



The Bear Essentials

The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter



Thursday 8th September, 2022

Volume 4, Issue 4

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday 9th September - Chuseok Holiday
- Monday 12th September - Chuseok Holiday
- Tuesday 13th September - PD Day (School Closed)
- Monday 19th September - School Portrait Photo Week
- Friday 23rd September - SKAC Elementary Soccer at HIS
- Tuesday 27th September - ISB Open House
- Friday 7th October - PYP Sports Camp

Featured Story



Happy Chuseok to our ISB community! Holiday celebrations have been going on since early morning, with a special event organized by the PTA and staff for the elementary school students. We had a traditional wrestling match '씨름', a huge circle of the traditional dance Ganggangsullae '강강술래' and many of our students came dressed in traditional Hanbok 한복. Have a look in the whole school news section for our Whole School Assembly and on [social media for a short video of our elementary recess activities!](#) Wishing everyone a healthy, happy Chuseok Celebration! **Please remember the school office will be closed between September 9th and September 12th. Students are back on campus on Wednesday September 14th.**

Whole School News - Chuseok Assembly





The first ISB community run will take place on Saturday 10th September at Haeundae Beach. We are meeting at 7:30am on the beach side of Pale de Cz. Students please [register](#) to take part. Join our [mailing list](#) for information about future runs. *Elementary students are welcome to join us, but must have a parent running with them at all times.



Pret-a-Portrait will be visiting the school between Monday 19th September 19th and Friday 23rd September to take fun, professional pictures of the students. The photographers will capture class pictures and a range of portraits of each student. The schedule for individual photos for each student grade is shared below, so please make sure to have students dressed appropriately for their school photographs.

On the day your child has their picture taken they will bring home a card which tells you how you can view them. Pre-register your details when you receive this card and Pret-a-Portrait will email you when your pictures are ready. Orders can be placed via their website online at www.pret-a-portrait.net, and they also have a Korea-based customer service representative on hand to assist with any enquiries that you may have.

Physical orders such as prints and framed items will be shipped out within 10 working days and are delivered to the school for you to collect. If you choose to order digital files, these will be emailed to you within days where you can share, upload or print at your leisure. You can view the full range of products in advance via the Pret-a-Portrait website: www.pret-a-portrait.net. Please see the schedule for individual photos for each student grade below. The individual photos will be used for this year's yearbook.

DATE	CLASS
Monday Sep 19th, 2022	EY1, EY2, G2, G7B, G10B
Tuesday Sep 20th, 2022	G1, G3, G8B, G6R&B
Wednesday Sep 21st, 2022	Kindy, G5, G7R, G9R, G9B, G11, G12
Thursday Sep 22nd , 2022	G8R
Friday Sep 23th, 2022	G4

If you have questions about your pictures or about how to order, please contact: cs.korea@pret-a-portrait.net

Eco Schools Activities

Typhoon Hinnamnor struck Busan this past Tuesday leaving a trail of trash in its wake. The Haeundae District Office put out an urgent request for volunteers to help clean up local beaches (Haeundae and Songjeong Beaches). Not to fear... the ISB Eco Club to the rescue! This Thursday, members of the middle and high school Eco Clubs joined other volunteers from the local community to clean up our neighborhood (Songjeong Beach).



Below you can see before and after pictures of the clean-up, as well as Eco Club members (Kate, H'sia, Nitta, Antonio, Ms. Vaughan, and Mr. Johnson in action. GO ISB ECO CLUB!



Go green, keep it clean!

From the Head of School

Fortunately, Typhoon Hinnamnor only caused superficial damage to the ISB campus early on Tuesday morning. As the storm passed and the sky turned blue, our support staff spent the day making sure that the school grounds were clean and safe for the return of students on Wednesday. Although we hope not to return to virtual learning any time soon, it is reassuring to know that the students and the teaching team here at school have the capability to switch to a virtual learning environment at very short notice. I would like to thank our teachers for their flexibility, adaptability and positivity.



Simon McCloskey

The feedback I received indicated that the day of virtual learning on Tuesday was largely a success. It is now great to have everyone safely back on campus! Please note that the school is closed for the Chuseok Holiday. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Wednesday 14th September**.



