



The Bear Essentials



The International School of Busan Weekly Newsletter

Friday 23rd September, 2022

Volume 4, Issue 6

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IMPORTANT DATES

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Tuesday 27th September - ISB Open House
Wednesday 28th September - Parent Workshop & PTA Meeting
Thursday 29th September - ISB Board of Governors Meeting
Saturday 1st October - SAT
Friday 7th October - PYP Sports Camp
Saturday 15th October - International Day

Featured Story

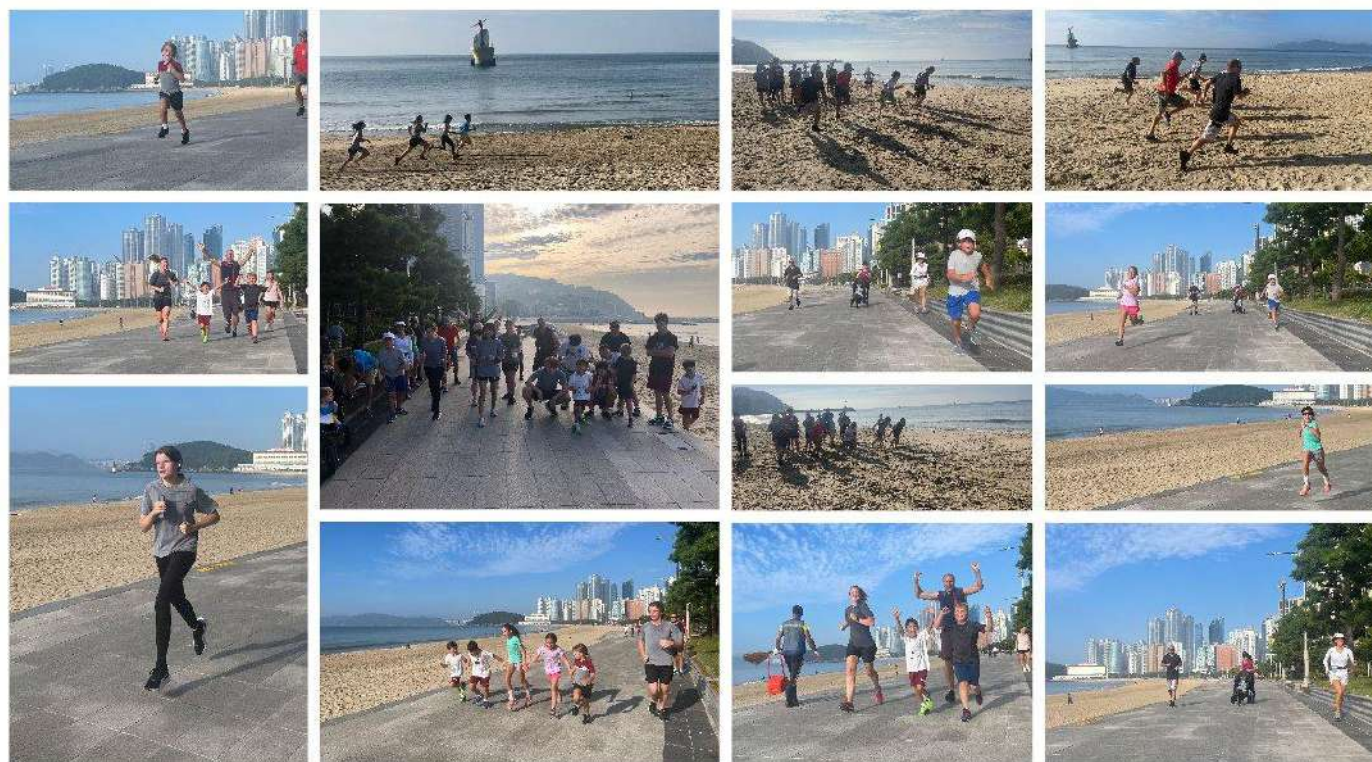


Early this morning our Elementary Teams made the trip to Pohang to compete in the Southern Korea Activities Conference (SKAC) Soccer Tournament at Handong International School. They will be playing matches with teams from other international schools in the region. The members of SKAC are: Busan Foreign School, Kwangju Foreign School, Gyeongnam International Foreign School, Daegu International School, Handong International School, Atherton International School (Geoje), Hyundai Foreign School (Ulsan) and the British International Academy (Geoje). The teams are looking forward to a fun day of football and we are looking forward to sharing some photographs and hearing about the event next week.

