



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 21st October, 2022

Volume 4, Issue 10

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IMPORTANT DATES

24th-28th October - Fall Holiday
31st October - PTA Trunk or Treat
4th November - ISB Community Run
4th - 5th November - Chennai CHEMUN XVI (Virtual)
5th November - SKAC ES Futsal at ISB
8th November - SKAC Cross Country at DIS
11th November - End of Season 1 ASA's
11th-12th November - KISAC MS Soccer at ISB & NLCS

Featured Story



This week we had the pleasure of hosting the SKAC MS Futsal tournament here at ISB. A total of 18 teams from 6 different schools participated in a divisional tournament, where each team played the same number of games. This gave plenty of opportunities for participation and lots of fun for everyone. We look forward to the finals at Handong International School on Saturday 19th November!



ISB Community Runs

Our final ISB community run is scheduled for Friday 4th November. We are meeting at 7:00am at [Les Planches](#) Car Park in Songjeong for a 'run to school'. A shared breakfast will be served at school. Join the [ISB Community Runs mailing list](#) if you would like to run or help out.

**Elementary students are welcome to join us, but must have a parent running with them at all times.*

MS A4L Leadership Training

The middle school Anchored 4 Life team leaders participated in a virtual leadership training on Friday the 14th of October. Tami Patton, the trainee from the A4L organisation helped team leaders identify their leadership superpowers and discussed ways to further develop these skills in supporting all students across the middle school. The team leaders also practised how to run one of the many student led Social-Emotional learning activities from the A4L platform. A4L team leaders, with the support of other A4L members, plan on running their practised SEL activity with all middle school students during homeroom soon! The newly trained MS A4L team leaders are: Ellora, Kylee, Anna-Maria, Rebekah and H'sia.

Congratulations team leaders!

We look forward to your leadership in supporting student transitions in middle school



Digital Citizenship Week 2022

What a wonderful week of learning here at ISB as we celebrated Digital Citizenship Week 2022. In every classroom students had discussions about what it means to be safe, responsible and respectful online. We had age-specific lessons, creative challenges, informative chats and awesome assemblies. By promoting an active and learner-centred digital citizenship programme we are taking a big step in meeting our school's vision of helping our students become digitally literate learners.



In the elementary school students had specialised lessons on topics such as 'pausing for people', 'the internet traffic light', 'putting a stop to online meanness' and 'creating strong passwords'. Students then contextualised their learning into a drawing that asked them to show how Taeguk the Bear can be a good ISB Digital Citizen. The week culminated in the ES Digital Citizenship Week Assembly where we celebrated the work and learning of the week with a fun and interactive experience.

In secondary school students had specialised homeroom lessons on topics such as critical thinking around TikTok challenges, using social media for good, standing up to online bullies and cleaning up your digital footprint before applying to college. These were truly specific lessons that are highly applicable to the students who studied them. They put this learning into action and created a series of Public Service Announcements that we will share in an upcoming assembly.



Finally, the culminating activity for all students was the signing of the Digital Citizenship Agreement for this school year. This is a commitment we ask all students, teachers and administrators to make every year to be safe, respectful and responsible users of the schools technology infrastructure. This is the common ground of expectations and behaviours we ask all ISB members to observe to maximise their learning potential at school. I look forward to celebrating Digital Citizenship Week 2023 with all of you next year! Have a wonderful, restful break.

[Dale Plotzki](#)

Whole-School Technology and Learning Innovation Coordinator

From the Head of School

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to our awesome PTA committee for organising such a wonderful International Day on Saturday. It was a day when the entire ISB community finally came back together again. It was our first whole school community event in almost three years! It was a fantastic way to celebrate our diverse community, enjoy some great food and build understanding and community. Days like these contribute enormously to helping our school community fulfil its stated mission...



Simon McCloskey

“We are a diverse, supportive and caring community of learners committed to developing knowledgeable, open-minded and principled global citizens”.



You can watch a great video of the day on the [ISB YouTube Channel](#) (thanks to Ben Ashley).

Enjoy the Fall Holiday. We look forward to seeing students rested and recharged on Monday 31st October!

From the Whole School Counsellor

Elementary School

For children, building friendships is a process. They are learning how to interact with one another, and conflict will inevitably arise at times. There are ups and downs during this process, and feelings can get hurt sometimes. There can even be some unkind interactions between children that present golden opportunities for them to develop social skills, and emotional self-awareness, as well as an awareness of other children's emotions. Children can learn to manage their emotions and conflict, and can learn to handle difficult friendship situations with their peers.