Blue skies on campus after Typhoon Hinnamnor passes

International Day

We are all looking forward to the first major whole-school community event since the Covid pandemic. International Day takes place on **Saturday 15th October**. [Be sure to click this link to find out more and see how you can get involved!](#)

Message from Elementary Principal

The outdoor learning environment at ISB is an important part of the teaching and learning that takes place in the PYP. Part of that includes the areas located close to the school including the river, mountain and forest. Another is the environment on the campus itself. Last week we added a new piece of playground equipment for the students to enjoy during their playtimes. This week, students have been exploring the Rope Bridge and testing their balancing skills as they walk across. More playground additions are coming soon, so watch this space!



Kevin Smith



ES Sports Camp

There is one more week to sign up for sports camp. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will participate in different sporting tournaments and then have the choice of either sleeping at home, or sleeping at school for a fun overnight experience with friends.

To encourage independence, fitness and friendship, the sports camp is device free!

Sign up closes on midnight of the 16th September: [ES Sports Camp Sign Up](#)

A red-bordered advertisement for the Elementary Sports Camp. It features a photo of a soccer field with students playing, the ISB logo, and the text: "7th-8th October, 2022 ELEMENTARY SPORTS CAMP Promoting teamwork, fitness, friendship and fun! An enjoyable overnight experience for students in Grades 3-5".

PYP Libraries

Before the summer break, the ES Library introduced a Summer Reading BINGO program to students. These activities encouraged students to access a variety of genres and fun ways to read. Great job! The following students completed their Summer Reading BINGO and got their prizes.



Korean Classes

Chuseok is the Korean Harvest Festival. Korean people celebrate their harvest during the Chuseok holiday. All the Elementary students celebrated Chuseok this week. They tried Hanbok (traditional clothes), danced Ganggangsullae (circle dance), made Songpyeon (rice cake), and played traditional games, Ssireum (wrestling) and Juldarigi (tug of war). Grade 4 students learned how to play Jang Gu, a Korean traditional drum and they are so excited to present this during the Chuseok assembly.



Grade 1 Inquire into Communities

Grade 1 had time to explore nature and build a community. After their exploration time students were inspired to make a list of all of the buildings and places that they would want to add to their community. As they create their community we will begin to inquire about how people will move from place to place. This will become their inquiry into transportation systems.



Chuseok Recess

On Thursday, the Elementary school enjoyed a special Chuseok Recess time organised by our wonderful PTA and Korean Department. Mr Byrne and Mr Kruger battled it out in a fun Korean wrestling match (Ssireum) followed by the students enjoying the traditional Korean Chuseok Ganggangsullae (circle dance). What a fun way to celebrate Chuseok!



From the Secondary Principal

This week started with concerns over the landfall of Typhoon Hinnamnor ended with glorious weather and a wonderful whole school assembly celebrating the Chuseok holiday. I was impressed with our teachers and students' ability to seamlessly switch to our virtual learning environment. Dropping into many online classes, I was able to see rich conversations and learning activities happening. I would like to extend a warm congratulations to our teachers and learners alike for their efforts in ensuring that no school day goes to waste!



Gilles Buck

This week was also challenging as our Grade 6 - 10 students completed three MAP tests in Mathematics, Language Use and Reading. Due to the typhoon, we needed to reschedule sessions but again the flexibility of our team meant we were able to complete these tests this week for all but our absent students. The MAP data is used by secondary school teachers to properly support and differentiate instruction for each of our students. We also use MAP data to measure growth over time in our students.

A number of our secondary school students and teachers were able to support the Haeundae City Council and help cleanup the beach of debris from the typhoon on Thursday afternoon. When the city council asked for our help, we were able to respond quickly!

The typhoon, MAP testing and Chuseok means that this week was anything but routine. Nonetheless, learning activities and expectations continue in our classes and our students and teachers rise to the challenge of managing multiple events in a short week. Thus, this week's focus was managing change, being flexible and working through challenges!

Secondary Learning Focus

From the Mathematics Department

Our school's MYP mathematics program strives to provide mathematical success for all students. In support of this goal, our program provides a framework in which our students build on the knowledge and skills attained in previous grades through inquiry-based lessons. To achieve this, these skills are consistently reinforced and applied to more complex problem solving.

Grade 6

In the first few weeks, the emphasis in Grade 6 mathematics has been on developing fluency and flexibility in number sense, mathematical computation and thinking. To strengthen their number sense and computation, students played games such as Digit Draw and Krypto. Here's a challenge: use the digits 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9 (must use all of them and can only use them once) to create all the numbers from 20 to 30. To work on their mathematical thinking, students went back to a time before writing and numbers to find a method for shepherds to make sure they began and ended the day with the same amount of sheep. Later, in Individuals and Societies, students will explore the connection between mathematics and trade in settled societies. Students also worked together to solve a Fermi Question, a question that has no real solution, to determine how many balloons it would take to fill our classroom.



