



THE BLAZE

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER



Dear Parents and Students

Today's edition of Blaze is the last for the 2025-26 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire IST community for their incredible support of our amazing school over the past year. I am so very proud to have the honor of leading a school in which parents are consistently enthusiastic in their efforts to work together with teachers and support staff to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. I know that each IST employee joins with me in thanking you for this support.

The past year has had many special events and highlights, including the **KG1-G2 Spring Show 'The Bee Story'** earlier this week. The theme of the show related to the important role that bees play in pollination and food production, and our responsibility to protect the environment. The show certainly enthused the entire audience, including the elementary school V.I.B. (Very Important Bee), Mr. Wallace! Thank you to Ms. Lee, Ms. Murphy, and all the teachers and support staff who helped prepare the show, and especially our retiring KG2 teacher, Ms. Dingle, for her long-term support and leadership of elementary productions over the past 23 years.

Secondary students had fun participating in **Sports Day events** yesterday morning, followed later in the afternoon by the **Athletics Awards**, which celebrate student sporting participation and success throughout the school year. Congratulations to all of our student athletes!

Rounding off this rather busy week, we will hold the **Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony** later this afternoon in the Han Theatre. Graduation marks the conclusion of the secondary and final compulsory stage of schooling for our students, and thus the end of childhood, and heralds the commencement of tertiary studies and the world of work. We are all so very proud of our graduating students and we are excited to celebrate together their wonderful achievement of earning their high school diplomas. All members of our community are warmly invited to attend the ceremony (**please be seated by 3:50PM**), but if you can't attend, please consider tuning in on our livestream channel: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ibxsLgLLah4>

We have several more important events before the end of the year, including

- **Summer Reading Checkout:** Students and parents have been checking out library books for summer reading over the past week. The final day for checkouts will be Tuesday 2 June.
- **Grade 5 Transition Ceremony:** On Wednesday afternoon at 1:00PM we will celebrate the completion of Elementary school studies for our Grade 5 students. Congratulations to the Grade 5 students who now move onto the exciting adventures of middle school.

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- **Secondary Awards Ceremony:** Next Thursday (4 June) at 8:25AM we will celebrate the academic progress and achievements of our Secondary students.

The last day of school for the 2025-26 school year will be next Friday, 5 June. Friday is a half-day only and **school will end at 11:45am.** Buses will depart school at 12PM (noon), and all students and parents will need to exit the campus no later than 12:30PM. Please note that there will be no lunch service on Friday. **Please also note that all departure forms must be completed no later than next Thursday!**

Students will be issued with their personal copy of the **2025-26 International^{ist} Yearbook** next Friday morning. Special thanks to the Marketing and Communications Office for producing such a wonderful memento for us all to enjoy.

Students will also be issued an electronic Semester 2 Progress Report via Toddle next Friday (as well as hard copies for those families that registered). I wish to congratulate all of our students on the wonderful progress that they have made this year. We are all very proud of their many accomplishments and know that next year will bring even more. If parents have any questions or concerns about the reports, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school administration. **Please also note that if departure documentation is not completed by Thursday afternoon, we will be unable to issue report cards and yearbooks on Friday.**

The end of year is an exciting time for us all as we look forward to a well-earned rest and possibly a return to our homes and families, or an exciting adventure here in China or in another country. Unfortunately, it is also a time at which we must bid farewell to students, friends, and colleagues. **On behalf of all of us who will remain in Tianjin next year, I would like to wish the IST families that will be leaving our school every happiness in their new schools and homes.**

Every year we must also farewell members of our school faculty and I would like to take this moment to thank the following teachers for their wonderful service to our students and school community:



Troy Pearce



Kevin
Vernhout



Becca Alosi



Christina
Reddaway



Sarah McCord



Jackie Dingle

I would like to pay special tribute to Ms. Dingle, who retires from IST this year following 23 years of wonderful service to our school, and especially to the KG3 programme. Ms. Dingle is without doubt one of the hardest working, most talented, and fun-loving professionals that I have ever had the pleasure to work with and her contributions to our school have been without parallel. Both of my own daughters were taught by Ms. Dingle, as have hundreds of other kindergarteners at our school over the duration of her long service, all of whom loved every moment in her classroom. I wish Ms. Dingle every happiness for a very well-earned retirement back home in Bundaberg, Australia.



