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The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 10th January, 2025

Volume 6, Issue 16

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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 10th January - MHS Winter Formal
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

Happy New Year!



On January 6th, we welcomed new and returning students and families to our campus for a chilly but joyful start to the 2025 semester. This time of year is marked by transitions - dear friends leaving, new friends joining, changes in the seasons and weather, and a noticeable shift in pace after the winter break. We are especially excited to welcome 15 new students from a variety of countries, including the USA, Spain, South Korea, Japan, Finland, Turkey, Croatia, and the Philippines. We're thrilled to have them as part of our community. Let's make 2025 the best year yet, ISB Bears! Here's to us! #WeAreISB #ISBLearning

Paul Edwards MBE



We are happy to announce that ISB featured in the UK's [New Year Honours List](#) last week. Paul Edwards, Chair of the ISB Board of Governors, has been awarded an MBE "[For services to International Education, to Charity and to UK/South Korea relations.](#)" The MBE is an award conferred by His Majesty King Charles to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions in their fields or communities. It is among the United Kingdom's most respected distinctions. One hundred and four people have received awards for their exceptional service to the UK overseas or internationally in the New Year Honours List, including for contributions to British foreign policy and international development, as well as voluntary and charitable work around the world.

How do we use AI at ISB?

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

A promotional banner for a parent workshop. The background shows a modern school building at dusk. In the foreground, three young boys are gathered around a table, looking at a laptop. The text on the banner includes the ISB logo, the title 'How do we use AI at ISB?', the date 'Wednesday 22nd January', the time '8:45am - 10am', and 'FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING'.

A promotional banner for a parent workshop. The background shows a school building. In the foreground, three young girls are smiling and wearing athletic gear. The text on the banner includes the ISB logo, the title 'Wellbeing, Safeguarding, and Child Protection: Ensuring a Safe and Supportive Environment', the date 'Wednesday 26th February', the time '8:45am - 10am', and 'FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING'.

A promotional banner for a parent workshop. The background shows a school building. In the foreground, a group of young children are sitting on the floor, some using tablets. The text on the banner includes the ISB logo, the title 'Using Google Suite for Families: Enhancing Your Child's Learning Experience', the date 'Wednesday 19th March', the time '8:45am - 10am', and 'FOLLOWED BY PTA COFFEE MORNING'.



Welcome to the International School of Busan (ISB), Busan's only fully authorized IB World School. Join our upcoming Open House event and discover how we can provide your child with an exceptional educational journey. Experience our state-of-the-art facilities and learn why we're the perfect choice for your family. This is a valuable opportunity for prospective parents and students to learn more about what makes ISB the ideal environment for academic and holistic development. [To register, please complete the form linked here.](#) We will hold individual admission information sessions. Please select the date you wish to attend on the application form and we will contact you to confirm a convenient time. For additional inquiries, reach out to us at 051-720-1100 / 051-720-1101 or admissions@isbusan.org. We look forward to welcoming you to the ISB community!

Mettlesome Magazine: LIMITED COPIES available now!

We firmly believe in nurturing the creative spirits of our students, encouraging them to apply their academic talents to creative pursuits. Our commitment to this belief is vividly reflected in student-led projects like the Mettlesome Magazine. Through initiatives such as this, students are not only honing their academic skills but are also embracing their creative capabilities, producing work that resonates with both the school community and beyond.



'Affirmations', the latest edition of Mettlesome Magazine, is a testament to the vibrant creativity and rigorous inquiry fostered at ISB.

Available next week in the School Shop, this publication, like its predecessors, showcases the remarkable talents of our students who blend intellectual vigor with creative expression.

This, and past editions, will be available in the School Shop from next week. The latest publication costs just 10,000KRW and past editions are available at a discount. Grab your copy now and let our students teach you a little something.

Recruitment for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Outstanding teachers are a school's most valuable asset, and we dedicate significant time and effort to ensuring we find the right people. Our leadership team is currently shortlisting and interviewing candidates to identify talented, experienced, and enthusiastic teachers who will contribute positively to our school community. Next week, I will be travelling to London to attend the Search Associates recruitment fair- an important opportunity to meet, interview, and hire more great teachers to join our community in August 2025.



Simon McCloskey



Introducing Abigail Forrester

I am pleased to announce that Abby Forrester will be joining ISB as Secondary Drama Teacher from August 2025. Originally from New Zealand, Abby is currently the Secondary Drama Teacher at International School Hannover Region in Germany. Prior to this, she taught Drama at a secondary school in Auckland.

