

- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -



# The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 6th December, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 15

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 7th December - SKAIS MHS MUN at ISB  
December 9th - 11th - Secondary Science Beach Cleanups  
Thursday 12th December - Whole School Winter Concert  
Friday 13th December - Early Dismissal for Winter Holiday  
Monday 6th January, 2025 - Back to School 2025!  
Monday 6th January - New Family Orientation  
6th - 8th January - Harvard Model Congress Asia (HMC Seoul)  
Friday 10th January - MHS Winter Formal  
17th - 19th January - EAISAC Creative Arts Festival at ISU

## Celebrating the Creative Arts at ISB



The Early Years Winter Performance, *Snowman's Lost His Hat!*, took place this week. We enjoyed some fabulous singing and dancing from the children in EY1, EY2, and KG. The children loved performing in front of their very proud parents! We would like to thank the Early Years Team for a fantastic production that put us all in a festive mood just in time for the holidays!



## A New Year's Tale



This week, the ISB community was treated to a spectacular performance of *A New Year's Tale*, an inventive reimagining of A Christmas Carol set in 1890s Korea. Directed by student directors Nicole (G10) and Kaia (G12), the production featured a talented cast of students, with standout performances from both secondary school and G5 actors. The show's creative use of space, costumes, and student-designed sets made for a visually captivating experience, while the actors brought the characters to life with energy and confidence. The performance was a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, from the cast to the backstage team, who contributed to the sets, props, and special effects.

It was wonderful to see the students shine on stage, enjoying every moment of their performance. Congratulations to our Secondary Drama Teacher, Thaba Niedzwiecki, and the entire cast and crew for their outstanding work in bringing this unique adaptation to life. Be sure to congratulate the students involved if you see them around school!

## 2025 BeFM School Reporters Recruitment

An exciting opportunity for our ISB Students! Busan eFM Radio station is looking for student reporters to appear on their show 'School Reporters'. Read on for more information on how to apply!



Broadcast Schedule: Every Sunday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Activities: Serve as the "School Reporter of the Month" and participate in broadcasts (4–5 appearances per month) Deliver news about Busan and interesting international news in English

Activity Period: One month (from January to March 2025, participants will be assigned one month to act as reporters)

Recording Schedule: Every Tuesday at 6:00 PM

Recording Location: Busan English Broadcasting Studio (Located at 41, Centumdong-ro, Haeundae-gu)

**Submission Deadline: December 15, 2024**

Application Process: Submit a one-minute self-introduction recording in English to the designated email address

Submission Address: [kue@befm.or.kr](mailto:kue@befm.or.kr)

Benefits: Experience as a school reporter and a nominal appearance fee

Inquiries: 051-663-0037

## School Shop Holiday Notice

Please be informed that the school shop will be closed for the winter holidays starting Wednesday, December 11th. The last day of operation before the break will be Monday, December 9th.

The shop will reopen on Monday, January 6th, 2025.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to serving you in the new year!

## ISB Academic Scholarship 2025/2026

Applications for the [ISB Academic Scholarship 2025/2026](#) are still open! The Academic Scholarship Program is designed to nurture and celebrate academic excellence among our students. Scholarships are awarded to candidates who demonstrate exceptional academic ability, with a focus on both aptitude and potential for future achievement.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students who are passionate about learning and driven to excel. To apply, [please visit the link](#) for more details.

**Academic Scholarship 2025/2026**

The aim of the Academic Scholarship Programme is to foster and celebrate academic excellence. Scholarships are awarded to candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, based on aptitude and potential.

**Apply Now**

Scholarship Concessions from 50% to 100%    Application Deadline 28th February 2025    For details please visit [www.isbusan.org](http://www.isbusan.org)

More info: [admissions@isbusan.org](mailto:admissions@isbusan.org) Website: [www.isbusan.org](http://www.isbusan.org) Phone: +82 51 742 3332

## Winter Holiday Reminder

Please remember that Friday 13th December is the last day of school before the winter holiday. School will finish at 12.00 pm for all students on this day. We return to school on Monday 6th January, 2025.





