

- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 16th August, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 1

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IMPORTANT DATES

22nd - 23rd August - PYP & Grade 11 DP Welcome Conferences
Saturday 24th August - SAT at ISB
Wednesday 28th August - Parent Workshop & PTA Meeting
Saturday 31st August - SKAIS AD Meeting
Monday 2nd September - Season 1 ASAs Begin
2nd - 5th September - MAP Testing
8th - 9th September - EAISAC HS Leadership Conference @NIS
Thursday 12th September - Chuseok Assembly
Friday 13th September - PD Day (No Students on Campus)
16th - 18th September - Chuseok Holiday

Welcome Back!



Welcome back! On Monday 12th August we successfully held our Family Welcome and Orientation Day, followed swiftly by the first day of school on Tuesday 13th August. It was great to hear the campus buzzing with excitement as we met friends old and new. We're delighted to begin the year with over 340 students and a community that now represents 40 countries! Here's to another year of healthy, happy learning at ISB! Go Bears!

***Hayani's Busan Travel Guide* - G11 Haruhi Collaborates with Park Hyatt Busan**

We are excited to share the news that one of our Grade 11 students, Haruhi, has completed an amazing creative project in partnership with Park Hyatt Busan. This project builds on Haruhi's Grade 10 MYP Personal Project and truly highlights her incredible artistic talent and innovative thinking.

In Grade 10, Haruhi created a delightful children's storybook titled *Rugi the Seagull's Busan Adventure*. The story follows Rugi, a curious seagull, as she explores some of Busan's most famous tourist spots. The book is filled with charming illustrations and educational content, making it a joy for young readers. This was a major part of the IB curriculum's Personal Project, where Haruhi's creativity and dedication really shone through.

Haruhi's work caught the eye of Roman Kardashov, the General Manager of Park Hyatt Busan, who was so impressed that he invited her to collaborate on a new project. Together, they created *Hayani's Busan Travel Guide*, a fun and educational sticker book featuring Hayani, the hotel's adorable white seal pup mascot. This guide is designed to entertain young guests at the hotel while teaching them about the sights and attractions of Busan.

Haruhi's book will now be a part of the hotel's guest care package, offering young travelers a fun and interactive way to explore the city. Haruhi and her mother were invited to the Park Hyatt to officially receive copies of her completed works, a photoshoot with GM Roman Kardashov, and a 5 course lunch overlooking the Gwangan Bridge.

Mr. Simon McCloskey, our Head of School, shared his pride in Haruhi's achievement: "We are incredibly proud of Haruhi. Her work exemplifies the creativity and community spirit that we value so much at ISB. This collaboration with Park Hyatt Busan is a fantastic example of how our students can make an impact beyond the classroom."



Well done Haruhi! Copies of the sticker book will soon be available to view in the school reception and early years and elementary school libraries.

ISB EdTech Plan Retreat

Calling all ISB community members! Join us for the ISB EdTech Plan Retreat on September 6th from 12:30pm-4:30pm in the secondary hall. This fun and engaging event will give us the opportunity to provide input on where we would like to see the school grow in terms of devices, spaces, infrastructure, learning, funding, and security over the next four years.



2024 ISB EdTech Plan RETREAT

Come share your voice and help shape the future of technology at ISB!

When: 12:45-4:30 pm Friday, Sept 6th, 2024

Where: ISB Secondary Hall C5.1

Who: Students, Teachers, Admin, Parents and Board Members

What to Bring: A fully-charged laptop and cellphone

We are looking for students, teachers, parents, administrators, and board members to participate. A tasty lunch and yummy snacks will be provided. Here's what you can expect at the retreat:

- Learn about the current state of EdTech at ISB
- Share your ideas and vision for the future of EdTech at ISB
- Collaborate with other community members to develop a plan for the next four years
- Enjoy a delicious lunch

This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of education at ISB. Don't miss out! Please [click here](#) to sign up for this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

 **PARENT WORKSHOP**

What is CIS Accreditation & IB Authorisation?

Wednesday August 28th
8:45am - 10am

FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING

Our first parent workshop of the year will be led by Head of School, Simon McCloskey, and will provide an introduction to school improvement using the CIS accreditation framework and the IB Standards and Practices. All parents are invited, and we look forward to meeting you all there, followed by the PTA coffee morning.