Grade 7

We began the year by looking at integers with a focus on their real world applications. Students displayed their understanding by applying it to geography (latitude, longitude, altitude and depth, the coordinate grid and global positioning), consumer mathematics(price fluctuations, inflation), investments(share prices and the stock market) and, this year being the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, astronomy and space exploration.

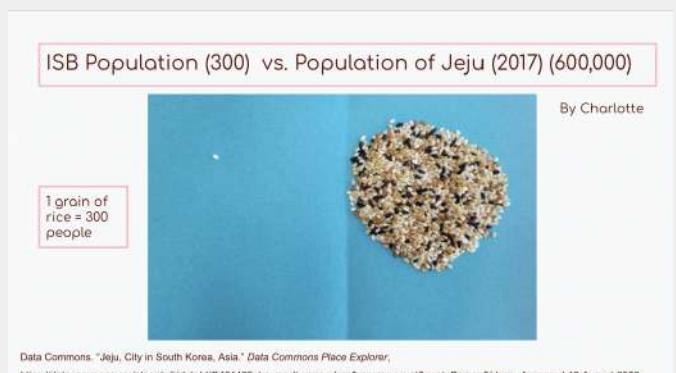
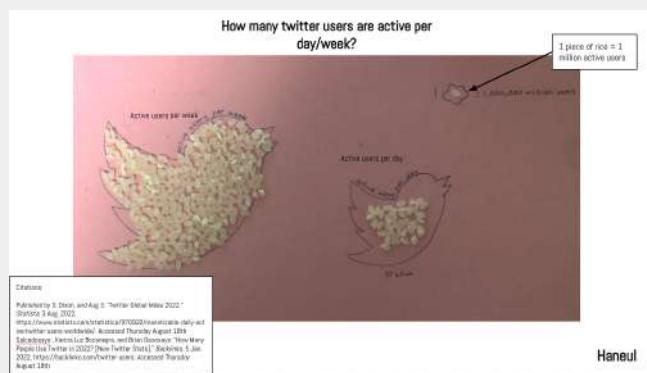
Grade 7 students were given situations where they had to apply and explain the conflict of different time zones, temperature fluctuations, financial markets volatility and how it affects people from country to country. In this way it is hoped they obtained a deeper understanding of integers and developed a real life appreciation of how integers are present in everyday life.

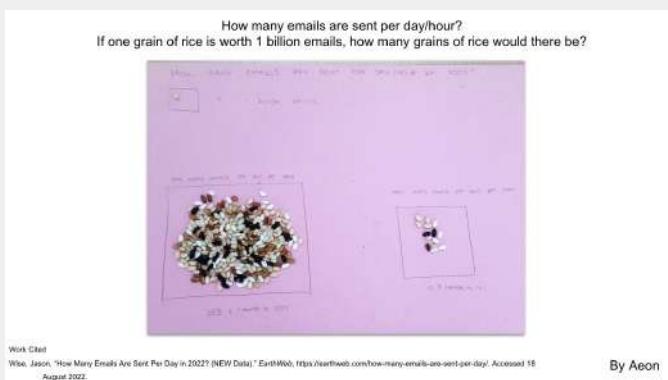


Grade 8

How do we make sense of big and small numbers?

Students in grade 8 have kicked off the year by visualising big and small numbers they see in the real world. They have been able to compare quantities to understand better their size. Students have explored a variety of numbers, from military spending, to population to social media. They have presented their final work in a Slideshow and have been making sure to cite information correctly.





