



26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

## Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

As we enjoy this lovely, albeit late Swedish summer, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the many new families joining ISGR along with those returning for another year. Hopefully when you read this the sun is still shining!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful break, wherever in the world you have been, and that you and your children are refreshed and energised for a new school year!

We are starting the year with an increase in the number of students compared to the number we finished with last year. As is normal in international schools with rolling admissions, the majority of families coming (and departing) are in our earlier years; our middle school has slightly increased, and our high school (IHGR) has also gained students. All together, we now have over 1200 students.

Our Principals, Deputies and International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinators for each of the School sections are as follows:

- PYP Principal Marilyn James: [Marilyn.James@isgr.se](mailto:Marilyn.James@isgr.se)
- PYP Deputy Principal, Moragh Randall: [Moragh.Randall@isgr.se](mailto:Moragh.Randall@isgr.se)
- PYP Coordinator, Ellen Trelles: [Ellen.Trelles@isgr.se](mailto:Ellen.Trelles@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, Corinna Ljungberg: [Corinna.Ljungberg@isgr.se](mailto:Corinna.Ljungberg@isgr.se)
- MYP Coordinator, Matt O'Brien: [Matt.O'Brien@isgr.se](mailto:Matt.O'Brien@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, Deputy or Coordinator, for any academic or educational issues that may arise. Please also note that the Parent Council will form again shortly and any broader school issues should be directed through this forum. The Parent Council meets monthly and your Principal will provide details of Parent Council members for this year soon.

Further information about the Parent Council is available in the Parent Zone of the ISGR website at: [www.isgr.se/parentcouncil](http://www.isgr.se/parentcouncil)

Parent introductory meetings will be occurring in PYP and MYP to help explain our teaching of the IB programmes. The MYP Open House evening is on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August and for PYP it is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. I encourage you to attend these sessions and ask any questions that you have about our curriculum and approach to education.

For dates and details of school events, please regularly check the online calendars located in the 'Parent Zone' of the ISGR website at: [www.isgr.se/calendar](http://www.isgr.se/calendar)

An important part of the development of the school this year will be working with the focus areas from our strategic plan:

- Developing one school culture with a defined set of shared values
- Enhancing differentiated learning, with input from an expert advisor Diane Heacox
- Introducing a bilingual programme in the National section
- Creating clear communication methods with the whole school community
- Integrating our information systems
- Effectively utilising information technology (devices & Apps) to facilitate learning

With a developing school and increasing student numbers, all the time we are evaluating requirements and investigating possibilities for new facilities. At the moment we are investigating building options within the Gothenburg city area.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to become involved in our outstanding Parent Association (PTA) this year. 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!*** You may have already seen the PTA in action with their outstanding contribution to our 'Newcomers' days with presentations and country representatives to welcome all the new families.

This year the PTA newsletter will be available in Swedish, to help Swedish parents to become involved in more PTA activities. The first big event for the year is the Welcome BBQ at Guldheden Campus on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September. We hope to see as many parents there as possible, from all sections of the School, for what is always a fun way to meet new people and kick-off the school year. Planning has also commenced for the traditional Winter Bazaar (similar to 'Julmarknad' in Swedish), which will be held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Further information on the PTA, including its newsletters, country representatives, and many social and fundraising events, is available on the PTA webpage at: [www.isgr.se/pta](http://www.isgr.se/pta)

Thank you for joining ISGR and we look forward to an exciting year with lots of learning for young and old alike!

I plan to write to parents in this way monthly, so please look out for my next letter in late September.

Yours faithfully,

**Head of School**

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

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