

**2023-24 IST Community-wide Goal: Understanding and Promoting the Diversity of Knowledge (IBLP)**

Our community welcomes and values the multiplicity of interests, ideas, and beliefs and values that exist within our international community living here in Tianjin, and beyond, and we are committed to providing a safe, open-minded, and inclusive environment for all. In embracing physical and socio-cultural diversity, we also champion diversity of thought and the critical thinking and open-minded inquiry and learning across a range of topics and disciplines that deepens conceptual understanding and intellectual growth and independence. We listen carefully when considering alternative points of view, and we are willing to grow and change as a result of sincere intellectual inquiry and discourse. We will engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance, we challenge injustice, and we take personal and professional responsibility for our roles, responsibilities and actions, and their consequences.

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school following what I hope was a most enjoyable **Chunjie Spring Festival** and Lunar New Year holiday. I trust that you all enjoyed the opportunity to travel, relax, catch up with friends and family, and soak in one of the world's truly amazing cultural experiences ... including the fireworks!

A reminder to all family members to try to find an opportunity to come into school **on Wednesday between 10AM and 1PM to view the Grade 10 Personal Project Exhibition**, a significant independent research project that serves as the capstone of the MYP. The exhibition will be preceded by a presentation to Grade 9 students and parents on what to anticipate next year. This will then be followed by a **Grade 10 presentation on course selections for next year in the IB Diploma**. Read on later in Blaze for more details, and/or listen into this week's educational item on the school's WeChat video channel, again translated by AI!

While on the topic of IB Diploma, each year at this time **the global ranking tables for IB schools** are released, celebrating the world's leading IB schools as determined by IB Diploma examination results. There are two annual sessions of examinations, May for the Northern Hemisphere and November for the Southern Hemisphere. The results for both 2023 sessions have now been collated, and the top 100 schools in the world (out of 3000+ schools) and the top 10 schools in China (out of 159) have been announced. I am once again pleased to share the news that IST continues to be ranked in both categories! Congratulations to our terrific students, and the teachers and parents who support them!

**Upcoming World Celebration Dates...**

Friday - February 24, 2024 Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival a Chinese festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar Chinese calendar. It marks the final day of the traditional Chinese New Year celebrations and the first full moon night of the new year. People watch lantern displays, fireworks and various performances, guess lantern riddles and eat Yuanxiao (glutinous rice balls with fillings) to celebrate the day.

In addition to using examination results as a measure of a school's success, school reputations are also often built upon their accreditation status. Today I submitted the first draft of a 'Preparatory' report to our accrediting agencies (CIS and WASC) in readiness for a small team visit (2 team members) to our school in May. The report outlines major events and developments impacting the school and learning and teaching over the past four years, and acts as a prelude to a comprehensive three party (CIS, WASC, and IB) full team evaluation visit next year in May 2025 (12 team members). I will submit the final draft of the Preparatory report in mid-April, which will also include written reflections from the staff, students, Board, and parents. On Wednesday I met with **the PFO Committee who will be drafting the parental statement on behalf of the parent community**. Once completed, I will include it in Blaze for your reference!

IST, as a highly regarded school, is one of the first CIS/WASC accredited schools in Asia to be offered an opportunity to undertake a new accreditation evaluation protocol for next year's full Team Evaluation Visit in May 2025. In addition to the standard measures of success, the new protocol asks us to undertake **3-4 future aspiration 'deep dive' projects** that will involve representative committees from across our community. IST has actually been granted approval to commence the process one year earlier than normal (and even before the official staff training!) and I am pleased to share with you a very brief overview of the four projects we will be undertaking:

### DEEP DIVE #1: Cutting Edge Tech

#### GOAL STATEMENT

The school will empower educators and students to strategically and ethically leverage cutting edge technology such as Extended Reality (XR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to elevate teaching and learning, preparing students for a rapidly developing world.

### DEEP DIVE #2: Enhance the Writing Curriculum Across the School

#### GOAL STATEMENT

The school will develop a rigorous, cohesive, continuous, and progressive writing curriculum based on evidence-based best practice that meets the needs of diverse learners and is aligned with the school's philosophy and definition of high-quality learning.

### DEEP DIVE #3: Physical Health and Well-being

#### GOAL STATEMENT

The school will research, identify, & implement improved practices to promote & foster physical health & well-being.

### DEEP DIVE #4: Student agency and the duties of citizenship

#### GOAL STATEMENT

Through the cultivation of student agency and reflection and a genuine commitment to civic responsibility, the school will strengthen student engagement with the IST philosophy, emphasizing their pivotal role in fostering an international community.

All the best for a terrific weekend!



