

International School of Kraków

News Brief

19 November
2021



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Upcoming Events and Reminders

- November 23rd : Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 23rd : Deadline to donate to student-led food drive /Last game of the ISK Volleyball Tournament
- November 29th : Elementary Assembly
- December 4th : SAT Test
- December 9th : December 9: Winter Show Dress Rehearsal for Grades 0, 1 & 2
- December 10th : Winter Show Performance by Grades 0, 1 & 2
- December 11th/12th : Delivery packages to families in action "Szlachetna Paczka "
- December 18th to January 3rd: Winter Break



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From the Director

Perception Study

Thank you to everyone who participated in the perception study with our H2H Consultants. It was an important effort for us in ensuring we can take into consideration the views of students, staff and parents and your input through the surveys and focus groups will help us in our efforts to understand the needs of our community as we plan forward.

H2H are now processing the data and conducting follow up interviews. Once they have finished their analysis they will be sharing their observations and conclusions with us. The Board and Senior Leadership team will then be including this study as part of our accreditation and strategic planning work, as we plan for ISK's short, medium, and long term success.

Covid-19 Survey

Prior to the Break we also asked for input regarding the pandemic and the school's efforts to keep us safely open. We received responses from 113 Parents and 55 staff members.

It is nice to know that while the concerns have risen, especially with regards to the Pandemic (Parents, 2.6/5; Staff, 2.6/5), we do still feel we are not at high risk, especially in school (Parents, 2.35; Staff, 2.25/5).

It is also important to note that our reported vaccination levels continue to be well above the averages for Poland. This is fundamental, as major health organizations continue to promote vaccinations as a key factor in limiting transmission, mitigating symptoms, preventing the evolution of new variants and bringing an end to the Pandemic.

Staff: 90.9%

Parents: 92.9%

Students (overall): 41.4%

Students (over 12): 77.9%

Mask use and hygiene protocols remain the other key factors. While masks are a precaution we would all be happy to move past, they remain important. Fortunately, while we may not like them, we have gotten used to them, and survey comments show an understanding for their importance. Only 6.2% of parents report their children as fighting against masks, while 77.9% report little or no complaint.

Teachers similarly responded with only 2.3% reporting students fighting wearing masks, 61.4% offering little or no complaint and another 27.3% seeming to tolerate them.

Again, thank you for your feedback and for the constructive comments that were shared by both Parents and Staff. We continue to take all of the feedback we receive into consideration, and remain positive regarding our ability to continue on site and healthy.



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Early Years Updates



LTH HALLOWEEN THEME

THE SLUGS
WERE
COOKING
EXPERIMENTING

LTH
HAD
A
BLAST!

CREATING
BUILDING
AND
INVENTING

Sp Adobe Spark



Grade 0 celebrated Halloween by visiting an exhibition about spiders.

We saw more than 80 different species of spiders including a black widow and a Goliath tarantula.

Elementary Updates



Early Years and Grade 0 students went on a field trip to a glass ornament factory recently. The children not only learned about the process of making Christmas tree ornaments but also decorated their own baubles. Holiday spirit, acrylic paint, and lots and lots of glitters were spread everywhere!

Anna Niton



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Elementary Updates

G 1 Field trip

We visited the Coniraya Equestrian Center. We learned all about camels, llamas, alpacas, and horses. Students got to feed and pet the alpacas. We also got to learn about the different kinds of fur these animals produce. Students created artwork using the different kinds of fur to keep as a souvenir.

Maret Tindal



Assembly

Grade 1 taught the elementary school about how to be a thinker. Being a thinker is using critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. Thinkers also exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions. Following the presentation, students worked together with their homeroom to solve clues on a scavenger hunt around campus

Maret Tindal

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Elementary Updates

On Friday, October 29, the elementary classes enjoyed Halloween activities, games and food. In the afternoon ISK had the annual costume parade around the outside of the school, showing off many fun and creative costumes!

The Middle School Halloween Dance was a fun event for the students, and they enjoyed the costumes, music and friends!

Karen Baker



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Elementary Updates

Grade 3 went on their first field trip this year to Zalew Zakrzówek, a local water reservoir that was once a limestone quarry. A guide from EduTatry in Zakopane met the class at Zalew Zakrzówek and led them through activities that related to the different land forms and features around the quarry.

Students explored a cave, found fossils of sponges, learned about the layers and names of rocks, as well as making their own class fossil.

This was exciting for students because they had just finished their first science unit that included lessons about animal fossils. The EduTatry guide then had students turn Earth's existence into a timeline using number lines, which related well to grade 3 math strategies. Many grade 3 parents showed their support by attending the field trip and exploring Zalew Zakrzówek with the class.

Grade 3 thoroughly enjoyed their trip and is looking forward to the next field trip!

Kirsten Hudgens



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Secondary Updates



The Grade 7 Social Studies class just completed a unit on Medieval Europe.

We presented an adapted version of Geoffrey Chaucer's "Wife of Bath" from "The Canterbury Tales."

Everyone chose their parts and cooperated beautifully to create two performances: one for a group of students and then another for their parents. Written between 1387 and 1400, Chaucer planned on writing 100 stories but he only completed 24 by the time he died.

