



# The Bear Essentials



*The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter*

Friday 9th December, 2022

Volume 4, Issue 16

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 10th December - SKAC MUN at KFS  
Thursday 15th December - Winter Music Concert  
Friday 16th December - 12.00 pm Dismissal for Winter Break  
Tuesday 10th January - Students back to School  
Tuesday 10th January - Welcome Morning for New Families  
Friday 13th January - Middle School Winter Formal at 5.30 pm  
Friday 13th January - High School Winter Formal at 8.00 pm  
Wednesday 18th January - Grade 10 Course Selection Evening

## 'Jun the Penguin' Early Years Winter Celebration



On Wednesday our EY1, EY2, and Kindergarten students performed in the Early Years Winter Celebration. They took the audience on a delightful singing and dancing journey as they followed Jun the Penguin on his quest to discover why the ice is melting in Antarctica. We would like to thank the Early Years Team and our PYP Music Teacher, Amanda McCloskey for organising such a wonderful production!





### FC Valencia Soccer Training Session

On Saturday 3rd December, coaches from the Valencia Soccer Academy Busan came to ISB to deliver a morning coaching session to our Grade 3-6 students. It was brilliant to see high levels of enthusiasm and participation where students were given the opportunity to practise their skills, develop a deeper understanding of the game and have lots of fun with their friends.



Students are busy rehearsing for the winter concert next week. [Click here to view the programme for the afternoon](#). Please complete [this registration form](#) by Tuesday 13th December if you plan to attend on Thursday 15th December.



## Whole School News



### Hour of Code

This week ISB held another successful Hour of Code week, where students of all ages had the opportunity to learn the basics of computer programming. Throughout the week, students practised computation thinking, played with and explored different computer science concepts, and completed a self-paced coding challenge in both Scratch and Javascript.

A huge part of the Hour of Code week is to demystify coding, and to show students that they can complete complex challenges if they pursue them in a logical way using computational thinking. The Hour of Code was a huge hit among the students, with many expressing excitement about the new skills they were learning. Some even said that they wanted to continue studying coding and pursue it as a future career.

In-class lessons with Mr. Plotzki had kids building mechanical computers, creating pixel emojis, reading binary, coding up custom webapps in Javascript and many more fun, hands-on learning activities.

A definite highlight of the week was the self-paced coding challenges. Students in elementary school completed a challenge to show how Taeguk can be kind online using the Scratch language. Students in secondary school got to participate in a self-paced Javascript course called Grasshopper to learn the foundations of coding like variables, loops, and conditional statements.

Overall, the Hour of Code week at the International School of Busan was a huge success, cementing the importance of this annual event. By providing students with the opportunity to learn about computer programming, the school is helping to achieve our vision of creating highly-skilled digitally literate learners for today's world.

### Thank You!

We would like to thank whoever provided coffees for our staff this week! Whenever our teachers popped over the road to buy a coffee from the local cafe they were informed that it was free of charge as a mystery Secret Santa was paying for the drinks! Thank you for this kind gesture - Whoever you are!





Members of the ISB Board of Governors and the School's Leadership Team enjoyed a wonderful performance by the ISB Elementary Choir last night at the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) Winter Ball. We would like to thank our Board Members for attending this event as ambassadors for ISB. [Click here to see some highlights of the performance](#) on the ISB YouTube Channel.

### University Acceptances

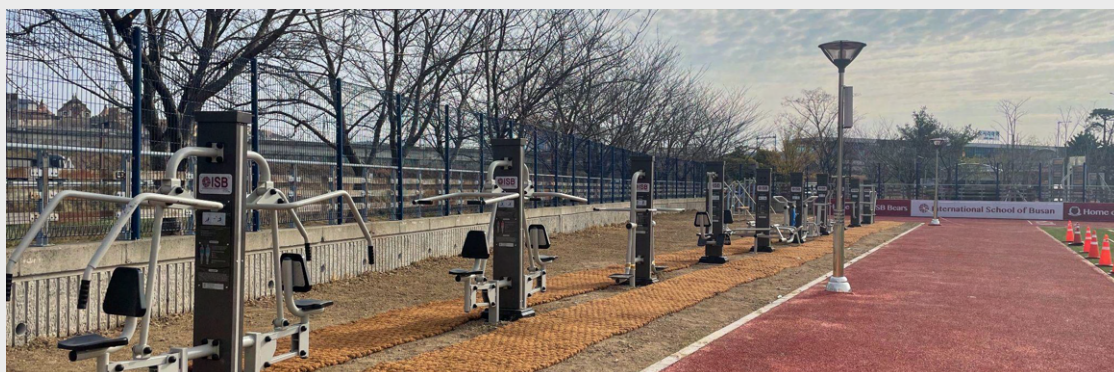


We are very happy to announce that we have now started to receive acceptances from universities for our current grade 12 students. To date, our students have received offers from:

