



# THE BLAZE

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER



Dear Parents and Students,

Happy New Year! As we embark on another year at IST, I want to express my excitement about working, learning, and acting together to enhance our shared experiences and support our students' growth.

I'm pleased to share this week's newsletter in light of Mr. Moody's absence as he attends a recruitment fair in Bangkok. This is a significant responsibility to ensure that we always have the highest quality staff to support our students and community.

As we enter January, we have an exciting few weeks ahead at IST, marked by various events and milestones. From January 12-14, our Grade 10 students will be hosting visitors from the Greenwich Country Day School in the USA. This collaborative visit promises to enhance cultural exchange and student learning experiences.

As we approach the end of Semester 1 on January 15, please be reminded that Semester Reports will be sent home electronically or in-printed by special order on January 23. These reports reflect our students' progress and serve as a valuable tool for families to engage with their learning journeys.

Looking ahead, the beginning of Semester 2 on January 16 will introduce our new Community Curriculum theme: **Action, Creation, and Impact**. During this quarter, our inquiry focus will center on:

- **How can we use our knowledge to make an impact?**
- **What actions can we take to address challenges?**

We will also connect our discussions to themes of **Global Citizenship**, exploring concepts of **Ethics & Equity** and the importance of **Communication**. Additionally, we will highlight connections to **Physical Health & Wellbeing**, emphasizing how our actions can positively impact personal health.

Key events during this quarter include:

- Grade 10 **Personal Project Exhibition** on Thursday, 22 January
- Celebrations for **Chinese New Year** from February 9-13, which will involve collaborative festivities with students, staff, and parents.
- The **PYP Exhibition** on March 12, showcasing student-led action projects.

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INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL of TIANJIN

*Weekly*

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On January 17, our High School basketball teams will participate in the ISAC competition, showcasing their athletic talents and teamwork. Then, on January 20, we invite you to join us for **M.A.D.D. Night**, a special community spotlight event that promises to engage and inspire.

Additionally, I want to reference Mr. Moody's recent message regarding Mr. Taylor. Due to a serious medical incident, he will be returning to the US for specialized treatment, which marks the end of his service at IST. Mr. Taylor has dedicated over 28 years to our school community, and this news is understandably distressing for many. We appreciate your understanding and respect for the privacy of Mr. Taylor and his family during this challenging time.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we strive to enrich the experience at IST. Your involvement and support are vital in shaping a brighter future for all.

Warm Regards,

Michael Conway  
Deputy Director / Secondary Principal







## 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:

1. **Support for Current IST Students:** We offer exceptional educational opportunities to talented students facing financial challenges.
2. **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:**
  - Current IST students must have honors/high honors in at least 2 of the last 3 semesters.
  - Non-IST candidates should be in the top 25% of their class.
- **Community Contribution:**
  - Active involvement in CAS activities.
  - Promotion of the IB Diploma Programme.
  - 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 at a time.

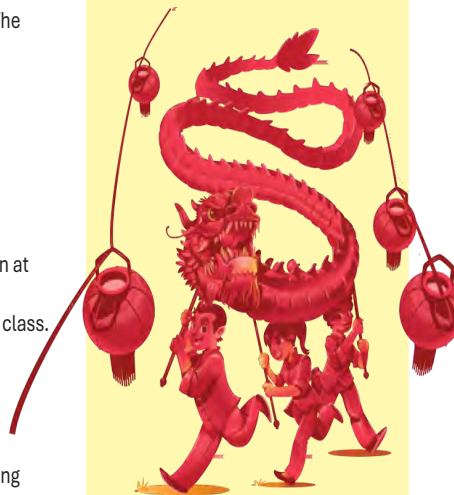
A strong command of English is essential.

#### 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 Announcement:** Late March/early April 2026





## 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)
  - 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:

1. **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:

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

### 3. 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 short- and 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!



