



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th February, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 21

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13th - 17th February - ISB Open House
16th February - MUN conference on Jeju
17th - 18th February - KISAC MS Volleyball
20th - 24th February - Home and Family Languages Week
Tuesday 21st February - SKAC ES Volleyball Final at AIS
Wednesday 22nd February - Parent Workshop
Friday 24th February - End of Season 2 After School Activities
Wednesday 1st March - Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

Featured Story



Our high school basketball teams travelled to Sacheon over the weekend for the first leg of the SKAC basketball tournament held at Gyeongnam International Foreign School. It was a fantastic experience for our teams, with all our players having a chance to showcase their skills. With more tournaments and games coming up over the next few weeks, spirits are high and the team is charged up and ready to go! The teams are in Jeju this weekend to compete in the KISAC tournament, which promises to be a fun and exciting basketball experience. We wish our teams every success! Go Bears!

Open House

Our first Open House event of 2023 is taking place next week and we are delighted to be welcoming many families to our campus to discover what kind of learning opportunities we offer at our school. We are proud of our diverse, supportive and caring community of learners and our fantastic facilities.

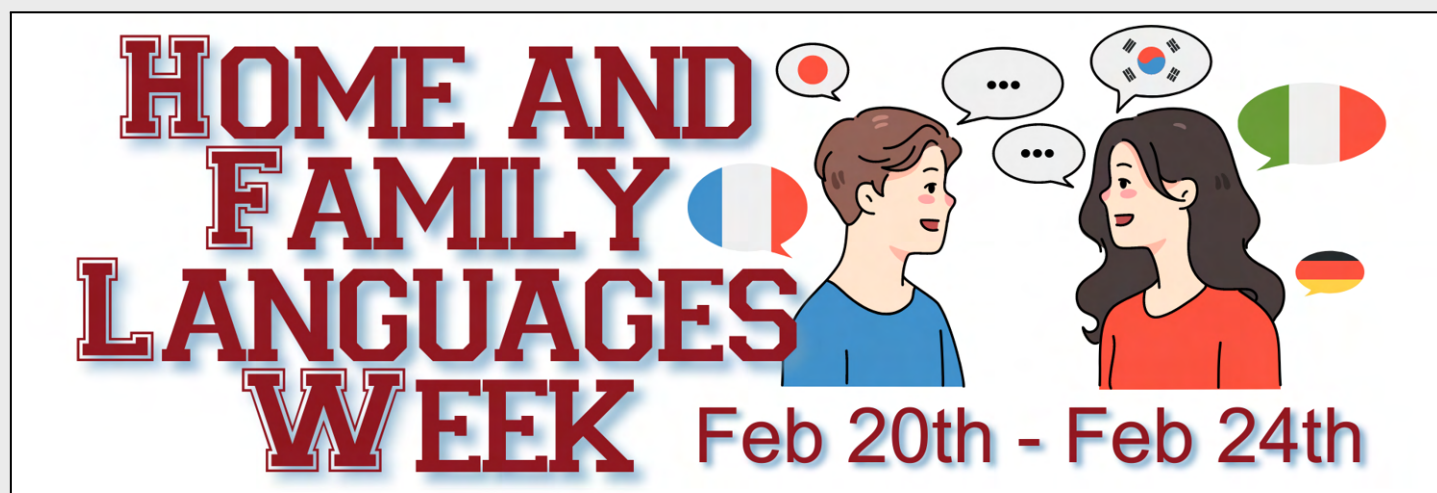
Next week, when our Open House visits are taking place on campus, we invite you to extend a warm welcome and a kind smile to our visitors as well as to your fellow members of the ISB community.



Home and Family Languages Week

ISB will celebrate Home and Family Languages Week from February 20th to the 24th. We are looking for parent volunteers to take part in this community event. If you would like to come and read to students in your home language please [complete this form](#) by Thursday 16th February. All stories will be shared in PYP grade level classes during the first period (between 8:40-9:30). Children love to hear stories in their own language and it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this at school. We hope you consider taking part!

