Weekly Friday 14 November 2025

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Dear Parents

Following on from last week's announcement about a new 'Parent Emergency Notification' WeChat communication channel, **yesterday morning we carried out an earthquake evacuation drill**, one domain of our safeguarding framework that seeks to ensure that our community is prepared to respond effectively in event of an emergency. I am pleased to report that following the simulation of an earthquake, during which all students and staff "ducked and covered", we were able to evacuate and register all adults and children on campus in under five minutes (actually 4m49s), which is always our goal. Student conduct was excellent, demonstrating that they fully understand both the procedures and the importance of such practices.

I do need to report that a few parents on campus at the time failed to follow the guidelines, inspite of advance notice sent to all parents prior to the drill. Unfortunately, the parents attempted to exit the buildings and campus during the simulation (when they should have been hiding under tables and desks!) and then initially failed to line up in the correctly designated registration point (Station 31 on the school running track). I do appreciate that it is difficult for parents to keep themselves apprised of all campus safety procedures, but given that we grant our parents significant campus access freedoms, it really is important that parents attempt to pay close attention to these procedures and related expectations for conduct; as adults we all set an example for our students. That said, all parents were successfully registered in the correct location in less than five minutes, so well done!

We did receive some requests from parents this morning asking that the school provide greater advance notice of such practices. While I appreciate that this would most certainly be more convenient for parents, the fact of the matter is that evacuation drills are intended to protect community members, not to enhance convenience. Evacuation drills necessarily need to come as somewhat of a surprise to community members so that we can more authentically gauge the effectiveness of our existing systems to improve them and thus better safeguard our community.

While addressing notions of community safeguarding, and within the context of our school's 'Community Curriculum' which seeks to promote shared practices through which we work together to build student wellbeing and resilience, I encourage all parents to read (or listen to, using the WeChat AI translation video) the item in Blaze about deepening our focus on healthy digital habits. As a school and community, we are asking all families to consider committing to a voluntary **Digital Well-Being Pledge**. From December 12, 2025 (start of winter break) to February 17, 2026 (Chinese New Year), we ask you to consider pausing your children's access to social media platforms. Please read on to find out more and to register your pledge!

A reminder to all parents that today marks the end-of Season 1 of our Co-Curricular Activiwww.istianjin.org

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ties (CCA) programme. Season 2 will commence on Monday 24 November. Please contact Ms. Guo Ying in the Activities Office if you have any questions: Ying Guo@istianjin.org.cn

Finally, one of the highlights of the school year is always the annual musical production, with this year's show "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". Students have been working incredibly hard over many months to bring this show to our community, and I urge you to demonstrate your support by coming along to enjoy the show next week. Tickets cost just RMB 20, and are available from Reception in the Han Foyer. Tickets are available for either Thursday 20 or Friday 21 November. As they say in show business, "Break a Leg" and get your tickets before the sell-out!

Warm regards, and all the best for a relaxing weekend!





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International School of Tianjin Scholarship Program

The International School of Tianjin (IST) is excited to announce its scholarship program for students in their final two years of school. This initiative serves two key purposes:

- Support for Current IST Students: We offer exceptional educational opportunities to talented students facing financial challenges.
- Enrichment for Non-IST Students: We welcome talented non-IST students to enhance our diverse community and the quality of our IB Diploma Programme.

Scholarship Details

Types of Scholarships

Scholarships are available for students entering Grade 11, with awards lasting up to two years:

- Full Scholarships: Cover all tuition and capital fees for Grades 11 and 12.
- Tuition Scholarships: Cover tuition fees only for Grades 11 and 12.
- Bursaries: Cover half the tuition fees for Grades 11 and 12.

Benefits

Students in the scholarship program will receive an excellent education, culminating in the IST High School Diploma. As an IB World School, students also have the chance to earn a full IB Diploma, *recognized by top universities worldwide*.