ISB Community Runs

Thanks to the 28 runners who came out last Saturday morning to run with our cross country team. It was great to see so many people enjoying the seafront run. We finished with sand sprints to focus on speed training. If you would like to join us tomorrow morning we are meeting at the beach side of Pale de Cz at 7:30 am Saturday 24th September. We will be running a 4k loop. Join the [ISB Community Runs mailing list](#)!

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



NDSP Education Specialist visit

On September 28th, after the Parent workshop and the PTA meeting, at 11:00am, Dorothy Andrade, Education Specialist from the United States Non-Department of Defense Schools Program (NDSP) will be on campus to meet with US military families. She will be presenting a short overview of NDSP and their services in the ES Hall. The presentation will be followed by a “listening session” or question and answer period. Parents can also set up individual appointments to meet with Dorothy on either Monday (September 26th) or Wednesday (September 28th) afternoon. Please write to her at dorothy.andrade@dodea.edu to schedule a time.

ISB Open Day for Prospective Families

On Tuesday 27th September we will be welcoming prospective families to ISB. If you know anyone who may be interested in finding out more about our school, please share [this registration form](#). Open house presentations will be conducted with individual families throughout the day either virtually or in-person with the Head of School.



OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, 27th September
9am to 11am
admissions@isbusan.org
Tel. 051-720-1100
www.isbusan.org





**BUSAN'S ONLY
IB WORLD SCHOOL**

Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the next Parent Workshop and PTA Coffee Morning. The workshop will focus on the importance of sleep for our students.

ISB
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSAN
Est. 1983

**PARENT
WORKSHOP**
& PTA Coffee Morning

28th September, 2022
8.45 am - 10.00 am

**The Importance of
SLEEP**

HEALTHY
HAPPY
LEARNING

QR Code

From the Head of School

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Solène Matsushita to take over the role of MYP Coordinator at ISB for August 2023. Solène was selected following interviews with the Secondary Principal, Head of School and a panel of secondary teachers. Solène has French nationality and speaks English, French and Japanese fluently. She has a Bachelor of Human and Social Sciences in Sociology from Toulouse University, a Bachelor of Education Science and Masters in Education Science from University of Lumière Lyon. She also has Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) from the TES Institute in the UK.



Simon McCloskey

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Welcome

Solène Matsushita

Solène has experience as a CAS Coordinator and Service Learning Coordinator and has taught MYP I&S and Whole-School Language Acquisition. She is also a Secondary Homeroom Teacher who believes strongly in the importance of pastoral care. Solène has experience as a CIS Self-Study Committee Leader and with the MYP authorisation process.

She is currently the Academic Vice Principal and IB MYP Coordinator at an international school in Japan. Please join us in welcoming Solène to ISB!

From the Elementary Principal

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as “a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.” At ISB, we marked the day with a minute of silence at 12 noon, announced by members of our Anchored 4 Life student team. Our assembly this week continued the theme with House-based activities designed to build an understanding of this year’s theme: End Racism. Build Peace.



Kevin Smith

PYP Learning Focus

International Day of Peace

Our school celebrated the United Nations' International Day of Peace this week by taking part in a number of activities. We introduced this special day with a minute of silence, a coordinated wave of peace that students from around the world took part in. Grade 5 students Jia and Morgan introduced this peaceful minute with an explanation of its origin and meaning.

The theme for this year's Day of Peace is End Racism: Build Peace, and to begin thinking about this all Elementary School students viewed the story, "Same, Same but Different" by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw. Students had an opportunity to discuss what makes them the same as well as different in their classes. They recorded their thinking on strips of paper and shared these with their house groups at Thursday's assembly. Our Grade 5 leaders were then able to put these statements together to form a Peace Chain, which will join to a similar chain that was built by the secondary students.

During our assembly students were given time to choose one of the peaceful activities led by our Anchor for Life team. Some students chose to fold paper cranes, others wrote messages of peace on pebbles which can then be shared in the wider community. Some students chose to use the time to read with a buddy one of the many picture books from our library that explores peace or diversity.



Kindergarten Explore Peace

On Wednesday 21st September, which is the International Day of Peace, Kindergarten read a story called "Whoever You Are" by Mem Fox. The book was in English and Spanish so we had Ms Hibbon come in as our guest Spanish reader. We were able to recognise when some Spanish words repeated throughout the story and even managed to say them.



