



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th May, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 31

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IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 14th May - SKAC ES Basketball at DIS
Monday 16th - Friday 20th May - G3-G10 MAP Tests
Thursday 19th May - PYP Music Concert
Thursday 19th May - ISB Annual General Meeting
Friday 20th May - Last Day of Season 3 After School Electives
Tuesday 24th May - Graduation Day 2022!
Friday 27th May - Busan 7's Soccer Invitational

ISB Hosts Middle School Boys SKAC Basketball Tournament



2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS
CHAMPIONS



We enjoyed a brilliant day of basketball at ISB today. We hosted Busan Foreign School, Kwangju Foreign School, The International of Koje, Daegu International School and Handong International School. The Middle School Boys finished the tournament playing superbly, winning the final with an exciting game against KFS. The Boys B Team also did brilliantly, coming second in their pool. We would like to congratulate all students for some great performances and to say a huge 'thank you' to all our coaches and teachers for making this such a successful event.

ISB Hosts Middle School Boys SKAC Basketball Tournament



Pictures from today's basketball tournament at ISB.

School Improvement



Our 'new' basketball courts were completed this week! We have been renovating this space in preparation for the SKAC Middle School Basketball Tournament which took place today. We have redesigned and resurfaced the courts with a new non-slip finish and added some ISB signage to promote school identity and ISB spirit! Go Bears!

CURRICULUM
Lessons From the ISB Wellbeing Survey Data Project
 By Dale Plotzki
 International School of Busan

I don't think I can capture all of the ways in which the past two years have not been easy for any school. As a parent, pandemic, mental health, tensions, racism, culture shifts, and an ever-changing environment of technology into our personal lives have all compounded to make these incredibly stressful times for students, teachers, administrators and parents.

Like many schools, the International School of Busan rightly chose to put student wellbeing at the forefront of our whole-school goals for the 2021-2022 school year. One of the ways we would meet this goal was to conduct a social-emotional check-in with every single student at least once a month to see how they are doing. We would use these questions about their happiness, sense of stress, friendship and respect which the kids would then rate themselves on. When together these hundreds of responses would give us a window, it would also allow us to zoom in on and support specific groups and individual students who needed it.

After eight months of steady observations, we have learned some valuable lessons from the 2021-2022 Wellbeing Survey Data Project. I would like to share some of those key take-aways with you.

Lesson 1 - The kids want to talk. Personally, I thought that monthly by SEL check-in might receive a tepid response from our students. That it might be seen as a rote response to the personal life. But it quickly became clear that this was not the case. Students saw the benefit of the SEL check-in system and participated fully. Not only when given the chance to offer feedback on the program, many suggestions should be taken into account on how to make the system more meaningful and support the initiative as a whole.

Lesson 2 - Autonomy matters. A secondary benefit of the project was that it also allowed us to implement an important piece of student self-governing technology that I think every school should have: an automatic system with a data records administrator students who responded that they urgently need to talk with a counselor or who rated themselves at very low on the scales regularly get put into contact with our student support team. We found that in a few cases, students who needed support didn't even want to be contacted to make a meeting log entry for their teacher; they just went to the form and filled for help on their own! This is a powerful tool for self-advocating our kids that they themselves took ownership of.

Lesson 3 - Find the (big) gap. The survey also cemented our data points which parallels at parents and teachers of students. It is important to know that parents and teachers, in fact, there is a lingering concern about their sleep, get behavior of elementary and secondary school students that has students' head for most of the year. While a change in routine, such as a sign of normal adolescent development, it serves as a helpful reminder of the factors at play in the challenging SKAC-Covid-19 year.

Lesson 4 - Data that is available is seen. One thing to be able to see a number of good data in a spreadsheet, its another to be able to see it in a way that makes the reader to interact with and explore it. By connecting our data to Google Data Studio we were able to create powerful, user-friendly dashboards that allowed readers to make sense of the data. Compounding these helpful readers easily find answers to the questions that they were looking for. Data Studio also allows us to protect student privacy and allow for temporary user sharing and disabling the data. If we were to just have just been referring back to the spreadsheet and not charts, this project would have wound up in the back-bin of the school year by about mid-February. By presenting our data in a dynamic dashboard, it became a living, moving visual that all readers were keen to keep an eye on.

