



# The Bear Essentials



*The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter*

Friday 13th January, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 18

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 18th January - Grade 10 Course Selection Evening  
Wednesday 18th January - SKAC MS Volleyball  
Monday 23rd January - Lunar New Year Holiday  
Wednesday 25th January - Parent Workshop  
Friday 27th January - Grade 4 Production  
Thursday 2nd February - Global Play Day  
Saturday 4th February - SKAC HS Basketball at GIFS

## WELCOME BACK!

This week we welcomed returning and new students on campus and kick-started another semester with a bang! New Family Orientation was a great success, and it was lovely to meet our new community members. We were also able to share the facility refurbishments that took place over the winter break, including the installation of our new astroturf field and outdoor exercise equipment. There was lots of excitement as desks and chairs were full again, including the Professional Development Day for teachers on Monday, the ES Egg Drop Build Day, and a trip to the Dream Theatre for G4. We're ready for another successful semester of healthy, happy learning ahead!



### 40th Anniversary of ISB

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the International School of Busan. To celebrate, we are planning a whole school event to look back on the past 40 years and look forward to the next 40.

To mark the occasion, a school video will be produced, as well as many performances from our students and some special celebratory surprises along the way. You can expect lots of updates, but in the meantime please mark the date in your calendars - **September 27th 2023!**



### Internet Safety at ISB

Student safety is the top priority of our school. This involves keeping students safe in their digital learning environments as well as their physical environments. With that in mind, we will be pursuing the following initiatives at ISB over the coming months to strengthen our digital security.

**2 Factor Authentication (2FA) on all ISB Google Accounts** - 2FA is the security process in which you use a second trusted device to access an important account. We will be enabling 2FA for all staff members now as an opt-in feature and making it mandatory for all ISB Google accounts in August. Over 30% of all ISB teachers already have 2FA enabled on their account. Safety first for our digitally literate learners!



**2023 Phishing Test** - Our teachers and staff frequently receive emails from malicious actors who are trying to scam us for our data, our money or both. Most of these messages are filtered out by our domain, but some do make it into our inboxes. Phishing tests are when an organisation sends out emails that simulate scammers to help identify vulnerabilities. It is important that we proactively practise these situations, just as we do for fire-drills. We will be doing training around detecting/responding to Phishing emails at upcoming staff meetings before starting the phishing test in a few weeks time.

ISB  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN  
Est. 1983

**PARENT  
WORKSHOP**

25th January, 2023  
8.45 am – 10.00 am

A poster for a parent workshop. It features the ISB logo at the top. Below it is a large blue silhouette of a person holding a smaller blue silhouette of a child. The text 'PARENT WORKSHOP' is written in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, the date and time are listed. A coffee cup icon is partially visible behind the date and time.

HEALTHY  
HAPPY  
LEARNING

**MYP**  
How to foster  
curiosity &  
wonder

ib Middle Years Programme

A poster for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). It features a background of a starry night sky over a landscape. At the top right, there is a banner with the text 'HEALTHY HAPPY LEARNING' and an icon of a family. The text 'MYP' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the text 'How to foster curiosity & wonder' is written in a smaller font. At the bottom left, there is the IB logo and the text 'Middle Years Programme'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code.

### School Improvement

ISB staff have been busy over the winter break overseeing a number of school improvement projects, including:

- Installation of a new AstroTurf sports field, which is now marked out with 11, 7 and 5-a-side soccer pitches.
- Purchase and installation of 8 new 5-a-Side goal frames for the field.
- Installation of a new giant pitch-side digital clock.
- Completion of the outdoor fitness area adjacent to the sports field.
- Installation of new energy-efficient (and significantly brighter) lighting units for the Gymnasium.
- Installation of over 1500 light fittings in classrooms and corridors - replacing fluorescent tubes with new energy efficient LED lights.
- Repainting of frames and replacement of shade canopies in the Elementary and Secondary playgrounds.



Simon McCloskey

I would like to thank Sunny Cho, our Facilities and Operations Manager, who has done a great job coordinating and overseeing all of the work that has taken place on campus over the past few weeks. The work listed above represents a significant investment in our campus infrastructure. These improvement projects are driven by the objectives outlined in our [Guiding Statements](#) and [Strategic Plan](#) which focus on environmental sustainability, health, fitness and wellbeing.



