



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th January, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 19

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IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 23rd January - Lunar New Year Holiday
Wednesday 25th January - Parent Workshop
Thursday 26th January - ISB Board Meeting at 7.30 pm
Friday 27th January - Grade 4 Production
Friday 27th January - Parents v Teachers Soccer Match
Thursday 2nd February - Global Play Day
Saturday 4th February - SKAC HS Basketball at GIFS
10th - 11th February - KISAC HS Basketball at Jeju

Featured Story



This afternoon our community came together for a whole school assembly to celebrate Seollal - the Lunar New Year. We enjoyed a range of fantastic cultural performances from students across the school and spent time saying thank you to all of the support staff at ISB. We would like to extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to the entire ISB community for a prosperous and joyful Lunar New Year. We would also like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to our staff, teachers, students, and parents for their hard work, continued support, and dedication to principled, open-minded, and reflective learning. May this Lunar New Year bring you peace, love, and joy. Happy Lunar New Year!





DP Theatre Performance

Grade 11 DP Theatre students performed their show of Edward Albee's 'The Zoo Story' on Wednesday 18th of January, in the Drama Studio. It was a brisk 30 minute play about a chance meeting between two strangers on a park bench in New York. High school students, parents and staff were invited to come and watch. We would like to congratulate Ryan and Kyoung Seo for their outstanding performances!



Parent Workshop

Why did the chicken cross the road? Curiosity is an inner drive that compels us to understand and explore our world. The benefits of curiosity are many, including greater academic success, increased creativity and originality in problem solving, greater empathy towards the world and others, and overall higher personal happiness.

We are all born curious and contrary to popular belief our potential for curiosity does not change as we age, but we can become less open to it. Come and explore what you can do as parents and what we can do as a school to foster curiosity and bring out the best in our students in a fun, interactive workshop on 25th January at 8.45 am in the Secondary Hall.

Lunar New Year Holiday

Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 23rd January for the Lunar New Year Holiday. School will resume on Tuesday 24th January as outlined in our [published school calendar](#).



7-a-Side Staff versus Parents Soccer Match

The first official soccer match on our brand-new AstroTurf sports field will be Teachers vs Parents at 4.30pm on Friday 27th January! We look forward to a fun, friendly game of football (and hope that it's not too cold!). Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered to play!

Parents

1. Suzanne Alonzo 
2. Martin Mueller 
3. Paul Edwards 
4. Steve Mauceri 
5. Matthew Hutchison 
6. Rod Ruoff 
7. Emma Grann 
8. Clinton Bixter 
9. Phil Rentz 
10. Yury Khimich 
11. Eleni Magkli 
12. Martin Grann 

Teachers

1. Mark Howarth 
2. Tina Gahagan 
3. Zoe Howarth 
4. Gearoid Byrne (C) 
5. Ben Ashley 
6. Megan Zink 
7. Amanda McCloskey 
8. Gilles Buck (GK) 
9. Simon McCloskey 

Isaac House Lunar New Year Fundraiser



We are overjoyed to report that our Isaac House fundraiser raised more than KRW4.5 million! A great success! We were able to give gift vouchers to each child at Isaac House as a New Year's present from the students at ISB, thanks to the involvement in student activities and kind donations from ISB families and staff. We will also donate a sizable amount of food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies to Isaac House. Today was the donation ceremony, where we presented the donation to Ms. Joo, the founder of Isaac House. We are incredibly moved by the kindness of our ISB community. Thank you to Ms Shenstone for coordinating events again this year, and to our ISB community for showing how caring and principled we are as individuals and as a school.

ISB Featued in EARCOS Triannual Journal

We are happy to announce that, as a result of having been awarded the coveted Green Flag Award for our continued dedication to environmental sustainability, we have been highlighted on page 77 of the most recent issue of The EARCOS Triannual Journal! [You can read the issue here.](#)

The entire ISB community had to work hard in order to receive the Green Flag Award and we are thrilled to be acknowledged by The EARCOS Journal, and proud to be a leader in environmental education. On November 7th, the award was formally given to ISB, and the certificate and plaque are currently proudly on display, so come and have a look the next time you're on campus!

