

# THE FRIDAY LETTER

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



## HELLO, IST FAMILIES!

I hope you have all had a wonderful week! Our week was action-packed, and started with wonderful presentations from our MYP students as they led our Monday Morning Assembly. First, our MYP Student Council presented their incredible action projects! I am happy to report that our MYP students will be busy organizing school gardens, providing assistance to people in need, and brainstorming ways IST students can help understand their responsibility to work together to keep their school environment clean and organized.

We also enjoyed a special presentation from James Wattles and his dad, who discussed their family's history of military service and shared their personal experiences in honor of Veteran' Day. Thank you for your service, Mr. Wattles!

We learned about Diwali from Ishaan, Kishan, Sarina and Nethra, as they led our Diwali Culture Club with stories about how they celebrate this wonderful holiday.

Thanks to our outstanding MYP students for a jam-packed assembly to kick start a great week! I hope everyone has a safe and happy weekend!

*Sincerely,  
Tim!*



# PYP UPPER SCHOOL CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MANDARIN

Our G3 students have been working hard on their speaking and reading in Mandarin. While exploring their unit on "How We Organize Ourselves," our G3 students have been working on a project where they designed their perfect school.

After the design process, students labeled the various classrooms and areas in and around their campus. Most had swimming pools, so I think they were hinting that they would like a pool on our new campus! Once their designs were complete, they presented (in Mandarin, of course!) their designs to the class. I think we have some budding architects on our hands! Great job, Grade 3!



# MYP CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MYP MUSIC

Students in our middle school have been busy improving their rhythm and bucket drumming technique with some instrumental lessons. Aside from learning how to play songs while bucket drumming, they had an opportunity to explore studying drumming found within different cultures.

The students also participated in learning how to read music and composing, which helped them create an original song! Students worked in pairs and small collaborative groups to create music together that coincided with asking the million-dollar question, "What is Music?" Their impromptu concerts at our Bee Cave campus have been a joy to watch!



# PARENT WORKSHOP WITH KATIE MALINSKI: SIMPLIFY THE SEASON

Please join us this Friday, 11/20, for a relaxed and informative workshop with our friend, Katie Malinski. This workshop, entitled "Simplify the Season," will focus on clarifying and refocusing your values and priorities and how they can make the holidays more memorable, rejuvenating, and rewarding.

Together, we will identify a few steps we can take to reduce the stress and spending of the season, in order to focus on the spirit of the holidays.

Please join us on Friday, November 20 from 9:00-10:00 in my Zoom room for what's sure to be a great event!

# IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN!



Our annual giving campaign, which raises awareness of and money for the IST Trailblazer Fund, kicks off next week! You'll see colorful banners going up on both campuses and will be receiving a letter in the mail with additional information. Stay tuned to see what else we have in store!

**International School of Texas**  
An IB World School

**Parent Workshop:  
Simplify the Season  
with Katie Malinski, LCSW-S**

The holiday season can be a stressful time for all of us, particularly parents! The pressures we feel during the holidays can distract us from the true joy of the season and the things we hold dear. In this relaxed, conversational setting, let's chat with Katie Malinski about ways to recapture what we love about the holiday season while reducing some of that holiday stress! Grab your coffee (or cocoa!) and join us for this helpful chat!

**Friday, 11/20  
9-10 AM  
via Zoom**

This private event for IST families is generously sponsored by the Trailblazer Parent League



# Volunteer for Culture Club!

**We are always on the lookout for students and parents to lead a session of Culture Club! Join us during Monday Assembly to share information about your culture, religion, or heritage! As we honor our traditions as a community, we can learn and share together!**

**Questions? Email me at [t.reilly@istexas.org](mailto:t.reilly@istexas.org)!**



## PYP SERVICE PROJECT: PET FOOD DRIVE FOR AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY

We've had a great week of gathering cat food, dog food, Easy Cheese, and tuna as part of our first service project of the year! Our Mandela House leaders have organized this pet food drive to benefit the Austin Humane Society!

We will gather donations until Tuesday, 11/24 (last day before Thanksgiving break). Kudos to our student leaders and thanks to everyone who has donated so far!



## MYP BOOK FAIR & PICTURE DAY

Next week is a big week for our MYP students! On Monday, they will have their school picture taken, so please have them come to school camera ready!

We are also delighted to kick off the MYP Virtual Book Fair on Monday! We have partnered 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!

Mr. Odom will send a reminder and all ordering details on Monday. If you have any questions about the book fair, please email Mr. Odom at [t.odom@istexas.org](mailto:t.odom@istexas.org).

## THANKS FOR ZOOMING INTO THE IST MYP TODAY!

I want to thank all of the parents that joined me this morning for Coffee with the Head of School! Today's Zoom was special, as I hosted a virtual tour of IST's new middle school campus in Bee Cave!

We are so proud of this campus and of the hard work and amazing learning that our MYP students are doing. It was a delight to share an inside look with all of you and I appreciate your thoughtful questions! For those of you who weren't able to attend, we will host another tour soon!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**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**

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