ISB's new AstroTurf Sports Field

### A New Face at ISB



This week we welcomed a new member of staff to the ISB team. Hea-Young (Helene) Won joins our School Management Team as an Executive Assistant. Helene's role will focus on working closely with the Head of School to provide organisational, logistical and administrative support for school events and activities. She will manage school-wide projects and support new-hire expatriate onboarding. Helene will also provide translation, logistical support and advice for international staff.

Helene was previously the General Manager at Munsung Global Language Center in Seoul. Prior to this, she was employed as part of the administration team at the United Nations International School in New York. Helene is TESOL certified and has a BA (Hons) in French Language and Literature and an MA in French Translation. She also has CPA course qualifications in Accounting and Auditing. Helene speaks English, French and Korean fluently. She also speaks conversational Japanese, Dutch and German. Helene will be based in A Building in the Reception area. Please join me in welcoming Helene to the ISB community!

### Lunar New Year Holiday

Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 23rd January for the Lunar New Year Holiday. School will resume on Tuesday 24th January as outlined in our [published school calendar](#).

## From the Elementary Principal

It has been wonderful to welcome back our students this week after the Winter Break. At the same time, we are very happy to welcome 10 new students to the PYP classes!

We are all looking forward to a new semester full of fun, engaging learning experiences. Next week, we will see our Grade 5 students performing in the Whole School Lunar New Year Assembly. The following week will see our Grade 4 students acting in their special production, performed to students and parents. Plenty to look forward to! Happy New Year!!



Kevin Smith

## PYP Learning Focus

### Grade 4 Love Cats

On Wednesday Grade 4 travelled to the Dream theatre in Busan and watched a matinee performance of the world-renowned meow-sical, Cats. This field trip was a part of the How We Express Ourselves unit, in which students will be putting on a musical performance of their own.



## Gymnastics Success

Congratulations to Stefania in Grade 3 for her achievements during the Winter Break. She participated in the 'Leap Challenge' competitions that took place on December 17th-18th in Incheon. Stefania won first place in free hands and first place with the ball. The award was presented by Son Yeon-jae, the Korean bronze world champion. Well done Stefania!



## Grade 2 River Walk

The Grade 2 students enjoyed an outdoor learning experience on our river walk. We examined the stepping stones and wondered why they are made of stone instead of a different material. There were lots of icy cold plants to observe and in some parts of the river the water had frozen into solid ice! There was a lot of discussion about all of the interesting things we saw. Well done to all of the students for being such active inquirers and principled risk-takers.



## Egg Drop Challenge

On Thursday, we began the annual House Team Egg Drop Challenge! Teams designed and built structures to protect an egg from breaking when dropped from the bridge. This year the only materials students could use were newspaper and tape! This led to a lot of creativity and design planning. Next week, students will drop their eggs from the bridge. Which House will win this year?! Find out on January 19th!



## From the School Counselor

### Child Development Resources

Welcome back to the new semester parents, and a warm welcome to our new IBS parents! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce/re-introduce myself. My name is Ellenore Hibon, I am the School Counselor. I joined ISB in July 2022 and am very happy to be part of this wonderful school and community!

As a School Counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic, personal, and social development of students. I support students through one on one meetings, in small groups, in the classroom, by collaborating with teachers and staff, partnering with parents, and keeping up to date with resources, research, and information connected to student learning and social and emotional wellbeing. I share resources with parents through this newsletter and sometimes through email. This time, I would like to share with you resources related to Child Development.



Learning about child development, both physical and social emotional, is a good practice for informing our work as parents. Equipping ourselves with reliable information and helpful recommendations can help us do our job in a more confident and enjoyable way! One resource is the Australian parenting site [raising children.net.au](https://raisingchildren.net.au). They offer ad-free parenting videos, articles and apps backed by Australian experts as well as practical information on **child development by stages**: [preschoolers](#), [school age 5-8 years](#), [pre-teens 9-11 years](#), [teens 12-18](#), [grown-ups](#). For more parenting resources please visit the [ISB Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) page. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at [ehibon@isbusan.org](mailto:ehibon@isbusan.org)

Ellenore Hibon  
School Counsellor

## From the Secondary Principal

Happy New Year! The 2023 part of the school year began with a Monday filled with teacher learning as students enjoyed one more day of vacation. Teachers worked collaboratively to further develop service learning, experiential learning and student centred assessments. On Tuesday, it was a joy to welcome back all of our secondary students! With students and teachers rejuvenated from the break, classes were off to a strong start!



