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The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th August, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 1

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ISB Staff and Faculty 2023-24

IMPORTANT DATES

24th-25th August - PYP Parent Welcome Conferences
24th-25th August - Grade 11 DP Welcome Conferences
Saturday 26th August - SAT at ISB
28th August - 1st September - PYP Growth Mindset Week
Wednesday 30th August - Parent Workshop & PTA Coffee
Monday 4th 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

Featured Story



We're back! The time has positively flown, this week marking the beginning of a brand new school year at ISB. It has been a great first week with new and returning students getting to know each other, meeting new teachers, sharing stories of travels and adventures, and settling back into the school setting for another year of healthy, happy learning. Check out the Whole School section of the newsletter for some important 'back-to-school' information, and we wish everyone a fantastic start to the school year! Welcome Bears!

40th Anniversary Celebrations

On September 27th we will hold a very special event to commemorate 40 years of academic excellence at ISB, and we invite you to celebrate this important milestone with us on campus! More details will be shared with you closer to the event, but in the meantime please save the date!



2023/24 Parent Workshops

Throughout the year, we hold a monthly workshop designed specifically for parents to help support their child's development and underscore the importance of mirroring the learning that takes place on campus, at home.



The first workshop will be on **Wednesday, August 30th at 8.45am**, and will be followed by the first PTA coffee morning of the year. These workshops are a great chance to understand our approaches to learning, as well as a great opportunity to network with our teachers and fellow ISB parents, to build a supportive, caring community of life-long learners. We look forward to seeing you there!

ISB on Film

Over the past few months we have been working with a creative team to showcase the learning and facilities our students enjoy here at ISB. We've created two promotional videos and have more in the works.

You can see them here on our [official YouTube channel](#), and feel free to share with family and friends.



Welcome to another year of productive and fun after school activities (ASA's) at ISB. To familiarise yourself with the SchoolsBuddy login and sign-up process, please click on the [ASA Parent Demo video](#). This video is a step-by-step guide and will show you everything you need to know to sign your child up to an ASA.

Please note that it is crucial to use the email address you shared with the school, or your ISB manageBac credentials to log into SchoolsBuddy. Should you wish to log into SchoolsBuddy, please click on [this link](#). SchoolsBuddy operates using a preference based sign-up model as opposed to using a first come first serve model.



Mark Howarth

This means that SchoolsBuddy will do its best to provide everyone with their first choices. If the first choice is oversubscribed, the algorithm will automatically place the student into their second choice or, very rarely, their third choice. Further information regarding ASA's can also be found on the new [ASA webpage](#). You may log into your SchoolsBuddy parent account now, but Season 1 ASA sign-ups do not open until 3pm on Wednesday 23rd August and will close at midnight on Sunday 27th August.

Please note that Season 1 will start on Monday 4th September and will run until Friday 10th November. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at - mhowarth@isbusan.org

Best wishes,



Mark Howarth
ISB Athletics and Activities Director

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 5 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.

If you would like to join the ISB Community Runs mailing list please complete this short form:

[ISB Community Runs Mailing List](#)

Elementary students are welcome to join us, but must have a parent running with them at all times.



Save the dates:

- Saturday 9th September
- Saturday 16th September
- Saturday 23rd September
- Saturday 14th October
- Saturday 21st October

You are also invited to join our ISB online running community that we recently launched 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!

Mr. Aaron, Ms. Zoe & Ms. Amanda - ISB Bears Cross Country Coaches



Welcome back from the
**ISB Technology and Learning
Innovation team!**



A very warm welcome back to the ISB campus from the Technology and Learning Innovation Team. My name is Dale Plotzki and I along with my teammates Sy Song and Yumi Kim are here to support your learners with their technology for learning here at school.

Whether you are a new or returning member of our community, our door at B2.2 is always open should you need any support with your device, learning platforms or just have questions about technology for learning in general.

We have a whole host of engaging and meaningful learning experiences planned for students this year in our quest to make our students critical, skillful and ethical digitally literate learners at ISB. Until then, I would like to share some handy resources with to kick off the year:

[ISB Innovation YouTube Channel](#) - Here you can find helpful guides and tutorials to walk you through many common processes at school.