# The Snow Queen



**ISB WINTER CONCERT**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**

**1:30 PM TO 3:25 PM**

**WITH A 15MIN. INTERMISSION**

**FEATURING**

**G2, G5, G7 THROUGH 12**

**ISB ORCHESTRA, ADULT CHOIR**

### Introducing New Staff

One of the most important responsibilities of an international school leader is recruiting high-quality teaching staff. Outstanding teachers are the cornerstone of a successful school, and we dedicate significant time and effort to ensuring we bring the best educators into our learning community. Following a thorough process of shortlisting and interviewing candidates over the past few weeks, I am pleased to announce that we have made several more great appointments. Today, I would like to introduce you to some more of the educators who will be joining ISB next year.



Simon McCloskey



**Paul Horkan** will be taking over as **Secondary Principal**, starting in August 2025. Paul is currently the Head of Secondary at the International School Suva, a three-programme IB World School in Fiji. His leadership journey includes roles such as Deputy Head of Secondary and MYP Coordinator at Pechersk School International in Kyiv, Ukraine, as well as positions in Jordan, Bangladesh, and his home country of Ireland. With extensive IB and accreditation experience, Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and a student-centered approach to education.



Joining Paul in August 2025 will be **Katy Hourston**. She will be teaching **Secondary Individuals and Societies**. Originally from Scotland, Katy brings extensive IB experience, including roles as an MYP Personal Project Senior Examiner, MYP Workshop Leader, and MYP Evaluation Team Member. Katy is currently an MYP Coordinator and DP Global Politics Teacher. She has also worked at international schools in Jordan, Ukraine and Fiji. Before becoming a teacher, Katy worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the British Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**Alicia Prinsloo** will be joining ISB as a **DP Biology and MYP Science teacher** in August 2025. With 16 years of experience teaching international curricula, including the IB MYP and DP frameworks, Alicia has worked at schools in the UAE, Vietnam, and her home country of South Africa. Alicia has taught General Sciences across middle and high school levels and Biology up to Grade 12. She is well-versed in the latest DP Biology curriculum and has also taught DP Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS). We look forward to welcoming Alicia to our learning community.



**Yennyta Chang** will be joining us in January 2025 as a **Co-Teacher in Grade 3**, working alongside Jonas Mahler. This addition reflects the growth in Grade 3 enrollment and our commitment to maintaining high-quality teaching and learning experiences for our students. Originally from Indonesia, Yennyta brings over a decade of teaching experience from bilingual and international schools. Most recently she has been working as a co-teacher and teacher intern with Grade Two and Grade Three at Branksome Hall Asia. Yennyta speaks Indonesian, Korean, Hakka, Malay and Teochew. Please join me in giving Yennyta a warm ISB welcome as she transitions into her new role.



## From the Elementary Principal

The Early Years children put on a fantastic performance of "Snowman Lost His Hat." The children sang, danced, and acted their way through the story, bringing the snowman's journey to life. The stage decorations and costumes were beautiful, and the children's energy and enthusiasm were infectious.

A special thank you to Ms. Heidi and the Early Years Team for their hard work and dedication in making this performance possible. The children's performance was a testament to their talent and creativity, and it was a joy to watch.



Kevin Smith





### Grade 5 Bake Sale

The grade 5 students raised money for their Angel Tree Gifts this week with a bake sale. Students were able to display their baking skills as they prepared treats for all elementary classes. The students asked for donations for a tray of treats for each class. Well done to the grade 5 students for making all of these amazing treats by themselves! This is a wonderful way to take action raising a total of 174,500 KRW! We hope everyone enjoyed the treats!



### Biodiversity Board Games

The students in Grades 1 and 2 had exciting visitors this week . . . from Grade 3! The older students came to share their board games with the younger children. In the Grade 1 engagement, the learning focus was on developing our social and communication skills.



