Important Upcoming Dates

7 February: Report Cards sent digitally out on Managebac
10-12 February: ISA/ACER testing Grades 3-8
8 February: U14 boys basketball at the FIS
8 February: Upper School boys basketball at SIS (TBC)
10-13 February: ACER ISA testing
11 February: GI2 Graduation and new student photos
15 February: Upper School Boys soccer game
17 February: LS Assembly 8:45 am
20 February: Upper School and MS Boys soccer game
21 February: GI2 Parent Teacher Conferences (14:00-17:00)

News from the Director

Welcome to the second semester at ISU. The post-winter holiday period is a busy one in international schools: report card writing, examinations, professional development opportunities, accreditation self-study, and planning for the 2020/2021 school year. Yes, we do have to start planning that early!

Last week we had our Middle School and Upper School trips. Thank you to our Middle School and Upper School trip chaperones Mrs Finlay, Mr Finlay, Ms Garcia, Mrs Henkels, Mr Henkels, Mr Martin, Mr Newman and Mr Tomes. A special thank you to our trip organisers and coordinators Ms Moore and Ms Schanz. As you can appreciate, such events do not just happen and are the culmination of a lot of hard work, planning and effort. No doubt our students now have lasting, fun memories. Last Friday and Saturday, we had our Lower School Musical performances. Thank you to all our wonderful staff and students who make such learning opportunities happen. Thank you Mrs Golledge and Ms Guerntke for your inspiration and dedication. You will be reading more about these wonderful events in this Newsletter.

Our board will be undergoing a retreat this weekend determining the strategic direction of ISU. Such retreats focus on what at first may seem the contradictory pursuits of reflection and action. Nonetheless, as an IB World School, this is what we continually do - being critically reflective. As an educational leader, we are often asked to reflect on our core values or educational philosophy which, as one might expect, mostly focuses on supporting every student to reach their full potential. When asked “How do you do this?” many reply that they provide a well-rounded, holistic curriculum; one that supports students in the exploration of the creative and performing arts, the sciences, sports and academics so they may realise their talents and achieve success. They may go on to describe their excellent co-curricular programme and student support system. Then when asked what is celebrated in the school and published materials, often these leaders talk about celebrating all student successes and the demonstration of the school’s core values. However, when questioned further about what this “success” looks like in their schools, leaders may talk about student who have won debating competitions, sporting events, accolades in the arts, who have achieved places at Ivy League, Oxbridge Colleges and other prestigious institutions, and have an impressive collection of top grades in their examinations.
There is no doubt about the nature of such success, and that behind these successes sits a huge amount of hard work, dedication and determination. These achievements deserve our congratulations and more. However, when asked to pause and reflect on the verbal and non-verbal messages these celebrations send to our student body and community, a glimmer of doubt can set in. Are we telling our community that success only equals top grades, roles, awards and achievements? Does every student have the capability to reach these dizzy heights, or are they left constantly gazing upwards? And what about those who work hard and, given their capabilities, achieve great things – only for these great things not to be reflected in our version of success?

Students today live in a high-pressure world and schools are highly pressurized environments. We want all our students to do well; we encourage high expectations; we expect a lot from our young people and they know it. They are told on a regular basis the importance of achieving excellent grades, how they must take every opportunity open to them, how they must work hard, show grit and determination.

No one is arguing that we should lower our expectations: high expectations are crucial for the continual development of our students and school. Nonetheless, at ISU we also focus on developing and celebrating the character strengths, individuality, talents and skills of every individual, the progress they make and their learning journeys. These learning journeys are also inherent in service and experiential learning opportunities such as MSUS trips and LS Musical, and the myriad of other learning opportunities that take place at ISU. Along with strong teaching, such a focus creates, as Nicola Lambros (1) terms a “robust self-efficacy” in every student leading to increased resilience, persistence, motivation and aspirations. By adopting this approach, we can be sure that every student will achieve the grades they are capable of without ever having to mention them!

**Semester 1 reports available from 7 February**

Reports are now available to parents. In helping to reduce our carbon footprint, our reports are issued digitally this semester. Mr Rawlinson has again provided information on how to access your child(ren)’s report card in this Newsletter.

