International School ULM/Neu-ULM

Newsletter

20.12.2023

Building Community - Morning Connection
Winter Play - Varsity Boys Football
ASAP Season 2 - History Field Trip
Wellness Morning - CAS - Festive Reflection
Other News
Below is my winter address to the students of the ISU Middle and Upper School

Good morning and welcome. Well done on your hard work! Congratulations too on all that you have done in the spirit of Building Community: Stronger Together.

If we look beyond the school into the wider world, there has recently been a great deal of conflict. In that context, I recently read a thought-provoking article shared with me by Ms Bailey that was written by Conrad Hughes.

Dr. Hughes is the director of Ecolint, one of the founding International Baccalaureate schools in Geneva. He also teaches Theory of Knowledge.

He argues that “International Schools, in general, are beholden by a set of values around peaceful cooperation, critical thinking and social custodianship.”

He goes on to articulate that “… the purpose of an international school is not to publicly condemn nation states or governments, individuals or groups, nor is it to encourage our students to take sides, it is always to stand on the side of peace.”

With this quotation, Dr. Hughes is perhaps hinting at the IB mission of developing “… young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world…”

But let us be clear: sometimes the peace needs to be defended.

Dr. Hughes touches on the importance of promoting critical thinking in dealing with difficult topics in schools, but I would like to go further. Let us not forget, after all, that ISU makes a promise to ensure that you are prepared for an ever-changing global community.

One of the clear ways in which our global community is evolving is the proliferation of disinformation and fake news.

People of all ages are increasingly relying on social media to become informed - yet it is more and more difficult to filter such information. That makes it hard to come to reliable conclusions about what is happening in the world.

The temptation is to give up.

That cannot be.

To do so would be to step back from our duties as global citizens. If you cannot keep yourself informed about what is happening in your local and global community, how can you contribute in any meaningful way, let alone on the side of peace?

We need to equip you with the skills to filter what you access so that you can reach informed decisions. So this is also a message to my colleagues: the work you do in ensuring that students learn to filter out noise and engage with information thoughtfully and effectively is of the utmost importance and I thank you for it.

Students: you also have a key role to play. I was delighted to see on the after school activity programme for the new year that there will continue to be student-led initiatives that contribute to strengthening your global citizenship. Beyond what you learn in class, Grade 8 and above will be able to join a student-led Debating Club. I’m counting on you to develop a forum in which you can safely, healthily and respectfully challenge differing perspectives. This will equip you with the skills to speak out strongly, honestly and convincingly.

The mark of a true global citizen is the ability to understand that individuals are unique and identities are always complex and layered. Time and time again, I’m reminded that this concept deserves respect. As members of an international school community, we should never assume that people are somehow miniature reflections of what is often our clumsy perception of individual nations, for example.

So I was proud to read this week’s newsletter piece about the service learning project led by Moyuan and Hanyun with the support of Ms Lin to address misunderstandings about China.

I would like to conclude on a hopeful and positive note: there may be challenges ahead, but you have shown us that you care about each other, about your learning and about your place in our global community.

Thank you again for your commitment to the spirit of ISU and wish you all the very best for the days and weeks ahead.

Luke Osborne
Director
Dear ISU community,
Join our Athletics Director, Mr. Alves, for information regarding our ASAP Programme and Sports Season 2. Let's go Wolves!

The Morning Connection will take place at ISU on Tuesday 16th January from 8:30am until 10:00am. Please sign up by Sunday 14th January, to give us an indication of numbers.

Sign-up form
After weeks of hard work and rehearsals, grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Drama students were finally able to share their Winter performances with an audience on the evening of December 14th.

Grade 6’s, “Christmas Idol” evaluated the possibility of replacements for Santa, who just wants a Winter vacation because, as Max S. said, “he’s old and cold and sooooo tired!” Grade 6 went through auditions for everyone from the Easter Bunny, played by Susannah, to Sponge Bob Square Pants, played by Aarav. While many of the roles came from the original script from Kim Shannon, some grade 6 students like Matthew chose to write their own scene for one of their favourite characters. In Matthew’s case, he brought the role of Cristiano Ronaldo, famous footballer, to the stage with energy and enthusiasm! In the end, grade 6 proved only Santa can do Santa’s job.

Grade 7’s piece, “The Antarctic Mystery”, was a topsy-turvy comedy-adventure with scientists, mermaids, penguins, a fairy and scarf-loving penguin catchers! The original piece came from The Drama Notebook, but in order to expand to fit our class size, some of the grade 7 students helped craft new lines, scenes and characters to fit the story and our group! Annie Ambrosetti, Maddie Ambrosetti, Laura Gillot, Paula Jimenez, Aadhya Vivek, Jordi Garcia de la Torre, and Dorothea Dilger all contributed new ideas, characters, scenes, and lines to the final script!

