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The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th October, 2023

Volume 5, Issue 7

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
From the School Counselor
From the PTA

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 7th October - SAT at ISB
7th to 8th October - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Trip
Thursday 12th October - ISB University Fair
Saturday 14th October - ISB Community Run at Haeundae
Saturday 14th October - SKAC HS Volleyball at ISB & BFS
16th to 20th October - Open House Week
16th to 20th October - Digital Citizenship Week
Saturday 21st October - ISB Community Run at Haeundae
Saturday 21st October - International Day

Featured Story



On September 27, 2023, the International School of Busan celebrated a momentous milestone in its history, marking 40 years of dedication to excellence in education. The event was attended by a vibrant school community, including 45 esteemed VIP guests from Busan City, Busan Office of Education, Gijang County, and representative members of the diplomatic service, who all witnessed a wonderful tribute to ISB's remarkable journey. Busan Metropolitan City Mayor Heong-Joon Park, although unable to attend in person, delivered a heartfelt speech via video that praised ISB's dedication to educational excellence and together shaping a brighter future, with education serving as the foundational stepping stone to that future. His words echoed a sentiment of deep appreciation for the school's ongoing commitment to fostering a nurturing environment for young minds from diverse backgrounds. US Consul in Busan, Mr. Nolan Barkhouse, and Board of Governors Chairperson, Mr. Paul Edwards, also extended their sincere congratulations, underscoring the significance of international cooperation for the future of the school and the wider community. During the

event, various traditional Korean performances were enjoyed, including traditional drumming, dance and costume, highlighting the deep appreciation of Korean culture that permeates the fabric of the diverse ISB community. The whole school community, VIP guests and members of the media enjoyed the celebrations, with prizes, cupcakes and happiness shared all around. Our deepest gratitude to all who contributed, supported and attended this milestone celebration!



You can [see our 40th anniversary video](#) here and read articles published in Korean and English news media about our event in the '[ISB in the Media](#)' section of our website. We will also be featured internationally in the triannual EARCOS Journal winter edition. Go bears!





OPEN HOUSE

**Monday 16th to
Friday 20th October**



Monday 16th - Friday 20th October
By appointment



50 Gijang-daero, Gijang-eup,
Gijang-gun, Busan



+82 51 742 3332
Call to Reserve Your Spot!



www.isbusan.org

SCAN



OPEN HOUSE!

Open house week starts next week from the 16th to 20th of October. This means we will have prospective families on campus throughout the day. Please make sure we all represent our school in an appropriate manner, being kind and caring, and helping anyone who looks like they need assistance.

Prospective parents can register for Busan's Open House by [completing this form](#). For more information, please call 051-720-1100 / 051-720-1101 or email us at admissions@isbusan.org. Please share this information with anyone you think would like to be a part of our community.

The EducationUSA U.S. College and University Roadshow 2023

The event hosted by EducationUSA Korea will be held at the **ISB Campus on Thursday, October 12th 2023** in the school gymnasium. It provides an opportunity to meet with admissions officers from approximately 30 universities, ranging from 2-year community colleges to 4-year universities and graduate schools in the United States.

Everyone who is interested in studying in the U.S., including students, parents, and teachers in the region are welcome to attend. All details about the event, including a list of participating universities and institutions can be found on the following pages in [English](#) and in [Korean](#). Register [here in both languages](#).



International Day at ISB

One of our most anticipated events is the International Day that takes place in the autumn every year. So far members of our community have signed up to represent the countries shown here (left) at the International Day celebrations.

If you would like to participate and represent your (or a beloved) country [please sign up by TODAY!](#)