Selection Process

Each year, up to three scholarships or bursaries may be awarded to current IST students, with an equal number available for non-IST applicants. The selection includes:

- Examinations
- Formal Interviews
- Final Decision by the IST Scholarship Committee

Criteria for Selection:

- Academic Excellence:
 - o Current IST students must have honors/high honors in at least 2 of the last 3 semesters.
 - o Non-IST candidates should be in the top 25% of their class.
- Community Contribution:
 - o Active involvement in CAS activities.
 - o Promotion of the IB Diploma Programme.
 - o Leadership within the school community.
- Financial Need: Consideration for current IST students needing financial assistance. (Non-IST students DO NOT need to demonstrate financial need.)

Eligibility

Students of *all nationalities* are encouraged to apply. Current IST students with financial difficulties can apply, but families may receive only one full scholarship

A strong command of English is essential.

Application Process

To apply, candidates should request an application package from the school.

Key dates:

- Application Deadline:
 3:30pm, Friday, February 13,
 2026
- Scholarship Examinations: Saturday, February 28, 2026 (9:00am–2:30pm)
- Interviews: Around March 4, 2026
- Award Anouncement: Late March/early April 2026



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Required Documents

From the Student:

- Personal statement covering your interests and reasons for applying.
- Previous two years' report cards from your school. (Including IST students)
 - o Certificates for any honors or awards received.
- At least two character reference letters (non-family).
 - IST students do not need a character reference but should give the names of two teachers who agree to support the application.
- Any other relevant details.

From the IST Parent (if applicable):

- A formal letter explaining financial circumstances.
- A letter from an employer stating that tuition is not covered by the company.
- Non-IST students DO NOT need to demonstrate financial need.

Application Fee

A 2,000 RMB application fee is required, with the following conditions:

- Refunds: Full scholarship recipients or those not awarded a scholarship will receive a complete
 refund
- 2. Tuition Scholarships/Bursaries: The fee will be credited towards the standard application fee.
- 3. **Declined Offers:** Candidates who decline a scholarship offer forfeit the fee.

Scholarship Selection Process

Application

To apply for a scholarship, students must submit the Scholarship Application Form and Fee by 3:30pm on Friday, February 13, 2026. This form collects personal details and educational history.

Important:

- Attach all required documents (see 'Required Documents' section).
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Examinations

Exams will take place at the school on **Saturday**, **February 28**, from **9:00am to 2:00pm**. Students will complete three papers:

- Mathematics (9:00am–10:30am)
 Focus: Mathematical skills and problem-solving.
- English (10:45am–12:15pm)
 Focus: Reading comprehension and essay writing.

Science (12:30pm–1:45pm)
 Focus: General problem-solving, logic skills, and scientific writing (not based on specific course content).

Interview

After the exams, selected candidates will be invited for an interview with the selection panel, which includes the Director, Secondary Principal, Diploma Coordinator, and IST Board of Governors members. Discussion topics will include the student's potential contributions to the school and their shortand long-term goals. Feel free to bring supporting materials to the interview.

Interviews will be scheduled for March 4 unless otherwise notified.

Results

Candidates will receive their results by late March/early April. Good luck!





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Scholarship Application Form

Student Information								
Family Name			First Name)		Gende	r (Male / Female)	
Date of Birt	h (mm/dd/yy)		<u> </u>	Age at time of a	application			
Nationality & Citizenship Native Langu		age	Language at Home		Other Languages			
Email Addro	Email Address							
Schools At	tended (Begin v	vith current s	chool)					
Grade(s)	School Name			Location city/country)	Language(s Instruction) of	Dates Attended mm/yy – mm/yy	

Please complete all parts of this application form



Parent Information							
MOTHER							
Family Name	First Name		Nationality & Citizenship				
Company Name		Position					
Mother Signature	Cell Number	Email					
FATHER							
Family Name	First Name		Nationality & Citizenship				
Company Name		Position					
Father Signature	Cell Number	Email					
GUARDIAN (If Applicable)							
Family Name	First Name		Nationality & Citizenship				
Guardian Signature	Cell Number	Email					
Address in Tianjin	i						







| I've done |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 12.000 | 12.000 | 12.000 | 12.000 | 12.000 |
| steps today! |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| I've done | I've done | l've done | l've done | I've done |
| 12.000
steps today! |
	12	13	14	15
I've done	l've done	I've done	I've done	I've done
12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000
steps today!				
	17	18	19	20
I've done				
12.000 steps today!				
	22	23	24	25
I've done				
12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000
steps today!				
	27	28	29	30
I've done				
12.000 steps today!				



