

# THE

# BLAZE

# WEEKLY

# Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024

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### 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

Last week I shared the exciting news that IST has once again been placed in the highest echelon of both State and international schools offering the IB Diploma, with **IB global ranking tables** listing IST in the elite 'Top 100' IB Schools World-wide (out of 3000+), and the 'Top 10' IB Schools in China (out of 159). Several members of our community have asked if we were given an exact ranking, to which the answer is yes. **IST was placed at #68 in the World (Top 2%, or 98<sup>th</sup> Percentile) and #7 in China (Top 4%, or 96<sup>th</sup> Percentile).** Should you wish to check out the 2023 rankings, you can click on the following links for full details: <https://ib-schools.com/league-tables/global-top-ib-schools> and <https://ib-schools.com/china-league-tables>

That our students continue to perform so well really is a terrific acknowledgement of their scholarship, and of the benefits of an IST education, especially when one considers that just as with our general admissions, **IST is non-selective in offering the IB Diploma to all students** rather than just those that we feel will get top scores (quite common in other schools, who may offer alternative pathways to students not anticipated to do so well, including AP courses, A Levels, or school-based high school diplomas).

In actuality, I feel an even greater accolade should be given for IB Diploma pass rates (as opposed to highest averages), where at IST we pride ourselves on supporting all learners towards their highest level of achievement—even though this comes at the risk of lowering our average scores and global ranking—and ultimately to acceptances at a best fit university of their choice. So, while IST has scored exceptionally well these past several years in terms of global ranking, I think it equally important to highlight the fact that **over the past 5 years we have maintained a 100% IB Diploma pass rate** (and 99% over the school's history). This is something about which we should feel very proud indeed.

One additional and revealing statistic, is the fact that attendance data shows that **on average IST students earn an additional 2 points (+4.5%) towards their IB Diploma scores (out of 45 points) for every five years that they spend at IST** prior to commencing their IB Diploma (i.e., up to Grade 10). So a student who starts at IST in Grade 5/6 will, on average, earn 2 points more than a student who arrives at IST in Grades 10/11. Even more impressive, and an important indicator of the long-term value of our elementary programme, students who start at IST in KG3/Grade 1 (or lower) earn on average 4 points more, or a 9% improvement!

It is not uncommon for some of us to hold rather tight to traditional definitions and perceptions about academic rigor, including the need to frontload more and more academic content during the elementary school years, including through additional homework. However, to the contrary, **it is well accepted that what**



### Upcoming World Celebration Dates...

Sunday - March 3, 2024 Bulgaria's Liberation Day

Liberation Day is celebrated to mark the re-establishment of the Bulgarian state under the Treaty of San Stefano of March 3, 1878 after the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

has traditionally worked for university preparation and university (i.e., high levels of content rigor) should not define what is best for younger learners, where a love of learning and learning how to learn are broadly more important factors impacting later learning success than simply trying to make more work, harder, and earlier. And of course, with the advent of AI, content knowledge alone will continue to diminish in importance relative to the digital/AI literacy, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, creativity, and self-management skills that will define the future world of work.

Speaking about all of those critical thinking, creativity and self-management skills that are fundamental to learning here at IST and to the future of learning and work, kudos and **congratulations to our Grade 10 students on their MYP Personal Project Exhibition** held at school this past week. Each of the IB programmes includes a culminating project (Grade 5 PYP Exhibition, Grade 10 MYP Personal Project, and Grade 12 IB Diploma Extended Essay), with Wednesday's MYP PP Exhibition showcasing a delightful assortment of independent, student initiated personal passion projects. The students did an excellent job presenting their research process and products to community members, with areas of interest including 'Intelligent Garbage Sorting', 'Trauma and PTSD', 'AI and the Global Economy', 'Health Care APP – Mindful Me', and 'Surrealism in the Environment'. **And don't forget that the PYP Exhibition is coming up soon too, on March 13!**

A reminder to our community that **IST supports the annual Pink Ribbon Day**, with its commitment to supporting breast cancer research and treatment. Show your support by dressing your children in pink (and yourselves!) and by joining **our Pink Parade walk around the school track at 12:25PM this coming Wednesday**. Who knows, you might see Mr. Conway and Mr. Wallace in pink tutus or ribbons!