- The State University of New York
- Institut d'Economie Scientifique et de Gestion à Lille
- Aberystwyth University
- University of Exeter
- Lancaster University
- University of Reading
- University of East Anglia
- City University of London
- University of Nottingham
- Royal Holloway University of London
- University of Birmingham

### Outdoor Gym

Work on our outdoor fitness area is nearing completion. Installation should be completed early next week. The gardeners will begin landscaping the area after the winter break when the weather begins to warm up.





### New Family Orientation Morning

We have scheduled a New Family Orientation Morning on **Tuesday 10th January at 9.00 am**. This will be a time for new parents to come to the campus, visit the PE uniform shop, organise transportation and cafeteria orders, meet our finance team, school nurse and the IT Team. We strongly encourage all of our new parents to attend. If your family has joined our school since the start of the school year and you missed the New Family Orientation Day in August, you are also very welcome to attend. 20 new students will join the school after the winter holiday and 18 new students have joined the school since the start of the school year in August. We look forward to sharing important information about our school community with new families.



Simon McCloskey



# New Family Orientation Day

**ISB**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN  
Est. 1983

**9.00 am  
Tuesday 10th  
January  
2023**

**ISB Gymnasium**

### Gifts for Staff Reminder

The Improper Solicitation and Graft Act is an anti-corruption law in South Korea. The school's law firm has advised us that there is a high possibility and likelihood that receiving any kind of gift in a teacher-student relationship would be considered as being in connection with performing a public servant's duty, and should not be done. Therefore, in order to prevent a violation of the Act, and to avoid even the suspicion of violating the Act, we request that parents or students do not give individual teachers or administrators any money or gifts, regardless of the value.

### Calendar Reminder

Please remember that Friday 16th December is the last day of school before the holiday. The school day ends at 12.00 pm on this day. We return to school after the winter break on Tuesday 10th January 2023.



**Space for all emotions:** Children need space to express their emotions and need to feel close to their caregivers when they are feeling intense emotions like sadness, anger, or fear. We tend to be comfortable letting our children rejoice in happiness and excitement but are always tempted to rescue them from certain emotions. To understand and regulate emotions, children have to know what they are experiencing. How can we support them?



*Ellenore Hibon  
School Counsellor*

If they are having strong emotions, they are operating from a part of their brain that does not lend to making decisions or having rational conversations. First, get down at their level (literally kneel or squat down to their eye level) and make a connection. Offer a hug. Do not underestimate how powerful a hug can be.

Let them be with that emotion for a little while, and let them know that you are there for them “I am here for you”, “This is really hard”, “It is okay to be sad” “I will help you work it out” “I am listening”, “I will be here when you are ready”. Make a connection before you try correcting or fixing. Many times, making a heartfelt connection will be all that is needed.

Show curiosity about what your child is feeling throughout the day. “I am wondering if you are feeling joyful/disappointed/brave/confused/crabby/excited right now?” After they share with you, help them name what they described accurately. Ensure that they are learning the vocabulary for expressing emotions in your home language(s) and their language of instruction. If they have mixed feelings, let them know that it is normal and that feelings can be difficult to identify sometimes.

Validate and then try to respond to the emotion you have helped them name with your facial expressions, voice, and touch. For example, if they share that they are scared, maybe you gently grab their hand while talking. If they are ecstatic, jump up and down in joy with them.

Another way to help your children get better at labelling their feelings is to label characters’ emotions in stories and shows. Have age-appropriate [feelings charts](#) printed to use during these empathy-building conversations. “How is that character feeling right now? Have you ever felt that way?” Or, “This reminds me of the time you were frustrated with your sister and threw your car against the wall. Do you remember?” The unique, loving bond between children and their caregivers is called attachment. Research on attachment shows that a key to developing secure and loving relationships is spending time with your children to support their experiences with their emotions. Discussing your children’s feelings and sharing yours can strengthen your relationship with your children (Sources: [The Greater Good Science Center](#) at the University of California, Berkeley). As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ehibon@isbusan.org](mailto:ehibon@isbusan.org) if you have any questions.

