

- Inspiring Global Citizens Since 1983 -



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 18th October, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 9

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IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 19th October - International Day
Wednesday 23rd October - Parent Workshop & PTA Coffee
Wednesday 23rd October - EE Handover Ceremony
Friday 25th October - Parent Teacher Student Conferences
28th October - 4th November - Fall Holiday
Monday November 4th - PD Day (no students in school)
Tuesday November 5th - SKAIS X-Country Meet at DIS
7th - 11th November - EAISAC Season 1 / HS Volleyball @ISU

Featured Story

ISB Eco-Club Live on Air



In exciting news, two of our ISB Eco Club members, Jackleen and Katie, appeared on the All-Star English radio show at BeFM this past Thursday! It was an amazing opportunity for them to talk about our school's Eco Club, to share what we'll be doing at International Day tomorrow, and to dive deep into the important work of the [Marine Stewardship Council](#). Our students had the incredible opportunity to share their passion for environmental sustainability, spreading the message about the importance of becoming more eco-friendly. It was a truly unforgettable experience and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts! As a Green Flag Award-winning school, ISB remains committed to fostering responsible global citizens who are ready to take action for a more sustainable future. You can listen to a recording of the show [here](#). Our interview starts at the timestamp 1:20. Read more about the ISB Eco Club in the Eco-Club Section of this week's newsletter.

Digital Citizenship Week at ISB

What a wonderful week of learning we have had here at ISB as the entire school focused-in on what it means to be *safe, responsible and respectful* when using technology for learning.

During Digital Citizenship Week at ISB, secondary students explored how to use AI in an academically honest way. They debated questions like: Is it okay to use AI for outlining an essay or revising it? Can AI help find quotes or translate into another language? These discussions aimed to align students' understanding with our curricular programs.

In elementary school, students learned about being safe, responsible, and respectful with technology through stories and thinking routines. They pledged to practise good digital citizenship and signed a poster displayed outside the tech office. Students also entered a sticker competition showing how Taeguk, our mascot, can spread kindness online.



We also engaged with parents through a viewing of **Screenagers: Elementary School Edition**, followed by a roundtable discussion on the challenges and solutions around children's digital lives.

All students had age-appropriate lessons on digital citizenship, from pausing devices in Kindergarten to tackling deepfakes in Grade 11. As always, each student signed the Digital Citizenship Agreement, committing to being responsible digital citizens for another year.

We are all living through a period of tremendous change in schools, society and our own family lives. Digital Citizenship Week is a special time for us to collectively pump the breaks and check in on one another about this. And the learning that happens each year at ISB is particularly special in this regard. I want to thank all of the students, teachers and parents for their support of another successful #DigCitWeek. - Mr Plotzki

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](#)





Chef Kim's Holiday Turkey Sale

Due to popular demand, Chef Kim Kill Hee is back with a special offer on delicious turkeys. These turkeys can be cooked either at the ISB cafeteria or in your home oven. They will be prepared and ready for you to heat up and savour. Say goodbye to the hefty 350,000 KRW price tag for turkey at hotels!

These turkeys will be available from October 15th, 2024, through January 31st, 2025. Chef Kim will coordinate with you to arrange a convenient pickup time, and he is available almost any time. **Please place your order at least two days in advance.** The 5 Kg turkeys serve 6-7 people, while the 7 Kg turkeys serve 8-10 people. They are perfect for dinner parties with friends, church gatherings,

Thanksgiving, and Christmas and New Year celebrations.

About Chef Kim

Chef Kim boasts over thirty years of experience as an executive chef at renowned hotels such as Marriott, Hyatt, Grand Hyatt, and Chosun. Mr Kim has had the privilege of serving distinguished guests, including George W. Bush, and prime ministers from Italy and Canada.



