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# The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 6th September, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 4

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## IMPORTANT DATES

8th - 9th September - EAISAC HS Leadership Conference @NIS  
Friday 13th September - PD Day (No Students on Campus)  
16th - 18th September - Chuseok Holiday  
19th - 20th September - DP Retreat  
Friday 20th September - G6 - G10 Team Building Trips  
20th - 21st September - PYP Sports Camp  
Monday 23rd September - Battle of Busan, HS Volleyball  
Tuesday 24th September - Battle of Busan, MS Football

## Featured Story



The ISB EdTech Retreat, held today, brought together students, teachers, staff, parents, and Board members for a day of collaboration and innovation. The retreat focused on gathering feedback and insights for the ISB 2030 Tech Plan, with participants engaging in SWOT analysis, visioning exercises, and discussions on key areas such as infrastructure, curriculum, and professional development. The event was a resounding success, with attendees sharing their expertise and perspectives to shape the future of technology in education at ISB. An overview of the completed technology plan will be shared with the ISB community before the end of the year.



### Deputy UK Ambassador and BCCK Executive Director Visit ISB

This morning we welcomed Gareth Weir, Deputy UK Ambassador to South Korea, and Lucinda Walker, Executive Director of the British Chamber of Commerce in Korea on campus for a special visit. As a global community with a diverse international student body, we regularly welcome key organisations from across the world that can help support the development and experiences of our students.

Mr McCloskey welcomed our guests into the boardroom, where they were met by two members of the newly formed ISB Media Team who conducted an interview and took photographs of the meeting to share with our school community. Well done to Antonio (G12) and Dave (G10) for your professionalism in representing ISB and yourselves, and great work gathering the contents for our community! The professional relationships we cultivate with local and global organisations will help secure a range of opportunities from which our students can benefit.





### ISB Community Runs Are Back!

Our cross country team will be training on Saturday mornings and we would like to invite all members of the ISB community to join us for some training runs. We have many Saturday morning runs planned, meeting at Pale de Cz at 7:30am. These timed runs are to promote fitness and a love of running. All abilities are welcome. Elementary students are always welcome to join us, but must have a parent running with them at all times.



If you would like to join the ISB Community Runs mailing list please complete this short form: [ISB Community Runs Mailing List](#)

Save the dates:

- 14th September
- 28th September
- 12th October
- 19th October
- 26th October

You are also invited to join our ISB online running community on Strava. Strava is an app you can use to track your running on your phone or smart watch, or you can enter your run online when you're finished. If you'd like to join, set up a free Strava account and join the [ISBusan Run Club](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Monday 14th to Friday 18th October

Monday 14th - Friday 18th October  
By appointment

+82 51 742 3332  
Call to Reserve Your Spot!

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

www.isbusan.org

SCAN

Join our Autumn OPEN HOUSE event coming up in October! Click the image to register, and [share the link](#) with anyone you think might be interested in learning more about life at ISB!

### Evidencing Learning: Tracking and Assessing Student Progress at ISB

How do we know our students are learning effectively? This session will dive into the strategies and tools we use at ISB to assess, record, and track student learning. Learn about our evidence-based approach to measuring student progress and how this data informs teaching and supports student success. This session will be led by IB Coordinators Jennifer Fenton, Solene Matsushita, and Nico Gysbers, followed by the PTA coffee morning, and everyone is invited to join us.



### Cafeteria Special Menu Day

Our Cafeteria Team will be preparing a special Chuseok menu for students on Wednesday 11th September. Be sure not to miss out on some delicious Korean food!

**Wednesday, September 11th, 2024**

- Braised beef short ribs (쇠고기갈비찜)
- Five Sautéed and Seasoned Vegetables (5색 나물)
- Three Types of Jeon: Pan-fried beef slices (육전)
- Sweet rice cake with flower petals (화전)
- Pan-fried pumpkin slices (호박전)
- Sticky Rice (찰밥)
- Korean Side Dishes (한식 반찬류)
- Beef and Radish Soup (소고기국)
- Songpyeon Rice Cake (송편)
- Sweet Cinnamon Punch & Rice Punch (수정과와 식혜)
- Assorted Seasonal Fruits (과일)

Happy Chuseok





### Monthly Community Beach Clean-up

Over the past 10 years a group of committed teachers and students have spent one Sunday a month cleaning up the rocky shoreline around Songjeong Beach. We meet at the entrance to [Jukdeo island](#) at 10.00am on the second Sunday of each month and clean-up for an

hour. Parents are welcome to attend with their children. If secondary school students wish to come on their own they will need to obtain [permission](#) from their parents, as this is not an official school function. A representative from the Busan-gu office will meet us and bags, pickers, and gloves will be provided. It is a great opportunity for us to help our local community while enjoying the beautiful September weather. Do join us if you can. Contact Gill Vaughan ([gvaughan@isbusan.org](mailto:gvaughan@isbusan.org)) if you have any questions.



