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The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15th September, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 5

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 Thaba Niedzwiecki
From the School Counselor
From the PTA

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 16th September - ISB Community Run
Monday 18th - Thursday 21st September - Photo Week
Wednesday 20th September - Parent Workshop & PTA Coffee
21st September - MS Boys & Girls Football, BFS vs ISB at ISB
Saturday 23rd September - SKAC ES Futsal Divisional at ISB
Saturday 23rd September - ISB Community Run at Haeundae
Monday 25th September - Team Building Trips (G6 to G10)
Wednesday 27th September - ISB 40th Anniversary Celebration
28th September - 1st October - Chuseok Holiday
Monday 2nd October - PD Day (No students in School)

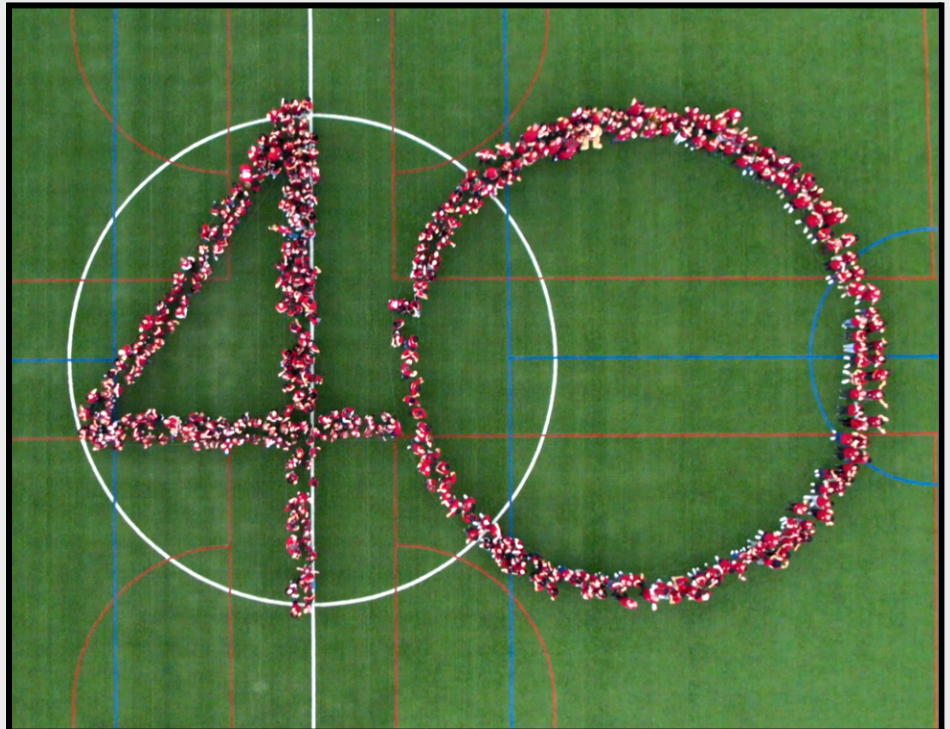
Featured Story

Celebrating 40 years of the International School of Busan 1983 - 2023

Happy Birthday ISB! This year we celebrate 40 years of academic excellence, with our main event taking place on **Wednesday 27th September 2023 between 1:30pm and 3:30pm.**

The event will include a very special congratulatory message from the Busan City Mayor, the premiere of our 40th Anniversary Celebration video, traditional music and dance performances, a raffle draw, and more surprises.

Everyone from the ISB community is invited to attend.



Please [fill out this registration form](#) if you'd like to join us!

Community Announcement

The European Chamber of Commerce together with Haps Magazine are organising an “Informal Business Networking Night” scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th, running from 7.00pm to 9.00 pm. All ISB parents are welcome to attend. [Click here to learn more and register your attendance.](#)



EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN KOREA
주한유럽상공회의소

ISB Community Runs

It was great to have almost 50 runners on the course last Saturday morning. This is a wonderful start to our cross country season and amazing to see so many students, staff and parents enjoying running together. We have 4 Saturday morning community runs left:

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



We meet at Pale de Cz at 7:30am. Join the [ISB Community Runs Mailing List](#) for more information. Share your progress on strava: [ISBusan Run Club](#). Please note in the event of heavy rain and/or lightning we will cancel the community run via email at 7pm tonight (Friday evening)



ISB at the Luge

Thank you to the fantastic team at the Busan Skyline Luge!