Thank you. 감사합니다. Takk skal du ha. Спасибо. ありがとう. Merci. Obrigado. 谢谢. Gracias. شكریه



During the restrictions that were imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic we spent a great deal of time and energy focusing on student health and wellbeing. Many of the students who have joined our school over the past two years have felt the impact of the pandemic severely, with some students spending up to two years learning virtually from home. The pandemic has affected all of us in some way, so it is only right that as a school community we focus on health, fitness, wellbeing, relationships and interpersonal communication. This is something that we will continue to do.

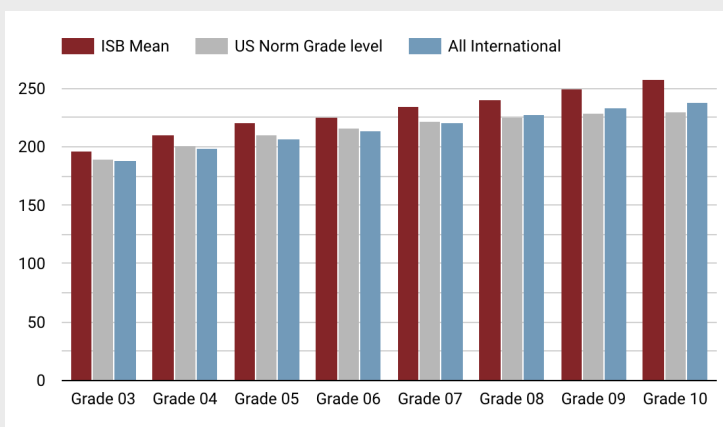


Simon McCloskey

There is often a perception however, that because we are focusing on supporting student wellbeing, we are neglecting important key skills in Mathematics and Language. This is not the case.

To help us review and monitor numeracy and literacy levels across the school we use a range of internationally norm-referenced assessment tools. One of these is the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) online adaptive assessments for Mathematics and Reading which are taken twice each year by students in Grades 3-10. The assessments enable us to track attainment and progress in the core skills of literacy and numeracy across the school. MAP tests are used by over 1000 international schools in more than 145 countries. You can find out more about MAP Growth Assessments at the following address www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit. The rationale for using the tests are as follows:

- To ensure that we view ourselves as one school, tracking the progress of learners as they move between Elementary and Secondary.
- To highlight strengths and areas for development in curricular provision.
- To track students' progress and attainment over time.
- To provide teachers with information that will enable them to differentiate instruction and pinpoint individual student needs.
- To provide school leaders with additional information to drive school improvement and raise standards.



A screenshot from the new ISB MAP Data Dashboard.

Despite being an inclusive, non-selective school, **it is worth noting that in both MAP Mathematics and Reading assessments, the ISB grade level average is consistently above both US Norm Grade level and above International Norm Grade Levels.**

Our IB Diploma grades are also consistently above the global average, allowing our graduates to move onto fantastic colleges and universities across the globe.

We are proud of our inclusive school culture and holistic programmes with a strong focus on relationships and wellbeing, but we are also very proud of our students' academic progress and attainment.

From the Elementary Principal

Today, Ms Hibon our Whole School Social & Emotional Counsellor shared a remarkable display of kindness that she witnessed. This morning before school started, a Grade 2 student came and asked for help to retrieve a toy that belonged to a Kindergarten student that had fallen through one of the grids that surround the outdoor basketball court. The student asked for help to lift the very heavy metal grid and, lifting it together, he was able to grab the toy that had fallen in. He proceeded to look for the Kindergarten student who had lost the toy, and handed it to him. This is (just) one example of the caring and principled Learner Profile attributes that we try to develop in our students. He had the option of simply leaving the toy where it was and moving on with his day, instead he chose to spend time helping a younger student.

