Welcome to the March edition of the ISH Newsletter, with the latest news, updates and stories from International School of Hellerup.

In this issue, Mr Asanovski reports from a recent workshop for students and teachers on the theme “Digital Citizenship” and writes about responsible digital citizenship at ISH, our ASCP Coordinator Ms Giani introduces this year’s summer school programme and our college counsellor, Dr Kurt, reports from the recent ISH Career Fair.

Also in the March newsletter: our school librarian, Ms Keenoy introduces two upcoming events the school will hold to celebrate the UNESCO World Book Day in April: Edible Books and the Read-a-Thon Book Awards, and MYP Language and Literature teacher Ms Castillo elaborates on the whole-school Read-a-Thon, which will begin on March 22.

This, and much more, in this month’s newsletter!
News from the Head of School

Responsible Digital Citizenship

This week I attended a workshop in Jutland with four of our students, including our Student Council chairman, Omar, and vice-chair, Marie, as well as one of our teachers. The theme of the workshop was “Digital Citizenship” and it was important for me that the students attended the workshop to get a better understanding of what digital citizenship is and how technology affects our lives, since we will be working with this theme in the coming months. In this newsletter I want to share some of the interesting points from the workshop.

As more and more students interact digitally—with content, one another, and various communities—the concept of digital citizenship becomes increasingly important. Whether we like it or not, we need to accept the fact that children and young people are surrounded by technology and that the presence of technology is increasing day by day. It is difficult and almost impossible to move away from this culture.

What we need to do is not to ban technology but to find a balance in the way we use it so that it becomes a tool which we use to gain more knowledge and to interact with people instead of becoming something that controls us. If we do not learn to control technology, we become addicted to it and, without realizing it, we spend more time on our digital devices than with our friends and family. Social media becomes the primary platform we use to socialize instead of talking with friends and going out. There are many pitfalls in this area and it is therefore vital that we learn to balance the time we use on our digital devices and also learn to become responsible digital citizens so that the time we spend on our devices becomes valuable and useful.

Just like regular citizenship, digital citizenship is the norms and rules we follow to act appropriately when using technology. We need to learn what it means to act appropriately when using technology. Understanding how to practice good digital citizenship will only become more important in the coming years, as our lives become further entwined with internet-based communities.

In the months to come we will spend time working on the digital citizenship culture that we have in our school and try to improve this by raising more awareness of technology. We will strive to better understand how technology affects our social lives during school time and in the after-school hours. Since we have the Bring Your Own Device Policy in the MYP, all MYP students have their own devices. In the MYP corridors I often see students engaged in various activities on their devices. This can be a good thing but also a bad thing since it can hinder them from spending time in the present with their peers and friends. By raising more awareness of the issue, we hope that we will make the students understand the effects of technology if they don’t manage to find a balance with the time spent on their devices.

Another thing that we will focus on is to learn what it means to be a responsible digital citizen. Access to technology requires an understanding of how and for what purposes technology should be used, but also an understanding of what it should not be used for. By raising awareness of the theme and by trying to make some rules and guidelines for using technology, we hope that we will become responsible digital citizens at ISH. One of the students at the workshop said that “we need to learn to behave on social media like we behave in real life since it is easier to be mean or to use inappropriate language when you are behind a screen”. This statement shows that the students realize the effects of technology but is also a clear signal that they want and need some more guidance in this area.
February Break Care Programme
The fun doesn’t stop when the school closes! During our February Break Care programme, we enjoyed having the school all to ourselves. We baking pizza in the kitchen, played in the snow at the local parks and even designing and painted our own canvases of what we envisaged the future to look like.

Famly – new ASCP digital system
The new digital system in ASCP, Famly, is now up and running! By now you should have received an email from the provider with your login details. Going forward, please use this system to provide us with information about playdates, allergies, medical notes, dietary needs and contact details.

Our team is trained to use the news feed and upload photos of our daily activities. We believe that communication will be much easier with this new system and we hope that you will find it as user-friendly as we do. We will allow ourselves and our families a little transition time from the old communication methods via email and phone to this new technology. If you have any questions you are welcome to come to the ASCP reception for some more explanations! You can view a short introductory video about Famly here.