There are strategies that we can teach our children, and practice with them that include learning how to calm down during conflict, modelling empathy, practice talking about feelings, practice brainstorming solutions, and putting together a "collection" of problem-solving strategies to resort to when conflict arises. I invite you to read the article [5 Strategies to Help Kids Resolve Conflict](#) for more details.

Kindly,
Ms. Hibon, Whole School Counsellor

From the Elementary Principal

Across the whole school this week, students have been engaged in digital citizenship week! As well as dedicated DigCit lessons, in Elementary, we held a drawing competition in which students were invited to draw and colour a picture of what they learned this week. The prompt was 'How can Taeguk be a good ISB Digital Citizen'. Students were encouraged to share their understandings about the importance of being a good digital citizen through their designs. The week culminated in our assembly on Thursday during which the work of different classes was shared. A big thank you to Mr Plotzki for helping us discover more about this important issue as we strive to become "Digitally Literate Learners" at ISB.



Kevin Smith



Rhythmic Gymnastics Champion

Congratulations to Stefania who competed in the 8th Rainbow Festival in Gimhae last weekend. She won two gold medals in the free hands and ball rhythmic gymnastics competitions.

Well done Stefania!

PTA Halloween Trunk or Treat

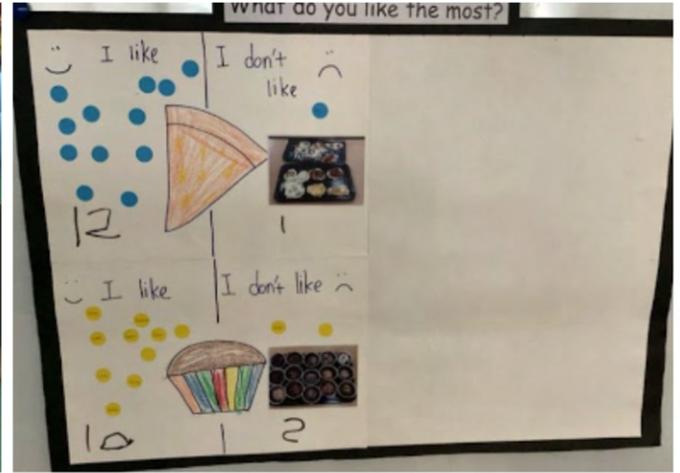
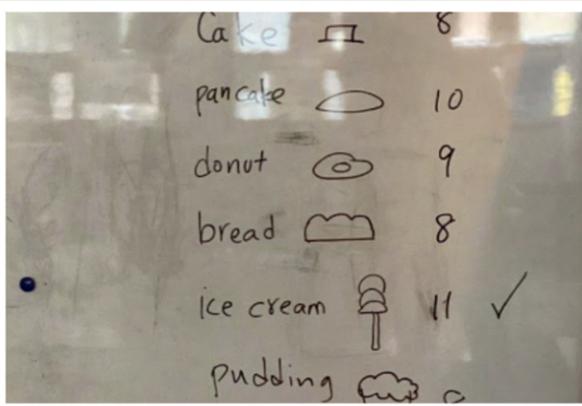
On Monday, October 31st the PTA will be hosting the Trunk or Treat Event. It's a play on the traditional Halloween battle cry 'Trick-or-Treat', where instead of calling 'round our neighbours' houses, we park our cars together, open the trunks (or boots) and decorate them with spooky Halloween decorations and lots of Halloween treats for the kids! The kids can walk around the cars shouting 'Trick or Treat' and enjoy the festivities of Halloween. At the end of the school day, students will visit the decorated cars on the playground and collect candies/sweets for Halloween. Students may dress up in a costume on this day: costumes do not need to be Halloween-themed or "scary" and we discourage any violent themes. No toy weapons will be allowed. Here are some memories from 2 years ago.



PYP Learning Focus

Early Years 2 Who We Are Inquiries

During the Who We Are Unit of inquiry, the children showed an interest in telling other children about their favourite colours. We discussed our favourite colours and found out who liked the same things. We also went on a colour hunt to start the unit. The children mentioned "rainbows" a lot while they were looking for colours in the environment. We then invited the children to investigate what a rainbow is with an experiment. We also found out what rainbow colours are with paints and watercolours. Children also talked about the food they enjoy the most. To support student agency, we followed their interest to investigate what we like to eat and who likes the same food. Through this unit, the children discovered who they are and learned to understand others, which is connected to the concept of similarities and differences with friends. They also had opportunities to count and write numbers in a meaningful way as well as express their ideas confidently.