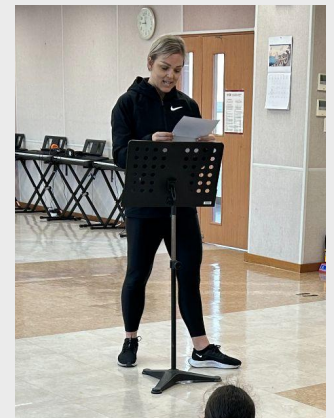


Kevin Smith

PYP Learning Focus

Grade 1 Performances

Grade 1 students enjoyed a range of performances to launch their unit of inquiry exploring how musicians and artists communicate an idea with an audience. The students watch live performances by a singer, a flautist, a poetry reading, a guitarist and a pianist. They also enjoyed learning about how to create art using tin foil and some creative knitted toys. Students will use this experience to build their understanding of what it means to perform. Thank you to our live performers: Emma, Meghann, Ms. Zink & Mr. Smith.



Kindergarten iPads at Forest School

On Tuesday at Forest School Kindergarten to the iPads to document their experiences. It was very exciting! Some students zoomed in on small details and others took videos of the sky. All the students wanted to make sure they recorded their favourite places on the island.



Grade 5 Science

This week, Grade 5 made a short but exciting trip to the middle school science lab to continue their investigations into the scientific method. This allowed them to watch as Mr. Nakhwa (ISB's very own Bill Nye the Science Guy) demonstrated a series of intriguing experiments using fascinating and colorful substances. This was an interesting inquiry with many colour changes, pops, bangs and (safe) explosions, and was a deeper investigation into physical and chemical changes in substances, as well as learning how various substances react to one another!



It was also a great tune-in activity before Grade 5 commence their independent experimenting with chemical reactions over the coming couple of weeks! Thank you, Mr. Nakhwa!

100 Days of School

To celebrate our 100th day of ISB learning, the Grade 1 and 2 students played a maths game together - Race to 100. The older students have been playing this game in maths inquiry lessons, as part of their learning about place value and addition. The Grade 2 students enjoyed taking the responsibility for teaching the game to their Grade 1 buddies. Learning through play is SO much fun!



Then, Grade 1 students shared 100 day activities with students in the early years to practice counting to 100. This was a great opportunity for grade 1 students to practice our communication skills. It also connects to our year long unit of inquiry about who we are. We have a responsibility to treat others with respect.

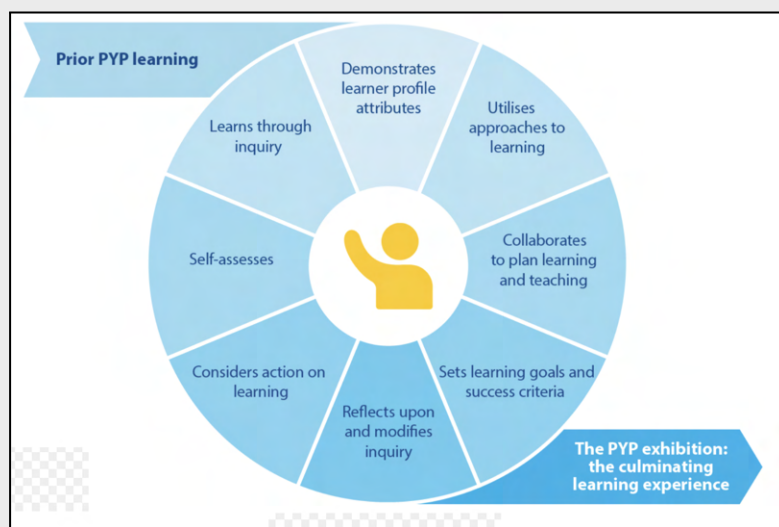
House Activities

Thursday saw the return of the much loved House Activities. Kindergarten and Grade 1 played Monster Ball in the gym, Grade 2 & 3 played Yoshi on one half of the football field while Grade 4 & 5 played Danish Longball on the other half. The students had a lot of active fun with a hint of inter-House competition as usual! Thanks to Mr Byrne for organising this fun event.