Grade 9

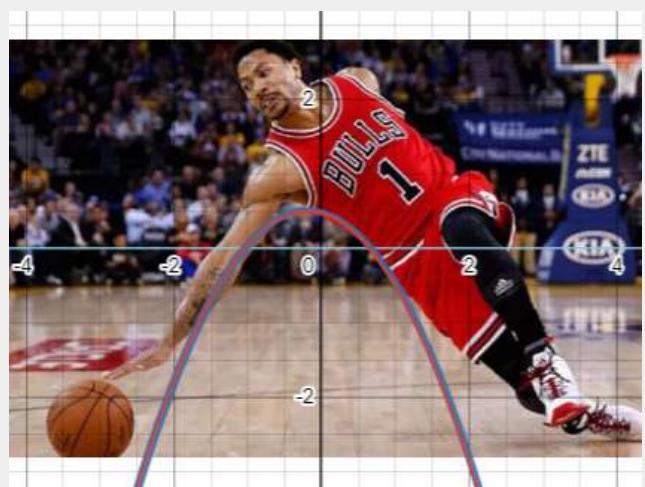
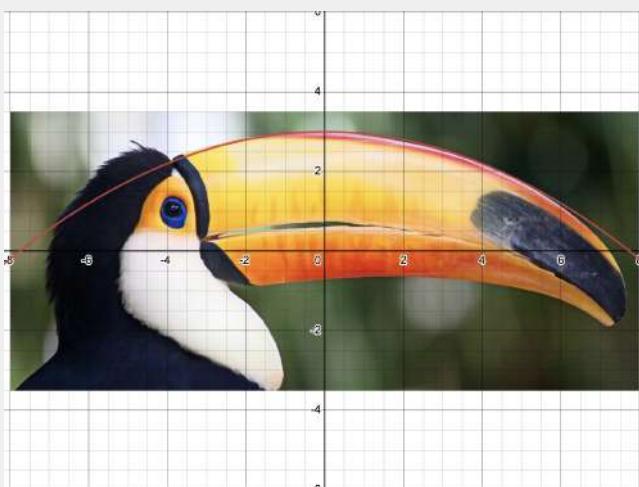
Can you cut out a shape by folding a paper and making only a single cut? Grade 9 students were given a challenge to cut triangles and quadrilaterals out of a paper using a single cut. They had to use their logic and critical thinking skills to figure out how they would fold the paper to be able to cut the shape desired. This activity introduced them to their current unit on *Coordinate Geometry* in which they will learn how lines are used in the real world.

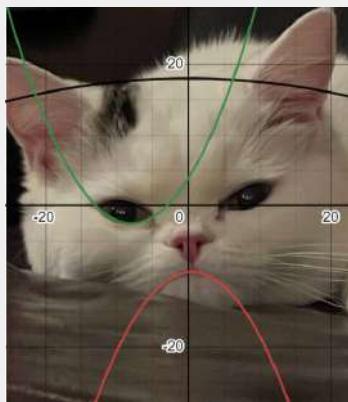


Grade 10

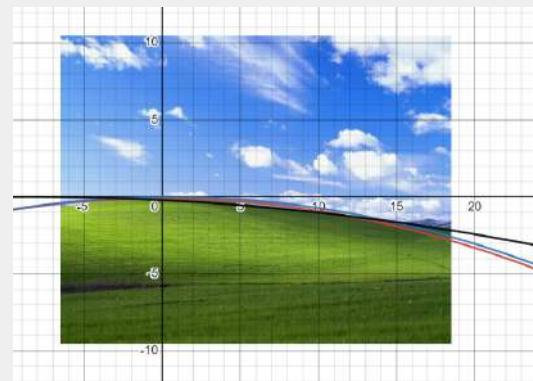
Where do we see parabolas in the real world?

The Grade 10 students have been exploring parabolas in the real world to introduce their unit on Quadratic Functions. They have been looking into the fit of curves on specific pictures and have reflected on how appropriate their model is. They will continue developing their algebraic skills in this unit to be able to apply them in a modelling application task at the end of the unit.