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For children, embarrassment can be a big emotional challenge. Parents can help by staying calm when they feel embarrassed and by taking their children's feelings seriously, even if they seem trivial.

Instead of brushing off kids' emotions, parents could offer support and reassurance that these feelings won't last forever. Encouraging children to move on from their mistakes and praising their resilience helps them respond better to embarrassment, teaching them that it's a normal part of life they can handle.

IST Counseling



Announcement from the Counseling Office

Join us for an informative parent presentation on ways to effectively support your child's healthy online habits.

Date: Nov. 18 Tuesday
Time: 10:00-11:00
Location: IST Han TC





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IST Library & Information Literacy Center

Our Mission

The IST Library is a friendly place where our community is inspired and challenged to think critically, read widely, act ethically, value creativity, and defend the right to access information.

Author Visit













We were thrilled to welcome author **Stephen Davies** to IST on November 3 and 4. During his two-day visit, Stephen worked with students from Nursery through Grade 8, inspiring them with his storytelling, humor, and insight into the life of an author.

Students learned where ideas come from, how stories grow from real-life adventures, and what it takes to turn imagination into a finished book. From lively storytelling sessions in the Early Years to creative writing workshops with older students, Stephen encouraged everyone to see that every reader has a story to tell.

We're grateful to have had the opprtunity to host his visit, and we can't wait to see how our students' own stories continue to take shape.

Parent Book Club Dec. 2nd in the library

Our next Parent Book Club selection is the novel *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. We will meet in the library to discuss the book on December 2nd, at 8:30 am. The library has copies of the book in English, Chinese, and Korean. A digital copy in English is also available upon request.

Please consider joining us in December for coffee, treats, and lively discussion—even if you didn't have a chance to read the book! Ask our library staff how to join our WeChat group, where we share information about the book club.

Library hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 to 4:30 | Friday 7:30 to 3:30





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ACAMIS Volleyball Tournament

IST Blazing Dragons Shine in Nanjing!



The 2025 ACAMIS Orange Division Volleyball Tournament, held at Nanjing International School, was a truly memorable experience for our IST Blazing Dragons. Over four days of exciting competition, both our boys' and girls' teams displayed incredible determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, representing IST with pride on and off the court.

The tournament provided far more than just a series of matches; it was an outstanding opportunity for our students to grow beyond the classroom. Through sport, they learned lessons about resilience, communication, leadership, and collaboration, skills that cannot be taught through textbooks alone. Every serve, dive, and rally revealed not only athletic ability, but also character and commitment to the team.

The girls' team finished in fourth place after a thrilling three-set match against TIS. They played with composure and courage, never giving up and showing how much they had developed throughout the season. Their ability to regroup, push forward, and fight for every point was inspiring to see. The boys' team also finished in fourth place, battling hard against Harrow Beijing in their final match. Their performance was defined by excellent defense, consistent teamwork, and great energy throughout the game.



One of the proudest moments of the tournament came when the boys' team was honored with The Spirit of ACAMIS Award, selected by the other participating schools. This special award recognizes the team that demonstrates the highest level of sportsmanship, positivity, and respect, both on and off the court. It was a wonderful acknowledgment of their character and conduct during the event.









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Alongside the team achievements, several students were individually recognized for their outstanding efforts and qualities. Sigge, Paul, Belize, and Manaka each received the Student-Athlete Award, honoring their leadership, commitment, and all-around excellence as players and role models. In addition, Karin received a heartfelt thank-you from her coach for the exceptional volleyball skills, technique, and attitude she brought to the team. Her steady presence and strong fundamentals made her a key contributor to every match.

As always, none of this would have been possible without our incredible parents. A huge thank you goes out to our Blazing Parents for their continued encouragement, enthusiasm, and trust. Your support is what allows students to experience moments like these, moments that challenge them, teach them to persevere, and help them understand the value of teamwork, effort, and community.

Although both teams may have just missed out on medals, they return home with something even more meaningful: growth, pride, friendship, and memories that will last a lifetime. Every athlete should feel proud of what they achieved in Nanjing.