Summer Programme
The Summer Care and Camps Program is taking shape. Information about this year’s programme will soon be published on the ISH website. I can already anticipate that we will provide Care weeks throughout the whole summer (from week 26 to week 32) and we will also offer many interesting camp weeks, such as Dance, Science, Disney, Arts…and much more!
College Counsellor News

Dr Hakan Kurt
College Counsellor

ISH Career Fair

On Wednesday, February 28, ISH organized a career fair for MYP5, DP1 and DP2 students. ISH parents and teachers participated as experts at the fair, where students could learn more about career paths in various areas such as natural science, finance, business, marketing, engineering and journalism in an informal setting. A big thank you to all the parents who participated in the Career Fair as well as our own teachers: Jevon, Katie, and Jamé who presented as expert in the area of education.

Photos from the recent Career Fair
PYP 3 students have just finished a unit on Imagination. The DP students shared with them different illustration techniques (water-colours, collage, etc.) and now MYP 1 students have shared the art of making pop-up books with them. Their enchanting books are on display in the library.

Mark your calendar: on the 23rd and 24th of April we will celebrate World Book Day. This UNESCO celebration of world literature takes place on 23rd of April because the 23rd April 1616 marked the death of three of the greatest authors and playwrights of all time: Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. The celebration originated in Catalonia where on the 23rd April, Saint George’s Day, a rose is traditionally given as a gift for each book sold.

This year we will celebrate the World Book Day with two major events: Edible Books on April 23rd (more yummy information to come) and Read-a-Thon Book Awards on April 24th. The Read-a-Thon starts one month before the day of the awards and students from K through to DP2 will be looking for sponsors. Please see next page for more information about the Read-a-Thon!

PYP will prepare posters to recommend books, and teachers will display posters on their doors showing what they are currently reading. Students will be asked to dress up as their favorite book character on April 24th. Please support the Read-a-Thon and start thinking about your dish for Edible Books and how you are going to dress up! All the entries for Edible Books will be displayed in the cafeteria throughout the morning of the 23 April. We will need volunteers to help us make sure “no fingers end up in those delicious cakes”, and to decorate the canteen. Please contact me if you are able to help (akeenoy@ish.dk)

A big thank you to our library helpers, especially with the decoration of the library. We try to decorate our displays of books for the different units and to mark major celebrations of different cultures. The Chinese New Year is our last one. Our students have enjoyed finding out about their Zodiac animal and learning about the Chinese New Year.
ISH Read-a-Thon

Ms Rachel Castillo
MYP Language & Literature
Teacher, MYP 1 Advisor

Dear ISH Community,

In cooperation with the World Book Day celebrations in April, we are holding a Read-a-Thon to encourage students to develop good reading habits and to raise money for our library and SOS Børnebyerne. We are asking for support from families and friends of our school community. The Details:

Who: From Pre-K all the way up to DP 2, including teachers and staff!

What: Read-a-Thon

Where: Inside of school, outside of school, everywhere and anywhere

When: 22 March to 20 April

Why: To raise money for our school library and the charity SOS Børnebyerne (https://www.sosbornebyerne.dk/) and to join our school community together in a common goal.

How: Each student will be asked to find at least one sponsor who will agree to donate a small amount for each book they read or minute they spend reading. Then, students will read as much as they can and log their reading for 30 days. The PYP students will log the minutes they spend reading on their own, whereas the MYP and DP students will log the pages they read outside of class independently.

At the end of the 30 days, everyone will tally up their totals to see which classes have read the most. Four classes will be announced as the winners (one from lower PYP, one from upper PYP, one from lower MYP, and one from upper MYP and DP). The winning classes will be allowed to choose some of the new books for our school library that will be purchased through our fundraising and will also receive a pizza party.

After 20 April, students will contact their sponsors to let them know how much they read. Sponsors will have the option to contribute the agreed-upon amount in cash or via a bank transfer. Half of the proceeds will be donated to a local, Danish charity that works with children, and the other half will be used within our school library to purchase more books for our own reading pleasure. Students will be informed of the details this week and next, and sponsor sheets and reading logs will be sent home with the students before the Read-a-Thon begins on 22 March.

If you have questions or comments about this event, please email rcastillo@ish.dk.
Message from the Student Support Services

Ms Karoliina Bøg Hokka
Special Educational Needs Coordinator / SENCO

Schooling is Not the Same as Learning

Access to Education has increased tremendously over the last years. Still, 250 million children globally cannot read or write, according to the World Bank. Acquiring the needed knowledge and skills is one of the core goals in a formal educational setting. The focus of influential organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank is moving more into the quality questions of education. The aim is to provide learning for all.