We tried hard to learn the rules of the games, take turns, and ask questions to help us understand. In the Grade 2 classroom, we tried to learn more about biodiversity and the environment. We also inquired into how the board games were designed, so that we could learn how to create our own games. Thank you to Mr Jonas and Grade 3 for coming to share their learning with us. We hope to see you again soon!



## Winter Concert Preparations

Grades 2 and 5 have been busy preparing for the Winter Concert and are now in the final stages of polishing their performance pieces. As they have been working through the creative process they have demonstrated both creative thinking skills and social skills through sharing their performance ideas and working together to show effective musicianship. They have been developing their ensemble performance skills and have been working hard at listening carefully to each other, playing and singing in time with the beat, and performing with lots of energy and expression. The students are very excited to perform their final performance pieces to an audience.



## Anchored 4 Life

On Monday Anchored 4 Life students sponsored a "Snack and Play" event for all of the new students in our school. This event supports new students in making new friends, getting to know each other, and asking questions about the new ASA's and anything they might want to learn about. Our leaders led an activity called Jump In where students took turns sharing something about themselves in order for students to make connections.

## How Do Math and Language Develop in EY2?

In EY2, children take ownership of their learning by choosing activities throughout the day. This child-led approach fosters meaningful connections to our unit

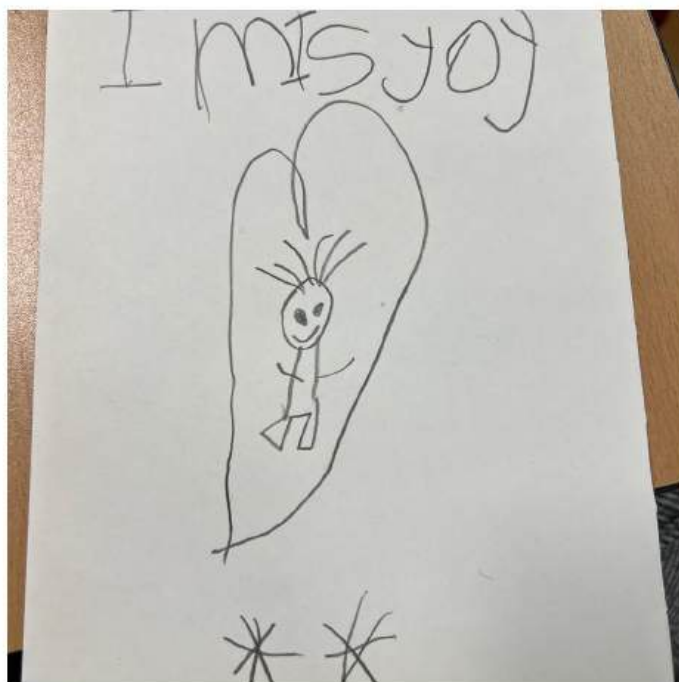
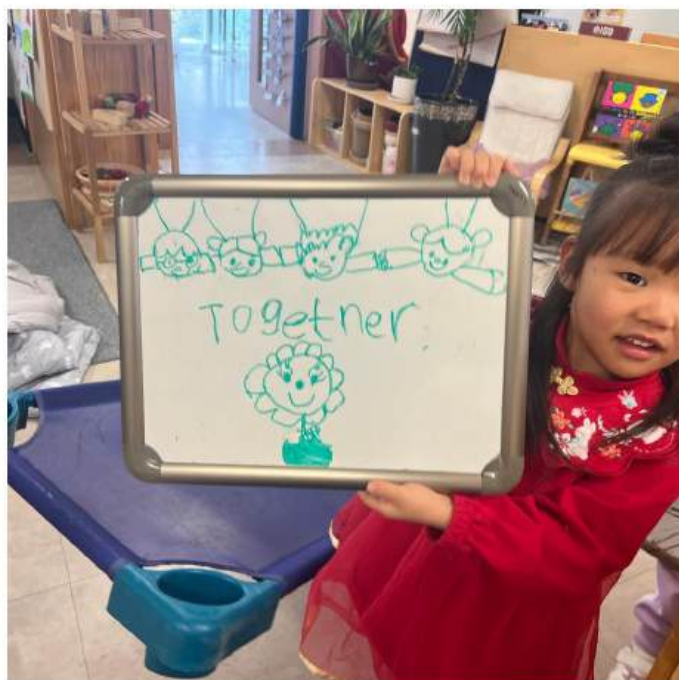