Kindergarten Smells!

One Wednesday we discovered some rosemary left by the eco club and started to smell it and put it in the pestle and mortar to see what happened. Mr Dale heard about our explorations and came in on Thursday morning with a new herb for us to explore, we guessed what it might be and then put that in the pestle and mortar to release the smells further, it was mint! We had some strong thoughts about the smells and are looking forward to our first Forest School and potato digging next week so we can find more things to smell.

Prints for Peace

Grades 4 and 5 explored printmaking techniques and how to express the concept of peace through symbols. We practised how to draw symbols for peace, such as doves and the peace sign. We learned that in prints the letters and numbers are mirror-written and we focused on the expression of simple lines on a colored background.



Negotiating Agreements in Grade 3

Grade 3 worked in groups to create agreements for our classroom community. They brainstormed ideas and presented them to the class. Then they read the IB learner profile attributes and highlighted which ones fit with the agreements they made. The students wrote positive sentences starting with “We” to create their final classroom agreements. Lastly, they wrote their final agreements on poster strips to display in class. We have been using our agreements daily to remind each other of the expected behaviour of our community.



Drumming, Music and Movement After School Activity

Students are having a lot of fun drumming, dancing, learning and creating rhythmic patterns in the Drumming, Music & Movement ASA. Students have enjoyed an underwater sea dance involving moving like lobsters, crabs, fish and sharks. They have also learnt to echo different rhythmic patterns on the drums, and the all important musicians' skill of knowing when to be silent. Well done drummers!



Grade 4 Musicians

Our Grade 4 students have really been enjoying learning some new songs for our PYP assemblies. [You can click here](#) to listen to them singing one of their favourite songs called "Wake-Up!" in this morning's music lesson.

From the Secondary Principal

It was wonderful to have a full week of school! These next few weeks leading up to the October break are significant learning weeks as we will have several uninterrupted full weeks of school. Teachers are working hard at delivering an engaging curriculum to our student body. Please support your children during these important weeks of school where we have the time to delve deeply into the units of study. On Friday, October 21st we are inviting you and your child to a conference with teachers to discuss your child's learning progress and growth in each of the subject areas.



Gilles Buck

On Wednesday this week, we celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace. We used our homeroom time to create paper peace chains with messages from each student on the topic of heritage, home language, ethnicity and/or family and cultural traditions. We then gathered in the gym for collaborative activities as the skill of collaboration is considered paramount in our collective ability to move towards a more peaceful world.

An update regarding our student council. Last Friday, we had student candidates deliver their speeches to the student body followed by voting. Because we had several of the positions highly contested, it means that we are having run-off elections this Friday to complete our student council elections.

Students already elected to the student council are below. Congratulations! We look forward to their leadership and helping augment student agency to continually improve our school.



