

THE ISA TIMES



BRINGING YOU A MONTHLY INSIGHT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ALTDORF

APRIL 2023

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 1 DAY

ISA CELEBRATES ITS FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL DAY



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AROUND THE WORLD IN 1 DAY

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By Jackson Izsa

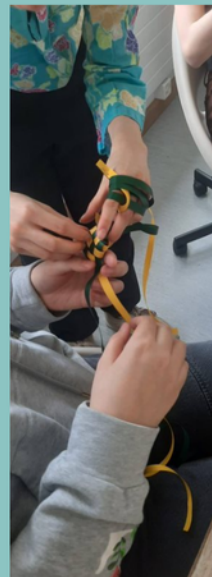


being served during International Day, such as a Ukrainian borsch, Chinese Kung Pao chicken, Malaysian roti canai with curry sauce, and Polish spring rolls.

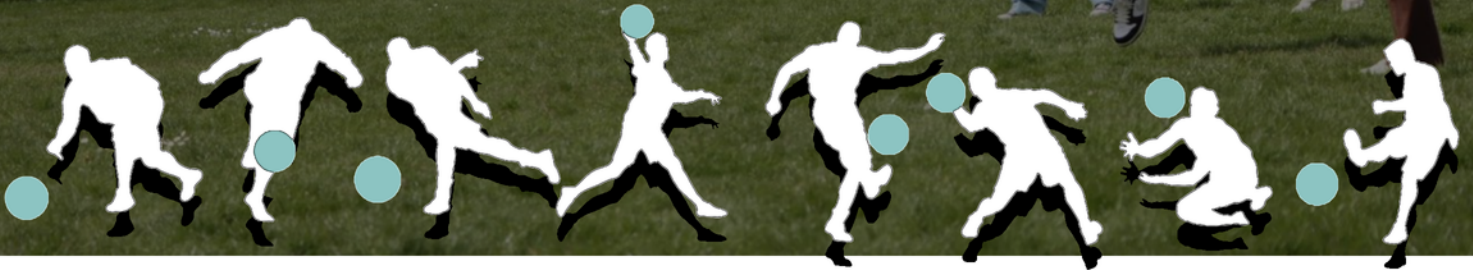


On Friday, April 14th 2023, a diverse group of students – Qixiang Sun, Oliwia Smolinska, Zoe Langford, Kirsten Lai, Jackson Izsa, Daryna Paterylo, Anton Zbukariev, and Volodymyr Skuratovych – organized a day event to spread international culture, including five activities from each nationality, celebrating cultures from across the globe.

International Day, initiated by Qixiang Sun, gave ISA the chance to learn more about the many cultures which can be found throughout the school. A number of tasty meals were selected by the group to enhance the experience of demonstrating the diverse cultures of the students at ISA. In addition to the selected meals, five exciting activities were chosen to represent the nationalities of each member within the International Day committee. They organized and hosted a Malaysian weaving activity, a traditional Polish dancing tutorial, a Ukrainian egg painting session, and a game of Pictionary to finish off the day. Several delicious traditional foods were also



KICKIN' IT BRINGING AMERICA TO SWITZERLAND



One of these exciting activities planned for the 14th was kickball.

Kickball is an American activity dedicated to representing the small yet proud American population of ISA. Kickball is performed with similar rules to the American sport known as baseball; However, kickball was chosen as the signature activity to represent America due to its surprisingly unknown status amongst the ISA community, as well as its prominence within the facet of physical activity in the United States of America. Below are the steps to playing a traditional game of kickball:

- Two teams are assembled, with one team kicking first. The kicking team will stand at the home plate, awaiting the incoming roll from the opposing team.
- The goal of the kicking team is to make it to each base, then to run back to the home plate to score a point for their team.
- Once the kicking team kicks the ball, they must run to the first plate, which is positioned to the right of the home plate, otherwise known as 1st base.
- Once the kicker has made it to 1st base, the next teammate of the kicking team will step up to the home plate and kick the ball.



- Once the kicker kicks the ball, they must run to 1st base while the teammate who was on 1st base runs to 2nd base.
- After both teammates are positioned on 1st and 2nd base, the 3rd member of the kicking team will stand at the home plate, ready to kick the ball.
- Once the 3rd player kicks the ball, they must run to 1st base while the teammates who were positioned on 1st and 2nd base run to 2nd and 3rd base respectively.
- The 4th player on the kicking team will follow the same process as the previous three teammates, but this time, the goal of the 1st kicker is to run back to the home plate, thus scoring a point for their team.
- Once all the players on the kicking team have had a turn at kicking the ball, they will swap positions with the pitching team

Note: A kicking player can be struck out of the game if a player on the pitching team catches the ball before it hits the ground after the player kicked it, or if the pitching team gets a hold of the ball before the player can arrive at the plate which they are running to.