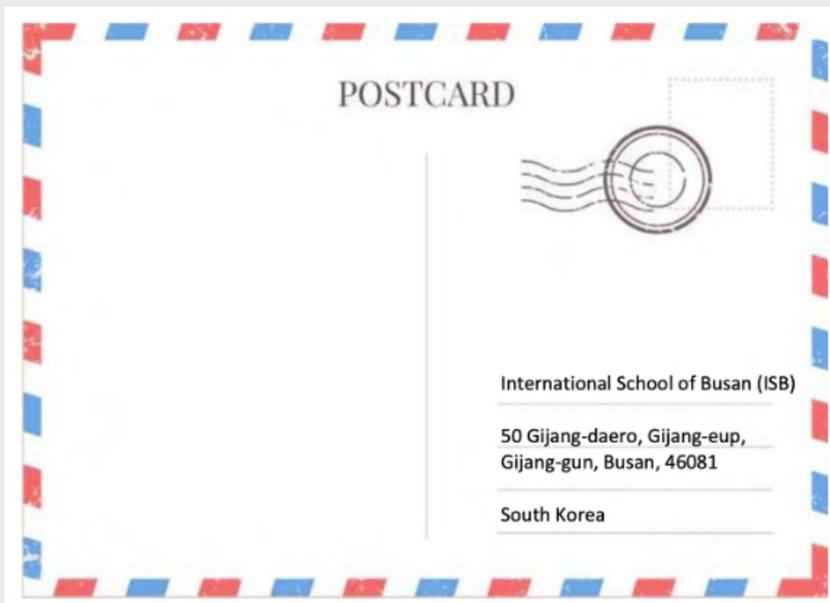
Kindergarten Press Pause

In Kindergarten we talk about pressing pause to help us transition to a new activity. This week in digital citizenship week we used the idea of "Pause, breathe and finish up." when using technology. We also talked about how what we say on the internet cannot be taken back using the example of trying to put toothpaste back in the tube. Thanks Ms Yuni and Mr Dale for helping us with our learning about being a good digital citizen.



Postcard Project

Are you travelling for fall or winter break? Do you have a minute to send a postcard? Grades 1 and 2 are starting a new project with Harvard's Project Zero called Out of Eden. [You can learn about it here](#). Help us to make connections from different places around the world by sending us a postcard in the mail from different locations. They can be from Busan to anywhere you might travel! Thank you for your support!



Grade 4 Sharing the Planet Inquiries

As a part of their inquiry into sharing the planet, Grade 4 have been working, as groups, on creating their own countries. They have 5 countries, each with their own unique characteristics and cultures. It has been a great team-building experience and students got to showcase their creativity and imagination before moving onto the next phase where they will learn about finding peaceful solutions to conflicts.



From the Secondary Principal

It was another action and learning packed week in the Secondary School. This week featured the Digital Citizenship week where students engaged in differentiated learning in each grade level regarding respectful, safe and responsible technology use. Students created Public Service Announcement videos for different aspects of the Digital Citizenship Agreement. Students could also participate in a "Fake News IS Newsletter" competition. I look forward to seeing the results that will be shared in assembly when we return from break.



Gilles Buck

Grade 11 students visited UNIST to get exposure to what high level science looks like at the University level. On Tuesday, we hosted the SKAC divisional MS futsal competition. It was wonderful seeing the action with four fields of competition. Well done to all participants and bears club members that supported with scorekeeping and other tasks.

Of course, the week ended with our Parent Teacher Student Conferences. Although at the time of writing these conferences have not yet been held, I am certain that everyone will see these conferences as a vital part of the strategy to support students with their learning journey. The objective of the meetings is not only for parents to be informed about their child's learning, growth, strengths and areas for improvement but for students to be able to articulate their learning and their strategy for how to improve further. Teachers are, of course, guides in this process and help to inform with their observations and suggestions for each student.

Finally, I know everyone is looking forward to the October break. I want to wish everyone in the ISB community a wonderful holiday. I trust it will be restful and rejuvenating for our students.