HS Student Council

Treasurer: Grant



MS Student Council

President: H'sia



MS Student Council

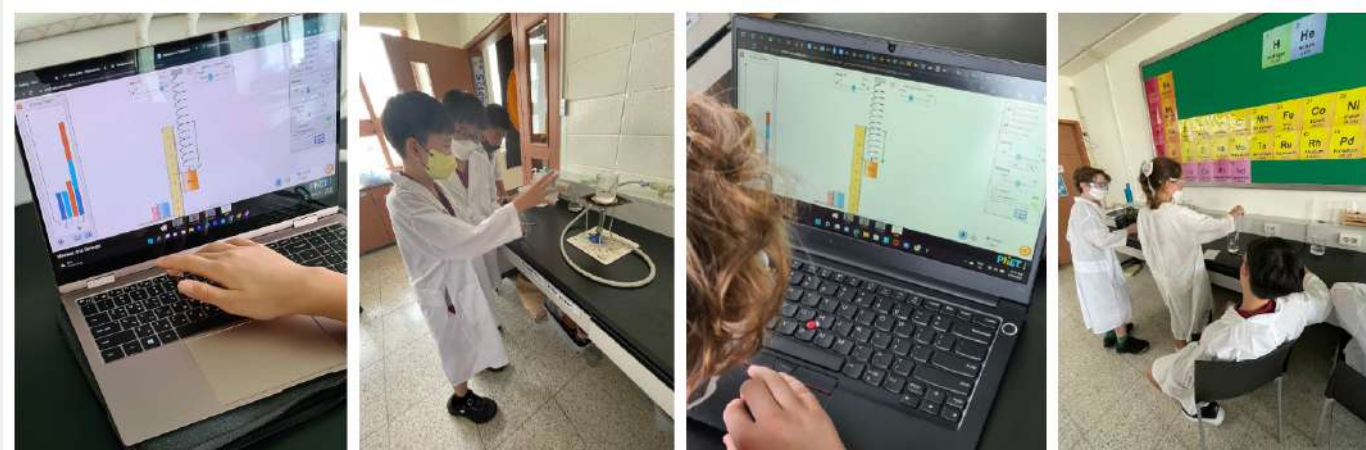
Treasurer: Euijin

College Corner

Our College Counsellor, Dr. 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](#).

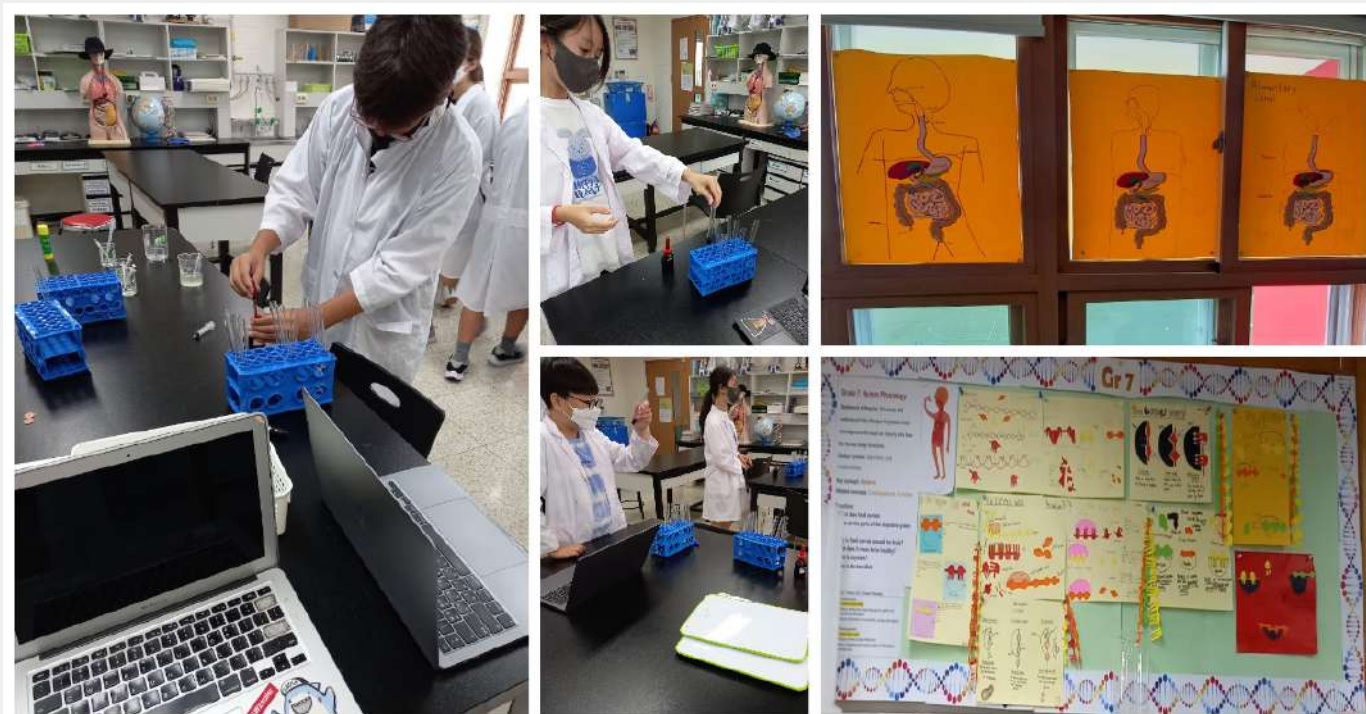
Grade 6

Grade 6 students began the Energy unit by looking deeper at the Scientific Method. They performed a lab on the heating effect of different Bunsen burner flames and performed simulations on a pendulum, a loaded wire spring and projectile motion. All these experiences have given them a better understanding of the crucial part the scientific method plays in testing a hypothesis.



Grade 7

In Science, grade 7 students are studying Human Physiology and have recently completed a unit on Digestion where they modelled the digestive system and enzyme action. They are currently completing the designing and carrying out a lab investigation into the factors affecting the enzyme amylase which will form part of their criterion B+C assessment.