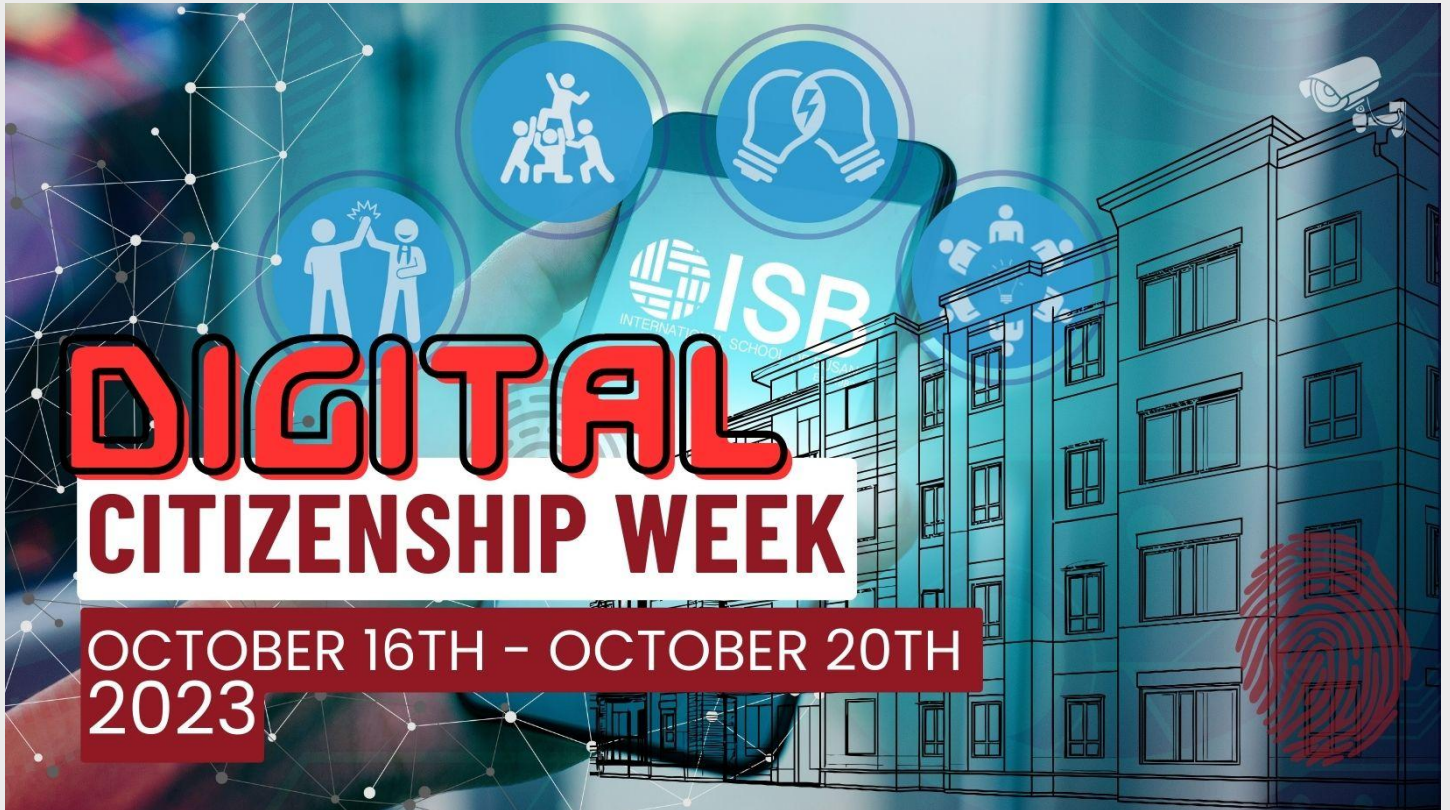
ISB Community Runs

A reminder that we **do not** have a community run this weekend as our cross country teams have been competing in Daegu today. We were delighted to take a large squad of 38 runners to the SKAC Division Cross Country meet at DIS. Thank you all for supporting and encouraging our athletes.

We look forward to two more community runs this season:

7:30 am Saturday 14th October

7:30 am Saturday 21st October



ISB in the Media

Daily Busan, Busan Metropolitan City's daily English language news website, interviewed Head of School, Simon McCloskey this week.

Mr. McCloskey shared his thoughts on Busan's "English-Friendly City" initiative and ambition to host the World Expo 2030.

Q. One of City Hall's goals is to make Busan a place where people want to live. Do you think Busan is doing well in this area?

A: Part of my job is to recruit international teachers to come to Busan to work. We don't have any difficulty recruiting teachers because Busan is such a fantastic city to live and work in. It's a dynamic city with a wide range of activities. I think it's a place where you can enjoy a very high quality of life. It's safe and clean. There's excellent transportation networks, restaurants, cultural events, museums, art galleries, and we also have nature and the coast right on our doorstep. What's not to like!"



[Click the link](#) or scan the QR code to access more on the interview and your daily dose of Busan City News!