College Corner

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

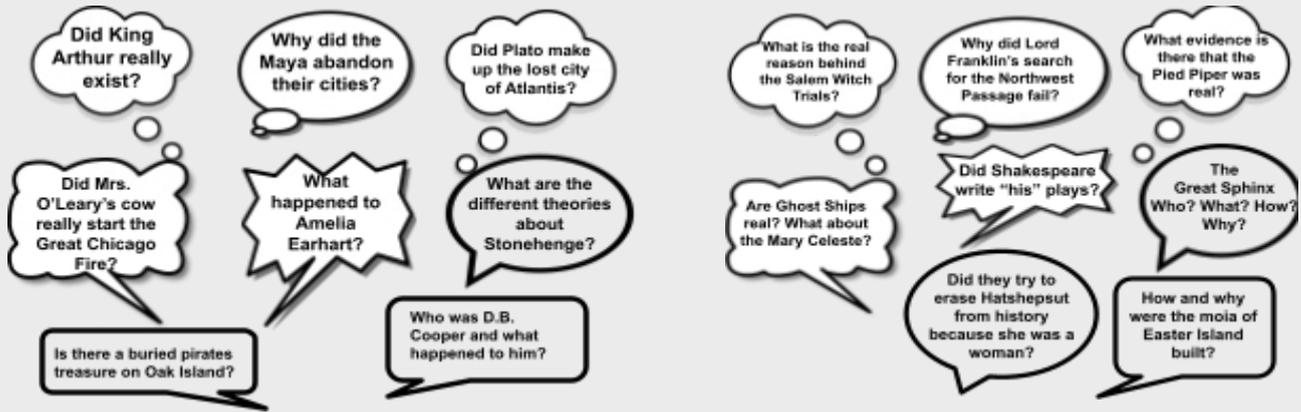
Secondary Learning Focus

From the Individuals and Societies Department

Grade 6

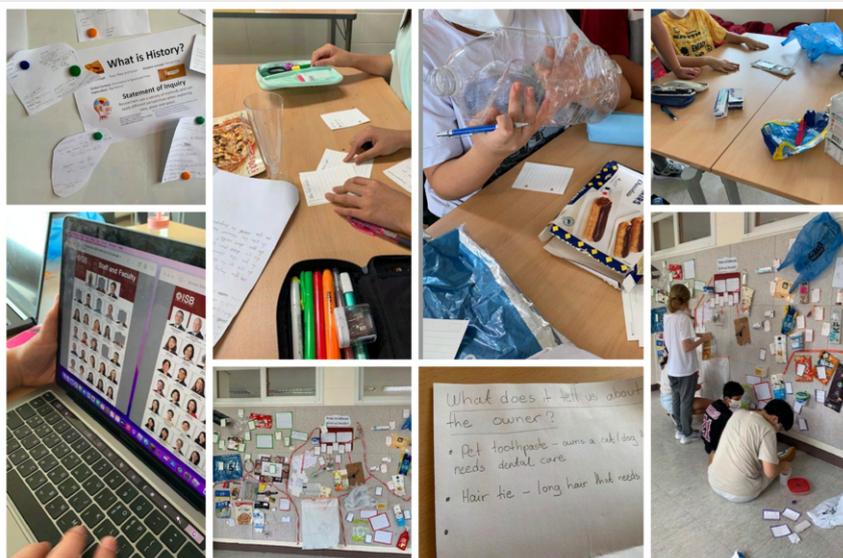
We have SO MANY questions! Grade 6 students have been exploring historical mysteries in Individuals and Societies as they learn how to think like a historian. The big idea is that historians select and use evidence to make inferences about the past. Key to that is WHAT evidence IS selected and HOW is it used to promote different theories. Students looked at the role of bias in history exploring how anti-Catholic sentiments and discounting of Inuit knowledge influenced our knowledge of the Great Chicago Fire and Lord Franklin's doomed mission to find the Northwest Passage. New archaeological techniques are helping to uncover why the Maya cities were abandoned and what happened to the lost colonists of Roanoke. Students are also examining how historians can see the same evidence and disagree with each other and why and how

historians change their minds. Most of all, students are learning that history is not a closed book!



Grade 7

Grade 7 students have been working on a project related to "Does Evidence give us Truth?". In this project, they were given a bag of recycling that belonged to a teacher in Secondary school. The students had to use a number of skills when classifying the items and then writing down observations and descriptions of the 'evidence'. From the 'evidence' they drew conclusions as to what it revealed about the owner of the bag. After this, they formulated questions to ask their 'suspects'.