Finally, another reminder that **Season 2 of CCAs ends today**. There will be no general CCAs next week, and **Season 3 starts on Monday 11 March**.

All the best for a terrific weekend!



Steve Moody  
Director



## the Parent Partnership

When I was chatting with my 18-year-old son this weekend, I was surprised by how quickly time flies as he grows up. The ever-changing landscape of parenthood also comes with changes to the parental role. Before we know it, our relationship with our children is changing as they grow older, and we find ourselves connecting with them in a different way!

How do you navigate this while adapting your role as your children grow up? Here are a few ideas to consider when restructuring the role of a parent:

1. Realize and accept that your child might be different from the expectations you previously had.
2. Be less of a CEO and more of a consultant to your children.
3. Do things that you love together.
4. Set boundaries and say no."

**Parents You're Not Alone  
if Your Kids Do This!**  
(It's part of growing up and parenthood)

Your kids go into deep flow and ignore you!



Your kids say or do the opposite of what you say.



Your kids hear a rule 10 times and pretend like it's something new!



Your kids are quiet and then get rowdy the moment you take a call.



Your kids complain consistently about something you think is awesome.



Your kids forget all their manners when guests come over.



## BLAZE

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## 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 open for the Panda Book Awards until today at 4:30 pm. Be sure to cast your vote before it closes!

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.

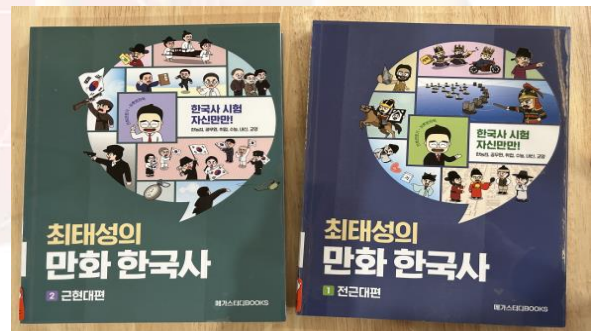
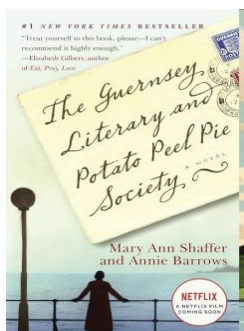


## Birthday Book Club

Happy Birthday, Ms. Park!

Thank you to Ms. Caroline Park, IST's Korean Liaison, for her birthday book donations to the library. She donated two Korean-language comic books about Korean history. These books will both be wonderful additions to the Korean-language section of the library. Thank you for your generous donation, and happy birthday, Ms. Park!

If you would like to celebrate a special birthday with the IST Library Birthday Book Club, please contact the librarians at [linnea\\_simon@istianjin.org.cn](mailto:linnea_simon@istianjin.org.cn) or [deb\\_kienzle@istianjin.org.cn](mailto:deb_kienzle@istianjin.org.cn) for more information on how to join.

Parent Book Club—March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 a.m. 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.

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FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024



