Learning to Live Together
Google Calendar - Playtime Theatre
Unleashing Creativity
Drawing to advocate Children’s Rights
Parent Passion
CAS - Football & Volleyball
Your Family & Social Media - Diwali
This year’s whole school concept of “Building Community: Stronger Together” really is a deliberate and explicit articulation of the school’s guiding principle of Learning to Live Together, in which we prepare for “an ever-changing global community”.

In light of recent events, and the damage to the fabric of the global community, I have found myself reflecting in depth on my position. I am fortunate to enjoy the comfort of a safe environment. From my vantage point, what legitimacy do I have to comment on the profound distress experienced by those facing violence, terror and hatred?

On Monday, the historian Yuval Noah Harari wrote on Twitter/X that “right now the minds of Israelis and Palestinians are filled with their own pain: no space left to even acknowledge the pain of the other side. But outsiders should make an effort to empathize with all suffering humans and help maintain a space for peace.”

As the custodian of a small, caring and above all international community, I can and will therefore commit to maintaining a space for peace. This is why, at the beginning of this week, I wrote to colleagues to let them know that they have my support (and that of the Ba-varian Government) in answering questions from students that arise on the topic of conflict in the Middle East. Rest assured, nonetheless, that colleagues have not been asked pro-actively to bring up the topic. Instead, we want to be equipped to provide a safe space for genuine inquiry, discussion and understanding in an age-appropriate context. To that end, our counselling colleagues followed up with specific strategies from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) to facilitate the leadership of moderate, sensitive and empathetic conversations.

While organisations can sometimes lose sight of their guiding principles, it is imperative that ISU does not. Learning to live together is explicitly at the core of our daily lives at ISU. We have the unique privilege of bringing many communities and cultures together under one roof. Our focus must therefore remain on nurturing a community in which we celebrate each other, appreciating our differences as complementary elements of the ISU DNA. At the same time, we must also provide comfort, support and safety when any of us experiences pain. By way of example, we are in the process of rolling out a mechanism whereby MSUS students can - in confidence - flag incidents that fall short of our high expectations for the attention of the counselling or leadership teams.

With your help, we can build a space for peace.

Mr. Osborne
Director
Want to keep up-to-date with school events? Want to look ahead to see when the next ISU event is to be held? Great news, we have an ISU online calendar for that!

Please click here to go to the ISU website where you’ll find the ISU online calendar as well as the year calendar as a pdf.

Mr. Rawlinson
Middle & Upper School Principal
Last week, Lower School was excited to welcome the Playtime Theatre - all the way from England. EY3 would like to tell you all about their morning with Jeremy Snow.

“We got in line and walked in the hallway to the atrium. We sat down. We watched. We listened. We looked at the play. We heard a song. The boy said, “That’s not a snowman. It’s just a pile of snow”. And the girl said, “It is a snowman!” The boy said “The snowman doesn’t have a name.” But the girl said, “His name is Jeremy Snow!”

The boy knocked the snowman’s head off. The girl fixed his head. The boy tried to knock his head off again, and the snowman scared the boy! The girl and the snowman danced and danced with Atharva and Xenia. Why was there a goose coming? An ice cream man tried to taste the snowman. We blew the snowman to the North Pole. And we all blew the snowman away. Three pom-poms came up. Two more little snowmen jumped up and were singing.”

EY3 Reports on Jeremy Snow
Crates, planks, ropes, blinds, baskets, containers, sticks, logs, blocks, scarves, and more… – what were they all doing in our playground last week?

As PYP (Primary Years Programme) educators, our mission and something we do every day is to support our students to inquire, collaborate, create, invent, construct and imagine. We've now taken this mission outdoors, creating an environment that not only nurtures these qualities but also cultivates the Approaches to Learning (ATL) Skills such as critical thinking, and problem-solving.

This collection of objects can be carried, combined, moved, lined up, redesigned, put together and taken apart in endless ways and combinations. Here, there are no rules or expectations; students are free to use the pieces and parts as they choose.

