and security staff. They also spent time reviewing our health, safety and security protocols. The visit concluded with a tour of the campus in order to evaluate facilities and equipment including, CCTV camera provision, motion sensors, alarm systems, PA systems, fire extinguishers and hoses, perimeter fencing, emergency generator, evacuation points and automatic electronic locking systems.

Useful feedback was provided during the visit that will help us to ensure we continue to focus on the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students.

International Accreditation Visit Preparation

At ISB we want to demonstrate our commitment to high quality international education to parents, students and staff members. We also want to ensure that our school is continually improving and keeping up with leading international education standards. For these reasons, we are accredited by the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (WASC) and are seeking accreditation with the [Council of International Schools](#) (CIS).

As part of this process, members of our leadership team are currently completing an in-depth Self Study Evaluation Report in readiness for a Preparatory Evaluation Visit on Monday 13th November. Deidre Fischer (School Support and Evaluation Coordinator for the Council of International Schools) and Natalie Merritt (International Consultant for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges) will be spending the week in school to observe lessons and interview students, staff, teachers, parents and board members. They will be assessing our readiness for the full CIS/WASC Team Evaluation Visit in 2025. The school will be expected to submit a report using the [CIS International Accreditation Evaluation Framework](#) under the following domains.

- Domain A: Purpose and Direction
- Domain B: Governance, Leadership and Ownership
- Domain C: The Curriculum
- Domain D Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- Domain E: The Students' Learning and Well-Being
- Domain F: Staffing
- Domain G: Premises and Physical Accommodation
- Domain H: Community and Home Partnerships

From the Elementary Principal

PYP Welcome Conferences

On Thursday and Friday, we welcomed parents into school to meet with their child's Homeroom teachers for conferences. The purpose of these conferences is for parents to share important information, as well as their hopes and goals for the school year. As part of the collection of information, a questionnaire was sent to all parents to share additional information regarding their child's preferences and background. We hope that the conferences were a useful way to start the new school year.



Kevin Smith



PE Classes

Students are advised to come prepared for PE class by bringing their own water bottles, sunscreen, and PE uniforms. Staying hydrated during physical activities, protecting their skin from the sun's rays, and wearing appropriate attire ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. By remembering these essentials, students can fully engage in the activities and make the most of their PE classes.

After School Activities

As our Season 1 ASA programme sign-up went live on SchoolsBuddy on Wednesday, our assembly this week focused on the exciting and varied programme of activities being offered. We hope that conversations between parents and children will result in choices being made ready for the start of season 1 on September 4th.

Elementary Learning Focus

Library Updates: Enhancing Your Reading Experience!

We're excited to announce updates made to our Libraries! Here's what's new...



1. A self-checkout machine for faster borrowing and returning.
2. New, lower and brighter bookshelves to make finding books easier.
3. Increased display bookshelves to showcase more books.
4. Two new iMac computers to navigate our library collection with ease.
5. Additional bean bags and sofas for comfy reading retreat.

Our students have already adapted to and enjoyed these new features. We believe these updates will elevate the reading experience, nurturing knowledge, imagination, and sheer enjoyment.

Early Years Free Flow with Lower Elementary

This week we started our 'Free Flow' session where EY1, EY2, KG and Grade 1 spend time moving around our learning spaces and exploring the different places. It was exciting to get back to our routine for returning students and also wonderful to welcome new students to our shared time. We are looking forward to expanding our spaces to include the playground and Grade 1 classroom in the future.



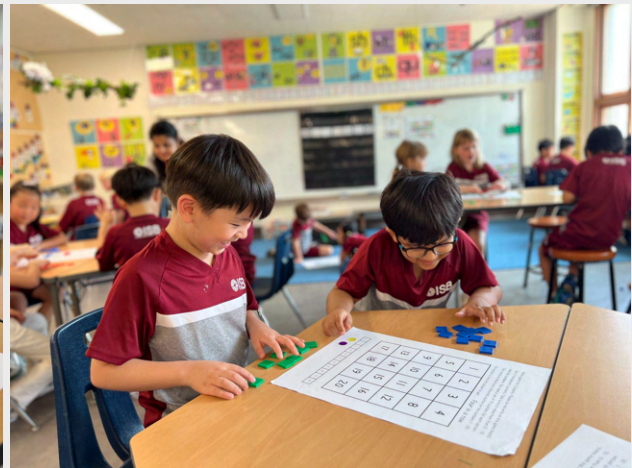
Lower Elementary STEAM

This week the students in grades 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed their first exciting experience of STEAM time! We learned how STEAM activities are an exciting combination of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math. Then we faced our first STEAM time challenge of how to cut a piece of paper in a special way to create a big loop that we could step through. All members of the ISB community are invited to try this fun challenge at home.



