



OCTOBER 2023

ISCS MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

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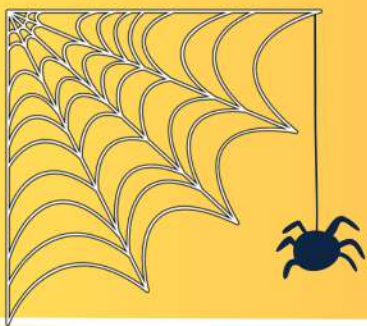


This month at ISCS, our values of Respect, Excellence, and a Global Mindset have been at the forefront of fostering a welcoming environment. We launched a versatile indoor sports area, reinforcing our commitment to active, healthy student lifestyles and community engagement.

The International Day of Languages celebrated our diverse student body, while the Parents Organisation has been particularly active, orchestrating a memorable Halloween event for students and multiple dinners for parents.

Our students shined at the Zurich Cross Country event, achieving an unprecedented third-place finish. In the academic sphere, Middle and High School students are immersed in preparation for their assessments, supported by dedicated teachers.

The collaborative spirit of our school community is exemplified by the synergy between hardworking students, supportive families, and our tireless teachers. These relationships are the pillars that support the transformative educational experiences at ISCS.



EY

- PRIMARY NEWS -

In EYFS, the children designed colourful cats! The children practised their fine motor skills by carefully placing the eyes, whiskers, nose and tail in the correct position!

In Science, the focus fell upon an investigation into sinking and floating! The children observed that a feather, straw, empty tin cups and plastic pumpkins, some Lego and bits of dry flower petals all floated. Following this, Ismael decided to put a rock in the tin can and saw that the tin gradually went under the water. That was quite a discovery and prompted the children to find more items which would sink! These ranged from more rocks, a dinosaur, an aluminium pan and this was followed by throwing a jar of sand into the water. They continued to investigate further materials such as shells and were surprised to find that whilst some floated, others sank! Eidan concluded that some shells have a hole and the water goes into the hole and so it sinks. Well done, EYFS Scientists!



Year 1 and 2 students are really enjoying swimming lessons every Friday! Well done our sharks!

Back in the classroom, students are loving their Play to Learn activities. This method is renowned for augmenting cognitive development, as it capitalises on the brain's learning processes, fosters retention through enjoyment, and cultivates essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and collaboration. By integrating technology, it provides personalised and interactive experiences, establishing it as a cutting-edge strategy in education that not only conveys knowledge but also comprehensively develops a learner's social, emotional, and physical faculties. They are using their phonics knowledge in our Three Billy Goats Gruff boardgame, adding legs to the spider by solving the maths questions, drawing the picture to match the words and enjoying the sensory tuff tray to retell Three Billy Goats Gruff story!

In ICT, the students are using the computers to practice our Maths skills, such as symmetry, patterns, counting and addition. Highly recommend the website: topmarks.co.uk for lots of great maths games!

In global perspectives students learning all about the planets! They had a class quiz to see which team could identify each of the planets based on its features. Everyone did so well!



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- PRIMARY NEWS -

Waldschule: Impressive and very creative work this month in the forest. Students learned German vocabulary all about trees and made a tree or animal using natural material.



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In English, students have been reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They learn to identify themes, characters, and settings, as well as to summarize and infer information from texts. They have been focus on structuring sentences and paragraphs, using correct grammar, and expanding their vocabulary.

The students were learning about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and some problems that our world is facing. The pupils decided, if they were a Superhero who helps to achieve the Global Goals and change the world, who would they be and what is their power?



- PRIMARY NEWS -

The students in year 5 have been working exceptionally hard over the past two weeks to understand and apply the features of **report writing** in order to create a newspaper article! This involved investigating formal and informal language, conducting interviews, and creating eye-catching headlines!



in Maths, the children enjoyed applying their knowledge of subtraction to real-life contexts. At ISCS, we believe it's incredibly important to provide a meaning to our learning so that our knowledge can be used out in the real world. The children are finishing the scientific observations this week by recording their observations of the growth of beans, which have been grown in transparent packages. It's been a fascinating process to study the lifecycle of a bean and to watch the roots begin to emerge.



