



15th November 2016, Gothenburg

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

The real winter is here, with some light snow already, which is early in the season for Gothenburg. Soon we will see the warm lights of the festive season brightening the darkness. Perfect time to buy one of the new ISGR hats (called “mössor” in Swedish), which have been produced by the PTA.

ISA Tests

The International Schools' Assessment (ISA) is a standardised test designed specifically for students in Grades 3–10 in international schools and schools with an international focus, whose language of instruction is English. ISGR has been conducting the ISA test in the International section of the School for the past three years, while the National section follows the Swedish national test programme.

The ISA is based on the construct and frameworks of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD PISA). PISA was developed as a measure of 15-year-old student performance in reading, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy. The PISA test concepts were created by teams of international experts in these fields. The ISA has taken those concepts and applied them to parallel and younger age groups. Some PISA tasks have been used in the ISA so that the ISA can be linked statistically to the PISA results. In the 2015 assessments over 76,000 students from 355 schools across nearly 80 countries participated in ISA 2015–16.

Students are tested in three areas: mathematical literacy, reading and writing. The results are then benchmarked to other international schools and other national schools. In the last round of testing in 2015 ISGR was shown in maths to have overall parity with other schools. The reading results were significantly above all other schools, while writing had overall parity with all other schools. We have previously administered the tests in September however for this academic year, students will sit the test in February, 2017.

PYP Principal Recruitment process and feedback

The recruitment group, including Carola Granell (Chair), Kristina Tharing (Vice Chair), Karin Pleijel (Board member and politician responsible for schools in Gothenburg) are currently interviewing a number of candidates for the position of PYP Principal.

Included in the process are the criteria suggestions from parents, which were collated and shared with the Parent Council on 20th October (see attachment).

Facilities

We are continuing to focus on the Götaberg Campus reception area (level 2) and the 'Student Hub' area outside the library (level 4). We expect work to commence early in the new year. We are concentrating on creating student areas that reflect the needs of the older students of the middle and upper schools, while connecting with the look and feel of the renovations at Guldheden Campus.

Plans are also in place for playground improvements at Guldheden, including a Snakes & Ladders game painted on the ground, which can be used for various games and mathematical activities.

ISGR Website

We have recently refreshed the 'start' page of the ISGR website to align it with our updated branding and help direct you to the information you need. Please take a look at:

www.isgr.se

Winter Bazaar

The annual Winter Bazaar will be held on Sunday 20th November and is one of our biggest and best events showcasing the rich diversity in our community. This year the Winter Bazaar is being held at Götaberg Campus and we will also have a big tent outside our neighbouring school, Hvitfeldtska, which will be used for the international cafe!

The ISGR PTA is still happy to have more volunteers to help make this year's event as successful as possible. If you can help with preparations or during the event, please send an email to isgr.winterbazaar@gmail.com or contact your PTA Country Representative.

The PTA has done a fantastic job with the preparations and we are all looking forward to a fun and festive event. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

My next letter is planned for mid-December, after our St. Lucia celebrations. For our primary school, Lucia celebrations are at 9.00am on 9th December at Annedalskyrkan. For our middle school we will celebrate at 8.30am on 13th December at Vasakyrkan.

Kind regards,

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Head of School

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