Abby has a BA (Hons) in Theatre studies with and a minor in TESOL from Otago University and PostGraduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching from Victoria University of Wellington. We look forward to welcoming Abby to ISB in August!



We are pleased to share initial designs of our planned Early Years outdoor play area renovation. The new space will feature purpose-built play equipment, a sandpit and water play area, a performance space, and free-flow access between classrooms and the outdoors through large glass doors. Covered play areas will ensure year-round enjoyment, rain or shine. Following final meetings with the design company, we are now awaiting approval from Busan Metropolitan City. Renovations are set to begin in March, with completion planned before the end of the school year.



Remembering Jeff Harrison

It is with sadness that we share the news of Jeff Harrison's passing on December 15th. Jeff was our longest-serving Board member, dedicating countless hours and his legal expertise to the school community over many years. He leaves behind his son, Connor, a former student at our school. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to Connor and the Harrison family during this difficult time. Jeff's contributions and legacy will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

From the Elementary Principal

Welcome to Semester 2! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break filled with joy and quality time with loved ones. It's great to see so many familiar faces back on campus and to warmly welcome our new students, who are already settling well into their new environment. As winter is upon us, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the chilly weather.

Don't forget to label all clothing and belongings with your child's name to make it easier to return any lost items. Here's to an exciting and productive semester ahead!



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Early Years 2

Welcome back, everyone! The EY 2 children settled in quickly after the long holiday and jumped right into play and learning. Some collaborated on creating an exciting city project together, while others enjoyed working independently. We respect and celebrate their choices—whether they prefer to play in groups or spend time on their own—and we provide support and guidance throughout the day as needed. It's been wonderful to see their happy faces and enthusiasm for being back at school!



Winter Reading Bingo from the Elementary Library

Many students dove into great books over winter break and completed the Winter Reading Bingo challenge. Those who completed the bingo earned a "Super Reader" badge! Way to go, readers!



Grade 2 Outdoor Learning: States of Matter

In Grade 2, we have started our investigation into How the World Works (Materials). We are fortunate to have opportunities for outdoor and experiential learning near to our ISB campus, and so we went to the local river to observe water in a frozen state. It was very exciting to see, touch, and experience the icy frozen river! Everyone learned a lot about freezing, melting, solids, liquids, and gases. The children demonstrated their excellent social, communication, and self-management skills, and also made a lot of interesting scientific observations. Well done Grade 2!





Gymnastics Success

In December, Stefania competed in 2 international gymnastics events. In Dubai, she won first place in the all-around, first place in the hoop and ball event, and second place in the clubs. In Seoul, she won first place in the hoop and ball event and second place in the clubs and ribbon. Congratulations Stefania!



From the Secondary Principal

Welcome back to another exciting semester at ISB Secondary School! I hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break filled with rest, relaxation, and time spent with loved ones. It's a joy to welcome our students back to campus as we embark on another semester of learning, growth, and discovery. I'm particularly excited that this week we have our Winter Formal taking place this Friday. This special event for our middle school and high school students promises to be a memorable evening of music, dancing, and socializing. This is a fantastic student-led event through our amazing MS and HS student councils.



Gilles Buck

It's a great opportunity for students to connect with their peers and create lasting memories. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated PTA for their invaluable support in making this event possible. Their hard work and dedication have ensured that this will be a fantastic experience for our students. I look forward to a fantastic semester ahead and all the learning and growth that will undoubtedly take place.

Upcoming Event:

- Course Selection for School Year 2025-26 - Important Information Session for course selection for your G11 and G12 years!!
 - Next week, on Wednesday, January 15th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the SS Hall.
 - This is an important meeting to understand the options for Grade 11 and Grade 12 school years. We will provide you with resources after the meeting including the course selection survey for selecting your courses. This survey will be due January 24th.
 - Please indicate your participation by responding to [this survey](#). Participation is highly encouraged. All resources presented will be shared digitally after the event.

Secondary Learning Focus

EAISAC Festival of the Arts

In just a week, 26 ISB students will be heading to the first-ever EAISAC Festival of the Arts, hosted by ISU in Mongolia. During the festival, students will develop, rehearse, and perform music and drama pieces, while visual arts students will create original works of art.

Music Department Highlights: Kicking Off Semester 2 with Inspiration

As Semester 2 begins, the music department is alive with energy, building on the success of December's winter concert, *The Snow Queen*. After their outstanding performances, middle and high school ensembles are embarking on the exciting journey of selecting new repertoire. This semester, students will push their musical boundaries by tackling technically demanding pieces in a variety of styles, ensuring growth and diversity in their learning.