PYP Exhibition

The Grade 5 students are getting ready to embark on their inquiries for the PYP Exhibition. The exhibition is the culminating, collaborative experience in the final year of the PYP. It is an authentic process in which students explore, document and share their understanding of an issue or opportunity that they have selected because of personal significance or interest. This event involves our entire learning community and we are happy to invite Grade 5 parents to our launch on **Monday February 20th at 8:45 - 9:30** in the Elementary School Hall. We will provide details of our approach to the exhibition and talk about how parents can be involved in this important milestone in their child's education.



From the Secondary Principal

Activity in the secondary school is certainly ramping up with many events occurring this week or in the near future. Our ASA program is gearing into the final weeks of ASA season 2. For instance, this week, HS basketball travels to Jeju for KISAC while next week MS Volleyball competes at KISAC. MUN will also travel to Jeju for their conference. Looking towards March, our students engaged with the Drama production (pictured) are gearing up for their performances on **March 9 and 10th**. Our musicians are preparing for the Spring Concert before our Spring break which will surely prove to be another outstanding show.



Gilles Buck



All this activity is of course not limited to the after school activities. Our classes are full of action with ongoing formative and summative assessments as well as a plethora of learning activities. All this intense activity can mean that students can feel overwhelmed. We work hard to balance workload and demands on the students. Nevertheless, the school year does ebb and flow with some periods being more intense and demanding for students. In light of our students facing such a period, I ask for your support with aiding your children with time management at home and ensuring they are consistently working on their tasks. Thank you.

To illustrate some of the engaging work happening in our classes, below is a picture taken this week in Grade 9 Individuals and Societies class. The student-led activity was a Model United Nations lesson where each student represented a country and needed to make prepared remarks, follow MUN protocols, and make motions on the topic of access to primary education and related matters. Thank you to Ms. Joola Coke-Talbot for organising this learning activity.



If you have not had the chance to view the summaries of learning units in the MYP, then please [follow this link](#). You can see the outlines of what is being studied across the secondary school in MYP. These unit summaries allow you to see what your child is learning in each subject. Should you have questions, please let me or Ms. Jenny Montague know. We are happy to discuss our MYP curriculum with you.

On March 1st, we will host our Parent Teacher Student Conferences. Please save the date so that you can have a discussion with your child and teachers to support your child's growth and learning. These conferences are outstanding opportunities to have frank discussions on what is needed for further improvement ahead of the progress reports in April.

Design in the MYP

Design thinking is a crucial part of the MYP curriculum and paper prototyping is an effective tool for students to bring their design ideas to life. By using paper and pencil, students can quickly sketch out their concepts and make changes as they receive feedback.

The process enables students to iterate on their designs, experiment with different ideas and materials, and get a sense of how their designs

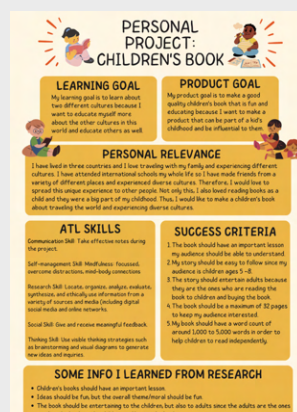
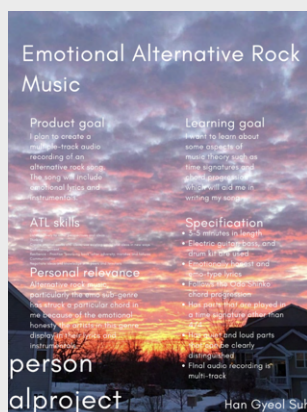
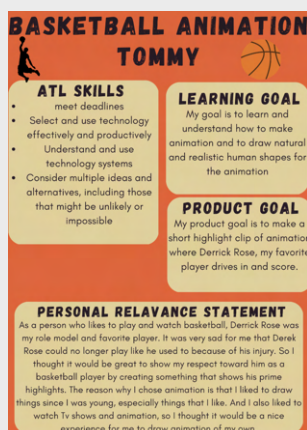
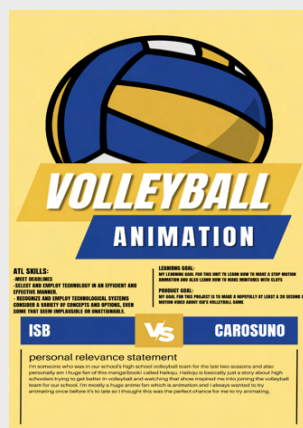
will look and function. Paper prototyping is also an inexpensive and environmentally friendly approach to product design, allowing students to experiment freely without worrying about cost or impact. It is a