Gilles Buck

The Student Council has been finalising plans for the winter formal along with support of our PTA and faculty advisors. Most of our secondary school students expect to attend the event! It is great that student leadership is able to make events such as the winter formal happen our first week back at school for the benefit of our student community.

## Secondary Learning Focus

### Upcoming Parent Event: Grade 10 Parent and Student Course Selection Evening

Wednesday 18th January 6:00 pm - 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). At the end of the event, a link will be shared for course selection. The completed survey is due by Friday 27th January 2023. Below, please find several resources that are worth reviewing ahead of the course selection meeting.

Resources:

- [Course offerings](#) of available course choices. Course descriptions/briefs are linked to learn more about each course in detail.
- [Course Selection presentation](#) for students. This presentation was shared with students in December during our initial meeting regarding course selection

Please inform us of your expected attendance at this event by answering this [quick survey](#). Thank you. We look forward to welcoming you back to school for this event.

### College Corner

Our College Counselor, Dr. GJ Johnson, will be updating College Counseling information in this section of the Newsletter every other week.

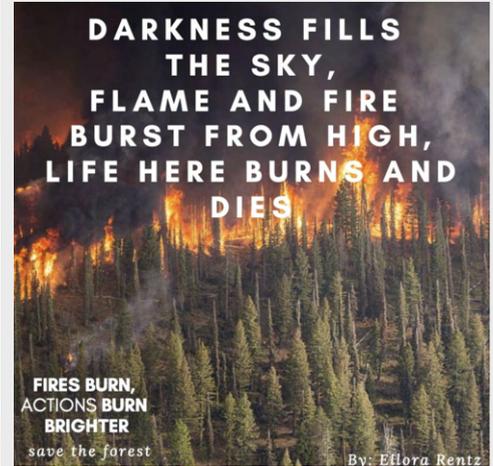
Here is the last edition of the [College Counseling letter](#).



## Language and Literature

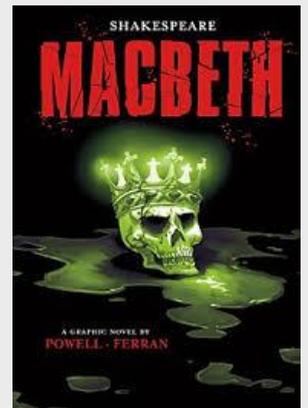
The Language and Literature department looks back on some highlights from last term.

In **Grade 6**, students looked at myth and the structure of writing myths. They then tried their hand at writing a myth. Many interesting stories were written which illustrated the wide range of creativity amongst Grade 6 writers. Students also looked at environmental issues through a language focus. They wrote haikus, created posters and learnt how to write a compare and contrast essay. The haikus and posters again highlighted student creativity and awareness of environmental issues.



This term, Grade 6 will, for the first time, 'meet' Shakespeare in the form of 'Macbeth'. The focus will be on the themes of the play and how Shakespeare uses language. They will also delve deeper into the importance of Shakespeare's contributions to drama and language.

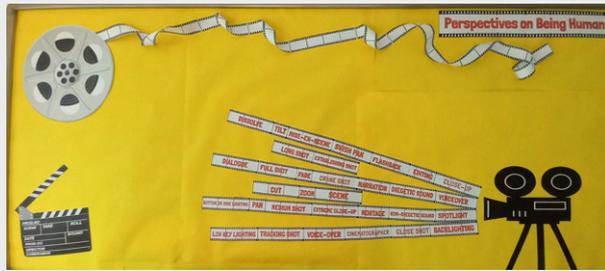
**Grade 7** has just completed a huge unit that explored the idea of dystopia. After reading Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, we discussed dystopian literature, and the ideas that are embedded in the genre, such as dehumanisation and indoctrination. Many students went on to read their book choices within the genre, while others watched films such as *The Hunger Games*. It was interesting to be able to make connections between the messages in these texts and the world around us.



Students worked on their debating skills in order to better understand how to improve their essay writing.



Needless to say, the debates were lively due to the Grade 7 students always having a lot to say! Students also learnt to analyse art, making connections between the art we saw at the gallery and the texts they had been studying in class.



Next up for **Grade 7** is a film study unit exploring what it means to be human.