Grade 10 students have launched into the unit "Dancing Through Sounds: Exploring the Connection Between Music and Dance." They will dive into the rhythmic worlds of tango, polka, salsa, waltz, and contemporary dance. Through this unit, students will explore how dance music reflects cultural identity and traditions—for example, how Salsa's Afro-Cuban roots embody a fusion of African and Spanish influences. Each style's distinct characteristics offer a lens into its cultural history, inspiring students to connect music with the broader world around them.

In **Grade 9**, students began the unit "Mastering the Craft: Technical Proficiency and Tonal Excellence." This unit emphasizes the role of instrumental technique in delivering a polished and expressive performance. Students will be challenged to refine their skills and embrace qualities like risk-taking, self-organization, and dedication in their practice routines. The conceptual focus encourages them to understand that technical mastery is the foundation for compelling musical expression.

Grade 8 musicians are exploring a fascinating blend of tradition and innovation with their unit, "Digital Age Musicianship: Blending Tradition and Technology." By incorporating AI tools for immediate feedback on technical elements and balancing this with human guidance for expressive refinement, students engage in a comprehensive learning process. This approach empowers them to leverage modern technology while maintaining the essential human elements of music-making.

Our **Diploma Programme** music students are making significant strides this semester, showcasing their hard work and dedication. The **Grade 12** students are focused on completing their final projects for the exam portfolio, due at the end of March. They are diligently documenting and refining the final stages of their Contemporary Music Maker, Presenting Music, and Experimenting with Music projects. This last effort highlights their remarkable achievements in tackling challenging musical aspects, including composition, in-depth research, and performance excellence. The culmination of their projects is not only a testament to their skills but also a celebration of their growth as musicians.



Meanwhile, the **Grade 11** DP students are immersing themselves in advanced music theory to strengthen their research papers and elevate their composition skills. Their creative process has led to some fascinating ideas, and the focus now is on taking these works to new levels of complexity and expression. This foundational work ensures that students are well-prepared for the rigorous demands of the DP curriculum and their future musical endeavors.

The dedication of our DP music students is inspiring, and we look forward to witnessing their continued success as they bring their projects and compositions to life! The music department is thrilled to witness the growth and creativity of its students this semester and looks forward to celebrating their achievements in the months ahead!



Drama

It's been an exciting year in Drama so far! We're particularly proud of our expanding extra-curricular programs and opportunities for student leadership.

Student-led Drama ASA

Inspired by her experience at a summer drama program at the University of Toronto, Grade 12 student Kaia decided to run a Drama ASA for Elementary students.

Student-led High School play

Grade 12 student Antonio and Grade 10 student Felicia have written a full-length play entitled *The Manticore's Lover*. They've worked tirelessly to bring the play to the stage by leading rehearsals, making design plans, organizing technical elements, and managing details like budgeting and scheduling. The curtains go up in mid-February, stay tuned for details on showtimes.

Grade 6 - Adapting Stories for Elementary

All our Grade 6 students are having fun adapting children's books into plays that will be performed for the Elementary classes. This year, ES students can expect to see their favourite characters from *Dog Man* onstage in our two-chapter play. We'll also be presenting a selection of picture book adaptations based on suggestions we've received from EY, KG, and G1-2 students.



Grade 8 - Comedy Unit

In the Comedy unit, students explore the rich and diverse history of humour onstage with a close look at commedia dell'arte and talchum. They will then work on their own adaptation of a Commedia script. Full of physical farce and improbable complications, the play will be a sure hit with our student audiences!



Grade 9 - Ensemble Performances

In the first half of the year, G9 students explored Naturalism and Stage Combat. Now, they turn their talents towards selecting and producing their own script. Will they decide to match up with G6 and develop a Dav Pilkey script as well? Or will they branch out in a completely different direction? Stay tuned to find out!



Grade 10 - Media Analysis of Traditions and Conventions

Building on their experience of producing short documentary films during their IDU unit last year, G10 drama students are starting work on short video projects. They're tasked with identifying a favourite genre, explaining key conventions within the genre, and then creating their own piece modeling the genre and conventions.

Grade 11 & 12 - Research Presentations and Solo Performances

Our DP students have successfully completed their Research Presentations. These involved many hours of research and practical explorations. Each student selected a world theatre tradition and then had to learn how to perform a specific aspect of the tradition. For example, Taehee looked at Kathakali rasas (facial expressions) and learned the techniques required to produce the correct movements of each part of the face. Other students learned about Elizabethan voice projection, gestures in melodrama, and wayang kulit puppetry. Now, they're starting work on their solo performances, which will be shared with the community in March.

