

# ISU News

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Important Dates:

- 28<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March: Carnival Holiday
- 1<sup>st</sup> April: MS/US Parent Teacher Conference
- 1<sup>st</sup> April: Student-Led- Conferences Grades 1-5
- 7<sup>th</sup> April: Grade 12 CAS Expo

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## Director's Note

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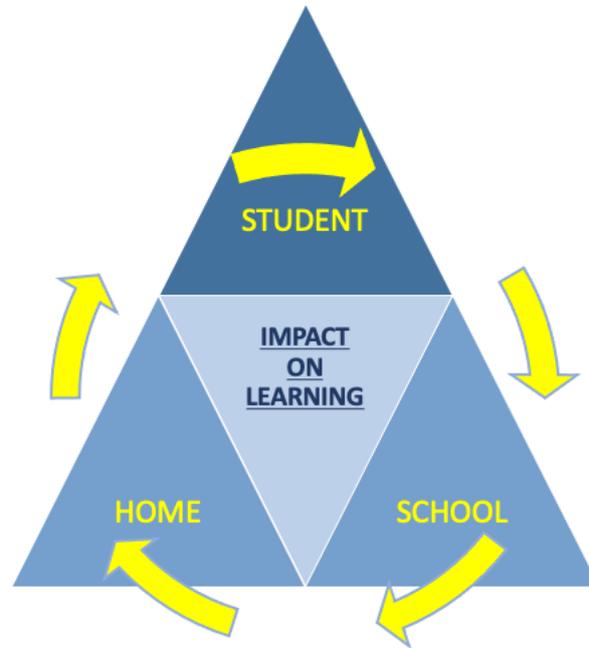
### Reports and the power of feedback

“The most powerful single moderator that enhances achievement is feedback.”

[John Hattie](#)

After a very thorough process starting with rigorous assessment through drafting and proofing, first semester reports have now been published and are accessible via [ManageBac](#) (Middle and Upper School) and [Toddle](#) (Lower School). This high quality, thorough and detailed feedback is designed to give parents a clear analysis of their children's learning experiences at ISU. The reports are designed to enable effective conversations at home that will ensure everybody has clarity on the next steps that will have the **highest impact** on learning.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there is a broad and proven consensus that feedback is one of the elements of teaching that has the highest impact on learning. As a teaching faculty, we have recently dedicated time to reflecting on and determining how best to capitalise on this fact in units of inquiry in the PYP, all the way through to mock IGCSE and DP exams. What does this look like? By way of example, Mr. Finlay (IGCSE Coordinator) has been sharing evidence-based best practice on the effective running of 1:1 meetings with students as well as strategies to deal with scenarios where individuals or groups of students have underperformed against expectations. As a team, we are also considering next steps and reflecting on the oft-overlooked consideration that feedback *from* students about their learning is a particularly powerful factor. This is an area we are exploring to ensure we unlock as many marginal gains as possible.



What does this all this mean for parents? The most important takeaway from this message is that it is essential for every student from EYP1 to Grade 12 to benefit from a **report-informed** and **goals oriented home conversation**. Without this step, children and students fail to benefit from the essential and consistent support that unlocks their potential. If it has not already happened, such a conversation can happen today with nothing more than the full report as a basis. Of course there must continue to be plenty of interaction between home and school, but the strength of detailed reports such as those to which you have access is that they provide enough high quality feedback for the home dialogue to happen with immediate effect. If you have any questions about accessing the reports, please be in touch with the relevant homeroom teacher and they will be more than happy to assist.

Please don't wait and be sure to dedicate time this weekend to engaging with your children on their performance as detailed in their reports. Finally, it goes without saying that we would welcome *your* feedback of this experience.

## Middle/Upper School

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### Grade 11 Biology

#### *The Icing on the Cake*



As part of our unit on cell biology, Grade 11 students were given the task of presenting their knowledge of either **cell structure** or **the structure of a cell membrane** as a 3D model. For the weeks leading up to Christmas and into the new year we have been enjoying the cake models.