## Scholarship Application Form

Student Information				
Family Name		First Name	Gender (Male / Female)	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)		Age at time of application		
Nationality & Citizenship	Native Language	Language at Home	Other Languages	
Email Address				
Schools Attended (Begin with current school)				
Grade(s)	School Name	Location (city/country)	Language(s) of Instruction	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		





## 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.

### Panda Book Awards

The Panda Book Awards is a reading initiative which invites students and teachers from participating international schools in China and beyond to vote for their favorite book published in recent years. Panda Book nominees meet selection criteria that focus on social justice, diversity and inclusion by authors and illustrators from across the world. To learn more about the Panda Book Awards, please visit:

<https://libguides.isb.cn/friendly.php?s=pandabookawards>.

Panda Book Awards voting will begin February 23rd.

This week IST librarians recommend **Scroll** by Hui Li, a nominee in the Younger Readers category. From the publisher's website: "Lulu and her dog Dumpling enter a magical world where Chinese calligraphy comes to life in this beautifully illustrated, interactive picture book about family, tradition, and the importance of kindness".



To borrow **Scroll** or any of the Panda Book Award nominees from across six categories, please stop by the IST library.

### Parent Book Club Jan. 13th in the library

Our next Parent Book Club selection is the novel **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig. We will meet in the library to discuss the book on January 13<sup>th</sup> 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 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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**Weekly**

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## BLAZING DRAGONS



### Sports Updates

#### Blazing Dragons Are Back: January Sports Preview

We're kicking off the new year with a packed calendar and plenty of chances to cheer on our Dragons!

#### Saturday

ISCOT MS Volleyball Tournaments  
Girls at TIS (right around the corner)  
Boys at IST, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Your cheers make the difference!

#### Monday, 12 January

HS Basketball vs TEDA (boys and girls) at IST  
Tip-off around 4:00 p.m.  
Grab your defense signs and pack the stands. Go Blazing Dragons!

#### Next up

Saturday, 17 January: ISAC HS Basketball Tournament  
Girls travel to Beijing  
Boys play at IST 10 am -3 pm(lucky draw-home court advantage!)

#### Saturday, 24 January

ISCOT HS Basketball  
Girls at TEDA  
Boys at IST 9 am - 1 pm (home again!)  
ISAC MS Volleyball Tournaments (same weekend)  
Boys travel to Beijing  
Girls at TIS 10 am -2 pm

#### Season Highlight

HS ACAMIS Basketball at Harrow Beijing: 4-7 February

Plenty of home games, nearby venues, and big-stage tournaments, mark your calendars and come support our teams.

## Go Blazing Dragons!



INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOLS  
CONFERENCE  
OF TIANJIN







## BLAZING DRAGONS



### Thursday Volleyball Matches IST vs Wellington

Our middle school girls' volleyball team put on a good performance in their match against Wellington. While we didn't achieve the results we were hoping for, the excitement on the court was palpable as our girls engaged in several thrilling rallies. They worked hard to create some offensive plays and to chase down every ball. Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the ISCOT tournament this Saturday, where we'll focus on controlling our passes and making sure our serves clear the net every time. Stay tuned for more action!

Our middle school boys' volleyball team delivered a strong performance against Wellington. The energy was high throughout the match, with many points earned off confident serves and well-executed three-touch attacks. While our receiving can improve—especially against harder, faster serves—the boys showed great composure and teamwork. Looking ahead to the ISCOT tournament this Saturday, we'll focus on first-ball control to keep our offense flowing. It looks like the boys are ready for the challenge!

A huge shout-out to our supporters: a fantastic group of Grade 6 students cheering on the boys under Ms. Bekkenk's guidance, Mr. Nel for coming out to watch the girls, and the many parents and even grandparents who filled the stands. Your energy made a difference!

A big thank you to Coach Diegel and Coach Tara for the effort you're putting in and the visible progress both teams are making. Go Dragons!