ISB 1st OPEN HOUSE of 2023

It's that time of year again when ISB opens its doors to prospective families, to share the amazing learning taking place across the school. We are committed to giving students an outstanding educational experience that promotes social-emotional wellbeing and holistic principles as well as academic excellence.

We're also the only school in Busan to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, which promotes critical thinking, creativity, and global citizenship. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the ISB community, please register for International School of Busan's Open House by [completing this form](#). For more information, please call 051-720-1100 / 051-720-1101 or email us at admissions@isbusan.org.

TEMC Certified ISB Teachers

One of our Whole School Goals is to provide comprehensive professional development related to differentiation for the needs of English Language Learners in the mainstream class. To support this goal, a second cohort of ISB teachers recently completed a weekly after-school course titled 'Teaching in English in Multilingual Classrooms' (TEMC). The certified course requires teachers to complete around 50 hours of professional development. The training also supports teachers to develop collaborative working relationships with other teachers across subject areas and promote teaching practices that address students' language and learning needs in a holistic and explicit manner. The course was led by Amanda Illeperumaarachchi who is a TEMC certified trainer. We would like to thank our teachers for committing their time to learning about how we can better support the needs of English language learners at ISB.



Mask Mandate

As you are no doubt aware, the central government has announced that the compulsory indoor mask mandate will be lifted for most indoor spaces from 30th January. We are now waiting for the Busan Metropolitan City Office of Education (BMCOE) to issue their instructions based on this information. As soon as we receive their guidelines, we will communicate the updated requirements to the ISB community.



Simon McCloskey

Lifelong Learners: Professional Development at ISB

Each year, teachers and teaching assistants at ISB are provided with a book, which they can select from our Book Club reading list. The books are chosen to align with our whole-school goals for the year so that they provoke further discussion and a deeper understanding of each topic. This week, teachers met in reading groups to discuss the books and to consider the subject matter in the context of our school. The book groups are designed to initiate school-wide conversations about important contemporary educational ideas. Book titles included:

- [Evolving Education: Shifting to a Learner-Centred Paradigm](#)
- [Uncommon Sense Teaching: Practical Insights in Brain Science to Help Students Learn](#)
- [The Minimalist Teacher](#)
- [Mind Over Media: Propaganda Education for a Digital Age](#)
- [Nudge: The Final Edition](#)
- [Why We Sleep: The New Science of Sleep and Dreams](#)

At ISB we are committed to ongoing professional development and believe that learning is a lifelong process.



I would like to wish the entire community a very happy Lunar New Year. Enjoy the long weekend! We look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday.

From the Elementary Principal

An important focus this week has been helping others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Isaac House was established to care for children who were unable to be cared for by their birth family. The aim is to raise the children to become self-reliant adults with stable lives. ISB has had a long-standing relationship with Isaac House since 2002. Over the past week, the ISB community raised over 4.5 million won to buy gift certificates and supplies for the children at Isaac House. Our PYP students have been busy with fundraising events to meet our goal. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.



Kevin Smith



PYP Learning Focus

Science Investigation

Grade 5 started the inquiry into their new unit, "How the world works", which explores the scientific method, and the wonders of science and making new discoveries. To kick the unit off, they worked in teams of two to help save Fred the gummy worm from 'drowning' by helping him retrieve his 'lifebuoy' from under his capsized 'boat'! The catch? Grade 5 could not use their hands, but could ONLY use 4 paper clips to save Fred. This was a fun introduction to the unit and tested their critical thinking skills!



Korean Lunar New Year Celebrations

In Korean class, students were busy celebrating Seollal, Korean Lunar New Year this week. They tried Hanbok - traditional Korean clothes - ate rice cakes (Gare ddeok) and played lots of Seollal activities. Grade 5 students were very excited to present the Korean fan dance for the whole school assembly. This year is the year of the Rabbit, Tokki. The rabbit represents the moon and longevity, as evidenced by a Korean folk tale about the moon rabbit. We hope everybody has a great new year. 새해 복 많이 받으세요! (Sehae Bok Mani Badeuseyo!)



