



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 25

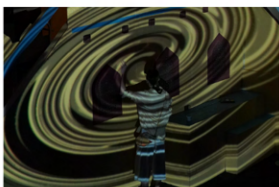
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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 10th March - Secondary Drama Production
Saturday 11th March - SAT
13th - 17th March - Grade 12 Mock Exams
Monday 13th March - Start of Season 3 After School Activities
Tuesday 14th March - Pi Day
Friday 17th March - SKAC HS Basketball Finals @ISB/BFS
Monday 20th March - Grade 12 Individual & group photo
Thursday 23rd March - DP Art Exhibition/Spring Music Concert

Featured Story



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Congratulations to the ISB Players on their wonderful performances over the past few days. The Players took to the stage for their adaptation of Salma Rushdie's 'Haroun and the Sea of Stories'. The audiences were wowed with the performances as well as the set design and lighting. Thank you to Mr Sangar for inspiring these young actors, and helping them harness their creative potential through the performing arts.

Whole School News

MYP Personal Project Showcase

Congratulations to our Grade 10 students for making the MYP Personal Project 2023 such a fantastic display of learning and dedication, and a giant success. You are inspiring, and we are so proud of you!

[Check out the event in this short video here](#) - take a tea break and enjoy!



ISB Beyond the Classroom

Head of Community Relations Ms McLuckie caught up with incoming ISB teacher Ashraf Dean to learn more about his background, what brought him to teaching, and how he feels about joining ISB at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. You can [watch the interview on our official YouTube channel!](#)



Season 3 ASA Bus Timetable

Please be advised that the Season 3 ASA (After School Activities) will start next week, and the bus timetable has been modified accordingly. There is no After School activity on Mondays, so every Monday all buses leave the school at 15:40.

Tuesday through Friday the bus runs twice, at 15:40 and 16:40. Students who finish after 16:40 must arrange their own way home. If you need to board the bus, the designated bus is available at 16:40. For Jinhae and Geoje students, the bus leaves the school at 16:40.



IB graduates enter university with a firm foundation for their degree programme - not just academically, but with excellent self-sufficiency and resilience. Each year, over 5,000 universities in more than 100 countries/territories receive IB students' admission applications and transcripts.

We are very proud of our Grade 12 students who will soon become IB graduates and head off to great universities across the globe! Here is the latest ISB university acceptance list. Stay tuned for more to follow.

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Aberystwyth University | Kingston University | The State University of New York |
| Brunel University London | Lancaster University | University of Birmingham |
| City University of London | Middlesex University | University of British Columbia |
| Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales d'Angers | Otis College of Art and Design | University of East Anglia |
| EDHEC Business School | Pennsylvania State University | University of East London |
| Edinburgh Napier University | Purdue University | University of Exeter |
| ESCP Business School | Regent's University London | University of Hong Kong |
| George Mason University | Royal Holloway University of London | University of Nottingham |
| Hong Kong University of Science and Technology | School of the Art Institute of Chicago | University of Reading |
| Institut d'Economie Scientifique et de Gestion à Lille | Seattle University | University of Southampton |
| International University of Monaco | SOAS University of London | University of Surrey |
| | St. George's University London | University of Toronto |
| | Temple University | University of Victoria |

SATs at ISB

Good luck to all of our students who will take the SAT tests tomorrow, Saturday 11th March. We have every faith that you'll do a great job in not only getting the scores you're aiming for, but in making us, and more importantly yourselves, very proud. Get a good night's sleep, take some deep breaths, relax and go for it!

Our students are now all busy rehearsing for the ISB Spring Music Concert. Students from both the Elementary and Secondary Schools will feature. The ISB Orchestra will also be performing. The concert will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd March. We hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate the musical talents of our students!



Save the Date

This year our annual summer charity fundraiser will take place on Friday 9th June. The organisation that our school has chosen to support this year is 'Against Malaria'. Malaria is the world's third most deadly disease for young children between the ages of one month and 5 years, following pneumonia and diarrhoea.