Grade 8, 9, and 10 had a greater challenge yet for their Winter performance- they were required to write their own script! After the 9 and 10 students worked for the first two months of school on crafting their own unique version of The Grinch, originally from Dr. Seuss, the grade 8s joined in and added more flair with elements of A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, and Disney’s Frozen. This inspired the end production piece, The Grinch’s Frozen Christmas Carol. The students all came together to create their own props and set, adapt costumes to fit their needs, and practice and rewrite scenes until they fit both the scenes and the characters they wanted to portray onstage! After months of work brainstorming, drafting and rewriting scenes and lines, and weeks of rehearsal, this class really pulled together a successful production uniquely their own!

Ms. Habeck
The Badminton tournament for this season occurred at St. George International School in Dusseldorf from December 8th to 9th. The tournament was exciting, with the students playing their hearts out on the badminton courts. They were full of energy as they competed, proving how good they were at badminton and how determined they were to do well. The tournament was a chance for these young talents to shine and make friends while playing. The tournament was not just a series of matches; it was a celebration of skill development, and the fostering of a vibrant sporting culture within the school community.

Ms. Seda
After School Activity Season 2

After School Activity (ASAP) season 2 and Sports Programme reminder

It is with great excitement that we announce the restart of our After School Activities, season 2 on January 8th.

Activities will be offered four days a week Monday - Thursday. The list of activities is as below:

### Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Age Range and Student Numbers</th>
<th>Any costs and other details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball - Ratiopharm Basketball Coaches and Mr. Zamora 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sports hall</td>
<td>Grade 1 - 5 Max.: 20 students</td>
<td>No additional cost Meeting Point: playground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning basketball skills, drills, and lead-up games. Students will be divided into</td>
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<td>groups by age.</td>
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### Tuesday

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISU Student Media Team - Student-Led and Mr. Gillott 3:30-4:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Room: C209</td>
<td>Grade 9-12 Min: 6 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>A space where you can express your creativity through writing, photography or film</td>
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<tr>
<td>developing your media skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>Sports hall</td>
<td>Grade 6 - 12</td>
<td>There's a cost involved</td>
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### Wednesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>These training sessions will incorporate gymnastic exercises, hand and foot techniques,</td>
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<td>with and without a partner, as well as special self defence techniques.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Support</td>
<td>Room: C104</td>
<td>Grades 6-12 Max: 10 students per week. Open to drop-ins without prior sign-up if space is available that day.</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>You have time to complete new work and revisions. Support is available for vocabulary,</td>
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<tr>
<td>study habits, revision techniques, and exam prep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkish Language and Culture Club 3:30-5 pm</td>
<td>Room: B201</td>
<td>Grade EY3-8 Max: 10 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come learn and engage in language and cultural activities for all.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zumba Class - Ms. Martinez 3:45-4:45 pm</td>
<td>Room: Atrium</td>
<td>Grade EY3-5 Max: 10 students</td>
<td>No additional cost Sports clothing required</td>
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<td>Mix of dancing and fun with latin music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Culture Club - Ms. Lin 3:45-4:30 pm</td>
<td>Room: B202</td>
<td>Grade 3-12 Max: 10 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come and explore the richness of Chinese and Taiwanese Culture through the aesthetic,</td>
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<td>art, and written expressions of everyday life encompassing food, clothing, shelter, and</td>
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<td>daily practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate Club - Student-Led and Mr. Edley 3:45:45 pm</td>
<td>Room: C104</td>
<td>Grade 8-12 Max: 15 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop debating skills and educate people more about general knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginner Russian Language &amp; Culture Club - Ms. Hopley 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Room: C204</td>
<td>Grades 1 - 12 Max: 15 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Always wanted to learn Russian and about their culture? Come join a group to learn</td>
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<td>basic Russian.</td>
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### Description of Activity

**Activities run from Jan 8 - Mar 22**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boxing Club - Ms. Garcia</td>
<td>Sports hall</td>
<td>Grades 7 - 12</td>
<td>Max: 16 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>A mixture of fitness and kickboxing. Students will learn and practise the basics of boxing to develop different combo. Students need to bring their own boxing gloves.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technicolor group - Ms. Habeck</td>
<td>C206</td>
<td>Grades 9 - 12</td>
<td>Max: no limit</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is an Upper School club for students interested in becoming part of an active group to create a safe space to learn more about and be a part of LGBTQIA+ community and other social advocacy issues. We will enjoy learning about everything from Heartstopper or Everybody’s Talking about Jamie to current events in the news. We will watch films, listen to music and read about what is happening in the LGBTQIA+ world and other social advocacy issues. We can become an active part of the ISU community to raise awareness, take action and teach.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance - Student-led and Mr. Alex</td>
<td>B201</td>
<td>Grades 3 - 7</td>
<td>Max: 10 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>There will be a warm up at the beginning of class consisting of a game or a few zumba-like dance moves and then together as a group a song will be chosen for which choreography will be made and taught every thursday.</td>
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History Field Trip - Dachau

In a pursuit of understanding and empathy, students from ISU recently embarked on an eye-opening educational trip to Dachau, a former concentration camp in Germany. The trip, designed to delve into the historical significance of World War II and the Holocaust, proved to be a transformative experience for all those who participated.