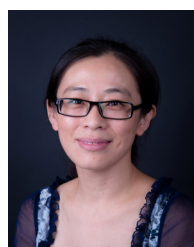
I also wish to acknowledge the long and dedicated service of **three teacher assistants who will be retiring from their assignments** at the end of the current school year. Liu Yan (28 years), Lucy Xu (25 years) and Catherine Wei (15 years) have contributed both in the classroom and beyond and will be greatly missed by our school community. The good news, however, is that because they are all Tianjin-ren, we will still be able to see them from time to time. I wish all three long, enjoyable and well-deserved retirements!



Liu Yan



Lucy Xu



Catherine Wei



I also wish to extend a public note of special appreciation to a long-serving member and Board of Governors Chair, Anna Centerman, who is stepping down this year after seven years of service, following the graduation this year of her twin children, Saga and Sigge. I know that our entire community will join me in thanking Anna, Johan, Saga and Sigge for being such positive contributors to our school and community over the past ten years. I wish them all every happiness for the future.

Finally, on behalf of all of us here at the school, I wish to once again thank our parent community for entrusting their children's education to our school, and our students for being such fine representatives of their own countries and cultures. Thank you to the IST Board of Governors for their constant guidance and support, and to the committed staff of IST for being such a terrific team and for making IST a friendly place where the needs of our students come first. **I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!**

Warmest regards

Steve Moody
Director

PS: The first day of school for the 2026-27 school year is Wednesday 5 August!



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IST HEALTH AND
WELLBEING

DEAM

DROP EVERYTHING AND MOVE

MAY

WELL, THAT HAPPENED

DAREBEE WORKOUT

© darebee.com

LEVEL I 3 sets

LEVEL II 5 sets

LEVEL III 7 sets

REST up to 2 minutes



10 reverse lunges



10 slow butt kicks



10 butt kicks



2 plank walk-outs



2 plank jump-ins



2 heel clicks



10-count hold



IST Library & Information Literacy Center

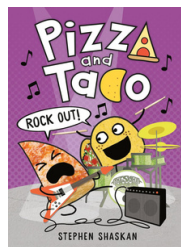
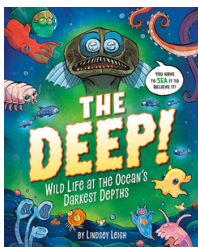
Our Mission

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.

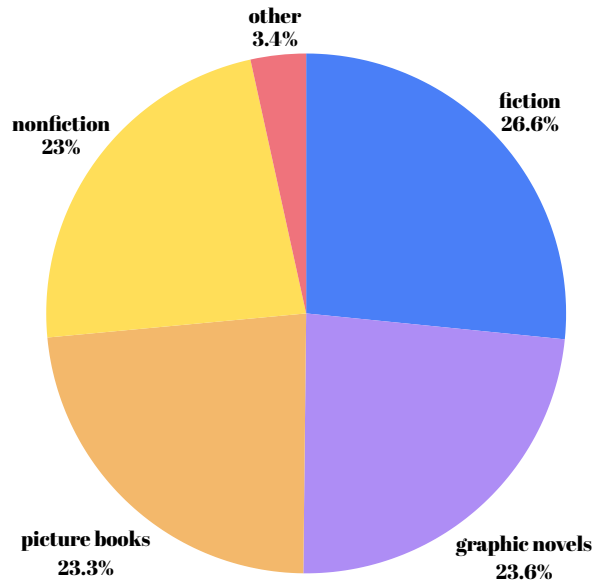
This Year in the Library

Books borrowed this year: **16,230**

Student Favorites



What did our readers borrow?