'Suspects' had to be 'eliminated'. Based on evidence and questioning, the students drew a conclusion as to whom the bag belonged. Finally, the main question of "Does evidence give us Truth?" was discussed in class.

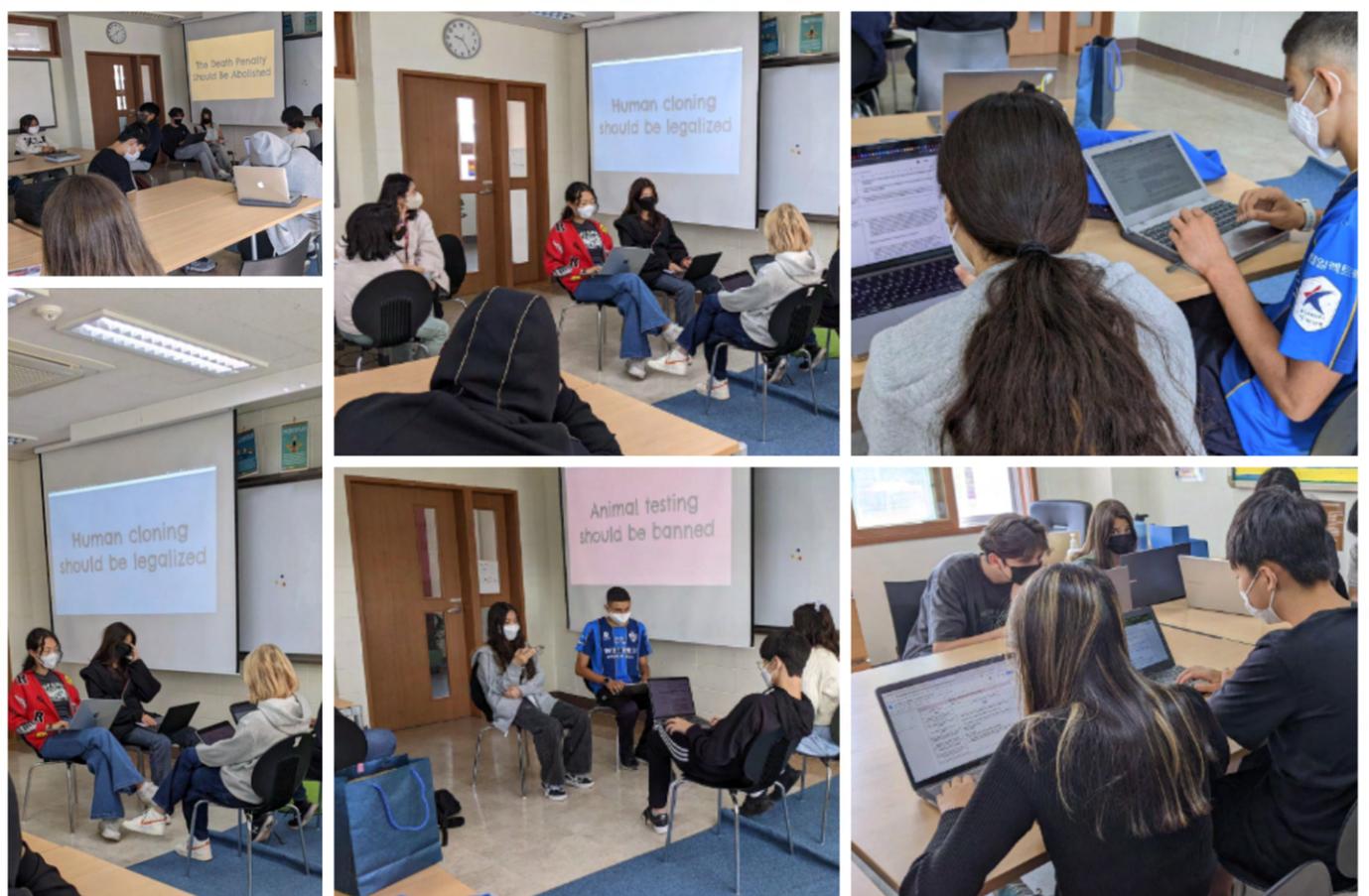
Grade 8

Students have started their Dragon's Den unit, where they will be creating their own businesses, focused on creativity, social responsibility, and sustainability. They will have to create their own logos and slogans that connect to the goals of their business. In this activity, we looked at popular slogans and logos in companies such as Amazon, Burger King, McDonalds, etc. Then, they used their creativity to reimagine the logos and create new slogans that invite the customer in.



