



6th February 2019, Gothenburg

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

The new year and new school term is well underway but hopefully you are still feeling rejuvenated from a fun festive season and by the approaching 'sportlov' winter break. A special warm welcome to new families joining us for the Spring Term, and perhaps enjoying their first experience of Gothenburg snow!

Admissions Update

International section admissions:

Admissions in the international section was busier than usual during the Autumn Term, particularly in PYP. We had an initial intake (August/September) of 34 students in MYP and 116 in PYP (including PYPK). We then had another 4 MYP students and 18 PYP students join throughout the term, while we farewelled a total of 21 MYP and 25 PYP students during the term. For the initial intake for the Spring Term we welcomed 15 new PYP and 7 new MYP students, making current totals of 417 and 302 respectively, and a total number of 719 IB students. A big thank you to all who continue to make it possible to accommodate new students arriving throughout the term. After the 'sportlov' term break we will welcome another 17 students, including the addition of a new class in PYPK.

National section admissions:

The application period for the National section closed on December 1st 2018 and queue numbers for all applicants was created shortly after through lottery conducted by Notarius Publicus. We received a total of 550 applications this application period, 188 of these for preschool class. Placement offers regarding school start in August 2019 will be sent out by the end of January to applicants of preschool class (28), grade 4 (28) and grade 6 (4). We welcomed three new students at the start of the spring term and all grades are now full with a total of 464 students, 224 in LgrP and 240 in LgrM.

Key dates for Spring Term

Term break ('Sportlov'): 11th-15th February, 2019 (week 7)

Easter break ('Påsklov'): 15th-22nd April, 2019

Last day of Spring Term: 13th June, 2019

For additional dates and information view the school calendar at www.isgr.se/calendar

Accreditations Update

The School Leadership has been working on the First Report on Progress & Planning (FRPP) sent to the Council of International Schools (CIS) in the beginning of February. The FRPP summarises actions being taken to address the Major Recommendations made in the CIS Visiting Team Report from February 2017. We are pleased to report significant advancement and solid planning to continue providing high quality education. Please contact James Teasdale if you would like further information about the CIS school improvement and accreditation process.

School Facilities Improvements

Götaberg Campus will have a new Science Department on Level 5 ready in the beginning of the 2019-20 Academic Year. A reference group with science teachers and union representatives are working with the project to ensure renovations meet teaching and learning needs. With the renovation, ISGR and IHGR can offer a modern lab environment for all sciences. The project timeline has work commencing in May 2019, so there will be some alternative arrangements for classes on Level 5 at the end of the term. In addition, there will be renovation of the ventilation in the whole building, starting later in 2019, as well as improvements to the rest rooms.

On the Guldhedsgatan side of the Guldheden Campus, the building of two additional portable cabins is well underway. The building will be ready for use by Week 8. We are pleased to have this extra classroom space available for our growing school community. We are also working on improving the entrances to the Guldheden Campus and would like to remind all parents and students to use the entrances on the main playground side of the building.

Spring Term Events and Highlights

The Spring Term brings many highlights on the academic and community events calendars, including reading and culture weeks, various exchange programmes abroad, and exhibitions of student work! Please check school news and calendars on the website (and the PTA page www.isgr.se/pta), along with notices in SchoolSoft/ManageBac for details on activities during the term.

ISGR Board Meetings Summary

Attached below you will find a summary of outcomes from the last Board meetings, held during the Autumn Term. Board meetings are held approximately three times per term. Board meetings and presentations at Board meetings are conducted in English and Swedish, as representatives have different native languages. The summary is provided in English.

Welcome again to the new families who have just joined our school community where we 'embrace diversity and explore the world'! 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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Summary of Board minutes – Autumn 2018

During the autumn, there have been 3 Board meetings. The following points have been discussed.

Quality Assurance

In the beginning of the autumn term the Principals joined the Board meeting to present the work carried out with students and staff members in alignment with the school's Quality Assurance for each section (PYP, MYP, DP, LGRP and LGRM) and campus-wise.

The following was presented:

- Students results in comparison to other schools in the region/international schools:
 - ISA (International Standardized testing) on the International section
 - Nationella prov on the National section
- Results from student surveys
- Professional development for staff
- Work carried out with numerous plans and policies such as:
 - The Child Protection plan
 - The Crisis Plan
 - The ICT Plan
 - The Well-being plan

At a later Board meeting Graham Miselbach, MYP Principal and Maria Lindberg, LGRM Principal attended the meeting:

Information from Graham Miselbach, MYP Principal

Grading, external evaluation, Standardized testing and the IB Analysis, student wellbeing when it comes to evaluation and grading.

Information from Maria Lindberg, LGRM Principal

Quality assurance work carried out together with the Health teams at the school. Grading and evaluation, CLIL (teaching in English to provide a bi-lingual programme), Cooperative learning, ICT as a learning tool.

Information from Birgitta Sandström Barac, Head of School

The Head of School gave the SALSA results for ISGR provided by Skolverket. SALSA looks at student's results in correlation to their parent's education level.

