



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Ikast-Brande

Letter from the Head of School 18 December 2020

Dear Parents

Learning in the time of corona

Tough times teach us who we really are, and this year has been a tough time for parents, children, and schools around the world. The challenges of 2020 have demonstrated that ISIB is a remarkable school.

Educational experts often talk about the importance of 'grit': a combination of resilience and perseverance that enables people to face hardships and challenges, and 'get the job done'. As Sam Ewing said, "Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." But for all the talk about resilience, it can be hard to find: some people bend under pressure, others crack, and a few break completely.

I am fortunate to work with a team of people who all turn up their sleeves and make even the hardest tasks manageable. This was exemplified by how the ISIB team responded to the initial school closures in Denmark in spring 2020, and again by the recent partial closures this month. Not only has the team pulled together to ensure smooth transitions and the best possible online education for your children: they have done so with good humour, and a cheerful spirit.

I am grateful to the ISIB Board and Ms Winnie Storm for their strategic foresight and financial acumen. Years of carefully building up the school's finances have ensured that our school is in a strong position to weather the coronavirus storm. Indeed, we have been able to take steps towards developing our programme, with new IGCSE examination options such as Physical Education, Spanish, and Art & Design, complemented by the new co-curricular programme of after-school clubs and activities. This is a remarkable achievement, at a time when many schools are cutting their programmes, or even closing down altogether.

We are also blessed with a parent community which has shown resilience and solidarity in supporting our school during a difficult year. We have received many messages of support and appreciation since Sunday evening, when my leadership team colleagues and I called parents urgently to make sure the message about class closures had reached the affected families. Your support give us even more motivation to deliver the best education possible to your children: thank you.



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All aboard... the Polar Express

Year 1 and Year 2 had an arctic adventure on Tuesday, when they were thrilled to have a *Polar Express* theme day based on the animated film of the same name. The children came to school in their pyjamas, just as the children in the film do, collected their special train tickets for the North Pole, and enjoyed all kinds of activities and games to keep them warm during an exciting winter's day in school. Thank you Ms Sándor and Ms Brown for creating a day to remember!

Lip-Sync Challenge Champions 2020

2020 ended with a prestigious ISIB event, and favourite tradition: the Lip-Sync Challenge! This was so keenly contested that even the excellent performance of *Footloose* by Year 8 was only enough for fourth place. Year 7 (*You're the One that I Want*) and IG1 (*Cruisin' for a Bruisin'*) tied for second place, but Year 11 were worthy winners with an amazing extravaganza of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. If you get the chance to see the video, don't miss it! The Year 11s won an all-expenses-paid dinner at Café Nohr – just as soon as we get out of lockdown, of course...

Waving the Green Flag

I am delighted to announce that Ms Noemí Anglada has taken up the role of being our new school representative for the Eco Schools Green Flag initiative. The Green Flag is awarded to schools who demonstrate a commitment to environmentally friendly initiatives such as recycling paper and saving energy. The Student Representative Council will discuss possible eco-projects in the New Year to make our school a greener and more environmentally conscious place.

A warm ISIB welcome to our new school supervisor

Last Friday we welcomed Ms Linda Jensen, our new school supervisor. I was fascinated to learn of her adventures across the world: from being born in Australia, to working in southern Greenland (which really *is* green during the summer, I discovered), and settling in Denmark, where she calls Esbjerg home. Ms Brayd gave Linda a tour of our school, and Linda commented on the beautiful environment in which our students learn. We look forward to seeing Linda again in 2021, when she will conduct her formal inspections of the school.

The Legacy of ISIB...

In case you missed Ms Michelle Unzué's excellent article about two ISIB alumni, Sai and Simran, it has now been posted on the redesigned ISIB website, at <https://www.isib.dk/alumni>.



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Travel plans

If you and your families are planning to travel abroad during the holidays, please note that the current general guidelines are to isolate for ten days upon your return. After four days, your children can take a coronavirus test, and if the results are negative, they may then return to school. For advice on specific countries you are visiting, check www.um.dk.

January 2021

We plan to re-open the school to students in all classes on Monday 4 January, as scheduled. As the Covid-19 situation is so changeable, please check your emails regularly. We will contact you in case of updates, should the restrictions on schools change.

Unsung heroes

Finally, I would like to mention three superstars at ISIB: Mr Jørgen Moltrup, Ms Gowri Mullaichelvan and Ms Nataša Babij. Throughout 2020, they have kept our school in spotless condition, and ensured that we have upheld the rigorous cleaning and hygiene requirements, to keep your children and our staff team safe and healthy. My thanks to our building maintenance team for doing an amazing job!

I wish you and your families a peaceful and revitalizing holiday. *God Jul*, Happy New Year, stay healthy - and we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Regards / Venlig hilsen

Tom Wilde, Head of School