By Emma

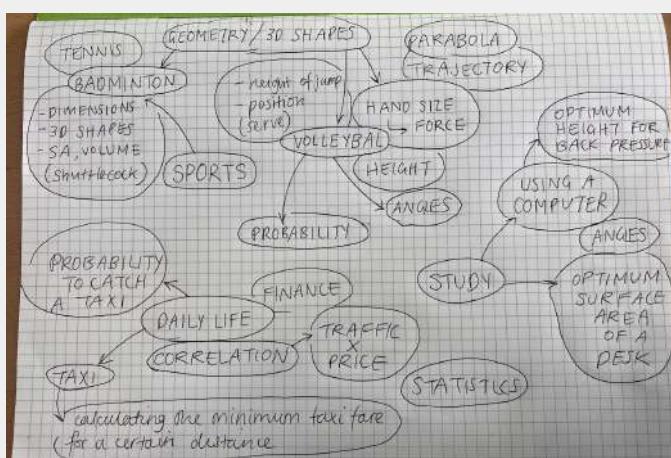


By Minje

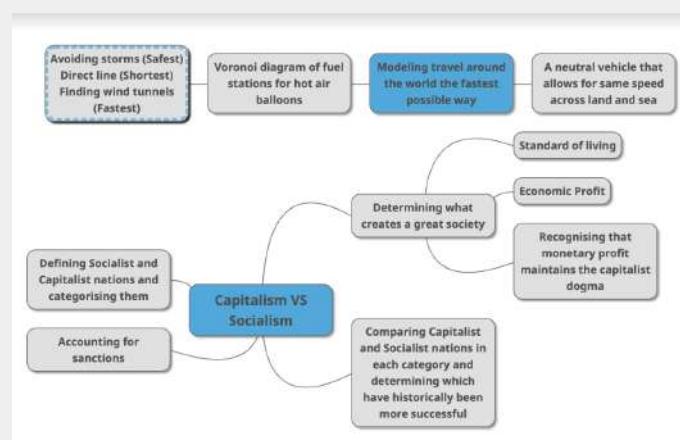
Diploma Classes

How can we mathematically explore a topic of our choice?

The grade 12 students have now embarked on the final step of their journey in the mathematics class by choosing a topic for their Internal Assessment. They have created mindmaps to develop connections between an interest of theirs and mathematics they learn in the curriculum. Across mathematics AA and AI SL and HL, many of those topics include connections to other subjects and vary from designing Starbucks cups and catapults to deciding whether Jack in the Titanic could have fit on the door. Students are now starting the process of writing more about the approach they are thinking and will soon analyse their results and draw conclusions.



By Jenny



By Joe



After School Activities

Our ASA programme is now in full swing. It is great to see the wide range of activities available for students.

Here are our students enjoying the climbing and bouldering After School Activity this week.

Each week we feature an ISB Teacher in our newsletter.

This week we interviewed **Jennifer Fenton**.

Qualification and certifications: Bachelor of Education and a MA in International Education, Trained IB PYP workshop leader and a SENIA certified teacher

What is your role at ISB? I am the PYP Coordinator and a Learning Support teacher for the Elementary School.



Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived? I am originally from Canada, where I grew up, began my teaching career and started my family. When my children were young (5 and 7) we moved for a one year sabbatical to Mombasa, Kenya. However, we loved the experience so much we stayed on for 5 years. After Kenya we moved to Hong Kong and then on to Geneva, Switzerland, where both of my children graduated from IB programmes. My children are now living in Canada and going to university and my husband and I are very excited to be back in Asia and living in Busan.

What inspired you to become a teacher? I have always been curious about how people learn and what conditions are best for learning. It struck me that some of the schools I attended were not necessarily the best places for learning, but that a great teacher could make all the difference. I wanted to explore that and be able to make a positive difference in the lives of children by helping to change the ways in which schools support learners.

What is your educational philosophy? I believe every child has the right to learn in an environment that inspires and empowers them to reach their full potential. As an educator I strive to create learning communities that nurture agency, where learner voice is integral to the decisions that are made in a school. I believe that such communities foster the development of critical and creative young people who have the skills, dispositions and competences to ethically tackle challenges they encounter and who understand the need to find sustainable solutions for a more just and peaceful world.

What made you choose ISB? I am inspired by the vision and mission of ISB and want to be a part of a community whose beliefs and values are so closely aligned to my own.

What is the best part of your job? I have opportunities to collaborate with all of the teachers in the Elementary School as well as teaching classes and getting to know all of the students, and hopefully their families as well.

What are your hobbies and interests? I love to hike and have time in nature. I enjoy golfing, sewing (quilting and craft projects - not garments), cooking, drawing, travelling, trying to learn new languages and creating projects in Scratch.

What is your favourite quote? *“...people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”* Maya Angelou

What is the impact you'd like to have on the world? I hope that I will be remembered as kind, helpful and generous with my time. In this small way I hope the impact is kindness and generosity played forward.

From the PTA

International Day



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



We are unified and respectful in our diversity.

International Day at ISB is on Saturday, October 15, 2022!

ISB is a learning community with nearly 40 countries represented. International Day gives everyone the opportunity to showcase what makes their country unique. The participation of parent and family volunteers are the critical piece to make this event a success!

[Click this link to find out more and see how you can get involved!](#)



Share Your Musical Talents

If you would like to share your talents and take to the stage with a musical performance during our International Day you are also very welcome to contribute. Please contact Ms. Olga van Doorn, our Whole School Creative Arts Coordinator with your suggestions (ovandoorn@isbusan.org).

Fully Accredited by



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