

- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 11th October, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 8

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IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 12th October - Board Training Day & Board Meeting
Monday 14th October - Battle of Busan Finals, HS Volleyball
14th - 18th October - Digital Citizenship Week
14th - 18th October - ISB Open House Week
Thursday 17th October - SKAIS HS Volleyball at ISB / BFS
Saturday 19th October - International Day
Wednesday 23rd October - Parent Workshop & PTA Coffee
Wednesday 23rd October - EE Handover Ceremony







Digital Citizenship Week at ISB



Next week marks the return of a special whole-school event at ISB: Digital Citizenship Week 2024! With the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, the growing concerns around deep-fakes, and the constant pull of digital devices, this year's event is more important than ever. As a Common Sense Media school for over five years, ISB is deeply committed to fostering digital literacy in all our students. Each year, we provide age-appropriate lessons on how to use technology safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

However, this important work doesn't end when the school day does. To make digital literacy stick for the long term, the conversation must continue at home.

To help with this, I'd like to share a few ways you can support digital citizenship at home. First, I encourage you to review the ISB Digital Citizenship Agreement (bit.ly/ISBDCA) with your child and discuss it together. Ask them what parts they agree with, which parts are challenging, and why the school asks them to follow these guidelines.

bit.ly/ISBdigcit		#DigCitWeek24!			
Monday Oct. 14th	Tuesday Oct. 15th	Wednesday Oct. 16th	Thursday Oct. 17th	Friday Nov. 18th	
ES Commons Sense Media DigCit Lessons K-Gr5 Homeroom w/  common sense	ES Commons Sense Media DigCit Lessons K-Gr5 Homeroom w/  common sense	ES Commons Sense Media DigCit Lessons K-Gr5 Homeroom w/  common sense SS Commons Sense Media DigCit Lessons Gr 6-11 Homeroom w/  common sense Community Movie Night <i>Screenagers</i> Elementary School Age Edition bit.ly/ISBscreenagers		SS DigCit Assemblies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Oct 22 HS Nov 8 ES DigCit Assembly The DigCit Game Show! (House Activity) Celebration of Learning ES #DigCitWeek24 Sticker Design Competition	
Whole School Week-Long Learning: 'Safe - Responsible - Respectful' - #DigCitWeek24					

Second, I'd like to [invite](#) you to a community screening and discussion of *Screenagers: The Elementary School Edition*. While this version is aimed at younger students, it highlights issues that children face daily and is relevant for students up to 8th or 9th grade. It's a valuable resource for understanding the challenges of growing up in a digital world.

Lastly, I recommend exploring [Common Sense Media's family resources](#). These excellent materials can help spark meaningful conversations at home about using technology responsibly, respectfully, and safely, no matter your child's age.

It's going to be a fantastic week of learning. Let's work together to create a lasting impact for our students during this time of rapid change. Go Bears! Mr Plotzki.

Check out the winning entries from last year's Digital Citizenship Week Elementary School Sticker Contest!



SKAIS Cross Country at ISB - Bears Outstanding Performance!

On October 5, ISB hosted the [SKAIS](#) Invitational Cross-Country Meet. The weather was perfect as ISB welcomed over 100 runners from BFS, DIS, HFS, and GIFS in addition to our own ISB Bears. While no team awards were given out, there was a lot to celebrate with ISB runners finishing first in 4 out of the 6 races and lots of our returning runners recording new personal bests. Even more important was the fantastic atmosphere of celebration and encouragement that met all of the runners as they excitedly toed the start line and then exhaustedly crossed the finish line.



We want to send a huge congratulations to our elementary runners for a fantastic performance. We were very pleased to have such a large squad of enthusiastic runners supporting and encouraging each other. We had first time competitors and returning champions all competing against other SKAIS schools. Congratulations to Junna for coming 3rd overall in the girls race, and to Birk (1st), Han (2nd) and Torstein (3rd) for finishing in fantastic style, an ISB 1-2-3 finish! The team are now training for the finals in Daegu on the 5th November. Go Bears!



Community Viewing

"Screenagers: Elementary School Age Edition," a film addressing key digital challenges for young children, including screen time, gaming, social media, and healthy digital habits. The film is 45 minutes long and suitable for both elementary and middle school-aged audiences.