Library News

The 2022-23 Morning Calm Medal has been launched with our ES students. They have had the opportunity to view trailers of each book and listen to author interviews. They were excited to discover new books and participate in the Morning Calm Medal event. We have three physical copies of each book in the library, as well as e-books and audiobooks that are available on Sora on the library website (students need to log in using their school email address to access them).



The Morning Calm Medal is an annual award given to deserving authors from around the world. Each year, international school librarians from across Korea nominate a range of books for the Morning Calm Medal. Students are then encouraged to read these books, share their thoughts, and vote for their favorite books. Voting ends in the third week of April. To participate in the voting process, students must read at least four of the five picture books or at least two of the five chapter books. Each student has one vote in each category. We encourage all students to read and participate in this exciting event, and to continue to foster their love for reading and literature.

Kindergarten Music Lessons

Students in kindergarten have been exploring the sounds of the xylophone. They have been experimenting with pitch and learning some simple music phrases. Students are learning how to maintain a steady beat as well as locate the correct notes. They are also creating their own simple melodies to share with the class.



Early Years Fundraising

On Wednesday to raise money for ISAAC house Early Years 1, Early Years 2 and Kindergarten spent time on the nature trail and playing on the field in a sponsored time outside. We tried the new equipment and ran on the field after listening to our feet crunch on the nature trail frost.



Egg Drop

On a sunny Thursday, ISB elementary students participated in a thrilling egg drop competition. The objective of the competition was for teams of students to design and build a contraption that would protect an egg from breaking when dropped from a height of 4 meters. This is the third year in a row that we have had the House Egg Drop Competition at ISB!



The competition was fierce, and the cheers reached a fever pitch as students from Gayasan, Halasan, Jirisan and Seoraksan rooted for their teams. This year featured a more eco-friendly theme, with students only able to use newspaper and masking tape to create their designs. This challenging constraint of the competition pressed students to come out of their shells to come up with compelling and creative designs.



The egg drop competition was a great success, with students learning valuable lessons about teamwork, problem-solving, and then getting to test their design ideas in a real-world environment. The ISB elementary school community is already looking forward to next years' egg drop!

[Check out even more photos in the Google Photo Album!](#)



Grade 2 Exercise

The Grade 2 students had some healthy exercise this afternoon when they tried out the new ISB outdoor gym equipment. Everyone enjoyed being risk-takers and trying the new equipment. At ISB we love to be balanced and make healthy choices!



Another great wintry week of learning in the Secondary School. After a wonderful cap to the end of the week this past Friday with our winter formal, this week was full fundraising, learning activities, a parent event, an outstanding Grade 11 performance of a play, and sports with MS Volleyball competing.

Thank you to our Student Council, PTA, faculty advisors and supervisors for our lovely winter formal event. The winter formal, which was well attended by MS and HS students, allowed students to let loose and have a good time. We are glad to be able to offer events such as these to provide joy, fun and balance to our students' lives.



Gilles Buck



The Grade 11 DP Theatre class performed their play, 'The Story,' a number of times to different audiences and was extremely well received. Congratulations! (*pictured right*)

Thank you to the Grade 10 families for attending the Grade 10 Course selection evening. We know that having clear information will make the choices going into Grade and Grade 11 easier.



Zoo

11

The Middle School Volleyball teams also had a great showing, with the coaches commending the students on their growth and development as players. This is a testament to the hard work and perseverance of the students who have put in the time and effort to improve their skills.



A welcome addition to our lunchtime clubs is the *Don Quixote* Book Club. At this activity Mr. Jeff, Ms. Joola and nine students will read what some call, "the greatest novel ever written." The students have decided to read five chapters a week. Meetings will be Monday lunch in the Secondary Library. At the launch we had Albert Boada, the director of the Cervantes Institute in Seoul, join us via Zoom. He explained the novel and situated its importance for Western Literature. We are looking forward to reading this exciting and complex novel.