40th Anniversary Celebrations

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who supported our 40th Anniversary celebrations last week. Specifically, I would like to extend a special thanks to Laura McLuckie, who did a fantastic job as the MC for the afternoon, and Seung Mi Hong, who played a key role in organising the event. I would also like to thank our PTA for decorating our VIP Reception Room and Chef Kim for providing outstanding food. The ISB Orchestra, under the guidance of our Creative Arts Coordinator, Olga van Doorn, deserves a big congratulations for their outstanding performance, as does our PYP choir! It was a memorable afternoon celebrating 40 years of ISB!



Simon McCloskey

2024-2025 Calendar

The [calendar for the 2024-2025](#) school year was formally approved by the ISB Board of governors at the September meeting. Please note that the calendar dates for 2024-2025 have now been also added to the [ISB Community Calendar](#).

East Asia International Schools Activities Conference

This weekend ISB will be hosting the first EAISAC Head of School Meeting. Bill Ellman (Director of [International School of Ulaanbaatar](#)), Matthew Parr (Head of School at [Nagoya International School](#)) and Robin Schneider (Head of School at [Fukuoka International School](#)) will all be visiting Busan. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and approve the new EAISAC Handbook as well as to discuss the scope and strategic direction of the new conference. All four EAISAC 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 2023-24 EAISAC Calendar

Season 1

High School Volleyball at FIS
Middle School Football at NIS

Season 2

High School Basketball at ISU
Middle School Volleyball at ISB

Season 3

High School Football & Cross
Country at ISB
Middle School Basketball at NIS
MUN at Fukuoka IS

From the Elementary Principal

It was great to welcome students back to school after an enjoyable Chuseok holiday. I hope everyone had a chance to relax and enjoy time with friends and family. On their return to school, students resumed their inquiries seamlessly as we quickly got back into school routines for happy, healthy learning. Welcome Back! **And Happy Chuseok!!**



Kevin Smith

추석, Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the biggest and most important holidays in Korea. Family members from near and far come together to share food and stories and to give thanks to their ancestors.

In Korean class, Students learned about how Koreans celebrate Chuseok and understand the cultural background of customs. Many students enjoyed traditional wrestling, wearing Hanbok, eating Songpyeon, and dancing Ganggangsullae.



Elementary Learning Focus

Grade 1 Investigate Transportation Systems

Grade 1 navigated their way through the city of Busan using several different forms of transportation. We used our legs, escalators, trains, and buses to move from place to place. Students took photos of signs and symbols along the way. They improved their self management skills by being responsible for their iPads and personal belongings on the trip. They used their knowledge and thinking skills to navigate the subway and find the ISB bus.



Grade 2 Explore the Local Environment

Students in Grade 2 enjoyed a lovely riverside walk this week. We observed the natural environment and saw fish, bugs, birds, and more. The children demonstrated their fantastic social and self management skills, and everyone had a good time. We look forward to our next outdoor adventure, and continuing to learn more about nature and our local community.



SKAC Cross Country Event

We are very proud of our cross country team with a record 22 Elementary students competing in Daegu today. Students had a fun day trip to the Bongmu Lake in Daegu which is the setting for the 3km race. Our ISB PYP medalists were; River with 1st place, Célestin with 3rd place and Leilani also with 1st place. It was a great day out with wonderful support. Well done to all our students for taking part! Congratulations ISB Bears!



Early Years Sweet Potato Digging

The Early Years children went on a field trip to dig sweet potatoes, and they had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect for our trip, and we even had the chance to taste the sweet potatoes, which the children absolutely loved! The children also brought a bag of the potatoes home to share with their family. Thank you, parent volunteers, for helping us. We hope you enjoyed digging the sweet potatoes with us.





EY2 Building Relationships with Bingo

In the EY2 class, children engaged in a fun game of Bingo this week. This activity provided both entertainment and an opportunity for them to practise recognizing numerals. We instructed the children on how to play the Bingo game together as a group during circle time. Additionally, we arranged it in different learning corners, encouraging independence and allowing children to form connections while they play. This game facilitated cooperation among the children, as they worked together to match the numbers on their boards. It proved to be an excellent means of fostering relationships and learning numbers simultaneously.



