

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

I send this message to you from the ACAMIS Leadership Conference in Hangzhou where administrators and teacher leaders from across the 93 schools in our association have gathered for three days of meetings and professional development. As president of this association, I am especially proud to see the names of IST students **A Jin Chang and Stella Zhao** on the list of workshop presenters, following on from a similar presentation by **Yi Ting Wang and Momo Chen** at the recent ACAMIS ELA Conference in Guangzhou. These students are wonderful examples of internationalists, showcasing student leadership and agency at IST, and proudly upholding and promoting our school's renown across the region.

And while on the theme of pride, I was once again amazed at the confidence and skills of our young public speakers who shared a wonderful assortment of items at Wednesday's Elementary **Speaking Spectacular**, following on from Secondary performances last week. The ability to stand on a stage before a large audience and project your voice loudly and clearly is a genuine life skill and a very real challenge for many of us. However, in spite of some nerves they all did incredibly well, and I am sure that they will be better for the experience!

On Wednesday afternoon our Seniors (G12s) commenced the first of their IB Diploma examinations, which will run over the next 3-4 weeks. The IB Diploma is the world's most prestigious and recognized international university matriculation qualification, in part because of its acknowledged academic rigor. These exams are incredibly demanding, however we have confidence that our students are not only intellectually prepared but also that they have developed the mental and emotional fortitude and resilience to persevere and excel.

On Wednesday all parents should have received two important messages: the Board of Governors announcement of the **fee structure for 2024-25**, and the **'non-binding' Intent to Return Survey** that requests that you provide an indication of your plans to have your children return to IST for the new school year. The survey is a really important planning tool for the school, and your prompt feedback is very much appreciated. And please don't feel that your decision is in any way a formal commitment; you can change your mind at any time, and your child's seat in the school will remain secure until the day you actually choose to withdraw them!

Upcoming World Celebration Dates...

Saturday - April 27, 2024 Netherland's Koningsdag or King's Day

The date marks the birth of King Willem-Alexander. Koningsdag is known for its nationwide vrijmarkt ("free market"), at which the Dutch sell their used items. It is also an opportunity for "orange madness" or oranjegekte, a kind of frenzy named for the national colour.

Wednesday - May 1, 2024 Labour Day

International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in some places, is a celebration of laborers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labor movement, Socialists, and Communists and occurs every year on May Day.



The Board announcement included several key points that I wish to highlight again. Most importantly, our community was reminded that **IST is a genuine non-profit school**; no private owner or entity has ever taken any finds out of the school! Every RMB or dollar paid in fees over our 30 year history has gone directly towards building and developing this amazing school, and I think when you compare IST's campus to others you can see the advantage of our school's non-profit status and associated commitment to the needs of students coming first. To this end, all families enjoy the contributions of those that have come before them, and also contribute to the school's legacy and to the benefit of those that will follow.

The Board highlighted four key decisions related to fees:

- 1. A freeze on general tuition fees for 2024-25;** in other words, there will be no increase and fees will remain the same (and it should be noted IST already has the cheapest fees in Tianjin, and this is before other schools make likely increases!) The school's expenses do increase year on year; however, the school has established robust reserves following many years of judicious planning, and the Board felt it important to demonstrate that as a non-profit entity we can periodically take steps to support our community by really tightening our operating margins.
- 2. Free School Lunch:** From next year (2024-25) all students will be offered a daily set lunch at the school's expense. We expect that this will enable the caterers to operate more efficiently and thus further improve the quality of the service, and that it will save families some RMB 5,000 per year (assuming they use the daily service). Students will also be able to purchase individual items, assuming their parents grant such approval. Please note that although there is no obligation to eat a school lunch, a reimbursement will not be paid to those that don't take advantage of the meal offering.
- 3. School Bus Fees:** The school bus service runs at a loss and unfortunately the service fee will need to be increased by 10% (roughly RMB 1,300) to cover the loss so that non-participating families are not unduly impacted. The Board appreciates that 10% is quite a large increase but highlights the wider range of housing locations that IST services compared to our competitors, thus increasing the overall cost. We believe, nevertheless, that this increased fee will be more than offset by the other savings.
- 4. Mother Tongue Fees:** These are currently still under discussion, and therefore we can't yet confirm the fee structure for 2024-25, although we do anticipate being able to share details in the next week or so.

The Board was also very pleased to announce another series of upgrades and renovations to our campus, including extensions to the playground equipment, and after a significant delay due to challenges faced with gaining district planning approval, the likely **commencement of works on our new gym extension and sports center**. All going well the new playgrounds will be installed over the summer, and ground broken for the new gym in the autumn!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend in sunny Tianjin!



Steve Moody
Director



the Parent Partnership

Self-confidence comes from a perception of competence-to put it simply, children develop confidence not because family, friends and teachers praise them, but because of their own accomplishments. As teachers, we witness many students become more confident and self-assured as they learn and complete new tasks and goals. Confident children believe in themselves and are able to face new life challenges without fear-essential factors for a happy and fulfilling life.

