



The Bear Essentials



The ISB Weekly Newsletter 2024/25

Friday 8th November, 2024

Volume 6, Issue 11

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Wednesday 13th November - SKAIS ES Football at ISB
15th - 16th November - EAISAC MS Football at ISB
Friday 15th November - End of Season 1 ASA's
16th - 17th November - Duke of Edinburgh Trip
20th - 22nd November - G12 Midterm Exams
25th - 29th November - Hour of Code Week
27th - 29th November - Grade 10 Semester Exams

Outstanding ISB Success at the SKAIS X-Country Championships

Massive congratulations to the ISB Cross Country Teams for a phenomenal performance at the SKAIS X-Country Championships in Daegu. Our teams showed unstoppable spirit, capturing 4 team trophies and 8 individual medals! From an impressive 1st and 2nd finish in elementary boys, to high school boys and girls teams sweeping top spots, and middle school securing podium places, it was a day of thrilling victories. Catch the full recap in the Learning Focus sections! #GoBears



Bears! Bears! Bears! 🏆 EAISAC HS Volleyball in Mongolia

On Thursday morning we waved goodbye to the HS Volleyball teams traveling to Mongolia to the International School of Ulaanbaatar to participate in the #EAISAC Season 1 HS Volleyball tournament.

Despite a few players out with injuries, we're expecting great things from our teams. You can catch all the action on the EAISAC website via the live stream links

<https://www.eaisac.org/>

Remember, Mongolia is one hour behind Korea (Mongolia UTC+8, Korea UTC+9).

[Results are also available on the Score Table.](#) Go Bears!



November Parent Workshop

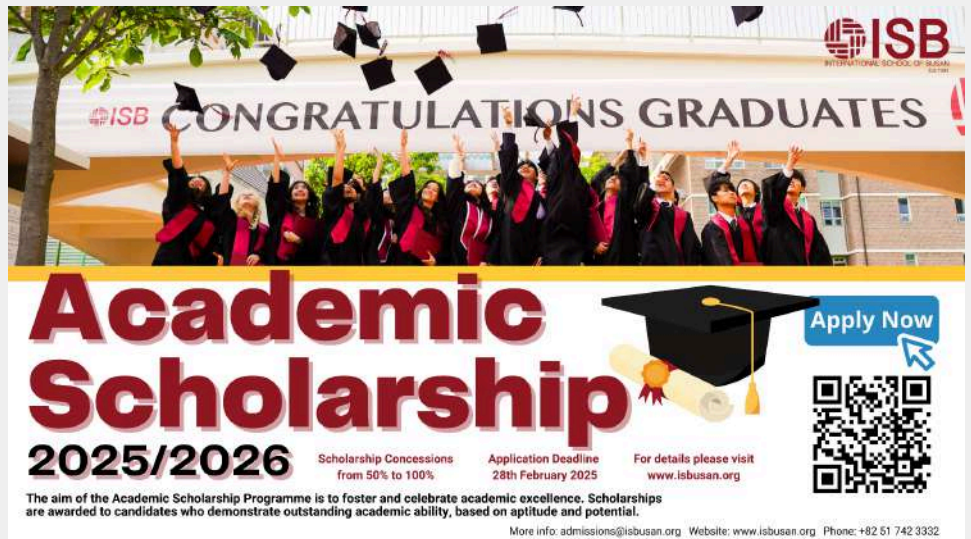
**Learning and Teaching at ISB:
Defining Quality Education**

What does high-quality learning and teaching look like at ISB? In this session, we will define our approach to learning and discuss the key elements that make for an outstanding educational experience. Understand our educational philosophy and how it translates into everyday practice in our classrooms.



ISB Academic Scholarship 2025/2026 - Applications Now Open!

We are excited to announce that applications for the [ISB Academic Scholarship 2025/2026](#) are now open! The Academic Scholarship Program is designed to nurture and celebrate academic excellence among our students. Scholarships are awarded to candidates who demonstrate exceptional academic ability, with a focus on both aptitude and potential for future achievement. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who are passionate about learning and driven to excel. To apply, [please visit the link](#) for more details.



