



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 17th January, 2025

Volume 6, Issue 17

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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 17th January - Battle of Busan HS Basketball
17th - 19th January - EAISAC Creative Arts Festival at ISU
24th - 26th January - EAISAC HS Basketball Tournament at ISB
Monday 27th January - PD Day (school closed on this day)
28th - 31st January - Seollal Lunar New Year Holiday
Monday 3rd February - Battle of Busan HS Basketball
Thursday 6th February - Battle of Busan MS Volleyball Finals
Monday 10th February - MYP Personal Project

Featured Story

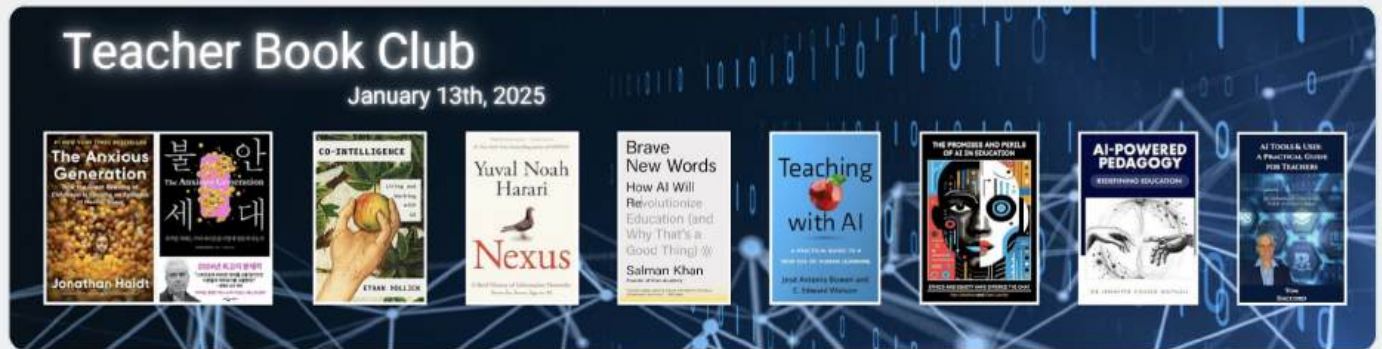


At ISB, we are committed to fostering lifelong learning. This week after school, our teachers came together in book club groups to discuss their chosen books from a curated list. The school provided each teacher with a copy of the book and dedicated time for thoughtful discussion. During their discussions, teachers explored:

- Three key concepts from each book

- Their biggest takeaway
- What we can apply to ISB to enhance our educational practices

These conversations align with our guiding statements, particularly our values of being knowledgeable, digitally-literate, open-minded, global citizens. By reflecting on these impactful books, our teachers are exploring how to integrate innovative, responsible practices into our school community. We are proud of our teachers' dedication to professional growth and their commitment to improving the educational experience for all of our students!



Whole School News

Thursday 23rd January is Special Menu Day in the cafeteria! This month we have a delicious Korean menu to celebrate Seollal, the Korean Lunar New Year.

2025
새해 복 많이 받으세요
Happy Lunar New Year



New Year Special Menu
Thursday, January 23, 2025



떡국
소갈비찜
4가지 나물
 (콩나물, 시금치, 고사리, 무)
3가지 전
 (산적, 호박전, 동그랑땡)
잡채
강정과 약과
식혜와 수정과
제철과일

Sliced Rice Cake Soup
Braised Beef Spareribs
Four Korean Salads: Bean Sprouts, Spinach, Bracken, Radish
Three Korean Pan-Fried Dishes:
Pork Skewers,
Pan-Fried Battered Zucchini,
Meat & Tofu Patties
Stir-Fried Glass Noodles with Vegetables
Desserts:
Sweet Rice Puffs & Honey Cookies
Sweet Rice Punch & Cinnamon Punch
Seasonal Fruits

We are happy to invite you to help us spread the word about an exciting opportunity at ISB, Busan's only fully authorized IB World School. Our upcoming Open House event offers prospective families a chance to discover what makes ISB such a special place for learning and growth. During the Open House, visitors will explore our state-of-the-art facilities, meet our dedicated faculty, and gain insight into how ISB fosters both academic



excellence and holistic development. This is a fantastic opportunity for families considering ISB to see firsthand why we are the premier choice for international education in Busan. Registration is simple: [interested families can complete the form linked here](#). Individual admission information sessions will also be held during the event. Families can select their preferred date on the application form, and we'll follow up to confirm a convenient time. If you know families who might be interested, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share this opportunity with them. For additional details, they can contact our Admissions Office at 051-720-1100 / 051-720-1101 or email admissions@isbusan.org. Thank you for your continued support of ISB.