However, confidence doesn't always come naturally to children. Many struggle with low self-esteem and lack of confidence. Fortunately, parents can do plenty of things to help inspire confidence in children.

This week's Parent Partnership offers you the following tips:

PHRASES TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR KIDS

"I admire your ability to do hard things."

"You've got this. I've seen you conquer challenges before!"

"We all make mistakes. It doesn't mean we are failing. It's actually an opportunity to succeed!"

"When you are feeling down, repeat, 'I am brave. I am capable. I am resilient. I am not what my anxious thoughts tell me.'"

"When we practice building confidence, eventually, other people's opinions of us won't matter that much."

"What is something positive that happened today?"

"When you have negative thoughts about yourself, check them for accuracy."

"Can you show me how you did that?!"



BLAZE



WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

IST Library & 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.

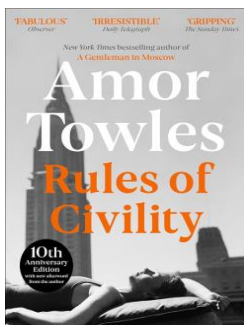
New Korean Books

We were pleased to receive another order of new Korean books for the library this week. They are ready for borrowing, so stop by the library and take a look! Special thanks to Caroline Park, IST's Korean liaison, for assisting the library with this book order.



Poetry Month

We are celebrating poetry all month long at the IST library. Stop by to pick up a free poetry postcard, create your own poems with our big magnetic poetry board, or read some books of poetry!

Parent Book Club May 21st @ 8:30 a.m. in the library

Our next Parent Book Club selection is the novel *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. We will meet to discuss this book on Tuesday May 21st, in the library. The library has copies of the book in English, Chinese, 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.



Join PFO's family hike to Little Qinghai lake

**April 27th, pick up at IST 6.30am and
Ao Cheng 6.50am, back around 7pm.**

**PFO will sponsor the hike so you only pay
90 rmb/person.**

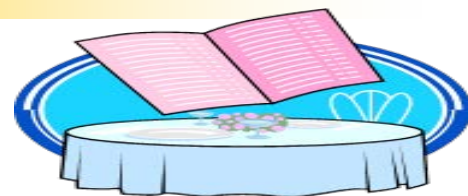
The hike is 9 km long and the elevation is 300 meter.

Last sign up April 21rst.

Scan the QR code to join the hike with your family.



BLAZE



WEEKLY

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

MENU G2-G12

	Monday 2024-04-29	Tuesday 2024-04-30	Wednesday 2024-05-01	Thursday 2024-05-02	Friday 2024-05-03
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
Western From The Grill Station	Pizza Margherita 芝士披萨	Chicken Schnitzel 炸鸡排		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	Spicy Noodle 重庆小面	Steamed Rice with Sausage 腊味煲仔饭		Noodles with Beef Soup 牛肉板面	Indonesia Fried Rice with Chicken 印尼炒米饭配鸡肉
	Cucumber拌黄瓜 Fried Eggs 煎鸡蛋 Allergy: wheat, egg, seaweed, sesame	Stir fry Beans 干煸豆角 Allergy: soy sauce, oyster sauce		boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 Allergy: flour, beef	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 Wrap 蔬菜卷	Frice Rice with Curry 咖喱炒饭
Soup	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤		Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤
Dessert	Banana Bread 香蕉包	Cookies 饼干		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 2024-04-29	Tuesday 2024-04-30	Wednesday 2024-05-01	Thursday 2024-05-02	Friday 2024-05-03
Snack	Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut		Banana Bread Fruit Cut	Vegetable Sandwich Fruit Cut
Set Meal	Margherita Pizza 披萨	Steamed Rice with Sausage 广式香肠饭		Pork Dumplings 猪肉白菜水饺	Chicken burger 鸡肉汉堡
	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		Sweet Corn and Vegetables 玉米粒炒蔬菜 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: flour, pork, soya sauce, green garlic	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
Drinks	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

Wednesday - May 1, 2024
May Day Break

Wednesday~Friday - April 24~May 17, 2024
IB Diploma Exams

Tuesday - May 7, 2024
ELA Entrance Testing

Friday - May 10, 2024
Elementary Sports Day

Friday - May 17, 2024
Departing Families Session

Monday~Thursday - May 20~23, 2024
Secondary Exams (G9-11)

Wednesday - May 22, 2024
Spring Show (Evening)

Friday - May 24, 2024
Secondary Sports Day & Awards Assembly
Library Books Returned

SPORTS DATES

Saturday 27 April -
ISAC HS Football Tournament (TBD)

Saturday 11 May -
ISAC MS Basketball Tournament (Boys @
HBJ; Girls @ IST)

Friday 17 May -
ES and SS Track and Field/Cross country
(12:15 - 15:30)

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
- ☺ HS Badminton - Mondays and Fridays - 15:30 - 17:00
- ☺ MS Basketball - Tuesdays and Thursdays - 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.