## Go Blazing Dragons!



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Association of China and Mongolia International Schools



International Schools Athletic Conference





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THURSDAY 22 JANUARY

## PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION



11:30AM - 12:45PM



ATOMIC CAFE

Grade 10  
students will  
showcase the  
results of months  
of independent  
inquiry,  
creativity, and  
learning.

Join us as we  
celebrate  
their dedication  
and  
achievements!

Prior to the exhibition,  
Grade 9 students and  
families are invited to  
attend an information  
session about the Personal  
Project.



11:00AM - 11:30AM



LITERACY LAB





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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TIANJIN  
*Presents*

## M.A.D.D. NIGHT

MUSIC

ART

DRAMA

DESIGN

WHOLE SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

01/20/2026

6:00–7:30 PM

HAN FOYER





 IST parents activities			
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 Dragon Playgroup	Tuesday	9:00-11:00	Nursery Classroom
Parents Workshop	Once a month	Flexible	Elementary meeting room



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PARENT FACULTY ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TIANJIN

*AI Translation  
Glasses will be  
provided!*

**Wednesday  
21st January**

- 8:15 - COFFEE AND KOREAN SNACKS
- 9:00 - WELCOME AND PFO UPDATE
- 9:10 - DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL INTRODUCTION
- 9:30 - IB Students sharing CAS projects
- 9:45 - UPCOMING EVENTS WITH PFO
- 10:00 - PARENT EDUCATION FORUM

Meeting held in the Teacher's centre on 2nd floor in Han building.  
Take the big black staircase to the left of the library.





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## LAMP *Painting*

Join our Lamp Painting 2026 and embark on a journey of creativity and self-expression.



SCAN THE  
QR CODE  
TO JOIN



Thursday | 22<sup>nd</sup> January | 9:30 - 11:30 am

115rmb per person | For 20 participants





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**IST  
PARENT  
FORUM**

**ENJOY YOUR  
TIME LEARNING  
WITH EACH  
OTHER IN IST!**

**Jan.21,  
WEDNESDAY**  
10:05am - 12:00pm  
HAN TC

10:05-10:40 TEST STRESS--MS. JIANG

10:40-11:20 COLLEGE READINESS--MS. AMBIKA GB

11:20-12:00 HIDDEN KEYS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS  
--MR. SILVIS

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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.





## Weekly Menu (N-G2) 12-16 Jan

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Mini Pizza Fruit Cut	Banana Bread Fruit Cut	Cheese Sandwich Fruit Cut
Steamed Egg with Vegetables 蔬菜蒸蛋羹 Scallion Pancake 葱油饼 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: egg</u>	Fried Chicken, Curry Omelette Rice 日式炸鸡咖喱蛋包饭 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: egg</u>	Pork Rolls 肉龙 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Baked Fusilli w/Meat Sauce 螺旋面配牛肉酱 Stir Fry Zucchini and Corn 西葫玉米 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	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
<b>Nutritional reading over the week</b> 每周营养分析	Energy 热量(Kcal) 712	Protein 蛋白质(g) 33	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 112	Fat 脂肪(g) 22

## Weekly Menu (N-G2) 19-23 Jan

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 照烧芝士饭 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: cheese, seaweed, sesame</u>	Beef Goulash 红烩牛肉 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 Plain Rice 米饭 <u>Allergy: beef, soy sauce</u>	Beef Lasagna 牛肉千层面 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 <u>Allergy: milk, wheat</u>	Chicken Burger 鸡肉汉堡 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Pork and Chinese Cabbage Dumplings 猪肉白菜水饺 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	Fruit of the Day
<b>Nutritional reading over the week</b> 每周营养分析	Energy 热量(Kcal) 715	Protein 蛋白质(g) 35	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 118	Fat 脂肪(g) 23

