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

This is a hectic time of year at the school, and that is reflected in this month’s action-packed newsletter. In this issue, Mr Asanovski shares an article in which he unpacks our school’s mission statement and Ms Keenoy extends an invitation to the upcoming Edible Books Day on April 23rd. PYP teachers Ms Howard and Ms Demaria report from the recent PYP 4&5 ski trip in Norway and we get the read more about this year’s Diploma Programme CAS trips to Indonesia and Kenya.

In the Primary School News, the focus is on how to prepare for the upcoming PYP5 Exhibition, while the Secondary School News give an overview of recent and forthcoming events in the MYP and DP and puts a spotlight on the recent Secondary School Prom. CAS Coordinator Mr van Leeuwen’s reflection about his time working at the Olympics earlier this year reminds us that we are never too old to learn, to enjoy and to experience new things!

This, and much more, in this month’s newsletter!
Expanding on our School Mission

Schools are institutions that shape future generations. One of the very important tasks that schools have is to guide students to become responsible global citizens so that they can contribute to greater good, thus creating a better world. This is the essence of a school’s very existence and it is therefore vital for schools to be mission driven. It is a school’s mission that gives guidance to the whole school community so that it can carry out its duty; to contribute to world peace.

In this edition I have decided to unpack our school’s mission statement: “to provide the highest quality education in a student-centred environment by empowering individuals to fulfil their human potential to become purposeful life-long learners and responsible global citizens.”

The first goal in our five-year strategic plan is “academic excellence”. We have created the five-year plan to categorically focus on various aspects of our school and we must do our utmost to work towards achieving academic excellence to offer a high quality of education since this is a means of supporting our students to get a better understanding of themselves and the world so that they can contextualize their learning and contribute in various ways using the skills that they acquire in school. In order to better support our students in their life journey, we need to be aware of the needs of every individual to tailor learning based on individual needs. This is indeed a very challenging task and one can never master this fully but we are committed to developing our support systems further so that we can reach each individual, thus helping our students to fulfil their human potentials.

Students need to understand that learning does not only take place in classrooms, school premises and other dedicated learning environments, but that it takes place everywhere and that it is a combination of learning inside and outside of the classroom that makes it possible for us to fully develop our skills. It is paramount that we keep in mind that life-long learning takes place everywhere and at all times.

The developmental psychologist Lev Vygotsky, whose work has had a powerful influence on psychology and education, believed that one must attend school in order to develop higher order thinking skills but that the knowledge acquired in schools should be combined with what he called “everyday knowledge” which is the knowhow from our everyday experiences (Muller 2013). He stated that accessing knowledge is a complex process that requires both scientific (the knowledge acquired in schools) and everyday concepts (what we learn in our daily experiences).

In order to get more satisfaction of life we need to feel that we are contributing to our local and/or global community. In Book One of the “Nicomachean Ethics” Aristotle categorizes what a good life is in two sections; what is good for individuals and what is good for society at large. He writes in the beginning that the good life is a life of flourishing and virtues. To reach this condition of well-being, it is necessary to have good social institutions that enable people to foster the human qualities and intellectual virtues. Schools needs to encourage people to live by these virtues so that people can flourish and take responsibility for the greater community and becoming responsible global citizens.
A goodbye from Ms Chiara Giani

Dear Parents,

It is with a bittersweet feeling that I am writing my last newsletter before the beginning of my maternity leave. At the end of April I will stop working to get some rest before the big day, when my family and I will welcome our second son to the world.

I am very excited but at the same time sad to be absent from work for such a long time. I really love my job as Coordinator at ISH and I will miss my lovely international community of colleagues, families and students. I will meet you back in 2019, and I will see your amazing children grown and becoming more and more independent, dedicated life-long learners. In the meanwhile, Ms. Elana Thoren (ethoren@ish.dk) will cover my position. She is an experienced, bright, organized young woman and I am sure that she will do a great job as ASCP and Subs Coordinator. I wish her all the very best! Vi ses i 2019!

Family Update

The digital system of the ASCP is now fully operative and most of the families regularly log in to check the latest pictures on our news feed. Please don’t forget to update your child’s profile with any possible useful information about contacts, dietary and medical needs. Pick up details can be updated after 2.20 pm, when your child is signed in the ASCP for the day. If you still have troubles logging in, please contact us!

2018 Summer Programme

Registration for the 2018 summer programme will open very soon on the school 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, ESL… and much more!