International School of Busan Celebrates Outstanding IB Diploma Results for 2024!

Over the summer holiday, over 190,000 students worldwide received their International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) exam results. We are thrilled to announce that ISB students achieved exceptional results with a 100% pass rate and an average score of 34.83 points. This surpasses the global average of 30.32 points. This marks yet another year of outstanding performance, as ISB students have consistently scored above the world average for the ninth year in row. We wish our graduates every success as they begin their studies at universities across the globe. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the entire Diploma teaching team for their support and dedication to our students.



Congratulations Class of 2024!

100% IB Diploma Pass Rate

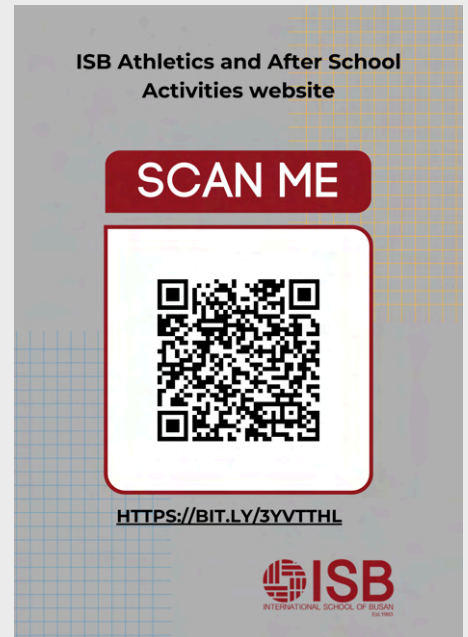
Average Points Scored 34.83 (Global Average 30.32)

After School Activities - Season 1

We're excited to announce that Season 1 of our After School Activities (ASA) program will begin on Monday, 2nd September, and continue through Friday, 15th November. This season offers a wide range of activities designed to engage and inspire our students, from sports and arts to various clubs and enrichment opportunities.

For a comprehensive overview of all the activities available this season, as well as important information about SchoolsBuddy, please visit the [ISB Athletics and ASA website](#). You can click the link or scan the QR code opposite, and find out all you need to know about ASAs at our school.

We encourage all students and parents to explore the options and find the perfect fit for their interests and schedules.



Professional Development at ISB

Before the school year began, all of our teachers participated in IB-certified workshops led by experts from the International Baccalaureate Educator Network (IBEN). IBEN is a global network dedicated to supporting and enhancing the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. The workshops offered were:

- **Agency, Action, and Engagement:** Focused on empowering students to take ownership of their learning and engage actively.
- **Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning in the MYP:** Explored ways to integrate subjects and foster deeper learning.
- **Evidencing Learning in the PYP:** Aimed at improving methods for documenting and assessing student progress.

At ISB, we are committed to lifelong learning, and these workshops are a key part of our dedication to continuous growth and excellence. By enhancing their skills through these professional development opportunities, our teachers are better equipped to support and inspire our students.



As we kick off the new school year, we are pleased to share the upcoming calendar for our two activity conferences: EAISAC (East Asia International Schools Activities Conference) and SKAIS (South Korea Association of International Schools). EAISAC, which includes ISB, Fukuoka International School, Nagoya International School, and the International School of Ulaanbaatar, offers a range of engaging events, from volleyball and basketball tournaments to leadership conferences and arts festivals. For more details, visit www.eaisac.org. At the same time, SKAIS is dedicated to fostering an inclusive community through developmentally appropriate, co-educational events with local international schools. Our calendar promises dynamic activities designed to help students build friendships, share ideas, and thrive in a supportive environment. Stay updated on SKAIS events at www.skais.kr.