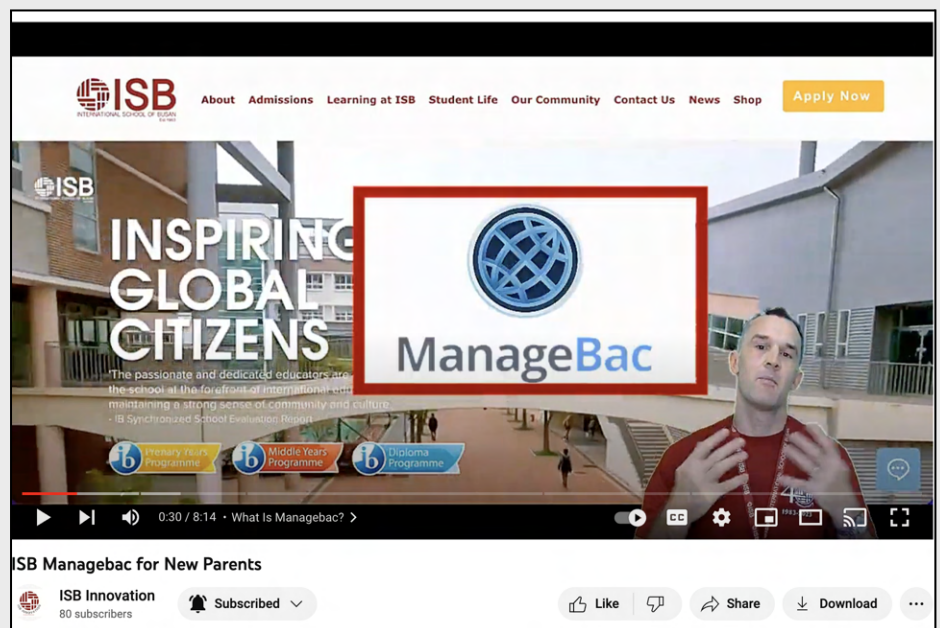
[ISB Digital Citizenship Agreements](#) - Here you can find the expectations for being safe, responsible and respectful when working with technology at ISB.

[Bring Your Own Laptop Guidelines](#) - Here you can find the exact specifications of the laptop your child in secondary school should bring with them.

[ISB Technology Handbook](#) - Here you can find a whole range of information on how we use technology for learning at ISB.

We would especially like to [highlight this How-To video](#) for new parents (also a great refresher for returning parents) on how to access your ManageBac account, which will be a very important platform for you and your child throughout the school year.

We will leave it at that for now. I am excited to be along for the ride this school year as we learn to use technology for learning at ISB



Sincerely
Dale Plotzki
Technology and Learning Innovation Coordinator

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to a new school year - ISB's 40th Anniversary Year! This week, we are delighted to welcome 59 new students. We remain a truly international community with new students coming from the USA, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Philippines, France, Greece, India, Japan, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam. The ISB family continues to grow, showcasing the diversity and inclusion that is at the heart of our school.



Simon McCloskey

Family Welcome Day

On Tuesday 15th August we welcomed new and returning families to the ISB Family Welcome Day. This was the first time we have organised such an event. Our aim was to replace the multiple parent information evenings which have traditionally taken place in the first few weeks of the school year. To help us improve our family welcome sessions next year we would be very grateful if you could complete this [brief feedback form](#).

School Improvement

Staff at ISB have been busy over the summer break. Mission-aligned campus improvement work has included:

- Full refurbishment of our gymnasium.
- The redesign and refurbishment of classrooms in Block B to create a new 'PYP Learning Lab' (a suite of smaller classrooms designed for small-group learning support and EAL lessons).
- Solar panel installation (enabling us to generate up to 20% of our power using clean energy).
- Additional furniture for the libraries including new iMacs for students to browse the library catalogue and a new fully automated self-service checkout system in the Elementary Library.
- Construction of a new outdoor stage/performance area (completion expected 29th August).



Our Aims and Objectives for the 2023-24 School Year

Each year we focus on important whole-school goals that are driven by our [Strategic Plan](#) and aligned with our [Guiding Statements](#). This year our learning community will be focusing on the following goals.