As well as sparking imagination and creativity, students also deepen their understanding of the Key Concepts, a crucial aspect of the PYP curriculum. Whether it’s understanding connections, exploring change, or investigating form, these objects offer a practical and tangible way to engage with these concepts.

Our new Loose Parts Area is the ultimate open-ended activity, where creativity knows no bounds. Ask your children what they like best!

Stay tuned for next week when we will reveal the area’s new name -a name suggested by students and voted on by students!

Ms. Balsom
Lower School Principal
As part of their unit of inquiry about Children’s rights, Grade 4T had the chance to talk to Noah (Grade 9) who is a member of the UNICEF Junior team of Ulm/Neu-Ulm. With his guidance and support, Grade 4 had the opportunity to discover the role of the members of UNICEF, to learn more about their actions and, more importantly, to get inspired. Together, they explored a very powerful way of advocating for a cause: drawing.

Grade 4 was very impressed with Noah’s presentation. He’s been a great role model who proved to be a risk-taker for speaking alone in front of the class. He demonstrated excellent communication skills and even gave them some constructive feedback on their drawing.
Celebrating Our Parent Passion Event

Friday 6th October was a day to remember in Lower School as parents took centre stage in the atrium for a truly inspiring event. The occasion, aptly named the “Parent Passions Event,” brought together a group of brave parents and an enthusiastic CAS student who shared their interests and hobbies with our students. The result was a morning filled with captivating presentations on a range of topics, from firefighting to 3D printing, Thai cuisine to changing the wheels on a go-kart, 3D model aeroplanes to humourous fun!

The presenters set up their tables around the atrium ready to share their passions with our students. The classes visited the atrium and were free to rotate around the tables finding out about each interest, listening intently, asking questions to find out more and getting involved in each passion. Students learned about the courage and dedication involved in being a firefighter and the importance of safety and teamwork. They delved into the fascinating world of 3D printing, where they witnessed how digital designs come to life and were fascinated to see the printer in action. Thai cuisine was a treat for the senses, introducing students to the rich and diverse flavours of Thai dishes and even allowing them to sample them! The hands on wheel changing of the go-kart showcased mechanical skills in action, as students discovered the intricate process behind maintaining these high-speed machines. The excitement for the 3D model aeroplanes was evident with students appreciating the patience and commitment that goes into building these incredible flying models. Last but not least, the humour presentation had students in stitches with jokes and pranks, teaching them that humour is not only a source of joy but also a way to connect with others.

This wonderful event ignited students’ thinking skills and fuelled their curiosity. It encouraged students to ask questions, explore new horizons, and think critically. They learned that every passion, from firefighting to 3D printing, involves a unique set of skills and knowledge. This exposure broadened their perspectives and encouraged them to think beyond the confines of traditional subjects. The Parent Passions Event was more than just a showcase of hobbies; it was a call to action. Students were inspired to connect with their own passions, whether in the arts, sports, science, or any other realm of interest.

The enthusiasm from the event rippled into the classroom. Teachers reported that students were eager to discuss what they had learned and to explore topics inspired by the presentations.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents and our CAS student who generously gave their time to visit us. Their patience, great explanations, and passionate presentations enriched our students’ educational experience in a way that words cannot fully express. The Parent Passions Event was a morning when learning transcended the classroom and students were reminded that education is a lifelong journey filled with endless opportunities.

Ms. Henry
Lower School Vice Principal & PYP Coordinator
Today, I will be talking about the CAS project that we (Moyuan, Hanyun and Ms Lin) did as Grade 11 students last year.

We came up with this idea because we noticed that there are many misunderstandings that people have about our country, China. It is not only true of our country, but many other nations. These misunderstandings led to more problems, such as racism. But China is a country that has thousands of years of history, and we don't want all the greatness that happened for the past thousands of years to be forgotten or ignored due to the past few decades of modern history.

And to break this, we have initiated this club. During the hours, we mainly focused on presenting the culture and traditions of China, such as introducing the most important festivals of China. For each lesson, we also taught the students some Chinese words that are related to the topic of the day.