**Grade 8** started the school year with a science fiction unit that explored CHANGE. Through the study of Daniel Keyes' short story *Flowers For Algernon*, students questioned the ethics of both scientific and technological innovations, and tried to

decide if they are always ethical, or even a benefit to society. They went on to study John Wyndham's *The Chrysalids*, further analysing the theme CHANGE through the lens of discrimination and indoctrination. Students practised both their essay and creative writing skills, and they also learnt how to analyse characterisation in texts.

Next, **Grade 8** analysed the British film *What We Did On Our Holiday*, paying close attention to family dynamics and relationships. They worked at putting themselves into the shoes of the characters in the film by creating a mock therapy session! Students showed their analysis of the relationships in the film by creating one-pagers. Next week they will complete the final task for this unit by performing a TED Talk that explores one of the inquiry questions and relating it to the emotional management ATL skills...I can't wait!



**Grade 9** has also been extremely busy so far this school year. Their first unit was BELONGING. After a close study of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, students practised improving their creative writing skills by using the vignettes in the book as a model for their own vignettes. They were challenged to include vignette-style metaphors and other literary devices in their writing. The next unit was a study of rhetoric and propaganda and how they are used to manipulate and persuade people; students were asked to evaluate both the positive and negative potential of this. Students also analysed the use of rhetorical and propaganda techniques in the arts as well as in speeches, political and human rights activism, and literature.

Students practised their essay writing skills through a close analysis of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and then they went on to present a speech as an activist. Their use of the rhetorical skills they had studied was wonderfully impressive and entertaining. Next up...a love-themed unit that includes a class reading of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*!



### Korean Language & Literature

In **Grade 9**, Korean students have been exploring persuasive techniques. Their focus was about environmental issues, specifically about where the clothes go that have been thrown into collection boxes. To start, the students did a lot of research, had many discussions and did many activities. They learned persuasive techniques, such as Ethos, Logos, and Pathos. Students were challenged to present these techniques through creating their own advertisements, such as videos, speeches and posters. They had to think of a way to persuade the students in ISB to consider alternatives to merely throwing the clothes away. Two different groups performed their project in front of the ISB community. Both groups worked very hard to persuade both students and teachers to help the environment.



**Grade 10** students completed an interdisciplinary unit on propaganda. They studied the use of propaganda during the Cold War in I&S and they studied rhetorical techniques in Language and Literature classes. The unit culminated in a showcase called "Is It Propaganda?" in which students compared and contrasted historical propaganda to examples of what they had to justify and defend as modern propaganda.





Each week we feature an ISB Teacher in our newsletter.

This week we interviewed **Christine Marzouk**

**Qualification and certifications:**

Masters in Educational Leadership; Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education.

**What is your role at ISB?**

Individuals and Society, Language and Literature and EAL teacher.

**Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived?**

I am from Sydney, Australia. I have lived in Australia, Turkey, Ukraine, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Malaysia, Singapore and Nauru.



**What inspired you to become a teacher?**

I had a teacher when I was five years old who made an impression on me and then in high school I was lucky enough to have wonderful teachers who showed me that making money was not important but rather making someone's life better was.

**What is your educational philosophy?**

All students can learn, it is just that sometimes they need to take different paths.

**What made you choose ISB?**

The people I interviewed with were passionate and excited by the school and the way they spoke about ISB also excited me and made me think I may have something to add. Also, location - what is there not to like about Korea?

**What is the best part of your job?**

Working with students and maybe making a difference in someone's life.

**What are your hobbies and interests?**

I live to travel and experience new cultures. I like to read, attend the theatre (in all forms) and meet new people.

**What is your favourite quote?**

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. (WB Yeats)

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

I am not that interested in making an impact on the world but rather making an impact on an individual.

Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone in the ISB Community!

If you haven't already joined the PTA on Facebook and Kakaotalk, now is your chance! [Click the link to facebook](#) or scan the QR codes to the Facebook Group and KakaoTalk Group Chat Room and connect with us instantly!



KakaoTalk Group Chat



PTA Facebook Group

Don't forget it's your last chance to send in holiday pictures and videos for the special PTA project - pictures must be submitted to the PTA via email at [pta@isbusan.org](mailto:pta@isbusan.org) . Preparations for the secondary Winter Formal are underway and we want to give a HUGE thank you to all our PTA volunteers as well as the student council!

And just as a side note, there will be no PTA meeting this month! Enjoy all the great learning opportunities going on and we'll see you next week!