**Open Day at ISU 8 February**

Open Day is almost upon us (8 February from 9:30-13:00). While this is not an Open Day for ISU parents, it is still not too late to encourage your friends and others know about this important day. It is a chance for those interested to come and tour the school. We encourage you to share this with your colleagues, friends and others who may be interested in learning more about the wonderful learning that takes place at ISU. As ambassadors for the school, parents are often our immediate tie to the community at large.

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How do I find my child’s report card?

In regards to one of our initiatives to lower our carbon footprint and use less paper, this year ISU will be sharing report cards via Managebac in a digital format. The reports can be found by following the instructions below. The reports will be available today, Friday, February 7.

Please feel free to get in touch with Ms. Bachman or Mr. Rawlinson if you have any questions about the reports.

Via the Reports Tab
Select the appropriate child from the top of the page (if you have more than one child registered on Managebac). Select the Reports tab from the sidebar on the left-hand side. Here you can see your child’s Term Reports and Progress Reports. You can click on each report to view and download it as a PDF file, as well as print it.

If you need log-in help for Managebac, please contact either Ms Bachman or Mr Rawlinson via the emails below.

l.rawlinson@is-ulm.de  - Mr Rawlinson

h.bachman@is-ulm.de  - Ms Bachman

Also if you want to contact any member of staff you can follow the pattern of:

the initial of their first name then dot then their last name, then @is-ulm.de

Staff cannot be emailed via Managebac other than to notify of absences, however, their contact details can be found on Managebac.
Hosting Help Still Needed!

First, many thanks to the ISU families who have already volunteered to host our student guests coming in March for the International Schools Theater Association (ISTA) Festival. It is a true show of ISU warmth and hospitality that so many have already opened up their homes to our visitors.

However, we’re still in need of housing for ten visiting students, and need your help! All students who still need housing are girls and would surely be lovely temporary additions to your homes.

Though this is a Middle School Festival, host students are not required to be participating in the festival, nor even in Middle School! Families with only Elementary or only Upper School students are also able to host, so if you are willing and able to open your home to some young theatre makers, it would be most appreciated!

Host families will need to:

- Provide bed(s) for visiting students (minimum 2) for three nights – Thursday, 5 March through Sunday morning, 8 March. n.b. – a bed could be a futon, sleeper couch, air mattress, etc., so long as the students have a space with some privacy/sense of security. If visiting students are the same gender as the host student, they could share a room, space provided
- Ensure safe transport between ISU and their home (car, bus, walking, etc)
- Provide breakfast for three mornings
- Provide a packed lunch on Friday, 6 March
- Provide dinner, entertainment and supervision on Saturday, 7 March
- Assume responsibility for the comfort and care of our guests while they are under your supervision

Should you be interested in helping out or have any questions about the role of hosts, please email Mrs. O’Leary - s.oleary@is-ulm.de for further details.

Mrs Samantha O’Leary
MS/US English Teacher
We have already made it to February though we are missing a little bit of snow; nevertheless, it is still cold and we have spent most of the time doing various indoor creative fun activities.

After School Care Club has been enjoying these past two weeks of fun crafty art projects and expanding our literacy as well, before we have students engage in projects, we all start by being outside to help get all the wiggles out. Each day of the week, we have set activities. On Monday’s we start with library/ computer lab and encourage the children to read or practice their creativity on paper. Moving along into the week (Tuesday’s - Friday’s), we take turns leading in a craft project for every child who is interested. Our students are not only having a great time engaging in activities, but they’re also learning some valuable fine motor skills.

The most important lesson we try to share with our After School Care Club students is about “working together” and encouraging students to help one another. We have recently started engaging the older students in coordinating activities with our younger students. This builds social skills and cross-age relationships.

Last week we all did a Face Painting activity together with the students where they exhibited immense talent by painting different artistic logos of action heroes, flowers, rainbows and flags on their faces. As part of Arts and Craft activities, students also made origami paper birds, wristbands and bookmarks. Additionally, on Fridays, we had loads of laughs together by watching a Mr. Bean cartoon series with a special treat of Popcorn.

In the coming days, our focus will be to start ‘Best Out of Waste’ activities, which will help the kids to build a sense of how to reuse, reduce, and recycle.

Ms Susi Garza and Mrs Farah Usmani
After Care Club Teachers
From the moment the lights rose on the Lower School production of the “X-Factory”, the actors emerging onto the stage, singing and dancing in unity, any question of ‘is it worth the waiting for?’ was met with a resounding ‘yes’.

