

January and February Newsletter



Futuraskolan International
School of Stockholm

January and February News

Hello Futuraskolan International School Community!

With February comes the longer days, the shining sun.... And Sports Break! January and February also bring many special days and activities at school:

- [IPC](#) and [IMYC](#) Videos which celebrate our school community, learners, and staff have been released!
- ACER and MAP testing
- High School Applications
- Sports Day and Romme Alpin
- SPTs
- Mother Tongue Language celebrations
- Entry and Exit Points
- Valentine's Day
- ... and more

The business and busy-ness of being school is slowly returning to 'normal' as restrictions in Sweden are lessened. With that said, we encourage you to keep your learners home if they are ill and we look forward to inviting you into school again!



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Mother Tongue Language Celebration

It is so important that children have a strong foundation (including literacy skills) in their mother tongues! **The research is clear that children who have a strong foundation in their mother tongue (with a sizeable vocabulary) will be more knowledgeable about the world and will have an easier time at school learning in a second language.**

In February we are celebrating our linguistic diversity with Mother Tongue Month! Here are some of our Mother Tongue Month activities:



MS Students Created Projects on a Topic of Their Choice



Key Vocabulary Word Translations in IPC



Mother Tongue Lunches in Grades 4-5

Grade 1 Sensational

Our group of super scientists have been conducting experiments that test sight, sound, taste, hearing, and touch. Some experiments are loud and teach us about sound waves, others are sour as we test our taste buds.



Grade 2 Adventurers and Explorers



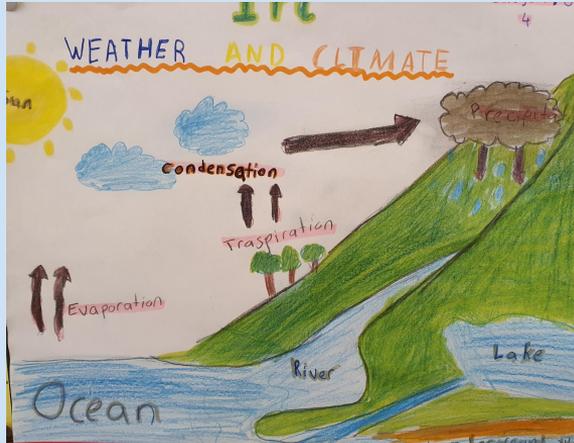
Grade two students use maps and timelines to help understand the impact that explorers and adventurers made when discovering new lands. They also learned how explorers found their way in a time before google maps.

Grade 3 Scavengers and Settlers

Where did our ancestors come from, and how have we changed from the bronze age to the age of ipads? Grade three investigates the clues that prehistoric civilizations left behind and create dioramas of what these civilizations could have looked like.



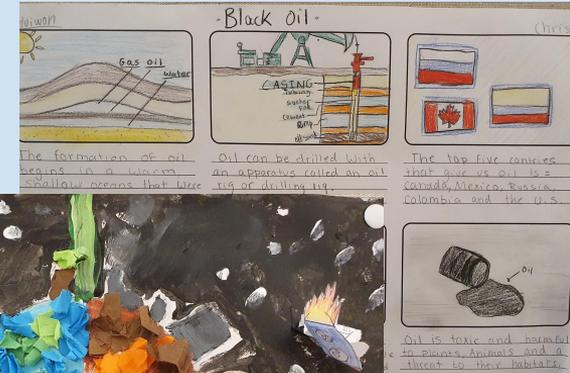
Grade 4 Weather and Climate



We can not control the weather, but the weather often controls us! It can decide what we wear, what we eat, where we live, and even how we feel. Grade four is learning about the features of different climates around the world, and how our lives are influenced by the weather around us. Students studied the water cycle and designed “dream” countries based on their climate preferences.