Lower Elementary Mathematics

Grade 2 taught grade 1 students how to play a new mathematics game called 4 in a row. Students are building their numeracy skills as well as their social and communication skills. Grade 1 was so excited to learn a new game that they can play with each other in class. They are beginning to develop their thinking about how to block the other player from completing 4 in a row.



Grade 2 River Walk

The Grade 2 students enjoyed the summer weather while having a lovely riverside walk this week. They looked for wild plants and animals along the river bank and shared their observations with each other. Afterwards, back in the classroom, everyone reflected on what made the river walk a healthy choice. Then the students shared their reflections on Seesaw, as part of their Unit of Inquiry into Healthy Choices.



From the Secondary Principal

Our first full week of the new school year! It has been an outstanding start to the year. There is a palpable sense of excitement and optimism. On Friday, we held our Middle School and High School student council elections. It was great to see a large number of both middle and high school students applying to be part of the student council. This body will have a significant impact on the school, as we strongly value student leadership in our decision making. We look forward to hearing their ideas and, by extension, those of the student body to keep making ISB the best possible school.



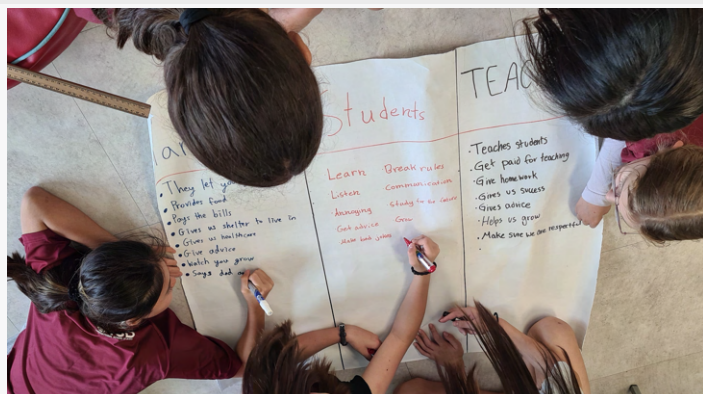
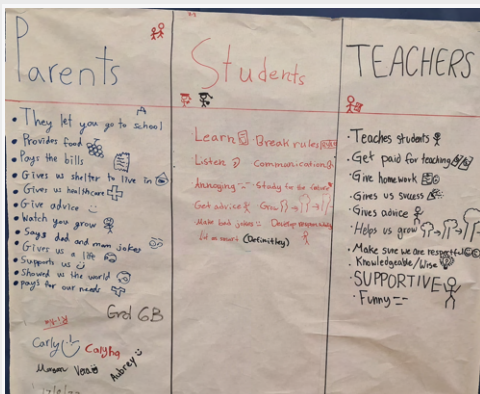
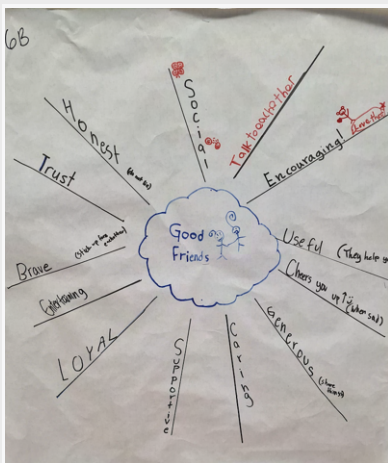
Gilles Buck

Please read on for information about the MYP, College Counseling and a look at how classroom community is built in Grade 6 Mathematics.

Secondary Learning Focus

From the Grade 6 Mathematics Class

We welcome our new Grade 6 students to middle school! They have embarked on an exciting journey through the wonderful world of mathematics. In our first sessions, we've taken the time to reflect on our roles as students, parents, teachers and friends within our school and classroom communities. We all believe that fostering a supportive and collaborative environment is just as important as mastering mathematical concepts. We look forward to the opportunity to learn not only from textbooks but also from each other and begin with excitement, a year filled with exploration, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of mathematics and each other.