This week, one focus was our continuing fundraising efforts for Isaac House, a local charity. Thank you for your support by contributing direct donations, items for the bake and candy sales as well as other sales and events. The student participation, energy and enthusiasm was impressive and heartwarming. Although we had limited time to prepare due to early Lunar New Year this year, the school community managed to fundraise and reach our targets! Congratulations to all the students and to YOU!

Lastly, we celebrated the Lunar New Year at the whole school assembly. The assembly included an orchestra performance, as well as performance from our Korean classes to help our international community to learn more about the significance of Lunar New Year in Korea and to celebrate this important cultural event. Thank you to the PTA for ending the day with dduk (rice cakes) for our students.

Parent Survey:

This short survey is to find out student needs regarding locker usage and if availability of lockers is being met for our secondary school students. Please speak with your child and complete the survey.

Secondary Learning Focus

In the Language Acquisition Department

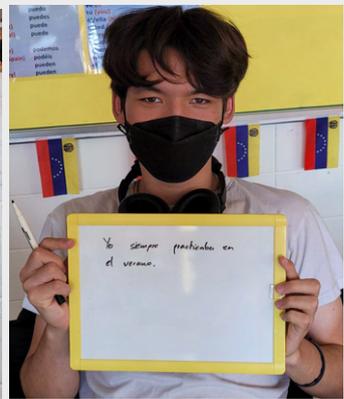
We, at the Language Acquisition Department, continue to work enthusiastically with our students to offer them effective and joyful learning experiences of the target languages: Korean and Spanish. In this edition of our ISB newsletter, we highlight some of the most relevant activities that we have been doing.

Grades 6-12 Spanish/Korean (MYP and DP)

In all grades 6 - 12 (Korean and Spanish), we do a variety of warm ups at the beginning of each lesson to refresh what students have learned previously. The objective of the warm ups is twofold. First, it provides students with a set routine once they enter the classroom. This provides focus and a clear sense of direction. Second, it allows students to reflect and recall concepts, vocabulary, and grammar that they have learned in previous lessons. This continuous recycling of information assists students in allocating this knowledge and skill to long-term memory.

The Language Acquisition Department recently purchased hand held white boards for all students to do warm up exercises. We've been doing warm-up exercises digitally or on paper. The white boards give students a different feel, it is a creative and interactive tool, and it is very practical to show answers quickly. Also, students really enjoy holding up the white boards to show their responses. Below are some grade 12 DP Spanish students showing their responses during the warm up task.

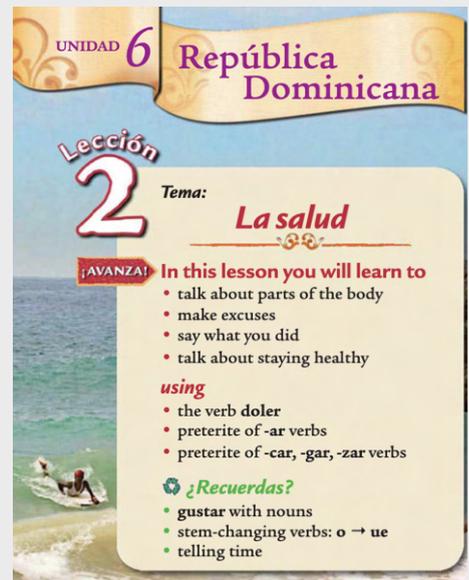




Grade 8 MYP Spanish

An important task in our language acquisition classes here at ISB is to provide students with the opportunity to consolidate and demonstrate what they have learned in regard to concepts, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation through a meaningful, collaborative, and engaging speaking activity. Role plays allow students to not only do the above, but also to be creative and express what they have learned through theater arts. Below is an image that shows the objectives of the unit and lessons we have been working on for the past few weeks.