The trip aimed not only to educate but also to instill a sense of responsibility among the students. As they explored the barracks, crematorium, and memorial site, they were confronted with the harsh realities faced by the prisoners who once occupied the same grounds.

In the end, the Dachau educational trip was not just a journey through history; it was a journey of the heart and mind, leaving an indelible mark on the students and shaping their perspectives for years to come. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, may the lessons learned at Dachau inspire us all to strive for a more just and compassionate society.

Ms. Seda
Grade 2 Students Host Wellness Morning to Promote Health and Well-being

In an engaging culmination to their unit on health, Grade 2 hosted a Wellness Morning, exemplifying the central idea that “Balance in our lives promotes health and well-being.”

The event, held last week, was not only a showcase of the students’ learning but also an interactive experience for parents. The young hosts guided their parents through various stations, each focusing on essential aspects of health and wellness. These included safety awareness, the importance of healthy eating, techniques for staying calm and cool, and general self-care practices.

The big message of the day? Even busy mothers and fathers need to hit the pause button sometimes! Parents got into the spirit by trying out quick face masks and even getting their nails jazzed up. We enjoyed sharing our learning while celebrating health and happiness.

Well done, Grade 2! You’ve shown us all how to keep life fun, healthy, and balanced.

Ms. Osborne
Today, I will be talking about the CAS project that we (Moyuan & Hanyun & 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 much 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.
Winter Wonderland Recipe: Festive Reflections

Ingredients:
• A pinch of Pillars of Learning
• 1 cup of Building Community
• Generous helpings of Welcome Back Picnic, Parent Passions, Wolves Den, Playtime Theatre, Bavarian Breakfast, Diwali, Field trips, St Martins, Visit from St Nick, Winter Sing, and Winter Celebrations
• A dash of joy and laughter

Instructions:
Preheat the Atmosphere:
• Set the stage with the Pillars of Learning, creating a strong foundation of belonging.
• In a large mixing bowl, combine Building Community and stir gently until well blended.
Add Special Events:
• Sprinkle in Welcome Back Picnic, Parent Passions, Wolves Den, Playtime Theatre, Bavarian Breakfast, Assemblies, Unit Celebrations, Diwali, Field trips, St Martins, Visit from St Nick, EY Winter Sing, and Gr1-5 Winter Celebrations. Mix well to ensure even distribution of LP attributes throughout.
Fold in Joy and Laughter:
• Gently fold in the joy and laughter, being careful to preserve the collaborative, festive atmosphere.
Let It Simmer:
• Allow the mixture to simmer in the warmth of unity and shared experiences.
Garnish with Reflections:
• As the concoction simmers, add reflections on the learning and growth experienced since August, emphasising the AtL skills.
Serve Warm:
• Present the Winter Wonderland dish warm, with a generous sprinkle of community spirit on top.
Optional:
• If desired, add a festive touch by incorporating a sense of gratitude and togetherness.
Enjoy:
• Invite everyone to savour the delightful Winter Wonderland dish created at ISU, where the recipe for belonging, unity and joy can be enjoyed as a lifelong journey.

As you serve this Winter Wonderland delight, remember that the heart of ISU lies in the celebration of community, learning, joy and fun. Whether in the classroom, during events, or in the simple moments of reflection, the essence of Building Community is a timeless ingredient.

May your winter break be filled with warmth, your gatherings with laughter, and your learnings be as diverse as the snowflakes that may fall!

Looking forward to reconnecting again in January,

Charlotte Balsom
Lower School Principal
The students of Grade 6 German A put a lot of effort on their first book presentation. Additionally to general information, details about the author, descriptions of the main characters, a summary of the whole book (Inhaltsangabe), critics, quizzes and more, they created very imaginative and appealing posters. The students presented it in almost free speech and really good expression which was very impressive.

Here a some randomly selected examples:

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Dear ISU community,

Ensuring the safety of our children is a top priority, in and out of school. We would like to direct your attention to a brochure that was provided by the Police as a proactive measure to prevent accidents at train stations.

Please see below for a message from the police:

**Railway facilities are not adventure playgrounds or amusement parks.**

The Federal Police urges parents: Have a conversation with your children about the following dangers:

- High speeds of passing trains
- Trains approach almost silently and require long braking distances
- Entering the track area is prohibited and life-threatening
- Observing safety features – for instance, the white safety line on the platform (suction effect), signs indicating no entry
- Changing tracks only at designated platform crossings or underpasses
- Beware of high voltage on overhead lines – 15,000 volts! Extremely dangerous!