Around 100 members of the ISB community were able to join this event, and received a discount for wearing ISB school gear!

We extend a huge thank you to our PTA for organizing this event and for taking so many fantastic photos and videos. Check our [social media](#) for clips of the event! Let's do it again soon!

Our School Cafeteria team has prepared a delicious Chuseok Menu for Thursday next week! Get ready to enjoy some traditional Korean delicacies!

Chuseok Menu

Pork Galbi-jjim (돼지갈비찜)

5 kinds of Namul (5색 나물)

Sauteed and Seasoned Vegetables

3 types of Korean Jeon (육전, 화전, 호박전)

Pan fried beef, Sweet rice cake & Pumpkin

Sticky rice (찰밥)

Korean side dishes (한식 반찬류)

Beef and radish soup (소고기국)

Songpyeon rice cake (송편)

Sweet rice puffs (강정)

Sweet cinnamon punch & Rice punch

(수정과와 식혜)

Seasonal fruits (과일)



Photo Week

Don't forget! Photo week takes place next week. Please make sure students are dressed to impress in their 2023/24 school year photographs. If you'd like more information, check out last week's newsletter with all the important details. Say Cheese, Everyone! The link to last week's [newsletter is here](#).



Parent Workshop Next Wednesday

Join us for the ISB Parent Workshop to learn about nurturing emotional intelligence and empathy in children, in line with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles. Understand how ISB implements DEI to foster a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. After the workshop, join the PTA coffee morning!

Board of Governors

Last night the ISB Board had the first meeting of the academic year. Decisions during the meeting included:

- Review and approval of the [2024-2025 Academic Calendar](#).
- Review and approval of updates to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), which now includes a section clarifying the school's approach to the use of generative artificial Intelligence (AI)
- A unanimous vote for Elisabeth Develay to fill the vacant position on the Board of Governors. Elisabeth is the Director of the Alliance Française in Busan, and parent of a student in the Elementary School.



Simon McCloskey

Please find below, the ISB Board for the 2023-24 school year, together with some information about the Board's roles and responsibilities.



The International School of Busan is governed by a 10-member volunteer Board of Governors drawn from diverse cultural and business backgrounds. Board members, composed of parents and members of the international community, are elected by the parents to work in partnership with the ISB leadership to ensure a world-class education for every student. The Board is composed of a chair, treasurer, secretary, four parent representatives and three non-parent representatives. The role of the Board is as follows:

- To prepare a clear statement of the school's mission and objectives.
- To review and maintain bylaws, and establish policies and plans consistent with the mission.
- To be accountable for the financial well-being of the school, including capital assets and operating budgets.
- Delegate the day-to-day operation of the school to the Head of School and govern through policy.
- Select, support, and nurture the Head of School.
- Set the strategic direction of the school to ensure the long-term viability of the organization.
- Develop itself through new board member orientation, ongoing education, and leadership succession planning.
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and minimise exposure to legal action.

From the Elementary Principal

PYP students from Grades 3-5 are very excited this week as the long-awaited PYP Sports Camp gets closer and closer! The PYP Sports Camp is an optional event for G3-G5 students with the aim of promoting fitness, friendship, and fun. Students will take part in different sports and enjoy a movie night and sleepover in the gym.