Congratulations to our IST Blazing Dragons for their outstanding effort, spirit, and representation of our school community.

Go IST! Go Blazing Dragons! Go Blazing Parents! 🤎 💧 🦾









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Sports & CCA Update

It's been a quieter week as we transition between sports seasons. Middle School is moving into volleyball, with a fantastic number of students signing up, while High School shifts focus to basketball.

Our first CCA session has officially wrapped up, and sign-ups for the second session are now complete. The new session will begin on November 24th, and the final CCA schedule will be published next week.

A huge thank you to all our coaches, CCA sponsors, and students for making this first sports season and CCA session such a great success!

Highlights from Sports Season 1

- Football: Stellar progress from our girls' teams, and a fantastic **ISCOT Championship win** for the Middle School boys.
- Volleyball: Both our ACAMIS boys and girls squads achieved impressive fourth-place finishes, and the boys' team proudly received the prestigious **Spirit of ACAMIS Award for outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork.**
- We also had a second HS volleyball team competing in an ISAC tournament.
- Badminton: A large Middle School team represented IST strongly, competing in both ISCOT and ISAC competitions.
- Cross Country: We had a **whole-school ISCOT Cross Country** event, with many excellent performances and podium finishes from IST students across age groups a great display of endurance and spirit!



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- Elementary Football: Our youngest Blazing Dragons enjoyed a wonderful home tournament here at IST, **showing great teamwork** and winning many exciting games.
- **ISAC golf team victory** and individual prices.

Congratulations to all our student-athletes for their effort, enthusiasm, and school pride. Let's carry this motivation and energy into our next CCA session and the new sports season.



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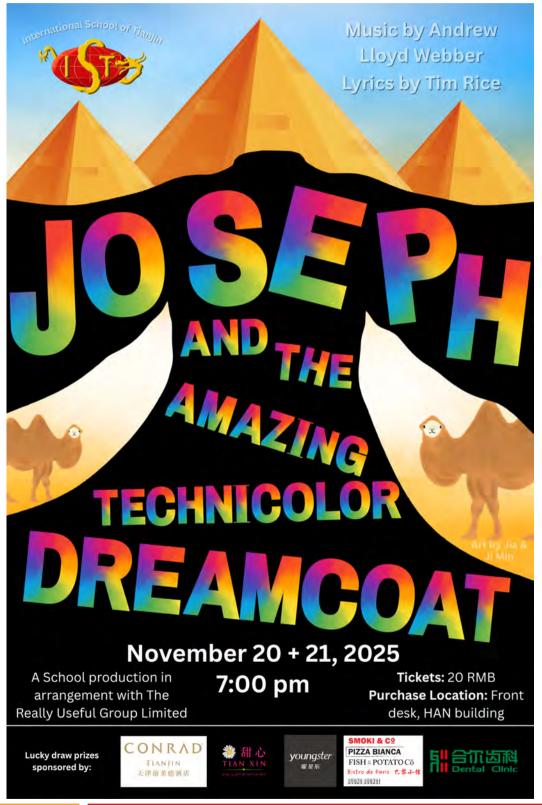


Go Blazing Dragons!











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Dear IST Families,

As part of our **Community Curriculum**—the shared practices we nurture together to build student wellbeing and resilience—we are deepening our focus on healthy digital habits.

Recent parent questions about platforms popular with younger middle and early high school students remind us that these choices shape every family in our school.

The evidence is unequivocal: for students aged 9–15, regular social media use is associated with increased anxiety, disrupted sleep, lower self-esteem, and heightened risk of cyberbullying. These formative years are when resilience, focus, and authentic relationships take root; early digital pressures can quietly weaken that foundation.

Leading child-development experts therefore recommend **delaying social media until at least the later high school years** and then introducing it only with clear boundaries and active parental guidance. While each family decides what fits best, the research strongly supports **postponement** as the most protective path.

A Community Commitment: The Digital Well-Being Pledge To live out this guidance as a united school community, we invite you to join an **optional**, **school-wide initiative** tied to our long-term wellbeing goals:

From December 12, 2025 (start of winter break) to February 17, 2026 (Chinese New Year), we pause our children's access to social media platforms.