The banner features a group of graduates in black and red gowns celebrating with their caps raised. The text 'CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES' is prominently displayed. Below this, the 'Academic Scholarship 2025/2026' title is written in large, bold, red letters. To the right, there is a 'Apply Now' button with a mouse cursor icon and a QR code. Additional text includes 'Scholarship Concessions from 50% to 100%', 'Application Deadline 28th February 2025', and 'For details please visit www.isbusan.org'. At the bottom, a small paragraph states: 'The aim of the Academic Scholarship Programme is to foster and celebrate academic excellence. Scholarships are awarded to candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, based on aptitude and potential.' Contact information at the bottom right includes 'More info: admissions@isbusan.org Website: www.isbusan.org Phone: +82 51 742 3332'.

Busan International Fireworks Festival

The Busan International Fireworks Festival is an annual event held at Gwangalli Beach, with fireworks, music, and light shows set against the stunning backdrop of Gwangan Bridge and Busan Bay. It's a fun, free family event. If you're planning to attend, please remember that there will be huge crowds, no parking nearby, and public transportation will be packed. Below is some essential information for the event.

- **Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 14:00~20:00** ✂ **Fireworks at 19:00~20:00**
- **Venue: Around Gwangalli Beach, Igidae, Dongbaekseom Island etc**

Event Schedule:

- **14:00 - 18:00:** Fire Street – Performances and participatory programs on the beach road
- **18:00 - 18:50:** Fireworks Talk Show – Radio-style talk show (Kor)
- **18:50 - 19:00:** Opening Ceremony – Official start of the festival
- **19:00 - 19:15:** Overseas Invitational Fireworks Show – Chinese FireShow Performance
- **19:15 - 19:25:** Intermission – System check and smoke clearance
- **19:25 - 19:55:** Busan Multi Fireworks Show – Korea (Hanwha Corporation)
- **19:55 - 20:00:** Curtain Call 'Flame' – Grand finale fireworks display



If taking the Bus: 38, 41, 42, 62, 83, 83-1, 108 (Get off at Gwangalli Beach Stop)

If taking the subway: Get off at Gwangan Station, Geumnyeonsan Station, or Millak Station on Line 2, walk towards the festival site. [View Busan Subway Map here.](#)

✂ Traffic congestion is expected on the day of the festival, so please use public transportation when visiting the festival site.

Boo! PTA Trunk or Treat Success!

Every year our PTA drives right into the playground (!!) to stage an exciting Trunk or Treat Event for EY to Grade 12 students. This year, the weather was perfect, as we enjoyed music, costumes, and CANDY! (not too much, don't worry!)



A huge thank you to our amazing PTA volunteers, teachers, staff, and everyone who generously donated treats and sweets, helping make this year's annual Trunk or Treat a spook-tacular success! From creative car decorations to fun surprises, your enthusiasm and dedication brought so much joy (and a few scares!) to our ISB community. Thank you all for coming together to create such a memorable event for our students and families! 🍬





From the Head of School

Professional Development at ISB

Our staff gathered on Monday for a full day of professional development. The morning sessions were dedicated to advancing our IB and [CIS Accreditation](#) Self-Study Reports in preparation for our school evaluation visit in October 2025. In the afternoon, teachers attended three 'Teachers Teaching Teachers' workshops centred on effectively leveraging artificial intelligence into teaching and learning practices. These sessions were led by teachers actively involved in a [Community of Practice](#) that has been exploring AI tools and strategies. Meanwhile, our non-academic staff participated in training provided by an external expert on implementing the [Personal Information Protection Act](#) (PIPA).



Simon McCloskey



The professional development day also included a session that focused on the development of our new strategic plan, which will be implemented from August 2025. We reviewed the responses from the strategic planning survey which was sent out to the ISB community last month (including responses from parents, teachers, students, support staff and board members). Key themes emerging from the strategic plan survey responses include a strong emphasis on **Experiential and Outdoor Learning, Physical Education, Facility Development and Well-being for students, staff, and teachers**. Additionally, **Sound Financial Management, Inclusive Education, and Language Support** were identified as top priorities. The responses also highlight a recurring interest in **Technology Integration (with an AI focus), Academic Excellence, and Staff Evaluation & Appraisal** suggesting these areas warrant significant attention and resources. These themes will now be developed into actionable strategic objectives that will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Governors.

From the Elementary Principal

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Autumn Break. As we settle into the second half of the semester, the cooler temperatures remind us that winter is on its way. Please remember to label all winter clothing to help us return any lost items to their owners quickly. Our students have many exciting learning opportunities ahead, from engaging projects to hands-on activities that will continue to build their curiosity and understanding. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



Kevin Smith

Elementary Learning Focus

Digital Citizenship Stickers

This week in elementary we presented the winning stickers from the annual #DigCitWeek sticker competition! The students' ideas and work were impressive as they expressed their ideas of how we can *share kindness online*. From choosing your words carefully to being a good eSport friend, to asking for help from an adult when you need it, students showed a deep awareness of the importance of being kind online. We are proud to announce this year's winners!