Bids Open for School Bus and Cafeteria Services for 2025-26

We would like to inform you that bids for the operation of our school bus services and school cafeteria services for the 2025-26 school year are now open. These services are vital to supporting the daily needs of our students and staff, and we are inviting proposals from qualified operators.

Details about the bidding requirements and submission process are available on the ISB website. If you know of reputable companies or individuals who may be interested, please feel free to share this information with them. For further information, please visit: [ISB Bid Announcements and Application Procedure](#)

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Parent Workshop



You are invited to our upcoming Parent Workshop, "How do we use AI at ISB?," on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 8:45 am.

Generative Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing the way we teach and learn. Come and discover how ISB is integrating this cutting-edge technology safely and ethically. Join ISB's Tech Wizard, Mr. Plotzki, for an engaging session on the latest advancements in AI, followed by our PTA Coffee Morning. Please click the link below to register your attendance.

[ISB Parent Workshop Registration Link](#)

Essential Conditions for Effective Tech Use in Schools

ISTE's Essential Conditions provide a research-backed framework for implementing the ISTE Standards.



ISB ISTE Essential Conditions Survey - Your Input Needed

Dear ISB Community,

We are seeking your participation in the ISB ISTE Essential Conditions survey. Your valuable insights will help us prioritize and plan areas of the school's technology program that require support as we develop our next 4-year tech plan.

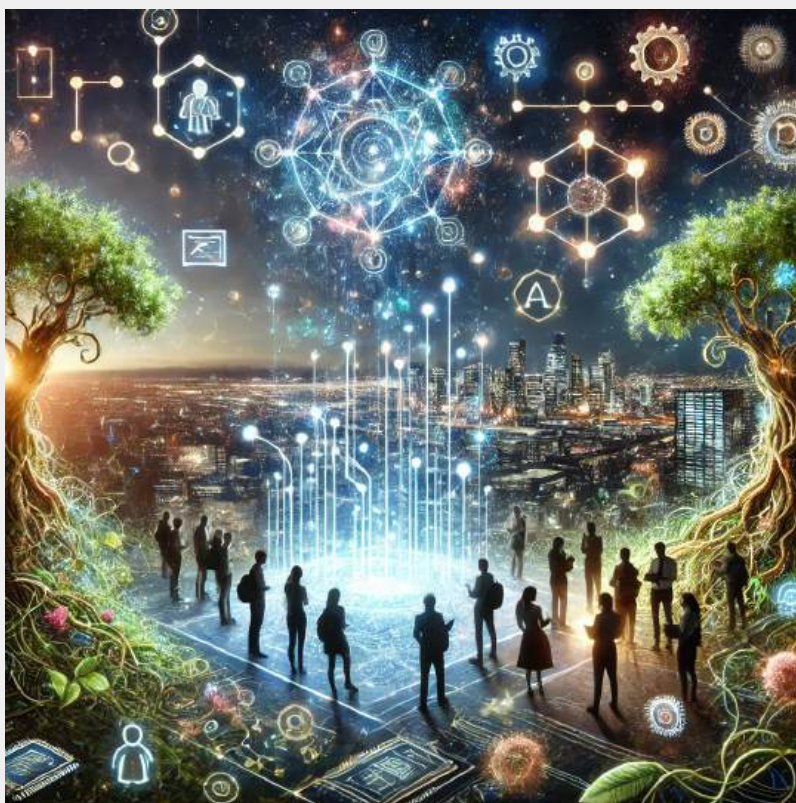
The [ISTE Essential Conditions](#) are a set of standards that define the conditions necessary for effective teaching and learning in a technology-rich environment. The survey will assess the current state of our school's technology program and identify areas where we can improve.

Your participation in this survey is crucial to ensure that the school's technology plan aligns with the needs and aspirations of our community. Your feedback will help us make informed decisions about resource allocation, devices, access, professional development, and infrastructure upgrades.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and will be an invaluable data point as we chart the road ahead. You can access the survey at bit.ly/ISBiste.