Of course, only presenting it on the screen and having us talk for the entire class is boring for students, therefore, to raise their interest, we also planned games or exercise for every class. For example, we prepared a “Chopstick race”, where they have a little race on how many objects they can transfer in a given period of time, when we are on the topic of the history of chopsticks; or we also let the students paint their own “mask” when we are talking about how different colours mean different characteristics in Beijing Opera.

Not just the students, but we also learnt things when we were preparing for the lessons. As a person who moved to Germany in primary school, I did not have a lot of chances to get in touch with the culture. However, during the preparation of the lessons I have also learnt about things that I have not heard about before.

We got positive feedback from many students, saying that it was interesting to know something about Chinese culture and to learn how to write Chinese words.

Moyuan
On the 12th of October our varsity boys football team was invited to play a match against BIS, the Bavarian International School. We played a very challenging match against the very strong BIS team, ultimately succumbing to a 2-1 loss. Despite the final score, we were filled with pride after the match, having never had a closer game against this team. With our coach, Mr Stewart, by our side, we entered the game full of determination and optimism, which grew every minute as we started to realise that, even though the odds were stacked against us, we could beat them. Communication between our players, but additionally their tireless efforts, allowed us to play in the unity that we played in. Despite many intense moments, sportsmanship always seemed to be our top priority during this friendly match. There were very few accidental fouls. I believe that this match has really been a great start into a new season that will hopefully be the most successful era of ISU football we have ever had so far. We will move forward into the coming games with our newly established determination to win, now that we know we can beat teams such as the BIS!

Johannes

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Dear ISU community,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the start of some sport events here at the International School of Ulm.

On **October 21st**, we will be hosting a varsity boys football tournament from 9am to 1pm (visiting schools: International School of Stuttgart and Franconian International School), on **October 24th** we will host some friendly matches against International school of Augsburg for varsity boys volleyball and U14 girls and boys football and on **November 17 and 18**, we will be hosting the final GISST event for U14 girls football.

We are looking forward to seeing you supporting our teams and if you would like to be involved with any of these events please contact Mr. Alves: [a.alves@is-ulm.de](mailto:a.alves@is-ulm.de)

Let’s go Wolves!
On the 5th of October, we had a match against Bavarian international school and it was a satisfactory game. Even though the score was 2:14, we never felt like giving up. Christopher and Mika scored the 2 goals. We had a strong defence and Vrishav even saved a free kick. Raens always intercepted the football from the opposite team’s striker. The other players also did a great job but there were some times when our team didn’t give each other backup. The goalkeeper was a bit under pressure because we had a huge goal at it was impossible to save the high kicks. Even though the opposite team was bigger and stronger than us, we still managed to score 2 goals. On our way back, we all ate and some people sang Barbie girl. It got quite dark when we reached and then we all went home exhausted, knowing that in 2 days, we have another football match.
Football Trip Summary
U14 Girls

October 5th - Friendly Match at Bavarian International School

On October 5th the middle school girls soccer team ventured to Munich to play the renowned Bavarian International School (BIS), which many considered to be a great rivalry. We played a gut-wrenching, exciting, action-packed game! We were very successful in the first half of the game. We were up 3-0. We were doing very well as a team and had amazing strikers, midfield, defense, and of course amazing saves by the goalkeeper. We communicated, and celebrated our victories together. After the half time break, BIS unfortunately rallied and made one of the best comebacks I have ever seen. They scored one goal, which in my opinion, was the downfall for our team. We became demoralized and they managed to slip past our defense, and score four more goals. BIS had certainly rallied, but we weren’t going to give up, we were resilient. Our team scored one more goal, but sadly it wasn’t enough. The final score was 4-5, and BIS narrowly won. I was very proud of our team. Even though we lost, we never gave up hope. Our team never got upset when someone made a mistake, but instead we reassured one another that everything was fine. Our team only losing to a large school like BIS by one point, is quite the accomplishment, and hopefully we can win next time. We stayed together-as a pack! Let’s go ISU wolves!