Menu Options:

- A) 5Kg Uncooked Turkey with Cranberry Sauce - 120,000 KRW
- B) 7Kg Uncooked Turkey with Cranberry Sauce - 140,000 KRW
- C) 5Kg Cooked Turkey with stuffing, giblet sauce, and cranberry sauce - 185,000 KRW (most popular)
- D) 7Kg Cooked Turkey with stuffing, giblet sauce, and cranberry sauce - 195,000 KRW

Add-Ons:

- 20,000 KRW for Delivery anywhere in Haeundae
- 15,000 KRW for 500g of Mashed Potatoes
- 15,000 KRW for 500g of Steamed Brussel Sprouts
- 15,000 KRW for 500g of Steamed Broccoli

- 15,000 KRW for 500g of Steamed Carrots
- 15,000 KRW for 500g of Extra Stuffing
(Turkeys are sourced from the USA, Canada, and Australia)

How to Order:

Contact Chef Kim with your order and preferred date (please order at least two days in advance).

Email: Khkim6543@hanmail.net
Phone: 010-2583-6545



HS Volleyball Teams in Action

Congratulations to our athletes on a busy couple of weeks, whether at invitationals or SKAIS divisionals, our HS Volleyball teams have been leaping to new heights and showcasing their skills across a number of games, both friendly and competitive. Well done to both the boys and girls teams for demonstrating why we're so proud to be bears, and for supporting each other through thick and thin. Go bears!



MHS Volleyball, October 2024



MHS Volleyball, October 2024

Board Training

The ISB Board of Governors met on Saturday 12th October for a day of Governance Training with Littleford & Associates. The purpose of the training was to ensure that all Board members are familiar with their roles and responsibilities as members of the ISB Board. The Board's role involves setting the school's mission and objectives, maintaining bylaws, and establishing policies aligned with the mission. They are responsible for the school's financial health, including capital assets and operating budgets, while delegating daily operations to the Head of School. The Board governs through policy, supports the Head of School, and sets the strategic direction to ensure long-term sustainability.



Simon McCloskey

They also focus on their own development through member orientation, ongoing education, and succession planning, ensuring legal compliance and minimising legal risks. You can visit the [Board of Governors Page on the ISB website](#) to learn more.

Strengthening Our Child Safeguarding Practices



Members of the School Management Team & Educational Leadership Team with Debbie Downs & Dr. Greenbaum.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, members of ISB's School Management and Educational Leadership teams attended the ICMEC Child Safeguarding and Protection Conference in Incheon. Led by Dr. Jordan Greenbaum and Debbie Downs, the two-day event covered vital topics such as online safety, risk assessment, and safer hiring practices. The team gained valuable insights to further strengthen ISB's safeguarding policies, reaffirming our commitment to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

2025-2026 Academic Calendar

At the Board Meeting, following the training on Saturday, the [2025-2026 School Calendar](#) was approved by the Board. This is now available to download on the school website. The Family Welcome Day next year will take place on Friday 15th August. The first day of school for the 2025-2026 Academic Year is Monday 18th August.

| 2025-2026 Calendar | | | | | Important Dates |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| July 2025 | August 2025 | September 2025 | October 2025 | November 2025 | Important Dates 20th August - New Teacher Orientation 22nd August - All Teachers return to school 23rd August - 24th Family Welcome Day 15th September - First Day of 2025-26 School Year 18th September - Semester 1 (S1) begins 1st October - 1st Day of 2025-26 Academic Year 2nd - 3rd October - Chinese Holiday 10th October - OHS Day 27th - 28th October - Fall Holiday 28th November - Winter holidays begin 14th November - End of Semester 1 (S1) 1st December - Semester 2 (S2) begins 2nd December - Early Release for Winter Holiday 22nd December - 26th January - Winter Holiday 27th - 28th December - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 29th January - End of Semester 2 (S2) 2nd February - 1st Day of 2026-27 Academic Year 10th March - Semester 3 (S3) begins 2nd March - 1st Day of 2026-27 School Year 23rd March - 27th April - Spring Holiday 1st May - Labour Day 18th May - 19th Day (Children's Day (no students in school)) 20th May - 21st Day (no students in school) 20th May - End of Semester 3 (S3) 19th June - Early Release for Summer Holiday 22nd June - 1st Day of 2026-27 School Year 23rd August - New Year Teacher in school 24th August - All Teachers return to school 27th August - 28th Family Welcome Day 15th September - First Day of 2026-27 School Year |
| December 2025 | January 2026 | February 2026 | March 2026 | April 2026 | |
| May 2026 | June 2026 | July 2026 | August 2026 | September 2026 | |
| October 2026 | November 2026 | December 2026 | January 2027 | February 2027 | |
| March 2027 | April 2027 | May 2027 | June 2027 | July 2027 | |
| August 2027 | September 2027 | October 2027 | November 2027 | December 2027 | |
| January 2028 | February 2028 | March 2028 | April 2028 | May 2028 | |
| August 2028 | September 2028 | October 2028 | November 2028 | December 2028 | |
| January 2029 | February 2029 | March 2029 | April 2029 | May 2029 | |
| August 2029 | September 2029 | October 2029 | November 2029 | December 2029 | |