East Asia International Schools Activities Conference



The 2024-25 EAISAC Calendar

Season 1

- High School Volleyball at ISU
- Middle School Football at ISB
- Student Leadership Conference at NIS

Season 2

- High School Creative Arts Festival at ISU
- High School Basketball at ISB
- Middle School Volleyball at FIS

Season 3

- High School Football & Badminton at NIS
- Middle School Basketball at ISU
- Model United Nations at FIS



South Korea Association of International Schools



Season One

- Elementary School** - Football Divisional at ISB (Saturday 28th September 2024)
- All Divisions** - Cross Country Meet at ISB (Saturday 5th October, 2024)
- High School** - Volleyball at ISB & BFS (Thursday 17th October, 2024)
- All Divisions** - Cross Country Championship at DIS (Tuesday 5th November, 2024)
- Middle School** - Football at ISB (Tuesday 12th November, 2024)
- Elementary School** - Football Finals at GFS (Wednesday 13th November, 2024)
- Middle School & High School** - STEM at DIS (Saturday 23rd November, 2024)
- Middle School & High School** - MUN at ISB (Saturday 7th December 2024)

Season Two

- Elementary School** - Volleyball Divisional at AIS (Saturday 15th February, 2025)
- Middle School** - Volleyball at DIS and BFS (Thursday 20th February, 2025)
- High School** - JV Basketball at GIFS (Tuesday 25th February, 2025)
- Elementary School** - Volleyball Finals at AIS (Thursday 27th February, 2025)
- High School** - Varsity Basketball at ISB/BFS (Saturday 1st March, 2025)

Season Three

- Elementary School** - Basketball Divisional at ISB & BFS (Saturday 26th April, 2025)
- Middle School** - Basketball at BFS & DIS (Thursday 22nd May, 2025)
- High School** - Football at ISB (Saturday 17th May, 2025)
- Elementary School** - Basketball Finals at DIS (Tuesday 20th May, 2025)



It's great to be back! We are delighted to welcome 76 new students to ISB for the start of the 2024-25 academic year. We remain truly international, with new students representing 17 different nationalities: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK, and the USA.

Looking ahead, we have several key goals for the year. It will be a period dedicated to reflection, review, and planning as we prepare self-study reports for both CIS/WASC and the IB, in preparation for a comprehensive synchronised school evaluation visit in October 2025.



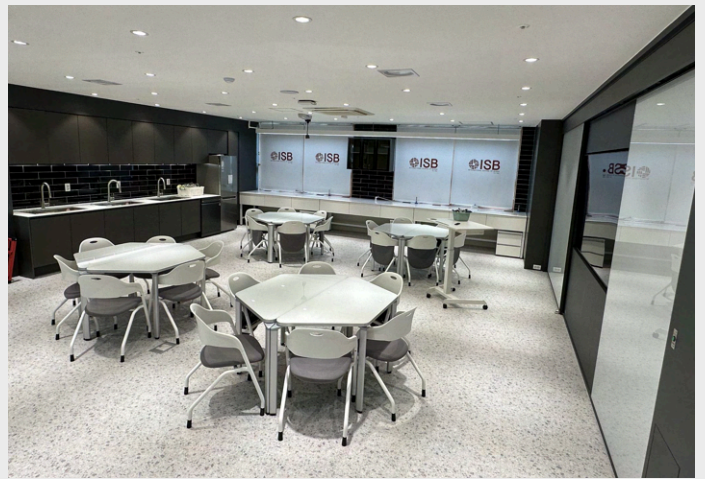
Simon McCloskey

Additionally, we plan to engage with all members of the ISB community (parents, teachers, students, support staff and board members) to develop strategic goals that will align with the next cycle of accreditation (2025-2029). We also plan to review and update key policies, with a particular focus on ethical AI use. We are excited to host IB Asia Pacific Regional Workshops for the first time in April 2025 and to continue renovating and redeveloping our learning spaces to better support our students' learning and wellbeing. Our (Board approved) **Whole School Goals** for the year are as follows:

1. *Complete and submit a comprehensive self-study report for the CIS/WASC Accreditation Visit in October 2025.*
2. *Complete and submit a comprehensive self-study report for the Synchronised IB 5 Year Reauthorization Visit in October 2025.*
3. *Work collaboratively with all members of the ISB community to develop new strategic intents to align with the next cycle of accreditation/authorization (2025-2029).*
4. *Complete the Evaluation Report and application process to successfully bid for a five year Campus management Contract extension with the Busan Metropolitan City.*
5. *Review and update the ISB Language Policy to ensure full alignment with current IB guidelines, standards and practices.*
6. *Review and update the ISB Academic Integrity Policy and Digital Citizenship agreements to ensure that ethical Artificial Intelligence use is embedded in our academic practices and that we are fully aligned with current IB guidelines, standards and practices.*
7. *Review and update the ISB Assessment Policy to ensure that purposeful Artificial Intelligence use is embedded in our academic practices and that we are fully aligned with current IB guidelines, standards and practices.*
8. *Review and update the ISB Inclusion Policy to ensure full alignment with current IB guidelines, standards and practices.*
9. *Successfully organise and host the International Baccalaureate (IB) Asia Pacific Training Event from 11th-13th April, 2025*
10. *Redevelop our learning spaces to ensure that they best meet the needs of our learners and support our stated aims as outlined in the Guiding Statements.*

Campus Improvements

This summer, we have made more improvements to our campus: Two additional science labs have been redesigned for enhanced learning; the Elementary play area now features a new safety surface; a new PE storage facility and spectator platform have been built adjacent to the sports field; and a new seating area in the car park improves pick-up and drop-off. Additionally, new devices have been purchased for Elementary students - they are now housed in new mobile carts that feature UV sterilising, custom charging, and RFID locking.



From the Elementary Principal

Welcome to a new school year at ISB! Whether you're new to our community or returning, we are thrilled to have you with us. We're looking forward to an exciting year filled with learning, growth, and fun in a safe and supportive environment. Next week, we invite all families to our Welcome Conferences, where you'll have the opportunity to meet with your child's homeroom teacher to share information about and goals for your child. It's a great way to start the year together! Please remember to sign up for a time by Monday. We can't wait to see you all!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Early Years 2

The First week of school was very exciting in our EY2 class! The children have been busy getting to know their new teachers and forming friendships with their classmates. They've had a great time exploring different materials in the classroom and playing with their new friends. Throughout the week, we introduced and started adjusting to our new routines. The children did a fantastic job learning the schedule and becoming familiar with the classroom expectations.

We also spent time talking about our feelings—some of us felt excited, while others felt a bit shy or uncertain. We discussed how it's perfectly normal to have different feelings and practised strategies to help us feel better, such as talking to a teacher, taking deep breaths, or playing with a favourite toy. It's been a wonderful start to the school year, and we're looking forward to all the fun and learning ahead!



Grade 5

Welcome back to a new school year! Our Grade 5 students have hit the ground running, and we're excited to see them grow as thinkers and leaders. This week, we've focused on settling into our routines, reconnecting with classmates, and introducing our first Unit of Inquiry, "Sharing the Planet."



Grade 5 students are already engaging in thoughtful discussions about fairness, equality, and the importance of having access to resources and opportunities. They also took time to set personal and academic goals for the year, reflecting on what they hope to achieve and how they can make a positive impact in our school community. We look forward to exploring these concepts further and watching our students develop their critical thinking and empathy. It's going to be a fantastic year of exploration and learning!



Grade 4

This week, our Grade 4 students have been busy getting used to their new classroom spaces. They've been exploring different activities, meeting new friends, and settling into the school routine. It's been a great start, and we're excited for the year ahead!



Grade 1

Grade 1 welcomed nine new students who are excited to join the ISB family. This week, we started exploring the "Who We Are" unit to learn about respectful relationships. The students are building their social and communication skills as they work together to understand what it means to be in Grade 1.



Shared Writing in Grade 2

In Grade 2 this week we have been developing our Social, Communication and Self-management skills. We worked in small groups to share our thinking and all took turns to write and draw our ideas on the paper. Everyone enjoyed learning with our returning classmates from Grade 1, and it was lovely to make some new friends too. Welcome back, Grade 2!



PYP Sports Camp

Save the date! The ISB Elementary Sports Camp is an annual event offered to students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Students have the option of sleeping at school for a fun overnight experience with friends. The sports camp is designed to encourage independence and promote fitness, teamwork, friendship and fun! Look out for the sign up form in next week's newsletter!