### ISB Partner Community Event

The ECCK Busan Chapter is pleased to invite you to the ECCK Busan Information Session on Women in Leadership, scheduled for Wednesday, 11th September 2024, at the Wyndham Grand Busan.

Following the success of the Women in Leadership event held in Seoul in April, we are excited to bring this valuable opportunity to Busan.

We are pleased to announce that Ms. María Castillo Fernández, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, and Ms. Isabel Puig Palerm, CEO of IKEA Korea LTD, will join us to engage with the audience in Busan.

[Click the link for more information and booking.](#)

ECCK BUSAN EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN KOREA

**INFORMATION SESSION ON WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN BUSAN**

**SPEAKERS**

- María Castillo Fernández**  
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea
- Isabel Puig Palerm**  
CEO of IKEA Korea LTD

11 September 2024  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

More (3F),  
Wyndham Grand  
Busan



Yesterday, I attended the annual SKAIS Heads' meeting in Daegu. The member schools of SKAIS are Atherton International School (Geoje), Busan Foreign School, Daegu International School, and Hyundai Foreign School (Ulsan). During the meeting, we reviewed the SKAIS conference events and activities planned for the year ahead. We also reaffirmed our commitment to safeguarding and child protection.



Simon McCloskey

Each school shared its safeguarding policies and procedures. Links to these resources have been added to the SKAIS Conference Handbook and the [Safeguarding and Child Protection Page on the SKAIS website](#).

### **Request for Parent Representatives for School Self-Study and Strategic Planning**

Please note that Friday, 13th September, will be a non-student day. On this day, the CIS Self-Study Steering Committees will meet for the first time to use the [CIS Evaluation Framework](#) to assess our school. We will also begin developing the next ISB Strategic Plan. The first CIS Self-Study Committee Meeting will take place from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, followed by lunch in the cafeteria. Strategic planning activities will occur from 1:30 pm to 3:45 pm. If you would like to contribute as a parent representative, please [register your attendance using this form](#). We look forward to hearing your ideas for the future of our school.



Our Guiding Statements say that we will contribute responsibly to a sustainable future, be principled global citizens and take care of the environment. To align with this, one of the main objectives from the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was to "Collaboratively review, plan and implement measures to lessen ISB's environmental footprint". As part of this plan, last year, we installed solar panels on the roof of B Building and C Building.

Over the last few months we have generated more than 20% of our energy using solar power and made annual savings of KRW 12,000,000.

### **Building Evacuation and Lockdown Drills**

Last week, we conducted a fire evacuation drill, and I am pleased to report that the entire school community responded exceptionally well. All students and staff exited the building promptly and were accounted for in just 5 minutes. This week, we carried out a lockdown drill. This drill is crucial for scenarios where remaining indoors is the safest course of action. I am happy to share that everyone followed the procedures correctly, demonstrating calmness and cooperation throughout the exercise. These drills ensure our school community is prepared to respond quickly and efficiently in real-life emergencies. After each drill, we share a feedback form with our staff to collect suggestions for improvements. This feedback is thoroughly reviewed by our leadership and management teams, allowing us to continually refine our procedures and maintain the highest safety standards. We encourage you to discuss these drills with your children, reinforcing the importance of taking them seriously and following all instructions from teachers and staff.



## From the Elementary Principal

I am excited to report that our Season 1 After School Activities program, offering a wonderful variety of engaging opportunities for our students, has begun! This season, we have a diverse lineup that includes cultural and creative sessions such as piano, choir, theatre, arts and crafts, Korean culture, scratch coding, Pokémon club, and a Korean book club. For our sports enthusiasts, we offer football, taekwondo, and gymnastics. Additionally, leadership opportunities are available through our Student Council and Eco-Warriors programs.



Kevin Smith

These activities provide a fantastic chance for students to explore new interests, develop skills, and have fun in a supportive environment. We encourage every student to participate and make the most of these enriching experiences. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a vibrant school community.