- Malaria is totally preventable and treatable.
- Prevention is cheaper than treatment.
- The most effective means of prevention is sleeping under a mosquito net.

The Against Malaria Foundation provides funding for long-lasting insecticide-treated net distributions (for protection against malaria) in low and middle income countries. The Against Malaria Foundation has been rated as one of the most effective charities in the world by independent charity evaluators year after year since 2008. Malaria nets have saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented hundreds of millions of malaria cases since 2000. (Source: [GiveWell](#)).

The plan is for students to raise funds in House Teams by completing a 5K fun run/walk throughout the day and to collect sponsorship from family and friends. Donations can be made directly to the organisation and donors can leave a message of support on the donation page. Here is a link to the main [ISB Against Malaria Donation Page](#) which will be used for the event.

Members of the ISB community will also be invited to participate in the sponsored 5K Run (or walk) between 3.30 and 6.30 pm on that day. We hope to make this a community event with food, drinks and music provided. More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.



This week we enjoyed a fabulous dramatic production of Salman Rushdie's 'Haroun and the Sea of Stories'. I would like to thank our Drama teacher, Jonny Sanger for all the work that went on behind the scenes to make this a production that we can be proud of. This week we also enjoyed learning about our Grade 10 students' MYP Personal Projects at the MYP Personal Project Exhibition. I would like to thank our MYP Coordinator, Jenny Montague for organising the event and for supporting our students on their Personal Project journey.



Simon McCloskey



MYP Coordinator Transition Visit

This week we welcomed Solène Matsushita to ISB for a transition visit. Solène will take on the important role of MYP Coordinator from August 2023. The visit to ISB this week provided Solène with an opportunity to meet with members of our leadership and management teams. She was also able to spend time in classrooms meeting teachers and students. We hope that visit has provided Solène with the information she needs for a smooth transition to life in Busan next year.

AI@ISB Community Retreat

This week's AI@ISB Community Retreat was a great success! Students, parents, administrators and teachers gathered to share their perspectives and concerns about incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into the classroom. The discussion focused on the benefits of AI, thinking routines around the ethics of AI, and culminated in an activity to draft policies for the use of these tools moving forward at ISB. Through open and constructive dialogue, we were able to identify key considerations for ensuring the safe and responsible integration of AI in education moving forward. We will be sure to communicate the final results of the AI@ISB retreat with the community at a future date.



From the Elementary Principal

One of the characteristics of an established, accredited school is a commitment to support future educators as they build their teaching and learning experience as student teachers. This semester we have hosted and will continue to host student teachers from universities in the USA, Germany, Finland and Scotland.

Our students benefit from the diversity of adults working with them in the classrooms and the student teachers gain valuable experience of working with experienced teachers in a truly international setting.



Kevin Smith

PYP Learning Focus

Grade 1 Visit the MYP Personal Project

Grade 1 students enjoyed visiting the personal project this week. They understood that the students in grade 10 use the same approaches to learning as we do in grade 1. Hania asked, “What research did you do before you could build your drone?”



Outdoor Literacy Learning

This week, the Grade 2 students went on a treasure hunt. They were looking for inspiration in the natural environment, to help provide ideas for their story settings. The children tried to create descriptive phrases, using nouns and adjectives to record what they observed on the ISB nature trail. The students saw lots of interesting things, including: a fat, brown bud; a big, puffy bush; a long, empty road; and some sharp, spiky leaves. This is a fun learning activity that anyone can play anywhere, at any time!



Student Council Movie Event

Light flickering from the screen lighting up faces in awe in a dark room with the odd crackle and crunch of popcorn barely heard over the surround sound of the movie. This week the elementary school enjoyed a movie during the last lesson of the day. The event was organised by the student council. All student council members worked really hard to prepare and sell the popcorn for the event. They collected the money from their classes, then counted it and counted again to make sure they had it right. Then they organised their popcorn bags and had the big task of filling all the bags for their classmates. It was quite a task and a bit messy at times with popcorn everywhere, but they got it done just in time for the movie.