Hangul Day Assembly

In celebration of the upcoming Korean Commemorative day of Hangul Day, Grade 5 put on a wonderful performance explaining the origins of Hangul (the Korean alphabet) and the reasons for its invention and proclamation by the 15th-century Korean King Sejong the Great. It is observed on October 9 in South Korea. Well done Grade 5 and the Korean teaching team.



Grade 3 Readers and Writers

Grade 3 has been learning about how fairy tales were used to teach values to children. They read many fairy tales identifying their setting, problem, solution and the lesson they teach. This week they put their knowledge to use by planning and drafting their own fairy tale with a twist. They chose a classic fairy tale and made some changes to make it different and funny. We can't wait to share our published versions when they are done!



Candy Making Success

Congratulations to MacKenna for successfully completing a special Handmade Candy Making workshop in Ulsan recently. She is now a Master Candy Maker!



Jirisan Peak Conquered

During the Chuseok break, Jonathan and his family climbed Jonathan's House-Team mountain - Jirisan! He reached its highest peak, Cheonwangbong at 1915m. Jirisan is the highest mountain in mainland South Korea. Jonathan took the fastest and steepest trail to finish. It took 12 hours from 5am to 5pm. Well done Jonathan!

Special Congratulations Grade 4

Grade 4 took centre stage during the 40th Anniversary Celebration event on September 27th to perform a traditional circle dance; GangGang Sulle. The performance was fantastic! And despite the weather being a little warm - especially dressed in those beautiful traditional hanbok - the Grade 4 students were poised, rhythmic and showed great enthusiasm. Everyone was impressed with the dance, and the students even got to open for a professional performance team. We think they deserve another huge round of applause for representing our school, themselves and traditional Korean culture so well.



From the Secondary Principal

October is a busy month at ISB! As always, there is lots of learning going on and we will have some major events this month. Join us for International day on October 21 and make sure to book conferences with each of your child's teachers during the Parent Teacher Student conferences on October 27. Details for signing up for conferences will be shared closer to the date of the conferences. Below, please find information regarding how we helped to onboard new students, how we learned and celebrated Chuseok and trip reports from the team building trips at each grade level. The school is off to a great start and it is a marvel to see all of the things that have already happened in secondary school. We look forward to seeing more student participation, leadership and learning in action!



Gilles Buck

Secondary Learning Focus

As you know, the Week Without Walls trips for Middle School and High School are open and ready for signups. Thank you to the many of you who have already completed the survey and already made initial or complete payments. If you have completed the survey, you do **not** need to complete it again. Please do complete the survey if your child is in secondary school and you have yet to complete it. **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 and responses thus far, 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](#)

Anchored 4 Life New Secondary School Student Mixer:

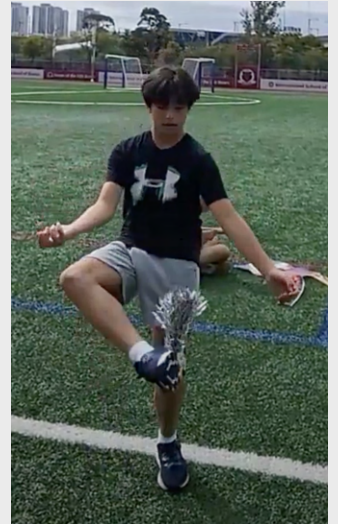
On Thursday September 21, Anchored 4 Life students organised a gathering for new students. All new Secondary students were invited to join for a fun time of mingling and eating delicious treats together. During the meeting, there was also dedicated time to address questions from new students. New students were encouraged to reach out with any questions they may have at any point during the year. A4L student members, Ms. Hibon, our counsellor, and Ms. Amanda I., our Student Services Coordinator, are resources that they can always reach out to and count on.



Korean Language and Literature

For the annual Chuseok Celebration (the Korean harvest festival celebrated on the fifteenth of the eighth lunar month), the Korean Language & Literature students explored diverse Chuseok activities and demonstrated their learning in various formats.

In middle and high school Korean Language and Literature, we learned about the meaning of Chuseok and explored the customs of Chuseok, including ancestral rites (차례). We also had an enjoyable time experiencing traditional games such as wrestling (씨름), arrow throwing (투호 던지기), tug-of-war (줄다리기), kicking a shuttlecock (재기차기), playing top-spinning (뚝지치기), and flying kites (연날리기). We spent time explaining common knowledge about Chuseok and had a quiz session to test our understanding in Assembly. It was a valuable time for students who didn't know much about Chuseok, as we provided them with information through engaging activities.