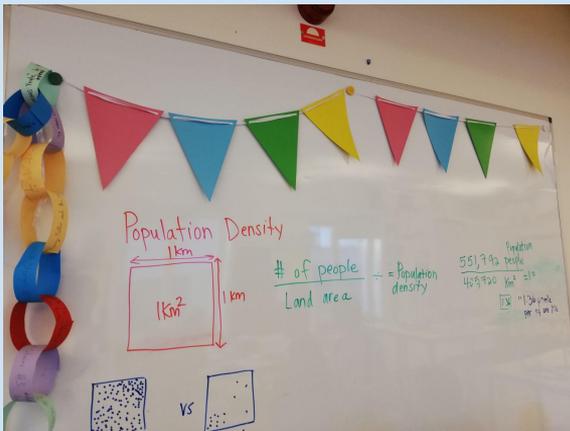
Grade 5 Climate Control

We only have one planet, how are we taking care of it? Grade five is studying how human consumption affects the planet and what we can do.



IMYC Learning - IMYC Units

Grade 6 - Adaptability



In Humanities, Grade 6 examined different settlement features, how people adapt to them, and specifically focused on population density.

Grade 7 - Curiosity

Grade 7 in English class worked in groups researching about sustainable travelling and created promotional posters.



Grade 8 - Challenge



In Art class, Grade 8 are using art principles to create posters addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Grade 9 Learning and High School News

Grade 9 Coordinator: Steve Zeff

Important High School Dates

Feb 15	1st round high school applications closed
Feb 26	IEGS IB entrance test (by invite)
Mar 8	ISSR IB entrance test (by invite)
Mar 17	Åva IB entrance test (by invite)
Mar 22/24	Swedish national tests
Apr 19	2nd round high school applications open
May 6	deadline for documents for us to upload
May 17	2nd round high school applications closed
early July	acceptances posted

[high school process presentation](#)

[IEGS presentation](#)

[Åva presentation](#)



Grade 9 visited KTH in January to do lab work relating to genetics and evolution with microscope investigations of mutant fruit flies and other interesting organisms.

Grade 9 Subject Learning and Discovery Project

Current / Upcoming Subject Topics

English - Poetry

Advanced Swedish - Swedish national test prep

Beginner Swedish - Verbs, grammar

French - Pronunciation, speaking and dialogue; future tense

Spanish - Regular and Irregular verbs, "At home and at school"

Humanities - Cold War, American Civil Rights Movement

Math - IB exam prep, geometry: transformations, lines, angles

Science - IBDP Biology topic project; fundamentals of Chemistry

Technology - 3D digital design

Physical Education - Agility and coordination drills

Art - Icon Portraits

Music - Group performance, solo performance

Community Exchange Program - Students are reminded that they need to fulfill 9 hours of community service this year.

Grade 9 Discovery Project

Students have consulted with their Project Supervisors to establish Success Criteria (4-7 project goals) and their Steps to Success (an action item plan on a timeline). Time in school is given for the project during Weeks 8 and 10 and other entry/exit point days, but students should be making good progress on their own. A second Supervisor meeting is to be held by March 11.

The Discovery Project is year-long individual project work where 9th graders develop a product or outcome related to a topic of interest. Objectives are to improve organizational and time management skills, reflective practices, personal engagement to their work, connection to global contexts and values as learners.

Good News!

Swedish

Grade 8: Arvid Dellham winner of "Skrivkampen" Rising Scholars Sweden

After first moving on from a regional round with ten judges, and then at national level selected by Peter Kardhammar – national judge, columnist at Aftonbladet, acclaimed author and winner of the Grand Journalist Award 2021 – has Arvid Dellham's text won Skrivkampen for grade 8 in Sweden.

"It is well written and concentrated and it leaves a lot of room for the reader's imagination. It gives me space as a reader to think further. What dream is so wonderful that the narrator is willing to risk his life for it? Is the damp basement an allegory for life? The wasteland outside the door? Who are the kidnappers?"

The story is short, but in this small space the author creates a whole world and gives thoughts that live on in the reader."

- Peter Kardhammar



Math

Sigma 8: NMCC Nordic Math Class Competition

Grade '8A' qualified for the Semifinals of Sigma 8, 2022. Harkirat Singh, Neville Bhinday, Srushti Mehra and Zara Nazari will represent the class for problem solving in KTH on 28th and 29th of April. The students will be competing with 9 municipal Schools from the whole of Sweden.

Pythagoras Quest: Sweden's largest team competition in mathematics

Harkirat Singh (8A), Arnav Limba (9B) and Rafael Corrocher (9B) qualified for the district level competition which will be held in Danderyd gymnasium on 9th March. The students will be competing with 6 other Schools in Stockholm.