Warm regards,  
Ellenore Hibon  
School Counsellor



We are heading into our last week of the semester and the Elementary School is buzzing with activity. On top of the regular ASAs, we have had a fun-filled Spirit Week, our Early Years Winter Celebration and special Hour of Code activities. Many of our Grade 4 and 5 students participated in a joint choir performance with Busan Foreign School for the European Chamber of Commerce Korea's end of year event. Next week all of our Grade 2 and Grade 5 students will perform in the Winter Concert on Thursday 15 December at 1:40 PM in the gym - all parents are most welcome to this event. Lastly, the teachers have all been very busy preparing progress reports for all of the students which will be available on ManageBac on Friday, 16 December.



Kevin Smith

More information about how to access these documents will be sent out next week. Lastly, please remind your children to dress for the weather as we do go outside to play for all of our breaks.

### Hour of Code Assembly

Students celebrated the Hour of Code week at our assembly, breaking into small groups to explore programming concepts. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students learned about events and actions as the Grade 4 leaders helped them create 'Event-o-meters' during an activity called [The Big Event](#). Students in Grades 2 and 3 were guided by Grade 5 leaders to investigate how to write an algorithm in an activity called [Graph Paper Coding](#).



### Spirit Week

This week elementary students and teachers went all out to show their spirit and fun side. We had some really crazy hair and hats on Monday, from pencils to hamburgers, to Christmas trees. On Tuesday some famous characters like Father Christmas, the Adams Family, and famous soccer players could be seen walking around. On Wednesday there were dresses, skirts, ties, and formal jackets. Thursday was just a big mess of all kinds of mixed-up clothes. A lot of people seemed to be wearing two different shoes on their feet. Friday ended off with being comfortable and cosy in our pyjamas. A great week that brought lots of smiles to everyone's faces.





### Elementary School Choir

Congratulations to the elementary school choir for a wonderful performance at the [ECCK](#) winter event. The ISB and BFS choirs prepared five songs together and scheduled rehearsals to practise together. The choirs performed in the evening at the Park Hyatt to a crowded and appreciative audience. Well done to the elementary choir for learning these songs from memory!





### Early Years Winter Celebration

Congratulations to all penguin chicks, polar bears and penguins for a wonderful performance of Jun the Penguin. Students in Early Years 1, Early Years 2 and Kindergarten all performed on stage to a large (and very supportive) audience. Jun the penguin and his friends wanted to find out why their ice was melting so visited their friends the Polar Bears. A trip to Busan, to visit the ISB Eco Club, helped them find out how to look after our world. Well done everyone for an energetic and fun performance!

### Kindergarten Explore Light

As the daylight hours become shorter, Kindergarten children have been spending more time exploring the light table and blackroom in our class. We used the Magna Tiles and small lights to explore light and colours and make lamps that are different colours.



### Grade 1 Inquire into Homes and Houses

Grade 1 students have been researching houses and homes both in and out of the classroom. They have discovered houses from different time periods throughout history and made the connection that houses changed over time just like the students have changed over time. Students drew pictures of houses they found in different books and then came together and shared what they found.





### Grade 2 Explore a Local Village

The Grade 1 and 2 students had a wonderful time exploring a local village. Grade 1 students were learning about houses and homes while the Grade 2 students inquired into the materials all around them. Everyone tried their best to record this wonderful experience by using their iPads to take photographs. Well done to all the children for demonstrating their principled behaviour and super social skills!