This is our 3rd year of holding the camp, ably organised by Ms Amanda and Mr Byrne. Look out for photos and a full report in next week's newsletter!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Korean Language Acquisition Class

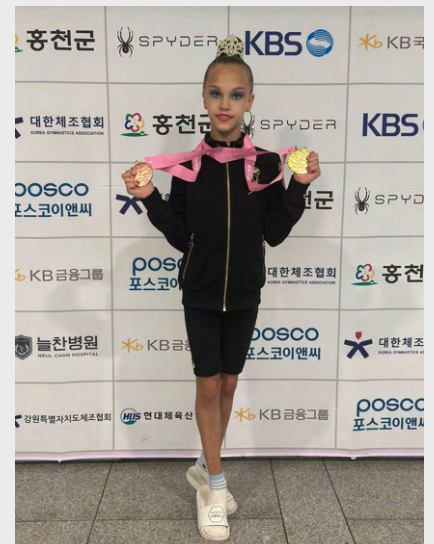
Grade 2 Korean class is learning about healthy food in relation to the unit of inquiry, 'Healthy choices.' Students are inquiring into how to read and write about healthy fruit and vegetables in Korean. To consolidate and memorize vocabulary, they learned a fun Korean rhyming game which they practised in the classroom and continued all the way to the cafeteria. As a hands-on activity, students explored Korean characters using a letter-punching machine. They thoroughly enjoyed finding consonants and vowels to make food names in Korean.



Rhythmic Gymnastics Success

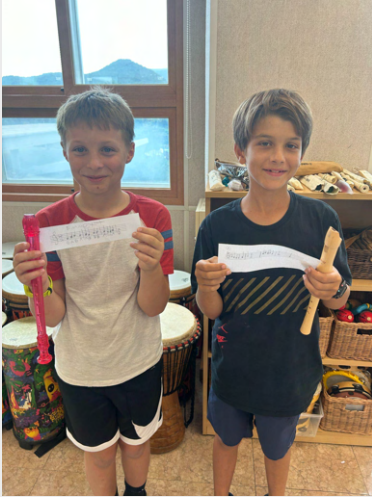
Stefania in Grade 4 performed last weekend in a gymnastics competition: The 48th KBS Cup National Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition. She got 1st place in the Hoop Performance, and 3rd in Ball Performance.

Congratulations Stefania!



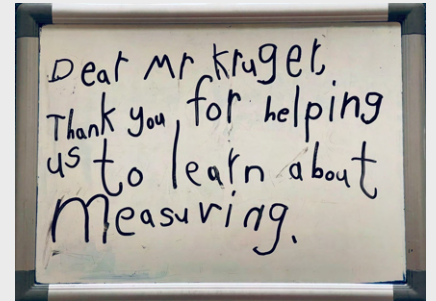
Grade 4 Composers

Students in grade 4 are developing their understanding of notation by composing their own music. Students are using the notes they have learnt to play on the recorder to compose musical phrases. They are writing on the staff and performing their songs together. Well done Grade 4!



Grade 2 Measuring

The Grade 2 students had a very interesting visit to the ISB Secondary School this week. Mr Kruger invited us into his design workshop to learn about measuring. He showed us many different types of measuring equipment, demonstrated some of his electrical tools, and even taught us about different sizes of paper. This fascinating hands on experience helped to deepen our understanding of measuring and also helped to build our excitement about our Semester 2 inquiry into materials.



Grade 1 Inquiry into Community

This week, students in Grade 1 have been inquiring about what a community is and how this connects to our lives. Students shared that communities can work together to make things happen and to help each other. After reading the story *What Can a Citizen Do?* students worked together in a learning community to make posters sharing their understanding that we are citizens and part of the ISB community.



Early Years 1 investigate Puzzles

EY1 children have been displaying a keen interest in puzzles. Our classroom offers a wide variety of puzzles, ranging from simple 3-piece puzzles to matching puzzles and even floor puzzles with over 20 pieces. As children manipulate puzzle pieces to fit them together, they learn to analyze patterns, identify shapes, and enhance their spatial awareness. Moreover, puzzles promote fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and finger dexterity, all of which are important for various daily activities. Some children try puzzles by themselves or with other friends. When they finish, they are very proud of themselves and will give high-fives to teachers and friends. What a great way to develop social skills and promote teamwork!