1. Collect and analyse student data to support actions that impact student learning and well-being.
2. Identify and implement strategies to remove barriers to learning to increase access and participation for all learners.
3. Continue to develop our response to the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence in education and balance academic integrity with our vision of creating Digitally Literate Learners.
4. Further develop effective inquiry-driven, concept-based learning and teaching strategies in our practice.
5. Complete the self-study for the [CIS Accreditation](#) Preparatory Evaluation Visit in November 2023.
6. Implement strategies to ensure that the school continues to promote inclusion, diversity, equity and anti-racism.
7. Redevelop our learning spaces to ensure that they best meet the needs of our learners and support our stated aims as outlined in the ISB Guiding Statements.
8. Embed meaningful and authentic service learning opportunities into our whole-school curriculum
9. Comprehensively review all Health, Safety and Security policies and procedures, ensuring that they are aligned with best practice and statutory requirements.
10. Use ISB's 40th Anniversary as an opportunity to celebrate 40 years of excellence and raise awareness about the school locally, nationally and internationally.

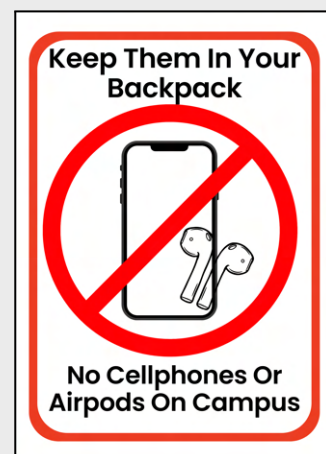
Mobile Phones on Campus

Unesco, the UN's education, science and culture agency, recently stated there was evidence that [excessive mobile phone use was linked to reduced educational performance and that high levels of screen time had a negative effect on children's emotional stability](#).

At ISB, we believe that it is important for students to socialise, chat, play and learn how to interact without devices. It is for this reason that we ask all students to keep mobile phones at home, or in bags or lockers while on campus. Students using phones or smart watches in class, during lunch or at break time will be asked to put their devices away. Repeated use will result in confiscation of the device for the day. Phones will be placed in a cell phone parking lot in the corresponding Principal's office. Should you need to contact your child in case of emergency during the school day, please get in touch with the Elementary or Secondary Secretary.

No Junk Food at ISB Please

We appreciate your support in sending healthy snack options to school. **Sweets, candies, chocolates, sugar-rich drinks, etc. are not appropriate and it is requested that they are not sent to school.** We know that students who eat a balanced diet and stay hydrated throughout the day are much more likely to remain focused and learn better. Please ensure you provide a refillable water bottle and a healthy morning snack for your child. Please also ensure they bring a healthy packed lunch (if they are not eating the food from the cafeteria).



Signage will be added around the campus this month to remind students to keep phones and airpods in bags.

From the Elementary Principal

It was a joy to see our returning and new students start the first day of the new school year this week. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and have returned recharged and refreshed for a year of PYP learning!

The teachers have been working hard to prepare their learning spaces and plan the learning engagements for the year. It's going to be a great one! Welcome!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Early Years

Both Early Years 1 and 2 children have smoothly settled into their routines and have begun to build connections with teachers and friends. As we move forward, the children will continue to explore their new learning environment and engage with their teachers.



Grade 1 Exploration

Grade 1 visits the nature trail. We used all of our senses to explore nature right on campus at ISB. We learned about being open-minded and thinking about putting ourselves in somebody else's shoes. We read *Hey Little Ant*, it helped us to think about not squishing ants and respecting nature.





The poster features a bright yellow background with the ISB logo and 'Primary Years Programme' in the top left. The main title 'WELCOME CONFERENCES' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the dates 'August 24-25 (Thursday & Friday)' and time '1.00pm - 5.00pm' are listed. A note at the bottom states: 'Either face to face or via Google Meet for a 15 minute 1:1 conference.' The right side of the poster is a collage of colorful strips with the word 'Welcome' in various languages: Karşılama, Velkommen, Benvenuto, Welcome, Bienvenue, Accueil, Selama, and Brodosli.

During Thursday & Friday afternoons next week (August 24-25) homeroom teachers from EY1-G5 will meet with parents either face to face or via Google Meet for a 15-minute 1 to 1 conference.

The purpose of the welcome conferences are:

1. Parents share background information about their child and express their hopes for the year ahead.
2. Parents discuss the language and educational background of their child / family.
3. Teacher to listen and learn about the students in their class.

More details on the purpose and philosophy of the conferences can be found [here](#).

*Please use this [link](#) to sign up for your conference slot.
Korean translation can be made available if necessary.