valuable tool that supports the development of problem-solving and critical-thinking skills and prepares MYP students for future design challenges.

MYP Personal Project

The IB MYP is part of a continuum education. It prepares the students for the Diploma Programme and follows that of the Primary Years' Programme. Every year, Grade 10 students work on a personal project. The work is done individually, around a theme of personal interest. The student's supervisor encourages the students to extend their understanding of a selected theme as far as possible, and the MYP coordinator brings it all together in the form of an exhibition where each student has the opportunity to present their new learning to an audience, giving them the chance to reflect on the project's successes and challenges.



The exhibition has multiple purposes; not only does it function as a celebration of achievement, but it also allows our students to communicate their passions and interests to the ISB learning community. This year the MYP PP Exhibition will take place on **March 3rd 2023, from 9.30am in the MS Hall**. Although personal projects are still in development, we're excited to give you a preview of the fantastic work in store for you at the MYP Personal Project Exhibition with the posters above.

Resources for Parents and Caregivers

I would like to share a tool from the Greater Good in Action Center based at the University of California, Berkeley: [How to Listen to Teens with Love](#) that offers steps for creating a warm, non-judgmental space for teenagers to talk about challenges. Parents know how hard it can be to get teenagers to share with us when they are facing struggles. When they do provide opportunities for us to connect with them, it helps to know how to show them that we are truly listening in a warm, non-judgmental way. The article suggests eight tips to try with your child.



Another resource I would like to share is a [podcast](#) from the Simplicity Parenting website/approach (the Simplicity Parenting book can be found in our Elementary Library parenting book collection) that talks about what to do when rushing to get our children to do something, for example get ready in the morning, is just not working.

The podcast suggests that when we rush with our children, while asking them to do something or telling them something, they pick up on that rushed “turbulence” which makes it hard for them to really hear what we are saying and asking for, and what we end up with, many times, is the opposite result of what we wanted! The podcast takes us through an alternative way of approaching these situations. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at ehibon@isbusan.org if you have any questions.

Warm regards, Ellenore Hibon - School Counselor

For other resources please visit the [ISB Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) page.

From the PTA

Hello and congratulations for another amazing week of healthy, happy learning! Firstly, thank you to Carmen Rentz for donating snacks to the PTA room! We always appreciate your kindness and the generosity of our PTA members!

Next up, we’re recruiting volunteers to sell snacks at the concession stands during athletic competitions. Please see the information above and contact pta@isbusan.org.

If you haven’t already joined the PTA on Facebook and Kakaotalk, now is your chance! [Click the link to facebook](#) or scan the QR codes to the Facebook Group and KakaoTalk Group Chat Room!

Athletics Concession Stand Dates

- Middle School Girls Volleyball
Friday & Saturday February 17 & 18
10-4pm
- Middle School Boys Volleyball
February 24
10-4pm
- High School Boys Basketball
Friday, March 17
10-4pm



Please note that the next Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning is on **Wednesday 22nd February**.