of inquiry while naturally integrating both foundational and complex concepts in math and language. For example, math skills develop as children count to 20 during games, gather materials for crafting, or explore shapes through play. Language skills are nurtured in purposeful contexts, such as writing messages on cards for friends and family, and sharing ideas both non-verbally and verbally. In these contexts, children learn about letters, words, and communication in a meaningful way.

The teachers' role extends beyond observation. As facilitators and documenters, they provide strategies, guide connections to broader concepts, and ensure children's play is both purposeful and enriching. This balanced approach supports deeper learning that aligns with the children's interests.

Reggie shared, "If we learn the letters, then we know what people say in the book." Nathalie added, "So the numbers help us understand how many we need."





## From the Secondary Principal

ISB Secondary School has continued its productive streak, and I am consistently impressed by the unwavering dedication and hard work exhibited by our students and staff. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Thaba and the entire cast and crew of the recent theater production, "A New Year's Tale."

This remarkable adaptation of "A Christmas Carol," set within a Korean context, captivated our community and showcased the exceptional talent of our students.



Gilles Buck

It is truly heartening to witness the strong start of Season 2 of our After School Activities (ASA) program. The diverse range of activities provides enriching opportunities for our students to explore their passions and develop new skills beyond the classroom. This coming Saturday, we are proud to host our inaugural SKAIS MUN conference as well as the SAT. These events offer valuable platforms for our students to engage in intellectual discourse and showcase their academic prowess.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming beach cleanups, a service initiative now supported by the municipality. This endeavor not only contributes to environmental well-being but also empowers our students to make a positive impact on their community.

As we approach the end of the semester, our annual Winter Concert promises to be a beautiful culmination of our students' musical talents and a fitting celebration of their achievements. Let us continue to foster a positive and supportive learning environment as we embrace the final week of the semester.

## Secondary Learning Focus

### From the Design department

#### Grade 8 - Product Design - 'Dragon's Den'

Our Grade 8 students have been incredibly focused and productive with preparing for our annual Dragon's Den event! The students have been incorporating UN Sustainable Development goals, client real-world challenges, and a variety of workshop skills to put together a prototype, and presentation for the Dragons! This unit also works with the I&S Department so that they can be some further focus on marketing, promotion and basic entrepreneurship skills for the presentation as well. The students should be very proud of their efforts!







## Grade 9 - Product Design

### **Creating 'new' from 'old' - 'UpCycling Wood Palettes'**

It's never been more critical for all of us to rethink how products are made - to focus on sustainability and the health of our environments. What better way to take action than to create useful products from old abandoned materials like wood palettes?

This was the main idea for our Grade 9s (all the while gaining valuable Design process thinking, and workshop skills for

**ECOPAWS**  
Scratcher 'n' Sit

**cozy & comfortable:**  
scratching post for cat stress relief

**aesthetic & convenient:**  
ISB logo implementation and compact, easy-to-use chair design

**eco-friendly & safe:**  
made with recycled wood pallet and non-toxic varnish

**durable & strong:**  
made with various supports and adhesives

contact:  
2hychoi@ishuman.org

Simple to Use, Fun to Learn From

Visually Appealing Design for Any Setting!