Grade 3's Target 20 game

This week grade 3 learned a new Maths game, called Target 20. We practised adding and subtracting numbers fluently and practised social skills by working with our partners. We also made use of technology to interact and learn. For the game, we used our ipads as game boards and our Logicrayon digital pens to write the numbers. In the game, we drew cards from a deck and tried to add them to get as close to 20 as possible. Then we subtracted our score from 20 and the partner with the lowest number won the round. Many students challenged themselves to play Target 30 or 40, by adding and subtracting with numbers.





Early Years 2: "People build relationships with others"

The children were very interested in building ramps at the block corner and they redesigned the ramps and tested their theories every day. They were also curious about ramps and all wanted to find out which objects can roll downhill really fast and which ramp is the best. We also invited the children to roll objects covered in paint down different ramps with different surfaces to observe what would happen. Here are some questions that we used to provoke the children's thinking and develop their communication skills:

- What kind of ramp did you build today? How did you do that?
- What happened to the ball/cars/tree/cubes/tray that rolled down your ramp?
- What happens if you make the ramp higher or lower? What can you do so the object will travel all the way to the end of the ramp?



The vocabulary we use while the children experiment with ramps includes words like slide, jump, roll, tumble, bounce, launch, and crash. We also introduce mathematical concepts such as higher/highest, lower/lowest, faster/fastest, heavier/heaviest, farther/farthest, and so on.

Through this exploration, the children shared their ideas, worked together to rebuild the ramps, took turns to use ramps, and shared their findings. They also developed social skills and applied mathematical concepts in authentic and meaningful ways. And most importantly they had so much fun together!

From the Secondary Principal

What a great week on campus! After travelling with our students to Nagoya, Japan last week for the leadership conference, it felt great to greet our students back here at ISB. Our participation in the leadership conference marked the inaugural event for the EAISAC conference. Our group of students did outstanding work with the students from Fukuoka and Nagayo and learned about leadership skills and various models of leadership. There was plenty of time for collaboration. I know our students will benefit greatly from the various EAISAC events including volleyball, basketball and football tournaments as well as the MUN conference.



Gilles Buck

Many classes have begun with assessments of their first units so you may be noticing increasing anxiety or stress in your children. Please help to support your child with the management of assessment tasks especially with helping them get to work on tasks early (as opposed to procrastinating) and ensuring that they get enough sleep.

This week ends with a HS Assembly (and Middle School house activities). During the assembly, we are highlighting the Chuseok holiday. Our Korean classes help the entire student body learn about the holiday and Korean culture. Next week, during Middle school assembly, the same emphasis will take place.

A friendly reminder that next week is photo week. In order to help students, we have published the schedule in the student bulletin. The following week will be a short week due to the beginning of the Chuseok holiday but we will pack a number of important events into the week. On Monday, the team building trips at each grade level will take place, and on Wednesday ISB will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our school.

I'm excited to open up sign-ups for the Week Without Walls trips for the Middle School trips that will be occurring in April for Grades 6, 7 and 8. High School trips signups for Grades 9, 10 and 11 have been open since last week. Please complete the survey if your child is in secondary school. **Please complete the survey if your child will for sure be attending, may be attending or will not be attending.**

Having this information in a timely fashion is important for the organisation of the trips as well for organising a programme for the students who will remain in Busan. Based on our preliminary surveys, we anticipate that 90% of students will be able to participate. If you have questions or are interested in sending your child but have reservations or specific needs to support your child, please reach out so your questions can be answered or possibilities can be discussed. The simplest first step is to email me at gbuck@isbusan.org.