International Day

I would like to thank PTA members Emma Grann and Andrea Nicevic for joining me at BeFM Radio Station on Wednesday to talk about the upcoming International Day event this Saturday. It was a great opportunity to share how we celebrate our global community. We hope to see you tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. to enjoy the festivities. Don't forget to bring a raincoat and umbrella, as a few showers are expected during the event!



From the Elementary Principal

This week, we are celebrating Digital Citizenship Week, with students learning about responsible online behaviour and safety. Our Grade 1 students are also kicking off their annual Wheels Week, exploring movement, transportation, and design through hands-on activities. We are especially excited for International Day this Saturday, a chance for our community to come together and celebrate our diverse cultures. Join us for a day filled with food, music, and traditions from around the world. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun and enriching experience!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Early Years 2: How We Express Ourselves

Inquiry Focus: Box Exploration

The box journey continues in EY2! The children remain deeply engaged in exploring boxes and love sharing their creative ideas with each other. As part of this exploration, they are learning how to use a variety of tools, focusing on the appropriate techniques for working with different materials, and most importantly, how to use these tools safely.

Through imaginative design, the children are discovering how different shapes, sizes, and types of boxes can be transformed into something new. They are demonstrating risk-taking by using staplers, scissors, and child-friendly cutters, all under careful supervision. What stands out the most in this inquiry is the growing confidence among the children. They are expressing their ideas through box creations, using a range of tools, sharing materials with peers, and supporting each other in tidying up.

This exploration is closely linked to our current unit, How We Express Ourselves, with the central idea: *Through play, people share their ideas and feelings.*



Early Years 1: How We Express Ourselves

We started our new unit on "How We Express Ourselves" by reading *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis. This engaging story was used to help the children understand that a simple cardboard box can transform into anything they can imagine.



After the story, we divided the class into two groups, each with cardboard boxes, and encouraged the children to turn their boxes into something fun and creative. One group decided to make a fire engine, while the other began working on their own imaginative projects. During this activity, we introduced the word "idea."

Throughout the unit, we will explore the concept of "idea" and encourage the children to share their thoughts while playing.

Our goal is for the children to understand that they can express their thoughts and feelings through their imagination and by bringing their ideas to life.



Conferences Coming Soon

We are pleased to invite you to the PYP 3-Way (Parents-Teacher-Student) Conferences on Friday, October 25th, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at school. During these conferences, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's homeroom teacher for a 20-minute session and specialist or support teachers for optional 10-minute sessions.

To book your appointments, please use this link: <https://www.schoolbookings/> / Code: 2fu3m

Please note that the booking system will close on Monday, October 21st at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing you at the conferences!

From the Secondary Principal

A great week in Secondary School Lots of action after school with Battle of Busan and SKAIS being hosted on our campus! It's always fun to feel the buzz of competition here. The kids bring their enthusiasm and passion to cheer for their schoolmates. As we push towards the autumn break, we know that some students are feeling weary. Please encourage them to do their best and to share if they are struggling to keep up with the workload. This Saturday, we look forward to seeing you on campus for the always fantastic international day! Come celebrate our school and enjoy our truly international community. We also look forward to seeing you on campus next Friday for the PTSCs. Many of you have already signed up but there are still a few slots available with some teachers if you have not yet signed up. Please see the instructions below.



Gilles Buck

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.

[Here is the booking link](#) to book meetings with your child's teacher. You can use the link or QR code opposite to access the booking.