Korean B Language Acquisition

Grade 10 Korean B students learned about Chuseok, the Korean traditional celebration. They were enthusiastic to share their learning with the secondary students to demonstrate their respect for Korean culture. During the presentation during the assembly, teachers and students both enjoyed learning how Koreans celebrate. They also experienced traditional games together.



Secondary School Team Building Trip Grade 6 & 7 Trip - Jinha Beach Ulsan

The Grades 6 and 7 travelled to Jinha Beach, Ulsan for a day of team building and critical and creative thinking. The weather stayed overcast all day which was a bonus for us to complete all activities.

The day started with the 'human knot' which tested their communication and thinking skills.

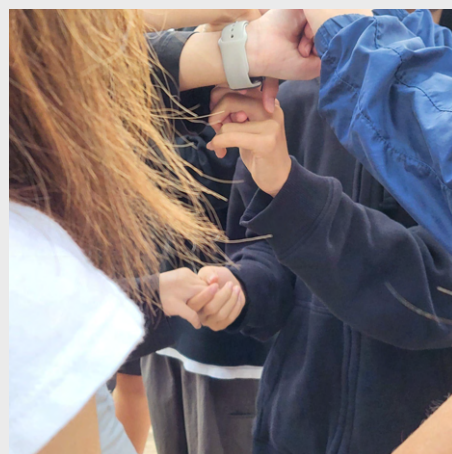
They then went into the 'silent order' activity which really tested them in terms of not talking- something Grades 6 and 7 usually find difficult. The students then excelled in the 'sheet flip' with most groups being able to do this without much trouble. The 'crocodile crossing' saw greater teamwork and cooperation with students really having to help each other across the 'crocodile infested waters'. The final activity, however, really tested them: the 'spider web'. Not only did they have to use their critical thinking skills, but also, planning and really having to work as a team.

The feedback about the day, from the students, was very positive and they seemed to have really enjoyed the day away from school. Some students found that their personal boundaries were tested as well as their collaboration skills with students they did not know. For the most part, they were challenged, co-operative and clearly showed that they are capable of sustained teamwork.

Grade 8 Trip

The grade 8 students, along with their teachers, took on the challenge of hiking the Igidae Park Coastal Walk. This is a scenic track that follows the coastline with amazing views of Gwangalli, Haeundae and the East Sea. The day was just right for this trek, not too hot with clear views of the wonderful surroundings. The journey was completed in around 2 ½ hours and ended at the information centre adjacent to Oryukdo. After a quick stop for refreshments we then travelled to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery.

This was an opportunity to focus on the service and legacy of the many who had contributed so much to the development of South Korea as we know it today. The cemetery is incredibly well manicured and presents a great opportunity for our students to reflect on the importance of Service. The day was fun, thoroughly enjoyed by all and introduced some new experiences to the students.





Grade 10 Trip

We are thrilled to share the exciting moments from our recent Grade 10 team building trip to Gimhae Gaya Theme Park. The day was filled with adventure, collaboration, and unforgettable experiences that brought our students closer together.

One of the day's highlights was Korea's first-ever "Exciting Cycle," a thrilling activity that involves riding bicycles on a single rope, suspended 22 metres above the ground. The exhilarating zip line added an extra dose of adrenaline to our adventure. But the excitement didn't stop there! Our students also had the opportunity to conquer the "Exciting Tower," a daring adventure-leisure facility with 72 challenging obstacle courses. Scaling this 20-metre-wide, 15-metre-high structure pushed their limits, stimulating their sense of adventure and desire for play.



For those seeking a more creative outlet, a few of our students participated in a ceramics class. Using a pottery wheel, they designed beautiful ceramic creations to take home as lasting memories of their day. Overall, the day was a resounding success, filled with laughter, camaraderie, and cherished memories. It provided a much-needed break from the classroom and allowed our students to relax and spend quality time with their peers. As teachers, we were equally delighted to see our students in a different light, thriving outside of their academic pursuits.