They were not just an excellent way for them to recall their knowledge but also very delicious. The decorations on top represent the cell organelles.





Thankfully we have only had one cake a week and so it wasn't too much for the waistline! Well done Grade 11.

Nicki Howell  
Biology Teacher



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## Catching Up On CAS

### *Staying fit during lock down*

During the lockdown it was hard to stay fit as we had online classes and homework piling up. It was easy to get into a routine of: Eat. Work. Sleep. Repeat. To combat this and try and work some exercise back into our lives we started going on long walks together, in order to get back into shape and start living more healthily.

We felt happy because we got to spend time with each other during these hard, covid times. The walks weren't hard, so we weren't tired, but making them longer and keeping a constant pace allowed us to build up stamina.



Scheduling around our school work was definitely hard, especially during the colder months. Deciding between doing some homework, watching a movie or going on a walk in the sub-zero temperatures definitely decreased our motivation to go out and exercise. It was also a challenge to build up a routine and a length of walk; due to the fact that the lockdown killed both of our stamina.

We faced these challenges by scheduling our walks together to motivate one another to actually go on the walks. We started up slowly and tried out a bunch of different lengths, speeds and routes to try and build up our stamina and decide what we liked. In the end we decided we liked the variation of the walks, sticking to one route and length is boring, so we came to the conclusion to try and do something slightly different every walk in order to keep it fresh and to keep us motivated.

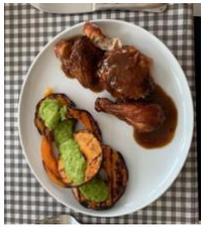
To conclude, what we learned from this experience was that walking is definitely not the exercise we want to continue doing for the rest of our lives, but it was how we adapted our exercising to lockdown. We learned that we like exercising with other people and to never underestimate how motivating the promise of a good chat can be.

Niamh and Paolo  
Grade 12



## Diverse Ethnic Recipe Website

Dear fellow students, teachers and parents,



With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the restrictions imposed by governments all over the world isolated a lot of people. Personally, we were extremely unhappy with the lockdown as it confined us to our houses all day and impacted our ability to socialise as well as we used to. This is where the idea to create this 'Cookbook' stemmed from. The ultimate goal of this project was to help bring the community back together in a form that everybody loves, FOOD!



That is why we, Nadia and Yohan, were able to get responses about favourite foods from all over the diverse ethnicities of our beloved ISU community and compile it into an easy and accessible website open to all.

Link to website: [CulturaldishesofISU](https://www.culturaldishesofisu.com)

Nadia, Asya and Anastasia  
Grade 11



## Lower School

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### 100 Days of School

*Observe and Reflect*



EYP to Grade 1 celebrated 100 days of school by dressing up as 100 year-olds. We thank families for their wholehearted participation in preparing costumes for their child. It was quite hilarious to witness the little elderly people walking into ISU. The high energy and enthusiasm students placed into their 100 year-old character self, was incredibly uplifting for all.

There was some fine statement jewellery, masses of silver hair, glasses galore and even the occasional walking frame. Teaching staff were also looking distinguished and magnificent. Some truly chic grannies, an Einstein grandpa, and even a slight hipster Opa vibe from the EYPE classroom.





In class activities included making celebration crowns and reading glasses, counting using 100's charts, threading chunky necklaces, dance parties and generally swanning around with mischief and mayhem in play.

The event was recorded for posterity by the IT team and we are grateful for their efforts with setting up the Atrium studio.

It was a fabulous inaugural dress-up event and one we endeavour to place in the ISU events of note calendar to start a tradition.



100 days of learning through play, exploration and inquiry at ISU is a worthy occasion to mark.