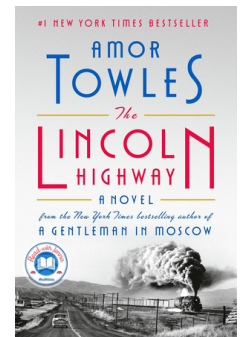


Thank you for a wonderful year of reading!

Parent Book Club: August

Our next book selection is the novel *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. We will meet to discuss the book in August when we return to school. 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



BLAZING DRAGONS



A Year in Motion

91 Team Events, 200+ Games, One Proud Dragons Family

Within · Among · Beyond – the heart of Blazing Dragons Athletics

As the curtain falls on another sports year, it's worth pausing to take in just how much our student-athletes have packed into the past twelve months. Counting boys' and girls' teams separately, our Dragons took part in 91 team events, and because most tournaments contain three to four games, that translates to more than 200 individual games played across the season. For a school of our size, the depth, ambition, and energy on display this year has been remarkable.

We compete in ISCOT (elementary and secondary), ISAC (secondary), and ACAMIS (high school), and across badminton, volleyball, basketball, football, table tennis, cross country, chess, and golf our teams continue to prove that being smaller in numbers doesn't mean smaller in heart.



By the Numbers

- Elementary: 5 tournaments and exchanges (~15-20 games)
- Middle School: 40 events – 18 regular games + 22 tournaments (~85-105 games total)
- High School: 43 events – 18 regular games + 25 tournaments, including 5 ACAMIS (~95-115 games total)
- Combined Events (Cross Country, Chess, Table Tennis): 3 tournaments

That's 91 team events producing roughly 200+ games played – a staggering output for our student-athletes, coaches, and travelling families.









BLAZING DRAGONS



Athletes of the Year 2025/2026

The highest honour in IST Athletics – the Athletics Excellence Awards – recognises the student-athletes who, across the entire year, have most embodied what it means to be a Blazing Dragon: outstanding performance, leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication across multiple sports and seasons.

This year, we are incredibly proud to celebrate our four Athletes of the Year:

-  Middle School Athletics Excellence – Girls: Claire
-  Middle School Athletics Excellence – Boys: Bennoi
-  High School Athletics Excellence – Girls: Manaka
-  High School Athletics Excellence – Boys: Sigge



Claire, Bennoi, Manaka, and Sigge have been the kind of teammates, competitors, and role models who lift everyone around them. Whether on the court, on the field, on the bus, or in the huddle – they have set the standard for what Within · Among · Beyond truly looks like in action. Congratulations!





BLAZING DRAGONS



Celebrating Our Team Award Winners

Congratulations to every athlete recognized this year for MVP, Best Team Player, Grit, and Most Improved:

- MS Girls Football: Chae Won, Estelle, Rachel, Clair
- MS Boys Football: Bennoi, Jordan, Alessio, Sotaro
- MS Girls Badminton: Claire, Angela, Emily, HaJung
- MS Girls Basketball: Chae Won, Claire, Mariia, Ayane
- MS Boys Basketball: Chikasato, Bennoi, Sikai, Sotaro
- HS Girls Volleyball: Karin, Manaka, Belize, Hanano
- HS Boys Volleyball: Sigge, Zesheng, William, Chi Hyeok
- HS Girls Basketball: Belize, Tung He, Manaka, Xenia
- HS Boys Basketball: Sigge, Chi Yeok, Bowen, Han Ho
- HS Girls Football: Nina, Manaka, Belize, Ayami
- HS Boys Football: Sigge, Ze Sheng, Kevin, Noah





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BLAZING DRAGONS



More Than the Scoreboard: Within · Among · Beyond

Athletics at IST isn't only about wins and losses –it's about how sport grows the whole student. Our programme is built around three layers of learning that mirror the IST Growth Wheel:

Within Myself – the discipline, resilience, and self-belief built through training and competing.

Among Others – the trust, communication, and friendship forged in every team huddle and bus ride.

Beyond Ourselves – the pride of representing IST, respecting opponents, and contributing to something bigger than the individual.