Week Without Walls signups for Middle School

- [Sign-up for Grade 6 Week Without Walls Trip](#)
- [Sign-up for Grade 7 Week Without Walls Trip](#)
- [Sign-up for Grade 8 Week Without Walls Trip](#)

Week Without Walls signups for High School

- [Sign-up for Grade 9 Week Without Walls Trip](#)
- [Sign-up for Grade 10 Week Without Walls Trip](#)
- [Sign-up for Grade 11 Week Without Walls Trip](#)

College Corner

College Counseling Program: September Update

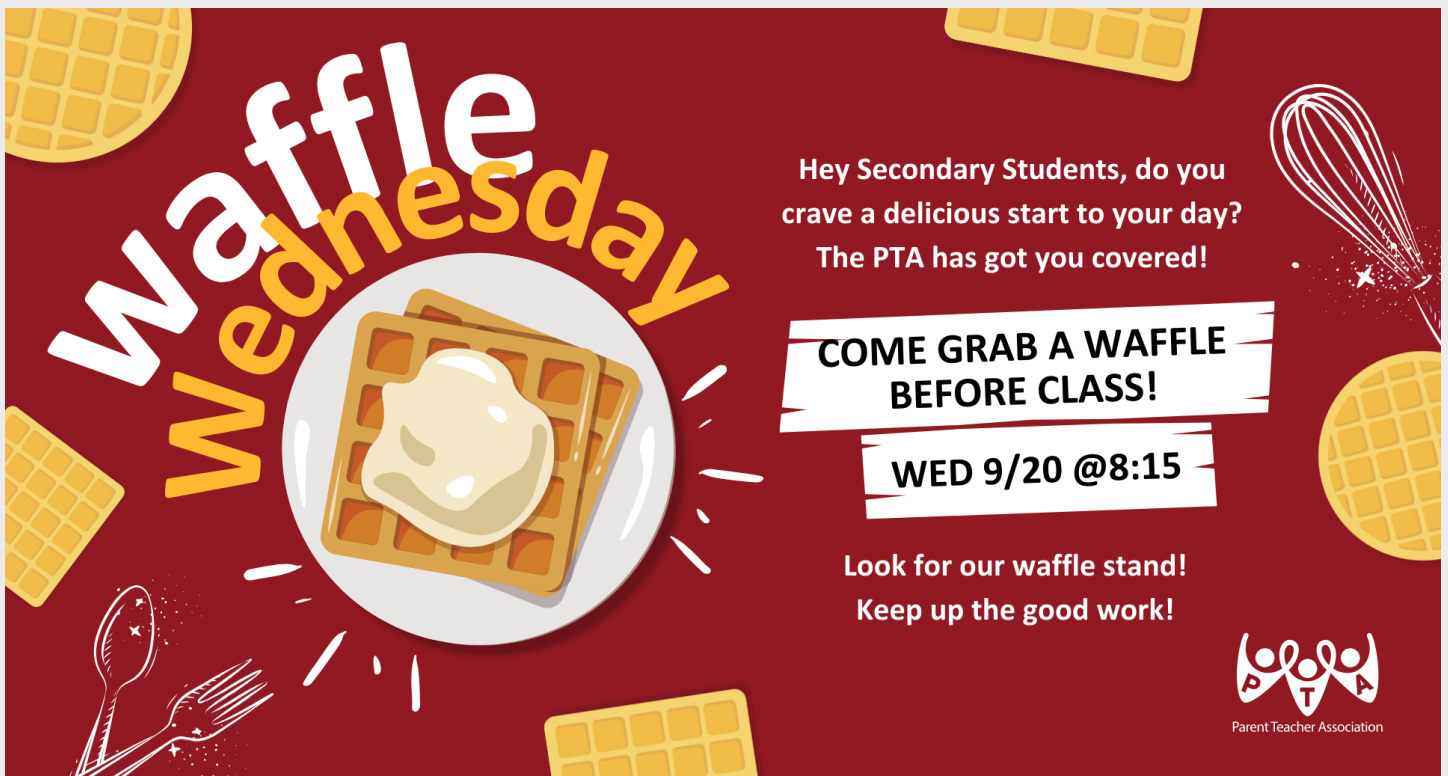
Grade 12: It has been a busy three weeks for our Grade 12 students! They are in the midst of their university application process: finalizing their university lists, completing their applications, college essays, and other important documents. Students are meeting individually with the college counselor to discuss their applications. They have been asked to complete a very important component of their applications by mid-September: the letter of recommendation requests for their teachers and the counselor. The College Counselor's priority this Fall is to spend one on one time with grade 12 students to support them with their applications and questions. We are prioritizing grade 12 students until they have successfully navigated this first challenging stage of the process. We appreciate your partnership and understanding.