Gahala, E. M., ¡Avancemos!: Spanish 1, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018



Students came together in small groups and brainstormed ideas to do a skit about a scenario where one student plays the role of a school nurse and another student plays the role of being injured. Below is an image showing the specific instructions in our online book.

3 Talk with the school nurse

Hablar Role-play a conversation with the school nurse. You are injured and you decide to go to the nurse's office. Tell your partner what hurts and name three activities that you did recently. He or she will make a connection between the activities and your injuries and make some recommendations for getting better. Your conversation should be at least four minutes long.

Students already brainstormed, wrote their scripts, and are currently practicing and learning their individual lines. As they revise, they have the opportunity to practice in front of the teacher for feedback and guidance in regard to pronunciation, tone of voice, and body language in their performance. This week they performed their skits in front of the class.

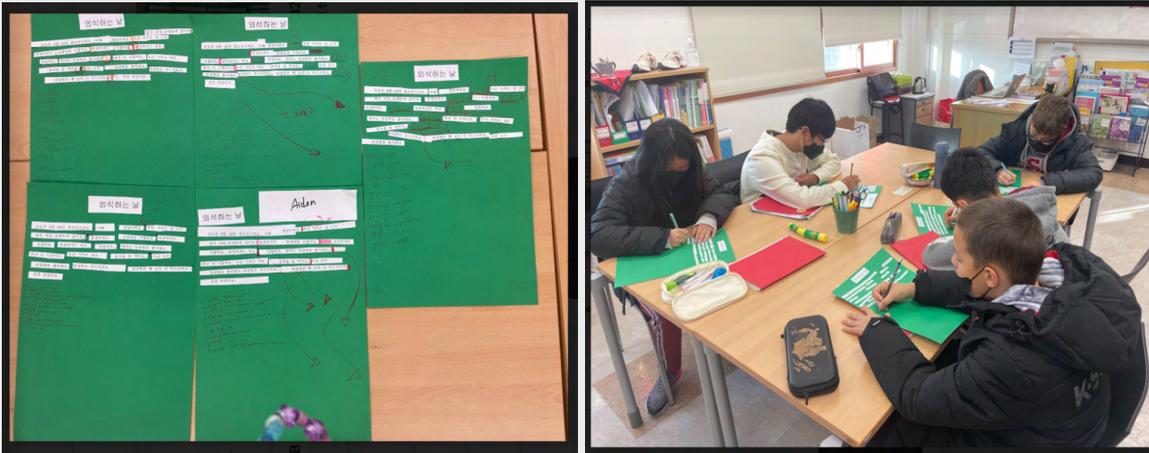


Grade 12 DP Spanish/Korean

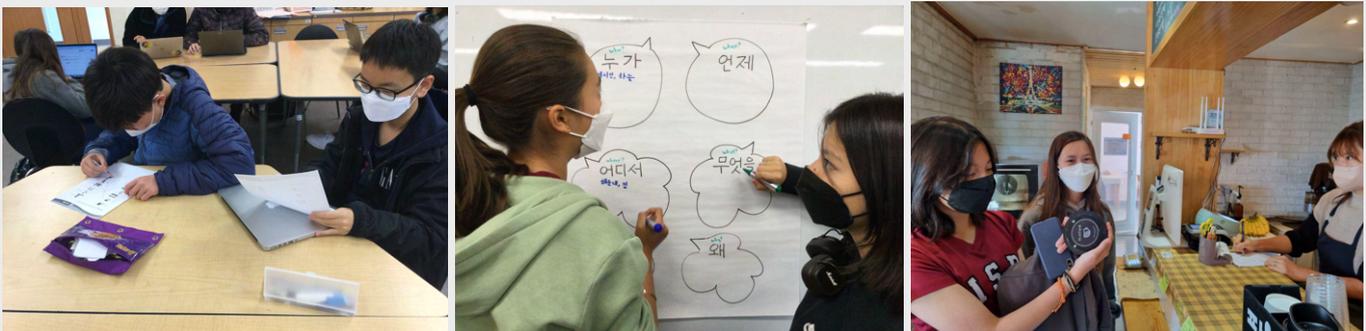
Our grade 12 Spanish/Korean DP students are on their final stretch. The Internal Oral Assessment is in February, the mock exams are in March, and, finally, the IB World Exams are in May. Our students are currently preparing for their IOA. This is an internal (ISB) and external (IBO) moderated assessment where students are tested on their ability to verbally use the language they have learned. They are required to describe an image in some detail, answer questions about the image, and engage in a free conversation with the teacher about any topic related to any of the five themes studied in class over the past two years (Themes: Identities, Experiences, Human Ingenuity, Social Organization, and Sharing the Planet). This assessment is recorded (audio) and sent to the IBO for moderation. Our students are working diligently at school and at home in preparation for this important task. It is worth 25% of their Language Acquisition IB grade. We wish them all the best in this endeavour.