Narelle Johnson  
EYP and Grade 1 Team

## Counsellor's Corner

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### Lots to Celebrate

It's that time of year again when university offers begin to roll in and students in Grade 12 begin to look forward to next steps after graduation. Some students choose to have a gap semester or year in order to further develop skills that will help their future applications and career choices, while others dive straight into the post-secondary world. Below is a list of where students have applied this year so far and those accompanied by an asterisk show where students have conditional offers of acceptance pending their completion of the IB Diploma Programme at ISU.

The Netherlands:

University College of Amsterdam, **Groningen University\***, University of Amsterdam, **The Hague University of Applied Sciences\***, **Leiden University\***, University College Roosevelt, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Switzerland:

**Glion\***, EHL, ETH

United Kingdom:

University of Edinburgh, **Dundee University\***, **Lancaster University\***, **University of Westminster London\***, Brunel University, University of Birmingham, King's College London, Queen Mary's University of London, **Glasgow University\***, **University of Bristol\***, **University of Leeds\***, **University of Warwick\***

Canada:

McGill University, **University of Calgary\***, University of Toronto, OCAD, **University of Waterloo\***

Portugal:

Instituto Superior Técnico, NOVA Medical School - Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Universidade de Lisboa

Austria:

Siegmund Freud University - Vienna, Danube Private University, Paracelsus Medicine Univeristy - Salzburg

Germany:

**EU Business School\***, **MBS\***, SRH Hochschulen, International School of management (ISM) Hamburg, AMD Munich

Elsewhere around the world:

Stockholm School of Economics, Lsmuni Lithuania, Masaryk University, University of Tartu, Univerisity of Latvia, Riga Stradins University, Charles University - Prague, Semmelweis University Budapest, NYU Abu Dhabi, Dublin Business School (DBS)

Students put a lot of effort and time into their applications and should be congratulated based on that work and their commitment to researching best fit schools. It should also be noted that many students are still waiting to hear from their prospective schools or are in the interview phase of their applications. These are exciting times!

### **UK Ambassador for the Day!**

In addition to celebrating our graduates for their efforts, we should also celebrate one of our Grade 10 students: Valerie von Haeften! Valerie entered an essay competition hosted by the British Council where she needed to express what platform she would push forward if she were granted the opportunity and power to do so. Valerie chose to write about the UN Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality. Her well-written and thoughtful piece garnered the attention of the selection committee and Valerie was chosen as one of the competition winners! The prize for Valerie is Ambassador for the Day at the British Embassy in Berlin. While there, Valerie will meet with the UK Ambassador and other embassy staff. She will also take part in a series of workshops and meet with the other winning students from across Germany. Congratulations, Valerie! You are another ISU success story!

Angela Collins  
Counsellor

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# Eco Council

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## ISU Eco Council Virtual Market Place

The Eco Council has set up a virtual market place to replace our Winter Swap. It will be a platform where people in the ISU community can exchange / sell goods. Feel free to post items that are in good condition and let the exchanging begin.

We will be using the *Classlist* app (see instructions on slide below). Parents and students can create an account and upload photos of the items they want to exchange or sell. We suggest that any money is paid directly between buyer and seller when the items are exchanged.

The ISU Eco Council would also like you to consider donating some of the proceeds to the ISU Eco Council Fund to help ISU become a more sustainable school community as we work towards the [Eco Schools Green Flag Award](#).

You can donate to the ISU Eco Council Fund by sending the cash in a sealed envelope with your child to hand to me and informing me at [r.newman@is-ulm.de](mailto:r.newman@is-ulm.de)

Mr. Newman  
MS/US Geography Teacher



A virtual market place on  **Classlist**



**Step by step guide:**

1. Click on the following link (on your phone or computer) or scan the QR code to join the school community:  
<https://classlist.page.link/TQfXb8zNsbEx2Jte8>
2. Create an account
3. If you are a parent: follow the instructions on the screen
4. If you are a student: select your grade, write down your name and select "Guardian" as 'relationship to child'
5. Click on 'Marketplace' to create post or see other people's posts.

Eco-council ISU