The survey will be open until February 14th, 2025.

Thank you for your continued support of ISB's commitment to educational excellence.



Sincerely,

Dale Plotzki

Whole School Technology and Learning Innovation Coordinator

From the Head of School

This week, I am in London attending the Search Associates recruitment fair. This event provides a valuable opportunity to connect with talented educators as we continue to identify exceptional candidates for the 2025-2026 academic year. Our recruitment efforts reflect the usual turnover of international educators at the end of each academic year, as well as the addition of new positions to support our school's continued growth. Since the last newsletter, I am delighted to share that we have hired three outstanding new educators who will join us in August 2025. I look forward to sharing further updates as our recruitment progresses.



Simon McCloskey



Brian Malone will be joining ISB as our new **Secondary Language and Literature Teacher**. Originally from the United Kingdom, Brian brings extensive experience teaching MYP and DP English at leading international schools in Bangkok, Moscow, Tokyo, and London. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Combined Studies and a PGCE from the University of Manchester, as well as a TESOL Diploma from City College Manchester. Beyond the classroom, he has coached football and cross-country teams and is passionate about fostering student engagement through creative and interdisciplinary teaching approaches. Since 2019, Brian has been teaching MYP Language and Literature at NIST International School in Bangkok.



Amber Taylor will be joining ISB as our new **Early Years 2 Teacher**. Originally from Canada, Amber is an Early Childhood specialist with a Bachelor of Education (With Distinction) from the University of Saskatchewan and a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner certification. She brings a wealth of experience from international schools, including NIST International School in Bangkok, where she is currently the Early Years Team Leader, as well as the Anglo-American School of Moscow and Tokyo International School. Amber is a strong advocate for playful learning, open inquiry, and outdoor education. As a Curriculum Developer for the International Baccalaureate, she contributes to creating resources that support Early Years educators worldwide.



Bibiana Rosas will be joining the ISB community in August 2025 as our new **Secondary School Counselor**. Originally from Argentina (now a dual citizen of the U.S. and Argentina), Bibiana holds a Master of Education with a specialization in School Counseling from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Florida. She is certified as a School Counselor for Grades K-12 in New Jersey and brings experience from both international and U.S. based schools. Currently serving as a Secondary School Counselor at Academia Cotopaxi in Quito, Ecuador, Bibiana has been instrumental in leading the counseling team, developing Social-Emotional Learning programs, and implementing transition services for students and families. Her previous roles include serving as an Elementary Counselor at Cairo American College and as a K-12 Counselor at the American International School of Vilnius in Lithuania.

From the Elementary Principal

We are only in Week 2 but we're certainly diving headfirst into the semester in Elementary school! Across all grades, we've been incorporating hands-on activities to spark curiosity and encourage collaboration. These experiences are invaluable in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while fostering a love of learning. Exciting field trips are on the horizon! These adventures provide unique opportunities for real-world learning and create lasting memories.

Our Grade 5 students have begun their PYP Exhibition journey. Their enthusiasm for exploring big ideas and sharing their findings is truly inspiring.

As the weather turns chilly, please ensure your children are dressed warmly for outdoor activities. Layering is key for staying comfortable throughout the day. Please remember to label all clothing items clearly for easy return if misplaced.



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

G5 Parent Exhibition Information Session

This week Grade 5 students presented their initial exhibition ideas to their parents. Each group was able to share their big idea, their research questions, and explain how their inquiry links to a sustainable development goal, and a PYP transdisciplinary theme. We look forward to hearing more about the grade 5 student exhibition ideas over the next few months as they begin their research on these important areas of interest.



Why are there almost 2 million CCTV cameras in Korea? Who owns the footage?
Harris, Dylan & Danny



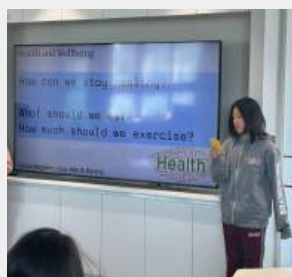
Korean ceramics began about 10,000 years ago. We are interested in learning about the different periods of ceramic art in Korea. Giuseppe & Hana Y.



Cookery is a useful skill for children. We are keen to learn recipes that are healthy and tasty.
Lina, Seba, Stefania & Hana J.