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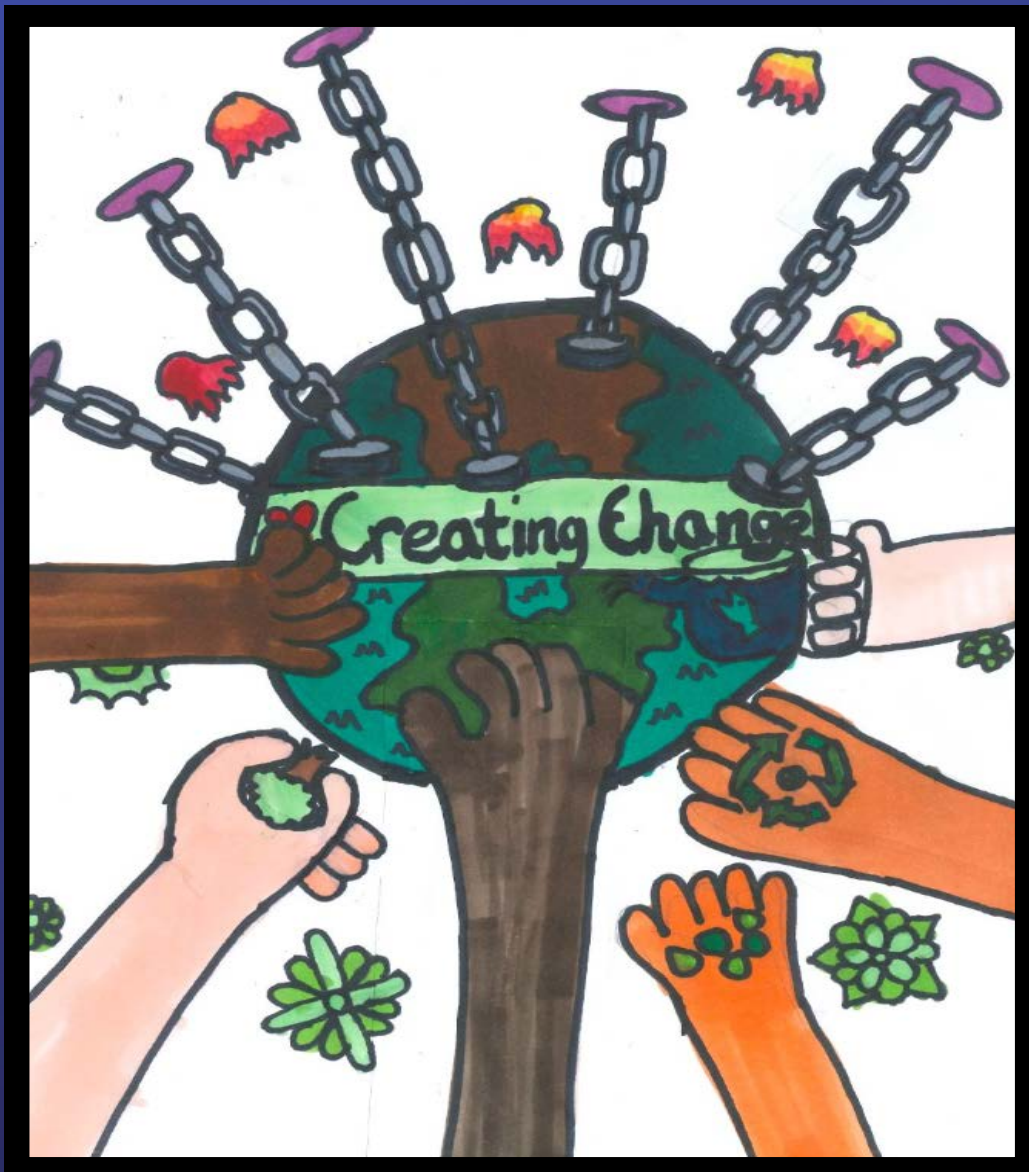
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International School of Tianjin