Grade 9

As an introduction to their Model United Nations unit, students were given the opportunity to debate a social or political issue that is currently being discussed around the world. Using their research, communication, and thinking skills, students worked in groups of two to either be 'for' or 'against' a specific topic. They also had to find real world contemporary examples of their topic. After conducting research, they went in front of the class to argue their points. Some topic examples are: "Human cloning should be legalised" and "Everyone should be a vegetarian".



Grade 10

Grade 10 has been working on their Cold War unit, focusing on power, propaganda, and innovation. For the past week, they've been looking at how perspective and political agendas can influence the messages that we see and hear from artefacts.

In this activity, they looked at political cartoons discussing the Iranian protests and the modern day Cold War to learn about how persuasion, bias, and propaganda apply in our current world.



Grade 11 Economics

Students are currently learning about market equilibrium through the handshake market experiment. The objectives of the activity are (a) to identify how prices are determined in a market; (b) to predict the results of changes in a market, and (c) to apply effective negotiation skills in the process of exchanging handshakes between buyers and sellers.



A screenshot of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) website. The header includes the IMF logo, navigation links like 'Home', 'About the IMF', 'Research', 'Country Info', 'News', 'Videos', 'Data and Statistics', and 'Publications'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large graphic titled 'TRADING Around the World' with images of various commodities like oil barrels, cows, bananas, and shoes. Below the graphic is a paragraph of text explaining international trade and a call to action to play a simulation game.

Grade 12 Economics

The global economics unit has started. Students played a simulation game called 'Trading Around the World' by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to trade commodities with different countries as if they were traders. They also had a Tic-Tac-Toe Tariff experiment to make a comparison between free trade agreements and protectionism. Students analyse real-world examples, such as the trade war between the U.S. and China, and engage in group discussions.

Grade 11 Psychology

Grade 11 students have been learning about particular parts of the brain and how we make decisions. In this topic, there were 4 Lessons to better understand what's going on in their minds when making a decision:

- Lesson 2.2 (a): Judgement, Processing, and Decision-making
- Lesson 2.2 (b): The Dual Process Model of Decision-making
- Lesson 2.2 (c): PFC Damage and Decision-making
- Lesson 2.2 (d): Processing and Decision-making while Gambling

And, each lesson is accompanied by 3 Guiding Questions (below) as the focal point of the lesson. These questions are basic “Knowing” content (green) to “Understanding” and explaining (orange) to “Critical Thinking” (red). Below you can see students working in pairs reviewing the Guiding Questions from the day’s lesson.

Today’s Guiding Questions

Describe: What is the dual processing model of decision-making?	KNOWING
Explain: How can the system used in processing influence decision-making?	UNDERSTANDING
Hypothesize: How might processing and decision-making be related to criminology?	CRITICAL THINKING

Grade 12 Psychology

Grade 12 students wrote their first extended essay response (ERQ) in psychology this week and received feedback from their peers. This is a very challenging exam as they are given one question and one hour to answer! And, they do not know what the question could be, so knowledge and understanding of psychology content, ability to write clearly and succinctly, critical thinking ability, as well as time-management increase the demands of writing quality. Here you can see some relieved students demonstrating their 3- to 5-page written responses.



From the Design Department

Our Grade 7 Design students have started the year off very well - taking a more critical and closer look at the components of the MYP so that they can teach it to Grade 5 and 6 students. Our first unit is based on the idea of creating movie tutorials about the MYP - using their wisdom to help incoming Grade 6 and current Grade 5 students - easing the transition to Secondary. Our Grade 7 students are also learning about movie storyboarding, and editing techniques (with a focus on the 'Cut on Action' technique). We also take a careful look at what makes a good video for our target audience? Use of humour? Dialogue? Subtitles? Simplicity? The students have really enjoyed their studies to this point - and we look forward to seeing what final products (movies) they make in the coming month! Great start to the year Grade 7!



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.



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in International Day. The participation of so many ISB community members made the event a huge success!

Coming soon!



[Click here to sign-up and support Trunk or Treat!](#)



On Saturday 5th November, we will be hosting the SKAC Elementary Soccer Tournament. If you are able to volunteer on our concessions stand please email pta@isbusan.org.

