I hope 2020 has gotten off to a flying start for all members of the ISU community. January is a busy month in international schools, and ISU is no exception. We are currently in report card mode and reports will be issued in early February. In helping to reduce our carbon footprint, our reports will be issued digitally this semester. Mr. Rawlinson in a previous newsletter, and also in this edition, explains how to access report cards on Managebac.

We currently have 290 students enrolled at ISU, with 8 new students joining us over the last few months. We warmly welcome the Dragic, Sachin Prakash, Sarkar, Swarts, Tsotsoglou and Weber families to our community.

As I stated in a prior communication, we must now begin our planning for the 2020/2021 academic year. We are now trying to gauge class sizes in each grade in order to help with resourcing and budgeting for next year. Your help is sought in this regard.

Thank you to those who have already completed the survey. For those that have not yet, we kindly ask that you spend some time to fill out this very quick survey, even if your plans for next year are not fully confirmed.

This survey will close on Friday 31 January.

Please find the link to the survey below:

ISU AUGUST 2020 PLANNING SURVEY

Please note that this survey is a courtesy and is not binding. However, we remind you that families need to inform ISU by 31 May, at the latest, if they will not be returning in August 2020.
We have between 50 and 60 cars dropping students off in about a twenty-minute span before school, so it is imperative that cars drive as far down to the end of the drop-off zone in the car park as possible before stopping for the children to get out; please let students exit on the passenger side only please for safety; please bear in mind that this is a drop off zone and please be courteous to those dropping off children behind you by not parking for a longer than needed period of time; if you need to accompany your child into the school please only use a designated parking place in the school car park; please be careful of pedestrians and cyclists when entering and exiting the car park; if you are dropping your children off in front of the school, please do obey the traffic signs and do not illegally or double park for however quickly; please stress the importance with your children of using the designated pedestrian crossing (zebra/cross-walk). Children should not cross the street at any other point; the above rules also apply to afternoon pick-up. Parents, when possible can gather inside the school gate when waiting for their children; at all times, please observe the pedestrian markings in the car park.

Over the coming weeks you may also notice in the local media advertisements promoting our Open Day on 8 February from 9:30-13:00. While this is not an Open Day for ISU parents, we do encourage you to let 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.

Now with flu session upon us, we are taking some preventive measures here at school. All classrooms and shared areas have alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers available to students and staff. We are also carrying out frequent cleanings with alcohol cleansers of desks, door handles, and railings. We kindly ask parents that your children must stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine. I hope that with these measures we can help minimise the risk of flu this season.

As we start noticing the “slightly” longer days, there is a bit more of a spring in the step, watching the magic of the light coyly coming back to remind us that Mother Nature rules! Whether it is light or dark in the mornings, we all need to be aware of the importance of safety around our school—and particularly in the drop-off zone in our car park. I am usually out most mornings and what I see are parents carefully and mindfully dropping off their children.

But it can always be useful for a general reminder of our drop-off area rules so I thank you in advance for your careful reading of the following points and your constant thoughts about slow and safe driving in the morning when using these areas:

The speed limit outside school on Schwabenstrasse is 30 kmph.

- We have between 50 and 60 cars dropping students off in about a twenty-minute span before school, so it is imperative that cars drive as far down to the end of the drop-off zone in the car park as possible before stopping for the children to get out;

- Please let students exit on the passenger side only please for safety;

- Please bear in mind that this is a drop off zone and please be courteous to those dropping off children behind you by not parking for a longer than needed period of time;

- If you need to accompany your child into the school please only use a designated parking place in the school car park;

- Please be careful of pedestrians and cyclists when entering and exiting the car park;

- If you are dropping your children off in front of the school, please do obey the traffic signs and do not illegally or double park for however quickly;

- Please stress the importance with your children of using the designated pedestrian crossing (zebra/cross-walk). Children should not cross the street at any other point;

- The above rules also apply to afternoon pick-up. Parents, when possible can gather inside the school gate when waiting for their children.

