

23rd November 2017, Gothenburg

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

The real winter is here, with snow falling already, and temperatures falling also! Perfect time to buy an ISGR hat (called “mössor” in Swedish), which are available through the PTA!

### Winter Bazaar

The Annual ISGR Winter Bazaar will be held this weekend on Sunday 26th of November, at our Götaberg Campus. It is an event with something for everyone so please bring the whole family to join the fun! Profits from the Winter Bazaar will be spent on ICT equipment for both ISGR campuses. Planning is well underway for the PTA's biggest ISGR Community event, however, in order to make this year's Winter Bazaar a great success, the PTA still need more help. You can sign up for a 30-minute slot (or more if you would like) at one of the activity tables. You can also sign-up to bring small baked goods like cookies or cupcakes for the 'cakewalk', or a snack for the International Café! The event is a fantastic showcase of the talents in our diverse community, and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. The festivities commence at 11am! Please contact a representative from the PTA for further information:

[isgr.winterbazaar@gmail.com](mailto:isgr.winterbazaar@gmail.com)



### School Facility Improvements

#### *Guldheden Playground improvements*

The outside area between D-wing and E-wing now has a new 'all-weather' surface . The Early Years Centre playground is also receiving more 'all-weather' surfaces to extend the use-able play area.

### *PE Halls*

Plans are currently being prepared to renovate the PE building (E-wing). Improvements to the outside of the building will include brickwork, roofing and window renovations. On the inside of the building, improvements will include painting, refreshed floors, enhanced acoustics and change room renovations. There will also be an extra external exit added, which will improve safety and also provide increased ability to use the PE Halls for school assemblies. PE classes are scheduled to occur outside during the renovation period. Further details will be provided in the new year.

### *Guldheden Campus Ventilation*

The ventilation at Guldheden Campus is being improved. Specialists who work in this area have completed an initial assessment and made recommendations on how to improve the airflow throughout the building. It is a long-term project however we expect work to commence shortly.

### *Göteborg Campus Renovations*

Göteborg Campus has also had many recent improvements. Classrooms have been painted, display boards installed and new curtains added to windows. Renovations to Reception and the hallway leading to the administration offices have also been completed, adding some new colour to the campus.

### **Visitor Sign-in & Security**

A reminder that all visitors to our school campuses need to sign-in at the campus Reception. Visitors are registered and provided with a security badge, which must be worn to visibly identify visitors. On the back of the security badge you will find essential instructions providing steps to be taken in the event of an emergency situation. Badges are to be returned to Reception when you sign-out. This procedure is designed to help provide the safest possible learning environment for our students, so please support us by following the requirements and becoming familiar with the instructions provided.

### **New ISGR Website**

As previously informed, we are currently redeveloping the ISGR website: [www.isgr.se](http://www.isgr.se). The new website mainly aims to improve the organisation of school information, so that it is easier to find. This will be accomplished through modernizing the layout of the website. The new website will also allow for easy access on a mobile device. In addition to this, the information on the website will be arranged to improve how we communicate with different members of our community. We hope that all the changes will result in increased utilisation of the website as a helpful resource for parents to quickly find the school information they need.

### **ICT @ ISGR**

At ISGR, it is a school goal to integrate as much Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) into the curriculum as is beneficial to the learning outcome. We are currently working to develop meaningful ways to integrate computer programming into units of study



starting from kindergarten. The plan will include the use of simple robots, microprocessors, web design and app design to show students how coding can be a solution to present day and future problems. We are also budgeting for more ICT tools in 2018 including Chromebooks, iPads, microprocessors and useful programs for photo/video editing. With these improvements, we will continue to strive for the ultimate goal of seamless integration of ICT in the classroom where ICT becomes a natural learning tool for the students.

My next letter is planned for mid-December, after our traditional St. Lucia celebrations. For our primary school, Lucia celebrations are at 09.00 on Friday 8th December at Annedalskyrkan. For our middle school we will celebrate at 14.00 on Wednesday 13th December at Vasakyrkan.

Kind regards,

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

Head of School

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