April PTA meeting

A small but dedicated group of parents came to the April PTA meeting. We looked at photos from the recent Secondary School Prom, looked at some upcoming community events and discussed the procedure for applying for and approving PTA grants. One parent came up with a lovely idea to organize a Mother’s Day celebration in May – read more below. The meeting finished with a short Mother Tongue workshop led by Ms Chiara Giani. The meeting minutes are published here. The next PTA meeting will take place on May 1st from 16:00 – 17:00.

Mother’s Day Celebration

The PTA will organize an informal coffee morning to celebrate Mother’s Day on Wednesday, May 9th before and after morning drop-off time (approximately 8:00 – 9:00 am). If the weather is nice, the coffee morning will be held in the area outside the main entrance. We hope that you will be able to stop by at school for a while on that day to grab a coffee or tea and a breakfast snack and possibly receive a Mother’s Day gift made by the younger students at the school.

Volunteers for Edible Books Day

The Edible Books Day is coming up very soon on April 23rd. We estimate that we will need at least six parent volunteers on the day. We need help with the following:

• Help making decorations that fit with the ALICE IN WONDERLAND theme of the day.
• Decorate the canteen
• Set up dishes and registration forms
• Help supervise PYP students visiting the exhibition.
• Help during the bake sale (cut up cakes, collect tickets etc)
• Clean up after the event

If you are able to help before, during or after the event, please sign up as a volunteer in this google doc.
Library Corner

Ms Andrée Keenoy
School Librarian

Edible Books Day, 23rd April
We are heading towards our annual World Books Days, with Edible Books on Monday, 23rd April and Dress-up-as-Your-Favourite-Character and Read-a-Thon Awards on Tuesday, 24th April.

The Edible Book event will take place on the 23rd April in the canteen. Enter this great literary and fun event by reading a book that inspires you to bake, make, or design an edible item. Write down your recipe and bring your delicious dish and the book that inspired you to the canteen on the 23 April! All classes and the ISH community are invited to view this exhibition of delightful tasty (or not) morsels. Last year it was amazing! The exhibition will be followed by a cake sale where all proceeds will go towards the Marfiki orphanage in Kenya which the Diploma Programme CAS students recently visited. Items for the following categories will be accepted: PYP, MYP and DP Parents & Teachers. Be a risk-taker and participate! All are welcome!

Enjoy a feast of reading because after all, “Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested” (Francis Bacon.)

Entries must be given to a volunteer before 8:30 am and an entry form must be submitted with the name and age of the student and the book the food art represents. It would be very helpful if you can fill it up beforehand using this form.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to help during the Edible Books Day. Please add your name next to the task that you can help with in this google doc if you would like to help.

Students have also been reading enthusiastically for Read-a-Thon, the library has seen a sharp increase in the number of books borrowed. Please support them.

The schedule for the two days will be as follows:

23rd of April: Edible Books (canteen)
• Bring dishes between 8.00 and 8.30
• PYP students will visit following a schedule
• The bake sale will be between 12.00 and 13.30. Please remember to give your children 10 kr for the sale
• Don’t forget to pick up the empty dishes (13.30 -16.00 on the day; at the library the following week.)

24th of April : Dress up as Your Favourite Character

PYP Assembly (9:45-10:20 in the canteen
• Read-a-Thon Book Awards
• Edible Books Awards

MYP DP Assembly (14.40 in the canteen)
• Read-a-Thon Book Awards
• Edible Books Awards
• Teacher poster award

One of the entries at last year’s Edible Books Day.
EDIBLE BOOK DAY

23rd April 2018
ISH Canteen
8:30-13:30
Read it
Make it
Bake it
Eat it
Primary School News

Student-Led Conferences April 18
Thank you for booking your time slot, and letting us know about any additional supervision needed on the day. Students are making final preparations in classes…they are excited to host their conferences! More detailed information will be sent before the day on Managebac.

PYP 5 Exhibition
The PYP 5 students have started their Exhibition inquiry! As a culmination to the PYP programme, PYP 5 students have begun taking part in the PYP Exhibition beginning late March and ending on June 7th. The PYP Exhibition represents a significant event in the life of a PYP school and this year it will take place under the transdisciplinary theme, How We Organise Ourselves.