Lesson 5 - Schoolwork remains the largest stressor in our students' lives. This was the most often cited by the students from the entire project. I opened this article talking about the hard times we had survived being in schoolwork, but across the board, students reported that tests and homework are what actually give them the most amount of stress in their lives. It is worth noting that with anxiety and test school should be aware around schoolwork as much as we can (when the ball is in our end of the court) and best hope in making a tangible, positive effect on our student's wellbeing.

Lesson 6 - Homework remains the largest stressor in our students' lives. This was the most often cited by the students from the entire project. I opened this article talking about the hard times we had survived being in schoolwork, but across the board, students reported that tests and homework are what actually give them the most amount of stress in their lives. It is worth noting that with anxiety and test school should be aware around schoolwork as much as we can (when the ball is in our end of the court) and best hope in making a tangible, positive effect on our student's wellbeing.

Classwork = Homework = Friends = Teachers = Test/Exams

Classwork	Homework	Friends	Teachers	Test/Exams
0.9	1.2	0.46	0.41	1.43

So of course the question now is, what will we do with these new understandings? How will we take the initiative beyond just a fairly data project and into something that will make a material impact in our students' lives? The dashboards are now part of the wellbeing committee that is crafting a scope and sequence for how we best address student social-emotional needs at our school. By being our structural and curricular offerings of a firm foundation of student data and voice, we can be sure that we will be able to meet the needs of the challenges posed on our students in these trying times.

About the Author
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Spring 2022 Issue 37

ISB Featured in EARCOS Journal

We are delighted to be featured in the Spring Issue of the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) Journal. Dale Plotzki, our Technology and Learning Innovation Coordinator features with an excellent article titled 'Lessons from the ISB Wellbeing Survey Data Project'. You can read the article on pages 26-27 by clicking the link below.

[EARCOS Journal Spring Edition](#)

AGM Reminder

The ISB Board of Governors would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and teachers to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors. The AGM will be held at school on Thursday 19th May at 6.30 pm. One of the primary purposes for holding the AGM is for the Board and the Head of School to share with parents and teachers the current state of the school and plans for the future. Additionally, the other main purpose of the AGM is for parents to elect Board members to fill vacancies on the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is the elected body of the school that includes both parent and non-parent members.



Simon McCloskey

The Board sets the overall school policy, creates strategic plans for the future, and oversees the school finances. Board Members are voted to the Board by parents of the school, and each Board member is elected for a three-year term. If you have not yet done so, please complete your ballot before the start of the AGM Meeting on Thursday the 19th May and deposit it in the AGM Ballot Box at the Security Office at the front of school.

Covid Protocol Updates

Today your child will bring home a Covid-19 Rapid Flow Test. Students should take the test on Sunday night before returning to school on Monday 16th May. Results should be shared on the ISB Covid-19 Test Result Tracker (shared by email earlier today). Please note that this will be the last weekly screening test we send home. Please also note that mask wearing at outdoor recess will be recommended but no longer mandatory at ISB. If students wish to lower or remove masks at outdoor break times they may do so. This will take effect from Monday 16th May. Mask wearing indoors will continue to be enforced.



Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning

On Wednesday we enjoyed an informative Parent Workshop which focused on the support services available at ISB. The presentation was led by our Learning Support Coordinator, Amanda Illeperumaarachchi, with contributions from Dr. GJ Johnson (College Counsellor), Michelle Roland (Learning Support Teacher) and Chan Kim (EAL Teacher). The workshop was followed by our monthly PTA Coffee Morning.

During the meeting we made plans for 2022-23 by selecting a new PTA Board for August. We will communicate more information about this soon.

Thanks to Our PTA

On behalf of the staff at ISB, I would like to pass on my thanks to all members of the PTA who contributed to the PTA Teacher's Day treats that were provided today. Teachers enjoyed lots of delicious food in the staff lounges during break time. It's nice to feel appreciated! Thank you!

From the Elementary Principal



This week we celebrated one of the school's most important resources; the teachers. Our ISB PTA kindly prepared snacks for our teachers to enjoy on Friday, which was greatly appreciated. In the U.S., the National Education Association describes National Teacher Day, "as a day for honouring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives."



Kevin Smith

In Korea, the modern form of Teacher's Day (스승의 날), or National Teacher's Day, started in 1963 when a group of Red Cross students visited their ex-teachers in hospital. In 1965, the holiday was moved to coincide with the birthday of King Sejong the Great (1397-1450), which falls on May 15. Every year, teachers across Korea are presented with carnations. Let's show our appreciation with a heartfelt "Thank you" today!