Parents and students will gain valuable insights into managing screen time and digital habits in a balanced, healthy way.

The film offers practical strategies for addressing challenges such as gaming, social media, and early exposure to technology—issues many families face today.

The Q&A session following the screening will provide an opportunity to discuss these issues within the ISB community, encouraging shared learning and solutions. [Click this link to learn more, in English and Korean, and register.](#)

The IB Continuum: Understanding the Foundations of an IB Education

Join our IB Curriculum Coordinators as they walk you through the core elements of the IB Continuum. This workshop will highlight the common features of the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP), with a special focus on Approaches to Learning, Approaches to Teaching, and the IB Learner Profile. [Register here.](#)



A promotional graphic for a "PARENT WORKSHOP" titled "The IB Continuum". The background features a photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, wearing blue shirts and hats, looking at a document together. The text "PARENT WORKSHOP" is at the top left, with the ISB logo. Below it are three small icons for the "Primary Years Programme", "Middle Years Programme", and "Diploma Programme". The main title "The IB Continuum" is in large white letters. Below the title, it says "Wednesday 23rd October 845am - 10am" and "FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING" in red. The background also features several circular diagrams representing the IB programmes and their components.

ISB Community Events - This Weekend!

ISB Community Run


Our cross country team is training on Saturday mornings and we would like to invite all members of the ISB community to join us for some training runs. The next Community Run starts at **7.30 am at Pale de Cz, Haeundae Beach** on **Saturday 12th October**. These timed runs are to promote fitness and a love of running. All abilities are welcome! [Click here to view the starting point and running route.](#)


ISB Monthly Beach Cleanup


We are excited to continue and grow the monthly beach cleanups hosted by the Beach Clean Crew and invite the ISB community to participate! Students must sign a permission form (unless accompanied by a parent/guardian).

Let's work together to make a positive impact on our environment!

Next Cleanup

 Sunday, October 13

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

 Meet at Songjeong Beach

(far left, near 죽도 Park)



Brunch Day

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024



MENU

Cold

- Four types of fresh salads
- Two varieties of marinated salads
- Four selections of pastries and bread
- Bircher muesli
- Cereals and Milk
- Assorted cheese and condiments

Hot

- Pork Goulash
- Chipolata Sausage
- Ham and Bacon
- French Toast and Pancakes with Syrup
- Scrambled Eggs
- Steamed Rice
- Pumpkin Pancakes

Desserts

- Fresh Fruits
- Two Varieties of Fruit Juice

EAISAC Update

On Friday 4th and Saturday 5th October, I joined the Heads of School from Fukuoka International School, Nagoya International School, and the International School of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia for the annual EAISAC In-Person Heads' meeting. Our goal was to reflect on the successes of EAISAC's first year and to plan for future development and improvement.

[EAISAC](#) (East Asian International Schools Activities Conference) was established to provide regional opportunities that enhance cultural understanding through interscholastic activities. During our meeting, we reaffirmed our commitment to expanding opportunities beyond sports, with a focus on cultural experiences, leadership development, the arts, and Model United Nations.



Simon McCloskey



While in Mongolia, we also experienced some of the same cultural elements that students encounter during EAISAC events. This included visiting the Chinggis Khan Statue Complex, exploring the Mongolian plains, and enjoying the local cuisine cooked in traditional yurts. These activities reflect the cultural immersion and learning that EAISAC aims to offer all participants.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the continued development of EAISAC and the new opportunities it will offer for students to grow, connect, and thrive.

Strengthening Our Commitment to Child Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and secure learning environment, members of our management and leadership teams will be travelling to Incheon on Sunday to attend the [International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children \(ICMEC\)](#) Child Safeguarding and Protection Conference. The training takes place over two days, on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th October.

The conference will cover a wide range of critical topics, including online safety, risk assessment, child-on-child abuse, safer hiring practices, cultural sensitivity in safeguarding, training for medical staff, and effective communication with parents. By participating in this conference, our team aims to gain valuable insights and strategies that will help us enhance our existing child safeguarding policies and procedures. The workshops will be presented by child abuse physician and Medical Director of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, and IMEC Director of Global School Initiatives, Debbie Downs.