PYP Sports Camp: [Sign Up Form](#)

We are pleased to announce that sign up is open for our annual PYP sports camp. 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. Saturday morning students have a cooked breakfast and enjoy more sporting activities together. This year the sports camp is Friday 15th - Saturday 16th September.

*Please note students have the option to sleep at home if they prefer.

Introduction to the PYP Curriculum Framework at ISB

During our Family Welcome Day we were able to share information about the PYP Curriculum framework and introduce parents to what the PYP looks like in our Elementary School. For more information about our programme we have created a [PYP Curriculum Guide](#) for parents. This document, as well as our Programme of Inquiry, subject learning outcomes by Grade level, and other related articles and brochures are available in the Parent Communications Section of ManageBac. If you

have any questions about our curriculum please do not hesitate to contact our PYP Coordinator, Jennifer Fenton at jfenton@isbusan.org.



The poster is for the PYP Sports Camp, featuring a red and white color scheme. At the top, it says 'FRIENDSHIP FITNESS TEAMWORK FUN!' and the ISB logo. Below is a group photo of students in maroon and white uniforms. The main title 'PYP SPORTS CAMP' is in large, bold letters, followed by the tagline 'PROMOTING TEAMWORK, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP & FUN!'. The dates 'FRIDAY 15TH & SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2023' are listed, along with 'AN ENJOYABLE OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5.' and the ISB Bears logo. The bottom of the poster shows icons for various sports: basketball, soccer, volleyball, and a student playing a game.

From the Secondary Principal

Welcome back to School! That is the theme of this first week of the 2023 - 2024 school year.

On Monday this week, we completed our six day teacher orientation programme and teachers finalised preparations for the upcoming school year. Our faculty is ready and excited to work with our students to push their learning and help them grow to their potential. Our six new teachers in the secondary school are eager to meet the students and get started! We have been back at work since August 1st, but school never starts until our students are on campus!



Gilles Buck

On Tuesday, it was wonderful to welcome so many of you back to campus. It was wonderful to have a mix of new student families along with returning student families. I want to extend a big thanks to our student ambassadors for giving up their time to orientate new families and help everyone out throughout the day. Thank you also to all the coordinators, counsellors, heads of departments and other teachers who contributed to the success of the day.

As promised, here are PDFs of the presentations from that day

- [Secondary School Information & Experiential Learning](#)
- [College Counseling](#)
- [DP Programme](#)
- [MYP Programme](#)

Wednesday was our first day of school! We are back! A school comes back to life when the students return. The day was filled with kids connecting and reconnecting with each other and with teachers. The emphasis in the classroom was with relationship building and creating classroom routines so that we can have an effective learning environment throughout the year.

On Friday, we closed our week with the first secondary school assembly where we encouraged students to apply to the student council. Our student council elections for middle school and high school will take place next Friday. We shared other important information for a smooth start to the year!

Introducing

Every week we catch up with one of our teachers, staff or alumni, and interview them to learn more about what makes them tick, to get a peek into the lives of our ISB community. We look forward to sharing more about the people who make our school wonderful. In the meantime, say hello to our new teachers again! *(Left to right: Hilary Miles, Scott Green, Aaron Vigar, Ashraf Dean, Solène Matsushita, John MacPhail, Divya Jesudoss, Thaba Niedzwiecki)*



Welcome to ISB!

The Parent Teacher Association

Introducing the ISB Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Committee Members for 2023-2024. A huge thanks to the following parents for volunteering their time to support our school community this year.

President - Meghann Rollinger (USA)

Vice President - Jia Kim (South Korea)

Events Coordinator - Carmen Rentz (USA)

Treasurer - Emma Grann (Sweden)

Secretary - Tiia Vääätäjä (Finland)

Concessions Coordinator - Caitlin Fitchett (USA)

Teacher Representative (not pictured) - Amanda McCloskey (UK)



Parent Teacher Association

Please find attached Team ISB for the 2023-24 academic year!