A group of pilgrims are traveling to Canterbury Cathedral and to pass the time they compete in a storytelling contest. It was exciting to have live theater again at ISK!



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Secondary Updates

On October 29th, 2021 High School students met with Eva Schloss, the Holocaust survivor. Eva Schloss was born in Austria. In 1944 her family was captured and transported to Auschwitz. Her father and brother didn't survive the war. After the war Eva Schloss lived in Amsterdam and then she moved to England where she settled and took British citizenship.

During the meeting Mrs Schloss told us her touching story and then she answered questions asked by our students. It was a beautiful and interesting meeting.

Katarzyna Tymczak



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Secondary Updates

Last week 9th and 10th grade students of ISK went on a day-long trip to visit Auschwitz. We took a tour around both Birkenau and Auschwitz, where we had a close look on the terrible past. The trip was very emotional, many students were mourning the victims of the Nazi concentration camps. Post visit we had a class discussion, where we shared our feelings and the overall experience.

Roza Ostrogorska



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Secondary Updates

On Thursday October 28th, Ms. Kessel, Ms. Anna and the 9th grade Art Class had a field trip to the Czartoryski Museum to view the traditional portraiture, most importantly viewing da Vinci's Lady with an Ermine.

After which, the class enjoyed lunch and drawing in the city center.

9th graders have been studying traditional portraiture during their Identity unit in Visual Art, and the museum visit was able to bring this topic to life for us all.

Margaret Kessel



Cross Country races have a big impact on the student body. These races apply to the large demographic of students who are passionate about running.

Due to covid, ISK has not been able to host large races that include the multiple International schools over Poland, so they have resorted to creating a virtual race that makes it possible for other schools to participate.

On October 27, 2021, Students ran a total of 9 kilometers around the school. This consisted of Middle schoolers running 5 laps and high school student running 10.

Ephisine Diennet



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After School Activities

A keen observer may have spotted students walking around the school on Tuesday afternoons, carrying shoe boxes, setting them up, and freezing for 5-10 minutes at a time. Well, those are not just about any shoe boxes. In the Photo Club we had turned these boxes into pinhole cameras. Admittedly, pics taken with a digital camera have better details and color but there's no match to the excitement as we watch an image slowly appear on a print in a chemical bath in the darkroom.

We were even able to take a photo of ourselves!

Radek Brzozowski



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After School Activities

Cooking:) Yummy club:)

How's our Cooking Club right now?

We are in the middle of pumpkin season! It's an absolutely magical time of the year when we prepare pumpkin gnocchis, cookies, cakes, pasta and soups with a lot of autumnal spices.

We mostly use graham flour and honey instead of plain all purpose wheat flour and white sugar, try to season our meals up with rose petals, dried fruits, lavender and some nuts & seeds. Cooking students are doing better and better with important basic skills such as using sharp knives, graters, frying pans and hot pots. What's next then?

Halloween sweet treats, apples season and of course one and only, the most wonderful winter time: Christmas Cooking - with preparing gingerbreads, baking some Xmas treats and learning how to make a real Christmas Feast

Joanna Mentel- ASA instructor



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ISK Community/New Team Member

Hello ISK!

My name is Magda Marchwica, and I've recently joined ISK as the Medical Coordinator/School Nurse! I am really excited to start this new role and get to know everyone.

Here is a little bit about me. I was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. I attended the University of Ottawa where I studied Nursing and began working at a large children's hospital. However, I was looking for a new challenge and the opportunity to live in Poland presented itself, so I decided to move to Krakow.

I love spending time outdoors, going camping, hiking and skiing in the winter. I really enjoy travelling and visiting new places. I also have a fluffy Persian cat who is joining me here in Krakow.

Please come by anytime to say hi !



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Did You Know?
How we help?



**Lubię
ludzi**

For the past 13 years, ISK has participated in a Polish initiative called, Szlachetna Paczka. This is a program that works to assist Polish families in need. The school 'adopts' several families each year and we collect all sorts of things for them - from rice and flour to beds and washing machines. Homeroom teachers in EY and ES will be getting a large box from the guards for the items that students bring to school. There will be two boxes in the MS Commons and two near the flags for Secondary School items brought in. If Secondary Homeroom Teachers could ask for student volunteers that would be great. They can get in touch with me to figure out how they can best help.

We chose three families this year and will only have two and a half weeks to get all the items collected, packed, and eventually delivered to the drop-off points. Here are the families we will be helping this year:

LTH Family

Elementary Family

Secondary Family

Every year we have many staff members who help us with all the organizing. It would be great to identify those staff members willing to help organize things during the drive as soon as possible in order to be clear what exactly will be done and by whom. Here are some of the things that need to be done:

Check classrooms regularly for donations and keep track of what we have and what we still need

Organize donations and pack and label boxes in the hallway between the library and MPR

Possibly doing some shopping to pick up some of the items we haven't collected (money from donations, not your pocket)

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Library

The Polish government declared 2021 the "Year of Stanislaw Lem" in honor of his 100th birthday. He was born in Lwow (now Lviv) and died in Krakow in 2006. He is best known for his science fiction books and we just happen to have several in the library in both Polish and English so if you're a fan of other worlds come grab a Lem and take a journey with him!

