



27th January 2017, Gothenburg

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Hopefully the new year has started well for you and all are settling in to the new school term. A special welcome to new families joining us for the Spring term!

### Evaluation Visits

The term has commenced with the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IB) visiting our PYP section to conduct the final phase of the programmes evaluation. The IB visitors spent this last week meeting with students, parents, teachers and administration staff to examine the implementation of the PYP. At the exit meeting, the IB visitors provided very good feedback. The visitors had gained a thorough understanding of the School, and complemented our approach to transdisciplinary learning with sound teaching practices within the programme. The IB visitors also noted evidence of strategic planning and support from the Board and management level through to the teaching of the programme, with good structure for communication across the whole school and into the community. We are therefore confident of receiving a good final report with reaccreditation of the PYP, and ideas for further development.

Our next evaluation visit will be by the Council of International Schools (CIS) from 25th February to 3rd March, when a 13 member team will visit the School. This team evaluation visit is the culmination of the CIS reaccreditation process and follows the Self-Study (incorporating the Opinion Survey) and preparation of 14 Reports, which has occurred over the past two years. We are very grateful for the valuable contribution from many parents who have participated in the various committees and who will meet with the CIS visiting team during the week.

### PYP Principal Recruitment

Interviews with the final three candidates for the position of PYP Principal have been conducted. They took place during week two and three of January. All of the candidates were interviewed by a group of students from PYP5, a group of teachers including EHT staff, three of the Principals, and the recruitment group, which comprised the Head of School and members of the Board. All candidates had experience in previous leadership position, advanced knowledge of the PYP, and experience with CIS and IB evaluation processes.

The Board Chair Carola Granell, Vice Chair Kristina Tharing, and the incoming Chair Karin Pleijel, as well as the Head of School, are reviewing the reports from all interview groups and will make a decision this week. The position will then be offered to the successful candidate by the Head of School and upon acceptance the appointment will be announced to the School community mid next week.

### **International Section School Fee**

As advised in our terms and conditions, the School Fee for attending the international section is subject to yearly adjustments according to indexation used by the Gothenburg Region (GR). Accordingly, the School Fee for the 2017-18 academic year will be raised by 2.2%. The new yearly fee will be 31,745 SEK. Further information about the [School Fee and Government Subsidy](#) is available on the ISGR website.

### **Playground Buddy Leaders (Trivsel Ledare) Programme**

We are continuing to develop our playground buddies (TL) programme. The TL programme aims to:

- Organise activities during breaks between classes
- Be especially alert to pupils who appear to be alone
- Be trained to organise play and physical activities
- Get guidance and support from adults responsible for TL at the School

Our TL student representatives (Playground Buddy Leaders) have been on training and have learnt various activities and responsibilities. Our students were complimented on their behaviour by the organisers and other schools in the programme. We are already seeing more student led organisation in the playground with increased involvement in activities. We are also observing students from national and international sections playing together in the TL games.

### **Spring Term Events and Highlights**

This term holds many important events for ISGR, including the celebration of the School's 20th Anniversary! Please look out for more information about the celebrations, which are planned for Week 19, beginning Monday 8th May, alongside other highlights during the term including the reading and culture weeks, various exchange programmes abroad, and exhibitions of student work!

Please regularly check the school calendars online in the "Parent Zone" of our website for the latest information on coming events: [www.isgr.se/calendar](http://www.isgr.se/calendar)

Wishing all parents and students 'god fortsättning' - continued success in the Spring Term!

Kind regards,

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

Head of School

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