Steve Moody  
Director



## the Parent Partnership

We all want our children to have a happy life. But if we don't truly understand what it means to be happy, we can easily fall into the "happiness trap." Happiness may seem simple on the surface, with smiles, optimism, and positivity. However, there are some misconceptions about happiness. It's actually a temporary feeling, not a permanent state of being. These misconceptions can lead to harmful expectations. For example:

"I can only be happy if I get \_\_\_\_\_."

"If I'm happy now, I should always be happy."

"Happiness is a forever-lasting state."

Believing these things about your feelings can bring specific challenges, like:

- Being afraid of emotions
- Criticizing your emotions

This week's parent partnership is to encourage you to flip the "being happy" script.

**LET'S FLIP THE SCRIPT FROM  
"WHEN YOU GROW UP, I JUST  
WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY!" TO**

I hope when you grow up you:

- ✓ Pursue meaning
- ✓ Feel your feelings
- ✓ Be true to you
- ✓ Take risks
- ✓ Try, fail, and try again
- ✓ Speak with authenticity
- ✓ Remain forever curious



## BLAZE



WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

## IST Library &amp; Information Literacy Center

## Our Mission

The IST Library is a friendly place where our community is inspired and challenged to think critically, read widely, act ethically, value creativity, and defend the right to access information.

## Panda Book Voting

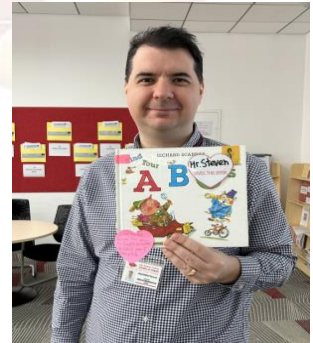
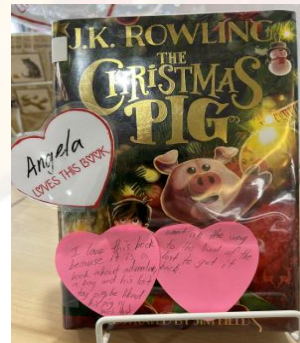
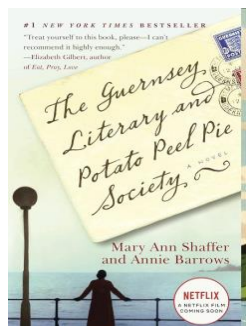
Voting is now open for the Panda Book Awards! All parents, students, and teachers are invited to vote for their favorite Panda Books (students in kindergarten to grade 5 will vote during their library classes). Please scan the QR code to cast your vote for your favorite!

The Panda Book Awards is a reading initiative which invites students and teachers from participating international schools in China and beyond to vote for their favorite book published in the previous school year.



## February is Love of Reading Month

We are celebrating our love of books and reading for "Love of Reading" month in February.

Parent Book Club—March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 in the library

Our next Parent Book Club selection is the novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. We will meet to discuss this book on March 19<sup>th</sup>, in the library. The library has copies of the book in English, Chinese, French and Korean. A digital copy in English or Chinese is also available upon request.

All interested parents are welcome to join us for a book discussion, coffee, and treats, even if you haven't had a chance to read the book. Contact one of our library staff to join our WeChat group.

Library hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 to 4:30 | Friday 7:30 to 3:30

## BLAZE



WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL of TIANJIN

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

## PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION &amp;

## DP SUBJECT OPTIONS

PERSONAL PROJECT  
INFORMATION  
SESSION

- G9 STUDENTS  
AND FAMILY
- 9:30AM - 10:00 AM
- HAN TEACHER  
CENTER

PERSONAL PROJECT  
EXHIBITION

- ALL WELCOME
- 10:00 AM - 12:45PM
- IST THEATER

DP OPTIONS  
AFTERNOON

- G10 STUDENTS  
AND FAMILY
- 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- HAN TEACHER  
CENTER

Grade 10 has been working very hard to prepare and share their projects with the IST community!

Please join us to celebrate their hard work. All are welcome.

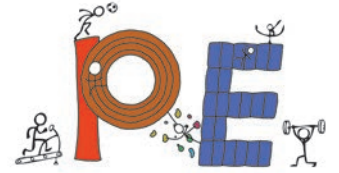
**GRADE 9 STUDENTS AND FAMILY**

You are invited to an information session about the Personal Project at 9:30 am.

**GRADE 10 STUDENTS AND FAMILY**

You are invited to an information session about DP options at 2:30 pm.

# BLAZE



W E E K L Y

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

Dear IST Community,

We are delighted to announce that CCA registration is now open and will close on Monday, February 26th at 10:00 am. We are excited to introduce new activities for the upcoming session, including Fashion Design, T-Ball, Ballet, and Volleyball, offering additional opportunities for passionate players outside the volleyball season.

