

19th October 2017, Gothenburg

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

The days are getting shorter and it's time to find a warm winter jacket and make sure our children are ready for winter with rain coats and waterproof pants too! We have however had a nice autumn, with some lovely colour in the turning leaves! We are reaching the middle of the Autumn Term so it's a good time to provide some updates on activities in the school.

### Facilities

*Guldheden:* The playground renovations are moving forward. We now have an all-weather shelter in the playground, more picnic tables, and soon there will be artificial grass placed both towards the main hill area, and also in the Early Years' Centre playground.

*Göteborg:* During the 'Week 44' term break, the first and second floors will be re-painted. New curtains and blinds have been ordered for these two floors. We are also making some further improvements to the walkway from the Reception area to the Head of School and Principals' offices, with a new visitors area at the end of the corridor (near the staff room/entry to offices).

*Göteborg Library:* Our library will be divided by the end of the term. The IHGR library will be located on the 3rd floor and the ISGR library will remain on the 4th floor. The ISGR library room will then be refurbished and reconfigured to include a library-classroom.

### ISGR Website

We are currently working on an upgrade to our website to make information about the school even easier to access and manage. Our aim is to launch the new site in the beginning of 2018. Details about the features of the new website along with an overview of our digital direction within the school, will be provided in my next letter.

### PTA After-Work

A big thank you to the PTA and all who prepared for a fantastic 'after-work' event last Friday. It was a pleasure to see so many members of our school community in one place, having such a great time. The true spirit of our school was prevalent in the way we embraced the benefits of diversity in our community. The entire evening was extremely well organised and was a testament to the hard work of everyone in the PTA.



## **Admissions**

### *National section:*

The admissions period for the National section opened on the 1st of October and will remain open until the 1st of December. This application period is for the 2018-2019 academic year. We would like to welcome Isabel Anderzén Domingues who is now working 50% at the Götaberg Campus reception and 50% with admissions for the National section. Email: [antagning@isgr.se](mailto:antagning@isgr.se)

### *International section:*

The international section has rolling admissions according to its international criteria and this academic year we have so far had 110 new PYP students and 48 new MYP students. The majority of students started in August, but also we have been welcoming new students arriving throughout September and October. Our student numbers in the International section are now at 376 students in PYP and 295 students in MYP. In total, we have 671 students in the International section.

## **Student Leave of Absence**


A reminder to all parents about our Leave of Absence policy for students, which is in accordance with Swedish law. The school has the right to grant leave to a student for a maximum of 10 days per school year for personal reasons. Family holidays, travel, visits to relatives and friends, etc. are not valid reasons for leave and should be planned during the designated school holiday periods.

Applications for leave of up to 5 days may be granted by the student's teacher and the assessment is based on each individual student's school situation. This means that the school can refuse requested leave based on academic requirements. In exceptional circumstances, the Principal can grant a further 5 days leave.

If a student is absent without approval for longer than 10 days consecutively, then they will be automatically withdrawn from ISGR. Parents will need to re-apply and demonstrate that they still meet the Admissions Criteria if they wish to return to ISGR.

## **Board Meeting Summary**

Attached you will find a summary of the minutes from the last Board meeting, held in August. Board meetings are held approximately three times per term. Board meetings and presentations at Board meetings are conducted in English and Swedish, as representatives have different native languages.



### **Mid-Term Break**

Soon it will be the Autumn term break (Week 44 - 'Höstlov' 30th October-3rd November) when families often take the opportunity for a short trip away or stay at home and make the indoors cozy in the tradition of Swedish "mys" with candles and lamps creating a relaxing home environment for the family. Although Halloween is not a Swedish tradition, you can see signs of the celebration around the city at this time. 'Alla Helgons Dag' (All Saints' Day) on 4th November is a Swedish tradition and families often visit cemeteries on this day with candles or flowers to remember loved ones who have passed.

I look forward to writing to you again in November!

Kind regards,

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

Head of School

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## Board Meeting August 2017:

During the Board meeting at the end of August, the following points were discussed:

**Tender for New premises:** In the beginning of the year a new law was passed emphasizing the requirement to have detailed tenders on special buildings. A school is considered to be a special building, therefore new steps regarding the tender had to be looked at. Our consultant Lena Gustafsson took part in the meeting to give information regarding the tender of a rental agreement.

**Monthly report:** Birgitta Sandström Barac presented the monthly report from July 2017.

**Number of students:** Student numbers (Presented on first page of newsletter) were presented.

**Student results:** The results for LGRM9 and MYP10 were presented.

**Teacher qualifications:** 98% of the teachers at ISGR have teaching qualifications. It is mostly difficult to hire teachers in Swedish 2, Maths and Science.

**CIS Update:** Information was given about the commendations and recommendations given by CIS. Issues 1 were worked on and handed in by the Leadership group in July 2017. Issues 2 are currently being worked on (including safety routines) and will be sent in January 2018.

**MYP IB evaluation:** Information about the dates (7-9<sup>th</sup> of May) and evaluation was given. 4 Board members wish to take part in the IB evaluation process: Karin Pleijel, Johan Ahlsell, Bart Geraads and Johan Holmberg.

**Study visit for Board members:** New Board members have been given training about ISGR. Birgitta Sandström Barac has also offered the Board members the opportunity to book in study visits in order to learn more about the school, staff and the teaching and learning at both sections.

Nordic Network: Dates and information was given about the upcoming conference that we will be hosting next term.

**Admissions:** With the increase of students over the last few years, Birgitta Sandström Barac has contact Skolverket regarding the current admissions criteria. The aim is to prioritize and limit to one criteria instead of three. More information will follow.

The next Board meeting is on Friday, 20th of October.

