



28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014

## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

As we begin to settle in to the new routines of a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to the many new families and welcome back to those that are continuing on for what we hope will be an exciting year at ISGR! I hope that everyone had a wonderful break, wherever in the world it was spent, and for those who were lucky enough to be in Gothenburg, I hope you enjoyed the wonderfully warm summer weather experienced here!

We are starting the year with around the same number of students that we finished with last year. As is normal in international schools with rolling admissions, the majority of families coming and going are in our earlier years; our middle school has remained steady, and our high school (IHGR) has increased in students. All together, we have around 1200 students.

Our Principals and Deputies for each of the school sections are as follows:

- PYP Principal Robert: [Robert.Butler@isgr.se](mailto:Robert.Butler@isgr.se)
- PYP Deputy Principal/PYP Coordinator, Marilyn James: [Marilyn.James@isgr.se](mailto:Marilyn.James@isgr.se)
- LGRP Principal, Ingegerd Lofroth: [Ingegerd.Lofroth@isgr.se](mailto:Ingegerd.Lofroth@isgr.se)
- LGRP Deputy Principal, Pernilla Adolfsson: [Pernilla.Adolfsson@isgr.se](mailto:Pernilla.Adolfsson@isgr.se)
- MYP Principal, Graham Miselbach: [Graham.Miselbach@isgr.se](mailto:Graham.Miselbach@isgr.se)
- MYP Deputy Principal/MYP Coordinator, Corinna Ljungberg: [Corinna.Ljungberg@isgr.se](mailto:Corinna.Ljungberg@isgr.se)
- LGRM Principal, Maria Lindberg: [Maria.Lindberg@isgr.se](mailto:Maria.Lindberg@isgr.se)
- LGRM Deputy Principal, Helena Rundeus: [Helena.Rundeus@isgr.se](mailto:Helena.Rundeus@isgr.se)
- IHGR Principal, Maria Laasonen: [Maria.Laasonen@isgr.se](mailto:Maria.Laasonen@isgr.se)
- IB Coordinator, Lee Brown: [Lee.Brown@isgr.se](mailto:Lee.Brown@isgr.se)

Please make contact with your relevant Principal or Deputy, for any academic or educational issues that may arise. Please also note that the Parent Council will form again shortly and some

issues may be best directed through this forum. The Parent Council meets monthly and your Principal will provide details of Parent Council members for this year soon.

Parent introductory meetings are also occurring in PYP and MYP to help explain our teaching of the IB programmes. The MYP Open House evening is on Thursday 28th August and for PYP it is on Wednesday 3rd September. I encourage you to attend these sessions and ask any questions that you have about our curriculum and approach to education. Recently, we have introduced standardized tests to help guide our development. Students in levels PYP3-MYP10 will be sitting the ISA standardised tests again in October this year. Last year our overall results were on par with other the international schools that participated in the tests. It was a pleasing result but we are working to do better!

Many continuing parents, and some new, will have heard about the possibility of ISGR establishing a new premises. ISGR has been growing over the last few years, and in order to continue providing education at the highest possible quality, we need to consider our facilities for current and future needs. We are continuing to investigate suitable options in Gothenburg, and also one possibility is a site at Mölndal, which is currently the high school there, Fässbergsgymnasiet. A thorough process is taking place including Board meetings, and ongoing meetings with politicians and local government representatives. We will keep you informed as well as seek your feedback, before a final decision is made. At this point, we envisage that any move would be at least 2-3 years away and would be conducted in stages, to ensure a smooth transition to a properly prepared facility.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to become involved in our outstanding Parent Association (PTA) this year, perhaps to start with, by attending the Welcome BBQ on Saturday 20th September at Guldheden Campus. The PTA provides vital links between the school and our families old and new. It is essential in helping to achieve our Vision for ISGR/IHGR, which is: ***to be a leading international educator with a community of life-long learners, inspiring global citizens to embrace diversity and explore the world!***

Thank you for joining ISGR and we look forward to a successful year with lots of learning for young and old alike! I plan to write a monthly update and so will be back in touch soon.

Yours faithfully,

**Head of School**

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

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