Grade 5

# PYP EXHIBITION



**IST THEATRE**

**6.15 PM-7.30 PM**

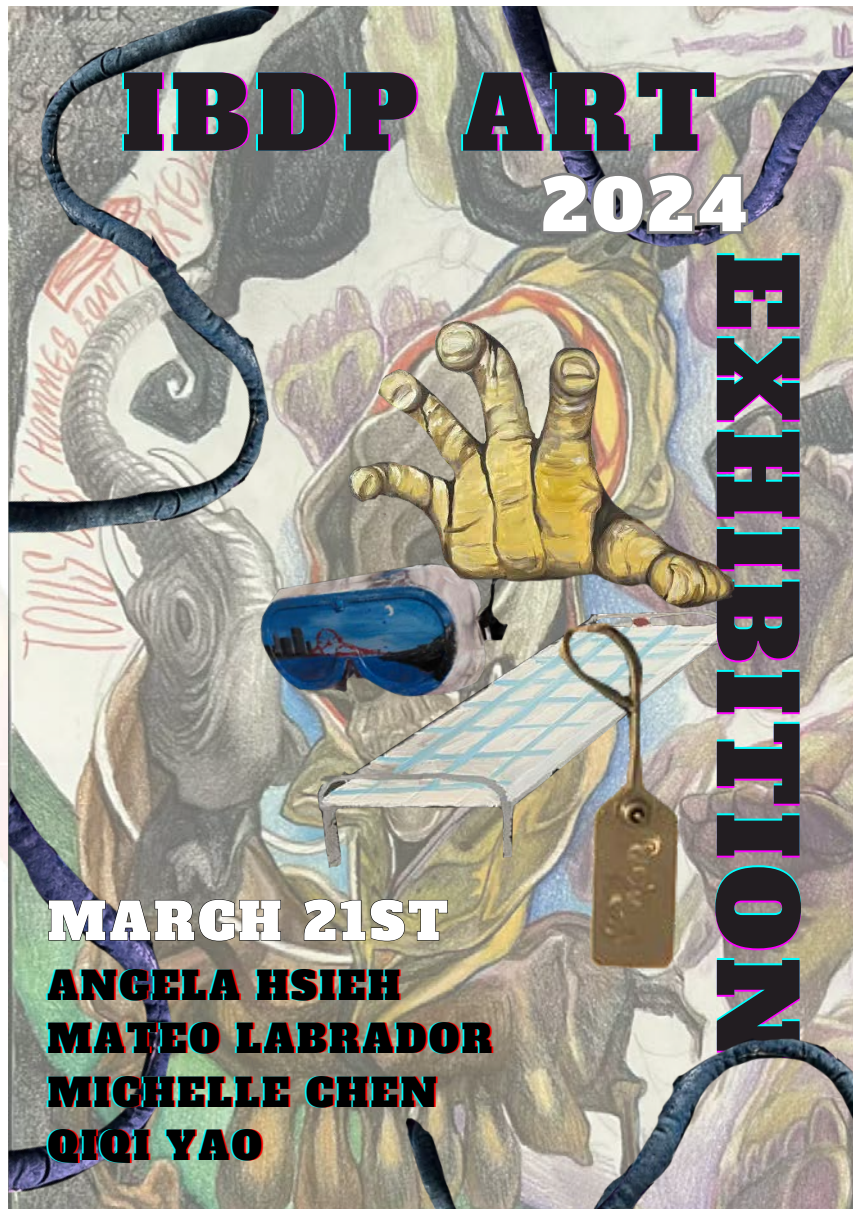
**WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024**

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MARCH 21ST

ANGELA HSIEH

MATEO LABRADOR

MICHELLE CHEN

QIQI YAO

We're thrilled to announce that this year's IBDP Visual Arts Exhibition is finally here! Join us at the Han Theatre as we showcase the incredible talent and hard work of our Grade 12 Art students. Despite facing numerous challenges over the past two years, they've poured their hearts and souls into creating this stunning exhibit, which is a crucial part of their final assessment.

But wait, there's more excitement in store! Our G11 Visual Art students will also be displaying one carefully selected artwork, gearing up for their own future exhibitions.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 21st, from 17:00 to 18:30, and get ready to be dazzled. And of course, what's a celebration without some delicious refreshments?

We extend our warmest invitation to our entire community to join us in honouring these talented artists and their achievements. Your support means the world to us, and we can't wait to share this special moment with you!