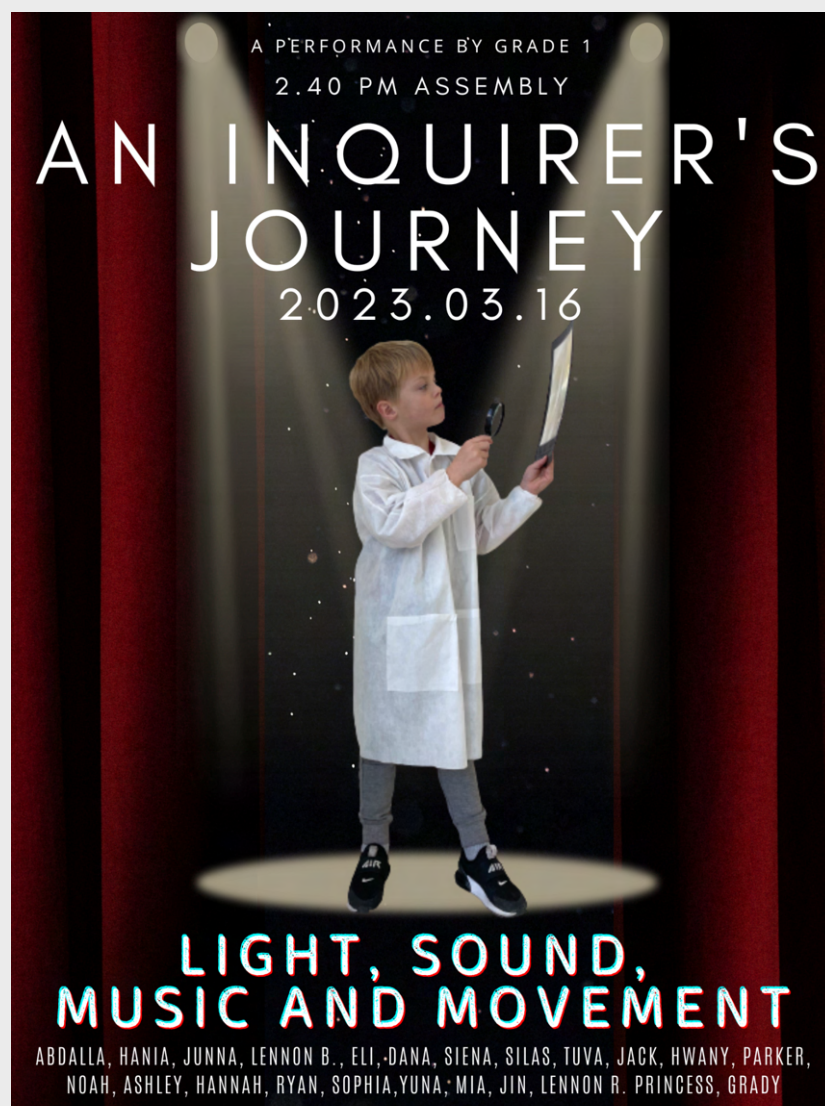
The student council collected about 140,000 won of profit from the popcorn. They have not decided what the money should go to yet, so that will be the job of the next student council. Well done Han, Yonu, Anna, Jia, Dana and Camila!

Grade 1 and 2 Learning Buddies

The Grade 1 students have been working hard to learn the words they will say in their class assembly. This week, the Grade 2 students helped their younger friends to say their sentences aloud without any reminders. The partner activity was lots of fun and everyone tried their best. This was a great way for the children to develop their communication, self-management, and social skills.