PYP Learning Focus

Grade 4 Wax Museum

Grade 4 has been exploring people from the past who have impacted the way we live or think today. This week the students hosted a wax museum for historical figures and shared a presentation with their parents. The project is a part of the "where we are in place and time" unit. The central idea is "investigating the past helps us to understand the present." We all enjoyed some wonderful presentations and learned many new things about historical figures. [Check out this awesome video](#) made by Mr. Ben Ashley!



Grade 4 Wax Museum



Grade 4 Wax Museum



Grade 4 Wax Museum

Kindergarten Adventure in Nature

In their sharing the planet unit of inquiry, Kindergarten had some outdoor adventures in PE. The students loved the nature walk along the river and were particularly excited to see the fish.



House Activities

The house activities for this week were created by 3 of our grade 5 students who are taking action to support their PYP exhibition theme of healthy living with a particular focus on physical activity/exercise. They gave a brief speech about their action at the beginning of the activities. The students were prepared for the games in PE classes to make the process smoother. The students had a great time playing the games.



Grade 3 Shape Investigation

Grade 3 students have studied the properties of different shapes and presented their learning to the class. They applied their knowledge to create new shapes using tangrams.



Grade 2 Spelling Strategies

In Grade 2 this week, the students have been working hard to find the best ways to learn their spelling words. The children have made their own spelling cards and have created some interesting spelling activities. Students have been working independently to teach and test each other in pairs and small learning groups. In Grade 2 we think that spelling tests are fun!



New Piano

We are delighted to have a new Yamaha piano in the music department. The piano is being used in the elementary music room in addition to the 4 pianos, 2 clavichords, 4 digital pianos and 14 keyboards we already have in use in the elementary school. At nearly 4 million won this is a high quality upright acoustic piano with a beautiful tone.



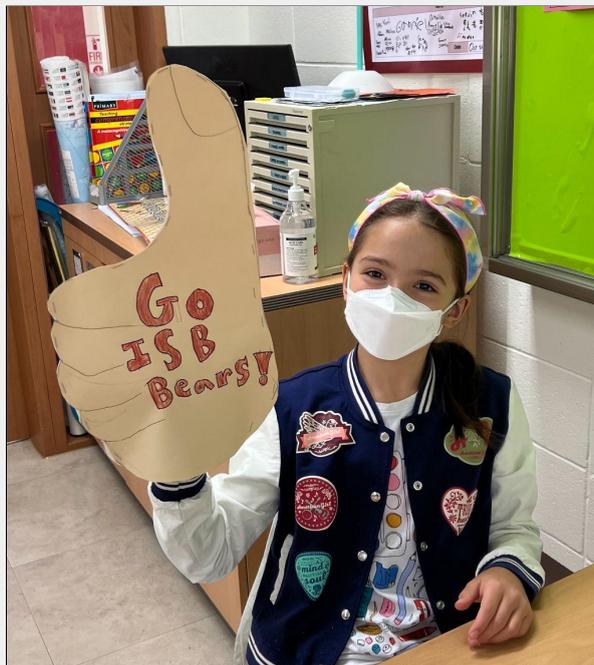
Tadpoles

The Early Years 2 students found and caught four tadpoles while we were visiting the river. The children were excited to explore how tadpoles grow, and discussed what they like to eat and how to take care of them. The EY2 children shared one tadpole with EY1 for them to investigate how it will change into a frog. The children had many interesting questions about how tadpoles live, and how they survive.



SKAC Secondary Basketball Tournament

Grade 3 joined in the fun and excitement of the ISB-hosted Basketball Tournament today by making banners and posters to cheer on the teams. Go Bears!



PYP Music Concert

Our musical elective students are busy preparing for the PYP music concert next week on Thursday 19th May. We have a few seats available for the audience so please complete [this form](#) by Monday 16th May if you would like to attend.