LOCARNO

A TRIP FOR PIZZA, ICE CREAM, SUNSHINE, AND SIGHTS TO DIE FOR

By Eindra Thiri Kyaw



Locarno, known as the "Sunshine of Switzerland" located in the canton of Ticino, is a popular place to visit, especially during springtime. The month of April was the perfect time to get away from Altdorf's constant cold temperatures! A day trip to Locarno on the 2nd of April, with 5 students attending, was organized

by the school and began at around 8 am, where they took the train to Locarno. They first visited Piazza Grande, one of the city's main attractions, and strolled through the boulevards of the town's centre. Later on, a cruise ship took them across Lake Maggiore to Ascona, a small town nearby with wonderful displays of architectural masterpieces. After that, they enjoyed a splendid lunch at one of the lakeside restaurants serving all kinds of pizzas. When every last piece of pizza crust had been devoured, they took a stroll overlooking the view of the beautiful lake and hills of the region. As hours had passed, the final place to visit was the Madonna del Sasso, where a funicular transported us up to visit the Catholic church and view the city from above. After a long day of sightseeing and enjoying the warm climate, the day excursion concluded at 8pm, by which the students had already begun their trip home.





PERSONAL PROJECTS FOR PERSONAL PASSIONS

MYP5 STUDENTS EXHIBIT THEIR PERSONAL PROJECTS AFTER MONTHS OF HARDWORK

By Eli Eronat

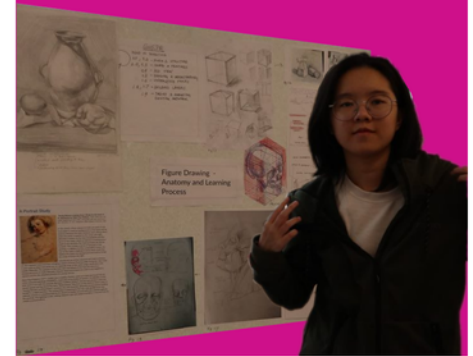
Early in April on the 3rd, to display the personal projects of our MYP5 students, the school conducted an educational exhibition with every student presenting their project in one classroom. The individuality of each project was evident through its unique style and approach. Our projects taught us how to be creative, as well as how to conduct effective research and manage our time well. Additionally, this exhibition conveyed each students' critical thinking and communication abilities, which will be the key to success in their future academic endeavours and professions. The students' personal projects showcased an impressive level of commitment and involvement that made our teachers proud. Students benefited greatly from presenting their knowledge at the exhibition, and then receiving valuable feedback from their fellow peers. There was both constructive criticism and a lot of compliments from the students and teachers, which in turn, also helped them reflect on their skill development and overall result of their projects. The students' intellectual capabilities and



growth was excellently demonstrated during this personal project exhibition! Conclusively, the exhibition showcased how much creativity and critical thinking skills the students had acquired during the making of their projects and their MYP journey.



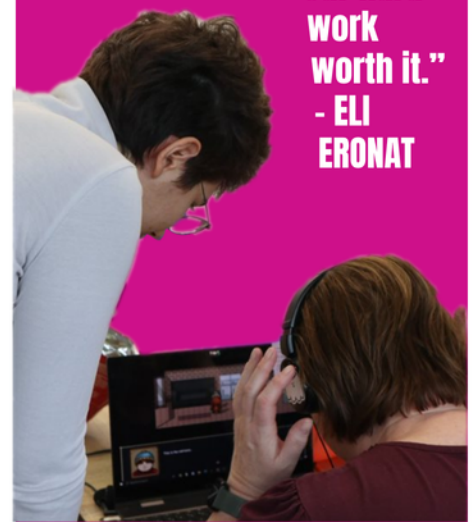
"Many different projects and takes on personal interests- it was fun to present mine as well as see what my classmates have learned. The teachers' questions gave me a lot to think about after." - EINDRA KYAW



"I think it went great and I got to explain a lot of important stuff for my project."
- IMAN STRAUB



"I think this was a great learning experience, after working hard and long for our projects we got to see what our teachers and other students thought about them and I think that made our hard work worth it."
- ELI ERONAT



PROJECT SUN BEAR

By Kirsten Lai

From the end of 2022 to the beginning of 2023, I have been pursuing my ambitions to initiate a fundraiser for the Sun Bears through a collaboration with the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Candle Pit Stop.