Simon McCloskey
Head of School



Kevin Smith
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
Student Support Services Coordinator



Carol Lesser
Early Years Teacher



Kathy Son
Early Years Teacher



Carolyn Hill
Early Years Teacher



John MacPhail
Elementary School Teacher



Ben Ashley
Elementary School Teacher



Marie Eksteen
Elementary School Teacher



Kate Rock
Elementary School Teacher



Tina Gahagan
Elementary School Teacher



Taariq Amaan
Elementary School Teacher



Hilary Miles
PYP Art Teacher



Amanda McCloskey
PYP Music Teacher



Gearoid Byrne
PYP PE Teacher



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
Teaching Assistant



EunYoung Choi
Teaching Assistant



Stilla Jo
Teaching Assistant



Junha Park
Teaching Assistant



Sarah Ashley
Teaching Assistant



Shagun Saxena
Teaching Assistant



SeYeon Jang
Elementary Office Secretary



Miky Lee
Secondary Korean Language
& Literature Teacher



Pamela Love
Secondary School Mathematics Teacher



Gilles Buck
Secondary Principal



Solène Matsushita
MYP Coordinator



Nico Gysbers
DP Coordinator



Olga van Doorn
Secondary School Music Teacher



Mark Howarth
Athletics and Activities Director and
MYP PE Teacher



Sophie Croteau
Secondary School Mathematics Teacher



Mustak Nakhwa
Secondary School Mathematics Teacher



Carl Love
Secondary 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



SeungHee Lee
Secondary School Language Acquisition
Teacher



Joola Coke-Talbot
MYP Individuals & Societies Teacher



Christine Marzouk
Secondary EAL Teacher



Scott Green
Secondary School Science Teacher



Nicola Vaughan
Secondary School Science Teacher



Gillian Vaughan
Secondary School Science Teacher



Fernando Alvarez
Secondary School Spanish Teacher



Graham Young
Secondary School Visual Arts Teacher



Jeff Errington
Secondary Teacher Librarian



JinHee Han
Secondary School Secretary



Ellenore Hibon
Secondary School Counsellor and
College Counsellor



Zoe Howarth
Secondary PE Teacher



HeeJung Hwang
School Nurse



Laura McLuckie
Head of Community Relations



GaYoung Jo
Finance Secretary



HeuiSeon Cho
Operations Manager



MiKyung Kang
Finance Manager



SeungMi Hong
Admissions 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



Mia Lee
Learning Support Assistant



Shawnee Lee
Learning Support Assistant



Anna Tsoy
Learning Support Assistant



Ian Barnett
Learning Support Assistant



Erin Kang
Learning Support Assistant



Sunhee Jung
Learning Support Assistant



Juliet Kim
Learning Support Assistant



Suki Kim
Learning Support Assistant



Rachel Kim
Learning Support Assistant



ChanGi Jin
Bus Driver



YongSoo Jung
Bus Driver



DongAm Lee
Bus Driver



JeongBok Kim
Bus Driver



JumYong Nam
Bus Driver



SangHwa Kim
Bus Driver



DoSung Kwon
Bus Driver



YeongHwan Kim
Bus Driver



YeongGil Ahn
Bus Driver



JeongBin Lim
Bus Driver



JeongGuk Kim
Bus Driver



Becky Noh
Bus Coordinator



KillHee Kim
Chef



ChanYong Choi
Maintenance Staff



SungKyun Shin
Security Staff



Sumi Hur
Nutritionist



GyeongHwan Boo
Bus Driver



DoWoon Mun
Bus Driver



BongHui Ha
Bus Monitor



OkRan Song
Bus Monitor



HyeKyeong Park
Bus Monitor



HyunSook Lee
Bus Monitor



YuWol Lee
Bus Monitor



SunHee Min
Bus Monitor



MyeongHui Ha
Bus Monitor



JungSoon Kim
Bus Monitor



MiAe Park
Bus Monitor



Jeongsuk Kwon
Bus Monitor



JongSuk Kim
Bus Monitor



JeongSuk Yoon
Bus Monitor



YeongSuk Jeong
Bus Monitor



SiYeon Jung
Cafeteria Staff



SunWha Wang
Cafeteria Staff



HongLim An
Cafeteria Staff



YuJin Lee
Cafeteria Staff



DongJin Ha
Maintenance Staff



MinGyu Kim
Maintenance Staff



SaJin Jang
Maintenance Staff



JeongJa Seo
Cleaning Staff



JongHae Kim
Cleaning Staff



SunDeok Kim
Cleaning Staff



SunHee Ye
Cleaning Staff



SukJa Park
Cleaning Staff



SeungGi Lee
Security Staff



SungHoon Choi
Security Staff



SeUn Oh
Security Staff