Every one of those 200+ games has been an opportunity to develop in all three.

Looking Ahead: The Blazing DRAGONS

Next year, our athletics programme will be guided by what it truly means to be a Blazing DRAGON:

Dedication · Respect · Achievement · Growth · Openness · Nurturing · Spirit

Together with the Within · Among · Beyond framework, the DRAGONS values give our coaches, athletes, and families a shared language for what we stand for – on the court, on the field, and far beyond the final whistle. You'll start to see this woven into team huddles, awards, and sideline cheers throughout the coming year.

A huge thank you to our coaches, athletics staff, parents, and student-athletes. Ninety-one events and over two hundred games is an extraordinary high bar – and with the DRAGONS values and the Growth Wheel lighting the way, the best is yet to come.

Go Dragons!



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS
CONFERENCE
OF TIANJIN



Association of China and Mongolia International Schools



International Schools Athletic Conference





Student Highlights



11-Year-Old Curtis Conquers Carnegie Hall

Curtis didn't have to go far to find his first music teachers. He just had to live at home. His dad is a professional oboist, and his mom a skilled musician too. But more than any single person, it was the musical atmosphere they created together that surrounded Curtis like soft, everyday rain.

From morning rehearsals to evening listening sessions, music was simply part of the air he breathed.

He started piano at four, then picked up the violin soon after. For a few years, he happily explored different instruments, just having fun with sounds. The oboe was always there in the background—his dad playing it, the warm, cozy tone floating through the house. No one told him to love it. He just did.

By the time he turned eight, Curtis made his own quiet decision. "I want to play the oboe," he said.

Not because anyone pushed him, but because it felt as natural as choosing his favorite blanket.

In the fall of 2022, Curtis joined the Pre-College division of the Tianjin Juilliard School—a special Saturday-only program for young talents. Every Saturday, while many kids his age are sleeping in or playing video games, Curtis heads off for a full day of music: technique, classes, and ensemble practice. His dad happens to be his oboe teacher, but the real story is how Curtis shows up, week after week, on his own steam. Between rehearsals, you'll often find him sitting in the audience at school concerts, just soaking it all in like a happy sponge.



Student Highlights



Over the years, he's won plenty of competitions —on both piano and oboe. Most recently, he took First Prize in the Woodwind Young Artist Group at the 2025 American Virtuoso International Music Competition. Not bad for a kid who hasn't even become a teenager yet. And here comes the really exciting part. On July 21, 2026, Curtis will make his debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. That's the dream stage for musicians of any age. For an 11-year-old? It's pretty much magic.

Will music become his career someday? Maybe. Maybe not. And honestly, that's not really the point. Because through learning music, Curtis has already gained something far more valuable —whether he grows up to be an oboist, a scientist, a teacher, or anything else.

Music has taught him how to manage his time, how to plan ahead, how to solve problems when things don't sound right. It has sharpened his hearing, sparked his creativity, strengthened his logical thinking, and given him the courage to express himself. These quiet gifts—discipline, imagination, patience, confidence—are now part of who he is.

So yes, Carnegie Hall is a big deal. But the biggest deal is this: the little boy who grew up in a house full of music has already learned lessons that will serve him for a lifetime. And that's a melody worth celebrating, no matter where life takes him next.



Go BLAZING Dragons!



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL of TIANJIN

Weekly



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IST PRESENTS

MYU SHOWCASE



CELEBRATING MYP PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE
2:00 P.M. | IST THEATER





CAS Project Preview G10 Students Networking with Students from Beijing Learning about composting and how to set up a garden Stay Tuned for next year's CAS project!

G10 Students 24th Of May-Sunday

The Waste Magicians Networking event at the Sustainability Summit 2026 brought together young minds passionate about environmental stewardship. Students engaged in hands-on composting workshops, collaborative garden planning sessions, and cross-cultural knowledge sharing that embodied the spirit of Kaitiakitanga—guardianship of the natural world.