Durability Built to Last in Busy Classrooms

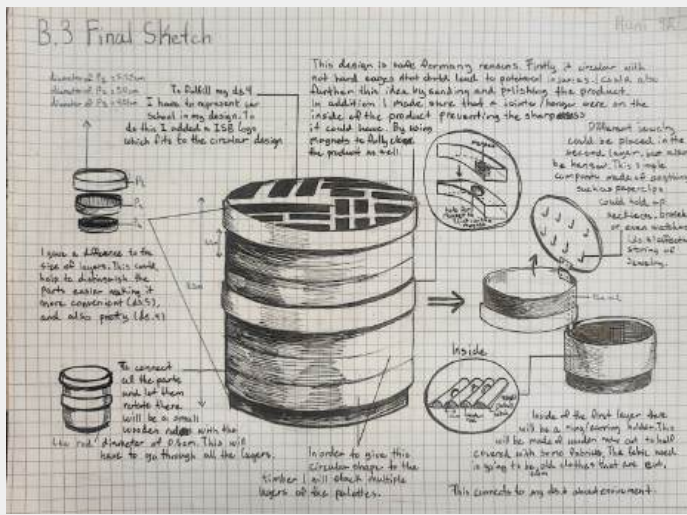
Safe Materials for Both Students and Teachers

**ConicCone**

- Set to be used in Mrs. Linn's Classroom
- Help explain a complicated math concept to students
- Overall, a better learning experience
- A proud achievement from a 9th grader is the use of bright colours on the outside for attraction, as well as durable materials and adhesives.

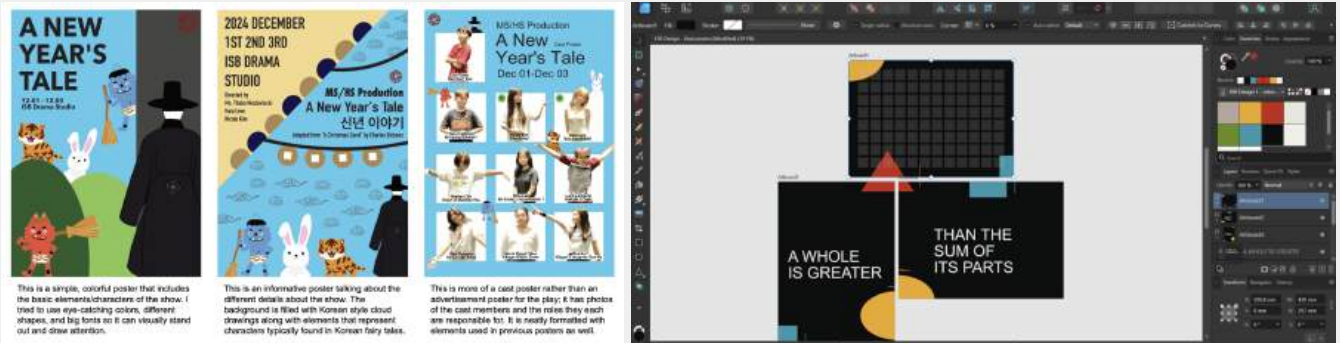
wood-working, etc.) this Semester. They've created some truly innovative and worthwhile products - we hope they will be taken home or given to their clients and cherished for many years to come.





**Grade 10 - Digital Design - 'Graphic Design Skills to Help our School Community'**

Grade 10 students were tasked to use 'Affinity Photo' for our graphic design focus - to help out a client (ISB community member) with some organization/club/activity/team at the school for purposes of advertising, information-sharing, or promotion. The students certainly exceeded expectations - diving right into areas of their choice and inquiry and thereby helping out a significant area of our school! Look for their work in newsletters, social media and all around the school!



**Grade 11 - Architectural Design Activity - 'Creating Options for a new ISB Gym Space'**

Our Grade 11 Design Technology students have been working hard on researching and coming up with clever ideas for a new ISB Gym space on our campus - something that will actually come to be in the next few months! This activity is a key step in preparing the students for their eventual full Internal Assessment Project that they will be undertaking over the next year.









## Positive News!

Dear ISB Community,  
Some time back, I shared an article from Common Sense Media [Explaining the News to Our Kids](#) that—given the status of world affairs—continues to be relevant and helpful. News about war and acts of violence are very much a part of our day. These issues are important and deserve our attention, however, it is crucial, especially now, to remind ourselves and our loved ones that there are many positive things going on in the world right now, every day. It is not only war and conflict.