### Grade 3 Where We Are in Place & Time

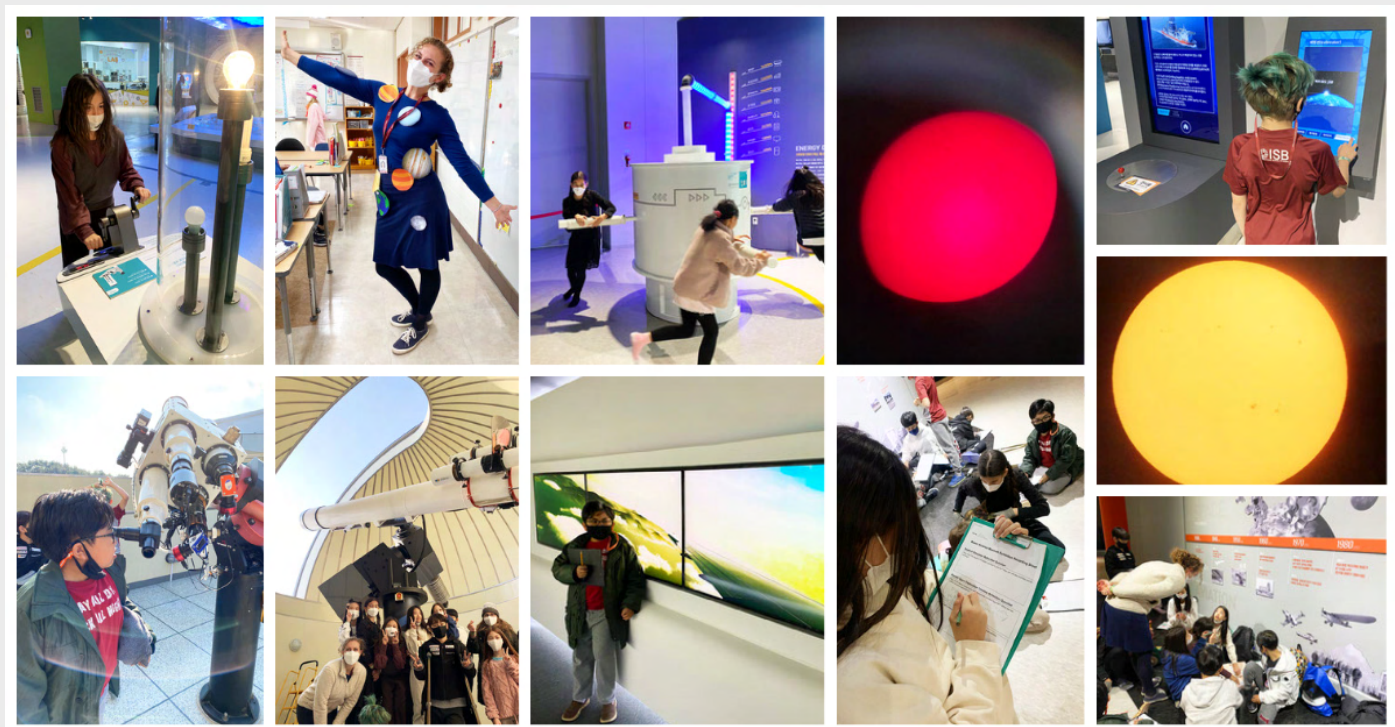
Grade 3 learned about how explorers drew a grid on maps to help them navigate as part of our unit about Where We are in Place and Time. We then learned about coordinates on a grid with an x and y-axis. We used it to draw the maps of explorers. Then we used the Scratch program to do some coding and also saw the x and y coordinates in the coding program.





### Grade 5 Trip to the Science Museum

On Tuesday, Grade 5 students walked to the Busan National Science Museum to blast off into their space inquiry. Students were able to learn more about constellations by viewing a planetarium show and got to use telescopes to see the sun and sun flares through different filters. They also explored different exhibition halls to learn more about other scientific topics related to gravity, space, and other inquiry topics. Everyone had an amazing time exploring a new learning environment and applying what they already learned in class.





## From the Secondary Principal

We have completed our penultimate week of the semester! Spirit Week brought some excitement and flair to the secondary school. Thank you student council for organising this fun and creative week.

We finished the week with our last secondary school assembly of the semester where student leadership was on full display from running the assembly, organising upcoming events (such as the upcoming winter formal, details next week) and providing updates and information to the student body.

Our normal learning-packed classes continue to take place but thanks to the technology team's Hour of Code week a number of extra learning opportunities took place this week centred on computational thinking and coding.

For some interesting insight into the many great learning that happens in the ISB secondary school, explore in the **Secondary Learning Focus** section how the question formulation technique has been used with students across subject areas.