Strategic Planning

The Board is going to have a strategic discussion regarding the school during the spring 2019.

Monthly reports (regular agenda item)

The monthly reports for August, September and October have been presented and approved by the Board. The Year report will be finalized in February 2019 with the auditors. The 5 year internal control that is approved by PWC was also presented at the October Board meeting. In the December meeting the budget for 2019 was approved by the Board.



Company expectation

The Head of School and Business Manager attended a meeting at Volvo AB to listen to parent's concerns and views about the school. Some concerns raised were Facilities, food and substitute teachers.

A follow up meeting took place in October 2018 at the school. ISGR Representatives included The Head of School, Birgitta Sandström Barac, MYP Principal Graham Miselbach, MYP Coordinator Matt O'Brien, PYP Principal Moragh Randall and the Board Secretary & Communication Coordinator Vanessa Molina Gabinus. Karin Pleijel, ISGR Board Chairperson and Johan Ahlsell, ISGR Vice Chairperson also attended the meeting. Unfortunately the parent attendance was low.

Premises and playgrounds (regular agenda item)

The Head of School Birgitta Sandström Barac gave background information about 'ISGR Under one roof', a concept introduced in 2012 to unite both campuses in the same premises with a total of 1200 students. After viewing many options and noting the steady increase of students at ISGR, the Board decided in May 2018 that ISGR would remain at its current locations, renovate and expand. The aim is for this to be finished by 2021, with the aim of increasing accommodation to 1500 students. Since the 18th of May 2018:

- Renovation of current buildings inside and in the playgrounds. Renovation of the ventilation system.
- At Götaberg there are plans for a new building or extension that can give the school an extra 1200-1300 sqm.
- At Guldheden the plan is to build a new building for 400 students. In the meantime another portable cabin will be put on the front side of the building.
- A new portable cabin will be erected at Guldheden campus and used as of week 6. When the permanent building is finished, it will be taken away.
- ISGR has looked into the possibility to expand to Molinsgatan 23 or at Guldhedsskolan, but it is not possible as the City of Gothenburg also needs these locations.
- ISGR is also looking into hiring rooms at the University (Geovetarcentrum).
- At Götaberg campus, an outdoor training circuit has been put in place and more equipment will be fitted in the playground.
- The Architect Company Liljewalls are putting together a proposal for renovating some areas at Götaberg Campus.

The Head of School presented photos of the renovated playground at Guldheden at the September 2018 Board meeting. At Guldheden campus there is a Playground Buddy system in place, so students learn how to lead games and make sure that everyone is included and is part of an activity with friends in the playground.

CIS

The Board Secretary, Vanessa Molina Gabinus went through the CIS recommendations that directly concern the Board. New documents have been put together as a result, such as a 'Board self-evaluation' and the 'Head of School's evaluation' in alignment with the Guiding statements. The process using these new self-evaluation documents will be implemented in the Spring of 2019. The Leadership team, including all Pedagogical staff members have given the Board concrete examples on how they can further support the school in accordance with the Guiding Statements.



The Leadership Group and other pedagogical staff members have been working on the CIS recommendations and the First Report on Progress and Planning (since the recommendations were provided from the previous CIS visit) was submitted to CIS at the beginning of February 2019.

LGRP Principal

Ingegerd LH has been on sick leave and returned in October to work at ISGR. Ingegerd will no longer be working as a Principal. She now has a new role as Facilities Project Coordinator. Her previous experience with the building of a school will be used to coordinate the renovation and new buildings at both Guldheden and Götaberg Campus.

An advert for a new Principal will be published shortly and ISGR hopes to employ a new Principal for the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year.

School start – August 2018

ISGR had 140 new students start school on the International section.

All of the teachers on the National Section have teacher qualifications.

At PYP 95% of the teachers have teacher qualification, the remaining will be qualified in June 2019.

At MYP 92% of the teachers have a teacher qualification, the remaining will be qualified in June 2019.

Staff Representative

As of this academic year, a Staff Representative, who is also a Union representative will be taking part in the Board meetings. The Board welcomed Marie-Claude Galby, teacher at LGRM to the Board meetings this autumn.

New Caterers at Guldheden

Volvo AB have together with the school been part of a tender process. 13 catering companies took part in the tender. ISS has won the contract and started providing school to Guldheden Campus in the beginning of the year.

Corporate Support

Tech Mahindra has joined our group of Corporate Supporters with a financial contribution to the school for 2019/2020.

Volvo Cars is reviewing its contribution and is committed to ISGR until the end of 2019.

GDPR

ISGR is following the GDPR Law that came into effect in May 2018.

Incidents Report (regular agenda item)

The Head of School, Birgitta Sandström Barac informed about reported incidents. The Health team have actively worked with these cases.

Next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be 5 hours long. The Board will begin with a lunch at the Bamba at Guldheden Campus to try the food provided by the new caterers. Then they will have a two hour workshop focusing on the Owner's directive, school fees and external communication.

After the workshop the Board will have the regular Board meeting.