- Upper Elementary Winner: Irene - Gr 4
- Lower Elementary Winner: Ella - Kindergarten
- Overall Elementary Winner: Ashley - Gr 3
- Honorable Mentions: Diana - Gr 1, Ji Lok - Gr 5, Yuna - Gr 5



Kindergarten Storytelling

Inspired by the work of Vivian Gussen Paley, who says that storytelling and fantasy play can significantly impact a child's academic and social growth, our Kindergarten class is diving deep into the world of storytelling! Each day, one student gets to share their unique tale with Ms. Caro. These stories can be as short as they like and no longer than a page.

Ms. Caro writes down the student's words in our Story Journal, capturing our ideas. Then, the real magic happens! We bring the story to life through our acting skills where we take on varied roles such as students, pieces of Lego, and the classroom.

This process allows us to:

- **Develop our oral language skills:** Sharing our stories aloud builds confidence and vocabulary.
- **Explore our creativity:** There are no limits to our imaginations.
- **Strengthen our listening skills:** Paying close attention to our classmates' stories is key.
- **Experience the joy of collaborative storytelling:** Everyone plays a part in bringing the story to life.

Stay tuned for more updates on the amazing stories emerging from Kindergarten.



Grade 3 Writing Focus

Over the last few weeks, we've been diving into informative writing! Tying this into our biodiversity unit, students have even brought in their own pets like Ted the tortoise, sparking discussions, excitement, and critical thinking. Currently, students are focused on improving their research skills by gathering facts and details to support their ideas. Using resources like library books, Britannica, and National Geographic Kids, they're learning to ask insightful questions, cite sources, and organize their findings clearly. We're excited to see Grade 3 deepen their understanding of biodiversity and share their expertise!



ES Cross Country SKAIS Finals

Congratulations to our ES cross-country teams for a fantastic performance at the SKAIS finals. We had a large squad of 21 runners competing this season. We were very proud to see all of our finishers encouraging each other, enjoying the course, and completing the run with a smile. A special congratulations to Birk for coming 1st overall, and to Han for finishing 2nd overall. The elementary boy's team won the championship and were delighted to bring the trophy back to ISB. Go Bears!



Grade 3 PE

In Grade 3 PYP PE, students have been diving into net and wall games, exploring activities like badminton, volleyball, and spike ball. Centered on the theme *"People face new challenges with optimism and perseverance,"* the unit encouraged students to embrace a growth mindset. With activities adapted to ensure success for everyone, students discovered the powerful connection between effort, practice, and improvement. They embodied the traits of inquirers and reflective learners, analyzing their progress and recognizing how perseverance helps overcome challenges. It's been inspiring to see them approach each game with resilience and enthusiasm!



Updates in Grade 2

This week, Grade 2 started their new 'How We Organise Ourselves' Unit of Inquiry. The students worked together to create mind maps showing some of the values which are important to communities. The children practised their communication skills by listening actively to each other's perspectives and ideas.



Early Years 1 Explore Playgrounds

Exploring different playgrounds is an exciting part of our school experience. They're not only fun but also help us grow! Running, jumping, and climbing make our bodies stronger, while playing with friends helps us learn to share, take turns, and solve problems together. Our imaginations come alive as we create exciting adventures, like making cookies and rice cakes in the sandpit or taking friends to special places on the pretend taxi bike. Some of us love to race around on bikes and scooters. We always look forward to the wonderful outdoor fun at our school playgrounds!



From the Secondary Principal

Welcome back to campus after autumn break! It was great to have everyone back in this glorious fall weather. These are action-packed weeks of learning in the ISB Secondary School. A cross-country meet in Daegu, preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh, Model United Nations in Seoul and HS Volleyball heading to Mongolia for their tournament - All of these events just in this four-day student week! Of course, the teaching and learning in the classrooms is most significant. We only have 5 weeks left in the semester so these weeks will be filled with learning experiences as well as assessments, including formal examinations in certain grade levels (G10, G12).



Gilles Buck

Our students' well-being is foremost on our minds so please help them by checking in on their workload, providing a good home learning environment without distractions, and ensuring that they get enough sleep! Thank you, we greatly value the home-school partnership.