Primary School Sports Day

Photos and Description can go here.

Winter Sports Day will be ice skating at Östermalms IP. We will depart school and walk over 12:00. We will depart Östermalms IP 14:30.

We will have regular classes in the morning and lunch will be eaten at school. Kids can bring a snack to have while we are at Östermalms IP.

Friday, February 25th Grades 3-5

Grades 1-2 was postponed until after Sportlov



Middle School Sports Day

Our students participated in a variety of activities. Grade 6 went rock climbing, grade 7 played badminton and tennis, grade 8 and 9 went ice-skating. On the same day, 50 of our students went on a ski trip to Romme Alpin.



Community Exchange

Community Exchange is a program we operate in our Middle School with the expectation of empowering our students to show initiative and demonstrate perseverance through voluntary service to others (individuals or groups) while develop skills such as collaboration, problem solving and decision making.

During our Academic Year, we expect students to complete the same number of hours as their Grade level (6,7,8 or 9). Students and families are welcome to facilitate their own opportunities. School opportunities will be presented to students during mentor time.

Ideas for your learner include, but are not limited to:

- Organizing a can or non-perishable food drive
- To read/work with younger learners during their break
- Work with Fritids before or after school
- Volunteering (safely) to walk a neighbors dog, visit and read at pre-school during holiday, etc...
- Contacting a teacher to support with extra work after school hours (lab clean up, art room inventory, re-shelving library books, tuning guitars, etc)



Global Citizenship Program

The **goals for our Global Citizenship Program (GCP)** are:

- 1) to promote a culture of global citizenship
- 2) to engage students with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- 3) to do fundraising for meaningful causes,
- 4) to develop partnerships, with other Futuraskolan schools, local aid agencies and other organizations,
- 5) to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills as future global leaders,
- 6) to celebrate global days, such as **Earth Day, April 22**, and **Brain Awareness Week, during Week 11**
- 7) to promote environmental and sustainability values

This year we are focusing on these two UN SDGs:
SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, and
SDG 13 Climate Action

Steve Zeff is our GCP Coordinator. Please feel free to contact him with any ideas you might have.

Crossroads Hygiene Drive

During the month of March, we are collecting feminine hygiene items in recognition of **International Women's Day (8 March)** to donate to Crossroads, a branch of Stockholms Stadsmission that helps immigrants in need. (Men's hygiene items are also welcome.) Please leave items in the marked bin near the main entrance. Your donations help people in need and are much appreciated!



coffee
AND
CONVERSATION



Our Coffee and Conversation with restart in March with a new list of dates for the Spring term.

We hope to see you there!!



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Drop Off Area

Please remember that the area in front of the school is a no parking area, if you drive your children to school please take advantage of one of the nearby side streets to park and drop off your children.



PTA News

One of the simplest ways of helping is to pay the annual contribution towards our PTA of just 250kr per family. You can be sure that your money will and is being put to good use!

One option is to make a transfer to our Handelsbanken bank account:

- Kontonummer 706 484 428 Kontor 6144
- Bank girornr: 152-2788

Please reference your child's name and class.

Through the years, the PTA have:

- contributed over 50000 kr to our school library
- purchased UN flags for UN Day
- operating UN culture and food stalls during UN Day
- donated the annual subscription for 'The Day' a news program used widely in the school
- purchased PE equipment
- purchased Music equipment
- decorated the school for different celebrations
- organized a yearly 'Teacher Appreciation Day' fika with gifts



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Fritids

The days have been short and cold but here in Fritids we kicked off our activities with a new theme - Winter Olympics. As the games got under way in Beijing, here at Futuraskolan International School of Stockholm fritids, we have had our own Olympics too. This theme will go on until the end of week 9. During this time we also celebrated Valentine's Day. Sports break is nearly upon us and the schedule is focusing on more sports orientated outings.

During this past month there have been some changes in the team. Ms. Maria who was the learning assistant in 1B moved on to a new challenge within the school. We wish her all the best in her new position. Ms Shilpa who was the learning assistant in 2B moved to 1B and in her place we have a new member of staff in the person of Ms. Lillia Glinning. We offer a warm welcome to Ms. Lillia as the newest member of the fritids team.