What an exciting month it has been for year 6. Students wrote scary stories and funny limericks in English, and contemplated real world maths problems. Everyday students also take part in a variety of brain games, such as boggle or countdown! Mr Santos, our Art teacher gave a lesson on colour combinations and the students created beautiful solar system paintings.



- PRIMARY NEWS -

In GAL (German as an Additional Language), some students have been enjoying stretching activities in German, such as reading a challenging book or researching a town in German. However, GAL is also in place to support students who are new to German to help them to catch up quickly with their peers.

The German Club (every Thursday after school) also helps GAL students to make even better progress according to their ability. Our most recent activities in GAL have included word games in German, video work with short questions and learning about festivals in German. Come along, it's great fun!



English as an Additional Language (EAL)

What is English as an Additional Language and what does it mean for your child? EAL refers to teaching English to students who are native speakers of another language.

Our goals for EAL are to make sure the students become confident with using the English language. We can do this by working with learners, in small groups, on their writing, speaking, listening and reading skills through a range of engaging educational activities in a relaxed environment. By providing visual materials and prompts we can support their learning and extend their vocabulary thereby building up their confidence. We also support our EAL learners with patience and positive feedback.

So far in EAL we have been focusing on classroom objects as well as classroom instructions to help the children better understand their teachers and peers as well as looking at everyday language and vocabulary.



- PRIMARY DINNER -

ISCS families get together at Freiruum in Zug, organised by Parents' Organisation.



- PRIMARY OPEN MORNING -

We had the pleasure of having some extra students in our Primary classes today. These enthusiastic learners took part in a diverse range of lessons, such as English, Maths, German, and Art.

Our Open Morning at ISCS is a tradition we genuinely value. On this special day, we extend a warm invitation to parents to be part of the first lesson of their child's day. This not only allows them a unique glimpse into the daily classroom dynamics and the teacher's instructional methods but also offers them an engaging opportunity to actively partake in the exercises.

To sweeten the experience, our dedicated PO team has a lovely tradition of its own – offering parents a cup of coffee. This gesture, though simple, provides a relaxed setting for parents to reconnect with each other, share experiences, and further foster the school's sense of community.

At ISCS, we believe strongly in the importance of building a close-knit community, especially given our international backdrop. Transitioning to a new environment, especially one as unique as Switzerland, brings its own set of challenges and adventures. As our families navigate these new experiences, the importance of having a supportive network cannot be overstated. This sense of mutual understanding and support helps everyone feel more at home, making the transition smoother and more enjoyable in our welcoming Swiss environment. We are proud that the ISCS community is more than just a school – it's a place where lasting friendships are born

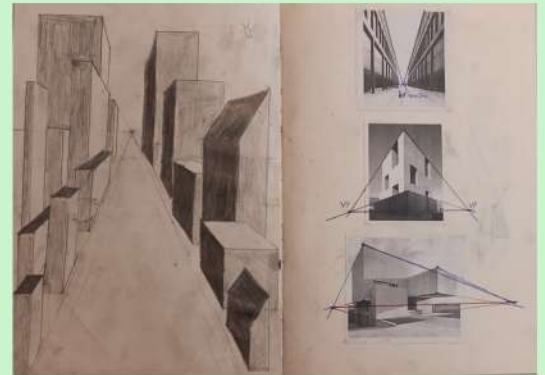


- MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS -



After a restful break, Middle School was back to work and working hard to make the most of their school environment. This week we had the first **meeting of the student council**. Our student representatives shared what school initiatives they found helpful and fun, as well as made suggestions to improve the school experience for everyone. What an excellent display of leadership and respect!

ISCS KS3 A&D curriculum is designed by term projects that are contextualised within themes and follow sequenced learning aims. Students acquire art and design 'fundamentals' such as colour theory, understanding of light and shadow, basic photography and knowledge of visual language.



The Autumn term topics for KS3 in Art and Design are **'Marks & Textures'**, **'Portraiture; Traditional vs Contemporary'** and **'Urban and Nature dialogues'**. **Y7s** have been exploring lines, shapes and colours which introduces and revisits the building blocks of visual language. **Y8s** have been learning traditional drawing techniques for facial features, while also exploring contemporary portraiture approaches and **Y9s** have been focusing on the urban theme with inputs on perspective drawing techniques and watercolour sketching. ISCS students' works speak for themselves!



- MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS -

This term in PSHE, Middle School students have been participating in a series of debates designed to improve their communication, research, presentation, and public speaking skills.

Benefits of debating:

- Learning about the topic assigned - by having to argue for or against a proposition, students have to dig deeper into a topic and look at it from both sides
- Using important research skills as they prepare for the debate and examining sources
- Working together as a team both before and during the debate itself.
- Practising public speaking.
- Using critical thinking skills in a real world setting.
- Quick thinking - when one team makes a valid point, the other team needs to be able to marshal their resources and come up with an effective response.

Our debate topics this term:

Year 9: Are football players good role models for young people?

Year 8: Is world peace possible?

Year 7: Should we replace the long summer holiday with shorter breaks spaced throughout the year?



- MIDDLE SCHOOL DINNER -

The ISCS Parents Organisation also organised an event for the parents of our middle school students. Such events have consistently been favourites within our community, offering parents a chance not just to catch up with one another, but also to forge new friendships in a relaxed and informal setting. These get-togethers really show just how tight-knit our school community is – it's like one big family reunion! A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and played a part in making the evening both enjoyable and memorable!



- HIGH SCHOOL NEWS -

The Y10 and Y11 students in Frau Sauer's class have made a start in practising for their oral exams whilst the students in Mr Nayman's groups have been reading a short story called "Die Brücke" before performing a short play based on the story.

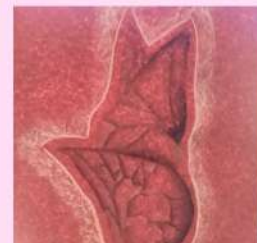
The Y12 A Level students have been turning their attention to the topic of Culture and Traditions and we hope to arrange a visit to a Synagogue in Zürich to explore the meanings of handwriting, language and Traditions in Judaism. Exciting stuff!



October concluded with a week of assessments across all year groups and the start of the Cambridge October/November exam series!



IGCSE and A Level students are currently working on their projects' development stages by refining work and further investigating artists and contexts. Y10s are responding to a 'foundation skills & knowledge' project which runs until Xmas and which exposes them to a wide range of materials and techniques that might be applied and developed for their main project start in January!



- ACHUAR TRADING PARTNERSHIP -

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our **Achuar trading partnership**! Our project has reached the end of its first phase! We have successfully delivered school materials for 200 students, a printer and football boots for the ladies' football team. This took a while to achieve, getting things to delivered to the Amazon rainforest isn't quite the same as using the other Amazon!

The Achuar have also make good on their end of the bargain and have spent their time making us **traditional baskets, pottery** and even **spears** in exchange for the materials. In fact, they have made so much stuff we've decided to auction it when it arrives in Switzerland so we can send even more much needed materials and equipment!



- PARENTS ORGANISATION -

The Halloween spirit at ISCS this year is truly spellbinding. The decorations outdo any we've seen in years past, turning our school into a haven of haunts and hallowed halls. Many of the decorations were lovingly handcrafted, showcasing the dedication and craft that went into bringing this eerie atmosphere to life. Beyond just the decorations, the Parents Organization deserves a howling applause for the bewitching gifts and spooktacular activities they've prepared. The countless hours they've poured in has made the school a cauldron of fun and fright. To everyone who played a part in conjuring this Halloween magic, a monstrous thank you!





- SPORTS NEWS -

It's essential for ISCS students to set aside time for sports and relaxation, benefiting both their well-being and academic growth.

Through sport, we witness the strengthening of community bonds among our students, cultivating a sense of unity and camaraderie that extends beyond the field!

Huge applause to our star runners for securing the trophy from the annual cross country race in Zurich! Mr. Perliyev, our head sports teacher, radiated pure joy and immense pride during today's Primary School assembly. This victory not only speaks volumes about our students' dedication, but also sets a blazing trail for others to follow. It's moments like these that build our school's legacy. As we bask in this achievement, we're more energized than ever, looking forward to the next challenge and the many accomplishments ahead! Ms MacMillan, our Head of Primary School, said "PE classes take on a whole new meaning when we see our students step into the arena of competition. Their victory brings everything into context, showcasing not just skill, but the heart and spirit they've developed. I am overwhelmed with pride for my students' accomplishment!"