Grade 6 Korean Language Acquisition

After reading a paragraph, students explored and learned the ATL skills—"learn how to learn"—through explicit practice. At the end of the unit, students will have a Criterion D writing summative assessment. They prepare for it by doing a writing formative assessment, which consists of constructing a message with the list of cohesive devices using the strategy called "Read - Think - Order - Glue" based on the MYP Language Acquisition objectives and criteria. The lengths of the cut sentences or words that students read depend on the phase they are in. They are able to identify the vocabulary (strand i) and reflect on the writer's intention in placing the appropriate cohesive devices that were used (strand iii, iv), and they are also able to order the sentences or words to make an intended message (strand ii).



The G7 and G8 Korean B students are focused on learning about events, including days of the week, timelines, and places. As a tuning-in session, the students went on a field trip to 'Farm Cafe' to experience an actual situation in Korea. In the class, students did a role play with a partner using '∼할래?', '∼갈래?' with a wide range of vocabulary and phrases. In this unit, students have learned how to order food & drinks and invite friends to go together to different events on the weekend.



Going Back to Basics

I was recently reminded of the importance of going back to basics when considering someone, a child, teen or adult, and the challenges they might be experiencing. Most of us have heard about the trinity of health: Diet, Exercise and Sleep, the essential pillars to be able to function at our best. For children, adolescents, and adults, sleep is incredibly important.



It is during sleep that a person's brain health, emotional health, and physical health is restored and rejuvenated. So often when a child or teenager is struggling emotionally and behaviorally, we focus on external manifestations (panic attacks,

tantrums, school avoidance) without actually looking at whether or not that person's pillars are in place. Is the person sleeping the hours that they need? Are they eating healthy foods and drinking enough water throughout the day? Are they getting the amount of exercise that their body needs?

When things are not quite right, we can start by looking at whether or not those basic needs are being met: nutrition, sleep, movement, connection with others, outdoor time, and downtime. Are these elements present enough in their life (and in our lives as parents)? Is it possible to readjust their or our schedule (or remove certain activities from their/our schedule) to make room for these essentials to take place?



For the very important topic of "Sleep", I invite you to take a look at the [The Importance of Sleep](#) presentation that was shared with parents last semester to find helpful information, resources, and practical steps that you can try at home with your family to improve Sleep.

For other resources please visit the [ISB Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) page. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at ehibon@isbusan.org

Warm regards,
Ellenore Hibon
Whole School Counselor



Already time for another break! Happy Lunar New Year Holiday to all! Before we leave for the holiday weekend, we'd like to say a big thank you to the volunteers who supported the student council and the secondary students for their Winter Formal:

Jamie, Tiia, Shannon, Jen, Nino, Sarah, Danijela and Jessica! Also a big thank you to the Student Council and all the staff who made it such a fun and memorable event.

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 and connect with us instantly!



KakaoTalk Group Chat



PTA Facebook Group

And just as a side note, there will be no PTA meeting next week after the Parent Workshop. Enjoy all the great learning opportunities going on and we'll see you soon!



International School of Busan, 50 Gijang-daero, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan, South Korea 46081,
Tel: +82-51-742-3332, Email: info@isbusan.org