Grade 11 CAS Retreat and Team Building

Our grade 11 students took part in the action phase of their first major CAS experience, intended to introduce them to the program. They worked together to create a mural, each completing an individual section and then combining them to become a larger picture. The final product will be presented to Mr. Buck and then hung in the DP Room for current and future students to enjoy. After the mural making, the students enjoyed a pizza lunch and joined the grade 12s for some mixed bowling so that they can get to know each other better.



Grade 12 Teambuilding

During the recent grade 12 teambuilding day the students went to Gwangalli Beach for the first part of the day, where they learned to paddleboard. Despite choppy seas, the students really enjoyed the experience and many of them were able to stand and paddle for short distances. In the afternoon the students joined the grade 11's at a bowling alley in Jansang for a few competitive rounds of bowling. It gave them a chance to socialise with each other in an informal setting.



College Corner

Grade 12: October is a busy month for our G12 students! They are working very hard to meet their early university application deadlines. There are multiple steps involved and a lot of focus and dedication are required to complete this process. The College Counselor's priority this and next month is to spend one on one time with grade 12 students to support them with their applications and prepare important documentation that will be sent to universities.

Grade 11: Grade 11 students met with the College Counselor last month to start their university planning process and understand how the Recommendation Letter process works. We will meet again this month, to embark on the career and university exploration process and start looking at important university planning steps.

Grade 10: Grade 10 students met with the College Counselor last month to look at important university planning information and start the career and university exploration process through the Cialfo platform. Cialfo is a university and career planning platform that all ISB students 9-12 have access to. At our next

meeting this month, we will continue to explore the resources on Cialfo, focusing particularly on career exploration.

We invite students and parents to read the [ISB October 2023 College Counseling Newsletter](#) where they will be able to find details and information regarding in person and virtual university visits, grade-level specific university planning timelines, and other useful information and resources. We would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents to [register](#) to attend the EducationUSA Fair that will be held at our school on Thursday October 12th from 4 to 6 pm in the Gym. All details about the event, including a list of participating universities and institutions can be found on the following pages in [English](#) and in [Korean](#).

From the School Counsellor

Developing Healthy Device Usage Habits

Greetings from the Counseling Office! Electronic devices have become an integral part of our lives. Smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, computers, these are all around us, most of the time. There are moments when our devices offer numerous benefits and contribute to our productivity, connection and entertainment, and other times when we might feel that they are getting in the way of family life, rest, and other personal pursuits and interests. Helping ourselves and our children manage our screen time and cultivating a healthy relationship with our devices is important. I would like to share three articles from Common Sense Media to support this idea.



The ultimate goal is to protect and increase the wellbeing of our family and help our children learn how to approach these tools in a positive, healthy and responsible way. An effective approach is to do this through conversation and family discussions, where everyone is involved and where everyone's opinions are heard and taken into account. Then, together, as a family, you can work on reaching some agreements that everyone has helped to create, and that everyone will be expected to honour. (family agreements can always be reviewed and modified to reflect new needs, or new findings). Please see the three articles below:

[Ditch the Distractions: Supporting Kids and Teens with Phone Notifications](#): How to help kids with managing device notifications and maintaining their digital well-being.

[Cellphones and Devices: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#): How to help preteens and teens use their phones safely and responsibly.

[How to Help Kids Balance Phones and Screens with Sleep](#): Tips for managing TV, tablets, phones, and tech so your kids can get a good night's sleep.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions or would like to share any resources with me. It will be my pleasure to connect with you.

Warm regards,

Ellenore Hibon

Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor

From the PTA



The poster is set against a dark red background. At the top, a banner of various national flags is displayed. On the left, the ISB logo (International School of Busan, Est. 1983) and the Parent Teacher Association logo are shown. The main text reads: 'SAVE THE DATE! October 21 | 10am-2pm'. Below this, it says: 'Sign up form coming next week. Join the PTA meeting on Sept 20 for more information.' A graphic of a passport with 'PASSPORT' and 'ISB BUSAN' is shown, along with a globe graphic that says 'INTERNATIONAL DAY' and 'SAT 21 OCTOBER 2023'. At the bottom left, there are illustrations of various world landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, Big Ben, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

We're still looking for more and more volunteers to help with International Day. Please email pta@isbusan.org if you would like to volunteer in any capacity!

Let's make this one to remember!

If you would like to see what International Day looks like at ISB, take a look at [this short video from last year's event](#) on our school YouTube Channel.