## Weekly Menu (G3-G12) 12-16 Jan

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
Baked Rice with Vegetables, Egg and Cheese in Black Pepper Sauce 黑椒芝士鸡蛋焗饭 Stir fry Vegetables 炒蔬菜 <u>Allergy: cheese, egg (served on the side)</u>	Grilled Chicken with Onion Sauce 煎鸡排洋葱汁 Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Mashed Potatoes 土豆泥 <u>Allergy: soy sauce</u>	Cottage Pie 牛肉派 Stir fry Vegetables 炒时蔬 <u>Allergy: beef, cheese</u>	Pork Stewed with Plum Sauce 西梅猪排 Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Mashed Sweet Potatoes 红薯泥 <u>Allergy: cream, milk</u>	Fish and Chips 鱼条薯条 Vegetable Salad 蔬菜色拉 <u>Allergy: fish, wheat</u>
Vegetables Curry Omelette Rice 咖喱蔬菜蛋包饭 Stir Fried Vegetables 清炒时蔬 <u>Allergy: egg (served on the side)</u>	Steamed Rice with Vegetables and Sausages 广式腊肠饭 Stir fry Vegetables with Mushroom 香菇油菜 <u>Allergy: mushroom</u>	Teriyaki pork 日式照烧猪肉盖饭 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 <u>Allergy: soy sauce</u>	Kung Pao Chicken 宫保鸡丁 Steamed Vegetables with Garlic 蒜蓉蒸时蔬 Steamed Rice 米饭 <u>Allergy: soy sauce, peanut</u>	Kimbab 韩式饭卷 Japchae 韩式炒杂菜 <u>Allergy: egg, seaweed</u>
Stir Fried Rice Noodle with Vegetable and Egg 广式蔬菜鸡蛋炒粉 Green Vegetables 清炒蔬菜 <u>Allergy: egg, soy sauce</u>	Noodles with Beef Soup 牛肉清汤面 boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>	Noodles with pork in Soybean paste 炸酱面 Mixed Vegetables 拌蔬菜 <u>Allergy: soybean, wheat</u>	Stir Fried Rice Noodle with Shrimps 星洲虾仁炒米粉 Stir Fried Vegetables with Sambal 桑巴蔬菜 <u>Allergy: shrimp</u>	Noodles and Vegetables in Chicken Broth 川香鸡面 boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 <u>Allergy: wheat</u>
	Fried Rice with Cucumber, Carrot and Corn 蔬菜炒饭	Noodles with Soybean Paste 炸酱面	Stir Fried Rice Noodles with Vegetables 素炒米粉	Vegetables Teriyaki with Rice 照烧蔬菜饭
Tomato and Egg Soup 西红柿鸡蛋汤	Pumpkin Soup 南瓜汤	Millet Congee 小米粥	Vegetable and Egg Soup 蔬菜鸡蛋汤	White Fungus Sweet Soup 银耳红豆羹
Banana Bread 香蕉包	Cookies 饼干	Strawberry Mousse 草莓慕斯	Rice balls 糯米糍	Chocolate Cookies 巧克力饼干
<b>Nutritional reading over the week</b> 每周营养分析	Energy 热量(Kcal) 786	Protein 蛋白质(g) 30	Carbohydrate 碳水(g) 109	Fat 脂肪(g) 25





## DIARY DATES

Tuesday - January 20, 2026  
M.A.D.D. Night

Wednesday - January 22, 2026  
PP Exhibition

Friday~Sunday - January 23~25, 2026  
BEIMUN

Monday - January 26, 2026  
Secondary Awards Assembly

## SPORTS DATES

10 January –  
ISCOT MSVB Tournament: Boys @ IST;  
Girls @ TIS

12 January –  
HSBB TEDA @ IST

13 January –  
MSVB Practice 10

15 January –  
MSVB Practice 11

16 January –  
HSBB Practice 10

## 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 2 Sport Schedule

- ☺ Starts Monday, 24 November and ends Friday, 27 February
- ☺ The program will run for approximately 10 school weeks
- ☺ 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.