Representing the International School of Busan at this important event will be Mikyung Kang, Helene Won, and Sunny Cho from the School Management Team, along with Solène Matsushita, Gilles Buck, and Amanda Illeperumaarachchi, and myself from the Educational Leadership Team. Together, we will engage with leading experts in the field and bring back knowledge that will strengthen our approach to ensuring the safety of every student. This training is one of the many ways we are actively working to maintain a nurturing and secure environment for our students.

From the Elementary Principal

What an exciting week it has been! Our Grade 5 students embarked on a three-day camp adventure, building teamwork and leadership skills. Grade 4 visited the UN Cemetery, connecting their learning with real-world history and honouring the past. Our youngest learners in Early Years enjoyed an active trip to the adventure playground, exploring and having fun outdoors. It's been wonderful to see so much happy, healthy learning happening across the school. Thank you to all the staff and parents for your continued support in making these experiences possible!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Grade 5 Camp

The Grade 5 students have just returned from the annual Adventure Camp to Geoje Island. Students have been building teamwork skills, exploring ideas for their upcoming PYP Exhibition, challenging themselves with new experiences, and connecting with nature. The camp also encourages growth and independence as students get to enjoy a 3 day camp with their friends in a beautiful setting. Students have enjoyed the Geoje cable car, orienteering on Jisimdo Island, the luge, a forest healing exploration and a 4k hike. Well done to our Grade 5 students for embracing this wonderful opportunity with enthusiasm and energy.





Grade 5 Assembly

Every year on October 9th, Korean people celebrate Hangeul Day (HangeulNal) to honour King Sejong and appreciate the Korean language. Grade 5 presented a play about King Sejong’s invention, 훈민정음 (Hunminjeongeum), known today as Hangeul, during the assembly. The students demonstrated excellent presentation skills, including voice projection, teamwork, collaboration, and being risk-takers on stage. Elementary students learned why and how King Sejong created Hangeul and gained knowledge about the Korean written language through the assembly.



G4 UN Memorial Park field trip

We are excited to share the wonderful experience our Grade 4 students had on their field trip to the UN Cemetery on Tuesday, October 8th. As part of their Korean Class, Unit on "Pathways to Peace," they explored the history of the Korean War. The trip focused on understanding the importance of peace, not just facts and dates.



The peaceful setting of the UN Cemetery helped students reflect on the sacrifices made during the war and the need for global harmony. Grade 4 students showed curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and discussing how they can promote peace. It was inspiring to see them connect what they learned in class to real life and understand their role in making the world more peaceful.



Grade 3 Visit Ulsan Grand Park

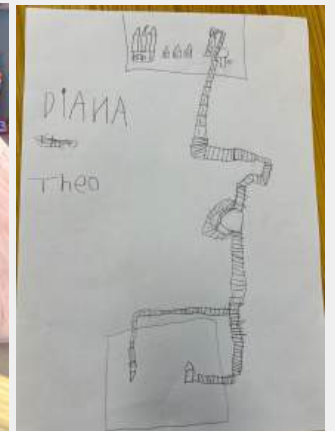
Grade 3 recently enjoyed a fantastic field trip to Ulsan Grand Park as part of our unit on biodiversity. The students explored the Insect Ecology Center, learning about the important role insects play in ecosystems. We also visited the zoo, encountering a variety of animal species, and admired the diverse trees throughout the park. With perfect weather, it was a fun and engaging day of learning, giving students a hands-on experience with nature and biodiversity.



Grade 1 Transportation Systems Project

As part of our unit on community systems, our Grade 1 students are excited to build their own transportation system! This week, they began planning how systems help us travel from one city to another. Some students designed ferries to carry cars by water, while others built airports for air travel, and many created roads and bridges to connect the cities.

After their designs, they drew blueprints and even made maps of their transportation systems. Next week, we'll bring these creative ideas to life as we transform the ISB runway into our very own transportation network for bikes and scooters!



From the Secondary Principal

Another fantastic week in the secondary school at ISB. Visiting classrooms this week, I was again struck by the creativity and dedication of our teachers.

For them, it is not about going through the motions but to carefully engineer and tailor learning experiences for our students: be it an escape room experience to sum up a Unit in Grade 6 English, a Grade 9 trip to the BIFF (described below) to prepare our students for their own short films or having students devise in play communication strategies during games of handball in PE class.