Grade 8

Students have been doing all things green! We are currently studying a biology unit relating to Botany and Agriculture. We started the year off with a plant growing competition and have been using this as a springboard for lots of discussions about how to improve crop yields and photosynthesis in plants. We will be completing a research project on the impact of fertilisers and pesticides on crop yields in the coming weeks.



Grade 9

Grade 9's started the year off by learning about Atomic Theory and the Periodic Table. We have been getting comfortable with the concepts of atoms, ions and isotopes and have done simulations and modelling to help reinforce concepts covered in class. We will be continuing with Chemistry for the next two topics and will be learning to write and balance chemical equations in the next couple of weeks.

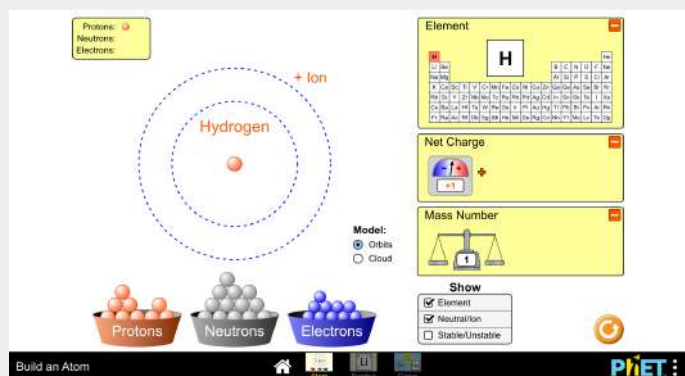


Image: PhET simulation helping students to build and inquire into the different roles played by subatomic particles in atoms.

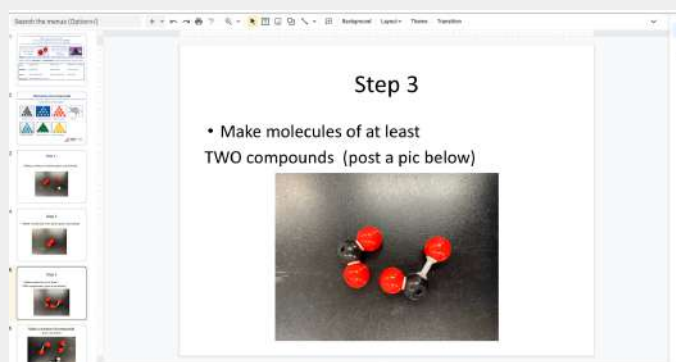


Image: Student presentation demonstrating understanding of concepts such as the difference between elements, compounds, mixture and molecules by building and posting pictures of a variety of different types.