ISB Future Pathways/Career and University Planning Update: November 2024

The [ISB November 2024 Future Pathways/College Counseling Newsletter](#) is here! In this issue, you will find the following content:

- [Upcoming University Events:](#)
 - University of Toronto at ISB (November 21)
 - Ritsumeikan University lectures online November 10 2024
- [Enrichment and Summer Programs](#) (virtual and in person)
- [Resources for Parents](#) (for university exploration and navigating the application process)
- [ISB Pathways Website](#)
- [Scholarships and Financial Aid](#)
- [SAT Test](#)
- [ISB High School and Future Pathways Planning Timeline: Grades 9 through 12](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact our counsellor by email at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions, she will be delighted to connect with you!

Secondary Learning Focus



The ISB Cross-Country Teams travelled to the Dansan Reservoir in Daegu to compete in the SKAIS Finals. There were a lot of nervous and excited butterflies before the race, but the weather was perfect and the Bears were in great form after a season of challenging workouts. The races were started in quick succession making the action of the day fast and furious.

First out of the gates were the elementary runners, with the ISB boys quickly dominating the field. In the end, it was a photo finish with Birk just edging out Han to finish 1st and second and securing the first team trophy of the day. The elementary girls also did ISB proud with lots of speedy bears with big smiles on their faces as they flew around the course.

The high school boys set off at a quick pace and ISB was right at the front the whole race. In the end, Adrian took individual gold while a gusty finish from Patrick and a bold kick from Daniel helped the Bears earn the HS Boys team trophy. The high school girls started just minutes after the boys and ISB stole the show again with Taehee, Yuri, and Yuna finishing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively locking down another team trophy for ISB.



Middle school was up next, led by a challenging boys race complicated by the high school runners still out on the course. However, the boys persevered and the team of Kensei (who finished 3rd), Aiden, Yunsung, and Shinji captured another team trophy to bring home. Right behind them was the middle school girls team. Morgan put on an impressive performance leading the pack from the first few steps through to a gold medal finish. Leilani wasn't far behind, earning a bronze medal and helping the girls team to a second-place finish. All in all, when the dust off the trails settled, ISB had earned 4 team trophies and 8 individual medals. A special thank you shout-out to grade 12 runner, Yuri who raced her final cross-country meet as an ISB Bear. She's inspired so many of the younger runners on the team and definitely earned her championship trophy in her final race.



ISB at SEOMUN XXVII

The Seoul SEOMUN conference at Korea International School began with great excitement as our 14 ISB delegates and 250 others gathered to engage in global problem-solving under the theme 'Navigating Unknown Frontiers'. Our delegates were introduced to their committees, where they explored pressing international issues and shared diverse perspectives. Each of our delegates brought fresh ideas, sparking meaningful debate and collaboration.

MUN offers students more than just debate; it's an opportunity to build public speaking, leadership, and critical thinking skills. As they navigate different viewpoints, delegates gain valuable insight into the complexities of global challenges. With a strong start, our ISB delegates have laid a foundation for a productive conference, and we look forward to their contributions.



Ordering MSC Sustainable Seafood Online

What's MSC and Why Does it Matter?

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international non-profit organization working to keep our oceans healthy and teeming with life. When you buy MSC-certified fish, you're choosing seafood from responsibly managed fisheries that minimize environmental impact. It's the best way to support fisheries who are dedicated to sustainable practices.



How to Order Online

- **Coupage:** Look for MSC-certified options by searching for "MSC 인증 수산물" (MSC-certified seafood). Coupage offers various options, including frozen fish fillets and ready-to-cook dishes.
- **Market Kurly:** Known for its high-quality food, Market Kurly has an array of MSC-certified seafood options. Just type "MSC" in the search bar to discover sustainable seafood choices.
- **SSG.COM:** This site also stocks MSC-certified items, often labeled clearly in product descriptions. SSG.COM provides a variety of seafood, from salmon to shellfish, so you can support sustainable fishing with each purchase.



Sustainable Tips When Ordering

- Order in Bulk: Reduce packaging waste by buying in larger quantities or family packs.
- Choose Freezer-Friendly Options: Ordering frozen MSC fish not only minimizes spoilage but also ensures you have sustainable seafood ready whenever you need it!
- Avoid Air Freight: If possible, choose ground shipping for a lower carbon footprint. Many online retailers will specify this in the shipping options.