Gilles Buck

Beyond classes, this week was a busy week with school photographs being taken and the numerous guest visitors on campus for our university fair. I was proud to see our high school students engage with the university representatives. This is not only a great way for them to learn about universities but also good practice of the skill of presenting oneself effectively.

Please read on to learn about upcoming events, how to sign up the Parent Teacher Student Conferences, how to sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh programme (HS only), a look at the learning in the Individuals and Societies department and report of the field trip to the Busan International Film Festival by Grade 9.

Secondary Learning Focus

Upcoming Events

- International Day: Saturday, October 19
- Parent Teacher Student Conferences: Friday, October 24

Parent Teacher Student Conference Sign-up

On Friday, October 25th, we will be hosting the Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences. This is an important opportunity for your child, you as a parent and your child's teachers to discuss learning and growth. We welcome you to attend a conference with each of your child's teachers either in-person or via Google Meet. For virtual conferences, if you do not have a google account, you must access the google meet link via a laptop (phone will not work). You have an opportunity to sign-up for 10 minute conferences with your child's teacher. Please note that your child's attendance at the conference is mandatory unless your child is away on a school sponsored trip. The conferences are intended to be student led and it is most important for the child to engage with the feedback for growth and improvement.

The booking window is from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM.

Below is the booking link to book meetings with your child's teacher. You can use the link or QR code to access the booking.

- Booking Open: Friday, October 11th 3:30 PM
- Booking Closing: Monday, October 21st 8:30 AM

[Booking Link](#) here -or- Booking Link QR Code





We are very excited to share that sign-up is now available for the [Duke of Edinburgh's Award program](#) at our school! This prestigious program encourages students to develop new skills, engage in community service and physical fitness, and participate in adventurous activities. For more

information about the program at ISB please see our [ISB DofE slideshow](#).

Although we sincerely hope to make this opportunity available to everyone who is interested, we may be limited by staffing and bus seats. To secure your spot, please sign up early. If you are interested in earning the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year then please fill out [this survey](#) by Wednesday October 16. For Further Inquiries please email: Pamela Love plove@isbusan.org or Ashraf Dean adean@isbusan.org.

EAISAC Leadership Conference

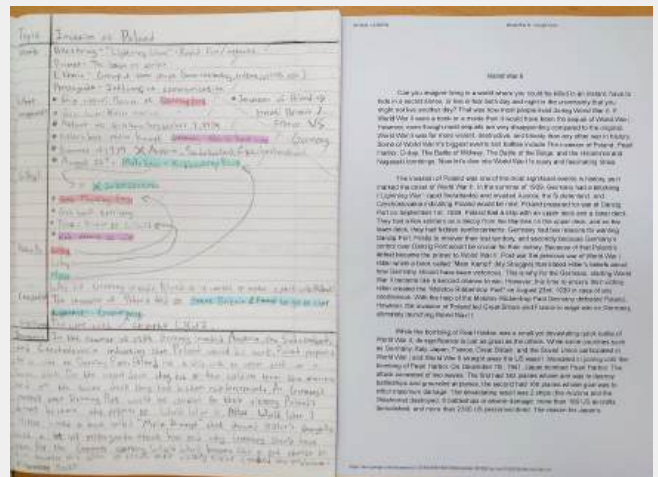
Last weekend, grade 8 to 11 students travelled to Nagoya to participate in the EAISAC Leadership Conference. The conference featured a diverse range of workshops designed to develop students' personalised leadership skills. Students engaged in sessions such as "Building a Leader" and "Leading by Learning In," which encouraged self-reflection and hands-on leadership practice. Our DP coordinator, Nico Gysbers, led an engaging workshop on Negotiation, exploring strategies for working with opposing perspectives and finding mutually satisfactory solutions.

The conference also incorporated team challenges and cultural experiences, including Japanese drum performances by TSUWAMONO SAI, a samurai experience with Dosui Dan and Samurai Goken, and a Japanese sweets-making workshop led by Shinji Okamoto. These activities not only bolstered leadership abilities but also provided rich insights into Japanese culture and helped them develop relationships with the students from our fellow EAISAC schools.



From the Individuals and Societies department

In the words of the economist Ludwig von Mises, 'To plan is to act with a purpose to choose and choice is the essence of all economic activity.' As the Department of Individuals and Societies, we facilitate learning to choose, often reflecting or testing our own choices and at other times, learning from choices made by another. We strive to design classroom interactions that make learning relevant, purpose-driven and transferable. We hope you will see in this report, our concerted effort to choose experiences to develop thinking skills, such as selecting and analysing data, decision making, problem-solving and planning, all of which inform better choices.