### Kindergarten and Grade 1 Start Forest School

On Tuesday Kindergarten and Grade 1 had our first Forest School adventure for the school year. We had a wonderful time exploring the island and were all very engaged and curious about the natural world. We found all sorts of bugs, including roly polys, butterflies, and ants. We were agile when scrambling on the rocks and through the deep grass. We all had a great time on our first Forest School adventure and we can't wait to go back.



### Super Soccer Skills!

ASA Season 1 got off to a great start this week with the Upper Elementary Football ASA. A total of 46 students from Grades 3 - 5 enjoyed an active session of fun, fitness, and football skills. There are three more football sessions before the SKAIS Elementary School Divisional Football Tournament at ISB on Saturday 28th September. We are all excited about participating in some exciting football matches with other schools and having the opportunity to represent ISB. Go Bears!







### **Grade 1 Assembly: Our School is a Family**

Grade 1 students have been working very hard to develop respectful relationships with their classmates. They have identified that it is important to listen to others, share their ideas, share materials, along with taking turns. Grade 1 students created their own ISB version of the book *Our School is a Family*. Students have taken action by identifying other members of our school community beyond what was shared in the book.

We have brought smiles to our community's faces when we say hello and call them by name. Grade 1 students invited everyone to make a mountain climber that resembles themselves to add to our house mountains welcoming everyone to our ISB family!





## Grade 5 Investigates Human Rights

Our Grade 5 students continue their inquiry into human rights, as well as the important concepts of wants and needs. As part of the Sharing the Planet unit, students are exploring what it means to have basic human rights and how these rights help everyone meet their essential needs and thrive in their communities. They are delving into understanding the difference between what people need to survive and what helps them to thrive and linking these ideas to real-world issues of inequality. We are excited to see their curiosity grow as they explore this important, thought-provoking topic!



## Inquiry into Our Emotions: Through Playing with Different Friends and Social Interaction

This week, our Early Years children have been deeply engaged in an inquiry into emotions through play and social interactions. Through play experiences, the EY 2 children are exploring and expressing their emotions in various social contexts. They learn to recognize and articulate their feelings, whether they are playing alone, with familiar friends, or in new group settings.

The EY 2 Children's play preferences reflect their unique learning processes and social interactions. Some enjoy exploring new friendships and engaging with different peers, which helps them learn flexibility and adaptability. Others prefer the comfort of playing with familiar friends, fostering deeper connections and understanding within those relationships. Some children may choose to play alone to focus on personal interests, while others thrive in group settings, learning collaboration and sharing.

These preferences also connect to their emotional development. Playing with various friends helps children understand and express their feelings in different social contexts, while consistent playmates can provide a sense of security and support. Understanding these dynamics helps us support their growth in both social and emotional areas. This experience is connected to our unit, How We Express Ourselves, which focuses on emotions. We will continue to offer opportunities for children to play with different friends, as this approach supports their social and emotional growth, helping them develop essential skills in both areas.





### Grade 3 Mathematics Inquiry

Grade 3 have started a new unit on concept-based mathematics, where students explore mathematical ideas through hands-on activities and real-world applications. This method encourages students to focus on key mathematical ideas, promoting a deeper understanding beyond just memorising procedures. Here are some pictures of us engaging with various maths materials, experimenting, and having fun while learning!



### Chuseok Assembly

On Thursday 12th September we will celebrate the upcoming Chuseok holiday with a special assembly. We invite all students and teachers to wear hanboks to make our celebrations even more memorable!



### Gymnastics Success

Congratulations to Stefania who competed in the 49th KBS Cup National Rhythmic Gymnastics last weekend and was placed 3rd in the clubs routine and 4th in the ball routine. A great achievement!



## From the Secondary Principal

What an exciting week! With ASA season one starting, the school year finally feels like it is fully underway. It was great to see many excited faces heading off to the various activities offered including MS football and HS volleyball, our competitive sports for the season. The programme offers a wide range of activities beyond sports including theatre production, music and media production. The ASA program is an integral part of the learning experience at ISB and we encourage all students to participate in at least one activity. If your child has chosen not to participate this season, please encourage them to take a look at the offerings for season 2.



Gilles Buck

This week was also our MAP testing week for the first semester. The MAP tests establish benchmarks and growth in areas of Math, Language use and Reading for our students. Because we test at the beginning and end of the school year, we can measure student growth over the school year as well as any potential learning loss over the summer. We also use these results to tailor learning experiences and potentially fill learning gaps. Although the testing represents an interruption of our regular schedule and classes, we believe that this cost is worth it due to the valuable learning information we are able to glean from the results. The results are also available to you and your child via ManageBac.

