

# THE FRIDAY LETTER

*from the desk of Head of School, Tim Reilly*



## HELLO, IST FAMILIES!

We had such a great week on both campuses! It's hard to believe that it is already November, but we are still enjoying our outdoor classrooms and this beautiful weather!

I am so proud of how well our new student leaders have gotten started with their leadership activities!

During this week's schoolwide Monday Assembly, our PYP Head Girl, Nina Cohen, and PYP Head Boy, Xander Yacktman, presented our IB Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Principled. They explained the importance of being principled both in and out of school to all of their PYP friends.

Also this week, our PYP House Captains and Vice Captains presented the details of their first service project for the year! Our MYP student Council presented their initial ideas for the year to their fellow MYP students. I absolutely love seeing our students developing their all-important leadership skills and participating in action projects!

Parents, please save the date for our next Coffee with the Head of School on 11/13 at 9 AM. I will be giving a Zoom tour of our beautiful MYP campus in Bee Cave! This is a great opportunity for all parents to see the classrooms, open spaces, and beautiful



Hill Country campus that our MYP students are enjoying this year -- and the site of our future academic building to house our PYP! I can't wait to show you around!

Have a wonderful weekend!

*Sincerely,  
Tim!*

## PYP UPPER SCHOOL CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: GRADE 1 (PART II)

Our G1 students are diving deeper into their exploration of conflict and conflict resolution. The students have been discussing when arguments and disagreements can crop up, both in and out of school, historically and in the present. We have discussed the big idea of how we can use our words and resolution strategies to solve problems.

The playground is a place where our students use their conversational skills independently, so G1 used a model playground to set up possible conflict scenarios that could happen in their lives. Using playmobile people, the students played out these situations. The students then had the important realization that all of the problems had several solutions -- and that all of them involved words!

Bravo, Grade 1! The mantra in G1 is now "USE YOUR WORDS," when a problem arises. Our amazing students also explored the concept of a place of mindfulness when in the problem phase of a conflict -- and all of them (teachers included) have a picture/place in their imagination where they can go to feel safe, happy and loved, before they take a breath and begin solving the problem at hand. Well done!



## MYP CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MYP MANDARIN LEVEL II AND LEVEL III

Our amazing Mandarin II students recently completed video presentations on Chinese foundations. The presentation topics included the Chinese pronunciation system, Chinese sentence structure, and the Chinese character system. By creating and delivering presentations to their classmates on these topics, the students strengthened their learning foundations for their journey as Mandarin speakers! Well done, everyone!



Our Mandarin III students recently read Brandon Brown, 想要狗, in order to build their reading fluency and comprehension. The students then created their own comic strips to explain the story to others, which builds their vocabulary and comprehensions. Drawing comics not only adds to the learning process, but also reinforces the knowledge their reading, speaking and writing skills they learn in class. Zuò dé hǎo!





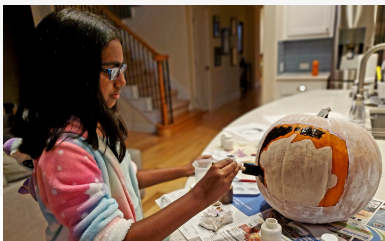
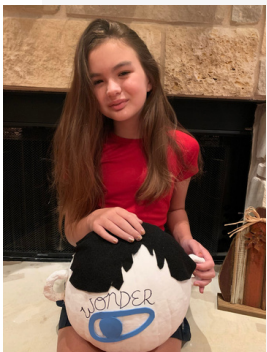
## ANNOUNCING THE PUMPKIN CONTEST WINNERS!

This year's pumpkin decorating contest was a fun, festive, and decorative way to celebrate Halloween! In fact, the Trailblazer Parent League did such a wonderful job organizing it, it's sure to become an annual event!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest! The students loved creating their pumpkins and seeing everyone else's creations. I have to say -- the level of creativity was amazing!

And with that said, here are our winners!

- Best in Show: Everleigh Mitchell**
- Most International: Inkeri Nivala**
- Most Creative: Greyson Karnell**
- Best Painted Pumpkin: Juliana Tracey and Nethra Mandalapu (Tie)**
- Best Jack-o-lantern: James Wattles**



## IB LEARNER PROFILE ATTRIBUTE OF THE MONTH

As I mentioned in my note on page 1, some of our PYP student leaders presented the IB Learner Profile Attribute of the month during a recent schoolwide Monday Assembly. At IST, we value being principled students and friends. Nina and Xander mentioned that being principled means knowing the difference between right and wrong, and acting accordingly. At IST, we instill an understanding of integrity, emphasizing the need to think and act with a high sense of morality at all times, even when no one is watching. Being internally motivated to do the right thing is integral to being principled, and in being a student at IST. Go, Trailblazers!

I am also proud to announce our first PYP Service Project of the year, organized by our Mandela House leaders! They have organized a pet food drive to support the Austin Humane Society. The drive begins on Monday and will run until Thanksgiving. Donations of dry dog and cat food, cans of tuna, Easy Cheese, and wet cat food are requested. Students can bring their donations to school and place them in the donations boxes we have set up around campus.

Thank you for your support of our student leaders and the Austin Humane Society!

International School of Texas

Austin HUMANE SOCIETY

IST'S MANDELA HOUSE PRESENTS

### PET FOOD DRIVE

TO BENEFIT THE AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Please bring donations of:

- HEB Heritage Ranch dry dog & cat food
- Cans of tuna fish
- Tubs of peanut butter
- Easy cheese
- Wet cat food (pate form)

This drive will run from now until Thanksgiving, when we deliver the food to the Austin Humane Society!  
The animals say thank you!

# COFFEE WITH THE HEAD OF SCHOOL: ZOOM TOUR OF MYP CAMPUS IN BEE CAVE!

From collaboration spaces and fresh air to a putt putt course, IST's MYP students are thoroughly enjoying their new home campus this year! Join me on Friday, 11/13 at 9 AM for a special Coffee with the Head of School where I give a virtual tour of the MYP campus!

I know many of you are curious about the Bee Cave campus and eager to see inside -- this is the perfect opportunity! See you on Friday!



## IT'S TIME FOR BOOK FAIR!

One thing I know is how much Trailblazers (and their parents) love to read! So, mark your calendars for our Fall 2020 Virtual Book Fair!

We are partnering with Barefoot and Usborne to bring IST families a fantastic selection of books for everyone (and remember, the holidays are coming!) A percentage of each book sold will come back to IST and be used to purchase more books for our library!

**PYP Book Fair is the week of 11/9-13!**  
**MYP Book Fair is the week of 11/16-20!**

**Stay tuned for the links to the special IST online book fair!**



## MYP PICTURE DAY IS COMING!



MYP students, get ready to look sharp and smile for the camera! Your picture day is **Monday, November 16.**

Parents, you can preorder your pictures at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) with this code: **EVTBTGHMZ**

If you have any questions regarding Picture Day, please email Andrea Clark at [a.clark@istexas.org](mailto:a.clark@istexas.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**November 9-13:**  
**PYP Online Book Fair**

**November 13, 9-10 AM:**  
**Coffee with the Head of School:**  
**Virtual Bee Cave Campus Tour**

**November 16:**  
**MYP Picture Day**

**November 16-20:**  
**MYP Online Book Fair**

**November 20, 9-10 AM:**  
**Parent Workshop: Simplify the Season with Katie Malinski**  
*(This workshop was originally scheduled for 11/13, but has been rescheduled.)*

**November 25-27:**  
**Thanksgiving Break**