At ISH we want to work towards ensuring every student’s learning success. Learning journeys start in the classrooms and continue in different contexts depending on the teaching methods and means.

Student Support Services at ISH have been under structural changes and we are continuously working hard on formulating a system which will lead into every student’s improved learning outcomes. As acknowledgeable as it is, the learning support system is tied to the resources available. We do wish that the students who need extra support in their learning process will get that in an effective and targeted way.

Effectiveness relates to full support not only from the school, but also the family and the student him/herself. Contribution from all these instances is remarkably necessary. Ownership of the studies, not only attendance at school can steer the way towards accomplishments. For the success of a PYP student, regular reading practice together with the child can be a criterion for good learning results. For a MYP student it can be parents’ support on organizational skills and scheduling questions. For a DP student, parental support can have its origins in encouragement and care for healthy daily life choices.

Although the IB programme sets high standards on academic results and we, as the Learning Support Department of ISH, are fully involved in shaping the highly cultivated academic paths, wellbeing of students is an aspect to be considered carefully. There is definitely more than academic achievements – quality education is more than that.
Primary School News

Mr Stef Fleet
Primary School Principal

Ms Joanna Okolowicz
IB Coordinator for PYP

PYP Student-Led Conferences

The thrilling and interactive Student-Led Conferences are coming up soon on April 18th. Regular classes do not operate on this day. Student-led conference set up and time slots will be finalised a few weeks before the conference. Teachers will be sending more information soon.

“Student-led conferences involve the student and the parents. The students are responsible for leading the conference, and also take responsibility for their learning by sharing the process with their parents… It may involve students demonstrating their understanding through a variety of different learning situations. There may be several conferences taking place simultaneously.” (Making the PYP happen: A curriculum framework for international primary education, 2009).

Purpose:
• Promote student ownership of their learning and thinking.
• It develops student’s ability to advocate their modality and style of learning (visual, kinaesthetic, tactile, auditory).
• Most importantly to share and celebrate students’ understanding of the 5 essential elements (Knowledge, Skills, Concepts, Action and Attitudes) through inquiry-based lenses and development of the important IB Learner Profile attributes and dispositions.

Student’s role: The student-led conference provides an opportunity for students to take responsibility for presenting, demonstrating and discussing their learning and for parents to follow their child through conceptual and inquiry-based learning experiences they typically engage and are familiar with at school.

Teacher’s role:
• Before the conference: provide opportunities for students to prepare themselves for the conference.
• At the conference: observer

Parent’s role:
• Be curious
• Let the student lead the conference
• Actively participate in the learning experiences with enthusiasm
• Patiently listen to their child, ask clarifying questions about the learning engagements and the learning objectives,
• Demonstrate support and appreciation for their child’s effort and learning.

How can I support my child during the process?

One way to support your child is through asking questions and feedback. Questions are at the heart of the inquiry classroom. Encourage your child to question you and themselves. Use questions to drive the Student-Led Conference and to activate deeper thinking in conversations with your child.

Before the conference:
I am thrilled to get to have you as a leader of the conference. How are you feeling before the conference? What’s the part you are most excited about? Let’s learn together.

During the conference:
What would you like to share/show/tell? That’s interesting- tell me more about that. Where did you get that idea from? How did you figure that out? What makes you say that? What can you tell me about this? What have you found most interesting? What has been the best thing about this for you? This is what I think you are saying, is that right? What are you planning to do next?

After the conference:
I learnt that…, Thank you for being an effective leader today. How has your thinking changed?
What would you like feedback on? What do you need more help with? What are you most proud of? How do you think that went?

Watch of snapshot of last year’s Student-Led Conferences here.
Upcoming PYP events

March 17-23  PYP 4-5 Ski Trip, for participating students.
April 18    PYP Student Led Conferences.
April 23-24  World Book Days
April 25     School closed from 12:00 noon (ASCP available from 12:00 noon on this day).
May 23       PYP Olympic Day
June 7       PYP Exhibition
June 15      PYP End of Year Celebration
Secondary School News

Ms Monika Pedersen
Secondary School Principal

Career Fair
The big focus for the college counselling section was the Career Fair on 28 February. We would like to thank the participating parents for sharing their time, effort and expertise and for making it possible for us to hold such an impressive event. Students from MYP5 - DP2 were able to listen to a number of presentations in order to reflect on career paths for the future. We thank Mr. Kurt and the facilities team for the organization of this event. We hope to repeat it in the coming year.