FITNESS **FRIENDSHIP** **FUN!** **TEAMWORK**

ISB
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN
Est. 1983

PYP SPORTS CAMP

**PROMOTING TEAMWORK,
FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP & FUN!**

**FRIDAY 20TH &
SATURDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER, 2024**

**AN ENJOYABLE OVERNIGHT
EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN
GRADES 3-5.**



ISB BEARS

Welcome to the School Year! I am excited to welcome our students, staff, and families back to school for a new year of learning and growth. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and is ready for an exciting school year.



Gilles Buck

On Monday, August 12th, we hosted our annual Family Welcome Day. It was a great opportunity for families to meet key personnel, learn about the school year ahead, and get acclimated to the school environment. As promised to the attendees, the presentation slideshows from the various talks on Monday are available below. If you were unable to attend the Family Welcome Day, please review the presentations below.

- [Welcome to Secondary School](#)
- [DP Programme](#)
- [MYP Programme](#)
- [College Counseling](#)
- [Digital Literacy, Wellbeing, the Creative Arts and the After School Activities Programme](#)

Tuesday, August 13th, marked the first day of school. Students came to school eager to learn and reconnect with their friends. Our teachers and staff are excited to work with our students this year and help them reach their full potential. Classroom teachers emphasised common agreements and began to build relationships with their students. Engaging get-to-know you activities on the first few days of school established the connections for future learning. At the end of the week, classes were already in full swing and classroom routines and expectations visibly being practised. We are excited for the year ahead!

We look forward to a great school year filled with learning, growth, and success.

ISB College Counseling/Future Pathways Program Update: August 2024

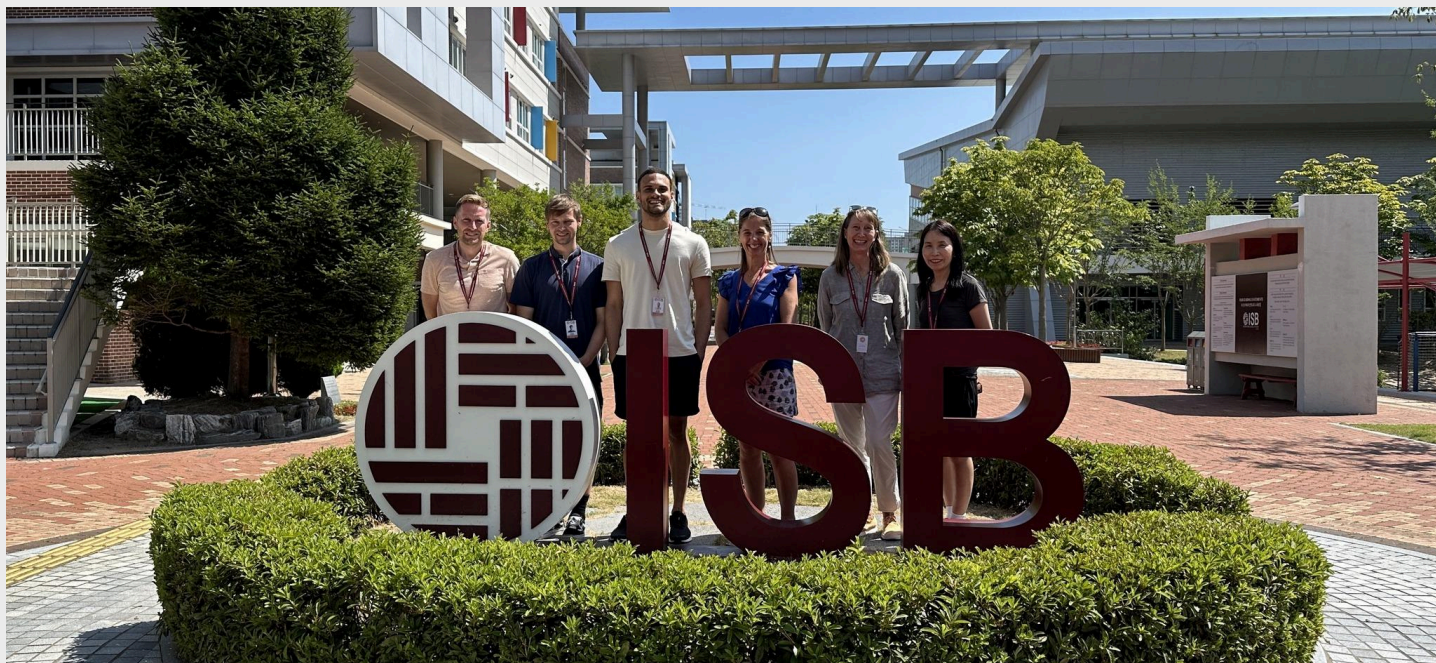
Welcome back to a new school year! The [ISB August 2024 College Counseling/Future Pathways Newsletter](#) is here. In this issue, you will find the following content:

