

# NOVEMBER / DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



**ISB**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BRESCIA



Wednesday 20th December 2023



## Our Growth

In December we moved our MYP and DP students into their new classrooms in the new wing of the building. The school now has the capacity to hold 400 students...quite an increase from our first year as a school with 12 students!

## Self-management Skills : Reflection and Feedback

The IB **approaches to learning skills** (ATL) are grounded in the belief that learning how to learn is fundamental to a student's life in and out of a school context. (Learning and Teaching, Primary Years Programme 2023

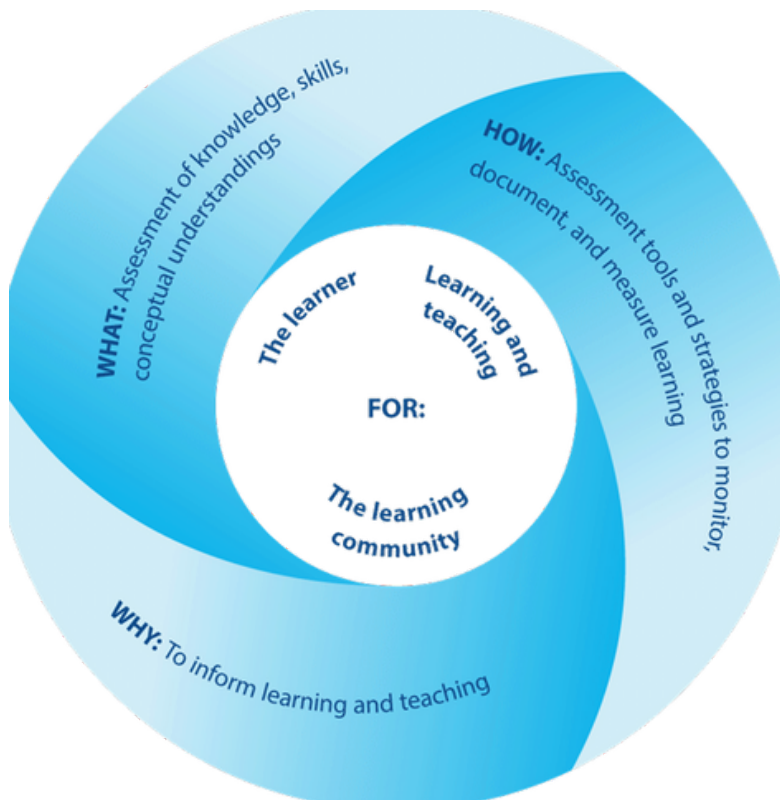
<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/curriculum/learning-and-teaching/>)

Our teachers reflected on the development of each **ATL skill** for each of their classes, to choose one of the skills to focus on as a whole school. From this data, **Self-management skills** were chosen. Following this, data collection began as a 'pre-assessment' to understand the perception of how our students have already developed their self-management skills, from a student perspective, a parent perspective and a teacher perspective. This data has informed the initiatives and activities planned by teachers to work further on the development of these skills.



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# Spotlight on PYP Assessment



In the PYP assessment focuses on **process** not **product**. Our Early Learners have now completed 1 Unit of Inquiry, and our Elementary students have completed 2 Units of Inquiry. For these UOIs you will find observations and feedback from the teachers on your child's Managebac portfolio. The portfolio also contains examples of the children's work, chosen to showcase the child's learning journey.

Our students have now completed their first term **assessments** in Language and Maths. These assessments provide the opportunity for students to put their skills into practice under test conditions. These assessments lead to feedback and reflection from teacher, student and families. They then provide next steps and goals for the following term.

We have also issued our end of term **reports** which focus on the subject development along with ATL skills, the Learner profile and observations on the holistic development of the student. These reports are to supplement the PYP Managebac **portfolio**, the **comments** from parent - teacher meetings, and the UOI **feedback**.

All of these channels help our students and their families to have a better vision of how their learning journey is progressing.



# ISB Action for others



MYP students are currently working hard on their Service as Action projects. Service as Action is a foundational element of the IB MYP framework and it seeks to develop caring members of the community who act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and their environment. It provides opportunities for students to explore, design, implement, and reflect on their efforts to positively impact their local environment.



ISB teamed up with the local social services for an 'Adopt a family' initiative to identify 12 local families in difficulty. Each family was assigned to a class, who endeavored to make their Christmas a little more joyful by providing them with clothes, toys and festive food items. The Social Service team came in person to collect the donations and were overjoyed by ISB families' generosity.





# Sports Tournament

Some students from Grades 4 to 10 participated in a sports tournament at the English International School of Padua, competing against other international schools in volleyball and football. These events help us to participate in the wider international schools network.

## Sports activities

### Jiu Jitsu Expert

Our MYP students had the opportunity to work with Jiu Jitsu champion and professional trainer Klaudi Balliu for some PSPE lessons focussing on this fascinating martial art.



### Ice - skating

Grade 6 students went to Montichiari ice rink to take part in a beginners' lesson and to test out their skills on the ice.





## Natural Science Museum

Grades 9-11 visited the Natural Sciences Museum in Bergamo to explore Earth's ecosystems and evolution.

Grades 4-6 also visited the same museum on another occasion, to investigate different creatures and their habitats.

## Learning Trips

### Giornale di Brescia

Grade 6 learnt about how a newspaper article is written, edited and published during a visit to Giornale di Brescia.



### Brescia Castle

Grade 6 visited Brescia castle to compare with their earlier trip to Padernello castle. They wrote a comparative essay based on their findings.





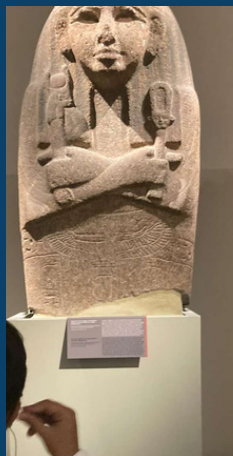
## Parco della preistoria

Grade 2 visited Parco della preistoria as part of their 'Where we are in place and time unit' on dinosaurs and prehistoric times. They participated in a laboratory, pretending to be paleontologists and uncovering prehistoric remains and identifying dinosaurs.

## Learning Trips

### Egyptian Museum

Grade 4 deepened their UOI2 knowledge of Ancient Egypt civilisations by visiting the Egyptian Museum in Torino. Students acted as guides for different exhibits to share their knowledge with classmates.



### EY at the park

Early Years students investigated our local surroundings with a trip using public transport to go to the local park.



# After ISB?...



Our University and Careers guidance programmes is in full bloom! MYP 5 students have completed the 'Strengths exploration' phase, while DP 1 students have started their 'University Exploration' phase. DP 2 students have had numerous sessions, including 'thinking mindfully about future options' and a session on how to write a personal statement or motivation letter; they also benefit from one-to-one support on applications. In November, our DP students have also visited the University Fair which is a yearly opportunity that we offer through which students have the opportunity to walk around stands from universities from all over the world, ask questions and find out about entry requirements. We hope all this helps our students thinking a bit more clearly about their future!



# Festivities 2023





# Christmas Fair 2023



As is now tradition, ISB held their annual Christmas Fair on the last day of term. Students from PYP prepared crafts to sell, and MYP/DP students had the opportunity to hold a stall for their Action as Service or CAS projects. 600 euros was raised with 50% of the profits being donated to WWF, the student-chosen charity.

## Looking forward...



### Mock Exams

10th – 19th January 2024

Best of luck to our Grade  
13 students!



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