### Upcoming Parent Event:

#### Grade 10 Parent and Student Course Selection Evening

Wednesday, January 18 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

A not-to-be missed opportunity to learn about programmes, our course offerings and how to make the best course choices for Grade 11 (and into Grade 12).

### College Corner

Our College Counselor, GJ Johnson, will be updating College Counseling information in this section of the Newsletter every other week. Here is **last** week's edition of the [College Counseling letter](#).



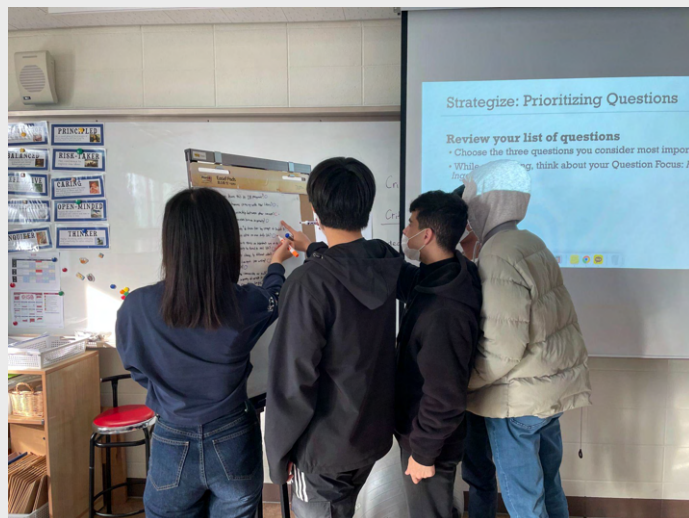
Gilles Buck



## Secondary Learning Focus

### Question Formulation Technique

Is asking questions a skill that needs to be learned? More specifically, is there an art to coming up with questions? Several teachers at ISB have explored this idea through professional development from The Harvard Graduate School of Education. They learned about the Question Formulation Technique which was developed to “strengthen people’s ability to ask questions and participate in decisions that affect them...[so that people gain] a new sense of agency, confidence, and power.” Students from middle school onwards were able to apply the

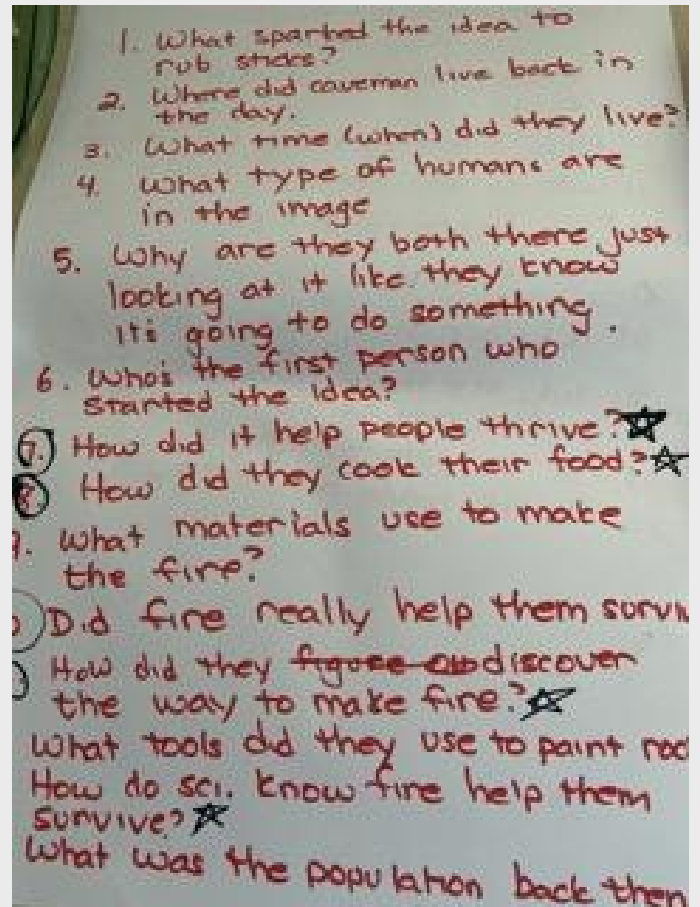
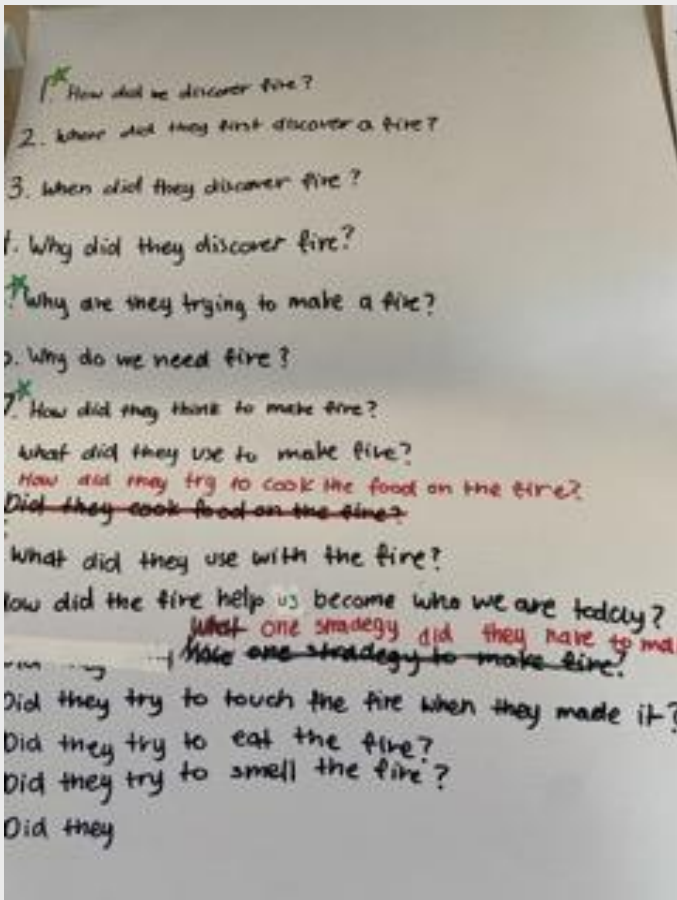