- Upcoming University Fairs
- Standardised Tests: SAT Test at ISB
- ISB High School and Future Pathways Planning Timeline: Grades 9 through 12

About the “High School and Future Pathways Planning Timeline: grades 9 through 12”: High school is a time of learning, discovery, friendship and growth. In addition to personal and academic growth, it is important to plan and prepare for life after high school. Students can use this timeline to plan their high school year by year. There are helpful tips for grades 9 through 12. Read through all the years to look at the big picture and plan the high school experience that you wish to have. The full timeline (year round, 9 through 12) can be found [at the following link](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions, I will be delighted to connect with you!

Introducing



We are delighted to introduce the six outstanding educators who have joined the International School of Busan for the 2024-25 academic year! Join us in giving them a warm ISB welcome!

Catherine Buchanan - Our new Secondary Librarian from the USA. With extensive experience in teaching information literacy and creating welcoming library environments, Catherine is ready to inspire our students with her passion for books and learning. She previously worked as the Middle and High School Librarian at Chadwick International School in South Korea.

Gary Kenny - Joining us as a Secondary English Teacher. Originally from Ireland, Gary brings a wealth of international teaching experience from schools in Scotland, Monaco, South Korea, and China. We are excited to have him here at ISB!

Heidi Dean - Our new PYP Music Teacher from the UK. Heidi has a rich background in performing arts and has taught at international schools in Ghana, Sri Lanka, and China. We are pleased to welcome her to ISB where she will lead our PYP music program.

Jonas Mahler - Welcoming him as a Grade 3 PYP Homeroom Teacher. Jonas is an experienced PYP educator from New Zealand who has taught across the primary age range and has previously worked at international schools in China and Jordan.

Pedro Aragão - Joining as a Secondary Mathematics Teacher. Pedro, from Brazil, is skilled in teaching IBDP Physics and Mathematics. He is bringing his expertise and experience from the Pan American School of Bahia to our school.

Jungsook Yoon - Our new Secondary Korean Teacher. An IB DP Principal Examiner and curriculum developer, Jungsook returns to Busan with extensive experience from teaching in Indonesia, China, and Jeju Island. Let's give them a big ISB welcome and look forward to an exciting and enriching year ahead!

Dear ISB Community: Welcome to a new school year and a special welcome to our new IBS families! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce/re-introduce myself. My name is Ellenore Hibon, I am the Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor. I am starting my third year at ISB and I 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 ISB families through this newsletter and sometimes through email.



Ellenore Hibon

In addition to being the Secondary School Counselor, I am the Future Pathways/ College Counselor. In this role, I work primarily with students in grades 9 through 12 to guide them and their families in their post-secondary planning. For Post Secondary/College Counseling information specifically, please see my monthly Future Pathways/ 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 are welcome to access at any time, when you are looking for information and tools to support yourself and your family members. We have two different pages, one for the ISB Community (more geared toward parents/guardians/adults): [Health and Wellbeing Resources for the ISB Community](#) and another specifically for Secondary School students: [Health and Wellbeing Resources for ISB Secondary School Students](#). Some of the topics overlap but there are differences.

Some of the topics included on the resources page are:

Breathing and Mindfulness: (for general wellbeing and stress prevention)

Exercise

Health and Child and Adolescent Development:

Physical, Emotional and Behavioral Topics

Nutrition

Parenting Resources

Technology/Digital Literacy

Time Management

Transitions/Nomadic Lifestyle

If you have good resources that you use yourself that we could possibly add to the list to be able to share with others in the community, 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