Tutorial information for SchoolsBuddy is available [here](#). Please ensure you have downloaded the latest version of the SchoolsBuddy app. For assistance with the SchoolsBuddy program, feel free to contact Ms. Guo Ying or Mr. Ben Silvis via email ([activity@istianjin.org.cn](mailto:activity@istianjin.org.cn)) or telephone (022-28592001 / extension 8150).

A friendly reminder that placements are not issued based on registration date and time; all requests are received equally throughout the registration process. Registration for CCAs is completed through [SchoolsBuddy](#).

Season Three CCA schedule:

- Start: Monday, March 11th
- End: Friday, May 24th
- Final enrollment: Home on March 5th
- Please note: Wednesdays end 1 hour earlier (3:30 p.m.)
- No CCAs during school holidays
- No CCAs on March 27th-28th (PTC)

Thank you for your dedication to the IST Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Program and the constructive feedback you gave us through our survey. We are eager to provide a memorable session of activities for our IST students! If you are new to the CCA program, here is the [parents' guideline](#) for your reference. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Ben Silvis and Guo Ying  
Athletics and Activities Director & The Activities Officer



# BLAZE



W E E K L Y

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## PFO Cooking Club

**Food theme: The Indonesian Cooking Class**

**Menu:**

1. Soto Betawi (Beef Soup)
2. Gado-gado (Mixed vegetable, tofu, egg, with peanut sauce)
3. Klepon (Rice balls with palm sugar & coconut)
4. Pisang Aroma ( Banana/ fruit springroll)



**When:** 28th Feb Wednesday 9:00am-2pm

**Where:** IST Elementary Kitchen

**Host:** Ismi

**Cost:** 100 RMB per person

Please join the WeChat group by scanning this QR code:  
Max 16 participants, first-come first-served.





# PFO BAKE SALE

All items will be RMB 5 each  
All proceeds will go to PFO fund

**Wednesday March 13th**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

one stand in deli marche  
one stand in Kindergarten entrance



## BLAZE

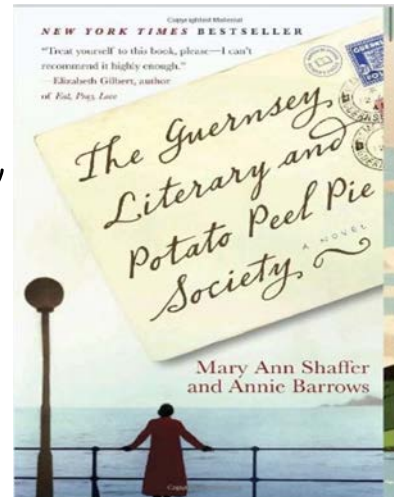


WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

Come along to our monthly meet ups to discuss books and enjoy coffee & cakes!

This month's book is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. The library has copies in English, Chinese, Korean and French.



Our next meeting is March 19th at 8.30am in the Library.

Even if you haven't read the book come along.

Book suggestions welcome. Hope to see you there!



# BLAZE



WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER



PFO Meeting  
Please come and  
join in!

Wednesday  
20th March

8.15 - COFFEE AND KOREAN SNACKS

9.00 - WELCOME AND PFO UPDATE

9.10 - DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL INTRODUCTION

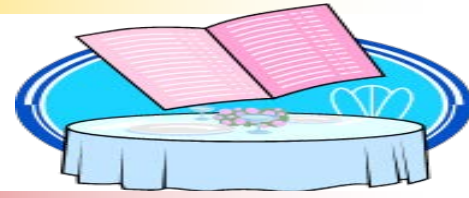
9.30 - UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PFO

10.00 - PARENT EDUCATION FORUM



Meeting held in the Teacher's centre on 2nd floor in Han building.  
Take the big black staircase to the left of the library.