same technique in different subject areas. By honing students' ability to ask their own questions, we hope they will continue to be curious about the world around them and engage in a life-long search for answers.

DP English B students wrote questions that explored the theme of Human Ingenuity.

Ms. Montague's 6th grade class created questions on early humans.



7th grade students prepared for a writing task by creating questions on the nature of dystopian stories and creative writing techniques.





Students in 9th grade began the unit on the Model United Nations with QFT.

## In the Design department

Our annual IDU highlight of the year - Dragons Den! What a fantastic day for our Grade 8s! Last Friday afternoon, in the Boardroom, students in grade 8 gave their product and company presentation pitches and presented their prototype models! The grade 8s this year have done a wonderful job with so many innovative ideas and initiatives. They were truly committed all the way along in the process - Mr. Kruger, Ms. Marzouk, Ms. Joola and Mr. Love are very proud of their efforts overall! Some truly innovative Design ideas and business acumen has come out of this Interdisciplinary unit with Design and I&S. The best part of the whole event is that their products are centred on the UN Sustainable Development Goals which are real-world needs and relevant issues to us all. We are looking forward to seeing our students change the world and contribute to our world's sustainable future with this creativity and knowledge!

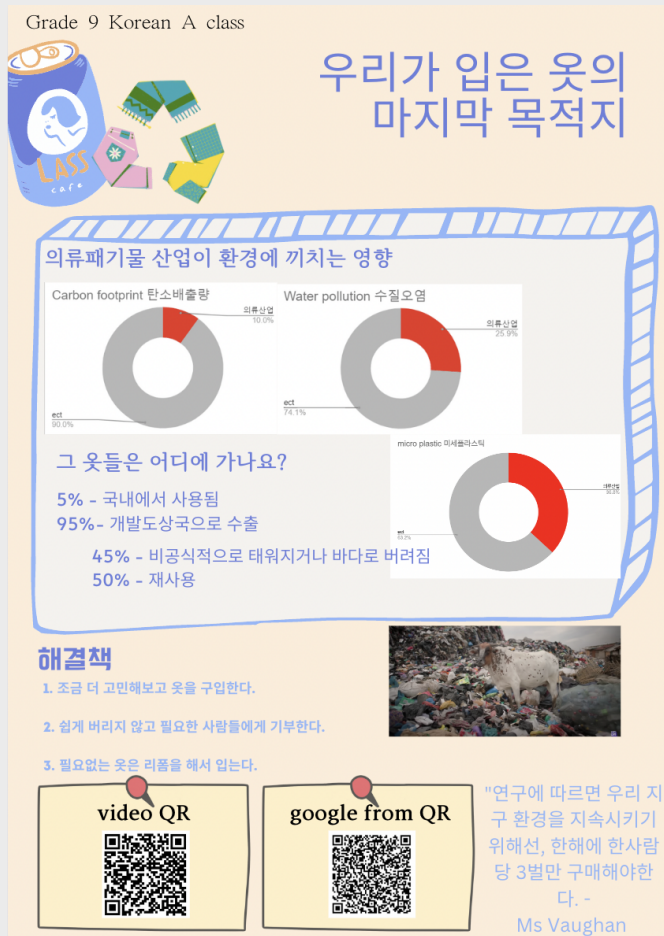
Go Grade 8!