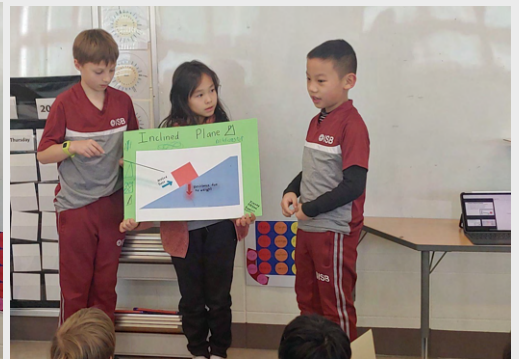
Grade 1 Assembly Performance



Grade 3 Forces & Motion

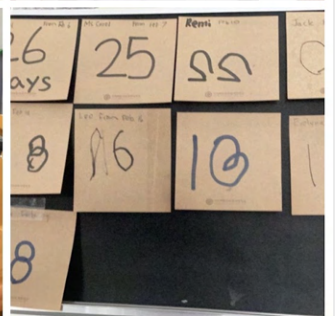
Grade 3 finished up their Unit of Inquiry about Forces and Motion. They used their knowledge of how simple machines use force to attempt to make a Rube Goldberg machine.

It's a chain reaction machine where one action sets off another. They were successful at trying to use some simple machines like inclined planes, pulleys, and seesaws in their own creations.



Early Years Visit the Science Museum

The EY2 students organised a field trip to the science museum. They discussed where to go, what they needed to prepare, who they should inform in the school, who they could invite and how many volunteers were needed. They reserved the school buses and organised the finances. Students recorded a daily countdown and organised the seating on the bus. EY1, EY2 and KG students all enjoyed the trip to the science museum and hope to go back in the summer.



From the Secondary Principal

What a week! There's always a lot of learning happening at ISB but it is not every week that so much learning is displayed, performed and explained! Our Grade 10 students explained their Personal Projects on Monday to parents, teachers, administrators and classes of both elementary and secondary students. Congratulations to the Grade 10. Many visitors as well as students and teachers enjoyed seeing the MYP Art Exhibition. The displayed Artwork showed considerable skill and interesting composition. I particularly enjoyed seeing the different products at Grade 6 all the way through Grade 10. Congratulations to all the artists!



Gilles Buck

Finally, this week also culminated in the secondary school theatre production. The actors performed the show to the middle school on Thursday morning, to the high school on Thursday afternoon and then again to the elementary students on Friday. On Friday evening, the final production was staged for parents, teachers and administrators! Congratulations to all the actors and the crew who supported the show. Of course, all of this student work is thanks to the efforts of the students themselves but also from the tireless support of our teachers. It is our teachers who work with the students to ensure their Personal Project is on track, it is our teachers who demonstrate drawing skills and support its development, it is our teachers who at times must have difficult and frank conversations to get the best for their students. Please join me in extending a big thanks to all of our teachers.

College Corner

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

Secondary Learning Focus

From the Language & Literature department

Learner Profile Attributes in Action in Language and Literature

The Language and Literature department is pleased to showcase the work and participation of our students in the classroom. Through nurturing the IB Learner Profile attributes and personalised learning, our learners have demonstrated a solid understanding of language and literary techniques. From poetry to analytical writing, our students have produced pieces of work to be proud of, showcasing their grasp of the subject matter. Additionally, their active participation in classroom discussions and group activities exhibits a passion for learning and engagement with the literature. We are excited to see their continued growth and success in the second semester.

After reading a passage from *Why Men Can't Iron* (1998), by Ann and Bill Moir, the Grade 11 DP English B students examined some assumptions made by the authors. They wanted to investigate the question "Should boys and girls be treated the same in education?"

As **INQUIRERS**, they interviewed our kindergarten teacher, Ms. Caro, and the Head of School, Mr. McCloskey. From the adults, the Grade 11 students learned about why it is important to challenge stereotypes in education and how teachers deliberately use inclusion strategies in the classroom.