From the MYP Coordinator



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. Eight subject groups are offered. They provide a broad and balanced education for adolescents aged between 11 and 16. Research shows 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 through 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.

To learn more about the MYP, the slides from the parent information session during the ISB family day are linked below.

Solène Matsushita
MYP Coordinator

- [MYP Parent Information Session](#)



College Counseling Newsletter

The CC Newsletter is a bi-weekly newsletter which includes messages from the College Counselor, Ms. Hibon, information about university events and fairs, university admission updates and information from around the world, as well as grade-level specific information, planning tools and guidelines for students. To access the newsletter, please click on the following link: [College Counseling Newsletter](#).

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year, and a special welcome to our new IBS parents! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce or re-introduce myself. My name is Ellenore Hibon, and I am the Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor. I joined ISB in July 2022 and am very happy to be part of this wonderful school and community! As the Secondary School Counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic, personal, and social development of students.

I support students through one-on-one meetings, in small groups, in the classroom, by collaborating with teachers and staff, partnering with parents, and keeping up-to-date with resources, research, and information connected to student learning and social and emotional wellbeing.

I share resources with all ISB parents (Secondary and Primary) through this newsletter and sometimes through email. This year, I am also taking over the College Counselor role. I bring with me many years of experience working as a college counselor in international schools. For College Counseling information specifically, please check my biweekly College Counseling Newsletter which can be found in the Secondary School section of the ISB Newsletter.

Resources available to the ISB community: We have a list of resources that you can access at any time when you are looking for reliable information to support yourself and your family members. These resources can all be found on the [ISB Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) page (please bookmark!). Below are some of the topics you will find on the page:

- [Breathing and Mindfulness: \(for general wellbeing and stress prevention\)](#)
- [Exercise](#)
- [Health and Child and Adolescent Development: Physical, Emotional and Behavioral Topics](#)
- [Nutrition](#)
- [Parenting Resources](#)
- [Resources for LGBTQ+ youth and their families](#)
- [Sleep](#)
- [Technology/Digital Literacy](#)
- [Time Management](#)
- [Transitions/Nomadic Lifestyle](#)

If you have great resources that you use yourself that we could possibly add to the list to be able to share with other parents, please email me with your suggestions, I would love to hear from you! We also have an excellent selection of Parenting books that are located in our Elementary Library that are relevant and specific to both Secondary and Elementary parents. Please visit the [following link](#) to browse through the titles. You are welcome to contact Ms. Yuni Gysbers, our expert Elementary Librarian, at ygybers@isbusan.org if you have any questions about accessing these titles.

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.

Kind regards,

Ellenore Hibon

Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor



Ellenore Hibon

Are you TACO to me?

Yes, we are! We need your kind help and assistance to welcome our teachers back with a fantastic Taco Bar lunch on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023. Items need to be delivered to the Board room (in the admissions office, next to the PTA room) by 11 a.m. Lunch will be set up in each staff room for 60 people, so please let us know how you can offer your help to treat our fantastic ISB Staff!

→ [Sign Up Here](#) ←

Don't forget to join us on [Facebook](#) for regular updates, networking, and news, and if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email us at pta@isbusan.org.



The poster features a dark red background with a white PTA logo at the top. Below the logo, it reads 'International School of Busan' and 'PTA COFFEE MORNING' in large white letters. A yellow banner contains the date 'Wednesday, August 30'. Below this, it says 'Meet fellow parents, new PTA committee members and get more information on International Day!' and '10:00am, PTA Room'. A white speech bubble with a red outline says 'WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!' with an arrow pointing to a taco. At the bottom, it says 'Help welcome back ISB teachers with a taco lunch!' and 'Follow the link for more information!'. There are images of a coffee cup, a taco, and a tomato slice.



The ISB PTA Committee

- President - Meghann Rollinger
- Vice President - Jia Kim
- Events Coordinator - Carmen Rentz
- Treasurer - Emma Grann
- Secretary - Tiia Väättäjä
- Concessions Coordinator - Caitlin Fitchett
- Teacher Representative - Amanda McCloskey