Individuals and Societies is a new class for our **Grade 6** MYP learners who have come up from PYP. Their first unit of study this year, “*Why Did That Happen?*” has them inquiring into how **significant** events can **cause** lasting **change**. Students have learned to formulate and explain research questions, find and evaluate appropriate sources, and reflect on the research process. They have also been using the Cornell notetaking system to organize, synthesise and summarise information from primary and secondary sources. They’ve then taken their research to write an explanatory 5-paragraph essay about why an important event in human history took place.

The **Grade 7** unit explores the concept of data, its collection purposes, and how communities, governments, and NGOs utilise it to plan initiatives related to sustainability, globalisation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Once students grasp how to use data for obtaining and communicating information, they analyse individual actions in relation to general welfare. As shown in the pictures, students reviewed action cards with suggestions like:

- Switching to a plant-based diet
- Using public transportation instead of personal cars
- Reducing water consumption at home

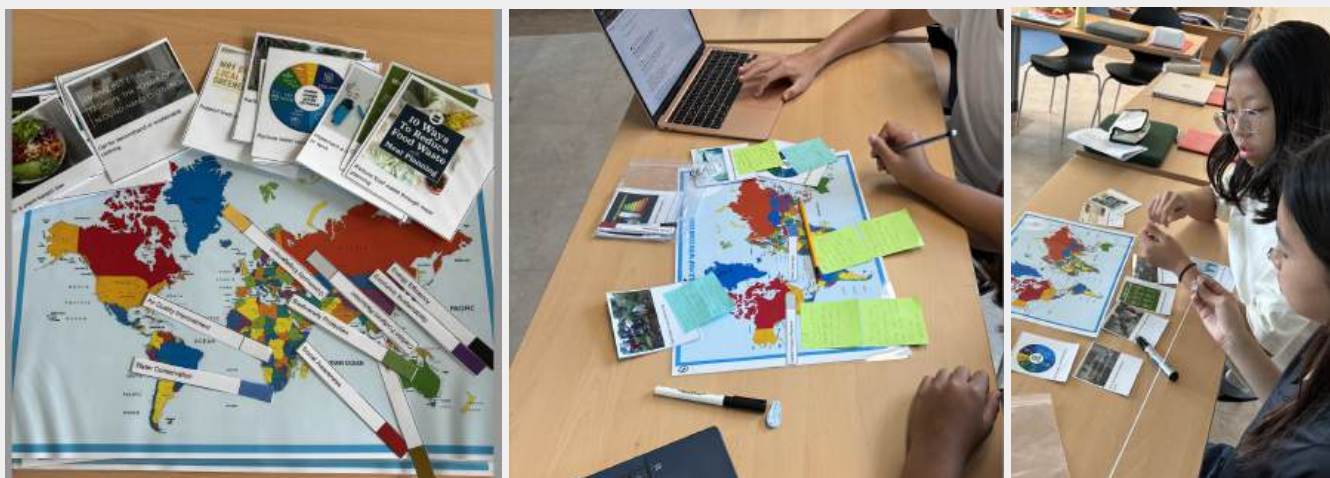
In groups, students discussed and selected actions. After narrowing their choices to three action cards, they identified the world regions where these actions would have the most significant impact, explaining their decisions based on data.

Following this step, students identified ripple effects stemming from their selected actions.

The unit's initial focus was on individual actions. As students developed their data skills and understanding of the SDGs, the focus shifted to:

1. Community actions
2. Government-led initiatives
3. International organisation interventions

This progression allowed students to comprehend the interconnectedness of individual choices, community efforts, and global initiatives in addressing sustainability challenges.