PYP MUSIC CONCERT
2:30PM | THURSDAY 19TH MAY | 2022



From the Secondary Principal

To wander around the Secondary buildings and grounds at break time is an adventure. You learn so much about the students at ISB. You get to see the students who race out to the soccer pitch eating their snacks enroute to play football. Often they will forgo something to eat simply for the competition - coloured pinnies are sorted out as soon as they arrive, teams are chosen on what basis I am not sure. The students run around from various grades playing as hard as they would at a tournament! It's all great fun. There are the students who move to the library to catch up on homework, read a book or seek out a quiet space on an otherwise busy day.



Al Roland

The library, for some, is a quiet haven to relax. Others will sit on the outdoor furniture and just 'hang out'. They all seem to be engaged in chatting, laughing and having fun. There are the regular basketballers who, like the soccer players, race out to compete before or during eating! They have been somewhat lost over the past week with the outdoor courts being resurfaced, though they have managed to convince teachers to take them into the gym to play. Some use the time to practice music in the music practice rooms on the fifth floor. For me to walk past the rooms is to hear the most amazing music - we have some very talented musicians. The ISB band plays sporadically but with great enthusiasm. It's a great place to walk around when you need variety.



Secondary Learning Focus

Science Department

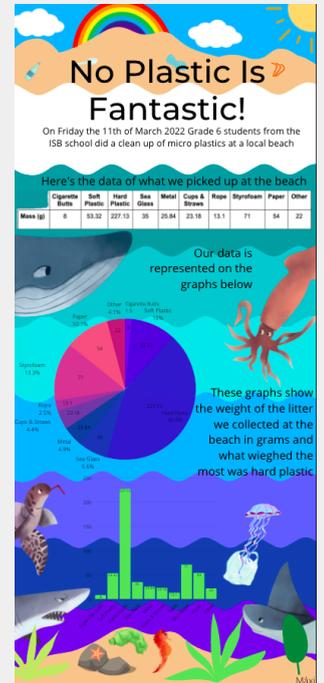
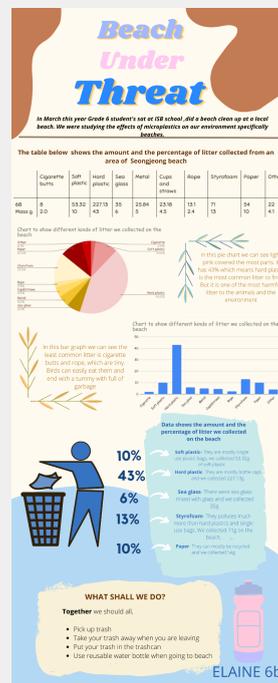
Grade 6

In Grade 6, Students completed an interdisciplinary unit (IDU) with the maths department where they collected and analyzed micro litter from nearby Songjeong Beach and presented the data as an infographic.

They also researched the effect of one of the collected micro pollutants on the environment. Below are samples of their infographics. After completing the IDU the students moved onto studying cells and reproduction in humans.

Grade 7

In grade 7 students have started a physics unit on light and



they are having a great time! They've been building shadow puppet theatres and periscopes, dissecting eyes, using ray boxes, mirrors and many types of prisms to show how lenses work. The students have enjoyed dissecting eyes, making rainbows and learning about the concepts of reflection, refraction and colours.

Images 1&2: Students making shadow theatres.