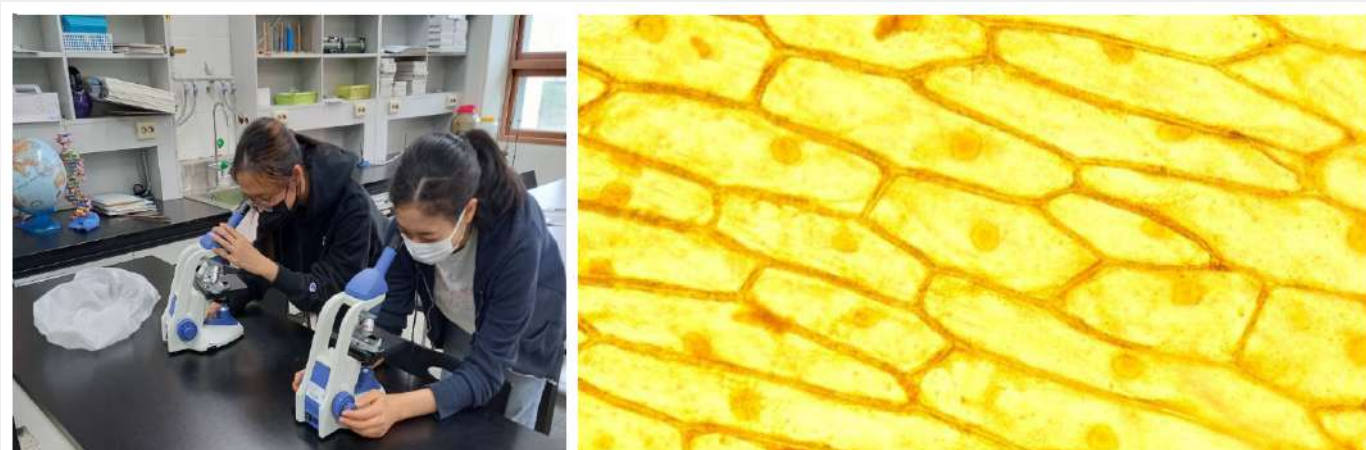
Grade10

Students will have half the year devoted to Chemistry and the other half to Physics. They are currently reviewing Atomic theory and Chemical reactions before moving on to Acids and Bases and Quantitative Chemistry. In the section on properties of polar covalent bonds students competed to see how many drops of water they could place on a W10 coin without the water overflowing. The students also investigated different types of chemical reactions to apply their knowledge of writing and balancing chemical equations.



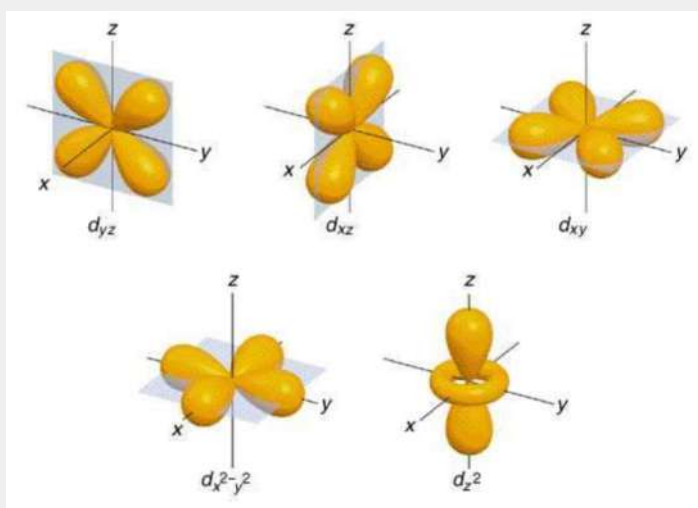
Grade 11 Biology

The Grade 11 students are an enthusiastic curious group of students who have taken on the challenge and rigour of the IB biology course. This course involves a vast amount of content that students need to assimilate, and as a consequence they are faced with many quizzes and tests. They are currently studying the first unit on Cells and associated processes. The unit involves microscopy and micrometre measurement of cell structures. The students will soon be visiting the Stem Cell facility and the Electron Microscopy unit at UNIST to enhance their understanding of their first unit.



Grade 11 Physics

Our grade 11 physicists have been exploring the physics of motion. They completed their first experiments where they are focusing on testing if the mathematical formulas that they learn about actually hold true in the real world. In the picture, they are seeing if it is true that objects accelerate at 9.8 m/s^2 . They have also tested to see if acceleration is proportional to force and determined the friction coefficient between a wooden block and a table surface. Whenever we can, we try to not just learn concepts, but demonstrate their accuracy.

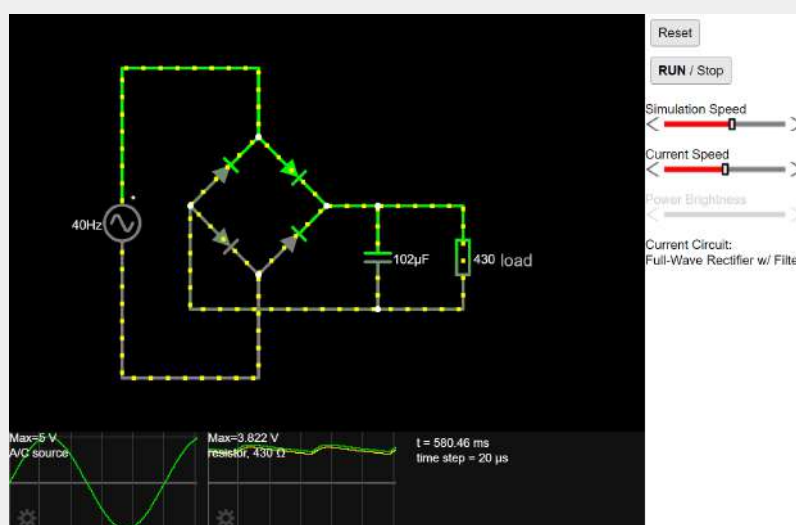


Grade 11 Chemistry

We have had a very theoretical start to chemistry. Our chemists have been deepening their understanding of atomic structure and electron orbitals (see the image of a d-orbital) in order to see why elements in the periodic table behave the way that they do. We will extend from this into bonding to understand how molecules and compounds come together.