October 7th - Friendly tournament at Munich International School

Our girls middle school soccer team traveled to Stuttgart on October 7th to participate in a friendly tournament. We left ISU at 6:50 on a Saturday. We were all still tired from the grueling match we had already participated in two days earlier. We left Ulm with high hopes, and confidence. Our first match we lost 0-1. We had never played against the team before, and they posed a difficult challenge. We played our 2nd game and successfully won 0-3, and only one of our teammates scored all the points! Hat trick!! Thanks Valentina! She was a great example to us all. We played our next game against STG (Saint George). Most of us know that STG is an incredibly sporty school. We did not have high hopes walking into the game, but we were all surprised with the results. The final score was 0-2. STG had only beat us by two points. Despite losing, we were still happy. Next up was BIS, the greatly anticipated rematch. We had learned from our mistakes from last time, and we were prepared. Our final score was 0-0. We were very proud of these results. Our normal goalie was unable to come on the trip, so the goalie position was split by three people. We didn’t even have gloves, but luckily the other teams were nice enough to share their gloves. One memorable moment during the game happened when someone on the other team shot a goal and Amina blocked it. Our team celebrated as if we had scored a goal (cue hugs and high-fives). Little moments like these help bring our team together, and we learned to celebrate each other’s accomplishments. Overall, our team has progressed wonderfully, and I think we have a real shot of placing top 3 in our final tournament. Well done ISU girls soccer team!
On October 14th, our Varsity Boys Volleyball team participated in a friendly tournament at Franconian International School.

A lot of international schools participated in this event such as the hosting school, Bavarian International School, Munich International School, St. George's Munich and International School of Frankfurt.

Our athletes participated in 3 matches, being able to win 2 matches (without conceding any set) and having only a close loss, forcing the opponent to a third balanced set. They performed amazingly on the court, beating schools that are very competitive; earning other players respect and admiration, putting ISU on the spot, not only as a school that presents itself in a nice manner but as well as being able to be competitive with any international school.

Our players have their next match (starts at 3.45pm), on October 24th at our school, so feel free to show up and support them.

Let’s go Wolves!

Mr. Alves
Athletic Director
Social media allows us all to stay connected and to view the world through a variety of lenses. It can be a great tool in helping our children stay connected with family and friends, it can help broaden our circles by allowing us to interact with a more diverse group of people and allows us to express ourselves. It also helps us find information or learn about current events.

Although social media has become an integral part of our lives, it also comes with challenges related to digital citizenship, online safety, and responsible use of social media. It can also be addictive, distracting and misleading. Even though most social media platforms, due to GDPR regulations, in Germany are officially 16+, many children sign up to at least one when they’re younger.

Digital Citizenship @ Home

Here's a short list of things on how you can help your child be safe online:

- Lead by example
- Show interest and ask questions about your child’s online experiences.
- Ask them if they’ve seen anything online that they are not comfortable with without telling them off for it.
- Remind your children that what they see on social media doesn’t always reflect reality.
- Teach your child how to protect their privacy (go through the privacy settings with them).

You can find more information at the links below:

Tips on how to talk to your children about social media:
- https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/#-Settingrealisticboundaries
- https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/behavior-and-development/social_media

Information about different apps:
(what they are used for and their privacy ratings)
- https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/social-networking-for-teens

Digital Citizenship @ ISU - Backed by research. Inspired by real life.

Digital citizenship is part of the PSHE and ICT programme. It is the foundation of responsible social media use. At ISU, we teach how to be responsible digital citizens, both in and out of the classroom. This means that our students across grade levels are taught Digital Citizenship so they understand the rights and responsibilities that come with using technology. Students are provided with real challenges and digital dilemmas that they face today, and we give them the skills they need to succeed as digital learners, leaders, and citizens. The curriculum is based on 'Common Sense Media's K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum' where we have followed the standards and adapted them to grade levels.

Further information, broken down into grade levels, can be found by clicking the links below:
This year we are bringing Diwali back to ISU!! Join us to celebrate the festival of light on November 18th in the atrium from 5pm to 8:30pm. We will be having various Indian snacks to enrich your flavors and traditional Indian dances from our students at ISU. Your welcome to come dressed brightly and ready to enjoy, eat and dance, so don’t forget your dancing shoes!

Shriya