Space exploration is interesting. Who is responsible for space junk? How do astronauts cope with space? Andrea, Lev & JJ



How can we stay healthy? How much exercise do children need? Sarang & Noa



How do 3D creations help the world? What can 3D printers do to help people? Vinson & Emmett



Aviation is a popular way to travel.
Are the materials used environmentally friendly?
Shawn, Rian & Qikun



Baking is a useful skill. We can learn how to make healthy and delicious food.
Matt, Yuna, Ji Lok & Grecia



Animal welfare is important to us.
Do all people treat animals well?
Kelly, Jun, Yeryung & Talarah

Building Community Through Curiosity and Problem-Solving

To introduce our new unit, *How We Organize Ourselves*, which focuses on the concept of community, roles within it, and how we collaborate to solve problems, we began with a fun experiment: freezing water overnight outside to observe what would happen.

Initially, the water didn't freeze, sparking curiosity and lively discussions among the children. On the second attempt, the water did freeze, and the children worked together to figure out how to melt or break the ice to retrieve their objects. They used tools like rocks, hammers, and hot water to solve the challenge.

This hands-on activity highlighted the importance of teamwork and problem-solving—key elements of how a community functions. The children became investigators and problem-solvers, discovering how their collective efforts can overcome challenges, much like members of a real-world community.

As we move forward, we'll continue exploring how roles and responsibilities help us organize our world and work together effectively.



Kindergarten Bakers

This week Kindergarten baked cakes as part of our current unit of inquiry that explores concepts related to science and measurement. It was a lot of fun and such a meaningful experience for the children - they were clearly engaged and making real connections to the concept of change and measurement through the activity. Activities like this show how hands-on, meaningful experiences can spark curiosity and deepen understanding in such a natural and authentic way. This sort of experience makes learning both relevant and engaging for our students as well as delicious. Our cakes were chocolate with chocolate ganache and sprinkles and egg-free.



Ways that baking can help students understand measurement and chemistry:

- Baking requires students to measure ingredients accurately, which helps them develop their understanding of measurement concepts such as volume, weight, and capacity.
- Baking involves mixing different ingredients together, which helps students understand how different substances interact with each other and how they can be combined to create new substances.
- Baking requires students to follow a recipe, which helps them develop their ability to follow instructions and procedures.
- Baking can help students understand the science of cooking, such as how heat affects food and how different ingredients react to different temperatures.
- Baking can help students develop their problem-solving skills, as they may need to troubleshoot issues that arise during the baking process.

If you would like to come and share your cooking skills with Kindergarten please get in touch with Ms Caro.



Another busy and productive week in the Secondary School! I was so pleased to see such a full house at the Grade 10 Course Selection meeting this week. It was wonderful to see so many parents and students engaged in the process of planning for the future. For those who were unable to attend, please know that all resources from the meeting have been emailed to Grade 10 parents and are also included in this newsletter for easy access.

It's inspiring to see the great learning and interesting activities that are happening across the secondary school. This week, we also have the exciting Battle of Busan basketball competition taking place on Friday against BFS. ISB will also be hosting the EAISAC basketball tournament next week - we wish all of our athletes the best of luck!

Speaking of EAISAC, I'm thrilled that the first-ever EAISAC Creative Arts Festival is taking place this weekend in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia at ISU. Our talented students will be participating in visual arts, drama, and theatre. This is a welcome addition to the opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between our schools, and I know our students will have a wonderful experience. Here is a picture of our creative arts representatives travelling to Mongolia this weekend.



Gilles Buck



Looking ahead to next week, we will celebrate Korean culture with a whole school Seollal assembly in anticipation of the new lunar year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to learn more about and appreciate this important cultural holiday. Also next week our Middle School Volleyball teams will take part in the Battle of Busan.

It's clear that there's a great deal of positive energy and engagement across the secondary school, and I'm continually impressed by the dedication of our students and staff.

Grade 10 Course Selection Resources

- [Course Selection Final Survey](#) (due January 24th)
- [Parent Information Session Slides](#)
- [Course Offerings One-Pager](#)
- [Counselor Student Information Session Slides](#)

2025 Winter Formal

Last Friday, students gathered for an unforgettable Winter Formal, a night filled with good music, delicious food, and plenty of fun. One of the evening's highlights was the photobooth station, where attendees captured special moments and took home printed photos. The food stations were a hit, serving crowd favorites like tacos, nacho chips, and a variety of desserts that kept everyone energized throughout the night. The Music Monkeys and the Lunchtime Club Band added to the lively atmosphere with their energetic performances. Middle school students and teachers alike enjoyed the vibrant fashion runway, where creative outfits were on full display, as well as engaging activities like musical chairs that brought laughter and joy to all participants. High school students made the night equally memorable, celebrating together on the dance floor and showcasing their style and energy on the fashion runway. The evening was capped off with heartfelt moments and shared memories, making the 2025 Winter Formal a night to remember.



