

# Letter From The Lower School Principal

Hello, Lower School friends and family,

After celebrating International Women's day, yesterday this week and the second week of March is already nearly over! Spring break and a much-needed rest is just around the corner. I hope you all have something nice to look forward to!

Please help to support your children's growth and participate in their education by asking how school is going each day. Teachers are posting work, showing development in each lesson on the Seesaw platform for you to look at and help start these conversations about their educational journey. If you have trouble accessing their work on Seesaw, please reach out to their teachers and me.

Thank you to Linda and the wonderful work the students and our guest speakers did last month, with Mother Tongue Day. Another big shout-out to Agda's mom (Mrs. Kleimert) for reading and translating a Swedish book for our Pre-K class. It was a great experience for the students to see how different languages can be, and yet see that the content of the story is still similar. They really enjoyed the activity.



School photographs will be available soon with more details so you can buy copies from the picture day in February. These photos and more will also be on display in our ISO yearbook. This year we are trying to get a hard-bound book, with more activities and things to do inside. To keep the prices down we are reaching out to see if you can sponsor the yearbook group by advertising or making a dedication, to be immortalized in ISO history! Please see the [advert attached](#) and consider promoting yourself in our yearbook. Paddington, my crazy dog will have a dedication page thanking the community for the great piece of green he can use to run around.



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Lower School will be having an ISO Talent show on March 22, 2023, at 08:00. Our students needed a little more time to practice and make this more of an interesting event. All participants need to perform twice in front of either Ms. Keyara or myself to check they are ready to go. Parents are welcome to attend this fun event in the auditorium, please let me know of your intention to attend by email so we can prepare the facilities.

It is definitely getting hotter, please remember to equip your children correctly. Make sure sun-tan lotion (sunscreen) is liberally applied before school, and hats are available to be worn when outdoors. Fresh water is available at school, but please provide more than one bottle if they are only drinking branded water.

Thank you all again, for entrusting us with the education of your little loved ones. Please reach out if you need anything, and I will do my best to ensure we deliver the best education possible.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Horton,  
Lower School Principal



# Letter From The Upper School Principal

Dear Upper School Parents,

Beginning in March, Upper School students will focus on one of the ten **IB Learner Profile Traits during Advisory each month**. This month the trait is **BALANCE**. Students participate in designing a poster and creating a video using imagination and creativity to represent their understanding of BALANCE and why it is important. This **fosters discussion about a trait key essential in achieving a successful personal and professional life**.

In this same area, students participated in **Development Day on Friday, February 24**. Students were divided into small groups and rotated between activities covering different subjects. Areas covered included Drugs and Alcohol, Sexuality and Mental Health. **The consensus from students afterwards was quite positive**. A survey was sent asking students where we can make changes to best suit their needs. This will be used in designing our **next session during Quarter 4**.

**Student Council continues to play a vital role this year in creating activities**. Friday, February 17 featured **Ultimate Frisbee Day**. Students gathered on the soccer field for 90 minutes of fun and good exercise. Also, Student Council did an excellent job distributing **Valentine's treats**, albeit a bit late because of our COVID interruption.



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March is full of exciting events. **March 14 (3.14) will be Pi Day.** There will be activities and prizes in the auditorium to celebrate this significant mathematical fact. **IBDP Art Night will occur March 17 from 18:30 – 20:00.** This invitation only event is always a wonderful reminder of the creativity of our students and what an important role the Fine Arts play in child development. Friday, **March 24 ISO teachers will have a Professional Learning Day.**

We are planning for our **Upper School Boys Soccer Team to be travelling to Lagos, Nigeria April 12 – 16, 2023** to participate in a **WAISAL Soccer Tournament.** They have been waiting for three years for this opportunity. We are excited for them. **Go Stallions!!!!**

Finally, **Mr. Pinney and Mrs. Trudeau** recently returned from Dubai after **attending a professional training conference for IB Biology and Physics.** This will equip them with the **latest strategies and knowledge in preparation for changes to the syllabus** next year in their areas.

**Spring Break will commence Saturday, March 25 and conclude Monday, April 3, 2023.** Please use this time to **relax and recalibrate for the home stretch.** There is still much to be accomplished this year. I am confident **we have put ourselves in a position to meet our learning objectives** for the 2022-23 academic year.

As always, I am grateful for your support and **welcome feedback.**

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Upper School Principal



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## IBDP Contribution

A few notes:

- Two months are left until the May 2023 exam session. To be ready for this important moment, the Seniors have been doing mock exams in most of their courses since March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are writing them in the real life exam conditions which gives them the opportunity to test their organization and study skills as well as to discover their ability to cope with stress. Details for the May 2023 exam session will be shared with the students and parents in April.
- The Juniors have now fully immersed themselves in all components of the IBDP. In February, lots of time was spent reviewing CAS portfolios to ensure that students are fulfilling all requirements. For the Extended Essay, a partnership is in the works with the US Embassy library. We are working to organize a few visits to take advantage of the physical and human resources as well as the expertise of this institution and their members.
- On April 27<sup>th</sup>, grade 10 students and parents will be invited to our annual information session. This is where we will explain the Diploma Programme, help students make their course selection, and answer any questions you may have. An invitation will be sent out closer to the date.
- A reminder about academic integrity: everything that is not your own idea must be cited. Avoid writing your work in another language and using a translation tool such as Google to translate your work into English. With the continuous advancement of artificial intelligence, tools are now available to make our lives easier. The use of these tools without citation is considered plagiarism and the consequences of using them could jeopardize your future. Think twice before doing so.

We conclude with the CAS voice of the month, Grâce Sawadogo.

*Grâce Sawadogo, grade 11 - Service*

Last April 2022, I was invited by the Burkinabe Ministry of Education to participate in the Children's General Assembly in the city of Billund, in Denmark; the city also known as the Capital of Children. The Children's General Assembly in Billund is an assembly gathering children from 8 to 17 from all over the world. This year 80 children from 42 countries worked together to generate solutions summarized in our idea catalog. With facilitators, we worked towards the creation of a manifesto meant to be presented to the world's leaders during the September Summit. The Summit is the final step of a six months preparation through online workshops and meetings.

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## IBDP Contribution

I was part of group F with civic engagement as our topic. From September 12 to 15 2022, I participated in the summit and met children from different cultures, discovered Billund City Hall, Billund International School, CoC Playful Minds, Lego house etc. The last day we had the opportunity to have a conversation with Mr Mogens Lykketoft (president of the United Nations General Assembly's 70th session on 15 June 2015) about leadership accompanied by a live show where a video of our manifesto to the world leaders was displayed. During that live show I participated as a panelist and talked about the importance of education in our current world. The program prepared me to be a global active citizen and helped me to serve my community.

This experience is one of the most enriching. Discovering others' culture and perspective shaped my point of view. Plus, I have realized that age is just a number, no matter who you are you can bring a positive change in your society. It does not need to be enormous, it just has to be a positive change.

You can see Grâce between 37:40 and 39:20 at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMICYEqiTM4>.



**Marie-Hélène Pichette**