Kind regards  
Gill Hunter-James  
Head of Arts  
MYP/DP Visual Arts Teacher



# 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

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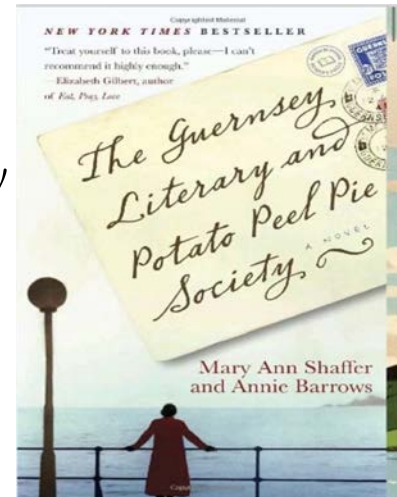


WEEKLY

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

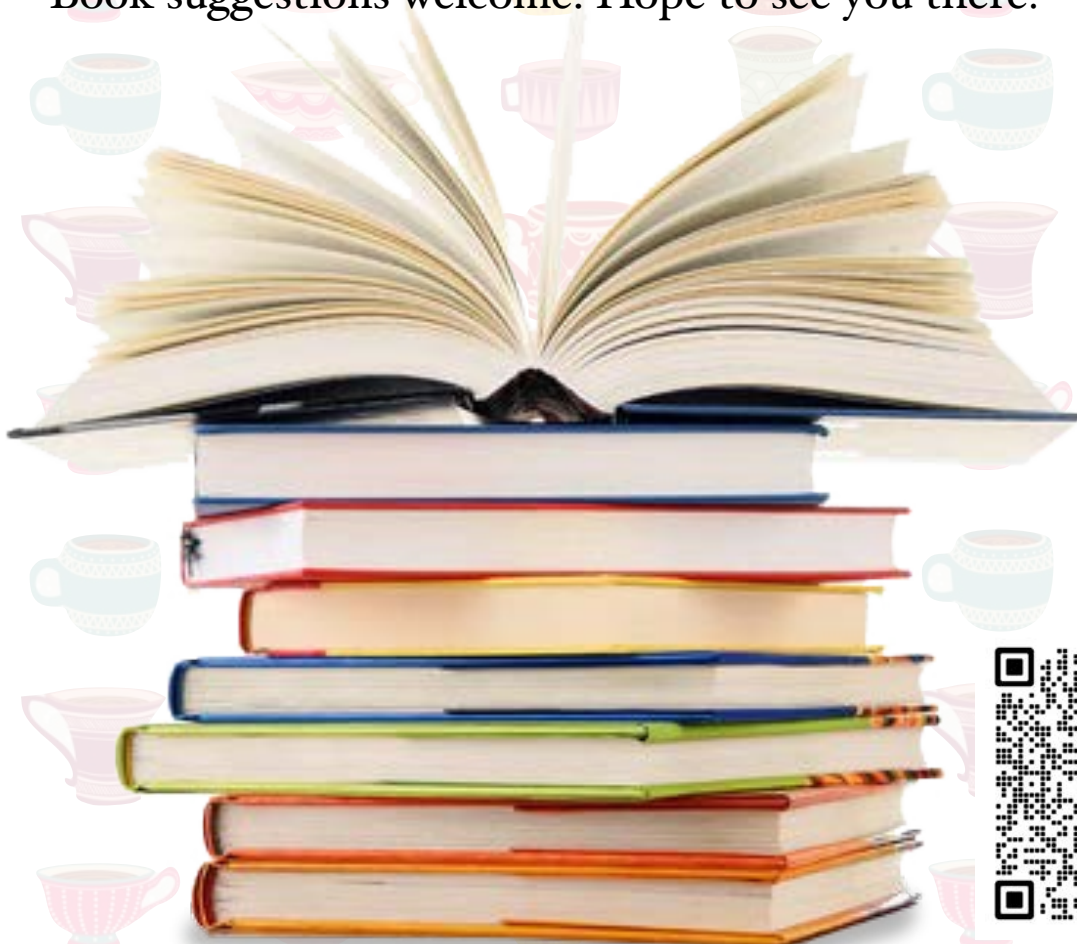
This month's book is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. The library has copies in English, Chinese, Korean and French.



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!







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

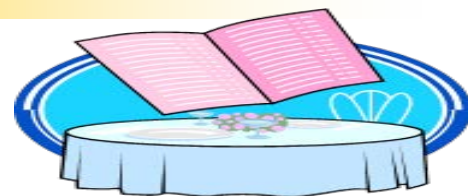
9.30 - UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PFO

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.