This 10-week **Digital Reset** offers:

- Restored sleep and study rhythms
- Space for face-to-face friendships and family connection
- A shared experience that reinforces resilience

No pressure to join—this is a supportive choice for families who wish to align with the Community Curriculum's emphasis on balanced growth.

Parent Round Table – Let's Begin Together! Join us the week of December 1–5, 2025 (exact date TBA) to review the research, exchange practical strategies, and decide if the Pledge suits your family, or, if you would like to make the pledge now, please use the link below!

Digital Well-Being Pledge (Dec 12, 2025 - Feb 17, 2026 - Fill out form

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in raising confident, resilient, and joyfully engaged young people.

Warm regards,
Michael Conway
Deputy Director / Secondary Principal



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		ents ties	BABY
Class	Day	Time	Place
Yoga	Monday Wednesday	8:15-9:15	Theater or Black box
English Corner	Monday	10: 00-11: 30	Elementary meeting room
Korean Class	Monday	1:30-3:00	Elementary meeting room
Spanish Class	Tuesday	1:00-2:00	Elementary meeting room
Zumba	Thursday	10:00-10:45	Theater or Black box
Chinese Corner	Friday	9:00-10:00	Elementary meeting room
Baby Drage Playgroup	IIIesaav	9:00-11:00	Nursery Classroom
Parents Workshop	Once a mon	th Flexible	Elementary meeting room



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Food theme: Delicious Japanese cooking class

Menu:

- 1. Lotus Root Chicken Meatballs with Grated Daikon radish Sauce
- 2. Grilled Salmon on Magnolia Leaf with Walnut Miso Glaze
- 3. Steamed Rice with Chestnuts
- 4. Matcha Pudding









When: Tuesday 25th November 09:00am-2pm

Where: IST Elementary Kitchen

Host: Toshiyuki & Tomoko
Cost: 100 RMB per person



Please join the WeChat group by scanning this QR code:



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Community-wide Goal:

At IST we share a collective commitment to cultivate a vibrant community that embodies the spirit of open-mindedness as defined by the International Baccalaureate (IB). Within the unique context of our school and host city of Tianjin, our commitment is to further nurture and enhance an inclusive environment where we all critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We will seek and evaluate a range of points of view, listening with a genuine desire to understand, and with a willingness to grow from the experience.





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Weekly Menu (N-G2) 10-14Nov							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Mini Pizza Fruit Cut	Banana Bread Fruit Cut	Cheese Sandwich Fruit Cut			
Baked Rice with Seaweed and Cheese 净	Baked Fusilli w/Meat Sauce 螺旋面配牛肉膏 Stir Fy Zucchini and Corn 西萌玉米 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Allergy: wheat	Pork Rolls 肉龙 Stir fry Vegetable 炒叶蔬 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Stir Fried Chicken with Broccoli 西兰花妙鸡肉 Vegetable Sticks 競茶条 Plain Rice 米板 Allergy: soy sauce	Fish and Chips 鱼条薯条 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: fish, wheat</u>			
Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day			
Nutritional reading over the week	Energy 热量 (Kcal) 710	Protein 委台 质(g) 33	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 108	Fat 脂肪(g) 22			

Weekly Menu (N-G2) 17-21 Nov

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Steamed Dumplings Fruit Cut	Banana Bread Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Ham Sandwich Fruit Cut
Teriyaki Rice with Cheese 照塊芝士頓 Vegetable Sticks 競菜条 <u>Allergy: cheese, seaweed,</u> <u>sesame</u>	Beef Goulash 丘烩牛 由 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Plain Rice 来级 <i>Allergy: beef, soy sauce</i>	Fried Chicken, Curry Omelette Rice 日式炸鸡咖喱蛋包袋 Stir fry Vegetable 炒叶蔬 Vegetable Sticks	Chicken Burger 鳴向汉堡 Vegetable Sticks 苑茶条 Allergy: wheat	Pork and Chinese Cabbage Dumplings 猪肉白菜水袋 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>
	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day
Nutritional reading over the week 条用营养分析	Energy 热量 (Kcal) 715	Protein 委台 质(g) 30	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 111	Fat 脂肪(g) 23