Grade 11: Grade 11 students met with the College Counselor this week to start the University Planning process including career and university exploration.

Grade 10: Grade 10 students also met with the College Counselor this week to discuss their plan for grades 10 through 12, and start the career and university exploration process.

Grade 9: Students met with the College Counselor to work on their High School Plan. They learned why grade 9 is important, reviewed important recommendations for a successful school year, and learned about the High School career and university planning timeline. They also went over the importance of leading a balanced life that includes healthy lifestyle habits and good strategies for succeeding academically in High School.

For information about university visits, grade-level specific college planning timelines, and other information and resources, please see the [September College Counseling Newsletter](#).




The graphic features a dark red background with various waffle-related illustrations. On the left, the words "Waffle Wednesday" are written in a large, stylized font, with "Waffle" in white and "Wednesday" in yellow. In the center, a white plate holds two golden-brown waffles topped with a dollop of white butter. Surrounding the plate are several other waffles, a whisk, a spoon, and a fork, all rendered in a simple, illustrative style. On the right side, there are three white text boxes with black text. The top box says "Hey Secondary Students, do you crave a delicious start to your day? The PTA has got you covered!". The middle box says "COME GRAB A WAFFLE BEFORE CLASS!". The bottom box says "WED 9/20 @8:15". Below these boxes, there is more text: "Look for our waffle stand! Keep up the good work!". In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) featuring three stylized figures holding hands, with the letters P, T, and A below them.

Hey Secondary Students, do you
crave a delicious start to your day?
The PTA has got you covered!

**COME GRAB A WAFFLE
BEFORE CLASS!**

WED 9/20 @8:15

Look for our waffle stand!
Keep up the good work!


Parent Teacher Association

Introducing

Each week we catch up with a member of our ISB faculty to learn more about who they are, who inspires them and what they like to do in their spare time. This week we meet ISB Drama teacher **Ms Thaba Niedzwiecki**.

Qualification and certifications: BA, BEd, MA

Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived? I was born in Calgary, Canada, where my grandparents had a mink ranch. Later on, I went to school in Ontario. After graduating from university, my husband and I wanted to go work near Laos, because that's where he's from. We started out in Hanoi, and later also worked in Vientiane, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok. We spent 14 years in New Delhi, and then recently were back in Canada for three years after our eldest son started university. And now: Busan!



What inspired you to become a teacher? This is a really interesting question! I think I became a teacher because I wanted an active, engaging career. I did not want to be sitting and staring at a screen. I love the fact that as a teacher, I'm also always learning new things from my students. They definitely inspire me to continue being a teacher.

What is your educational philosophy? We spend many years in our lives as students. I think education should make that time worthwhile. I try to build a classroom atmosphere that is welcoming, engaging, and challenging.

What made you choose ISB? I hadn't worked at a smaller school before, and I was intrigued by the potential for new ways of working and learning at ISB. I was also excited to work on Drama with students ranging from Grade 6 to 12. Additionally, Busan was very appealing because I love the ocean and mountains, and most of my life, I've lived in-land. The idea of my kids being able to learn to surf at an ASA was pretty spectacular! And of course I was eager to get to know more about Korea!



What is the best part of your job? There's always something new everyday.

What are your hobbies and interests? Reading, eating, watching live theatre, getting outside (gardening, running, walking, lying around in a hammock...) and hanging out with my family.

What is your favourite quote? It changes every year - usually the funniest thing a student says in rehearsal!

Who is your most memorable teacher and why? I think my parents have been my most memorable teachers, and they're still teaching me today. They are really funny, smart, generous, and welcoming, and I aspire to be like them one day!

International Day at ISB



Please see the image and [click this link](#) to learn more about International Day at ISB.

We would love to have as much country representation as possible, and are [looking for volunteers](#) to join us and help to organize the event on the day.

Please reach out if you have questions or need assistance with your country booth!