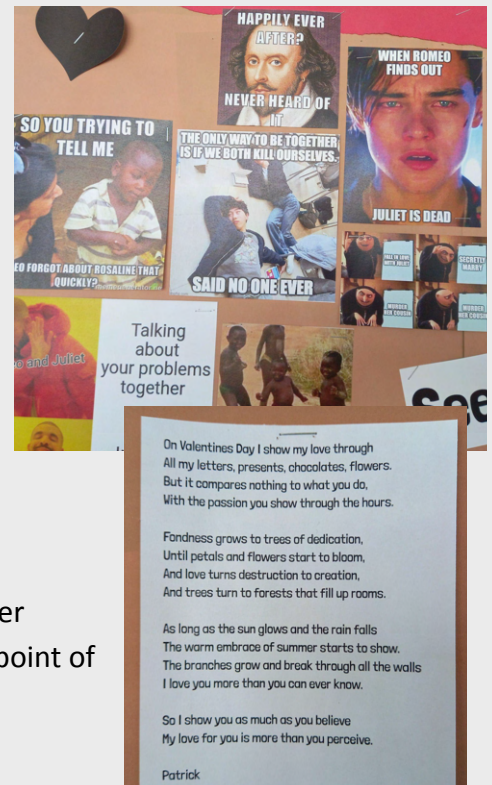
More primary research data was collected a few days later when they conducted surveys of the kindergarten students to find out how they felt about the ways boys and girls are treated.

The DP students will compile their research findings and present it to Elementary School students who are preparing for their own investigations for the PYP Exhibition.

After reading Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet aloud during class, the Grade 9 students have been working hard to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of this classic tale of love and tragedy! Students first studied English sonnets, some even managing to successfully write their own.

The pictured sonnet was the winner of the Valentine's Day sonnet contest. Students have also created memes and Tweets as a fun way of expressing key ideas from the play.

Furthermore, this week students were tasked with creating a character analysis video. In their video they had to deliver a soliloquy from the point of view of either Romeo or Juliet. The theme? Love of course!



As **RISK TAKERS**, students take chances, they put themselves out there, and this is a crucial way of advancing one's skills and gaining experience. So in the spirit of taking risks, students created some very entertaining and insightful videos in which they explored their character's opinions on love.

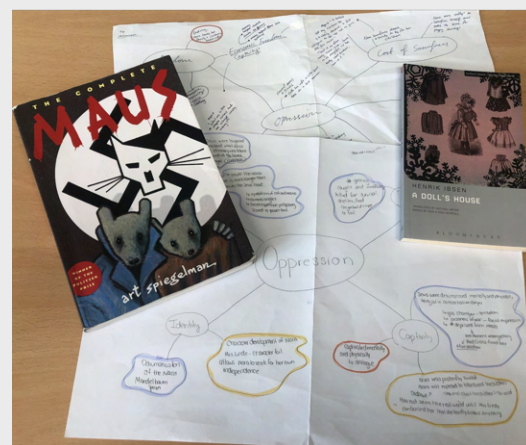
They were able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the play and the theme of this unit of inquiry. Their commitment to their roles was impressive! Lots of wigs, pencilled in facial hair, a balcony scene, fake (I think!) tears, and even a guitar-strumming Romeo!



Grade 11 English A students are currently writing their first Paper 2 response. This is a comparative essay on two literary works they have studied in class. There is a high level of complexity in this task as the students need to **think** critically on two levels: firstly by analysing examples in the works that support their ideas in response to the topic and, secondly, by comparing and contrasting the ways in which the ideas are presented in different works.

The students are **researching** new vocabulary in this task as well as investigating academic articles that improve the depth of their thinking. The register for this essay must be formal and academic, and this is a significant shift from their normal written **communication**. They are communicating to an audience of examiners and are learning to keep the needs of this specific reader in mind as they convey their ideas and build their argument.

In preparing this task, students are working both independently and collaboratively. They communicate feedback to each other in a thoughtful manner and respond to the ideas and perspectives of their peers.



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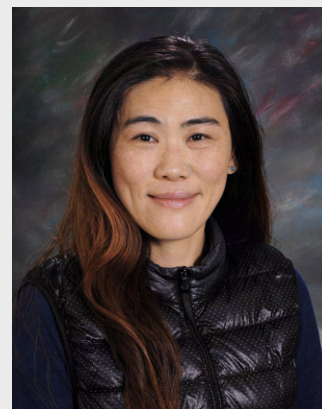
A large, expressive red handprint is the central focus, created with thick paint strokes. To the left, the words "Arbitration is hard work. There, in the heart of every man" are written in a cursive script. The entire composition is on a white background, which is part of a larger page from a book.