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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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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-G1) 01-05 Jun

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yoghurt Fruit Cut	Carrot Cake Fruit Cut	Mini Pizza Fruit Cut	Banana Bread Fruit Cut	
Omelette 煎蛋卷 Scallion Pancake 葱油饼 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <i>Allergy: egg, wheat</i>	Fried Rice with Ham and Egg 火腿鸡蛋炒饭 Stir fry Vegetable 炒时蔬 <i>Allergy: egg</i>	Bacon Pizza 芝士培根比萨 Stir fry Vegetables 炒蔬菜 <i>Allergy: wheat, cheese</i>	Grilled Chicken in Pita Bread 小饼夹鸡肉 Stir fry Potatoes 炒土豆丝 Vegetable Sticks 蔬菜条 <i>Allergy: wheat</i>	
Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	Fruit of the Day	
Nutritional reading over the week 每周营养分析	Energy 热量 (Kcal) 712	Protein 蛋白质 (g) 31	Carbohydrate 碳水 (g) 115	Fat 脂肪 (g) 22

Weekly Menu (G2-G12) 01-05 Jun

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	
Vegetable Lasagna 蔬菜芝士千层面 Stir fry Vegetables 炒蔬菜 <i>Allergy: cheese, wheat</i>	Grilled Chicken with Onion Sauce 煎鸡排洋葱汁 Stir fry Vegetable 炒蔬菜 Mashed Potatoes 土豆泥 <i>Allergy: soy sauce</i>	Cottage Pie 牛肉派 Stir fry Vegetables 炒时蔬 <i>Allergy: beef, cheese</i>	Braised Sausages Italy Style 意式焗香肠 Baked Vegetables 烤蔬菜 <i>Allergy: mushroom</i>	
Bibimbap 韩式拌饭 Boiled Egg 煮鸡蛋 <i>Allergy: egg (served on the side)</i>	Fried Rice with Vegetable, Egg, Sausage and Ham 腊肠火腿鸡蛋炒饭 Stir fry Vegetables with Mushroom 香菇油菜 <i>Allergy: mushroom, egg</i>	Chicken Teriyaki 日式照烧鸡排 Stir Fried Vegetables 炒时蔬 <i>Allergy: wheat</i>	Orleans-Style Roasted Chicken Legs 奥尔良烤鸡腿 Spicy Dried Bean Curd 麻辣豆干 Green Vegetables 清炒快菜 <i>Allergy: soy sauce</i>	
Chongqing Spicy Noodles 重庆小面 Fried Egg 煎鸡蛋 <i>Allergy: sesame, wheat, egg (served on the side)</i>	Penne with Mushroom and Bacon Cream Sauce 奶油培根蘑菇意面 Baked Vegetable 烤蔬菜 <i>Allergy: wheat, cream</i>	Noodle with Pork dumplings 广式云吞面 boiled Vegetable 煮蔬菜 <i>Allergy: wheat</i>	Noodles with pork in Soybean paste 老北京炸酱面 Mixed Vegetables 拌蔬菜 <i>Allergy: soybean, wheat</i>	
	Fried Rice with Cucumber, Carrot and Corn 蔬菜炒饭	Noodle with Vegetables 广式蔬菜面	Noodles with Soybean Paste 炸酱面	
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	
Chocolate Cake 巧克力蛋糕	Cookies 饼干	Strawberry Mousse 草莓慕斯	Banana Bread 香蕉包	
Nutritional reading over the week 每周营养分析	Energy 热量 (Kcal) 788	Protein 蛋白质 (g) 32	Carbohydrate 碳水 (g) 112	Fat 脂肪 (g) 25



DIARY DATES

Friday~Thursday - May 29~June 4, 2026
Middle Years University

Wednesday - June 3, 2026
Grade 5 Transition Ceremony

Thursday - June 4, 2026
Secondary Awards

Friday - June 5, 2026
Last day of school (Half Day)
Reports sent home
Semester 2 ends (90 Days)

SPORTS DATES

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 3 Sport Schedule

- ☺ Starts Monday, 9 March and ends Friday, 22 May
- ☺ 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.