## Secondary Learning Focus

### MYP E-assessments

Current Grade 11 students who were not successful (IB Grade of 2) in any of their e-assessment subject tests could potentially retake their exams during the May 2025 session. If interested, please contact the MYP coordinator, Solène Matsushita ([smatsushita@isbusan.org](mailto:smatsushita@isbusan.org)).

### Upcoming Events:

- Professional Development Day (No School for students) - Friday, September 13
- Chuseok Holiday - September 16 - September 18
- Team building trips - Friday, September 20th
- Week without Walls Information Sessions for parents and students - Thursday September 26

### Week Without Walls Information Sessions:

We will be hosting information sessions to share detailed information about the week without walls trips that will happen towards the end of the school year. These trips are fantastic educational opportunities and the feedback from last year's trips were overwhelmingly positive. We will be sharing detailed information regarding the trips at this information session. We will first provide a general overview of the trips and then break up into sessions specific to each grade level. We highly encourage all Grade 9, 10, 11 students and parents to attend.

Date: Thursday September 26, 2024

Time: 6 - 7 PM

Who: All Grade 9, 10 and 11 students and parents are invited to attend



## Grade 12 ISB Student turns Journalist

Grade 12 student Antonio has recently published an article with media outlet HAPS Korea, as part of his participation in the ISB Media Team. The ISB Media Team aims to bring real-world media experiences to our students while they learn technical skills in journalism, event hosting, lighting, sound engineering and more, as they create meaningful content within the school.

[Antonio's article was published](#) on Thursday 5th September, promoting the upcoming Blue Planet Future Festival taking place until September 9th at the Cinema Center. Antonio is a passionate advocate for climate action and has a keen interest in film, making this the perfect topic for his very first publication. The ISB Media Team is one of the new ASAs for the 2024 Autumn Season, with an amazing sign-up of 36 students across Middle and High School. You can see the first meeting in the image to the right.



# ISB CAREER FAIR

**Friday September 27th,  
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Students in Grades 9 - 12  
20+speakers**

**SPEED-DATING STYLE  
15 MINS SESSIONS + Q&A**

**“** Students explore a wide range of career opportunities and see where the future could take them **”**

Please complete this [form](#) if you are interested!

Brought to you by Grade 12 English B Students

## ISB Career Fair - Shape Our Future!

Do you have an interesting career or work experience? Would you like to help inspire the future of our students' lives? Join us on **Friday, September 27th** from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM** for an exciting opportunity! We're recruiting **20+ industry speakers** for a **speed-dating-style** format of presenting your career to eager students in Grades 9-12. Students can explore a wide range of careers in short 15-minute sessions followed by Q&A, with lots of exciting events in between. **Don't miss this opportunity to inspire the next generation!**

Hosted by Grade 12 English B students Sign up here: [Sign Me Up!](#)

ISB College Counseling/Future Pathways Program Update: September 2024

Dear ISB High School Students and Parents (Grades 9 through 12),  
Greetings! I hope that you are doing well. The [ISB September 2024 Future Pathways/College Counseling Newsletter](#) is here. In this issue, you will find the following content:

- [Upcoming University Events](#): Opportunity for Students interested in Art and Design programs
- [Considering new study abroad destinations](#) (English-speaking Bachelor programs beyond the U.S., U.K. and Canada)
- [Careers in the Creative Industries and Careers in Design](#)
- [SAT Test](#)
- [ISB High School and Future Pathways Planning Timeline: Grades 9 through 12](#)

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

Kind regards, Ms. Hibon

From the PTA

Mark your calendars and join us for a fun-filled Family Beach Day on September 8th at 2pm. We can't wait to see you all there! Check the flyer to the right for more details!

We also have our next Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning coming up after Chuseok. Please check the flyer in the whole school news section for more information and mark your calendars for another wonderful chance to learn and grow together as a community!

Our PTA maintains a [Community Facebook Page](#), if you would like to join this group, please feel free to click on the link and request to become a friend.

If you are interested and would like to get involved in organising events, coordinating volunteers, hosting and planning fundraisers, and are an enthusiastic and positive team player, or you would simply like some more information, please contact [pta@isbusan.org](mailto:pta@isbusan.org).