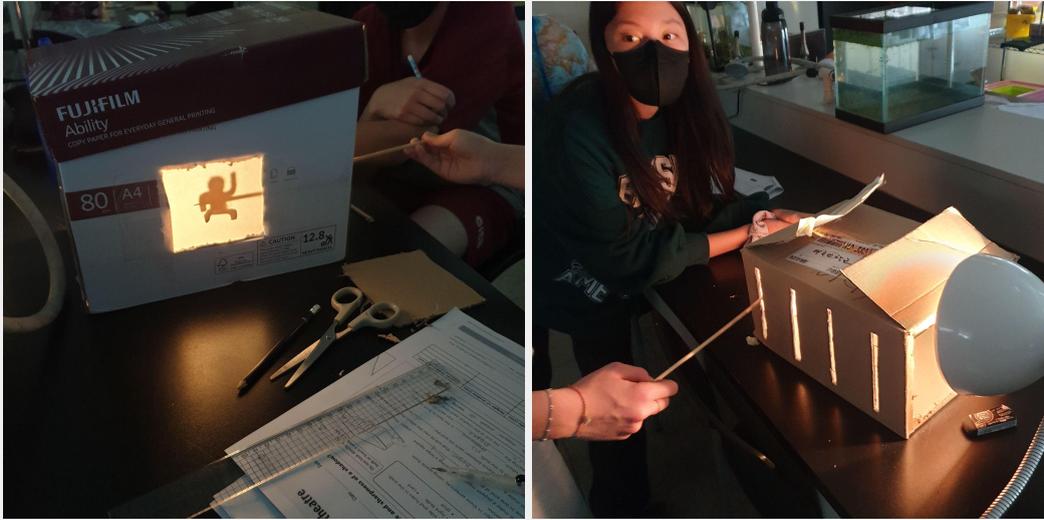


Image 3 :Eye dissection



Grade 8

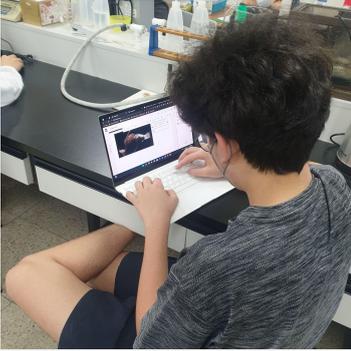
Grade 8 students completed their physics unit on motion and forces. They did many hands-on investigations to work out the speed, velocity and acceleration of varying objects and wrapped up the unit by writing an essay on how vehicles have been modified to make them more aerodynamic and therefore more efficient. [Read a couple of samples here.](#)

Image (right): Jian drops a ping-pong ball as Haruhi tries to measure it and work out its velocity.

We have now moved onto a unit focusing on Oceanography. Students completed choice boards - where they found out about many different



aspects of ocean life, engineering, currents and a host of other topics. They are now working on completing a 'passion project' where they are researching an area of interest to them that is related to the ocean! Look out for their videos, comics, puppet shows and other products!

		
<p>Phil builds a website to share information about Angler Fish.</p>	<p>Arne makes a virtual museum exhibit on melting Polar ice caps.</p>	<p>Maeve takes a dive into a tropical coral reef.</p>

Grade 9

Grade 9 Students have completed all the major assignments with the last two focussing on the environment. Students investigated the population of three different plants along the river for Criterion B + C and wrote an essay on one significant human's impact on the environment. Since the spring break they have been studying Chemistry and will complete atomic theory, the periodic table and bonding in preparation for the chemistry course next year.

Qualitative Data:



First picture - *Taraxacum* (Dandelion)
 Second picture - *Common vetch* (Pea Plant)
 Third picture - *Chrysanthemum*
 Fourth picture - set up of area, how quadrat was used

Above is an excerpt from student C. Navarro's laboratory Investigation.

Grade 10

Grade 10 completed the Newtonian mechanics units before the spring break and took a break from physics to do some ecology in preparation for the e-assessments. They produced infographics on an environmental problem of their choice as their Criterion D assignment. Below is a sample of the infographics currently displayed in the science hallway. Students are now investigating waves and the electromagnetic spectrum before moving on to the final electricity unit.



Grade 11

Grade 11 Biology have just completed a unit on Plants, which tied in perfectly with the spring weather. We looked at the structure of plants and flowers, learned about their growth relating to hormones and how they transport materials against massive pressure differences.

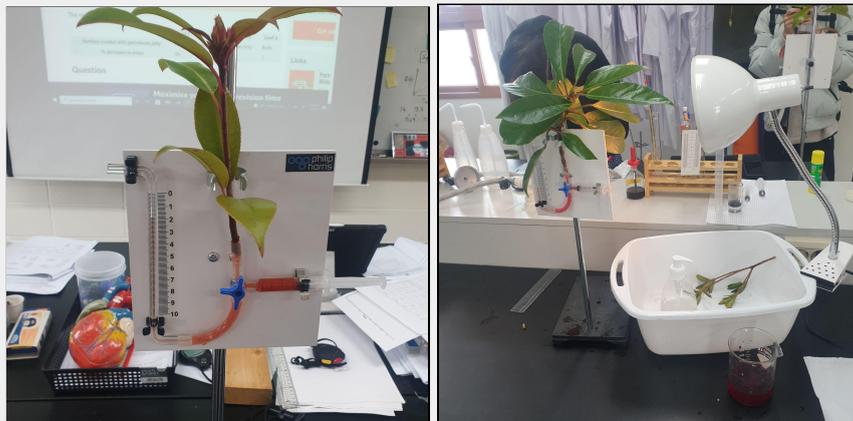


Image 1 & 2: Students set up Potometers to investigate the rate of transpiration in plants, under varying conditions.