I would also like to make special note of the importance of being safely attired while on a bicycle. Both the rider and the bicycle need to possess the correct gear. Not only should the cyclist wear reflective clothing and a helmet, but I’d also like to make a plea that bicyclists leave their ear phones “unplugged” while on their bicycles. The latest tunes or audiobooks may be compelling, but they can also distract the cyclist from hearing essential sounds of traffic that can keep them aware and safe.
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 after 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.

Dr Liam Browne
Director

How do I find my child’s report card?

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Be seen and be safe over the coming months!
Thanks to everyone for their efforts in keeping our students as safe as possible and suggestions are welcome. Our children deserve our diligent efforts!

Dr Liam Browne
Director

Please observe the following rules in the carpark:

- Cyclists are to dismount from their bikes in the car park area;
- Cyclists are to observe the traffic flow – using the entrance and exit signs areas as designated;
- Pedestrians are to walk close to the right-hand side of the car park (inside the yellow lines) when entering.

How do I find my child’s report card?
The After-school Care club has been enjoying the cold, crisp weather playing in the outdoors and enjoying each other's company. After a long day of learning new things in school, we like to start After-school care being outside where the kids feel free and relaxed. Here is where we encourage all our students to be happy and enjoy the end of the day playing with one another whether that being football, four square, or hide and seek. Lately, BeyBlades has been popular to play during After-school care, but not only is it entertaining to play, but it is also entertaining to watch on the sidelines from our youngest students to our older students.

Since January is a cold month we try to be outside for about 45 minutes this seems to be just enough for most of our students to then look forward to coming indoors. This past week we played two games called Hot/Cold - Paper Hunt and Freeze. The Hot/Cold objective was for our students to work as a team with the older kids helping others. In Paper Hunt and Freeze the younger students gain an understanding of the concept of the terms - above, underneath, and besides when searching for the paper object.

Mondays are our Library visits and Computer Lab days where kids can work on Raz Kidz, Matheletics and on any upcoming presentations they may have. This Monday we shared our time reading in pairs and on exploring reading on our own.

Ms Susi Garza and Mrs Farah Usmani
AfterSchool Care Club
St Dithers School is in trouble! Following an extremely poor inspection the school has been labelled ‘Average’ and is in great danger of being closed down. The governors, worried about the fate of their school and with only 6 weeks to turn things around, decide to take drastic action. An X-Factory Show! The students have the opportunity to prove that they are outstanding and save their school.

The Lower School Musical Club invites you to attend the **THE X FACTORY** on:

**Friday, 31 January at 17:00. and Saturday, 01 February at 14:00**

We look forward to seeing you all join us!

*Mrs Golledge and Frau Guerntke*
On Tuesday the 21st of January, Grade 4 were lucky enough to be able to visit the hydro energy plant in Böfingen. We have been focusing on different energy sources over the last 6 weeks as part of our UOI, and this was the perfect way to finish the unit.

We learned that the hydro plant powers 40,000 homes in Bayern and Baden-Württemberg and in the event of a power outage, the plant continues to power the hospitals. We went under the 13 tonne turbine and watched it spin over 107 per second. The students were enthralled by how sticks and rubbish are trapped and then brought to the surface by a massive ‘claw’ - this ensures the water that spins the turbines is clean.

Grade 4 were wonderful representatives for ISU, being Principled with their behaviour and asking insightful questions.

A big thank you to the parents chaperones McKenzie, Conny, Sabrina and Martin.

Miss Jessica Morgan
Grade 4 Teacher
Save the date!
Our ISU Family Summer BBQ will take place on Sunday, 7th June.
As usual, we will be offering food, drinks and lots of fun activities.

Monthly Get Together
You are invited... to a monthly get together for parents of ISU students. This is an opportunity to get together, meet new people, reconnect with others and discover new restaurants.
The next get together lunch will be on Monday, January 27th at 12:30 pm at Elinaki Mezedopolion (Herrenkellergasse 29, 89073 Ulm).

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

Have a lovely weekend,
PTG