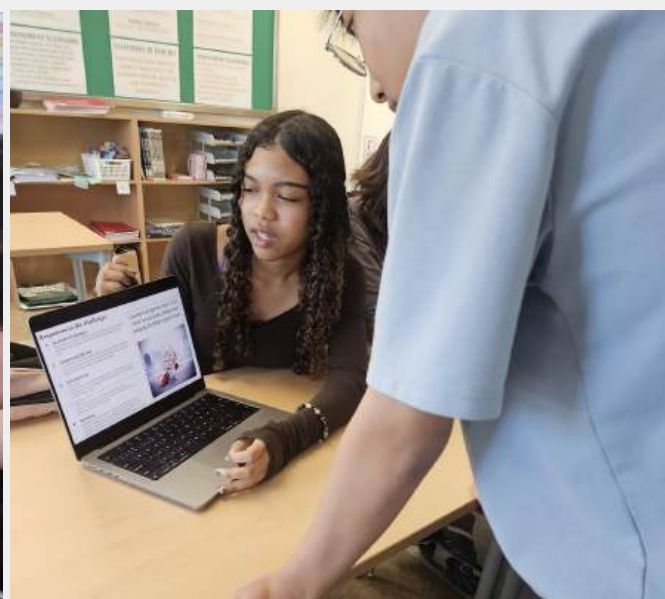


Grade 8 Personal Finance Unit: In their Personal Finance unit, Grade 8 students have been learning the importance of making informed financial decisions, including how to budget money effectively. For their summative project, they took on the role of stockbrokers, buying and selling stocks and managing international transactions. After three weeks of trading, each student selected one stock to present, providing

a detailed analysis using data, charts, and financial sources, along with two strong justifications for why people should invest in that stock. This unit helps equip students with essential life skills, such as managing finances, understanding risk, and making responsible investment choices for the future.



Grade 9 Economic Scenario Challenge: As part of their Global Economics unit, Grade 9 students are tackling the "Economic Scenario Challenge." In this project, students apply their understanding of global economic systems and key economic components to analyse hypothetical situations inspired by real-world issues. They've explored issues such as rapid inflation, affordable housing, youth unemployment, high influx of refugees, income inequality, low birth rates, and more. Through critical thinking and creativity, they develop innovative solutions to address these global challenges and presented their ideas to their classmates. It's a great opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with pressing global concerns.



The **Grade 10** students have been practising the use of analytical tools to communicate more effectively. We started the year with a unit on history, learning to analyse information on the Emu war, the Great Depression and the issue of Sapodilla Cayes. In learning ways to communicate more effectively, students took on the responsibility of building models to communicate their views.



They analysed evidence of who built the pyramids and developed convincing arguments about the influence of perspective on national identity. In recent weeks, we have moved onto analysing data on migration, exploring a range of events from the Trail of Tears (which began with Cherokee face painting), to the Rohingya crisis and the current flow of migrants that has challenged and divided countries across the globe. We are currently studying the impact of global interactions on equity and choice.



Grade 11 Business Management students have just finished Unit 1 of their DP course. This week and last they've been familiarising themselves with DP-style business exams, which are all case-study based. This culminated with them writing their first summative assessments - exciting and a bit scary, but they are well and truly on their way now. This first exam included cases related to multinational companies, tactical objectives, stakeholder conflict and circular business models. Case contexts included farm-to-table groceries, Vietnamese bicycle manufacturing, a coffeehouse chain, and a public sector solar panel company.



The **Grade 11 Psychology** class has worked hard to successfully complete the first and most challenging unit in the course. Preparing visual clues to help recall research studies on biological factors that influence behaviour, combined the creative and analytical skills of our Psycholics. The class also proved their awareness and competence in presenting clear and convincing points in the mock trial of Alex Murdaugh, based on the physiological and psychosocial arguments.





The inaugural class of **DP Global Politics** has been spending the first months of the school year inquiring into the nature of political power. Looking at case studies ranging from the Syrian Civil War to Kosovo's independence movement, students have learned about the nature of hard and soft power, Realist and Liberal political ideologies, and the ways in which the modern world creates new challenges to state sovereignty. They are now examining issues of political legitimacy looking at the ways in which issues such as election manipulation, government failures, repressive policies, and international recognition can present challenges to a political leader or party. It has been great watching students apply course concepts to political issues and contexts that they are passionate or curious about while using modern resources such as generative AI and political magazines including *The Economist* and *Foreign Policy* to guide their inquiries.

Grade 11 Economics have been learning about the market mechanism. Our interest in understanding how daily choices, buying and selling can be influenced, manipulated and predicted has given us new insights into consumer and producer behaviour. Students are beginning to use current affairs to explain economic trends and changes. There is a growing appreciation of the influence of personal choices on society and the potential impact of government intervention. We are currently evaluating the various ways in which governments have tried to regulate the pharmaceutical industry around the world.

