



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th January, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 20

CONTENTS

Featured Story
Whole School News
From the Head of School
From the Elementary Principal
PYP learning Focus
From the Secondary Principal
Secondary Learning Focus
From the PTA

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 2nd February - Global Play Day in the PYP
Saturday 4th February - SKAC HS Basketball at GIFS
10th - 11th February - KISAC HS Basketball at Jeju
13th-17th February - ISB Open House
17th-18th February - KISAC MS Volleyball
20th - 14th February - Home and Family Languages Week
Tuesday 21st February - SKAC ES Volleyball Final at AIS
Friday 24th February - End of Season 2 After School Activities

Featured Story



A huge congratulations to grade 4 for an energetic and dazzling performance of 'You Are Special'. As part of the Grade 4 *How We Express Ourselves* unit, students inquired into how people create and perform together.

All students spoke clearly on stage, sang with enthusiasm, and worked together to organize the props and staging for the production. **We Are Special** was an uplifting story about being yourself, trying your best, and being kind to everyone. Well done, Grade 4!



ISB
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN
Est. 1983

OPEN HOUSE

February 13th - 17th 2023

By Appointment Only

admissions@isbusan.org
Tel. 051-720-1100
www.isbusan.org

International Council of Schools (ICS)
Fully Accredited by OWASC
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

**BUSAN'S ONLY
IB WORLD SCHOOL**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN

It's that time of year again when ISB opens its doors to prospective families to share the amazing learning taking place across the school. We're proud to be the only school in Busan to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, which promotes critical thinking, creativity, and global citizenship. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the ISB community, please register for the International School of Busan's Open House by [completing this form](#). For more information, please call 051-720-1100 or 051-720-1101 or email us at admissions@isbusan.org.

7-a-Side Staff versus Parents Soccer Match

The first official soccer match on our brand-new AstroTurf sports field is TODAY! Teachers and parents will battle it out on the field...but who will win?

The weather is pretty chilly, but we're excited for a friendly game and lots of fun! We'll let you know who emerges victorious soon! [Check out our Instagram](#) for regular updates and ISB highlights.



Global School Play Day

[Global School Play Day](#) is back at ISB on **Thursday 2nd February**! Global School Play Day is celebrated to promote the benefits of play for people of all ages and the importance of play in child development. *"The purpose of Global Play Day is to remind us all of the importance of play in our lives, and to set aside a day to come together and play together as a community."* We look forward to a day of serious fun and healthy, happy learning!

Re-Enrolment Information

On Thursday 26th January, a re-enrolment letter from the 'Open Apply' platform was sent to all ISB parents. The letter contains a link with a survey asking you to confirm re-enrolment for the 2023-24 academic year. Both leaving and returning families should complete this survey. Completing the survey helps us to plan our programmes and resources more effectively for the 2023-24 Academic Year. It also ensures that you have confirmed your child's place at ISB. We would be very grateful if you could check your email and respond to this letter as soon as possible.



Simon McCloskey

Mask Announcement

On Friday 20th January the Ministry of Education (MOE) published [a press release](#) stating that wearing masks indoors at schools will be adjusted from 'obligatory' to 'recommended' from Monday 30th January. The MOE will share more detailed guidelines with the Busan Metropolitan City Office of Education (BMCOE) today. Those detailed guidelines will then be published and sent to schools by the BMCOE. We will share information about our updated covid protocols with you next week once we have reviewed the information sent by the BMCOE.

In the meantime, please note that **from Monday 30th January, students and staff will not be required to wear a mask indoors at school. The wearing of masks indoors is recommended but not compulsory.** We still require masks to be worn on the school buses.

Please ensure you keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell and be sure they are covid tested if they are displaying symptoms. If your child tests positive for covid, please inform our school nurse (nurse@isbusan.org) so that we can continue to monitor infection rates within our school community.

Graduation Day

Please note that the date for our Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony has been changed to **Saturday 27th May**. During an initial graduation planning meeting last week, we made the decision to move the ceremony from a weekday to the weekend. We have done this so that we can focus solely on the ceremony during the day to ensure that it is a special and memorable occasion for our graduates.



It will be more convenient for family members to attend during the weekend and all teachers will also have the opportunity to attend if the ceremony is not taking place during the school day.

Please note that the calendar is available to view on the school website in two formats - a [yearly overview](#) and a more detailed monthly [community calendar](#).

From the Elementary Principal

The cold and windy weather this week has taught us how important it is to dress for the weather so that we can still enjoy our outdoor play times. Kindergarten, Early Years 2, and Grade 1 students in particular are experts in outdoor pursuits in all weathers, with their Forest School adventures continuing through all seasons.

Meanwhile, our Grade 4 students have been honing their creative talents which were showcased in the Grade 4 production 'You Are Special', successfully performed to students and parents this week. Well done to everyone involved!