As we look forward to longer days and a change to a hopefully slightly warmer weather we will be starting our new theme after the sports break - 'Spring' with an Easter theme during week 15.



Important School Dates- Winter

Sports Break: Week 9 (*No School, Fritids open for those registered*)

PD/Study Day: 18/03 (*School Closed, Fritids Closed*)

Spring Break: Week 15 (11/04-18/04)

Red Day: 26/05 (and 27/05)

Red Day: 06/06

Last Day of Spring Term: 10/06 (8.30-11.00)
(*Fritids Closed*)

Nurse Dates

The nurse is in the school and meets with our students on Mondays.

7/3, 14/3, 21/3, 28/3, 4/4, 25/4, 2/5, 9/5, 16/5, 23/5, and 30/5.

Important Fritids Dates:

Fritids Closed on: 15/04, 18/04, 26/05, 06/06, 10/06

Employee Spotlight: Ms Alison Levin, EAL Coordinator and Teacher



I have lived in Sweden for 11 years, and I have worked at Futuraskolan for 10! My favorite thing about my job is working with kids. I really have fun with them; I think kids are so funny! The great thing is that I get to work with the kids who are learning English. It is so fulfilling to see a child come to school with little to no English and then within a few months they are communicating with you and other students and teachers! It's like a little miracle every time it happens! I also like the problem-solving aspect of my job. I need to find or make resources and to figure out the best way to teach vocabulary, pronunciation, or various academic skills, and I like to try to make it fun. I have made so many games over the years to practice vocabulary, grammar, and reading and math skills!

If I weren't a teacher, I would like to work at a museum, or maybe be an archaeologist. Or maybe a baker!

When I'm not working, I like to bake, play board games, watch TV, read, ride my bike, and swim.

My favorite place in the world is the beach. I grew up not far from the Atlantic Ocean, so going to the beach was something I did several times every summer growing up! I love the feeling of the sand and the sun, the sound of the waves, and swimming in the ocean!

Employee Spotlight: Katie Rulapaugh - Grade 1

- ❖ **How long have you lived in Sweden?** 5 ½ Years
- ❖ **How long have you worked at futuraskolan?** 3 ½
- ❖ **What do you like most about your job?** Kids have some of the best humor but they also surprise you with their intelligence, kindness, and resilience. It is so rewarding to be a part of their story and watch them grow.
- ❖ **What is the best career lesson you've learned so far?** As IPC coordinator I have had to privilege work with and lead my colleagues to a successful accreditation. This role reminded me that teachers are also lifelong learners. We have a lot to learn from each other and just like students we have different strengths and ways of learning.
- ❖ **What career would you attempt if you weren't doing this?** Something in tourism. I love to travel and would enjoy helping others enjoy their holidays.
- ❖ **Where's your favorite place in the world?** The dinner table at my grandmother's house. Not only is she an amazing cook, but when the whole family is gathered we have a lot of laughs and love to have a good time.
- ❖ **What is the one thing you can't live without?** Sweets! I have a secret sweet tooth



The reality of being a school is slowly returning to 'normal' as restrictions in Sweden are lessened. With that said, we want to take this time to share with you the guidelines and processes we will keep in place in our school building, across both the International and Stockholm schools.

We do this with the well-being of our students and staff in mind and with the intention of maintaining hygiene, health, and safety standards that have been adopted during the past 2 years.

- Please remind your learners/children to wash or sanitize their hands properly throughout the day as necessary.
- A vampire cough or sneeze is always a friend! (covering your mouth by coughing into your arm)
- Parents are encouraged to contact teachers or staff via Admentum to schedule appointments, not drop into their classrooms at the beginning or end of the day.
- If there is an emergency, adults are asked to please go to the reception area directly, not your learners classroom or cubby/locker.
- Please remember that the area in front of the school is a no parking area, if you drive your children to school please take advantage of one of the nearby side streets to park and drop off your learners.
- Parents will be welcomed back into the school for events (Exit or Entry Points, meetings, etc) by invitation, in order to prioritize the safety and health of those working and learning in our building.

General advice for everyone - Stay home if you are ill and until you are better - this applies to whether you are vaccinated or not.