We have now moved onto the exciting topic of Genetics and Inheritance which always makes for interesting discussions and ethical debates. The final part of the semester will be taken up with completing grade 11 exams and the Group 4 project - in which all of the students in the varying disciplines of science join together to have a debate, the topics are yet to be decided, but we've hoping for some passionate speeches!

Grade 11 Chemistry

Students have finished units on thermochemistry, chemical kinetics and equilibrium. They are now learning about acids and bases and will finish off the year with a titration experiment to determine the concentration of a weak acid.

Grade 11 Physics

The students have worked through a recent unit on electricity and magnetism. During this unit, they did a practice IA to help them prepare for the real thing next year. They are now studying a unit on thermal physics where we explore the effects of transferring heat energy. The images below are from an experiment where they had to determine what a metal block was made from by determining its specific heat capacity.



Grade 12

We said goodbye to our grade 12 students last week. We celebrated the achievements of the last two years and wished them well in the exams, which are currently underway.

ISB24 Sign Up

If you haven't already signed up for this year's ISB24 Charity Walkathon then do it now [here](#).

The event will occur on Friday 10th June, 9.00am and conclude at 9.00am Saturday morning, 11th June. It will take place at the school field.

During the day on the 10th June, students from across the school will be involved in the event - coming out in their classes to walk laps in support of the cause. Once the school day concludes, the teams will take over for the remainder of the 24 hours. The key rule is that there must be at least one representative of their team moving around the track at all stages of the event - including at 3.00am in the morning!



All money raised will be donated to [Dongnam Institute of Radiological & Medical Sciences \(DIRAMS\)](#) which is located in Gijang. All participants in the ISB24 this year will pay a 25,000 KRW Entry Fee. Included in that fee will be an ISB24 T-Shirt as well as entry to the event.

ISB24 - 'Step by Step' 은 암을 극복했거나, 현재 치료를 받고 있는 암환자들과 그들을 돌보는 사람들을 응원합니다. 또한, 암으로 세상을 떠난 이들을 떠올릴 수 있는 행사입니다. ISB 24는 암을 극복하기 위한 기금을 조성하는 뜻깊은 행사가 될 것입니다.



이번 행사는 ISB 교내 축구장에서 6월 10일(금요일) 오전 9시에 시작해서, 11일(토요일) 오전 9시에 끝납니다.

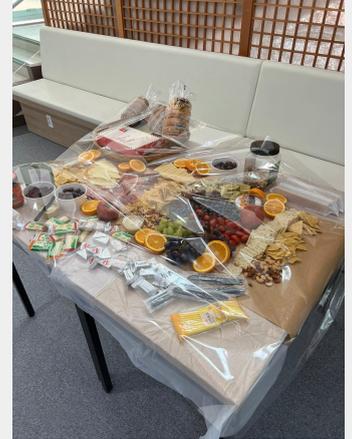
본 행사는 ISB에서 5회째 이어져 오고 있습니다. 많은 분들께서 참석해서 행사를 더욱 빛내 주시기 바랍니다. 마련된 기금은 기장군에 위치한 [동남권원자력의학원 \(DIRAMS\)](#) 로 기부될 예정입니다.

행사 날짜 및 비용에 대한 상세 설명이 있는 아래의 양식을 빠짐없이 작성해 주세요. 참가비는 2만5천원이며 참가자 전원에게 티셔츠를 드립니다. 참가비는 Mr. Roland (중고등부) 및 Mrs. Roland (초등교) 혹은 학교 체육복샵으로 직접 납부 가능합니다. (현금만 가능) 티셔츠 사이즈는 학교 스쿨샵에서 매주 월요일 및 수요일에 직접 확인 가능합니다. [온라인 신청서](#)

From the PTA

PTA Teacher Appreciation Day

Thank you to all the teachers at ISB! Today the PTA prepared some delicious snacks and treats so the teachers could take a break, refuel, and “go nuts” on the mini-buffets around the school!



MS Basketball Finals Club Sale

Here we GO! To prepare for the hunger-inducing MS Basketball finals, the Booster Club set up a stand so our athletes and supporters can grab a quick snack to keep the energy levels as high as ISB team spirit! Go bears!