This month, our students achieved a 1-0 victory against Institute Montana Zugerberg. Congratulations to them!

We are privileged to hold our training sessions at the outstanding FC Cham facilities. This state-of-the-art venue not only hosts our football after-school clubs but also serves as the location for several of our PE classes, providing an optimal environment for fostering athleticism and team spirit.

Through sport, we witness the strengthening of community bonds among our students, cultivating a sense of unity and camaraderie that extends beyond the field!

- TEACHER'S DAY -

On October the 5th, we celebrated the Teacher's Day. Teachers started the day in the best way possible, with a surprise prepared by our PO members-a special breakfast! We would like to thank our PO members for this amazing surprise. We could not be here without our fantastic team, they do all their best for the students...thank you and congratulations, teachers!





- TREE PLANTING -

At ISCS, we are always inspired by organizations and individuals making a significant impact on our environment. At the end of last academic year, our primary students organised several fundraising activities to support the Almighty Tree organisation. Founded by Aline and Gilles, Almighty Tree's primary focus is on nurturing our wooded heritage, developing our forests, and bolstering biodiversity in Switzerland.

Today, our ISCS Primary students had a hands-on experience, planting trees in the Aargau region. Accompanying them was a local forester Chris, who shared insights into how the forest ecosystem operates. He delved into the symbiotic relationships between the trees and the animals that inhabit the forest, explaining the intricate balance and its profound effect on tree health. This discussion also covered the challenges posed by global warming and the current need for proactive measures.

Did you know? One tree is a home to over 1000 animals!

Thank you to @almightytree.ch for letting us being part of this very special day, one that our students will remember for a long time!



- MEET THE PARENTS -

Hello, we are the Girlings! Four years ago, we relocated from London to Switzerland—a move that was never in our plans, but, when the opportunity arose, we made a swift decision. Looking back, it was the best decision for our family.

Chris: I am the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for a bank, overseeing cybersecurity and pioneering technologies like AI and quantum computing. Having never lived abroad before this, each day in Switzerland seems like an adventure.

Aleks: After qualifying as a lawyer, I've spent my career in the sports industry, working with Ferrari Formula One and the Olympic Games. After starting a family, I opted to run my own business—a hotel in Poland—which allows me more time with my children. I am originally from Poland and moved to the UK when I was 16 to attend an IB school. That's where I first discovered my love for being around people from all over the world. This international atmosphere was something I cherished and is exactly what I want for my own children.

What do you do in your free time?

In Switzerland, we quickly turned into outdoor enthusiasts! We went from spending weekends in crowded inner city parks or shopping malls to getting up at the break of dawn to go hiking. During our first year, we traveled every weekend to a new place within the country. We felt the urge to see as much as possible, not knowing how long we'd be able to stay. That habit stuck with us, and now we aim to hike or bike every weekend. We've also recently picked up tennis again and are on a quest to find the tennis court with the most stunning view—Mürren is at the top of our list so far. James joined a ski club, so in the winters, we're on the slopes every week. Having an annual pass for the chairlifts and gondolas in the Graubünden region has been incredibly handy for all of our hobbies and we always recommend it to others.

Why have you chosen ISCS?

We chose ISCS for its strong emphasis on academics and the modern Cambridge Curriculum that fosters critical thinking. We knew that Cambridge is the most recognised curriculum in the world and if we had to move, the children would transfer easily. So on paper the school matched the long list of our criteria. When we came to visit, we just clicked the teachers and the staff. It was such a wonderful atmosphere, it felt as if everything fell into place and James would love it. And he really did. Our youngest son joined last year. Our concerns about Cody losing his fluency in German after leaving his Swiss nursery were unfounded, thanks to ISCS's daily German lessons and subjects like forest school, PE, and Drama being taught in German.

Four years in, we couldn't be happier with our choice. It's a place our children are excited to go to every day. We love it how the students are greeted by the main door by their teachers - it's a small act but it sets a beautiful tone for the day. Beyond our wildest expectations was the incredible family atmosphere at ISCS, the kindness and support from other parents and the teachers. We always look forward to the family dinners, picnics or coffee mornings organised by the Parents Association. Even the quick chit-chats around the drop off or pick up times are always so nice and it feels like we have been friends with the other parents for at least a decade!



- HALLOWEEN -





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LANGUAGES

