



29th March 2017, Gothenburg

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

It is officially Spring, and the days are now noticeably longer, if not yet warmer! It is also a busy time in the academic year, with assessment periods, student development talks, and preparations for various exhibitions of student projects.

Evaluation Visits

Our Council of International Schools (CIS) evaluation visit, involving a team of 13 members from international schools all around the world, took place from 25th February to 3rd March. We are very grateful to all the parents, staff and students involved not only during the visiting week, but for contributions throughout the entire two-year evaluation process. The CIS visitors complimented the ISGR community for its positive school spirit, commended progress made since the last evaluation, and determined areas for development.

The IB evaluation visit for PYP occurred from January 23rd to 25th, which similarly involved assessing and reflecting on our practices, but particularly concerning our implementation of the Primary Years Programme. The report from this evaluation has been received and pleasingly, all standards were rated by the IB as showing 'satisfactory development'.

As is our usual practice, the reports will be made available for parents in the School libraries. The PYP IB Report will be available from next week, and we expect the CIS Report to be available by the end of term. The ISGR Leadership team will continue to integrate findings and development recommendations from our various evaluations and accreditation bodies into our overall strategic planning process to support the achievement of our School vision, mission and goals.

PYP Leadership Positions Appointed

Following the appointment of Moragh Randall as the new PYP Principal (taking over from Marilyn James who will retire at the end of this term), we commenced the recruitment process for the positions of Deputy Principal and PYP Coordinator. We are pleased to announce that Cathy Davis will be taking the PYP Deputy Principal Position starting August, 2017. Cathy is an experienced teacher who has been acting deputy principal for the past year as well as working in Learning Support. Ellen Trelles will be the PYP Coordinator starting August, 2017.

Ellen has had a successful two years as PYP Coordinator, including overseeing the recent IB evaluation of PYP.

ISGR 20th Anniversary Celebrations

A highlight of this year is the celebration of ISGR's 20th Anniversary! A number of activities are being planned to commemorate the milestone in the School's history. The celebration week for students will be week 19, starting on the 8th of May.

'Friends' Social Media Sessions

At the parent evening hosted by ISGR and 'Friends', which is dedicated to children and social media usage, the School will launch its new behaviour and ICT policies. The ICT policy in particular will focus on how all members of our community, staff, parents and children are expected to deal with areas such as internet usage and social media. As previously advised, the two sessions are being held concurrently on Wednesday 5th April - one in Swedish at Hvitfeldtska Aula and one in English at our Götaberg Campus Aula - commencing at 6pm. All parents are encouraged to attend at the relevant meeting.

New premises

The Premises Group, including Board members, including a representative from SKF, in collaboration with our owner GR - is continuing investigations into options for new premises. We are down to two centrally located options. We are currently in discussion with two builders who own land within Gothenburg, about if and how they could build a school for ISGR. We are working intensively on both the required facilities and funding for the premises options in order to develop a clear picture of how to proceed by the end of this term.

International Section Withdrawals & Fees

The deadline for submitting student withdrawal forms for the international section of ISGR is 30th of April. Please submit a withdrawal form prior to this date if your child will not attend the New Academic Year 2017-2018 at ISGR. You will otherwise need to pay the late withdrawal fee to cover the costs of holding the place in school. Withdrawal forms can be found online at:

PYP withdrawal form:

<http://www.isgr.se/int/pdf/ISGR%2016-17%20pdf/ISGRPYPWITHD.pdf>

MYP withdrawal form:

<http://www.isgr.se/int/pdf/ISGR%2016-17%20pdf/ISGRENMYPWITHD.pdf>

Completed & signed withdrawal forms should be emailed to admissions@isgr.se

Please also note that the last installment of the School Fee for the spring term must be paid by the 31st of May. Further information is available in the attached copy of the 'School Fee Payment Plan' letter, which was previously sent to you with your invoice.



Summary of Board Meeting

The ISGR Board meets several times a term. The last meeting took place on the 7th of March and the following points were on the agenda:

Presentation of a new Board member:

We welcome Martin Lexa from Mölnlycke Healthcare as a new Board member.

Monthly report:

The monthly report for January 2017 was presented and agreed upon by the Board members.

Yearly report:

Was reviewed and signed. The yearly report will be presented to our auditors in the beginning of April 2017.

Head of School informed the board about the following:

- CIS visit
- PYP IB evaluation
- Recruitment of the new PYP Principal. Moragh Randall was invited to the meeting to introduce herself and meet the board members
- Internal recruitment of the PYP Deputy Principal and PYP Coordinator
- 20th anniversary

Report from the Premises Group:

Information about the two options was given. The Board looked at tax implications and what material needs to be presented to our owners GR regarding the new premises.

The next board meeting will take place on the 4th of April, 2017.

Easter Break

My next letter will be after the term break for Easter (Monday 10th April to Monday 17th April), so I will take this opportunity now to wish you 'Glad Påsk!' Don't be surprised if you see children dressed up as witches during Easter ('Påsk'). Legend suggests that at this time witches flew off on broomsticks to dance at a mythical meadow named Blåkulla. On Maundy Thursday ('skärtorsdag'), you might have children with painted faces and broomsticks, knocking on your door to ask for treats, much like American Halloween tradition.

Kind regards,

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Head of School

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