Weekly Menu (G3-G12) 17-21 Nov

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day	Seasonal Fresh Salad Bar Fruit of the Day
	Penne with Pesto/Cream/Tomato Sauce 意大利面 Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Roasted Egg with Herb 春草烤霉蛋 Allergy: cheese, egg	Beef Goulash 红烩牛 峋 Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Plain Rice 来板 Allergy: beef, soy sauce	Meat Loaf 牛肉面包 Stir fry Vegetable 炒叶蔬 Mashed Potatoes 土豆泥 <u>Allergy: beef, herb</u>	Chicken Burger 粤南汉堡 French Fries 著条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Grilled Fish with Black Pepper Sauce 黑椒煎鱼排 Stir fry Vegetable 妙叶蔬 Roasted Potatoes 土豆角 Allergy: fish
	Bibimbap 韩式拌板 Boiled Egg 查鸡蛋 Allergy: egg	Fried Chicken, Curry Omelette Rice 炸鸡炔咖喱蛋包袋 Stir Fried Vegetables 清炒叶蔬 <u>Allergy: egg</u>	Deep Fried Chicken Leg 香酥鳴歷 Steamed Chinese Cabbage 蒜葉桂枝菜 Steamed Rice 来級 Allergy: soy sauce	Stir Fried Beef and Mushroom with Black Pepper Sauce 黑椒杏螅菇炒牛肉 Yuxiang Eggplants 鱼香絲子 Stir fry Vegetables 炒叶蔻 Allergy: mushroom	Taiwanese Braised Pork Rice 台式占由级 Stir fry Vegetables 妙用蔬 <u>Allergy: soy sauce</u>
	Chongqing Spicy Noodles 重庆小面 Fried Egg 熊鸡蛋 <u>Allergy: egg. sesame, soy</u> <u>sauce</u>	Noodle with dumplings 广式云系面 boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Biangbiang Noodles with Ground Pork Biangbiang 面 Stir Fried Tomato with Egg 西丘林妙鸟豪 Allergy: egg, sesame, wheat	Stir Fried Pork in Pita Bread 京舊南丝/建椒炒南配荷叶餅 Mixed Vegetables 混合蔬菜/样面藕 <i>Allergy: wheat</i>	Japanese Udon with Chicken 鸟冬面 Green Vegetables 炒时能 Allergy: wheat
		Ratatouille 意大利纯蔬菜	Biangbiang Noodles with Tomato and Egg Sauce Biangbiang 看	Yuxiang Eggplants 鱼香茄子	Japanese Udon with Vegetables 鸟冬面
	Laver and Egg Soup 紫菜鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤	Red Bean Soup 红豆汤	Vegetable and Egg Soup 蔬菜鸡蛋汤	Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤
	Banana Bread 香蕉包	Cookies 併干	Chocolate Cake 巧克力蛋糕	Rice balls 糯米糍	Mango Mousse 芒果慕斯
A STREET	Nutritional reading over the week 卷月巻系分析	Energy 热量 (Kcal) 779	Protein 委台质(g) 29	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 110	Fat 脂肪(g) 23



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DIARY DATES

Monday - November 17, 2025 Musical Rehearsal (All Day)

Thursday~Friday - November 20~21, 2025 Musical Production (Night Time)

Friday - November 28, 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting@RITZ

SPORTS DATES

17 November – HSBB Practice 3

18 November – MSVB Practice 3

20 November – MSVB Practice 4 Musical Production

21 November -HSBB Practice 4 Musical Production

Welcome to the IST Sports and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Program for the 2025-2026 school year

Please take note of the following dates:

Season 1 Sport Schedule

- Starts Thursday, 4 September and ends Friday, 14November
- $^{ ext{ iny }}$ The program will run for approximately 10 school weeks $^{ ext{ iny }}$
- No CCAs during holidays and PTSCs (conferences)

Please do not hesitate to contact our department with any questions.

- Mr. Silvis Athletics & Activities Director(ben_silvis@istianjin.org.cn)
- Ms. Guo Ying Activities Officer (CCA's) (ying_guo@istianjin.org.cn)
- Ms. Durian Wang Activities Officer (Sports) (durian_wang@istianjin.org.cn)
- © Activity Office: telephone 022-28592003 / extension 8150.