Over the past few months, I decided to initiate my own project to help raise awareness and funds for a cause very close to my heart, the Malaysian Sun Bears. Back in 2019, during a trip to Borneo, I managed to visit the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, where I learnt about how their species were being heavily affected by the devastating actions of mankind. BSBCC was a leading pioneer in saving these endangered species, and I wished to support their efforts whilst contributing my own. So, during the Summer of 2022, I decided to take action, planning my next steps to assist this significant species of bears. After hours of brainstorming and researching, I formulated an idea as to how I could do my part.

With Christmas just around the corner, I figured it would be a great opportunity to be a part of that giving spirit. Altdorf hosts a yearly Christmas market in the centre of town with stalls selling a variety of goods, from food, to drinks, to crafts, to even furniture. I saw this as an amazing place to reach a larger audience from young to old and to connect with the



KIRSTEN LAI FUNDRAISES FOR THE MALAYSIAN SUN BEARS

local community. After deciding that this would be the perfect occasion, I prepared a presentation for an idea pitch to the Municipality of Altdorf. Even as I was registering late, I was successfully granted a booth at their market in support of my initiative.

It was time to start preparing! It was a busy month of emails, text messages, and meetings between my supervisors, BSBCC, CPS, and myself, but in the end, it all came together. On the 16th of December, the moment I had been waiting for finally arrived. Anxious yet excited, at 11.30pm I made my way to the town's centre and began setting up my booth. Throughout the entire event, I met with incredible people who showed intense interest in my project, and by the end of the day at 9pm, I concluded with a big smile on my face!



Not long after this first fundraiser, I had been offered a recurring place in their Spring Market in April to continue my efforts in helping the Sun Bears; It was amazing to hear that the community of Altdorf wanted to further help support my initiative. This spring market fundraiser on the 20th of April was just as successful as the last with more minds becoming more aware of the Sun Bears. Many had never heard of this bear species prior to visiting my booth, and I think, with the weather warming up, more people managed to linger around longer to hear about them. Even with the new set up and addition of some new products, my purpose and my passion remained as strong as it was in the beginning.



LIFE OF A DP2: WHAT WE DO

By Ana Minc

On the 26th of April, I conducted an interview with one of our DP2 students, Shitong Zuo (Teresa), as her final exams quickly approached. Let's have a quick dive into the life of a graduating high-school student at the International School of Aldorf.

Q: What subjects are you taking?

A: I am taking four HL subjects and two SL subjects: Physics, math AA, English B and Economics HL and Chinese A and Psychology SL



Q: How have you been preparing for your exams?

A: The way I have been preparing for my final exams is by reviewing vocabulary words that are essential to understand the questions on the exams, and I have practiced past papers to have a better understanding on how the exam will work, or how to answer the questions more efficiently

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: My plans for after the final exams is to take a gap year instead of going straight to university. As I am a professional table tennis player, my plan during the gap year is to play some table tennis open tournaments, to keep working on my non-profit project "deep secret", and to try more sports and activities.

Q: How do you feel about graduating?

A: I feel like everything is moving too fast with graduating coming up so soon. I feel a lot of pressure to succeed in my final exams, and am anxious about future life after school as it's going to change a lot. At the same time, I also feel sad that I will not be able to see my friends everyday anymore.



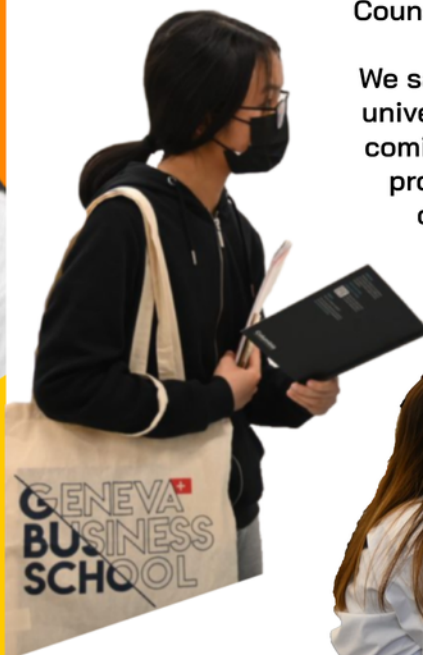
CONNECTING FOR CAREERS

ISA'S FIRST UNIVERSITY FAIR

By Carla Zehnder & Eli Eronat

On Thursday, April 20th 2023, an exciting event took place at our school as we hosted our first ever University Fair organized by our Director of University Counselling, John Blake.