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EAT LEARN LIVE MENU G2-G12					
	Monday 2024-03-04	Tuesday 2024-03-05	Wednesday 2024-03-06	Thursday 2024-03-07	Friday 2024-03-08
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	Penne Tomato with Creamy Cheese Sauce 奶油芝士焗面  Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬  Allergy: milk, flour, cheese	Chicken and Ham Roll 火腿芝士鸡肉卷  Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜  Roasted Potatoes 烤土豆  Allergy: milk, herb	Chili Con Carne 墨西哥炒牛肉馅  Steamed Black Beans 蒸黑豆  Steamed Rice 米饭  Allergy: beef, pepper, onion, cumin, cajun seasoning, black beans	Chicken Burger 鸡肉汉堡  French Fries 薯条  Allergy: chicken, flour, tomato, cucumber, lettuce, mayonnaise	Plum Pork Chops 西梅猪排  Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬  Mashed Potatoes 土豆泥  Allergy: pork, plum, cream
Asian From The Wok/Noodle Station	Eggplant and Potato Stewed 地三鲜  Spicy Tofu 麻辣豆腐  Allergy: chili, soya sauce	Beef Teriyaki 日式肥牛饭  Stir fry Cabbage 炒洋白菜  Steamed Rice 米饭  Allergy: beef, flour	Pork Dumplings 猪肉水饺  Cucumber Salad 拌黄瓜  Allergy: wheat, soya sauce	Bibimbap 韩式拌饭  Steamed Rice 米饭  Allergy: chicken, onion, pepper, chili paste	Sauteed Chicken with Chili 辣子鸡  Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜  Steamed Rice 米饭  Allergy: Soya sauce, garlic, ginger
Vegetarian		Sauteed Potatoes 干锅土豆	Vegetables and Egg Dumplings 蔬菜鸡蛋水饺	Bibimbap 韩式蔬菜拌饭	Stir Fried Zucchini 素炒西葫芦
Soup	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤	Borch 罗宋汤	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤
Dessert	Swiss Roll 瑞士卷	Mini Muffin 小玛芬	Mousse 木司	Carrot Cake 胡萝卜蛋糕	Chocolate Cake 巧克力蛋糕
Nutritional reading over the week 每周营养分析		Energy 热量 (Kcal) 715	Protein 蛋白质 (g) 26	Carbohydrate 碳水化合物 (g) 102	Fat 脂肪 (g) 16
Nutritional recommendation 营养建议		725	25	100	25

EAT LEARN LIVE MENU NURSERY-G1					
	Monday 2024-03-04	Tuesday 2024-03-05	Wednesday 2024-03-06	Thursday 2024-03-07	Friday 2024-03-08
Snack	Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Mini Pizza Fruit Cut	Vegetable Pie Fruit Cut	Cheese Sandwich Fruit Cut
Set Meal	Stir Fry Noodles 炒面  Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬  Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条  Allergy: flour, soya sauce, oyster sauce	Chicken Curry 咖喱鸡肉  Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条  Steamed Rice 米饭  Allergy: coconut, curry paste	Pork Rolls 猪肉卷  Sweet Corn and Vegetables 玉米粒炒蔬菜  Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条  Allergy: flour, pork, soya sauce, green garlic	Baked Fusilli w/Meat patty 螺旋面配牛肉饼  Stir Fry Zucchini and Corn 西葫芦玉米  Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条  Allergy: Beef, onion, tomato sauce	Meat Loaf 牛肉面包  Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条  Mashed Potato 土豆泥  Allergy: beef, 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 每周营养分析		Energy 热量 (Kcal) 730	Protein 蛋白质 (g) 27	Carbohydrate 碳水化合物 (g) 105	Fat 脂肪 (g) 26
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

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 3 Sport Schedule

- ☺ Starts Monday, 11 Mar and ends Friday, 24 May
- ☺ The program will run for approximately 10 school weeks
- ☺ No CCAs during holidays and PTSCs (conferences)

Season three 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.