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

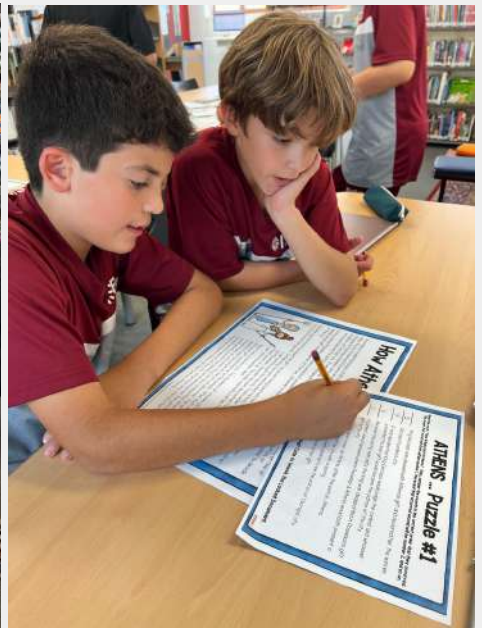
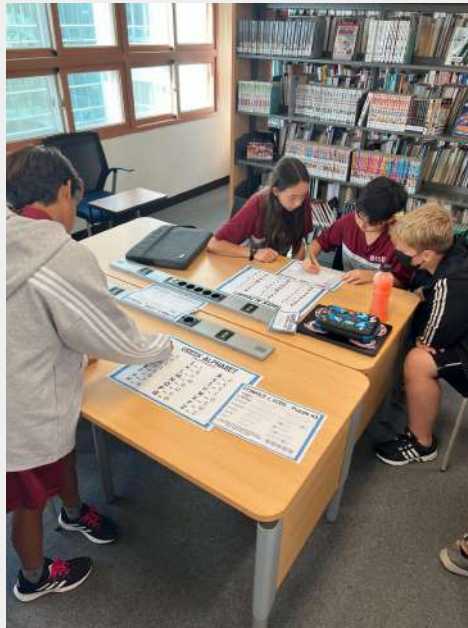


From the English Language and Literature department

Grade 6 English

In Grade 6 English, we've just wrapped up our first MYP English Language and Literature unit, titled 'Legends and Lore: Exploring the Power of Myths.' The students seemed to enjoy diving into classic myths and legends, as well as researching fascinating tales from their own homelands. As a culmination of their hard work, each student created their own myth, complete with all the conventions of mythological writing — which I'm sure they'll be delighted to share with their parents if asked! As an end-of-unit review, we hosted an Escape Room challenge in the secondary library. I'm thrilled to report that our brave Grade 6 warriors successfully escaped

by working together to solve four tricky, myth-themed puzzles! This activity was not only highly engaging but also a great way for them to showcase and develop their knowledge, communication, and teamwork skills.



Grade 6 Korean

In grade 6 Korean, students embarked on their first unit of middle school by learning about various types of writing. They focused on the structure and characteristics of expository texts, gaining the opportunity to write their own pieces. Each student selected a topic and practiced writing by choosing appropriate explanatory methods and organizing their work according to the established structure. This hands-on experience has helped them develop essential writing skills for their academic journey.



Grade 7 English

The 7th-grade English students are wrapping up their unit on Dystopian Literature by writing original short stories! They're exploring the Sustainable Development Goals to generate ideas and are learning creative writing techniques to enhance their storytelling. The unit focuses on the ATL skill of generating new ideas and considering new perspectives, and the activities reflect this focus. One popular activity was "Detail and Imagery Bingo," which encouraged students to engage their five senses to inspire their writing. The overall aim of this project is for students to understand the importance of sustainability and how today's choices impact our future.





Grade 8 English

Our Grade 8 English students have just wrapped up a journey of discovery through *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Both books took students deep into the lives of two very different characters, Charlie and Christopher, as they faced challenges that changed their lives and the way they saw the world.

Throughout the unit, students worked hard to analyse how these personal discoveries affected the characters' sense of self and their relationships with others.

With class discussions, close reading, and some great comparisons between the two stories, we explored big ideas about intelligence, perception, and what it means to be an empathetic human. It was inspiring to see students reflect on how their own experiences and backgrounds shape the way they view the world around them!