The production was quite simply superb! At turns inspiring, moving and just really fun to watch! One of the most striking features of this production was the freedom it allowed our students to go on stage and present something they choreographed themselves. In the different scenes throughout the play, the interpretations of songs and characters was immaculate. Each actor, from the smallest role to the largest, had their moments and knew exactly what they’re supposed to be doing. Throughout rehearsals and performance night they were supported by an outstanding technical crew and stage manager.

As one of the directors of the show, this has without a doubt been my favourite production! I found myself smiling throughout the show and wanting to sing along to all my favourite songs. And as the audience left the show, humming the tunes (and even dancing a turn or two), it was clear that everyone who had watched the “X Factory” considered themselves exceptionally fortunate indeed. This production proves that ISU students are exceptionally talented!

Well done to everybody involved.

Mrs Golledge
EAL Teacher
Counsellor's Corner

From Exams to Study Skills and Back to Exams Again

Our Grade 10 and 12 students have just completed their mock examinations for the IGCSE’s and IB exams respectively. This is always a stressful week for all involved, whether writing or grading and now that it is over, it can often feel like a time to rest and relax for our students. However, now is the time to review and refresh knowledge, seek additional assistance with difficult concepts, and learn how to manage time and materials for best results on the next round of exams coming in the spring.

Below are some tips on how to help guide your students in how to do this:

- **Review and Refresh Knowledge:** Helping students to organise and structure their study materials by units covered in the two years of their respective programs can help them know what to study. They may also choose to prioritise content by what is more difficult for them. Students who rewrite their notes and actively read their texts and notes can often have better success in storing this information in their long term memory instead of trying to memorise the information. Continuous review using this read it, write it, say it method is one of the most effective ways of doing this. Past papers and simulated test situations also help students deal with test-taking anxieties.

- **Seeking Assistance:** Not every subject or all of the content in a subject area is easily accessible to every student and with this in mind, several of our teachers have made themselves available for additional help during ASAP timings. However, that isn’t the case across the board, but it is the case that all of our teachers are more than willing to assist students towards their own success. Encouraging students to reach out to their teachers via email or personally when they don’t understand something is a great way for them to take ownership over their learning and success.

- **Time Management:** This is often one of the biggest areas of concern for students. They first need to consider a study space instead of the hours they need to be working. This should be in a public space in the house that is quiet but not isolated. Walking by or near them from time to time helps to keep students on track. Also helping your student to download or work offline on all materials for studying (or even using that old fashioned paper and pencil approach) so that they aren’t distracted by social media or other online distractions. Finally, creating a calendar for study that includes their exam schedule also helps to create focus for students. They shouldn’t focus only on one subject a week or maximise time on a more difficult subject. Students should speak to teachers about realistic expectations and how much time they should be devoting for review.

Finally, making sure to include plenty of breaks, time for exercise, and proper meals and sleep are essential to success. Taking care of our whole self allows us to study and work better.

*Ms Angela Collins*
*School Counsellor*
Higher Education Fair

It's a little more than a month away but our third annual ISU Higher Education Fair is coming! This year, our fair will take place on Friday, March 20th, 2020 from 14:00-16:00. It will take place in the D wing of the school but we ask all guests to please enter at the main entrance and sign in. This fair is open to our wider community as well and we would welcome any of our community to invite their extended friends and family to attend.

This year we have outdone ourselves with our largest and most global representation of universities yet! There will be approximately 45 representatives in attendance this year coming from Canada, the USA, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, the UK, France, Spain, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. There will be medical schools, comprehensive universities, technical schools, art universities, and business schools. In addition to traditional higher education facilities, we will be hosting representatives of IIT Institut für Talententwicklung Süd GmbH who will share about their annual vocatium where students can potentially find internships and make connections to local businesses.

Please refer to your Managebac accounts for a full list of attending higher education facilities. A presentation schedule will also be published in the ISU Parents Group on Managebac, very soon.

Ms Angela Collins
School Counsellor

Outward Bound Trip

Outward Bound 2020 was a successful week with a great group of students. Students were challenged but showed great team work and perseverance. They also had a lot of fun. The weeks activities included a two day hike and overnight in a Hut, a day skiing, tree climbing, zip lining and a rock climbing wall.

