



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Ikast-Brande

Letter from the Head of School 30 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Covid-19 regulations

There is understandable concern about the rise of Covid-19 cases across Denmark in recent weeks. We continue to maintain the requirements for social distancing, hand-washing, and other measures – including the new requirement for everyone to wear masks while in the shared areas of Hjerttet. I am grateful to parents of older students for ensuring that they came to school with masks at short notice.

Please be aware that **you must inform us, if you have any confirmed cases in your household**. If the school has a case of Covid-19, the school management will inform parents and staff who have been in close contact with the infected student or staff member.

Early Years inspection

Recently the ISIB Early Years Department was inspected by Ikast-Brande Kommune specialist consultant, Birgitte Rønnow. The inspection report was highly positive, as was the follow-up dialogue with Ms Merete Villsen, Daginstitutionschef of Ikast-Brande Kommune. You can read the report on our 'Inspection Reports' page on the school website at <https://www.isib.dk/inspectorsreports>.

The inspection notes that some children come to school with sugary snacks. I would like to remind parents of Early Years children to give your children healthy food for their snack and lunch, as this will build lifelong healthy eating habits.

I would like to echo the praise in the report for Ms Randi Pedersen, who does an outstanding job leading the Early Years team. Our talented and committed team of Teaching Assistants also deserves credit for the happy, purposeful atmosphere they create in Early Years. The children clearly love coming to school every day, and discovering new ways to play, interact, and learn together.

House teams

In January 2021 we will be launching the all-new ISIB House system. Students and teachers will be sorted into four teams and will compete for House Cup glory in a variety of events, as well as through academic endeavour and positive, socially responsible conduct.



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The names of the Houses were agreed by the Student Representative Council recently: they will be the **Bears, Eagles, Lions, and Sharks**. A competition is now underway to design the logos for these Houses, so encourage your children to take part. Entries should be handed in by Friday 13 November. More information can be found on the posters around school, and on the school website's news page, at <https://www.isib.dk/2020-2021>. We look forward to seeing the children's ideas!

National Exercise Day: secondary school exercise challenge

This week, Mr Mate congratulated the winners of the secondary school's exercise challenge, which took place during the half-term break to mark National Exercise Day. Here are the winners:

1. Mira Jacobsen, IG1: most calories burned in a single day
2. Sofia Ahha, Year 7: furthest distance cycled
3. Caroline Ageyeva-Poulsen, Year 7: most days of activity in a row

Well done to our winners, and to all who took part. Remember to keep moving during the colder months. Fight the gravitational pull of the couch, and get outside – whether walking, running, cycling, or even winter swimming...!

VIA University College, Ikast

As part of our ongoing efforts to extend our links with other educational institutions, this week I visited Ms Frederikke Dybdahl Bilenberg and Ms Kristine Buus Johansen at the Ikast campus of VIA University College, where pedagogues are trained to work in schools, daycare centres, kindergartens, and to educate people with special educational needs. We discussed ways in which we can support one another: for example, through ISIB hosting interns, both from VIA in Ikast and from one of their international partners in Belgium. We also considered opportunities for their trainees to visit ISIB, to learn more about international education and to compare our practices and school culture with the Danish national system. The discussion was a fruitful one. I would like to thank my hosts for their kind invitation and warm welcome.

Friends of ISIB

Allow me to give a second reminder of the importance of joining the Friends of ISIB, our community outreach group, which supports the school in many ways throughout the year. Membership costs just 50 DKK per year, by bank transfer to 7641-2037186, or by MobilePay to 45740. Please state 'Friends'



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and give your full name when joining up. For more information, you can email Ms Henny Brayd at office@isib.dk.

Homework Club

I would like to thank Mr Connell for setting up our new weekly Homework Club. Monday's inaugural session saw seven students attend, from Year 7 to IG2. This is a great opportunity for students to drop in and get support with their homework, or simply have a quiet place to study after school.

Halloween

Halloween is an increasingly popular occasion in Denmark, and today the school staff and students appear to have been replaced with a motley crew of witches, pirates, skeletons and other spooky characters! (I didn't dress up, as I'm quite scary enough already.) One student even brought a selection of spiders to school – fortunately they were all in jars.

Take a look at our website's news page to see some photographs of the best costumes of the day – and Ms Grzesik's latest creepily creative decorations, which greet visitors to my office!

Have a wonderful weekend – whether mushroom-picking in the woods, or staying warm at home,

Regards / Med venlig hilsen

Tom Wilde, Head of School