Visual Art

Grade 7: Inquiry and Conceptual Understanding [Cultural Patterns: Lino Printmaking]



In this project, students are exploring how different cultures create and use icons, symbols, and patterns to convey a range of concepts and ideas. They are developing a conceptual understanding of symbols as marks, signs, or words that represent ideas, objects, or relationships. They are studying patterns as discernible regularities that organize surfaces or structures in a consistent and repeated manner.

Students are creating their own patterns using lino printing as the primary art-making process. They are identifying patterns across a wide range of cultures and investigating how motifs and patterns function as underlying structures that organize compositions in art and iconography. Through this exploration, they are deepening their understanding of cultural expression through visual elements while fostering creativity and technical skills.

Grade 8: Portraiture

A study into why we are so interested in how we appear



In this unit, students are exploring identity and how we perceive ourselves and others through the art of portraiture. They are examining how artists have approached portraiture across different genres and the reasons behind its creation. Students are undertaking a series of tasks to build their skills in creating accurate portraits using a range of media. Through this work, they are developing their understanding of portraiture as a tool for self-discovery and self-expression, guided by the statement of inquiry: “Different genres can enable self-discovery and self-expression.”

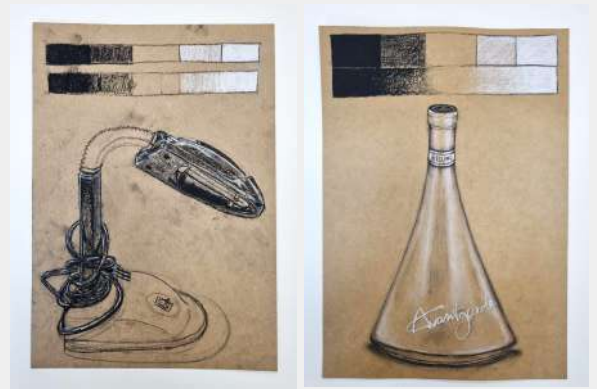
Grade 9: Still Life and Cultural Context

Food and Cultural Influences



In this unit, students are exploring the concept of cultural context and how art is interpreted in different times and places. They are examining still life art to understand how it communicates artistic and cultural meaning and are learning how to more effectively convey cultural ideas in their own work.

Students are experimenting with observational drawing tasks and are learning to manipulate acrylic paint to create accurate representations of their subjects. Through these activities, they are developing their skills in still life composition while investigating the customs, traditions, and practices of various societies. This exploration is guided by the statement of inquiry: "Investigations into the cultural customs, traditions, and practices of differing societies can lead to a greater shared understanding of the human condition."



Grade 10: Newspaper Ground Portraits that communicate a narrative



In this unit, students are exploring the concept of narrative and how some art engages in a dialogue with the artist. They are examining mixed media art and investigating how it presents ideas and concepts through the use of symbolism, text, and imagery. Students are also learning how to be more creative in telling their own stories through their art.

They are developing an understanding of how portraiture is used by artists to communicate deep and meaningful concepts, and they are analyzing how media portrays news and events. Students are experimenting with altering these portrayals to create narratives that offer new and unique perspectives. Through this work, they are developing their ability to use mixed media as a means of personal and creative expression, guided by the statement of inquiry: “Media portrayal of news and events can be interpreted in a variety of ways and then altered to create a narrative that provides a new and unique perspective.”

Grade 11 Visual Art



In this current project, students are exploring how artists use different media and techniques to develop and communicate concepts derived from the world around them. Using Shurooq Amin as an artist of influence, students are examining one of her artworks as a source of inspiration. They are learning and applying Amin’s technique of printing a photograph onto canvas or artboard, then using mixed media such as painting, writing, and collaging on top of the print.

The focus of this project is to develop a personal concept by drawing inspiration from their environment, using a range of media and art-making techniques to express their ideas. Students are encouraged to experiment with these techniques to create a unique piece that reflects their own perspective while exploring the process used by Shurooq Amin in her work.

Grade 12 Visual Art

Currently, the grade 12 students are working on their final projects and preparing for the final submission. This is an exhibition of their work that is presented to the public. The previous projects that they have been working on will be reviewed and adjustments made in response to the reflections that are made.

They are working hard to prepare for this year's exhibition, which will be at an outside gallery and will be on display for ten days.



From the PTA



Parent Teacher Association



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to school!