Grade 8 Korean

In 8th grade Korean, students engaged in writing autobiographies after learning various expressions and techniques for impactful introductions. They introduced their friends through video presentations, showcasing their unique stories.

Additionally, students reflected on their past experiences and recorded significant events in their lives as part of their autobiographical writing. This project allowed them to not only enhance their writing skills but also deepen their self-awareness and connection with peers.



Grade 9 English

Grade 9 English has just finished up a fascinating unit on belonging—a theme that really hit home for many of our students. Through *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, we follow the main character Esperanza as she grows up and discovers who she is, with her name, her house, and her cultural roots all playing important roles in shaping her identity.

In class, students explored these ideas through analytical activities and got creative by writing their own vignettes about belonging. The personal connections they made were so impressive, and it was wonderful to see how Esperanza's story helped them reflect on their own sense of identity and the communities they are a part of. The unit ended with some thoughtful discussions within a Socratic seminar setting about finding our place in the world.



Grade 10 English

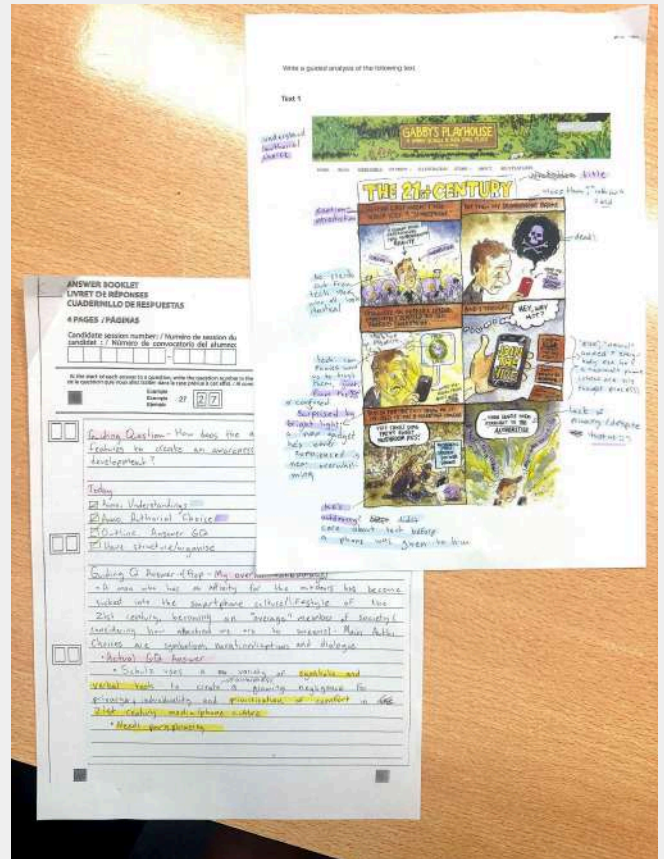
Grade 10 English students have been taking a deep dive into the world of comparative analysis in our opening unit titled 'Narrative Connections'. Our students underwent a thought-provoking and enlightening process of exploring a diverse range of texts - from acclaimed short stories to lesser-known flash fiction and provocative video advertisements.



This journey equipped them with valuable tools for critical analysis and interpretation. Recently, they've been immersed in researching, writing, and rehearsing for a comparative analysis of two texts of their choice - pairing a short story with a video advertisement. While public speaking can be daunting, especially in front of peers, I'm truly impressed by the depth of research, insightful connections, and confident delivery demonstrated in these presentations. It's been rewarding to see our students apply their analytical skills across different media and grow as communicators.

Grade 11 English

The grade 11 English Language and Literature class has begun the year exploring the lyrics of American songwriter Bob Dylan. Students have been learning about the contextual issues that Dylan addresses while also looking at how the songs can be universally understood as dealing with broader global issues of equity, equality, and justice. In tandem with this, students have also been exploring how non-literary text types deal with similar issues, exploring political cartoons, comics, and photo collage work. This week students wrote their first summative assessment, analyzing an unseen comic strip considering how the visual and textual elements work together to create a message for readers.