ISB Future Pathways/Career and University Planning Newsletter

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you and your families in good health and high spirits! I am excited to share the [January 2025 edition of the ISB Future Pathways/College Counseling Newsletter](#) with you.

Below, you will find a preview of this month's topics:

- [Upcoming University Events and Information](#)
 - Alternatives to Medicine – Biotechnology & Chemical Technology and Biomedical Engineering
 - Toulouse Business School (Barcelona-Toulouse-Paris-Casablanca)
 - Studying Computer Science and Information Technology in Switzerland
- [Job projections and in demand careers for the future](#)
- [Careers in STEM](#)

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our counselor at ehibon@isbusan.org.

Wellbeing Tips for a Healthy Winter

We are experiencing a particularly chilly winter in Busan this year! With the cold temperatures, it can sometimes be challenging for us to stick to our self-care routines. Here are some essential wellbeing tips to help us thrive this winter.

1. Stay Active

Winter often discourages outdoor activities, but maintaining a regular exercise routine is important for our physical and mental health. Consider indoor workouts like yoga, pilates, or home fitness videos or if you are up for it, wear your warmest gear and take a nice walk outside! Regular physical activity boosts endorphins, which can enhance our mood and energy levels.

2. Embrace Natural Light

Shorter days can lead to decreased exposure to sunlight, which may affect our mood and increase feelings of fatigue. We can make the most of the daylight by going outside during midday when the sun is at its peak. Soak in that vitamin D!

3. Nourish Your Body

The winter months often call for comfort food, but it is essential to prioritize a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Foods high in vitamins D and C, such as fatty fish, fortified dairy products, citrus fruits, and leafy greens, can help support our immune system and energy levels. Let's not forget to hydrate, as our bodies still need water even when we may not feel as thirsty.

4. Establish a Routine

Winter can sometimes disrupt our daily rhythms. We can try to maintain a consistent daily routine that includes time for work, exercise, relaxation, and hobbies. We can prioritize sleep and aim for 7-9 hours each night to keep our body and mind functioning optimally.

5. Stay Connected

Spending many hours indoors during the winter can sometimes lead to feelings of isolation. We can make an effort to connect with friends and family, whether through phone calls, video chats, or small gatherings. Engaging in social activities, even virtually, can help improve our mood and create a sense of belonging.

6. Cultivate Mindfulness

Breathing, meditation or journaling can promote mental clarity and reduce stress. Try relaxation and breathing exercises to connect with your body and help combat the winter blues.

7. Get Creative

Winter is a wonderful time to explore our creative side! Try painting, writing, cooking and baking, virtual classes, home projects, dancing and anything creative that allows for self-expression and joy!

Winter may bring some challenges, but it is possible for us to maintain our health and wellbeing and continue to practice self-care routines and even adopt a few new ones!

Regards and stay warm!

Ellenore Hibon

Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor

From the PTA



The poster features the PTA logo at the top, which consists of three stylized figures holding hands, with the letters P, T, and A below them. Below the logo is the text "Parent Teacher Association". The main title "PTA COFFEE MORNING" is in large, bold, white letters. To the left of the title is an icon of two coffee cups. Below the title, the date "Wednesday, January 22" is written in white on a yellow background. The text "Join us for the first coffee morning of 2025. Connect with other PTA parents and enjoy a good coffee together." is in white. Below this, the time and location "10:00am, PTA Room" is written in white on a yellow background. At the bottom, there are three small images: a banner that says "HAPPY NEW YEAR", a gold balloon with "Happy New Year" written on it, and a gold balloon with "Happy New Year" written on it. There are also red fireworks at the bottom.

Parent Teacher Association

International School of Busan

PTA COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday, January 22

Join us for the first coffee morning of 2025.
Connect with other PTA parents and enjoy a
good coffee together.

10:00am, PTA Room