Grade 12 Physics

Our grade 12 physicists just completed a unit on electromagnetic induction, which is the basis for most of our electricity generation as well as our induction cooking stoves! The students used a circuit simulation(see image) to understand the flow of electrons through a full wave rectifier circuit. This allows us to turn the alternating current electricity that comes out of our power outlets into direct current electricity that most devices actually use. We are now moving on to the world of the very small - nuclear physics!



Grade 12 Biology

The Grade 12 students have just completed topic 4 Ecology of the DP course. We made our own self-sustaining mesocosms and have been discussing the many interesting types of investigations that can be done relating to this topic. The students will be starting their Biology Internal Assessments in the first week of October. This important task involves planning an investigation into a topic related to the DP Biology course, conducting an experiment and then analysing and evaluating their findings.



Grade 12 Chemistry

Our grade 12 chemists are looking at redox chemistry. They applied their understanding of the relationship between the spontaneity of a reaction between oxidised and reduced species in order to make a miniature redox table and then compared with their data booklets for accuracy. This unit will also explain the making of voltaic cells (batteries) and electrolytic cells (used for metal plating).



Each week we feature an ISB Teacher in our newsletter.

This week we interviewed **Mark Howarth**.

Qualification and certifications: BA (Hons) Sport and Physical Education and a PGCE in Physical Education. I'm also studying a MA with Endicott College in International School Administration and I am a Council of International Schools (CIS) Accreditation team visitor.

What is your role at ISB? I am the Whole School Head of PE and the Athletics and Activities Director.

Our community really is an international community! Where would you say you're from and where else have you lived?

I was born in Germany. My mum is from the Netherlands and my dad is from Scotland; so a real mix! I started teaching in the UK, but have since worked in Germany, India and Korea. My family are all based in Canterbury, London, Woodhall Spa and Newcastle, so it really is a tour of England whenever we go back to see family.

What inspired you to become a teacher? I was fortunate to have brilliant PE teachers when I was at school, which meant I always looked forward, more than anything else at school, to PE lessons. My hope is that I will make a similar impact as a teacher here at ISB. I have also always enjoyed working, and interacting with, people so I find teaching a really interesting and enjoyable job.

What is your educational philosophy? To develop confident, resilient and kind young people who want to go out into the world and make a difference. From a PE perspective - I'd like students to have a positive experience in PE, so they understand the importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle and seek out sporting opportunities once they leave school.

What made you choose ISB? I have worked in schools ranging from 500 to 2000 students and, personally, I really enjoy working in a smaller school. This is because there is normally a strong community spirit where relationships are valued. Thankfully, this is also the case here at ISB. I also find ISB is a vibrant and diverse international school community, which was one of the criteria when we were looking for a next school to work in and for our own children to attend. I feel fortunate that my own children have the opportunity to start their school years at ISB.

What is the best part of your job? I really enjoy organising the ASA's and the Athletics programs and aim to ensure our students have the opportunity to proudly represent ISB locally, nationally and internationally. However, the best part of my job is getting to know the young people in our care. I am looking forward to getting to know more of our students in the coming weeks and months.

What are your hobbies and interests? I'm a keen golfer and play fairly regularly to maintain my 2 handicap. I am looking forward to exploring the different golf courses on offer once my clubs arrive in shipping!

For my sins, I'm a Scotland rugby fan and always keep a keen eye on the 6 Nations rugby tournament. I am also a Celtic football (soccer) fan and try to get back to Glasgow over the summer holidays to see some live games. I also enjoy exploring the nature trails and outdoor lifestyle Busan has to offer.

What is your favourite quote? "I've learned that 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'd like to have a positive impact on people by being kind, helpful and respectful to everyone I meet.



Important dates:

Important upcoming dates to make note of from the PTA:



September 26 - Last day for International Day booth sign ups

Click [here](#) to see how you can participate!

September 28 - There will be a PTA meeting immediately following the Parent Workshop. Please bring along a dish to share and a children's book from your home country to exchange.

SAVE THE DATES

- **October 8** - Sports Camp snacks
- **October 15** - International Day
- **October 31** - Trunk or Treat for PYP students. *Sign-ups coming soon!*



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