Kevin Smith

PYP Learning Focus

Decimal Demolition in Grade 5

Grade 5 continued to inquire into how to manipulate decimal numbers by saying, comparing, rounding, and adding them together. Students practised these skills by discussing what they noticed about place value patterns. They applied their skills by playing different maths games to become stronger mathematicians. There was lots of excitement in the room as they battled against each other and even "demolished" Ms. Zink!



Forest School

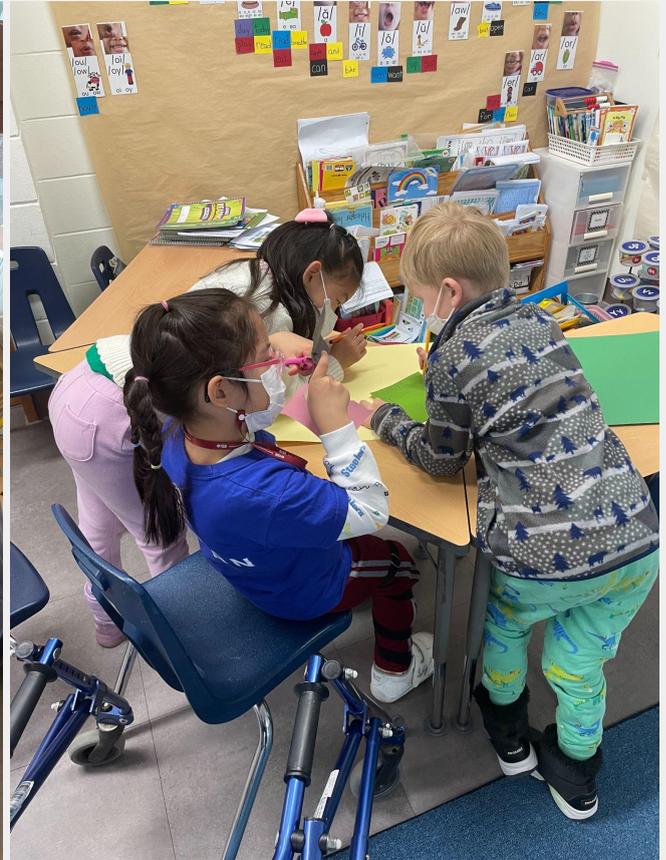
Kindergarten and grade 1 went together to forest school this week to practise counting to 100 in preparation for the upcoming 100th day of school. Students enjoyed the cold and found many ways to count to 100. They explored the island and enjoyed taking risks while sliding down the hill, as they discovered that hundreds of pine needles helped them slide further.



Grade 1 - Be a Buddy

We learned about what friendship is and what it means to us, "How can we be a good friend?"

After a group discussion, brainstorming, and roleplay we made colourful posters in groups. We talked and listened to each other's ideas and shared our own thoughts. On Friday we are going to present our posters to our class to develop our communication skills. See our caring students in action below!



From the Secondary Principal

It was lovely to welcome everyone back after a wonderful Lunar New Year holiday, even with some impressively cold days earlier this week! There was no trouble getting our students to class on time this week! As we continue this second semester and start a new lunar year, I want to remind everyone of the importance of a renewed focus on our academic goals, health and balance, as well as joy and positivity. Let us strive to make the most of this new start and take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.



Gilles Buck

Secondary Learning Focus

Parent Survey

This [short survey](#) is to find out if student needs regarding locker usage and availability are being met for our secondary school students. If you have yet to complete the survey, please speak to your child and complete the survey.

College Corner - Brand New Edition

Our college counselor, GJ Johnson, will be updating college counseling information in this section of the newsletter every other week. Here is this week's edition of the [College Counseling](#) Letter.

From Korean language & literature

Last week, the school had a holiday break called Seollal. Seollal is a traditional new year's holiday celebrated in Korea. The Korean LL class in grades 7, 8, and 9 has been very busy practising for the Seollal performance with the Korean traditional instrument 단소 (Danso). They have been practising two songs, "Arirang" (아리랑) and 'A thousand winds' (천개의 바람).



Arirang is a traditional folk song and one of the most famous songs in Korea. "A Thousand Winds" is a song that originally came from the poem *"Do not stand at my grave and weep"* by Mary Elizabeth Frye.

From the PTA

Hello from the PTA! 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! The purpose of our Facebook group is to provide an online community for parents, teachers and families at the International School of Busan (ISB). Our goal is to share information and tips, update the community on events and programmes, and showcase the achievements of students, teachers, parents, and other community members.



KakaoTalk Group Chat



PTA Facebook Group



International School of Busan, 50 Gijang-daero, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan, South Korea 46081,
Tel: +82-51-742-3332, Email: info@isbusan.org