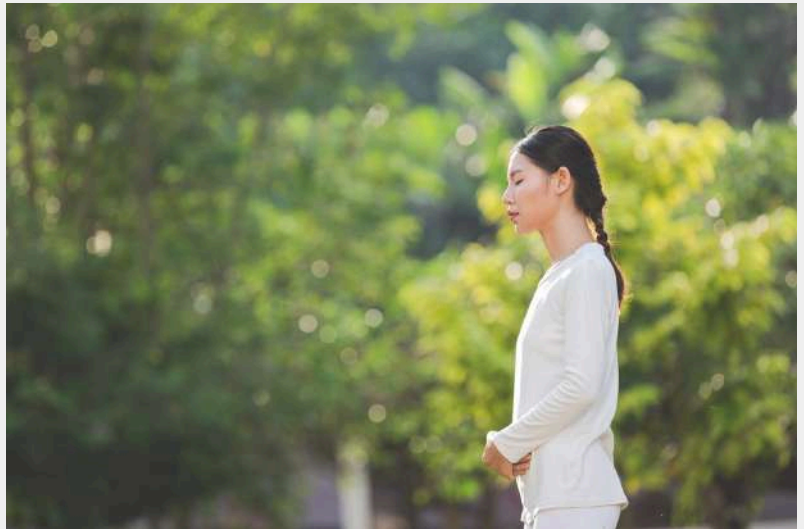
Here you can see some photos of MSC Korea participating in Busan Seafood Expo, held recently in BEXCO, including a variety of MSC certified products available to purchase at the locations mentioned above.

#WeLoveTheSea #MSC



International Stress Awareness Week: Tips for Managing Stress in a Healthy Way

Dear ISB Families, I hope that you are doing well. This week was International Stress Awareness Week. It is important to educate ourselves, learn about the causes and effects of stress and explore strategies for managing stress in a healthy manner. It is also important to dedicate time for self-care and prioritize our own mental well-being by practicing stress-reduction techniques such as mindfulness, relaxation, breathing, or exercise, for example. Please visit ISB's Health and Wellbeing page [Breathing and Mindfulness: \(for general wellbeing and stress prevention\)](#) for resources and guided practices.



What is stress?

Stress is a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. Stress is a natural human response that prompts us to address challenges and threats in our lives. Everyone experiences stress to some degree! The way we respond to stress, however, makes a big difference to our overall well-being. ([WHO](#)) There are healthy ways for us and for our loved ones to cope with stress. Please see the tips below.

Stress Management Strategies

Sleep well. Sleep is essential for physical and emotional well-being.

Exercise. Physical activity is an essential stress reliever for people of all ages.

Talk it out.

Make time for fun—and quiet.

Get outside.

Write about it.

Learn mindfulness.

For tips for students, for healthily managing stress, please see [10 Ways to Manage Everyday Stress](#) (this resource was shared with students in the Secondary school through email and the Student Bulletin). For a resource for parents for supporting your child with their stress management please see [How to help children and teens manage their stress](#) by the American Psychological Association.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions. It will be my pleasure to connect with you.

Warm regards,

Ellenore Hibon

Secondary School Counselor and College Counselor

Upcoming ISB Sports Events – Volunteers Needed!

- **SKAIS MS Football:** November 12th
- **EAISAC MS Football:** November 14th-16th

We need middle school parent volunteers to help support our athletes! Join us by volunteering at the Bears Snack Shack (selling snacks) or assisting with Thursday's dinner. Your support makes a big difference! Email pta@isbusan.org to get involved. Please see the PTA Event Calendar for all upcoming events in November and December.



Event Calendar 2024

Parent Teacher Association

NOVEMBER

12TH SKAIS MS FOOTBALL AT ISB
BEARS SNACK SHACK

14-16TH EAISAC MS FOOTBALL AT ISB
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE DINNER ON THURSDAY EVENING AND FOR THE BEARS SNACK SHACK DURING THE EVENT

27TH COFFEE MORNING
THE LAST COFFEE MORNING BEFORE WINTER HOLIDAY WILL BE A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

DECEMBER

4TH HOLIDAY SNACKS FOR THE TEACHERS
PROVIDE HOLIDAY SNACKS FOR THE TEACHERS. DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

7TH SKAIS MS & HS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) AT ISB
BEARS SNACK SHACK

JOIN THE CHAT!



Join our PTA community chat in Kakao and stay up-to-date on future events!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT THESE COOL EVENTS!

PTA@ISBUSAN.ORG