Grade 11 Korean

In Grade 11 Korean Language and Literature, students have been studying and researching the collection of works by Lee Beom-seon as part of the first piece in the DP program. Through in-depth understanding and analysis, students have engaged in interpreting and evaluating the texts, fostering their appreciation for literature. This process has also prepared them for upcoming exams, ensuring they are well-equipped to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.



Grade 12 English

The grade 12 English Language and Literature students have just finished their first IB assessment in the course. This challenging oral assessment involves students sharing an analysis for 10 minutes followed by 5 minutes of answering questions. The students analyzed a variety of texts including memoirs, graphic novels, film and political cartoons. With that major task behind them, they are now starting their study of the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid.

Beach CleanUp

We are excited to share that last weekend was one of our most successful beach cleanups to date! Grade 11 CAS students Aiden, Phil, and Darin have taken responsibility for advertising and organising the event and we had almost 30 people join us this week.

Beach cleanups are so valuable for protecting marine ecosystems, raising awareness about pollution, and fostering a sense of community as individuals come together to care for their shared environment. Thank you to Aiden, Phil, Darin, and all of the students and families that joined us.



International Day

We hope to see you at International Day! We are busy setting up our MSC displays as well as our other activities. Please take a moment to drop by our booth. You can join us in creating an ocean mural to build awareness for MSC, make an Eco-pledge, plant a baby plant to take home, or peruse our handmade sea glass jewellery made of sea glass that was collected during beach cleanups. We'll also be handing out an MSC booklet, which will teach you about sustainable fish and endangered species. We can't wait to see everyone stop by and enjoy!



We have also been collecting outgrown PE uniforms — because they have logos these cannot be donated to resale shops and will end up in landfills otherwise. Drop by our booth to see if any of the donated uniforms fit you. By reusing old uniforms before buying new ones, you can make a difference. Alternatively, you can bring your outgrown uniforms and we will do our best to find them new homes.

Also, one last reminder to please bring your own cups on International Day to help us keep this event waste-free! We'll be dishwashing ALL day long to provide reusable trays and silverware for the event.

Hope to see you all at our booth on Saturday!



From the PTA

A vibrant red poster for ISB International Day. At the top, a banner of various national flags is displayed. In the upper right corner, the logos for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the International School of Busan (ISB) are visible. The main text reads "GET READY FOR SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER / 10.AM - 2.PM" followed by "ISB INTERNATIONAL DAY" in large, white, brush-stroke font. Below this, it says "THIS EVENT WARMLY WELCOMES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY INCLUDING FAMILY AND FRIENDS". Two QR codes are provided: one for ticket purchase and one for volunteering. A speech bubble lists activities: "COUNTRY BOOTHS", "INTERNATIONAL FOOD", "ACTIVITIES", "RAFFLE PRIZES", and "AND MORE". The bottom right features an illustration of a globe with various world landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, Big Ben, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Parent Teacher Association

ISB
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN
Est. 1981

GET READY FOR SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER / 10.AM - 2.PM

ISB INTERNATIONAL DAY

THIS EVENT WARMLY WELCOMES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY INCLUDING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

PRE SALE TICKETS: 15,000 KRW
(AGES 3 AND UP)
DEADLINE: WED 16 OCT

TICKETS WILL ALSO BE SOLD
ON THE DAY FOR 20,000 KRW

SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER

COUNTRY BOOTHS
INTERNATIONAL
FOOD
ACTIVITIES
RAFFLE PRIZES
AND MORE

It's finally here! We're busy getting ready for International Day tomorrow. Just a few things to remember:

We're hoping the rain will stay away, but in case it doesn't we have a sturdy plan B, so come along, bring your wellies and rain jackets, and enjoy ISB International Day no matter the weather. We will take the parade inside if we need to!

Tickets will be available on the door for 20,000 KRW.

The food court will be accepting CASH ONLY, so please make sure you come ready with a stack of won!

There is an ATM on campus, however if it runs out of money there will be no payment alternatives.

We have already sold a large number of tickets, but we're still ready and waiting for the larger community! Please share the event and invite your friends! The more the merrier at this global celebration!