The Purpose of Exhibition:
• Students engage in an in-depth, collaborative inquiry.
• Students become more independent with their own learning.
• Students can look at an area of learning from many different perspectives.
• It gives students the opportunity to take action about a real-life issue.
• It unites the whole school community and the wider community through collaborative learning.
• A celebration of the transition of learner from primary to middle school

The role of parents:
• Have an understanding of the Exhibition requirements.
• Keep informed about the process by asking students what stage they are working on.
• Support and encourage their children throughout the process.
• Provide knowledge or areas of expertise to any of the groups.
• Help to locate resources – people, places, media and information
• Encourage in-depth inquiry and ownership of the process.
• Celebrate with the students by attending the final presentations

The role of the student:
• Understand the exhibition and show how you have included the learner profile.
• Think about a real-life issue or problem for the exhibition
• Start a unit of inquiry in groups and decide on a central idea, lines of inquiry and student questions
• Work together to plan, learn and assess all stages of the exhibition.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the five essential elements—knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action
• Use different materials to show your learning; wherever possible, students should use a variety of source materials, such as first-hand experiences, interviews, surveys, field visits, artifacts, science investigations, working models, not just book and/or Internet research
• celebrate their learning by presenting the exhibition to the school community

Roles in the PYP 5 Exhibition

Roles in the PYP 5 Exhibition
The PYP 5 students have assembled to groups, formulated their central idea, and have connected with their mentors (a variety of teachers). Now they are performing more research and writing their research papers.

We would love any parent expertise, or suggestions for other resources (such as field trip locations, experts in Copenhagen, or interesting events), to help the children explore their area of interest. If you can assist with any of these themes, please contact the relevant mentor:

Economy: Cryptocurrency  
(contact Ms Denton, jdenton@ish.dk)

Transportation: Electric Cars  
(contact Mr Asanovski, nasanovski@ish.dk)

Education: Bullying  
(contact Ms Demaria, ldemaria@ish.dk)

Environment: Traditional medicine leading to endangered species  
(contact Ms Keenoy, akeenoy@ish.dk)

Religion: Religious freedom  
(contact Mr Fleet, sfleet@ish.dk)

Technology: Artificial intelligence  
(Ms Gardner, kgardner@ish.dk)

Government: Gun laws  
(Ms Leon, aleon@ish.dk)

Health: Addiction  
(Ms Biagetti, obiagetti@ish.dk)

We would love any parent expertise, or suggestions for other resources (such as field trip locations, experts in Copenhagen, or interesting events), to help the children explore their area of interest. If you can assist with any of these themes, please contact the relevant mentor:

Economy: Cryptocurrency  
(contact Ms Denton, jdenton@ish.dk)

Transportation: Electric Cars  
(contact Mr Asanovski, nasanovski@ish.dk)

Education: Bullying  
(contact Ms Demaria, ldemaria@ish.dk)

Environment: Traditional medicine leading to endangered species  
(contact Ms Keenoy, akeenoy@ish.dk)

Religion: Religious freedom  
(contact Mr Fleet, sfleet@ish.dk)

Technology: Artificial intelligence  
(Ms Gardner, kgardner@ish.dk)

Government: Gun laws  
(Ms Leon, aleon@ish.dk)

Health: Addiction  
(Ms Biagetti, obiagetti@ish.dk)

**Upcoming PYP events**

- 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
- June 20: Last Day of School (12:00 noon dismissal)

**Photos from last year’s PYP Exhibition**

There will be an MYP presentation by the MYP Coordinator, Anna Söderstrom, in the MYP 5 Lounge on the second floor corridor on Tuesday 24 April starting at 8.30 am. The presentation will provide an overview of the MYP programme and will give you an opportunity to ask questions and for students to hear a little more about the next chapter of their academic pathway.
PYP 4&5 Ski Trip

Ms Danielle Howard
PYP 4B Teacher

Ms Laura Demaria
PE Teacher

A group of students form PYP 4 and 5 hit the slopes of Hafjell, located in Lille Hammer, Norway during week 12. The Hafjell ski resort opened in 1988 for the Olympic Games in 1994 and is an excellent location for all abilities, especially beginners, since you can ski from the top to the bottom of the mountain on green runs. The students have had a wonderful experience with top class instructors learning to ski or improving their techniques. Students were risk takers, pushing their own boundaries to exert themselves and accomplishing even more than they set out to. All students mastered skiing from the top of the mountain by the end of the trip. Students were able to practice being independent by taking good care of themselves and each other. We have all experienced a great ISH team spirit during the trip, extending the sense of community and togetherness. Good communication was a vital skill that students were able to show. We were very proud of the exemplary behavior and high standards shown by students during the trip – students were a credit to themselves and their families.

Read more about the ski trip and view a gallery with photos from the trip in this news post on our website. Mrs Howard and Ms Demaria are already under way planning next year’s trip – stay tuned for more info!
Secondary School News

Ms Monika Pedersen
Secondary School Principal

We hope you have had a refreshing break and you are ready for the weeks ahead which will prove very exciting and busy!