# BLAZE



## WEEKLY

## Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

### MENU G2-G12

	Monday 2024-02-26	Tuesday 2024-02-27	Wednesday 2024-02-28	Thursday 2024-02-29	Friday 2024-03-01
Salad/Fruit	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day
Western From The Grill Station	Pizza Margherita 芝士比萨	Chicken Schnitzel 炸鸡排	Beef Lasagna 牛肉千层面	Chicken Fajita 墨西哥鸡肉	Wellington Pork Chops 惠灵顿猪排
	Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Roasted Potatoes 土豆角 Allergy: flour, cheese, tomato sauce	Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Roasted Potatoes 烤土豆 Allergy: chicken, breadcrumb	Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Roasted Potatoes 烤土豆 Allergy: beef, cheese, onion, pepper, milk	Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Roasted Potatoes 土豆角 Allergy: Cumin, cajun seasoning, pepper, sour cream, flour	Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Steamed Rice 米饭 Allergy: soya sauce
Asian From The Wok/Noodle Station	Fried Rice Noodle with Vegetables 蔬菜炒牛河 Cucumber Salad 拌黄瓜 Fried Eggs 煎鸡蛋 Allergy: egg, sesame	Steamed Rice with Sausage 腊味煲仔饭 Stir fry Beans 干煸豆角 Allergy: soy sauce, oyster sauce	Chicken Curry 咖喱鸡 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Steamed Rice 米饭 Allergy: chicken, curry paste, coconut milk	Noodles with Beef Soup 牛肉板面 boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 Allergy: flour, beef	Indonesia Fried Rice with Chicken 印尼炒米饭配鸡肉 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Shrimp Cracker 虾片 Allergy: samba sauce, onion, egg, ginger, shrimp cracker
Vegetarian		Steamed Rice with Vegetable 蔬菜煲仔饭	Vegetable Curry 咖喱蔬菜	Vegetable Wrap 蔬菜卷	Fried Rice with Soya Sauce 酱油炒饭
Soup	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤	Minestrone 通心粉汤	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤
Dessert	Banana Bread 香蕉包	Cookies 饼干	Swiss Roll 瑞士卷	Apple Pie 苹果派	Fruit Tart 水果塔
Nutritional reading over the week		Energy 热量 (Kcal)	Protein 蛋白质 (g)	Carbohydrate 碳水化合物 (g)	Fat 脂肪 (g)
每周营养分析		731	26	104	23
Nutritional recommendation 营养建议		725	25	100	25

### MENU NURSERY-G1

	Monday 2024-02-26	Tuesday 2024-02-27	Wednesday 2024-02-28	Thursday 2024-02-29	Friday 2024-03-01
Snack	Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Cookies Fruit Cut	Banana Bread Fruit Cut	Vegetable Sandwich Fruit Cut
Set Meal	Margherita Pizza 比萨	Steamed Rice with Sausage 广式香肠饭	Pasta with Cheese 蝴蝶芝士面	Fried Rice with Chicken in Soya Sauce 酱油鸡肉炒米饭	Hamburger 牛肉汉堡
	Sweet Corn and Broccoli 玉米粒西兰花 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: flour, tomato sauce, cheese, herb	Stir Fried Cabbage 炒洋白菜 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: oyster sauce, soya sauce	Grilled Chicken with Vegetable 煎鸡胸肉 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: flour, herb	Stir Fried Zucchini 番茄西葫芦 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: egg, wheat, soya sauce	Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Roasted Potato 烤土豆 Allergy: pork, soya sauce
Fruit	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day
Drinks	Milk/Yoghurt/Yakult	Milk/Yoghurt/Yakult	Milk/Yoghurt/Yakult	Milk/Yoghurt/Yakult	Milk/Yoghurt/Yakult
Nutritional reading over the week		Energy 热量 (Kcal)	Protein 蛋白质 (g)	Carbohydrate 碳水化合物 (g)	Fat 脂肪 (g)
每周营养分析		726	25	105	27
Nutritional recommendation 营养建议		725	25	100	25

Morning snack offer available at 6 rmb, Snack are only available for daily set lunch consumers.

## DIARY DATES

Saturday - February 24, 2024  
Scholarship Exam

Wednesday - February 28, 2024  
MYP PP Exhibition & IB DP Option

Wednesday - March 6, 2024  
Scholarship Interviews

Wednesday - March 13, 2024  
PYP Exhibition

Thursday - March 21, 2024  
DP Arts Exhibition

Wednesday~Thursday - March 27~28, 2024  
Parent Teacher Conferences (Afternoon)

## SPORTS DATES

## WELCOME TO THE IST SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CCA) PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Please take note of the following dates:

Season 2 Sport Schedule

- ☺ Starts Monday, 27 Nov and ends Friday, 1 Mar
- ☺ The program will run for approximately 10 school weeks
- ☺ No CCAs during holidays and PTSCs (conferences)

Season two includes:

- ☺ HS Football -(Mondays and Fridays 15:30 – 17:00)
- ☺ MS Basketball-(Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:30 – 17:00)
- ☺ HS Badminton-(Mondays and Fridays 15:30 – 17:00)

Please do not hesitate to contact our department with any questions.

- ☺ Mr. Kennedy – Athletics Director  
(byron\_kennedy@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Mr. Silvis – Activities Director  
(ben\_silvis@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Ms. Guo Ying – Activities Officer (CCA's)  
(ying\_guo@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Ms. Durian Wang – Activities Officer (Sports)  
(durian\_wang@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Activity Office: telephone 022-28592003 / extension 8150.