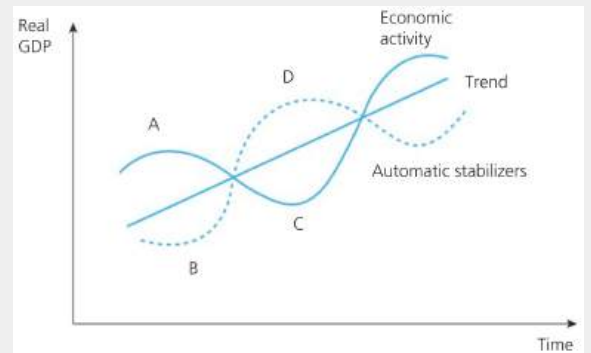


Grade 12 Business Management Students have been studying Human Resources, and they've been taking control of their learning as a group by engaging in a cycle of peer teaching. Each student has been responsible for a topic from the syllabus and comes prepared to take control of a full 1-hour period. This means planning an engaging lesson starter, reviewing the theory from the course reading, and providing a case-study activity for the class.



They also mark any work the group does. In addition, they are attempting to model different leadership styles in their planning and lesson execution. For example, here is a snapshot of Tommy teaching his peers about non-financial rewards using a laissez-faire leadership approach.

Grade 12 Economics students are wrapping up Macroeconomics, which is the study of how a national economy works, including topics like inflation, taxation, unemployment and economic growth. They are now truly economists, able to make policy decisions after evaluating the tradeoffs and benefits of the tools available across different stakeholder groups. Models like the one shown here were but a mystery a year ago, but now this group clearly understands that *automatic stabilisers* (progressive taxation and unemployment benefits, for example) are an aspect of fiscal demand-side policy that naturally reduces fluctuations in economic activity, stabilising the rate of growth in an economy. This is one of approximately 50 diagrams that Higher Level students will need to be confident in illustrating, explaining and applying in their exams - only a short 6 months from now.



Grade 12 Psychology students have completed a unit on PTSD, learning about its diagnosis, aetiology and treatment. Currently, we are working through Developmental Psychology. A visit to the Grade 1 class, created a unique opportunity to observe the art and play and identify developmental milestones in this stage. A guest presentation from the Primary School Art teacher, Ms Miles provided further insights on these milestones. We hope to soon reciprocate the kindness and host Grade 1 for some activities in our classroom and present the Senior art inspired by the Grade 1 depictions. The next authentic experience planned for next week, will be the observation of our Early Years 1 class during play.



Grade 9 attends the Busan International Film Festival

On Tuesday, our Grade 9 students had the unique opportunity to attend the prestigious Busan International Film Festival, a perfect introduction to their interdisciplinary unit (IDU), in which, later this year, they will create their own short films.



With this in mind, we chose to watch a selection of Asian short films. The five films were as varied as they were captivating—creepy, thought-provoking, funny, and heart-wrenching. It was an emotional rollercoaster! The experience was made even more exciting when the directors of the films took to the stage for a Q&A session. We had so many questions to ask, but our time ran out due to the multiple translations taking place, and we had to catch our bus back to school. However, this experience has certainly sparked inspiration for our own film-making journey! We look forward to seeing what our Grade 9 students will create.



Eco Initiatives at ISB



Do you recognize the Marine Stewardship Council logo? We hope you do and we want to help you learn more!! The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable fishing practices. They help ensure that fish are caught in a way that protects the ocean and keeps fish populations healthy. This is especially important in Busan, where many people enjoy eating seafood and the fishing industry is a big part of the local economy. By promoting sustainable fishing practices, the MSC helps people make better choices about seafood while supporting the health of the oceans and the livelihoods of local fishermen.



What can you do?

1. Prioritise buying seafood marked with the MSC logo. This signifies that the product is sustainably sourced from a certified fishery that practises responsible fishing methods
2. Buy seafood seasonally when you cannot find the MSC logo. Consuming fish in season helps respect the natural breeding cycles of fish species, contributing to sustainable fishing practices and protecting marine ecosystems
3. Spread the word. MSC is an international organisation and this helps everyone make informed decisions that support healthier oceans and promote responsible fishing practices.