In Korean MYP classes, students developed their knowledge by learning new elements of literature while reading '사금파리 한 조각', '아홉살 인생', '내 영혼이 따뚫었던 날들', '소년이 온다'. After reading, students understand the background of the author and the setting of the book. Students use their knowledge to find out the author's message. Furthermore, students, through characters and conflicts in the novel, **reflect** by linking it to their personal life expanding their **knowledge** on each individual life's value and the community they are living in.



Every week we catch up with a member of our learning community. This week we interviewed **ISB Early Years Teacher, Ms Carol Lesser.**

Qualification and certifications: Early Childhood Education Diploma, B.Ed in Early Childhood Education, Graduate Diploma of Education (GDE) in Montessori, GDE in TEFL, GDE in Elementary Education, Reggio Emilia Certificate, Master of Education, Google Education level 1 and 2, and IB Workshop Leader.



Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived? I am from Taiwan. I have lived in Canada, the USA, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore and Mongolia.

What inspired you to become a teacher? My mother. She taught me how to be a caring and empathetic person who is a keen observer.

What is your educational philosophy?

I believe that children learn through play, which is their duty. I also believe that the most significant learning occurs in situations that are both meaningful and realistic. It's important to create a safe environment that allows the children to explore and foster their independence by involving and encouraging them to make their own decisions.

What made you choose ISB?

My husband and I lived in Busan (Pusan) twice before, so it was like coming back home for us. Moreover, ISB (BIFS at the time) was a great fit for me, because I believe strongly in the IB and Reggio approach, both of which Anne Sweet, the principal at the time, believed in firmly. I liked the supportive, and warm attitude of the staff who made me welcome and wanted to work with them.



What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is playing and engaging with the children and seeing the world through their eyes. Mistakes, struggles and failures are all part of the learning process. I am happy that I can be there for them by listening and providing them with a safe environment and seeing how they overcome and learn from these challenges.

What are your hobbies and interests? Dancing, going for walks and biking with my family, hanging out at the beach and going to coffee shops.

What is your favourite quote? "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."
Benjamin Franklin

"It shouldn't matter how slowly a child learns, as long as we are encouraging them not to stop."
Robert John Meehan.

Who is your most memorable teacher and why? My university professor, Ms Wie, believed in me and encouraged me to see the world. She also went above and beyond to find English resources and helped me to study English. She listened when I faced challenges and supported me when I needed it at that time.

How to Praise and Encourage Children

I hope that you are well. When praising children, now and in general, it is helpful for our words to support the idea of a “growth mindset”. Saying “You are so smart!” is of course intended to be a caring and nice compliment, but it suggests that the person is born with a gift. When doing something well, a student might interpret that as a reflection of their “smartness” rather than their effort and perseverance.

A “fixed mindset” would be a student telling themselves -when facing a challenge - “I cannot do this, I must not be talented at this therefore there is nothing I can do about it and I should just give up”.

Supporting a “growth mindset” would be to help a student realize that they have control over the results, that it is not about having a “gift” for something, but about working hard and persevering through a challenge to achieve the desired results.

This is highly empowering for students as it gives them a sense of control. A student who is developing a “growth mindset” will say to themselves: “Learning something new and becoming good at something takes time and effort. I need to keep practicing and I will figure out how to do this.”

When praising children, we can try saying: “It looks like you put a lot of effort into that!”, “Nice work! How did you do that?”, “Tell me more about your creation”, “What inspired you to do the work in that way?”.

Adapted from: Institute of Child Psychology [@instituteofchildpsych]. (2023, February 22). “Stop Saying “You’re So Smart” to Your Child”. Instagram. <https://rb.gy/k8hzyz>

For additional resources please visit the [ISB Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) page. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions.

Warm regards,
Ellenore Hibon/Whole School Counselor



From the PTA

Pi Day = Pie Day!

To multiply the fun of Pi day on Tuesday 14th March, the PTA will be handing out pies to students during Tuesday lunch time - a great addition to their regular healthy menu. You'll have to give your best estimate on what pies we'll have, but the common denominator?

They'll all be delicious! Don't bet on any remainders!