MYP Student Led Conferences

We would like to thank all our students and teachers for the superb preparation for the conferences. The students did a wonderful job of sharing their school work, their reflections, and aspirations. It was so nice to see so many parents attending and supporting their children perform in their ‘professional work space. The format was new and the feedback all round has been that it was a success. We will be repeating this set up next year.

Copenhagen Danish International Schools’ Competition (DISC)

On April 4th, 12 ISH students from MYP 1-4 participated in the DISC Maths Competition which took place in CIS this year. The students took the 1st and 3rd place in the 13-14 years group and the 4th and 5th place in the 11-12 years group. A big thanks to all students who participated in the competition and made us proud. And of course, a big thanks to the coach Dr Kurt, Mr Thomas and Mr Tsakos for taking part in the competition with the students.
Prom

On Saturday 7 April, the Diploma students held their Prom. The Prom is a tradition from the USA and it is a celebration for the students who are completing high school. In our school, this is the DP 2 class. The event is a recent tradition and one we will continue.

The students had a wonderful time and came in some lovely outfits, enjoyed some tasty food, and finished the evening off with some dancing. We would like to thank Ms. Kjerkegaard as she was the leading parent who invested a lot of time and energy on this fantastic evening. Ms. Ceren, our DP 2 homeroom teacher has also played a key role as well as the few very dedicated DP 2 students who formed the Prom Committee. We are sincerely grateful to all the Diploma teachers who showed up on the night to support the students. It was a night to remember.
CAS Trips
Two Diploma trips headed out just before Easter break to Kenya and Bali. The respective service ventures headed up by Mr. Qeska and Mr. Bob were the culmination of a lot of creative fund-raising and preparatory work in order to help less privileged children and see how initiatives from previous trips had evolved. Dedication and empathy for others can clearly be seen and felt when our students put their efforts into these and other projects. Read more about the trips on the following page and in the DP News.

DP 1 students will also be following a special programme geared to the specific aspects and requirements of the programme.

Read-a-Thon Awards, 24 April
This year, we have expanded the World Book Day venture, thanks to Ms. Castillo, to include a month long Read-a-Thon to encourage students to develop good reading habits and to raise money for our library and for the SOS Børnebyerne. This has already started and each student has been 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. Students have been asked to read as much as they can and log their reading for 30 days. It should be a very exciting month and we await to see which class have read the most, collectively!

Early Closing Wednesday 25 April
We will be working on improving our curriculum on Wednesday 24 April, so school will be closed at 12.00 for students. Please make the necessary arrangements for your children for the afternoon.

Senior Goodbye Breakfast
We are starting a new tradition. DP 1 students are hosting a breakfast for DP2 students and DP teachers on Friday 6 April. We believe this is a nice way to bring everyone together before students head off for study weeks or special review weeks. All DP 2 students are welcome to schedule an appointment with their teachers if they have any last-minute questions about their exams or subject material. Diploma final exams begin 28 April!
ISH returns to Bali!

During the Spring Break, six students, accompanied by two teachers, travelled to Bali for what is called a CAS trip. CAS stands for Creativity, Activity and Service and is one of the core elements in the IB Diploma Programme. Through CAS, students are encouraged to explore themselves as creative and sportive human beings and encouraged to discover their borders. The most important element in CAS is service. During the CAS trip to Bali, the students have been visiting orphanages, giving English lessons in Primary Schools and working one on one with Indonesian students in extracurricular language programmes. Before the trip, the students were able to raise a significant sum of money to donate to a local NGO called Stella’s Child. The successful fundraising was possible partly by the generous contributions of the ISH parents. On behalf of Stella's Child and the children in Bali, a big thank you for your donations.

As mentioned before, CAS is a core element in the DP program. All DP students are required to achieve several learning outcomes (such as: “Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken”) through two years of different activities and experiences. Six DP1 students have taken a big step towards passing this program by participating in this trip. Not only did the students work for more than seven days with unprivileged children in Bali, but they also experienced another culture, another mind-set and another type of nature as well as the importance of collaborative planning, commitment and perseverance. We’ve had surfing lessons, we went snorkelling on some of the most beautiful places on earth and we participated in a local Hindu ceremony.

CAS trips such as this one help students develop their view of the world. In line with the Mission Statement of the school we, as teachers, hope that the experiences from this week will help the students become purposeful life-long learners and responsible global citizens. We are proud of the great group dynamics, the flexibility and the numerous achievements of the students during this trip, and we are already looking forward to next year’s trip!
MYP News
Ms Anna Söderström
MYP Coordinator

MYP Collaboration Workshop
April began with an extra day of holiday for our students in the MYP. As the students recovered after their spring break, MYP teachers and pedagogical leaders in the MYP took a bus over to International School of Älmhult in Sweden, the IKEA school. There, we participated in standardization of assessment and workshops with six other IB MYP schools in the close region, Bladins IS and IS Malmö, IS Helsingborg and IS Lund. Teachers were very pleased with the day and came back with new ideas for learning activities that they can provide for our students in the future. During the workshops the teachers shared ideas and discussed assessment. In some areas the teachers felt that ISH is more advanced in the progression than some of the other schools, and in some areas, we felt that we still can learn from the other schools and try out new ideas. This is the fourth year ISH participate in the standardization day.