We saw a diverse range of universities from across the world coming together to present their programs to our students. Some of our students served as ambassadors, welcoming the representatives to the event, and ensuring



their comfort. Our students, as well as students from other schools, attended this event to learn about these universities and make connection for the future. This event was extremely beneficial to all the students' futures, particularly the DP1 and DP2 students for the coming years.



ZUMUN

ISA'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB ATTENDS ANNUAL ZUMUN CONFERENCE

By Kirsten Lai

From the 27th to the 30th of April, our school's Model United Nations (MUN) club, a group of 6 students: Kirsten Lai, Isabela Santan, Fisher Robbins, Ivan Levin, Volodymyr Skuratovych, and Bella Preap, along with Mr. Nicola, attended this year's annual Zurich Model United Nations Conference (ZuMUN) organized by the University of Zurich itself. From the high-school committee, our student representatives were split across two different



sectors, some in the World Health Organization (WHO), and the others in The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Within their committees, they discussed and debated on topics ranging from the concern of AI development, to the pressing controversy on abortions amongst delegates from across the world.

On the day of arrival, Thursday was mainly dedicated to participant registrations, settling down, and most importantly, the official opening ceremony. As students, supervisors, and organizers gathered around the grand entrance of UTH, you could see expressions of excitement mixed with nervousness. Our 6 students and 1 supervisor too made their way up the spiralling staircases to register their places. Upon entering the room, they were warmly greeted with a goody bag and their name tags by the organizers.



Our own student ambassadors felt the event was great and many loved speaking to each prospective university. Students found the event to be very fascinating and instructive, and they were able to ask all their questions regarding offered programs, the school in general, or how the curriculum worked. The representatives were impressed with the students' insightful and thoughtful questions, and the fair was an incredible experience for everyone involved, leaving a positive impression on all attendees.



After being briefed about the numerous events which would unravel over the course of the next few days, they departed the building and headed to their accommodations to get ready. At around 3pm, they were once again on the move, heading towards the Rathaus, where the opening ceremony was about to take place. Following the formal introduction of the conference made by the head organizers, we heard from a special guest speaker discussing the progression of AI in society, commencing the start of ZuMUN 2023.

The next day, delegates arrived early in the morning at 9am at their designated committee rooms, where they would spend the next 3 days debating common issues. Whilst Kirsten, Isabela, Bella, and Volodymyr were assigned to UNESCO, Fisher and Ivan were separated into the WHO committee. There, they began with informal, personal introductions from their chairs and other fellow delegates to loosen up the atmosphere. After about an hour of getting to know one another, it was time to open the debate. With the motion to 'set the agenda' raised, both committees officially entered into the MUN mood. They spent the first half of the morning mainly stating each country's position, and some even managed to move onto





narrowed down discussions on specific aspects. By the second half after lunch, many had identified the topics which wreaked of heated controversy and buckled down on them. It was not until 5:30pm that delegates were released to enjoy the city before the nightly social began. Our students in particular gathered together and headed out for a nice meal in the city centre. As the clock struck 7pm, all participants arrived at the ETH building for this night's social, 'Night in Beirut'. With Lebanese cuisine served, and a belly-dancing performance, they were certainly transported to a whole different continent.

As we progressed into the second day of the conference, many of the previous anxious or shy feelings felt had dissipated. Many delegates began gaining more confidence and urged themselves to fire up more heated arguments. It was incredible to see our own delegates taking on the role of their country

and really expressing its viewpoints through their speeches. On this day, committees aimed to close the debate on the first topic to then proceed with the second one. With all delegates working hard on submitting their well formatted resolutions, both committees progressed into the second topic by the second half of the day's session. Around 7 hours later, with brains fully exhausted, this night's social event was themed, 'Roaring Twenties'. As participants entered the building, a giant disco ball spun from the ceiling and speakers blasted iconic hits from the past. Lining the hall were also tiers of cupcakes and iced cake decorated with gold and black embellishes. Truly a trip to the past!

9am the next day was a day of completing the conference as a whole. Even as delegates arrived still jamming to the previous night's music, they quickly reformed their groups and resumed working on their final paper. Whilst WHO had concluded their committee session earlier, passing 2 successful resolutions, the UNESCO committee had some back and forth between its delegates. Tension flooded the room as countries fought to imprint their own ideas onto others, but thankfully, not too long after, they too had passed their second resolution. With all the committees wrapping up, delegates packed up and headed down to the hall where the closing ceremony was to take place. Tears swelled in everyone's eyes as this amazing experience came to an end. We certainly see some future leaders emerging from our beloved MUN club.



GOT A STORY? SUBMIT IT TO OUR NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE AND SEE IT FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S EDITION

EMAIL: kirsten.lai@lisa.swiss