**This is a message that is particularly important for our children** who might be struggling with the heavy influx of charged information either through their devices or from conversations with those around them. Intentionally focusing on finding and reading/listening to positive news can help provide a more balanced view of the world, one that is not only fed by the mainstream news media—which tend to lean toward negative narratives—but by a wider array of sources and voices. Intentionally seeking good news does not necessarily come naturally to us humans as we are evolutionarily wired to identify threats around us. For more on this topic, see the article [The Neuroscience of Good and Bad News](#) by Dr. Rick Hanson. It is not always easy to know where to find reliable sources of information for positive news.



Thankfully, there are professional journalists as well as members of the general public who dedicate themselves to reporting positive initiatives and uplifting stories from around the world, of people, communities, and organizations who are working hard to make the world a better place. Some resources you may wish to explore, for yourself as well as to share with your loved ones, are the [Positive News](#) website (UK based, high-quality journalism around positive news around the world), [GoodGoodGood](#), [Good News Network](#), and [Reasons To Be Cheerful](#).

Warm regards and a happy and positive holiday season to you and your loved ones!

Ellenore Hibon  
Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor



### Interview with ISB IT Team: Tackling E-Waste Sustainably

For this week's Eco Club Newsletter, we had the opportunity to interview Mr. Plotzki about how the IT team manages its electronic waste responsibly.



#### Q: How does the IT team ensure old electronics are reused or recycled responsibly?

**Mr. Plotzki:** *We use a renewal schedule and a cataloging system to track all electronics on campus. Our priority is reuse; we sell functional devices to teachers at a good price, extending their life by up to five years. Non-functional devices are sold to a licensed e-waste recycler in Busan, who crushes, separates, and refines the parts for reuse.*

#### Q: How do you select a reputable e-waste recycler and what is the auditing process?

**Mr. Plotzki:** *We ensure recyclers have a government-issued license and maintain clear records of what is sent and how it is disposed of. We trust the Korean government's certification process for environmental compliance.*

#### Q: What impact has reusing and recycling electronics had on ISB's environmental efforts?

**Mr. Plotzki:** *We've significantly reduced electronic waste in landfills. Old devices are repurposed, such as powering digital displays. We measure the weight of diverted e-waste and track our carbon footprint, including data usage and building energy.*



#### Q: Are there any upcoming plans to further reduce e-waste at ISB?

**Mr. Plotzki:** *Our focus is on educational support, but we plan to standardize systems to prevent quick obsolescence. We're considering offering e-waste recycling services for students and families, with fees reinvested into eco-initiatives.*



We thank Mr. Plotzki for sharing these insights and inspiring us to think creatively about reducing e-waste. We are also sincerely grateful to our IT team for their incredible efforts in supporting sustainability initiatives. If you have any questions or would like to reach out, please feel free to contact us via [ecoclub@isbusan.org](mailto:ecoclub@isbusan.org).

Together, let's continue to take meaningful steps toward making our environment a better place!

## How do we use AI at ISB?

Generative Artificial Intelligence is changing the way we learn and teach - so come and find out how we are using AI at ISB! Join ISB Tech Wizard Mr Plotzki for the latest, followed by the PTA Coffee morning!



The poster features a photograph of a young man in a light blue shirt pointing at a tablet held by two other young men. The background shows a modern school building. The text is overlaid on the image.

**ISB** PARENT WORKSHOP  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN

# How do we use AI at ISB?

Wednesday 22nd January  
8:45am - 10am

**FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING**

PTA members will be on-campus on Monday 6th January for the ISB New Family Orientation. We will be there to welcome the new members of our community!



The poster features a large group of people holding various national flags in front of the International School of Busan building. The ISB logo and a bear mascot logo are in the top right corner.

# NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION DAY

MONDAY 6TH JAN, 2025 | FROM 9AM

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN

**ISB**  
**BEARS**