IBO Quantitative Surveys
The IBO is currently conducting two quantitative surveys about the implementation of MYP Next Chapter 2014. It is time for the IBO to begin the revision of the curriculum and the core of the MYP so they have requested that all MYP students and teachers around the world answer the survey. All our MYP students will take the survey during Science lessons in April.

DISC Math Competition
A big congratulations to our MYP Math team, led by Hakan Kurt, that came in first and second place in the recent Math competition in CIS!

MYP Core Week
The final countdown for the MYP Core week is on and all teachers and students are excited and can’t wait for next weeks’ activities and learning in the different contexts. The core week is our practical week where students gain data and research for their Interdisciplinary units. Being involved in minimum one interdisciplinary units (IDU) is a requirement from the IBO on all students in MYP 1-5 and they are rewarded a separate report card for their IDU assessments in the End of the Year Report card.

The MYP Core week take place in a variety of places. MYP 1 students inquire into how come Copenhagen is one of the most livable City in the world?; MYP 2 into how a healthy body can be obtained by understanding the relationship between the body and exercise also here in Copenhagen with their Science and PHE teachers, MYP 3 learn about children in conflict in Amsterdam; and MYP 5 study time bending, surrealism in Cinema in northern Spain.
DP News

CAS trip to Kenya
A group of students from DP 1 recently went on a 10 day CAS trip to Kenya where they volunteered in a school called Marafiki school. The CAS students taught English and Math and they also observed classes to experience what it is like to be a student in a rural Kenyan school. In the afternoons, the students volunteered in the Marafiki orphanage, playing games and organizing activities for the children using art supplies, games and balls that they had brought from Denmark. The CAS students also experienced African culture by eating at the orphanage, visiting nearby villages and participating in African dances.

Before going on the trip, the students did a fundraising campaign and managed to fundraise a total of 21000 DKK which will go towards the building of a Judo salon at the Marafiki school which is completely funded by the ISH students. In order to complete the salon, the students need to raise an additional 8000 DKK. This will give the children at the orphanage an opportunity to train during the weekends and give them a chance to participate in local and national contests. The CAS group will continue to raise money towards the Judo salon during various school events this spring, including the Edible Book Day on April 23rd.

DP 2 exams
The last day of regular classes for DP 2 students was Friday the 6th of April. To mark this day, the students were invited to a breakfast prepared by the DP 1 students where they received Dr. Seuss's Book “All the places you’ll go,” signed by every teacher with a personal message. They are now preparing for their IB exams which will take place from the 27th of April until 18th of May. We wish them the best of luck with their exam preparations and great exam results.
Once in a lifetime experience for CAS coordinator at the Olympics

In the month of February I have been absent for some weeks to, what turned out to be, having the best experience of my life. I worked at the Holland House at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, Korea. As a CAS coordinator I cannot think of a better way of inspiring the students, then to undergo CAS activities myself. CAS is a one of the core elements in the DP, where students are encouraged to look for challenges in life and to develop themselves physically and creatively and to become a better, more complete person. This is exactly what I achieved in these four weeks.

The Holland House is a place where Dutch fans, athletes, journalists and (high) officials gather, work and celebrate the medals. I worked as a host in the host and had the pleasure to meet high officials from different countries, fans from all over the world, and of course Dutch celebrities. I also have been able to see some of the Korean culture and to attend some of the Olympic events. My working hours were from 1 pm to 2 am, so the only events to visit or sightseeing activities were in the morning. Nights of 3-4 hours were rather rule than exception. But I cannot say anything else than that this trip was a dream coming true. Through the roller-coaster of experiences, the lack of sleep and the numerous new people I met, one thing made the biggest impact on me: the Olympic spirit. It is almost a magical experience to see so many different nationalities, cultures, ethnicities and personalities together in one place, creating the best atmosphere possible. These four weeks I got the confirmation on what I already thought, hoped and try to teach our students: diversity is a strength and world peace is a serious option!

I hope that all the students of ISH will be inspired and find a chance to travel the world and participate in events like the Olympics. We are never too old to learn, to enjoy and to experience!