## Korean A - The Environmental Impact of the Fashion Industry

Students from Korean A created infographics in both English and Korean to inform the school about the impact the fashion industry has on the Earth.



## ISB on BeFM!

On Friday, Brent Johnson, ISB teacher, Kate (Grade 9 student) and H'sia (Grade 8 student) were featured on BeFM radio show, Inside Out Busan to talk about the 'Echo School Green Flag Award'

The green flag award demonstrates the school's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability. In order to achieve this award, members of the ISB community went through a rigorous application process followed by the development and implementation of a multi-step action plan to achieve their goals. The progress that the school has made was assessed during a Green Flag Assessment Visit led by members of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).





Each week we feature an ISB Teacher in our newsletter. This week we interviewed **Caro Hill**.

**Qualification and certifications:** Bachelor of Arts/  
Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)  
Registered teacher in Victoria, Australia and QTS in England

**What is your role at ISB?**

Kindergarten teacher



**Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived?** I would say that I am from Australia and that I have lived outside Australia for over 20 years. The countries I have been fortunate to call home for a while are England, China, Japan, Bangladesh, Mongolia and now Korea.

**What inspired you to become a teacher?** I tried a few things before teaching as I was reticent to follow most of my siblings into teaching but in the end, it is the job that makes me most happy. I love being a teacher and hope that I can connect with the students I teach and make school a positive experience for them.

**What is your educational philosophy?** I love a longer version of this which I will share but it can be summed up with two words; **play** and **relationships**.

I believe that all learners can achieve success in an environment which is supportive and places healthy relationships at the centre of the learning culture. People learn best when they feel safe, valued, stimulated, challenged and heard; this is essential in a classroom and within a school. Learners who are encouraged to be independent enquirers, develop a sense of agency, and collaborate with others will then have the necessary approaches to learning to grow holistically. Young learners learn through play.

**What made you choose ISB?** I was looking for a school that is truly international, offers the IB curriculum and values the early years of school as the important time they are. ISB is all that and is conveniently located by the sea which I am always happy to be near.

**What is the best part of your job?** Getting to observe, document, extend and nurture children's play opportunities. If a day ever seems challenging just visit an Early Years class and everything comes back into focus with a sense of fun and freedom.

**What are your hobbies and interests?** I enjoy yoga, music, design, reading, and being in nature and most recently I have embraced ocean swimming.

**What is your favourite quote?**

I have many quotes I love but will go with this one by the great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore: "The real friendship is like fluorescence, it shines better when everything has darken."

**What is the impact you'd like to have on the world?**

That those who knew me remember me as being passionate, adventurous and open-minded.



### ISB Staff Holiday Party Donations

The PTA would like to thank all those who donated for the staff holiday party. We really appreciate you taking the time to donate! (Naoko, Violetta, Mary, Nolan, Danijela, Sarah, Meghann, Mai, Ali, Jeffery, Aaron and Jamie, Hilary, Alex, Chunfeng, Amanda, Vasily, T. Sterling, Rich and Abby, Phil and Carmen, Amina, 배계윤, 이유진, (주)카카오페이, 이훈영, 한신, 박지현, 조현우, Klentsvaro, 홍선영, 염숙임, 박혜진, 김서린).

On **Friday, 16th December**, the PTA will be delivering popcorn to students as a holiday treat during morning snack and break times.

### Important Links:

- [ISB PTA Volunteer Kakao Chat](#)
- [PTA Facebook Page](#)



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