Lori Wallett



Helping . . .

Bank Żywności
w Krakowie



This year our school joined the CEESA Expand Your Impact Challenge. HS and MS students had a chance to choose one problem from all of the 17 problems that were provided. The topic that interested us the most was Zero Hunger. Along with our new friends from Russia and Azerbaijan we created a goal for this school year. To help fight hunger around us, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. This may sound almost Impossible but we're taking it one step at a time.

In the last weeks, we have visited grades 6,7 and 8 advisory groups and have presented our food bank idea to them. As of November 10th 2021, we will be setting up a station next to the front desk where everyone will be able to bring and donate food. Everything that we gather is going to go to Bank Żywnosc w Krakowie, a well-trusted foundation in our area. You'll be able to donate Until November 23rd 2021 which is the last day that we'll be taking in donations. We really hope that everyone gets involved and below is a list of foods that you can donate.

Klaudia B and Maria Z

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COVID-19 Update

As of Friday, Nov 12, the pandemic was continuing to escalate slowly. We remain with a slow increase in cases, and (as the image to the right shows) areas with high levels of vaccination are doing considerably better than those without. Comparisons in the data below are to the previous week.

7-Day Daily Case average: 14,176 (up 45.5%)

New Cases per 100k for 7 Days: 258 (up 45.8%)

Hospital Occupancy Rate: 68% (up 4%)

Test Positivity rate: 21.5% (up 3.9%)

Percent Vaccinated in Poland (53.01%)

ISK Reported Cases:

Staff: 2

Students: 2

Parents: 0

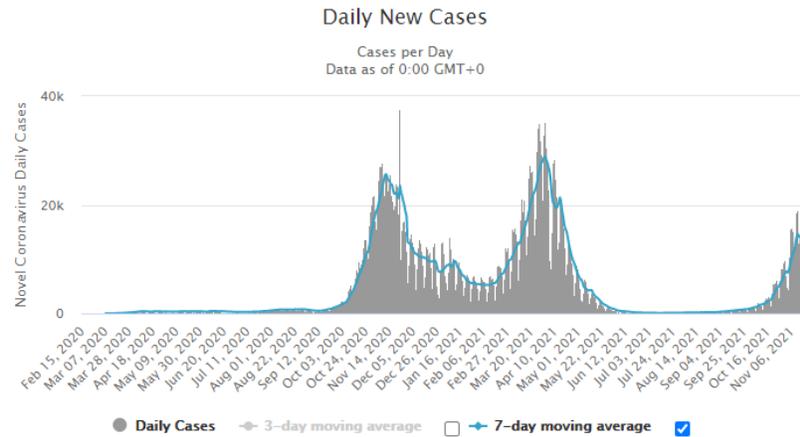
We remain at a Medium Mitigation level.

The Medium mitigation level means:

- Instruction can continue to be carried out normally at school
- Hygiene protocols and distancing remain in place
- Masks will continue to be in use in classes, all indoor areas, and in transportation by grades 1 and up. Masks are not required outdoors.
- Cohort controls remain in place
- After School Activities continue as planned
- Events with parents who are fully vaccinated, recovered, or with a recent negative test may take place

Cafeteria open with protocols and by cohorts

Daily New Cases in Poland



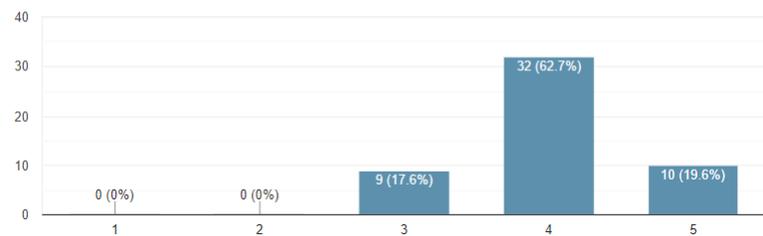
How is your child (are your children) doing with wearing masks in class still?

113 responses



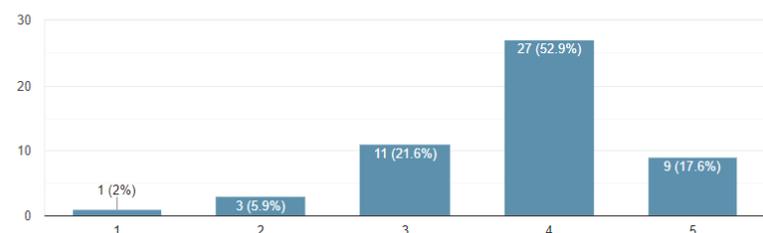
How do you feel the students are doing adjusting to being at school ACADEMICALLY?

51 responses



How do you feel the students are doing adjusting to being at school SOCIALLY/EMOTIONALLY?

51 responses



ISK PTA PRESENTS

Holiday Market & Family Day



Handmade Items for Sale

Crafting Workshops

Holiday Photo Booth

Delicious Treats

Nov.27,2021

13.00-16.00

ISK