Student Council
Our Student Council continues to be very involved in school life. The homework club is running, with students staying behind after school to study until 17.00 and working on their homework with some help from grade 11 and 12 Diploma students.

The ‘Design a T-Shirt Competition’ is underway. We are hoping to launch a school T-shirt soon and very much want the students to take a leading role in the design on the T-shirt.

The International Food Day is in the early stages of planning. It is very likely that help will be required from those of you who are talented in the kitchen and willing to support the venture of cooking and sharing foods from home lands. It promises to be a very interesting and delicious event!

Diploma Programme Taster Day
Following on from our DP Open House on Wednesday 24 January, we held a Taster Day on Friday 23 February, where we tailor-made the day for prospective new students. The feedback about our school and the programme was positive. It was noted that we have structure and rigour; this could clearly be identified.

Practicum Week and Request
I am mentioning this again, as I am concerned that my advisory group are able to get placements. We have approximately 23 students needing a placement in April. Should you be willing to support this venture by providing a placement in your company or that of a friend’s, please contact me as soon as you can.

Exhibition Time Ahead of Us!
In our next newsletter, we will share the wonders of our MYP 5 Personal Project Exhibition as well as the IB Art Show. These are the biggest events in the academic and social calendar. An incredible amount of work and effort goes into these productions. We wish all our students good luck as they prepare themselves for the big event!

Student Led Conferences
Please mark Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March in your calendars if you have not done so already. More information about the format of the days has been shared on ManageBac. We really look forward to seeing you then.

Senior Prom
The class of 2018 are busy planning their prom which will be held locally in Hellerup for students in MYP5-DP2 on Saturday 7 April. The theme is ‘Fairy Tales’. We are very grateful for the parent support the Prom Committee have received as well as the assistance from Mr. Gezen and Ms. Ceren. We look forward to seeing the splendid outfits and sharing in the fun the students will have. We are hoping many of our teachers, especially our DP teachers, will be able to join the event.
It has been a very busy time in the MYP since the beginning of the second semester. First the Mid-Year report cards were publish accompanied by two assessment workshops for parents, after this the support meetings for our MYP 4-5 students and their parents took place. The six months of Personal Projects came to an end last week for MYP 5. Currently we are preparing teachers and students for the MYP Student Led Conferences on March 22 and 23. Please mark these dates in your calendar. In March our students and teachers will also engage in Math competitions in various places in Europe.

All units in the MYP have a Global Context connected to them that brings the international lens to the students’ learning. There are six different Global Contexts provided by the IBO: Identities and Relationships; Orientation in time and Space; Personal and Cultural Expression, Scientific and technical innovations; Globalization and Sustainability; and Fairness and Development. Moreover, the Global contexts brings the connection of learning that happens in the classroom together with the real world.

For example, in MYP 3, the students are currently engaged in a Research unit, “Against the Grain: Twelve angry men”, with the Global Context of Fairness and Development in Language and Literature English. The MYP 3 students started off the unit by visiting the Gentofte library and learning about the resource databases available for them in Copenhagen. Some other examples: In French Language and Literature, the students study realism and naturalism with the aim to see how the principles of realism applied in painting in a Global Context of Personal and Cultural Expression. In MYP 2, the students learned about Globalization and Sustainability in a Science unit, Oceanography: The unknown Depth of Our Own World.

However, not everything is hard work. Sometimes we also need to relax and enjoy the company of each other and practice our social ATL skills to foster the IB Learner Profile attribute “Balanced”. The MYP assembly this month had Diversity as focus. The MYP 5 class took a Diversity treasure hunt through the area of Nørrebro and then went to the movies to watch Black Panther as a price for best dressed up class during Spirit week.

Lastly, I’m sad to inform you, that I will leave the IB coordinator for MYP position and the school. Many people ask me what I will do now and the answer is that I will continue to do “the most important job in the world: being a parent, the second most important is being a teacher”. (Oprah Winfrey) At this stage, I don’t know what new doors will come to be opened, but I’m positive that the future will be good both for ISH, the MYP, and for me professionally and personally. The school is currently opening the position and advertising for my successor.