Ms Christy Moore
MS Math teacher
Last week, some of our students participated in a BBU basketball tournament. Our Grade 1 and Grade 2 students participated for the first time ever in ISU history in this event, playing 4 games against schools such as Mark Twain Grundschule and Merianschule, with the supervision and instructions of our coach Mr Sauer. Although it was the first time that our students played together in an event like this, they were able to reach a victory and did pretty well in every game. A big shout out to our players, Linus, Ferdinand, Gonzague and Akshat!

Continuing with our participation in this tournament, our Grade 5, 6 and 7 students joined the event with two teams (last year we had one) and although all our players ended up playing for both squads, one of our teams reached 3 victories out of 4 matches, this is another improvement compared to the previous school year, so well done! A big shout out to our players, Henry, Shriya, Eva, Yacoub, Oskar, Jané, Lina Marie, Alba, Evan, Luke and Tim and a note of appreciation to our coaches, Ms Alimena and Mr Neethling.

As the year moves along, this Saturday, February 8, our Middle Schoolers will be at the Franconian International School participating in a basketball friendly tournament and our Upper School basketball players will be at the International School of Stuttgart, participating in a friendly tournament as well.

A last note, on February 15, our Upper School Basketball players will play against St. Georges’ Munich International School, here at ISU. The game starts at 10.30 am and you are all invited to come and support our team. I look forward to seeing more of our students joining in with our sports and after school activities.

Mr Alves
PE Teacher
Today was our last swimming session for EYP 3 and Grade 1 for this School year. The students worked hard on their skills and had lots of fun diving, jumping and sliding in the water.

To make this a safe experience we needed parent volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteering parents for supporting us in the pool and helping us to make this a wonderful, smooth, and safe experience for the students.

We are looking forward to continuing with these skills in September 2020.

Ms Heike Merkle
PE Teacher
After School Activities Program

I am happy to announce that we officially have started our after-school activities for this semester.

This term we are able to offer 22 different activities, 2 being led by our students, 7 sports related activities and a lot of other diverse options for all the different age groups. These are great opportunities for students to work on their varied interests and abilities such as creativity, leadership, organisational skills, amongst many other things.

As a reminder, the sign-up process will start this week, and it can be done by a form that will be sent to you by Mr Alves on Managebac.

The deadline for signing up is: Friday February 14.

It is very important that we have this sign up process so that we know where students should be and that they are safe.

We are looking forward to seeing more students joining these wonderful teacher and student led activities!

Mr Alves
After School Activities Coordinator
German students in Grade 5 prepared interesting and informative presentations of their home countries as part of the UOI "Migration".

One project was the “Story of my own Migration” in the form of a comic. The students created detailed and fascinating pictures and presented this impressive event of their life.

William explained all the various facts about Norway in German! Great job William!

For the new UOI “Urban Planning” the students worked with the local maps of Neu-Ulm and Ulm and wrote and presented location plans and city descriptions together with the German A students.

Here Sree presents his work proudly!

Helena and Valdemar are working together to discover the city of Neu-Ulm

Jané and Oskar write down their dialogue.

William B and Saha work on the best way to find leisure activities.

Lina Marie and Yacoub have developed a successful collaboration

Frau Bauser-Maier and Frau Guentke
German A and German B Teachers
Whole School Spirit Week

The whole school will be celebrating Spirit Week February 17 - 21. Teachers will be sending out more information in the coming days.

¡Spirit Week!

Date: 17th-21st Feb

Mon: PJ Day

Tue: Sports Day

Wed: Twin Day

Thur: Throwback Thursday

Fri: Carnival
PTG News

PTG Spotlight

Save the date!!!
Our ISU Family Summer BBQ will take place on June, Sunday 7th. As usual, we will be offering food, drinks and lots of fun activities.

You are invited... to a day-trip to Stuttgart Kunstmuseum on Thursday, February 13th.

We will go by train from Neu-Ulm and be back around 4:30 pm.

Interested? Contact Birgitta via WhatsApp at +46 736 222 195 or send us an email to: ptg@is-ulm.de.

CONTACT US:
Feel free to contact us (for help, questions, ideas...), via email at: ptg@is-ulm.de or via the ISU School Community WhatsApp Group.
And of course, if you are not yet on this WhatsApp group, just send me a message to: +49 160 98187900 and I will add you with pleasure.

Have a lovely weekend,

PTG